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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

THURSDAY, 28th FEBRUARY, 1946

Vol. III—No. 1

OFFICIAL REPORT

20th Feb - 30th March.



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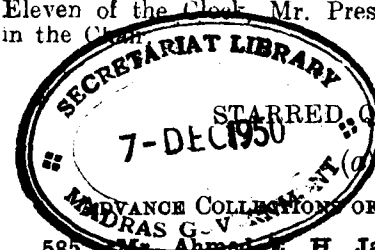
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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

ORAL ANSWERS

ADVANCE COLLECTION 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

586. **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 Jeddah are made by His Majesty's Minister at Jeddah;

(c) whether his Department or the British Legation at Jeddah, 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?

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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 Jeddah before pilgrims disembark. They give clear instructions to pilgrims not to make any payment to the boatmen 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.

LAGK 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 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 *musafir khanas* in Bombay, specially built for the Haj pilgrims and which can accommodate about 8,000 pilgrims at a time; and

(g) if it is a fact that the authorities have rented these *musafir khanas* 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 8 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 Sheikdoms. 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 unauthorised 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, (Hargoon), Malkapur (Berar).
- (25) M/s. Cotton Agents, (Bombay), Tadepalli (Madras).
- (26) M/s. Seshasayee Brothers, (Trichinopoly), 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), Nawanganar.
- (31) M/s. Mohd. Alla Bux, (Lyallpur), Amritsar, (Punjab).

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 ground-nuts 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—especially 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 States—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:

- the date on which the last list of titles and honours was published; and
- the number of persons who received each of these titles and honours?

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

- 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
G.C.V.O.	
G.B.E.	1
K.B.E.	1
C.B.E.	10
O.B.E.	91
M.B.E.	130
British Empire Medal	38
Knighthood	29
Imperial Service Medal	12
Kaisar-i-Hind Gold Medal	6
Kaisar-i-Hind Silver Medal	45
Bar to Kaisar-i-Hind Silver Medal	4

Kaisar-i-Hind Bronze Medal	100
Raja Bahadur (Personal)	2
Nawab (Personal)	1
Raja (Hereditary)	1
Raja (Personal)	1
Shams-ul-Uluma	2
Maharajapadhyaya	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	307

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 white-wash 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 items 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 would 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 meanwhile he could arrange for the necessary accommodation for members attending 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 hold 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 88.

(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 stud 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 cattle 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 Subedar: 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.

1597. ***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 provisions 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 include 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 cultivable 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 subsidised. 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 Member 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 whether 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. O. 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. Ramdhvani, 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 240,680 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)	
	Wheat Flour* (2)	Rice (3)
1. U. K.	...	23
2. Arabia	...	468
3. Gwadar	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. 88,000.

(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 studies overseas was published and the dates on which it actually appeared in these newspapers.

Name of Newspaper	Date of publication
1. <i>Statesman</i> , Calcutta (also New Delhi edition)	29th December 1945 and 1st January 1946.
2. <i>Hindustan Times</i> , New Delhi	29th and 31st December 1945.
3. <i>Amrita Bazar Patrika</i> , Calcutta (also Allahabad edition).	Ditto.
4. <i>Mail</i> , Madras	Ditto.
5. <i>Tribune</i> , Lahore	Ditto.
6. <i>Civil and Military Gazette</i> , Lahore	29th December 1945 and 1st January 1946.
7. <i>Times of India</i> , Bombay	29th and 31st December 1945.
8. <i>Leader</i> , Allahabad	Ditto.
9. <i>Dawn</i> , Delhi	Ditto.
10. <i>Pioneer</i> , Lucknow	Ditto.
11. <i>Bombay Chronical</i> , Bombay	Ditto.
12. <i>Hitavada</i> , Nagpur	29th and 30th December 1945
13. <i>Nagpur Times</i>	29th and 31st December 1945
14. <i>Indian Nation</i> , Patna	Ditto.
15. <i>Searchlight</i> , Patna	Ditto.
16. <i>Hindustan Standard</i> , Calcutta	Ditto.
17. <i>Sind Observer</i> , Karachi	Not known so far.
18. <i>Daily Gazette</i> , Karachi	Ditto.
19. <i>Hindu</i> , 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 Lalubhai:** (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	Membership at the end of the year	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns	Membership at the end of the year	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns	Membership at the end of the year	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns	Membership at the end of the year	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns	Membership at the end of the year	Number of registered trade unions	Number of trade unions making returns	Membership at the end of the year
Ajmer Merwara	2	2	302	3	3	3,466	4	3	281	1	1	288	3	3	4,794	3	3	1,047
Assam	3	...	...	11	3	982	6	6	1,476	5	5	1,503	5	5	1,943	7	7	1,580
Bengal	191	130	95,938	188	134	1,22,363	211*	199	1,03,662	228	133	1,76,695	229	147	2,216,35	297	189	2,89,658
Bihar	18	10	23,992	27	11	13,596	34	20	29,925	38	16	10,337	41	11	18,788	49	20	21,947
Bombay	52	40	50,997	72	56	1,05,799	70	57	1,21,886	74	59	1,20,153	77	69	1,30,698	83	70	1,49,359
Central Provinces & Berar	35	30	13,377	41	31	11,560	52	38	17,261	55	38	23,984	49	35	29,430	48	29	14,893
Delhi	23	22	21,492	27	26	24,376	29	28	24,139	29	21	21,546	30	23	16,895	32	24	24,712
Madras	87	66	49,376	110	88	71,092	126*	80	53,637	127	76	43,924	123	86	49,451	174	99	64,567
North Western Frontier Province	6	4	307	7	5	684	6	5	619	6	4	317	6	3	418	3	3	423
Orissa	...	...	...	2	2	374	2	2	323	3	3	335	3	3	359	3	3	653
Punjab	55	22	24,878	65	27	11,051	73	15	6,742	69	15	7,191	24	23	12,493	27	25	13,569
Sind	23	21	9,589	29*	22	7,829	28	28	11,051	35	33	11,500	28	28	8,934	32	32	10,677
United Provinces	35	28	11,759	43*	24	15,811	40	29	14,807	42	28	17,493	28	27	20,976	31	31	32,944
Baluchistan	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Central Trade Unions (whose objects are not confined to one Province)	32	24	97,152	42	23	1,22,150	46	33	1,27,973	25	23	1,40,205	27	26	1,68,540	30	28	1,54,804
Total	582	394	3,99,159	667	450	5,11,138	727	483	5,13,892	747	455	5,73,520	693	439	6,85,299	818	593	7,89,823

* Revised figures.

General Funds* of Registered Trade Unions

(The figures are in rupees and relate to

Provinces	1939-1940				1940-1941			
	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance
Almer-Merwara	445	618	982	76	63	17	8	72
Assam	2	378	380	...	59	980	908	81
Bengal	40,928	2,22,008	2,02,869	60,062	78,666	2,82,987	2,87,832	1,24,321
Bihar	729	9,929	9,181	1,527	4,438	19,621	16,769	7,290
Bombay	1,84,564	2,14,877	1,71,078	1,78,368	1,82,892	2,55,958	2,28,348	2,10,004
C.P. & Berar	7,171	15,584	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	37,835	64,865	53,827	48,878	42,576	56,372	39,426	59,522
N. W. F. P.	878	742	227	1,398	1,398	295	344	1,844
Orissa	...	336	245	91	91	253	206	188
Punjab	3,425	20,466	18,374	5,517	902	12,853	12,710	1,045
Sind	20,335	15,027	10,220	25,142	36,381	15,672	19,139	32,914
U.P.	2,145	10,887	9,172	3,860	3,821	12,817	10,320	5,878
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	12,12,977	11,91,582	6,86,120

* Figures are to the nearest rupee.

from which returns were received.

the period 1st April—31st March)

1941-1942				1942-1943				1943-1944			
Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance	Opening balance	Income	Expenditure	Closing balance
72	33	5	100	119	2,550	999	1,670	1,670	1,339	2,077	982
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	3,51,166	14,27,186	11,68,038	11,10,312
4,687	5,333	5,185	4,885	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	3,06,116	2,96,135	4,52,003	2,97,564	4,50,574
15,097	84,590	74,652	25,635	28,669	75,085	65,810	37,948	29,700	55,418	44,553	40,560
14,406	8,554	7,835	10,125	11,848	13,781	5,239	20,390	20,490	12,424	7,883	25,091
25,977	36,010	27,511	34,476	34,613	54,415	43,897	45,181	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	168	143	144	259	385	68
978	14,885	12,549	3,309	1,478	20,488	16,446	5,515	2,176	17,481	21,645	8,012
38,193	27,284	16,626	38,851	28,638	21,855	10,079	30,414	30,170	19,639	26,485	33,324
7,338	11,937	11,099	8,176	7,162	9,580	8,071	8,671	7,649	15,109	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
7,98,490	17,67,446	13,34,036	12,16,900	9,57,109	15,96,984	13,43,824	12,10,670	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. E. 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	10,91,255
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.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

	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	73,369	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						
C. PLANTATIONS	2,01,989	9,09,173	2,18,280	2,15,086	2,13,096	2,55,364
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
Coffee‡	1939-40		1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44
	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

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?

(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 Saxena: 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.

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(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 colloquism. . . .

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.

INSURANCE AMENDMENT BILL

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

[Mr. President]

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 Women'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

[Mr. President]

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 may be rectified and this House has ample power to rectify it, if not it can be 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. Mann 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

[Pandit Govind Malaviya]

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 Gowasjee 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 hoshiaar 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.

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. O. 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

[Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan]

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 loss 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 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 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 92 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-Muhammadian 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. O. 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

4 P.M. 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

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, 19 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 8 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.

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar] fed. 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 Member 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 goodwill 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. 360.66 crores, a decrease of Rs. 1.68 crores on the budget estimates.

Customs receipts are likely to improve by Rs. 9½ 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. 5½ 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. 18 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. 10.84 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. 876.42 crores and Rs. 14.98 crores in the revised estimates 1945-46. His Majesty's Government's expenditure is now Rs. 8.47 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. 248.77 crores, the combined total being Rs. 360.71. 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 use 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. 800 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. 864.83 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. 49.28 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 6 P. M. 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 peacetime 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 7½ annas. I propose to reduce this total of 7½ annas by 1½ annas to 6 annas, by a reduction of 2 annas in the super-tax and an addition of ½ 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. 1½ 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. 3½ 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 assesses, 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 assesses. 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 difficulties, which I believe to be rooted in the weakness of his bargaining position *vis à 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 à vis* the wholesale dealer; by improving cultivation methods and,

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]
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.

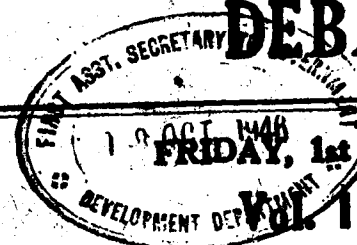
54. My last proposal under Customs is in respect of bullion. As the House is aware, the Indian prices of gold and silver bear no sort of parity with world prices. The paucity of imports has, in a large measure, contributed to the present high and artificial prices. With the end of the war, and with the 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.

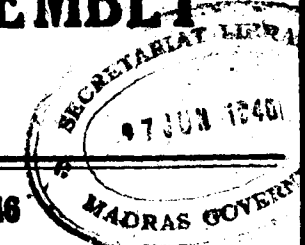
56. I shall now summarise the financial effect of the above proposals. In the field of direct taxation, my income-tax proposals will cost Central Revenues Rs. 21.50 crores, while the changes under customs and excise are expected to yield a net Rs. 5 lakhs. The estimated gap between revenue and expenditure 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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES



FRIDAY, 1st MARCH, 1946

Vol. III—No. 2



OFFICIAL REPORT



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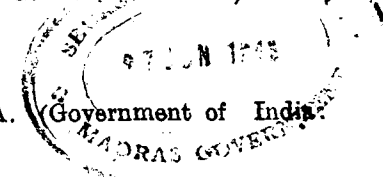
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 1st 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. 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

[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 India 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-Muhammadian 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.

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 proverb 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 Keynes went there. They said "we have not come here 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 went 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 à 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 the 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

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

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, 1,830 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 off.

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. Jeykyl 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. 78, 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.

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 1938, 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 operation 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 organisations.

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-Muhammadian 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 with, I am afraid, before very long, be again hurried 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 sterling 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-Muhammadian 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 it 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 instrumentality 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. 48 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.

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 position 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 18d. 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 accomplis*. 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 Parakasa: 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-dallings, 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 not 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. investments 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 458 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 Woods 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 mill-owners.

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 4 P.M. 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.

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: *Chhathkama 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 1,800 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. 8 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. 286 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.

ghly, 1sh. 6d. to the rupee. If, in the future, the U. K. would like to vary par of exchange as originally notified to the Fund, by more than 10 per cent., 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. As 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 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-Muhamadan 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 assurance by His Majesty's Government regarding the repayment of sterling credits and 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 printing 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. 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 Act, 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 alternate, 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

Assam	New Unit	Expansion
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., Bezvada	..	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, Bhadravati	..	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. O. 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. 148.97 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 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 advisability 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	9	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

(Crores)

Information and Arts—

Broadcasting 17

Films 3

Labour—

Subsidy for Housing, Social Security Schemes, etc. 18

Vocational Training etc. 30

Planning and Development 4

(Grants to Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)

Posts and Air—

Posts and Telegraphs 36

Civil Aviation 30

Meteorology 1

War (Resettlement on Land) 2

War Transport (National Highways) 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 Mehrauli 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 Gurukul 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.I.s 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?

(c) 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 £2,728 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. *Srijiit Dharendra 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 Provinces for the years 1943-44 (up-to-date.)

	Scale of grade	INCOME			EXPENDITURE		
		1943-44	1944-45	1945-46 (up-to-date)	1943-44	1944-45	1945-46 (up-to-date)
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
27—Administration of Justice— Pay of Officers— Non-Voted— District & Sessions Judge Voted— Subordinate Judges including Judge Small Cause Court	1000—3000 300—30—500/30 —600—40—720/40 —800—50—850	...	...	...	20,269	21,992	21,200
Establishment	150—5—225 100—5—175 100—5—150 75—5—125 45—2—95 35—14—75 35—1—55	...	...	...	65,888	57,958	54,526
Sale of non-Judicial Stamps Sale of Judicial Stamps (Court fees Stamps) Sale of Judicial paper (Plain paper) Amount of Road & Diet Money of Witnesses Income & expenditure of the Copying Agency— (i) Deputy Commn.'s Office— Establishment (ii) Dist & Sessions Judge— Establishment (iii) Judge Small Cause Court—Establishment	... ... ... ... ... ... ...	10,42,260 10,35,449 6,292 ...	9,05,179 11,05,454 5,610 ...	6,69,550 10,04,222 6,140 ...	71,731	69,834	69,463
					30,935 /2/-	41,348/12/-	26,339/1/6
		34,880	39,722	34,270	19,094	22,171	21,340
		4,967	7,274	5,043	3,339	3,935	3,940
		3,068	2,640	2,885	1,431	1,474	1,613

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1797

COST PER HEAD OF TRAINING, EQUIPPING AND MAINTAINING OF INDIAN AND BRITISH SOLDIERS

649. *Mr. K. O. 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 Corps	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 Corps	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. O. 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. 1,788 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 Kingdom 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 16th February, of revelations published first in the *Blitz of Bombay* of the 16th

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 642.

February i.e., the open letter to Indian M.L.As. and British M.Ps. by 100 W.A.C.I.s;

(b) if the Government authorities concerned had received any complaints from the members of the W.A.C.I.s. 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.I.s. 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?

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. contingent (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 contingent 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. D
N2, 3, N46

(b) No, Sir.

(c) If the Honourable Member will quote specific cases, I will have them looked into. N47-384

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 forfeiture 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. 115 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. 60670

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?

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
2. Mr. V. David Baliali .	Temporary Lower Division Clerk	Quarter Master General D. R.
3. Havildar M. A. Nair .	Temporary Steno-grapher	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
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 Dharendra 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 individual's 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. O. 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 Dharendra 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 148 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,—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 Committee, 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 80 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 limits 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 nor 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, maulvis 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. 8-8 . . .

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, everything 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. O. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-official): They have made a new Peac 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 our external foes have been overthrown" he says and I pause. Whose external foes? Our external foes? India's external foes? I say, imperialism 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 imperialism 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 necessities 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 independence, 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-Muhammudan 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 hne 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.

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali]

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 building 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 so-called 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 Members 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

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 is 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 5½ 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

[Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee]

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 as nation building.

My friend, of course, is a financier. I have no pretensions 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 at once. 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

[Sri V. Gangaraju]

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 ½ 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, the Provincial Governments have offered some remuneration in the shape of subsidy of Rs. 15 per acre. But that is nothing. The food crops are not 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 till 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 thrived at the cost of 400 million people. They have thrived 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 un-stabilized 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 perjurying 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.

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 in charge 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 manoeuvring 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 Foreign 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 6½ 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 phosphorous 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 people 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 pices 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-owners. I would not allow my country to be jointly exploited by Indian big 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. 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 permission 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 Bomgay 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 humorous 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 merely draw up plans and achieve nothing. No positive achievement is to their credit. There are only some schemes which are under consideration

4 P.M. 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

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. Therefore, 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 bequeath to them an emasculated budget and the resultant dirty work, it 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 emaculated 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 conquered 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 Bhow 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 malyaj-sheetlam*, 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 1948 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.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[4TH MAR. 1946

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 23·8 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 Independent 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, 18 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, Sialkot	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 Gurnath 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.

PREFERENCE 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 Gurnath 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.

Months	Statement	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 Rs.	Actuals of 1944-45 Rs.	Revised estimate for 1945-46 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 180 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 aware 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 Dharendra 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 181 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 Department 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 priority 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 seven Bengali Officers on the Postal side and 80 per cent. Madras 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 Madras 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 expansion in the network of telegraph and telephone lines in the Central

(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?

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(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 Superintendents 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	60.5	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: 81 permanent and 112 officiating sub-heads 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 to 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. O. 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 Chamarajanagar-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 Lal, 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 Bahawalnagar? 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 these 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 belligerents 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 absorptive 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 demobilisation 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 trained 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 4½ 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 business. 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 Government 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 as 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 not 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 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 question 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

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths]

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 utterances 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 question 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

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths] 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 assesses' 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

[Mr. P. J. Griffiths]

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 controversy. 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. These 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 1943 alone £190

[Mr. S. Guruswami]

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, 12 Noon. 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?

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,

[Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar]

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 better 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 Benchers 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. Can not 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 refrain 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 87 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 3,000 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 realize 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 Napoleon'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 88 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 published 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?

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 under-rate 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 Rs. 6,700; this is a ludicrous sum. Schemes of economic planning is Rs. 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 betelnuts 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 betelnut 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 Suburbs: 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

3 P.M. wanted to make some clerks for carrying on this administration, 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 80 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 822 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 of 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 Bhole 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 Majesty'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. 241 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. The

[Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar.]

money which would become available by scaling down all this unnecessary staff, which is now a heavy burden on the Indian exchequer, would have provided some relief to the poor who have been left out in the preparation of this Budget. I would like to point out one very grave thing. Here, Sir, we have come to listen to many big things about the impending famine, but, alas, Sir Archibald has got no statement, no machinery, no measures to announce in respect of this impending famine. Neither has he indicated lines as to how the India Government propose to deal successfully with this famine question, and how they are going financially to mitigate the sufferings of the impending famine of which we have heard so much, if not to stop the famine altogether. I think he ought to have made this statement. But sorry, he has absolutely refrained from making any announcement in this vital matter. The majority of the population has suffered and sustained extreme miseries during the long period of seven years of war when their very existence was threatened. I would ask Sir Archibald to take note of this and see that some sort of relief is given. He has abolished the excess profits tax and given us relief. We can afford to lose all these things for the sake of our poorer brethren. I may say that he has shown very little sympathy by reducing nine pies tax on kerosene but he has 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., a relief by three annas. But there should be an attempt for abolition of duties on betel-nuts, tobacco, salt and sugar at least. I have to remark that Sir Archibald did not care to know that these foodstuffs of daily life are not used for luxury but these are of imperative necessity to the labourers and agriculturists of our country. He should take note of it. Our country demands absolute abolition of these uncalled for taxes in a time like this especially after our countrymen have sustained extreme troubles and hardships during the long period of seven years of war. He should make it a point to give some relief to the poor otherwise he will have to face serious opposition and cut after cut motions unless 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 lands which has not been considered in the budget. Sir Archibald should undertake a comprehensive scheme so that the uncultivated area can be gradually taken under the plough and this will contribute to solving the problem of famine to a great extent.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: On a point of order. Will the Honourable the War Secretary ask the authorities not to allow these planes to fly so low over the House when the Assembly is in session because they cause unnecessary disturbance.

Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar: You need not worry about this now,—we will catch him on the point of cut motions when he will have to revise all these 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 an adequate amelioration to the poorer sections of the population who have been neglected.

Mr. Deputy President: Mr. Gounder. The Honourable Member has only 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 the 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 Honourable the Finance Member has arranged to conquer the enemies which he has 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 90 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

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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 on 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. 19,854 income and super-tax, under my proposals he will pay Rs. 47,875; a Rs. 2 lakh income paid Rs. 48,120, it will now pay Rs. 1,25,975; a Rs. 3 lakh income paid Rs. 68,111, it will now pay Rs. 2,14,438. For a Rs. 4 lakh income the figures are Rs. 1,24,865 and Rs. 3,08,625 respectively. For a Rs. 5 lakh income Rs. 1,78,889 and Rs. 4,00,875. 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

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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 interests 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 raised 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.

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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 Atridis 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

S.P.M. 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.

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.

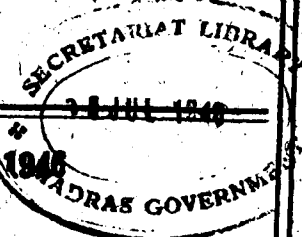
He also wanted the Government to adopt an overall river policy. Perhaps this Government will go out unsung and unwept, but there is one thing it has done. It has laid down the foundations of a policy to utilize the enormous resources of the rivers of India, and in the Budget this year there are grants 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

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

WEDNESDAY, 6th MARCH, 1946

Vol. III—No. 5



OFFICIAL REPORT



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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 those 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. O. 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 3,000 acres have been brought under cinchona cultivation.

Sri V. O. 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
Assistants 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. Mannu 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. 60,670?

(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 procurement?

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. Ananthasayanam 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 procurement 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 12½ 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 Saxena: 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 commodities?

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 Saxena: (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 5,800.
- (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 Saxena: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state whether Government have received the resolutions

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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 results?

†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 50,000 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	9,486
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

738. ***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) 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 that 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;

(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 1½ 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 Archaeological 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 Archaeological 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.

Part (a)	Statement	
	Loans in Lakhs	Grants in Lakhs
All-India	494	491
Punjab	Nil	21.7
Sind	Nil	8

Part (d)

	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 food-grains 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 procurement 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;

(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	16,90,687
(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	1,93,635
(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. B. Ambedkar: (a) 17 excluding Chairman, as detailed below:

Hydroelectric 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. B. 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?

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 13 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.

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 Kathiawar		
	Cartridge cases, Filled No.	Cartridge cases, Empty No.	Cartridge 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. 1,085

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	

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1963

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 Pattukkottai 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 contour 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 Trichopoly.	...	20,855	
Reclamation of 15,000 acres of land in Pattukotai 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 Hissar, 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	82,037	78,975	99,860	1,08,293	51,511	11,304	3,570	5,515	1,11,784

* Under Verification

II.—VALUE. THOUSAND (RUPEES)

—	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. 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

1966

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[6TH MAR. 1946]

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1967

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)*

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS											1969
	India	Japan	Italy	France	Germany	Poland	Rumania	Argentina	Canada	U S A	
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Rice (in the husk)	lbs. 1,150	lbs. 3,451	lbs. 4,761	lbs. ...	lbs. ...	lbs. ...	lbs. ...	lbs. ...	lbs. ...	lbs. 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	650	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	...	...	...	
Groundnuts (in shell)	848	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	755	
Tobacco	874	1,539	1,164	1,636	...	...	675	...	...	855	

* 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-erosion, 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. Applications 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 Sheikdoms 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 Sheikdoms 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 transfers from the Viceregal Estates	Nature of free concessions enjoyed	Place of duty
1	Mr. Hussain Ali	Sanitary Overseer	Rs. 80-7-255	Rs. 241	Rent-free 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	Draftman	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.

Expenditure borne by the Committee

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS													1977
Name of Schemes		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 13
1		2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
BOMBAY													
Agricultural Research Schemes													
Plant Puller Propaganda Schemes.		5,289	3,608	2,917	1,699	4,379	3,786	362	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.
Research, Cotton Breeding Scheme.		11,921	9,251	9,980	9,418	9,446	9,092	10,222	4,814	5,837	6,140	6,730	Full cost upto 1-4-48 and 50% of full cost thereafter. Balance met by Provincial Government.
Jalgaon Cotton Breeding Scheme.		10,865	8,740	5,230	6,387	6,395	4,805	5,496	3,105	3,715	3,677	4,350	Ditto.
Survey of Goghari Cotton		870	871	1,161	739	108	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.
Defoliation of Cotton Seeds		1,265	29	124	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Breeding of Wilt Resistant Cotton in Surat.		...	355	2,157	2,348	2,000	2,661	2,710	3,248	1,529	4,531	4,781	Ditto.
Inclusion of Northern and Western in Dry Farming Scheme at Bijapur.		...	...	1,467	1,622	1,971	2,076	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Breeding of Wilt Resistant Cotton in Poona.		...	...	10,227	7,027	4,666	8,266	8,236	8,113	9,264	10,061	10,417	Ditto.
Improvement of Dholleras Waged Cotton at Viramgam.		...	...	5,128	4,374	4,595	4,810	4,122	7,081	7,949	7,998	8,887	Ditto.
Interspecific Hybridisation in Cotton at Surat.		...	...	...	1,470	2,491	12,040	8,740	9,063	9,062	10,500	11,383	Ditto.

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												
Habli Seed distribution Scheme.	10,079	878	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Gadag Seed distribution Scheme.	8,018	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Ashani Seed distribution Scheme.	7,140	3,125	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Surat 1027 ALF Seed distribution Scheme.	11,188	7,703	8,872	12,025	1,564	4,247	4,770	4,539	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.	216	-7,126	3,152	3,754	-642	166	282	167	...	...	...	75% of cost of staff only. Balance by Provincial Government.

B. D. 8 Seed distribution Schemes.	1,065	2,835	2,641	3,824	6,788	7,252	5,107	5,816	5,302	...	...	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	1,061	383	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 Gujarat.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	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. 6-1) Cotton in Surat tract.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,576	Full cost of contingencies. Balance by Provincial Government.
BOMBAY												
Maintenance of nucleus of pure seed of improved varieties of Cotton.	...	...	2,320	1,509	1,817	2,008	2,011	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
MARKETING SCHEMES												
Ginning and Marketing of 1027 ALF and Suyog Cotton in Surat area.	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,981	139	3,100	6,128	3,142	50% of full cost. Balance by Provincial Government.
MADRAS												
Agricultural Research Schemes												
Herbaceous scheme	...	264	19,974	8,075	2,186	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of scheme.
Pentaploids and Physiological scheme	...	21,342	26,458	25,680	22,590	14,503	9,908	7,585	7,128	1,191	...	Ditto.
Fodder Chulam 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 Coomadas 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	3,830	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Seed distribution and extension Schemes												
Tirupur Seed Scheme	5,613	5,398	326	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of staff. Balance by Provincial Government.
C. O. S. " " "	10,629	10,852	4,223	—632	1,681	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
H. 1. " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,055	5,543	9,865	14,633	Ditto.
C. O. S. " " "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,002	4,233	16,988	23,759	Ditto.

(in Salem district)												
Maintenance of nucleus of pure seed of improved varieties of Cotton.	...	...	...	610	543	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	24,186	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	40,368	42,954	42,764	44,513	53,180	...	...	Ditto.
Clean up campaign of spotted Bollworm.	...	...	22,800	21,718	7,571	1,667	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Jaasid Investigation Scheme	...	...	3,192	3,426	2,403	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.	...	...	...	3,900	4,423	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.
MISCELLANEOUS SCHEMES												
Survey of nutritional values in relation to milch buf- fles of fuzzy Cotton Seed and Cotton Seed Cakes manufactured from such seeds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13,800	7,755	...	...	Ditto.
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR												
<i>Agricultural Research Scheme</i>												
Botanical Scheme	39,869	43,133	43,318	21,891	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto
Entomological Scheme	3,804	3,541	2,803	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Investigation of Helid this Obseleta	...	...	...	...	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 exten- sion 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.

<i>Seed Distribution and extension Schemes</i>												
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.
<i>Marketing Scheme</i>												
Distribution and marketing of Jarila Cotton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	14,016	Marketing Staff & inci- dental expenses. Balance by Provincial Govern- ment.
Extension and marketing of V. 434—Cotton	41,662	40,356	33,474	33,259	15,274	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 expendi- ture thereafter. Balance by Provincial Govern- ments.
Distribution and marketing of Bari 107 cotton in Burhanpur Tahsil	...	...	...	...	5,698	6,484	3,986	3,176	5,169	...	...	Full cost of staff up to 28-2-43 and 75% cost of staff thereafter Balance by Provincial Govern- ment.
UNITED PROVINCES												
<i>Agricultural Research Schemes</i>												
Rohilkhand and Bundel- khand 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 exten- sion 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 Provin- cial Government.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<i>Investigation in asboreum Cotton</i>	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,816	3,371	50% of full cost. Balance by Provincial Government.
<i>Seed distribution and extension Schemes</i>												
C. 405—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												
<i>Agricultural Research Schemes</i>												
Physiological Scheme	36,470	32,649	7,961	1,771	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.
Jasaid Investigation Scheme	...	...	...	2,840	2,001	1,054	3,297	2,991	799	...	...	Ditto
Investigation into Black Headed Cricket in Sind	...	...	...	1,940	2,741	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	14,438	22,597	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 manurial work on cotton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,000	A portion of the total cost.

<i>Seed distribution and extension Schemes</i>												
Sind Seed Distribution Scheme	56,752	52,739	59,301	55,483	21,524	19,986	6,161	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												
<i>Agricultural Research Schemes</i>												
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												
<i>Agricultural Research Schemes</i>												
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												
<i>Agricultural Research Schemes</i>												
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.

1934

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[5th MAR. 1946]

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
UNSTARRED—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 Schemes												
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 Northern 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	11,582	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.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[6TH MAR. 1946]

Seed distribution and extension Schemes												
Hyderabad Seed Scheme	6,122	3,681	...	9,636	5,543	5,125	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of staff and carrying expenses. Balance by State Government.
BARODA Agricultural Research Schemes												
Root Rot Scheme	15,567	9,493	7,610	6,494	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	3,162	4,543	5,960	2,485	...	...	...	...	Ditto.
Improvement of Dholeras Mathis cotton at Amreti and Jagudan.	...	...	2,823	3,675	3,256	3,988	4,091	5,910	5,626	6,367	7,470	Ditto.
Seed distribution and extension Schemes												
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. S. 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 waged cotton Zone in Mehsana District.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,500	3,781	4,990	Ditto.
Scheme for creation of a pure wagotar cotton zone in Mehsana District	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,400	Full cost of contingencies. Balance by State Government.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

1967

	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
BARODA contd. <i>Seed distribution and extension Schemes</i>												
Vijaya Cotton Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24,841	25,098	Full cost of staff. Balance by State Government.
Distribution of Suyog (Seg 8-1) Scheme.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15,303	Ditto.
<i>Marketing Schemes</i>												
Marketing of 1027 ALF cotton in Baroda State.	...	...	...	2,264	1,349	3,796	2,706	1,638	2,040	2,040	2,040	Full cost of Scheme.
MYSORE <i>Agricultural Research Scheme</i>												
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 <i>Agricultural Research Scheme</i>												
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 <i>Agricultural Research Schemes</i>												
Preliminary trials at Nawanager for improvement of Dholleras Cotton.	...	343	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Full cost of Scheme.
<i>Other Schemes</i>												
Statistical Research	4,803	6,342	6,291	5,636	6,076	—364	...	4,361	9,322	37,438	17,330	Full cost. 50% from 1-9-45.

<i>Technological Research</i>												
Technological Laboratory	2,07,427	1,71,164	1,65,517	1,65,956	1,82,712	1,68,224	1,71,266	1,76,569	1,71,937	1,97,191	2,08,699	Full cost.
Technological Provincial	18,636	15,210	20,889	25,101	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	6,224	7,451	5,971	2,353	...	104	...	...	...	Full cost.

ASSISTANCE BY IMPERIAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH IN COTTON
RESEARCH WORK

74. Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: 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?

(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 Saxena: (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 48 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 48 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 train 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-Muhammadian 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, depute 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 matter?

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 Calcutta.

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 they 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. Aminu 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. Ananthasayanani Ayyangar, Sri A. Karunakara Menon, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai, 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 suggested by the Hindu Code Committee that would be accepted and my Bill would 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.

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, 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 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.

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

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar] 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.

Sri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadian 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. Unfortunately, however, my 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 canceled 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 elders 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 anybody else does; I am very much a member of Hindu society in its broader sense as anybody 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 in 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-Muhamadan 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. O. 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.

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 Himmat Singhji, Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, Sardar Sampuran Singh, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, Pandit 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.

DELHI SIKH GURDWARAS AND RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS BILL

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 Himmat Singhji, Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, Sardar Sampuran Singh, Mr. M. Asaf Ali, Pandit 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 Boards 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.

(2016)

HINDU MARRIED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SEPARATE RESIDENCE AND MAINTENANCE 2017

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, Pandit 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, Pandit 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. I.

[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 Balkrishna Sharma, Pandit 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, Pandit 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, Pandit 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 clause 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, Pandit 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.

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; 13,784 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?

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

2021

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 system 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

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

—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 administrator 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 human 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 they have to pay compensation for the 50 that have died. Therefore a man of will have to 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 indifference. 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 Saxena (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

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 occurs 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; *vis.*, 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;

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

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

[Sir Gurunath Bewoor]

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. Radhey Lal 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."

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 cured 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. 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 50. 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 Mussoorie. I have some details here of about 111 tickets issued from those places. I do not know 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 four 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.

NOTICE FOR ADJOURNMENT

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 their 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 disasters. 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, rather they are not ever amended, without reference to the Inspectorate, and practically 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 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT
Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—56.

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.	Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.	Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.	Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Adityan, Sri S. T.	Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Ali Asghar Khan, Mr.	Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.	Neogy, Mr. K. C.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.	Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Datt.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.	Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.	Ram Narayan Singh, Baba.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.	Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.	Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Dani, Mr. G. B.	Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.	Saksena, Shri Muhan Lal.
Gangaraju, Sri V.	Salve, Mr. P. K.
Gole, Mr. P. B.	Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Hans Raj, Raizada.	Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Satter Haji.	Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.	Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Jagannathdas, Sri.	Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.	Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.	Sukhdev Udhowdas, Mr.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.	Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader.
Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dharendra Kanta.	Sardar.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.	Swaminadhan, Shrimati Amma.
Malaviya, Pandit Govind.	Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.	Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Manu Subedar, Mr.	Varma, Mr. B. B.
Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.	Vinchoorkar, Sardar N. G.
	Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

NOES—36.

Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.	Mason, Mr. P.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Morris, Mr. R. C.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.	Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.	Oulnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.	Sargent, Dr. John.
Fenton, Mr. R. V.	Sen, Mr. B. R.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Guruswami, Mr. S.	Spence, Sir George.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.	Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Sardar.	Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.	Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.	Turner, Mr. A. C.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.	Vaidyanathan, Mr. L. S.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.	Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
	Weightman, Mr. H.

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 then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 8th March, 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

MONDAY, 11th MARCH, 1946

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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

79. **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 Assistant Carriage Cleaning Inspectors on the North Western Railway;

(b) the scales of pay of the Assistant Carriage Cleaning Inspectors under the 1 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 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 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, the insanitary condition of the coaches, many of which have hardly a latrine especially 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-WEIGHTMENT 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.

MINORITY 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 percentage 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.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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, personnel 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-BERHAMPURE 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 1,498. 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 Gurnath 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 Gurnath 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 Gurnath 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.

Air Vice Marshal Sir E. A. B. Rice—Deputy Director General, Aircraft Operations.

Terms of appointment

On contract for five years on a fixed consolidated pay of Rs. 9,500 p.m. (less 10% as he is in receipt of an Royal Air Force pension).

Qualifications and experience

Sir Edward Rice, Deputy Director General (Aircraft), has 23 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

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).

Qualifications and experience

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

On contract for 3 years on a fixed consolidated pay of Rs. 2,000 p.m.

Qualifications and experience.

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 Ministry 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 £13-6-8 Sterling Overseas pay in the scale of Rs. 1,950—100—2,250 plus £13-6-8 Q.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.

Air Vice Marshall Sir Edward Rice, K.B.E., C.B., M.C., D.F.C., D.F.M., D.F.C. (Aircraft).—Sir Edward Rice, Deputy Director-General (Aircraft), has 35 years' experience of aviation in the Royal Flying Corps, and the Royal Air Force. His experience of operations ranges over France and Belgium 1914-1919, Iraq 1920-22, Egypt 1922-24 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, 1926; 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 1944 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 £30 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 Licensing 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 11th 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 Gurunath 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, M.I.E.E., JP., Secretary Public Works Department. (2) Mr. D. M. Langford, Aircraft Inspector, Bombay.
Karachi Aero Club, Ltd., Karachi	Mr. D. Chakravarti, 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.
<i>Clubs not functioning at present—</i>	
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. Hancock, 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 is given in the booklet entitled 'Aeronautical Training and Education', of which is available in the Library of the House.

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 Mahabaleshwar 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 dehouseed 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. O. 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. Garaswami (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, "You 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 employees, 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 the 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 committee, 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.

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 favourites 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 favourites 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 chosen 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.

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-Muhammadian 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 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

Sgt. 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.

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 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 reconstruction 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 uniformity, 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

[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—*vis.*, 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 Lal: 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 they 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 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

[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 Lal (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 oath 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 Lal: 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, Sreejot 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 Dharendra 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 Pandit.
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. O. 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. B.

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 out 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.

Mr. 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

Srijut Dharendra 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 Gurnath 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 Lal: 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 air-minded. 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 over-estimated. 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 rationalised? 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 Department 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. P. 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. P. 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

[Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel.]

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 expansions 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 Gurnath 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

[Sir Gurunath Bewoor]

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

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 80 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.

Brijut Dharendra 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 Mohan Lal Sakshena (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 Shelmerdine, 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. Mann 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. Russell 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 Dharendra 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, had 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 Howlands: 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-Muhammadian 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 Ali Shah, Khan Bahadur Fazul Haq 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. 188 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 188 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 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

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shot at him. Unfortunately for the Britisher, he died and this man ~~cheap~~. 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. 98 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:

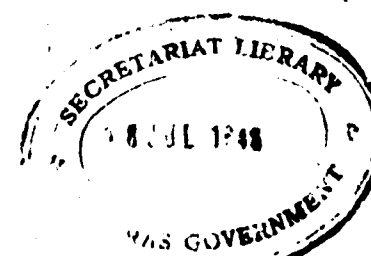
"That the demand under the head 'Department of Information and Broadcasting' be reduced by Rs. 93,34,000."

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.



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 wave radio sets is under preparation, while the results of research on carbon, energised types of loudspeakers, condensers, 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 205 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?

Copies of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of States are obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.

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

809. *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 Belgian 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 23 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

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 Gurnath 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 Gurnath 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 Buhadurganj? When do you propose to return that?

Sir Gurnath 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 Gurnath 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?

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 Sakasena: 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
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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 in *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.

INTERMENT 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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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, in spite 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 1,304 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
1912-18	†12·80	EAST INDIAN RAILWAY		
		Miles		
		(a) <i>Dismantled lines to be restored—</i>		
		1. Unao-Madhoganj-Balamau	78	B. G.
		2. Bijnor-Chandpur Siau	21	B. G.
		3. Utraitia-Sultanpur-Zafarabad	136	B. G.
		(b) <i>New Lines—</i>		
		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.
		5. Gaya-Sherghati-Chatra-Ranchi.	*110	B. G.
		† Cost of 22 miles up to Sherghati only.		
		BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY		
		(a) <i>Restoration of Dismantled lines—</i>		
		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.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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Year of previous survey	Approximate cost (in lakhs)		Approx. Mileages	The proposed gauge
1927-28 & 30	† 1.89 15	BENGAL ASSAM RAILWAY—contd.		
		(b) <i>New Lines—</i>		
		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.
		2. Sylhet-Bazar-Chatak	*21	M. G.
		3. Khowang-Dibrugarh	*12	M. G.
		4. Faridpur-Madaripur-Barisal	*80	B. G.
		5. Sainthia Barhampore-Bhairamara.	*96	B. G.
		6. Rohanpur-Nithpur-Dinajpur.	*76	B. G.
		7. Jharia-Jhanjail-Baghmara-Siju-Jankaray.	*37	M. G.
		(c) <i>Conversion—</i>		
1934	18.9	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) <i>Dismantled lines to be restored—</i>		
		1. Bobbili-Salur	10	B. G.
		(b) <i>New Lines—</i>		
		1. Ramagundam-Bastar-Jagdalpur Jaypur-Salur (or Vizana-garam via Padwa).	*290	B. G.
		The portion between Ramagundam and Bastar shall be surveyed by H. E. H. the Nizam's Rly.		
		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.
1914	3.49	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 Bangripasi)-Badampahar (or Sulapat or Rairangpur) including conversion of Rupsa-Talbandh to B. G.	85	(including 70 miles of conversion). B. G.
		6. Khurda Road-Bargarh	128	B. G.
1926-27	2.23			
1925	62.67			
1916	† 2.08.93			
1891	2.37.00			

*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. (c) Conversion— 1. Purulia to Lohardaga . . .	23	B. G.
		†Represents cost of 346 miles surveyed.	*116	B. G.
		§Represents cost of 34 miles surveyed.		
		SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY		
		(a) New Lines—	*70	M. G.
		1. Dindigul-Gudallur . . .	*41	M. G.
		2. Kollengode-Cochin Port . . .		
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.
1926-27	1.23.97	(b) New Lines—		
		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
		OUDDH 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 Muzafferpur-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	}	1,500,000
Security Council		
Economic and Social Council		
Trusteeship Council		

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 obligations 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) Amnura-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;

(c) 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?

If no reply has been sent, the reasons therefor?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, within the best 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 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. 349 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 Palam 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 Dharendra 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 maintain the position achieved during the war.

INDIAN RUBBER TECHNOLOGIST

855. *Srijut Dharendra 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) *Cryptostegia 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 *Cryptostegia 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 desperate 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 orders 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 PUNCHKUI 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

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.

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 Malaysians 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 parts 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?

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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. Oulnam: (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.

(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
Wheat	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 1946	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 (Coimbatore)	..	..	..
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	29,368	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 silage, 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 consideration 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 *premium* 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 legislation in this House with reference to Item 36 of List I of the Government of India 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 food-stuffs 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 CONTRIBUTION 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 regular 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 chhataks 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 extension 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 aware, 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. Oulnam: (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 surgeonies reserved for British I. M. S. Officers in each of the Governors' Provinces

Name of Province	Number of Civil Surgeonies 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 Lalubhai: 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	92,76
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 sforesaid 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 matting, 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 millinery, 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 know 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 unfortunate 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 exception. 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 published 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:

“*Nehān Kai mānād ān rāze Kazoo Sāzand mahfithā*

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 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. 98 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 pre-suppositions 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 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:

"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

[Sir Akbar Hydari] 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 mis-statement. 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 India 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 coconut 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 American 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 Bench 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-Muhammadian 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.

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, Sreejot 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.
Jegannathdas, Sri.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dharendra Kanta.
Idagat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Madandhari Singh, Mr.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Malaviya, Pandt Govind.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Sabedar, Mr.
Manon, 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 B. 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, Pandit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vijaya 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.	Mason, Mr. P.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Morris, Mr. R. C.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.	Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Oulnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.	Raja Bahadur of Khallikote.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Mohan.	Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.	Sargent, Dr. Sir John.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.	Sen, Mr. B. R.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.	Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Fenton, Mr. R. V.	Spence, Sir George.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Sri Chand, Chaudhuri.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.	Sundaresan, Mr. N.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.	Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.	Turner, Mr. A. C.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.	Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.	Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.	Weightman, Mr. H.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.	Zaman, Mr. S. R.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.	

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 over-estimate what we produce and underestimate what we need for our own consumption, take away much more than we could possibly spare from our villages

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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 subsidizing 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 83 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 Rs. 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

[Seth Sukhdev]

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 mufasil, 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 supernumerated 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 necessities 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 food-stuffs 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 mufasil 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 about 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.

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 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. Further 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 disfranchised—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. Sonapat 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-government, 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 at all and Delhi at present, with the exception of one representative in this House, is 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 Provincial 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: "Hinos 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 very old. In these last 8,000 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 think 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 enjoining 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.

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 Montreal 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 Akbar 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 it 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 the 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 CANTEN 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 89. 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 discharged on 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, officers 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 800 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 Honourable 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.

Sri 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 States?

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?

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.

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 India 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-section (3) of section 30 of the Police Act 1896 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 representation?

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. 85 lakhs. Up to date a sum of Rs. 3,84,076 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 requisitioned, as during the interval the price basis has in some cases very seriously altered?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir.

Shri Gowasjee 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.

Sjt. 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—6,389.

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 education 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 at least 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 say, 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 Childhood, 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 Commissions 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.

WARS 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 equip 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 temporary 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 sanctioned 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—31 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 Films 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 installed 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 12 Noon 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.

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 devised.

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 mention 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 Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners Association: Indian Commerce): Can I ask one question at this stage? My Honourable friend referred

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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 (Ajmer-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 recommendations, 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 18.1 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 10 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 1948 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

I P. M. 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.

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 Ajmer-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. Rajagopalachari 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. Rajagopalachari 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 complacency 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 moment 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 short-sightedness 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 *soolum*. 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-Muhammadian 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.

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 industrialists 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 parlours 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 Siddiqi: 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 prophecies 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

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

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 necessities 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* in this country 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, Niranjana 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 18th 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."

"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 in spite 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 elections 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 1918 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 official 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 latter's 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 latter's 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 whom 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 Lal (*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

4. P. M. to thwart my friends opposite of a vote and that I do not propose to take more than a few minutes of the time.

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

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 54 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, 8 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 sympathy 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

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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 Arts 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 preference 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 Department 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 Engineer 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

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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

S. P. M. 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.

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.

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. Dharendra 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 underframes. 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 underframes 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	1235

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 Secretariat 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 Goward 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 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 Lebanon 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 Lebanese, 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 Lebanese 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 Lebanese 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 Ukrainian 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—24—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. Xavier 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

925. *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. O. 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 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. O. Neogy: Do I take it that in constituting this licensing 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. O. Neogy: The Honourable Member has referred to the statutory authority of the licensing 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 licensing 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. O. Neogy: Do I take it that the Honourable Member's view is that under those rules it is possible to constitute a licensing 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 licensing board and laid down their functions and their powers and we expect the licensing board to act according to those rules. No provision has been made for an appeal from the decision of the licensing 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 be 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. O. Neogy: Do I take it that the Government of India have definitely come to the decision that the function and activities of the licensing 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.

955. ***Mr. P. B. Gole:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Non-Ferrous 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 N. 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. Mann 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.

Sreejuti 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. *Sreejuti 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. *Sreejuti 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.

Sreejuti 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.

Sreejuti 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 quarries 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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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 Lal: Does my Honourable friend merely imagine it or does he know?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No; I do not know.

Diwan Chaman Lal: 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 quarries 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 Charge-man 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 Haryana 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 become 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 question 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 Gurnath 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 Gurnath Bewoor: (a) During the war the Air Services of India, Ltd., made repeated proposals that they should be 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 13,375 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 Samastipur?

(b) Is it a fact that only five thousand maunds of *Arhar Dal* was required by the Oudh and Tirhut Railway Food Department at Samastipur and balance of thirty five thousand maunds was made over to merchants at Samastipur 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 48,237 maunds.

(b) No, the quantity taken over by the O. T. Railway Food Department was 88,524 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, 86 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) Muzaffarpur.

(3) Sonapore.

(4) Chupra.

(5) Savan.

(6) Bhatni.

(7) Gorakhpur.

(8) Basti.

(9) Gonda.

(10) Muzaffarpur.

(11) Samastipur.

(12) Motihari.

(13) Narkatiaganj.

(14) Mau Jn.

(15) Baxaul.

(16) On Mokamehghat, and Palezaghath Steamers.

R. & K. Zone—

(1) Kathgodam.

(2) Mailani.

Messrs. Razzak Md. Jan and Sons have also the contract for running a dining car on day trains between Bareilly 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.

(2) Aunrihar Jn.

(1) Thanabihpur.

(1) Ballia.

(2) Muzaffarpur.

(3) Darbhanga.

(4) Samastipur.

(5) Gorakhpur.

(1) Sonapore.

(2) Barauni Jn.

(1) Gonda.

(1) Kathgodam.

Contractors.

} Messrs. Singh & Sons.

} Messrs. Ganesh Lall & Co.

} Rai Saheb H. P. Verma & Sons.

Messrs. Quadir Bux & Sons.

Messrs. Razzak Md. Jan & Sons.

DISPOSAL OF STOCKS OF ARMY VEHICLES AND STORES.

1000. *Mr. E. O. 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 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 208 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 208 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 Ohaman 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 Ohaman 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 Ohaman 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 measure 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 information 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 communication 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 Parthurna 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.—concl'd.

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.

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,

if 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 think, 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 recruitment 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 Honourable 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

Mawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhamnadan 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 predilections 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 per cent. In 1946, the total number of gazetted post is 80 and the Muslim 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

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar]

18 per cent. Electrical Engineers are 12, and the Muslim quota is 6-2/8 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 285. 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 Ahmad. . . .

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.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar]

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-Muhammadian 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.

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 $33\frac{1}{3}$ 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 28 have, so far, been sent. Out of these 28, 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 conceded 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 footwear 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 export 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 these 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 84d. per lb. for light raw cowhides whereas the U. K. Board would not give more than 18/19d. 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, Maharam 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 25d. per price C. I. F. Port of destination and the average of the depression years that is between 1929-39 works to 37d. each whereas this U. S. A. Board would not give us more than 22d. 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 18d. for the same commodity that they were paying 37d. 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 68d. each. The China goatskins which are still inferior are fetching 60d. 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 which 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 34d. to 35d. per lb. for light qualities whereas our tanners can only afford to give us 16d. to 17d. 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 34d. per pound instead of 16d. 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

3 P.M. exporters of finished leather goods like shoes, suitcases, attachees, 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.

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 country 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 commencement 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 pieces.

[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 1½ 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 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. 8-15 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 Honourable 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 export 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 also 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 flourishing.

I took up the question again in the year 1934 and after a good deal of discussion 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 enormously 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 simple 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 Capital 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 charmar.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Yes. The cattle belong to the cultivator and the charmar 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-buffaloes, 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 sufficient, it is suicidal to think of export of hides.

Now, again, Sir, if you kindly see the cultivable land of this country, 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 22.3 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 consumed). 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 monopoly 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

4 P. M. 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,.....

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 or 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 Mohamunad 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. The 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 extent 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 a lower percentage outside. It is absolutely correct fact that certain combinations 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.
Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
Abid Hussain, Captain Syed.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
Ahmad Ali Khan Alvi, Raja Sir Saiyid.
Ali Asghar Khan, Mr.
E. H. Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed.
Ghazanfarulla, Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.
Guruswami, Mr. S.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.
Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed.
Sher Shah.

Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sir Syed Muhammad.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—37.

Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.
Bentham, 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.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Inakip, Mr. A. C.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Joshi, Mr. S. C.

Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
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.
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.

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 course 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.
Bentham, 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 Guruswami.

Joshi, Mr. S. C.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mason, Mr. P.
Morris, Mr. R. C.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Oulnam, 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 Lal, Diwan.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Choudhury, Sreejot 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 Dharendra Kanta.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Malaviya, Pandit Govind.

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.
Bentham, 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 Makhdom 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 Lal, Diwan.
 Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
 Choudhury, Sreejot Rohini Kumar.
 Daga, Seth Sheodasa.
 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 Dharendra 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 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—ARCHAEOLOGY

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.

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. 1,25,64,900 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 '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.

GENERAL BUDGET—LIST OF DEMANDS

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. 18,000 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 Piploa'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 73—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 63,34,000 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. 3,98,38,000 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 Aviation'."

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 'Capital 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. 1,18,29,000 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.

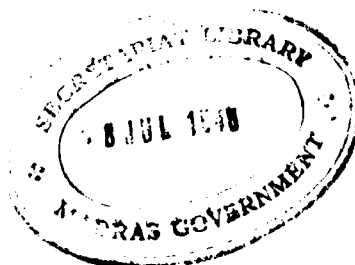
DEMAND NO. 89—INTEREST-FREE AND INTEREST BEARING ADVANCES

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 34,91,82,900 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 '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.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 15th 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:

Sir John Francis Sheehy, C.S.I., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and

Mr. Charles William Ayers, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

SLAUGHTER OF BUFFALO-CALVES BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES

1003. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Military authorities slaughter even buffalo-calves; if so, whether any record has been kept about their ages and numbers;

(b) whether any steps are taken to prevent such a slaughter;

(c) if it is also a fact that the Military authorities are prepared to send the buffalo-calves in their farm on the fourteenth day of their birth and have offered to give them away freely to anyone who wishes to look after them;

(d) whether Government are satisfied that the calves of fourteen days of age can live if separated from their mother-buffaloes and whether Government propose to represent to the Military authorities to send them at least when they are three months of age, so that the calves can be safely separated from their mother-buffaloes; and

(e) whether Government propose to get into touch with the existing Pinjrapoles and other organisations interested in cattle protection and development and invite their attention to the offer of the Military authorities to give them the buffalo calves freely and tell them at what Military farms and on what days in the week or month they can take charge of the calves?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) As stated in the reply to Starred Question No. 424, of Pt. Thakur Das Bhargava, in those Provinces in which legislation prohibits the slaughter of female buffalo calves, no such calves are slaughtered, except a small proportion (considerably less than one per cent) which have to be destroyed on veterinary advice. In other provinces a percentage of such calves, depending on the demand for meat and the availability of feeding grains are slaughtered. A statement is laid on the table showing the number of female buffalo-calves slaughtered is three Military Farms, viz., Meerut, Agra and Muttra. No records as to numbers and ages of those slaughtered in other areas are kept, but a record of all calves given away free is maintained. A rough estimate shows that out of 1100 young stock produced each month some 750 are taken away and some 200 kept at the farm.

(b) Orders were issued in August 1945 to all Military Farms prohibiting the slaughter of calves, where the laws of a province do not permit slaughter.

(c) Female buffalo-calves are maintained at Government farms for 14 days and then given away free to those who are prepared to take them.

(d) Experts differ on the point but the military authorities consider that practical cattle breeders who are conversant in the art of weaning can rear young calves even when they are separated from their dams at the age of 14 days. They point out that the rearing of these calves for three months at farms comes to Rs. 150 each and do not consider it desirable to undertake this work.

(e) The Provincial Governments were informed about the free availability of such animals for rearing by cattle breeders. Wide publicity is also said to have been given to this by the Information Department. The Military Farms will have no objection to handing over the calves to Pinjrapoles and other organisations who may contact the nearest farms for obtaining these calves. They may be taken on any day of the week or month, except Sundays.

Statement showing the number of female buffalo-calves in three Military Farms, viz., Meerut, Agra and Muttra.

Buffaloes	Born	Given as free gift	Died	Reared	Destroyed
		MEERUT			
Female	54	12	26*	15	2*
		AGRA			
Female	47	27	4	16 2†	...
		MUTTRA.			
Female	26	5	20†	1	...

* Destroyed on veterinary certificate.

† The high percentage of deaths is due contagious abortion being prevalent in the herd to certified by veterinary officers.

‡ Six died at birth, eight died of stomach disorders and six destroyed on veterinary orders. The veterinary officers state that 14 deaths were probably due to dietetic errors which have since been rectified.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that it is not always the expert cattle breeders who will be able to take these calves, will Government consider the advisability of reconsidering their earlier decision and increasing the age of these calves from 15 days to a longer period before they are given away to these Pinjrapoles or other organisations?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The suggestion will be examined.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether there is only one-way traffic from the military to the Agriculture Department and that there is no traffic from the Agriculture Department to the military with regard to ideas? And in view of the great depletion of the cattle in India, could not the military be now persuaded by the Agricultural Department to take the extra trouble, to give the benefit of the doubt, and not get these calves, at least the she-calves, disposed of in 14 days and keep them for at least 30 days?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That is exactly what I have said that we shall examine the matter in consultation with the military authorities and see if the period can be extended.

Mr. Manu Subedar: My question is this: Are the civilian members of this Government so powerless against the military that they could not enforce this very much required restriction with regard to the depletion of calves, at least the she-calves which will bear fruit?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I do not quite catch the point.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are the civilian members of this Government so powerless as against the military and are the military so impervious to ideas which will benefit this country, that they will not accept and adopt such a very requisite measure.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The military are already giving away animals at 14 days, free, and the only question is whether it should be done at 14 days or a month; the latter suggestion will be examined and if possible it will be done.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that the military farms do not keep statistics of all those calves that are being slaughtered and their sex? And also, are there many other military farms, and if so where are they, apart from the three that are mentioned?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: May I suggest that that inquiry may be addressed to the War Department?

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that with respect to clause (d) of the question, the experts may differ but in practice the calves which are sold or given by the military authorities at 14 days die and do not live to the extent of 99 per cent?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Government have no information of that.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Government, if they have no information, collect the information in this respect, because the future action depends upon these statistics?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: It will be very difficult to collect information as to what happens to the animals after they are handed over to individual breeders.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it a fact that the dehydration factories started during the course of the war are being closed down?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I do not think that arises.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: May I ask the Honourable Member whether the provincial Governments have been approached with a view to rearing calves, as is done by the Bombay Government?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Yes, Sir. The Provincial Governments have been informed both about the free availability of the animals and the need for taking them and rearing them themselves.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: May I ask the Honourable Member how many Provincial Governments have taken advantage of this offer?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid I have not got the information but I am quite prepared to collect it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the Provincial Governments which have not prohibited the slaughter of calves?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: There are two provinces: The N. W. F. P. and the Punjab.

EXPORT OF GOODS BY SEA FROM INDIA TO BURMA

1004. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is a fact that a large quantity of goods is being exported from India to Burma by sea since December 1945?

(b) If so, what is the total quantity that has been exported up to the last date for which figures are available?

(c) Is it a fact that these goods are purchased by the agency of the Government of Burma in India? If that is not so, which agency is purchasing these goods on behalf of the Government of Burma?

(d) Do Government intend to allow the normal channels of trade to export such goods to Burma in the future? If so, when? If not, why not?

(e) Are the goods thus exported required for the consumption of the civil population in Burma, or are they required for military purposes?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) Exports of controlled goods representing urgent requirements of the Government of Burma and the civilian population for a limited period are permitted after having carefully "screened".

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) The goods are indented for by the Burma Supply Mission, but the purchases are made by the Supplying Department concerned of the Government of India.

(d) Yes, as early as possible. The matter has been taken up with the Government of Burma.

(e) The goods exported are for the rehabilitation of Burma and not for military purposes, and I may add that the value of the export in the month of December was only Rs. 1,10,624 and the value of all goods which were sent to Burma in January was Rs. 2,03,556.

Statement showing the quantity and value of Indian merchandises exported by sea from British India to Burma during the month of December 1945 and January 1946.

Name of Article	December 1945		January 1946	
	Quantity	Value.	Quantity	Value
		Rs.		Rs.
Coal	7,244 tons	1,08,660	13,378 tons	2,00,560
Provisions	3 cwt.	202	.. cwt.	322
Earthenware	..	238	..	..
Apparel	..	170	..	..
Furniture	..	200	..	104
Stationery	..	397	..	296
Paints and colours	..	32	3 cwt.	363
Haberdashery	..	..	..	363
Hardware	..	357	..	95
Glasses and glassware	..	127	..	..
Chemicals	..	5	..	..
Leather	..	..	..	24
Spices-pepper	..	..	..	46
Cotton, canvas	..	..	40 yds.	100
All other articles manufactured	..	236	..	793
Total export	..	1,10,624	..	2,03,556

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know what steps the Government of India are taking in order to eliminate Burma Government purchase in India and in order to permit the normal trade channels?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have answered that. We have taken it up actively with the Government of Burma.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why it is not suggested to the Burma Government to supply themselves through the normal trade channels; why is the Supply Department here making itself available and more particularly when the Finance Member told us yesterday that the monies owing by the Burma Government have accumulated to an alarming figure? May I know why this Government is permitting goods required by the civilian population of this country to go in this manner by Government purchase?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: My Honourable friend is assuming, as he always does, a very large number of things which is not a fact or does not arise out of the question. I have said that this began immediately after the cessation of hostilities and we have taken up the matter actively with the Government of Burma in regard to the resumption of normal trade channels.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I take objection to the Honourable Member saying that my Honourable friend here always does assume things.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am anxious to ascertain the facts. I do not want to make assumptions which are wrong but I do want to know whether the Government propose not merely about Burma but several other countries to permit Government missions to be established here for purchase. It is the same thing about Ceylon. This is a large issue of policy. I do not want to make assumptions but it is for my Honourable friend to assure this House that the Government of India will not permit this kind of thing to go on for ever.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: If the Government of India was the only agent in a transaction which involves two parties, I would have immediately given that answer but otherwise our policy has been and remains - I do not know what it will be when my friend will come—to see that the normal trade channels are established as soon as possible.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to state whether the goods so far purchased on behalf of the Government of Burma include any that may be in short supply in this country.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Only 40 yards of cotton canvas have been sent.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps are the Government taking to reorganise trade channels at least so far as food from Burma is concerned? Will Indian merchants be allowed to collect food from Burma against the goods which are going from here, when it is found to be a surplus in Burma?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As I have said, this question has been actively taken up and recently a deputation of the merchants representing the various interests, including the rice trade, was sent to Burma to discuss the question.

Diwan Chaman Lal: May I know whether these are cash or credit transactions?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not sure about it and cannot reply straight away. I will be able to collect the information from the Supply Department.

BASIC EDUCATION SOCIETY, WARDHA.

1005. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have been following the activities of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh (Basic Education Society), Wardha, and have read their annual reports;

(b) whether they have noticed that a number of Provincial and State Governments are helping it and have begun to make experiments with the methods of teaching and running schools as advocated by that Society;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of India and their All-India Educational Advisory Council have approved the basic principles underlying the scheme of that Society;

(d) whether Government have taken any steps to experiment with that Society's methods of teaching with the craft as the main basis; if so, where and when;

(e) whether Government have started any schools at least in the Centrally Administrated Areas; and

(f) why Government do not start an All-India Training College and experimental centre to propagate the principles and economics of Basic Education?

Dr. D. M. Sen: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India have no information as to what help 'The Hindusthani Talimi Sangh' is receiving from Provincial Governments and Indian States. The Government of India are, however, aware that some Provincial Governments and Indian States are carrying out experiments in Basic Education on the lines adopted by the Central Advisory Board of Education, in 1940.

(c) The Government of India have generally accepted the principles underlying the Basic Education Scheme adopted by the Central Advisory Board of Education.

(d) and (e). The Government of India propose to start immediately to implement the Post-War Educational Development Scheme, prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Education. The attention of the Honourable Member is called to that report, particularly to the Chapter on Basic Education. The new schools, proposed, will incorporate the principles recommended in that report.

(f) The Government of India propose to establish colleges for training teachers for the Basic Schools that will be started to meet the requirements of the Centrally Administered Areas.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to the suggestion in part (f) about the starting of an All-India Training College and experimental centre, what is the answer?

Dr. D. M. Sen: We are starting colleges for the Centrally administered areas and as I have said in reply to (f) these training colleges will train teachers for basic schools.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will this College serve the interests of the whole of India or only the Centrally administered areas?

Dr. D. M. Sen: We are primarily concerned with the Centrally administered areas. I suppose if there are seats available, then other educational authorities might also be able to utilise them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I suggest that this college should serve the needs of the whole of India and not only of the Centrally administered areas?

Dr. D. M. Sen: Education is a provincial subject and we cannot anticipate provincial needs. We do not know whether there will be a need for an All-India college. Provincial Governments are taking steps to train teachers on the lines recommended by the Central Advisory Board of Education but if there is any need which is not met by the requisite authorities, the Central Government will certainly consider it.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Provincial Governments again enforce the singing of 'Bande Mataram' in the Muslim schools?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What contact do the Government of India maintain between their department here and this particular society and other societies in the country.

Dr. D. M. Sen: The Government of India are utilising the Central Advisory Board of Education to contact the All-India educational and cultural agencies and as such the Central Advisory Board of Education collect annual and periodical reports from 'The Hindustani Talimi Sangh'; and incidentally there is one member of 'The Hindustani Talimi Sangh' who is also a member of the Central Advisory Board of Education.

SEPARATION OF HILL DISTRICTS FROM ASSAM PROVINCE.

1006. *Mr. G. B. Dani: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state if it is a fact that Government are proposing to separate the Hill districts of the Assam Province from the Province? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware of the fact that the separation of these Hill districts from the Assam Province will cause dissatisfaction in the Public of Assam and the rest of India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri's starred question No. 405, on the 20th February, 1946, to which I have nothing to add.

(b) Does not arise.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that information is being collected by the local officers under instructions of Government, so that the matter may be considered in the Constituent Assembly and later on by the Parliament?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware whether information is being collected but no doubt it will be one of the subjects which will come before the Constituent Assembly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that the All-India Excluded Areas and Tribal People's Association has repeatedly protested against any idea of separating these people from the self-governing areas of India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would refer the Honourable Member to my previous answer.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it not a fact that His Excellency the Governor General of India paid a visit to Balipara frontier tract and that there the tribal people were assembled before him to express their opinion on this subject?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of that.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it not a fact that the Political Officer of Khasi and Jainta Hills was especially summoned to England so that facts may be ascertained from him with regard to those Hills and also with regard to Lushai Hills of which he was a Political Officer?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will put down a question, I will endeavour to answer it.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Has the Government seen the copy of the letter addressed by Mr. Small, the retired Director of Public Instruction, Assam, on this subject to the British Parliamentary Delegation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will put down a question, I will endeavour to answer it.

LATENT COLORATION OF VANASPATHI.

1007. *Mr. G. B. Dani: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state if Government are aware that the Vanaspathi Manufacturers' Association of India have recommended to the Food Department that the latent coloration of Vanaspathi should be enforced with a view to preventing its use for the adulteration of pure ghee?

(b) If so, has the Food Department considered this representative request?

(c) Is it a fact that the Food Department has licensed twenty-seven additional units for the manufacture of vanaspathi to raise the production without considering the possibility of the existing small units to expand their capacity without considerable addition to plant?

Mr. B. R. San: (a) Yes, the Association supported the proposal initiated by the Controller's Advisory Committee.

(b) Yes the test will be enforced after it has been finalised in respect of technical details.

(c) No. The prospect of expanding the existing factories was considered and the assistance given has resulted in the expansion of the capacity of factories existing in 1939 from 51,000 tons to 1,19,000 tons.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask if it is not a fact that 27 additional units have been licensed?

Mr. B. R. Sen: 28, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether any official of the Food Department, from the lowest to the highest, is in any way financially connected with the promotion of any of these units?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The answer is in the negative.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask whether any relations of any of these officials, from the lowest to the highest, are connected with the promotion of any of these units?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Not to our knowledge.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is my Honourable friend prepared to make an inquiry into this matter?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We are quite prepared to make inquiries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government expedite the consideration and come to an early decision in regard to the colour that must be used by all Vanaspati products?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It is not a colour which is being added to the Vanaspati, but it is an oil which is a latent agent for detection of adulteration. In other words, it is not a colour but an agent which gives a colour re-action.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government sufficient authority today to insist upon this colour being used, or a chemical being used, in order to enable the public to easily distinguish Vanaspati from Ghee so that there will not be any adulteration of Ghee by Vanaspati?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The proposal is that sesame oil should be incorporated in Vanaspati so that it may act as a latent agent for the detection of adulteration. This proposal is being examined by the Principal of the Hercourt Butler Institute in regard to its technical aspects. As soon as the technical examination is finished, we will take necessary action to give effect to the proposal.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government made any progress with regard to the question as to whether the activities of some of the Vanaspati producers cannot be restrained in order to preserve groundnut, which would be good for human food and cotton seed which is wanted for cattle food?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The matter is under examination.

EMPLOYMENT OF UNEMPLOYED WOMEN IN COAL MINES.

1008. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any efforts are made and if so, what they are to provide alternate employment to those women who had been working in coal mines and who are unemployed since the 1st February;

(b) why Government allow employers to utilise the services of contractors to provide some work for some of those unemployed women;

(c) the wages paid to these women by Contractors; and

(d) why Government refuse to continue the grant to their families on the account of these women, of the additional half a seer of free rice, half a seer of free milk and concessions in purchasing rice and dal, in view of the fact that male members of their families are working in the mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 466, on the 25th February, 1946;

(b) Contractors are employed for building, sand loading and unloading, brick making, etc., and some women excluded from the underground workings have been employed on these classes of work, which are always let on contract.

(c) The earnings of women so employed are between 10 to 12 annas a day excluding half a seer free rice and a bonus of two annas for each attendance.

(d) The additional ration concessions are only given to coalmine workers.

The concession regarding free supply of milk to women workers employed underground in coalmines was prescribed as a compensatory measure in connection with the removal of ban on their employment underground. Consequent on the reimposition of the ban from 1st February 1946, the concession has ceased to be in force from that date.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to the question of concession in purchasing rice and dal, why should it not be continued now in regard to those women who are now to work on the surface but who previously used to work underground?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said in my reply, those privileges were given when they used to work underground. As soon as the ban has been re-imposed, there is no justification for giving them this compensatory allowance.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The other day the Secretary to the Honourable Member was saying that some protective measures were being taken in order to protect the workers from the vagaries of these contractors. Are we to understand that those protective measures apply to these women also and they are being protected from being exploited?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I did not understand who said that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member's Secretary, Mr. Joshi, said that the contractors are being entertained here and through those contractors these women are being employed. Are we to understand that sufficient measures are being taken by Government to protect these women from being exploited by these contractors?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: All I can say is that if the Honourable Member will put down a specific question, I will get an answer.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Has the Government insisted on a fair wages clause in the contract?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: So far as my information goes, that clause has been inserted in the contracts.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps Government are taking generally to examine the problem that the contractor may be eliminated and the labour should work directly for the employer?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That matter is under examination.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My question related to the fair wages clause being inserted in the contracts of these women workers?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That has not been done so far; it may be considered.

CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM ACROSS THE LAXMANATRITHA RIVER

†1009. ***Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

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

(a) whether the construction of a dam across the Laxmanatritha river in Coorg is contemplated, and whether the said project is being taken up in expectation of irrigation about 30,000 acres of land;

(b) whether the Mysore Government have raised objections to the said scheme;

(c) whether the Government of India have addressed in this matter by the Chief Commissioner of Coorg; and

(d) whether the Government of India have arrived at a decision in the matter; if so, what that decision is; if not, whether Government propose to arrive at an early decision to enable the Coorg Government to proceed with the speedy execution of the project?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes, but the project as prepared in 1942 was estimated to irrigate only about 3,000 acres.

(b) Information is not available; it is being called for.

(c) and (d). The project was examined but it was found to be wanting in certain technical aspects. The Chief Commissioner, Coorg, was asked to revise the project in the light of the technical advice and also to enquire of the neighbouring state whether they had any objection to its execution. The revised project has not so far been received from the Chief Commissioner, Coorg, though it is included in the five year post-war plan of the Coorg Administration.

CULTIVATION OF FALLOW LAND IN NORTH KANARA DISTRICT.

†1010. ***Shri D. P. Karmakar:** Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) what measures have been taken to popularise the 'Grow More Food' campaign in the North Kanara District in the Bombay Province;

(b) whether there is a large area of cultivable fallow land remaining uncultivated; if so, what the area is;

(c) whether it is a fact that malaria is largely prevalent in the inland parts of the district, and whether on account of depopulation consequent on malaria and other epidemics considerable fertile land is remaining uncultivated;

(d) what measures Government propose to take to bring all the fallow lands in the district under cultivation and increase the food growing capacity of the district; and

(e) what financial assistance Government propose to make available for the purpose mentioned in (d)?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The following measures have been taken by the Government of Bombay in furtherance of the Grow More Food Campaign in the North Kanara District:—

(i) Interest free Tagai loans are advanced to the cultivators for the purchase of improved seeds.

(ii) Tagai loans are also advanced to the cultivators for the construction of wells and tanks. The loan is interest free in the first year and bears interest at the rate of 3½ per cent. per annum thereafter. 50 per cent. of the cost of these projects is given as subsidy.

(iii) Rent free leases are granted for a period of three years for bringing more land under cultivation.

(b) The area of fallow land lying uncultivated in the district is 107,462 acres and Government waste land 52,969 acres. Most of this area has been fallow for the last 50 years and is over grown with thick vegetation.

(c) Malaria is largely prevalent for five months of the year and the population has consistently dwindled in the above Ghat Talukas and scarcity of labour is acute. Disease and pests are also responsible for fallow.

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

(d) A scheme of colonisation to bring larger areas under cultivation is under the active consideration of the Provincial Government. They propose to eradicate malaria by the extensive use of D.D.T. A malaria research station has recently been established and has already done good work. The use of D.D.T. will be extended.

(e) The question is under the consideration of the Provincial Government.

SURVEY OF SUB-SOIL WATER FOR IRRIGATION

1011. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) In view of the fact that there is a necessity to grow more food, what steps has the Agriculture Secretary taken to have the survey of sub-soil water which may be utilised for agricultural purposes?

(b) What are the possibilities of getting sub-soil water for irrigation purposes in various Provinces?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) In 1944 a Central Sub-soil Water Section was set up under the Irrigation Adviser to advise provinces as regards suitable tracts for tubewell irrigation, to carry out trial borings and to collect and co-ordinate data regarding sub-soil water supplies. The Irrigation Adviser went to the United States of America to secure the necessary machinery part of which has already arrived. A training class in the use of these boring rigs is being organised at Dhanbad.

(b) The possibilities of getting adequate supplies of sub-soil water for irrigation purposes in the alluvial tracts particularly in the Indo-Gangetic plains are known and these are being developed according to the availability of machinery. In the non-alluvial tracts of India, sub-soil supplies of irrigation water have to be surveyed and this work will be undertaken as soon as the necessary preparations are completed and staff trained.

SHIPPING FACILITIES TO INDIANS BY MALAYAN GOVERNMENT

1012. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the despatch in the *Hindu* of the 23rd January from its Special Correspondent in Singapore regarding the unfavourable attitude of the Malayan Government and its Military administration towards the demand of Indians, including workers for the provision of shipping facilities to return to India;

(b) if Government are aware that these Indian emigrants have suffered much during the war and after;

(c) if Government are aware that they were accustomed to pay periodical visits to India to see their relatives, be in the midst of their families and look after their properties, land, etc., at least once in three years;

(d) if Government are aware that today their plight is most unenviable owing to shortage of food, clothing, housing and medicines; and

(e) what special steps Government have taken or propose to take to provide adequate shipping facilities for enabling these unfortunate people to pay a visit to India and their relatives at the earliest opportunity?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a), (b), (c) and (d). Yes.

(e) The Government of India are making every endeavour to provide increased shipping to expedite repatriation of Indians from Malaya.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any possibility of these people not being allowed to come back to India, in the light of the revelations made by my Leader by reading those letters the other day, lest their presence in this country might be found to be politically difficult?

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

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I understand that the question refers to all kinds of Indians and not only to Indians accused or suspected of collaboration. As regards the first category of people, so far as Malaya is concerned, I think everybody is free to come back.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then why is it that when these Indians wanted to come back to India, they were forced to remain in Singapore and the Home Department is reported to have informed the authorities there that if they were to be sent out to India, they would be forcibly resisted?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: It is not clear what class of Indians my Honourable friend is referring to.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am referring to the Indians in Malaya, who wanted to come back to this country, but their return was not considered desirable by the Home Department. Is it not a fact that when they were thinking of coming back to India, the Home Department is reported to have instructed the local authorities in Singapore that their entry into India would be resisted?

Mr. President: Perhaps the Honourable Member is unaware of the three letters quoted by the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have read them in the newspapers. But I think the Honourable Member should select a suitable occasion for addressing supplementary questions to the appropriate Department.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Is it a fact that the British Military Administration in Malaya consists of British planters in khaki?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I submit that that question does not arise.

Mr. President: I should think that this is connected, for this reason, that a particular class of Indians or a particular set of people, who are suspected of something, and whom the people in charge of the administration there do not want to be taken to India, are not given facilities for repatriation. That is the point. Am I correct in understanding it so?

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Yes. Look at clause (a) of the question.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Our information is that some of the members of the British Military Administration in Malaya are ex-planters.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that about 300 Indians were put on board a steamer at Bangkok in January last and Mr. Aney who happened to be present assured them that they would be taken direct to India, but that they were forcibly disembarked at Singapore and detained there? If so, are Government taking any steps to repatriate them?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I want notice of that question.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Is it a fact that the British Military Administration in Malaya which consists of British planters has been known to be notoriously anti-Indian and inimical to Indian interests in the past?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I want notice of that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: How many people have this Government succeeded in getting repatriated from there and what is the estimate in the next month of people whom they expect to repatriate here?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I am afraid I have not got the information in my possession. I want notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that there are some Malaya Indians who have returned from Malaya and are now in Delhi, will Government take advantage of their presence here and ascertain further facts with regard to the plight of our Indians there?

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

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Sir, the Government of India has a representative in Malaya and the recognised procedure is to obtain information from him, and we shall do so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is an extraordinary position. Are we to understand that the Government of India are not prepared to receive representations from any Malay Indians who may happen to be here in Delhi and that they wish to depend only on their agent there in Malaya?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: That is a different question. We are quite prepared to receive representations. If I heard the Honourable Member aright, he suggested that we should obtain information from Malay Indians here?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why should they not?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: They may not have accurate information.

REMOVAL OF EUROPEAN REFUGEES FROM INDIA

1013. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) the number of civilian non-Indian personnel and other displaced persons from countries in Europe or Asia who came to India as refugees up to January 1945;

(b) the number of such persons for whom houses and flats and other accommodation was requisitioned in Bombay city and suburbs;

(c) the number of houses or flats so reserved for accommodating such persons, and the amount of money spent on them so far;

(d) the number of such persons still in the Bombay city and suburbs and continuing in occupation of such accommodation; and

(e) whether he proposes to take early steps to remove all such persons from India to the continent of Europe or wherever they came from, if not, why not?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) 12,000 approximately.

(b) About 3,000.

(c) Nine houses and flats. The total amount of money spent from 1941 to 1944 was Rs. 3,82,491/12/-.

(d) Nil. All hostels in Bombay meant for refugees have been closed down.

(e) Steps are already being taken to repatriate non-Indian evacuees, but in view of shipping difficulties some time must elapse before they can all leave this country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why it was found necessary to house 3,000 of them in Bombay City instead of their being spread all over the country, Bombay City being a strategic centre both for military, naval and other purposes?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: That was to reduce to the minimum the period of their stay here and to make it most convenient for them to return to their homes at short notice.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Are there among the civilian non-Indian personnel and other displaced persons any South African?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have not got the information. I want notice of the question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why it was thought necessary to secure at public expense for these people some of the best accommodation in Bombay, and may I know why ten months after the war has ended, they are still occupying these places? Have Government taken any steps to restore these places to the civilian population?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The expenses on this sort of accommodation are to be borne by the Government of the country to which the refugee belongs, so that

the expenditure will not be debited to Indian exchequer. In reply to part (d) I have said that all hostels in Bombay have been closed down.

Sri V. C. Vellingri Gounder: What is the rate of maintenance charges paid daily for these evacuees?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: It varies. But generally the evacuees who have been in this country for several years are kept in camps. I am afraid I could not give the exact figures.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are Government aware that some of these refugees and evacuees have added to the vice of the City of Bombay, some of them have indulged in black market activities and that they are not desirable social elements to be continued in this country?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I dare say their activities are as human as those of any other people and we are doing our best to send them back to their countries as soon as possible.

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

1014. ***Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) the names of superannuated European Indian Civil Service officers who are now employed in the various Indian States or in big zamindaris, and the states where they are employed;

(b) the pension which they draw from the Indian exchequer;

(c) the salaries they draw in the Indian States, etc.;

(d) whether the approval of the Government of India or the Governor General was taken for such appointments;

(e) whether there is any policy underlying the appointment of retired European service men in the Indian States; and

(f) whether there are any Europeans in the service of Indian States, who have served in India in services other than the I.C.S.; if so, their names and the States where they are now serving?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) As far as is known to the Central Government, the following superannuated European I. C. S. Officers are employed in the States:

(1) Sir George Boag in Cochin.

(2) Sir Alexander Tottenham in Pudukkottai.

(3) Sir Colin Garbett in Bhopal.

No information is available regarding superannuated European I. C. S. Officers employed in zamindaris, as employment in zamindaris is not subject to sanction by Government.

(b), (c) and (f). Information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course.

(d) Approval of the Central Government is not necessary but such appointments are subject to the consent of the Crown Representative who accorded sanction to the employment of the three officers previously mentioned.

(e) No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Political Department has to approve the appointment of superannuated Civilians to Indian States?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Individuals other than I. C. S. Officers?

Diwan Chaman Lal: What is a superannuated Indian Civil service officer?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member may put that question to the questioner.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the Crown Representative consults the Government of India before giving his consent to the appointment?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that a civilian can serve for 35 years and it is only after that he becomes superannuated and that there are at present in Government service persons who are superannuated and who are more than 65 years of age?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will put down a question to the proper department, it will no doubt be answered.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: May I know which of the Members of the Governor-General's Executive Council are superannuated?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We are all full of youthful energy.

MUSLIM ENGINEERS IN THE CENTRAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

†1015. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that in the Central P.W.D. out of the thirteen Superintending Engineers there are only two Muslims, out of the sixty-four Executive Engineers only twelve are Muslims and out of the 310 Sub-Divisional Officers only 45 are Muslims?

(b) Did the Honourable Member make any attempt to see whether qualified Muslims are available for appointment with a view to make up the deficiency in the quota of 25 per cent?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The numbers are as follows, in respect of the Engineering and Electrical sides taken together:

	Total	Muslims
Superintending Engineers	15	1
Executive and Electrical Engineers	76	13
Sub-Divisional Officers	328	55

(b) All these posts are filled by promotion and the communal representation rules are not applicable to cases of promotion. The question of securing the 25 per cent. quota for Muslims in these appointments does not, therefore, arise.

CEYLON QUARANTINE REGULATIONS

1016. ***Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) the Ceylon Quarantine Regulations affecting passengers travelling from India to Ceylon via the Mandapam Camp;

(b) if it is a fact that according to these regulations, passengers are not allowed to land at Talaimannar in Ceylon, unless they produce a health certificate from the Ceylon Quarantine Medical Officer at the Mandapam Camp;

(c) in view of the fact that the Mandapam Camp is situated on Indian soil, if it is not possible for the Government of India to arrange for the examination, and for giving of health certificates through an Indian Quarantine Medical Officer;

(d) if it is a fact that, while higher class passengers holding certificates of vaccination from the Health Officer or a recognised Medical Officer are allowed to proceed without any kind of detention at the above Camp, third class passengers even though in possession of similar certificates are detained for a number of days; and

(e) whether the Government of India propose to investigate all such cases of discrimination against third class passengers and see that facilities to the passengers are available on a uniform basis?

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

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) A statement placed on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) Though situated in India, the Camp is owned, maintained and administered by the Ceylon Government. It would, therefore, be anomalous to seek to persuade the Ceylon Government to entrust this work to an Indian Quarantine Medical Officer.

(d) Yes; that is the prevailing practice. As first and second class passengers ordinarily live a more hygienic life and incur comparatively less risk of infection during the railway journey, the Medical Officer exercises his discretion in their favour.

(e) The matter is already under consideration.

Statement

A SUMMARY OF CEYLON QUARANTINE REGULATIONS AFFECTING PASSENGERS TRAVELLING FROM INDIA TO CEYLON VIA MANDAPAM (OR TUTICORIN).

(1) Passengers are not allowed to land at Talaimannar in Ceylon unless they produce a health certificate from the Ceylon Quarantine Medical Officer at Mandapam Camp.

(2) When the Indo-Ceylon Express halts at Mandapam (for 30 minutes) all 1st, 2nd and Inter Class passengers are examined by the Quarantine Medical Officer. A health certificate is issued to any passenger who satisfies the following conditions:—

(a) is healthy and has not been in contact with or exposed to infection from any case of plague, cholera or small pox;

(b) If the passenger—

(i) produces a certificate from a duly qualified medical practitioner of any country that the passenger has been vaccinated or revaccinated within the three years immediately preceding; or

(ii) bears scars of an attack of small-pox; or

(iii) subjects himself to vaccination; and

(c) if the passenger—

(i) holds a permit from the Chairman, Quarantine Committee, Colombo (permits are issued free of charge on application being made to the Chairman Quarantine Committee, through a resident of Ceylon); or

(ii) is about to embark on board a ship at Colombo, and produces proof of that fact to the satisfaction of the Medical officers; or

(iii) has satisfied the Medical Officer as to his usual place of residence in Ceylon and signed a declaration specifying such place of residence.

Provided that the Medical Officer may, before granting such health certificate, vaccinate any passenger who produces a certificate of vaccination referred to in clause (b) (i) or who bears scars of an attack of small-pox, in any case where the Medical Officer considers such vaccination to be desirable or necessary.

(3) Any passenger not provided with a quarantine permit or unable to satisfy the Medical Officer as to his place of residence in Ceylon, or fails to sign a declaration giving his place of residence in Ceylon, may at the discretion of the Medical Officer be granted a health certificate to land on making a cash deposit of Rs. 50 and giving a written undertaking to abide by the Quarantine Regulations while in Ceylon.

(4) Servants of 1st and 2nd class passengers may be passed at the discretion of the Medical Officer on the guarantee of their masters. Servants of those about to embark on ships at Colombo may be passed on the guarantee of their masters that they will report to the Assistant Port Health Officer for Immigration, Colombo, while in Colombo and will return to India immediately after their masters' departure.

(5) All other passengers will be required to undergo 5 clear days' quarantine at Mandapam Camp, at the end of which period they will be provided with a health pass which they should hand over to the Port Health Officer at Talaimannar and they would then be free to go where they like; but on the appearance of any illness within 10 days of arrival they should notify the nearest Government Medical Officer.

(6) Those holding permits but coming from infected areas may be detained at the discretion of the Medical Officer for disinfection, vaccination, and observation. Passengers are advised to arrive at the Camp by the morning Dhanushkodi Fast Passenger train so that they may undergo disinfection and vaccination if necessary and proceed to Ceylon the same day, if detention in Camp for observation is not found necessary.

(7) Conditions to be fulfilled by the passengers on arrival in Ceylon—Passengers on arrival in Ceylon have to report themselves to the Medical Officer of the district in which the passengers reside on the very day of arrival.

passengers reside on the very day of arrival, except on Sundays, and thereafter as directed by the said Officer, within their period of observation.

(8) 1st and 2nd class tourists who do not stay more than a week in Ceylon may, at the discretion of the Quarantine Medical Officer, be allowed to report to the Medical Officer of the place they visit on the day of arrival in Ceylon and to the Port Health Officer in Colombo, or to the Port Health Officer, Talaimannar, on departure from the Island. In the event of their falling sick during their stay such tourists should report forthwith to the nearest Government Medical Officer.

(9) The passing of passengers by the Medical authorities does not necessarily mean the free entry of these passengers to Ceylon as they still have to satisfy the Ceylon Police that they are not "destitutes".

Shri Sri Prakasa: With regard to part (c), are we to take it that the Ceylon Government functions on Indian soil so far as these camps are concerned and that they have full authority to do so?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The camp was acquired by the Ceylon Government in the regular way and the Government of Madras entered into an agreement some years ago under which the Ceylon Government administer this camp. I may also state for the information of the House that this arrangement is of much greater advantage to the large number of Indian emigrants who have to proceed to Ceylon because as Honourable Members can easily imagine, that it reduces the risk of hardships and disabilities of the emigrants.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that a large number of Indian workers move between India and Ceylon, often more than twice a year, will Government consider the advisability of seeing that those who have been previously vaccinated are not troubled again for vaccination every time they go to Ceylon?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: We will certainly consider the suggestion.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that third class passengers very often are far more healthy and hefty than the upper class passengers, who are usually anaemic—the Honourable Member apart—will the Honourable Member take steps towards removing this discrimination between First and Third class passengers?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: As I said, the practice is based on the presumption that Third class passengers are more liable to infection in the course of the railway journey. But I would also add that owing to their being detained there for a few days all such passengers are quite free to move about on their arrival in Ceylon; but First and Second class passengers who are not detained have to remain under medical surveillance for nearly 12 days on arrival in Ceylon. So on the whole we feel that the present practice is perhaps in the interest of the Third class passengers. But, as I stated in reply to part (e) of the question, the whole matter is under examination.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that in spite of being vaccinated and the certificates of vaccination being produced, the Third class passengers when they enter the ships have to uncover their bodies and show whether they have been vaccinated or not?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I do not know.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member make inquiries about this insulting behaviour towards the Third class passengers and see that it is not done?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Inquiries will be made, Sir.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: May I know if this arrangement is on an international basis or only on a Ceylon-India basis?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Does the Honourable Member refer to arrangements for examination made in India?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I refer to anti-Indian arrangements for carrying diseases. I had to have four injections while going to America. When we go

to Haj there is a quarantine in Kamaran and we have to stay there for 24 hours and longer. What I wanted to know was whether this was of the same type or something special to Indians regarding Ceylon.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: No, Sir: I believe it is in accordance with recognised international practice.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do the Ceylon Government insist on this sort of thing with regard to every other national going there?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I think so, but I must admit that I have not examined that point specifically and would like to have notice.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the Honourable Member's admission that passengers travelling Third class are more liable to infection, will the Honourable Member be pleased to make a representation to the railway authorities to improve their Third class carriages so that the risk of such infection may be eliminated?

(No reply was given.)

ALLOCATION OF EXPENDITURE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND RE-SETTLEMENT DIRECTORATE

1017. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the expenditure allocated for the Employment and Re-settlement Directorate, separately, as between the centre and regional centres;

(b) the strength of the staff at these different centres;

(c) the total number of ex-servicemen that have registered their names at these centres for employment; and

(d) for how many of these ex-servicemen suitable alternative employment has been found by the Directorate?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The question is not clear but presumably the Honourable Member wants to know the annual estimated expenditure on the Directional and Administrative staff of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment during the year 1946-47. It is as follows:

Headquarter	Rs. 27,14,800
Regional Centres	Rs. 1,08,32,500
Total	Rs. 1,35,47,300

For details reference is invited to the Budget estimates for 1946-47. The expenditure on Regional and Sub-Regional Employment Exchanges will be shared between the Centre and Provinces in the proportion of 60 and 40 respectively.

(b) Detailed statements showing the number of posts sanctioned for the Central and Regional sections of the organisation and the number of posts filled so far are given at Appendix I to the Progress Report of the Directorate-General of Resettlement and Employment for the period 18th July to 31st December 1945, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House.

(c) The Employment Exchanges are responsible for the registration and placement of not only demobilised services personnel but also discharged war workers. The total number of persons registered at the Employment Exchanges and the Resettlement and Employment offices up to 31st December, 1945, was 50,658 out of which 29,925 were ex-Servicemen. It may be pointed out in this connection that the second phase of demobilisation started only on the 15th November, 1945. According to the forecast of Army Release nearly 15,00,000 persons will be demobilised up to end of March, 1947. It is difficult at this stage to estimate as how many out of these persons will require Resettlement and Employment assistance.

(d) The total number of persons placed in employment up to 31st December, 1945, by Employment Exchanges and Resettlement and Employment offices was 9,516. Out of these 2,841 were ex-servicemen.

IMPORT LICENCES FOR D. D. T. INSECTICIDE FROM UNITED STATES

1018. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import licences and dollar exchange are not granted for the import of D.D.T. insecticide from the United States of America but imports are allowed only from the United Kingdom;

(b) whether he is aware that the price of D.D.T. as quoted by the United Kingdom suppliers is about three times the price quoted by the United States of America suppliers;

(c) whether he is aware that, as a result of the above, importers are obliged to import D.D.T. from the United Kingdom only at three times the price at which they could have obtained the same from the United States of America;

(d) whether he proposes to arrange to grant licences and dollar exchange for the import of D.D.T. from the United States of America which is the most effective insecticide and useful in removing the scourge of Malaria?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) No, Sir. It was originally intended to obtain our requirements of D. D. T. insecticide from the United Kingdom. But when it became evident that supplies from that source were not coming forward sufficiently freely it was decided to grant licences for imports from the United States of America and Switzerland also.

(b) According to the available information, the United States of America price is lower than the United Kingdom price but the disparity is not to the extent indicated by the Honourable Member.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Licences are already being granted for imports of limited quantities from the United States of America.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Does the Honourable Member mean to say that there are no instances in which licenses for getting it from the U. S. A. have been refused?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Some must be refused because they are issued for limited quantities.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member see that this difference in prices is very great?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: If the Honourable Member will supply me with all the information as to the exact nature of this complaint I shall certainly look into the matter.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know what the actual disparity in prices is?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have not got definite information to reply upon on the subject because the price of D. D. T. varies according to quality and the nature of the dilution. Whether there is exact counterpart of one with the other is a matter which can be explored after full inquiry as to the nature of the dilution and the quality of it, but we are told that roughly it varies between Rs.1/10 and Rs.2/3, depending on the quality and the nature.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do I gather that in spite of the fact that the price is much cheaper in the U. S. A., just because purchases by India are to be confined to sterling areas sterling area licenses are freely given but U. S. A. licenses are restricted?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Here again is an example of my Honourable friend assuming a thing.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am seeking information.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We are trying to get D. D. T. insecticide. After all war has just been over and we have been trying to get supplies. It was not available in other countries. As soon as we came to know that it was available, we issued licences. I have said that the price of

medical articles, as my Honourable friend will realize, always depends upon the quality.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The Honourable Member himself said in his previous reply that the number of licences given was limited and therefore some applications may have been refused. I want to know the reason why the number of licences given for import from the United States of America was restricted?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Obviously because we will have to consider not merely this article, but thousands of other articles which have to be brought from America, and certainly the balance of trade between the two countries and the dollar position are also the factors which have to be considered.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: I have got cables in my hand showing that the prices of articles in the United Kingdom are more than three times those in the United States

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Unfortunately that cable is not in my possession, and even if it were, I do not know the nature of the two medical articles unless they are medically examined and proved that the quality of both the articles is exactly the same.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: The American quality is 'highest concentration - prepared to specifications'

Mr. President: Next question.

SUPPLY OF RUSSIAN RICE FOR INDIA

1019. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) Will the Secretary for Food be pleased to state if it is a fact that Soviet Russia has had a good rice harvest this year?

(b) Whether Government has attempted to ascertain if Russia can spare any rice for us, and, if so, to what extent?

(c) Why do not Government attempt to send someone to Russia to negotiate for some supplies of rice from Russia in view of India's supplies of food products to Russia during the war and India's present dire need for food?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Government have seen press report to the effect that Russia may prove to be a potential source of rice but have no information about the rice harvest this year.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Government of India's representative on the United Nations Organisation has already made an appeal to all member nations including Russia to help India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government made any direct contact at all with Soviet Russia's Government in regard to this particular matter? If not, why not?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Any formal approach in this matter has to be made through His Majesty's Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of taking advantage of that particular channel and making direct contact with Soviet Russia's Government in regard to this matter?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Government of India have placed full information about the food position in India before His Majesty's Government, and if there is any possibility of getting anything from Russia, I have no doubt that His Majesty's Government will try and get it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: This is another case of extraordinary sense of responsibility that this Government has been displaying.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member will put his question, and ask for information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My point is this: It is not the primary responsibility of the British Government to make direct contacts in regard to India; but is

it not the primary responsibility of the Government of India to take the initiative and approach the British Government in regard to this specific matter and ask them to make an approach to Soviet Russia's Government?

Mr. President: That question has been answered. The Honourable Member has already said that the procedure is to approach through His Majesty's Government, and the Government of India have placed all the facts before His Majesty's Government. What further question does the Honourable Member wish to ask?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My submission is this: They have not stated that the British Government has been asked to approach the Soviet Russia Government with this particular request. They have only stated that they have placed all the facts before the British Government.

Mr. President: Has any specific request been made to the British Government with regard to this?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No specific request has been made. An appeal has been made by our representative on the United Nations Organisation to all countries and especially to Russia to help India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What objection have the Government of India today to make this specific request to the British Government in order to approach the Soviet Russia Government?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We have no objection whatever, but we think that the best course is for us to approach His Majesty's Government to find out where the surplus lies.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Whatever may be normal procedure in regard to communications with foreign Governments, having regard to the fact that His Excellency the Viceroy is moving heavens and earth and that a very special emergency has now arisen in this country over the food question, will not the Government of India, if necessary with the sanction of His Majesty's Government whose subordinate they are, now depute a man with full powers to talk directly with Russia over the issue and find out as to whether some surplus cannot be given to India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: In view of the opinion expressed in the House, I propose to bring this to the notice of His Majesty's Government for any special action that they can take.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Will the Honourable Member

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I had rather an important question to ask.

ARREST AND DETENTION OF INDIAN MERCHANTS IN HONG KONG

1020. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state: if it is a fact that some Indian merchants were arrested in Hong Kong by the Allied Occupation Forces when they took over Hong Kong from the Japanese?

(b) Is it also a fact that these Indian merchants are still being detained? If so, why?

(c) What is the number of merchants so detained?

(d) Is it a fact that Sardar Sampooran Singh Dhillon is one of the merchants now being kept under detention?

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

(b) and (c). Five Indian merchants were arrested on suspicion of having adhered to or assisted the Japanese or been partly to activities prejudicial to the allied cause or of having committed offences against defence regulations or serious offences under the penal code. Of the two still in detention, one is charged with giving information about other Indians and taking part in the torture of Indians arrested by the Japanese. The other is detained as an informer.

(d) No.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know the exact difference between these merchants helping the Japanese when Japanese were in possession of that place and those of our country men in India who help the British who have occupied this country?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Sir, it does not arise out of this question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask what specific charges have been made against these gentlemen and under what law? Whether they have been tried under Court Martial Regulations, under the Indian Army Act, or any other Regulations? What is the exact position, and may I know whether the Honourable Member is prepared to place all those charge sheets on the table of the House?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have given full details of the charges on which they have been arrested in my reply to parts (b) and (c) of the question, and I regret I have no further details to give now.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Does my Honourable friend realize that the details he has given are of the nature—serious charges covered by the Indian Penal Code—which may mean anything. I am asking my Honourable friend if he is not prepared to place on the table of the House the detailed charges that have been made against these men?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I shall try to obtain the information.

Diwan Chaman Lall: How far has the matter proceeded?

Mr. President: Are they being tried?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Two only are held in detention and, I believe, the trial is proceeding, but I shall try to obtain further information.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend why, when the question has been tabled and my Honourable friend comes before the House, has he not obtained all this information already?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: This is all the information that we have been able to obtain, Sir, as a result of the efforts we have made so far.

CONTRACT WORKS TO MUSLIMS AND NON-MUSLIMS BY CENTRAL P. W. D.

1021. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly place on the table of the House a comparative statement showing the amount of contract works given by tenders and by work orders, separately, to Muslim and Non-Muslim contractors in the Construction Division No. III, New Delhi 'A' Division, New Delhi 'B' Division, Provincial Division and Special Division No. I, of the Central Public Works Department in New Delhi, during the last three years by the present Executive Engineers, or by their predecessors?

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

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member why is he not prepared to reveal this information. I have definite information that the contracts given to Mussalman in this Branch were very low.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If my Honourable friend has the information, I do not know why he is troubling me.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I am troubling the Honourable Member because our cause is being hit and Muslims are being ignored by the Honourable Member's Department, and I want to reveal that case on the floor of the House.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have nothing to add to the reply I have given.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable Member see his way to place this information on the table of the House at a later stage?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot do it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Has the Honourable Member lost his temper?

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question

SUBSIDY FOR SINKING AND REPAIRING OF WELLS

+1022. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are prepared to subsidise the sinking and constructing or repairing of wells and tanks owned by peasants or groups of peasants in order to encourage them to increase the area under protected water supply; and

(b) whether Government are prepared to encourage Provincial Governments to follow the example of the Bombay Government which has decided to give a subsidy of Rs. 14 per every acre which is brought under protected irrigation through well or tank water?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Yes. The Government of India are already sharing with Provincial Governments the cost of subsidising the construction of and repairs to wells, tanks and other minor irrigation works up to a maximum of 50 per cent. of the cost of construction.

(b) Yes. The Provincial Governments have been requested to take steps on similar lines suited to their local conditions.

DESTRUCTION OF FOODGRAINS UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

1023. *Mr. B. B. Varma: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) how many tons of foodgrains—rice, wheat, flour and pulses were destroyed during the years 1943, 1944 and 1945 in the centrally administered areas and Provinces particularly in Bihar;

(b) who is responsible for not protecting them from destruction before they were found unfit for human consumption and ultimately thrown away;

(c) how many tons were eaten by insects; and

(d) how many tons were destroyed by bad storage method?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) A statement giving the information, except in respect of Bengal, which has not yet been received, is laid on the table of the House.

(b) The damage in the case of imported wheat, received in bulk from overseas, was due to contact with salt water or due to natural heating while in ship-holds. The stocks of Nepal rice/paddy were damaged by rain while in the purchasing agent's custody.

(c) and (d). Losses by insect infestation and other causes cannot be calculated with any degree of accuracy.

Statement showing the quantities of rice, wheat, flour and pulses in the custody of the Government of India and in the Provinces destroyed during the year 1943-44 and 1945.

	Quantity of foodgrains destroyed (In tons)				Responsibility for not protecting them from destruction
	Rice	Wheat	Flour	Pulses	
Stocks in Government of India custody.	...	712.03	...	...	Losses during voyage of imported wheat.
Stocks in Provinces—					
Delhi	...	...	108 (atta)	...	Delhi Grain Syndicate.

+Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

	Quantity of foodgrains destroyed (In tons)				Responsibility for not protecting them from destruction
	Rice	Wheat	Flour	Pulses	
Stocks in Provinces— contd.					
Ajmer-Merwara .	...	...	...	...	
Baluchistan .	...	...	...	...	
Coorg .	...	...	...	...	
Bihar .	1335.6	22	...	93	Purchasing Agents of Central Gov- ernment for Nepal rice res- ponsible for loss of 1246.6 tons of rice.
Orissa .	...	...	12 (atta)	...	Wagon went astary and consignment received in damaged condi- tion.
C. P. and Berar .	78.5	...	0.5	...	
Madras .	68	...	52	89 (gram)	Rice damaged due to floods. In other cases de- teriorated stock was received from other Pro- vinces.
Bombay .	...	...	...	...	
Sind .	275	2,224	...	..	Hyderabad Co- operative So- ciety. Loss of 39 tons due to fire and of 2460 tons due to rain.
N. W. F. P. .	...	1	...	...	Received in condi- tion unfit for consumption.
Punjab .	...	...	...	...	
United Provinces	51.6	282	...	...	Loss of 26 tons rice and 273 tons wheat due to sudden floods in Benares. Purchasing Agents of the Central Govern- ment for Nepal rice responsible for loss of 19.9 tons of rice.
Assam .	4.68	...	63.57	236	Losses attributable to normal wast- age.

Note—Figures in respect of Bengal have been called for.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what steps are being taken to prevent these losses or to minimise these losses?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Various administrative measures have been and are being taken to reduce the losses in food-grains.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

PROVISION OF A PUBLIC LIBRARY IN DELHI

1024. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Will the Education Secretary please consider the desirability of providing at Government cost a public library in Delhi on the lines of the Imperial Library of Calcutta?

(b) How is it that Delhi, being an Imperial city, has no Imperial Library?

Dr. D. M. Sen: (a) and (b). The question of establishing a Central Library in New Delhi is at present engaging the attention of the Government of India.

FACILITIES FOR TRAINING WOMEN TEACHERS IN AJMER-MERWARA

1025. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Education Secretary please state if Government are aware that the Women's Vernacular Teachers' Training School at Ajmer is not sufficient to cope with the growing demands for trained Women Teachers for Primary Girls' Schools in Ajmer-Merwara, and that there are no arrangements for training women teachers (Matriculates and Intermediates) for Middle Schools?

(b) If so, will Government consider the advisability of making necessary arrangements from July, 1946?

(c) If no such arrangements can be made, do Government propose to consider the advisability of converting the Government Central Girls' High School into a Training institute, particularly because the latter has only fifth to tenth classes and the number of pupils in those classes can be easily absorbed in the other three recognised High Schools and Intermediate Colleges, some of which have a very small number of pupils in the High School classes, and all are ready to take more pupils?

Dr. D. M. Sen: (a) and (b). No. The school is training a sufficient number of girls every year to meet the present needs of both primary and middle schools for girls. For additional needs of the post-war period, necessary provision is being made in the Development Scheme.

(c) Does not arise.

UN-QUALIFIED TEACHERS IN GOVERNMENT CENTRAL GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL, AJMER

1026. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Education Secretary please state if Government are aware that most of the staff in the Government Central Girls' High School, Ajmer, do not possess the minimum qualifications laid down by the Board of High School and Inter Education, and are teaching subjects which according to the Board's rule they are not qualified to teach?

(b) If so, why were such unqualified teachers taken in, and what steps do Government propose to take in order to improve the present conditions?

Dr. D. M. Sen: (a) No, Sir. The staff all possess the prescribed qualifications.

(b) Does not arise.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST DISTRICT INSPECTOR OF SCHOOLS, AJMER-MERWARA

1027. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Education Secretary please state if it is a fact that the post of the District Inspector of Schools, Ajmer-Merwara is borne on the cadre of the other gazetted appointments in the Education Department?

(b) Is it a fact that the present incumbent of the post has been holding this appointment for the last thirteen years?

(c) Are Government aware that a number of complaints of nepotism and favouritism have been received against him by the Local Government from many vernacular teachers? If so, what action has so far been taken on those complaints?

(d) Do Government propose to consider the advisability of transferring the present District Inspector of Schools to some other post on the cadre?

Dr. D. M. Sen: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. This is the only post of Inspector borne on the cadre.

(c) No, Sir, but if the Honourable Member can supply me with information on this point, I shall be glad to take the matter up with the Local Administration.

(d) As the post of the District Inspector of Schools is the only Class II post on the inspectorate side, it has not been considered desirable to transfer the only experienced inspector available to a post on the teaching side

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

RESTRICTIONS ON DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY

138. Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have issued a press communique that restrictions regarding domestic consumption of electricity ought to be relaxed, in view of the end of the war;

(b) whether they are aware that the Government of Madras has not given any effect in the Madras city to their order; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to see that Provincial Governments implement their advice?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No. Provinces were, however, advised to sanction at their discretion new "domestic" connections to the extent of the monthly quota fixed for various supply undertakings and having regard to (i) the margin of generating plant available, (ii) the fuel position and (iii) the financial position of each undertaking.

(b) Government are aware that the Madras Government have not accepted this advice in regard to Madras City.

(c) Government do not consider it necessary to take any further action as their advice was conditional.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BAGHAULI TRAIN DISASTER

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state what further information he has received in connection with Baghauli Train Disaster regarding—(i) the number of persons killed, (ii) the number of persons injured, and (iii) the total value of passengers' property damaged or lost?

(b) Is it a fact that the first relief train from Lucknow arrived after 11 A.M. about six hours after the accident—and returned to Lucknow at about 3-30 P.M.?

(c) Is it also a fact that the relief train did not have proper equipment and sufficient nurses for taking the seriously injured persons and that most of them were placed on bare third class berths? Is it not a fact that Lt.-Col. Hassan and other passengers were not provided with even water notwithstanding repeated requests therefor?

(d) What steps were taken to dig out and extricate the passengers from wreckage?

(e) Is it not a fact that, but for the efforts by stray passengers, no organised effort was made by the authorities to take them out?

(f) Is it not a fact that a troops special was standing at the station and departed only at about 9 A.M.? If so, why was their help not taken?

(g) Is it not a fact that Prof. Shatir of Meerut and many others were extricated about five hours after the accident? Is it not also a fact that his son aged 12 did not have any signs of injury and was found to have died of suffocation?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The latest information which I hope when the lists are finally checked will prove to be maximum figures, is: Killed 48: Injured 75.

Of the injured 35 were admitted into hospital at Lucknow and Hardoi, two of the latter being subsequently transferred to hospital in Moradabad. The balance consists of those who left hospital for their homes after treatment and of those who received first aid at the site and proceeded to their destinations. I understand the 22 cases in King George's Hospital at Lucknow are progressing satisfactorily but 3 out of the 8 remaining at Hardoi Hospital were a few days ago still in a dangerous condition.

I have no information regarding the value of the property of passengers which has been damaged or lost, but the Railway are making special enquiries.

(b) An extemporised relief train arrived at Baghauli at 7-45 hours; the relief train from Rosa reached Baghauli at 10-12 hours and the relief train from Lucknow arrived also at 10-12 hours. The relief train from Lucknow was thus not the first to arrive at the scene of accident. A special train was formed which took the casualties to Lucknow and left Baghauli at 13-25 hours.

(c) The relief train from Lucknow was fully equipped medically. The District Medical Officer, three of his assistants and other medical staff accompanied this train, but there were no nurses. The carriages which were brought from Lucknow for the evacuation of casualties were two III class bogies, as they were the most readily available; the casualties were therefore sent to Lucknow in these carriages. The reply to the second part of the question is in the negative; my information is that tea was served to the injured under the instructions of the Chief Medical Officer who was attending to the casualties.

(d) Soon after the accident the Assistant Executive Engineer (Construction) who with some construction staff was encamped at Baghauli commenced rescue operations and about 7-40 the Train Examining Staff arrived from Balamau and assisted. About 8-20 the Executive Engineer from Hardoi, with a large gang of labourers, also joined in the rescue. Rescue operations were intensified with the arrival of relief trains and the extrication of the injured and dead was the first task to which all staff applied themselves.

(e) The reply is in the negative; but the Administration gratefully acknowledges the help received in the rescue operations from passengers, parties of whom were organised by public spirited persons amongst them, including Government officials.

(f) The answer to the first part is in the negative; the second part does not arise.

(g) I am satisfied that there was no delay in extricating passengers. It must be realised, however, that the extrication of the injured from under the debris of an accident of this kind must necessarily be a slow process as care must be taken to ensure that the persons concerned do not suffer further injuries while being taken out. A considerable time may indeed elapse in getting at persons who are trapped in the thick of the wreckage and whose extrication may not be physically possible until the debris is lifted by means of cranes. I have no information as to when Prof. Shatir was extricated. As

regards the second part, I understand that the Surgeon in Charge, King George's Hospital, Lucknow, informed the General Manager, E. I. Railway, that the body of Mr. Shatir's son had no external signs of fatal injuries. I am not aware that suffocation was established as the cause of his death.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know how many persons are still untraced?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: None, so far as I am aware.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: With reference to part (c) of the question, may I inform the Honourable Member that Col. Hassan himself told me that he was asking for water which was not supplied and he was told every time that he would be given water at Lucknow station?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not my information. The injured in hospital were visited by the General Manager, the Chief Operating Superintendent and, I think, the Chief Medical Officer, and no complaints were registered. Therefore I think the Honourable Member's suggestion is probably unfounded.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member write to Col. Hassan and ascertain the facts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I would point out that these questions concerning proper medical attention are the subject of specific enquiry by the Government Inspector of Railways.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that Col. Hassan had come down to Delhi to attend some Government Committee meeting and he was on his way back and, if so, is it not the duty of the Government to ascertain from him what happened to him on his way back?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Government have to look after all passengers.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member also ask from Col. Hassan whether he was taken in a bare third class bogie in a wounded condition and not even blankets were placed on him?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The carriages most readily available were third class carriages and those were put on the train. They were the only ones readily handy.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Am I to understand that there were no arrangements kept ready for such accidents?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: These were extra coaches. In view of the seriousness of the accident, the ordinary arrangements were not sufficient to deal with the large number of cases which was reported.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know whether the enquiry by the Senior Government Inspector which was to take place on the 8th and 9th is over, whether his report has been received and, if so, what is the finding as to the cause of the accident?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That question should be addressed to the Posts and Air Department.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: With reference to part (g) of the question, will the Honourable Member ascertain from Prof. Shatir himself, who is in the Lucknow Medical College and whom I saw, whether he was calling for help for five hours, that his son was crying for help and that nobody came to their rescue till five or six hours later?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I have explained, he may have been in an inextricable position and it may not have been possible to remove him until the debris was lifted.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: When efforts were being made to extricate him is it not a fact that this gentleman was crying all the time and nearly four or five hours were wasted?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. If the Honourable Member will study the reply to part (d) of the question, he will see that there was an Assistant Executive Engineer on the spot who with some construction staff began rescue operations immediately and at 7-40 further Train Examining Staff arrived and at 8-20 the Executive Engineer from Hardoi with a large gang of labourers also joined in the rescue. It is possible that this particular gentleman was in an inextricable position.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it that the statement made by the Honourable Member is based upon a departmental enquiry on behalf of the Railway Administration, independently of the statutory enquiry that is taking place conducted by the Senior Government Inspector, and if that be so, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state which officer actually was engaged in making this departmental enquiry?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have had a number of reports, from the two divisional superintendents who were present, from the Chief Medical Officer who was present from the start, and from the General Manager, and I had telephonic communications from the Chief Operating Superintendent. It is on those that my information is largely based.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Was it a kind of committee of these officials that went into all these facts or was it their disjointed reports that reached the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They were received at various stages: for instance, the Chief Medical Officer submitted his report—he was there actually on the train. He submitted one report of what his experience was. The divisional superintendents submitted reports at two different stages and so on.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: As the Honourable Member representing the Posts and Air Department is present in this House, may I know from him whether the report of the Inspector of Railways on this subject has been received as yet?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think it is usual to address the questions to one Member; but there is a question down about the inquiry, to be reached in a few minutes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: With reference to part (f), am I to understand that there was no special military train at Baghauli station that morning?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is quite incorrect. There were some soldiers in this train, but there was no special military train. On the third line there was a pilot train.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I inform the Honourable Member that while I was going back to Lucknow I met one of the male nurses on my way, who was travelling in the train, and I was informed that this military train starting from Phaphund a station in Bihar and bound for Ferozepur, was there at the station. I could not see the doctor—he was also going to Lucknow; and he told me this. I would like the Honourable Member to make inquiries again, whether there was a military special at that time standing at the Baghauli railway station when this accident took place.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; there was a train; it was a pilot train standing on the third line, but I am told that it was not a troop train.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How many passengers were there in that pilot train?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware that there were any at all.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know why help was not given by the soldiers who were in the train?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There was a large number of passengers on the train itself, many of whom gave assistance; there was also

a crowd of one or two thousand persons, bystanders, who crowded round to see what has happening and considerably impeded the operations of rescue. As far as I am aware there was no military train: the only military personnel present were certain passengers on the wrecked train.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Who were the passengers on the pilot train? Were they not persons travelling from Bihar to Ferozepur—more than a hundred soldiers, either discharged or going to be discharged, who were there and whose help could have been taken and was not taken?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will read out my information from the Chief Medical Officer's Report:

"There were many I.O.R.'s. on the train but they were not conversant with first aid. They confined their energies to occasionally removing the injured from the wreckage, but when asked if they could render first aid, some said they did not know and others ignored the request. It must be remembered that from the very beginning the station was crowded with passengers and spectators, rendering the task of everyone very difficult."

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I only wanted to know one thing; even if they could not render medical help, why were they not deputed to see that no property was removed. These soldiers were there and their help could have been taken and outsiders could have been prevented from coming and taking away or looting these passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Those steps were taken by the local chaukidari police.

HELP BY RAILWAY AUTHORITIES TO RELATIONS OF THE KILLED IN DISPOSAL OF DEAD BODIES

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Has the Honourable the Railway Member ascertained what help, if any, was rendered by the Railway authorities to the relations of the killed in the disposal of dead bodies?

(b) Has he seen the statement of the Chairman, Lucknow Municipal Board, deprecating the callous attitude of the authorities in this respect, published in the *Pioneer* of the 6th March, 1946, (Lucknow edition)? If so, did he make any enquiries in the matter? If so, with what results?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) the arrangements for the disposal of the dead bodies were in the hands of the Railway Police. Both they and the railway staff afforded all the assistance possible to the relations of the killed when they were identified.

(b) I have not yet seen the statement referred to, but have sent for a copy.

I should add that I am satisfied that the authorities in charge handled the disaster with promptness and sympathy, but, as the investigation of this aspect of the case is a specific charge of the Government Inspector, I have no doubt that he will report on this matter as the result of his enquiry.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Am I to understand that the reports appearing in the Press in connection with the accident were not cut and placed before the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; I have received a large number of reports; but I do not happen to have received yet the report of the Lucknow edition of the *Pioneer* of that particular date.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether in the disposal of the dead bodies of Muslims, the police authorities took the help of the local people there?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; they apparently took the help of the local Muslim League; and in that connection there was an accident in that a Hindu body was mixed up with the Muslim bodies: subsequently that matter was rectified.

ENQUIRY INTO BAGHAULI TRAIN DISASTER

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that the Government enquiry into the Baghauli train disaster is being held by the Inspector of Railways?

(b) Is it also a fact that the representatives of the Press have not been allowed to be present at this enquiry? If so, why?

(c) Will Government consider the advisability of issuing instructions that Press representatives and other members of the public should be allowed to be present at the enquiry?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. The Press is excluded from the enquiry because the evidence recorded by the Government Inspector of Railways is not taken on oath or affirmation; and on the evidence he records, he has to decide the cause of accident and judge the responsibility, if any, of Railway servants, etc., for the accident. As his conclusions might lead to prosecution in criminal courts, a public hearing of witnesses might prejudice the prosecution or defence in subsequent judicial proceedings.

(c) Government do not propose issuing instructions to the effect that Press representatives should be allowed to be present in the enquiry for the reasons, stated in reply to part (b). The public is, however, notified and individuals can come forward and give evidence.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Has the report been submitted already, and if not, when do Government expect that report and when will it be made public?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am expecting a report any day, but as I stated the other day that report would be a preliminary report, giving purely the facts ascertained. I have promised that I will make the report available to the Members of the House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When shall we know the precise causes as far as they could be ascertained of this accident, so that we can press on Government the remedial measures to avoid such accidents in future?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: That report will be expedited as quickly as possible. The House will understand that the Inspector may have certain technical examinations to be done: the inspectors have orders to complete their inquiries as soon as possible.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Do I take it that the enquiry by the inspector is of the nature of a confidential inquiry and that members of the public have no right to be present at such inquiries apart from those who may be in a position to give evidence bearing upon the accident?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes; this question of admitting the public was carefully examined last year, and it was decided that in view of the subsequent judicial proceedings that may come, it was inadvisable that the statements of witnesses should be taken in the presence of the public or be made available to the Press. I may add that in the United Kingdom the same is the position. The inquiry by the Government Inspector is not open to the public.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: Is a full and verbatim report of the evidence tendered before the Inspector kept and is that sent to the Honourable Member's Department as part of the report?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it in the nature of a police inquiry or a magisterial inquiry?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is not a magisterial inquiry at all.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Then it is like a police inquiry which inquires into the incidents and compiles facts?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Not even a police inquiry.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is neither a police inquiry nor a magisterial inquiry. It is in the nature of a statutory inquiry into the causes of the accident.

Seth Govind Das: Then, what is the nature of the inquiry?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is of the nature of a railway inquiry.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it the same set of officials who will make the preliminary report who will also give the final report, giving the causes of the accident?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir. It is the same Inspector who sends in a preliminary report first for the information of Government and then he makes his full report, which includes what he has stated in the preliminary report. The final report is the real report of the Inspector.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What is the usual interval between the preliminary and the final report?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It depends on the nature of the inquiry. Sometimes the Inspector has to have investigations made but generally it is about two months. It varies very much. If it is a simple case, it is finished much quicker than otherwise.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if that report is final and the Chief Inspector or any other official would not examine it?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The report is the report of the Inspector. It is submitted to Government through the Chief Government Inspector who forwards it with his remarks as to whether he agrees with the report or whether he has any comments to offer, in which case there is a further discussion between the Government Inspector and the Chief Government Inspector.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the object of the inquiry is to ascertain the cause of the accident and also to find out if the Railway Administration is liable to pay any compensation and if so how much?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The latter is not the object of the inquiry.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then is it confined purely to the cause of the accident?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What about the relief rendered?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: That is part of the inquiry.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is there any other inquiry, magisterial or otherwise?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: There is no bar to a magisterial inquiry being held, if the local district authorities desire to do so.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the statements made before the Inspector be recorded *verbatim*?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir. They are recorded by the Inspector himself and they are I believe signed by the witnesses but I am not sure.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: If the Provincial Government orders an inquiry, will the report of the Government Inspector be made available to the inquiring officer appointed by the Local Government?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am not sure of that. I think the magisterial inquiry is independent of the Government Inspector's inquiry.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Suppose the Provincial Government appointed a committee as in the case of the Bhita inquiry, where they appointed a judge to inquire into the causes of the accident. Suppose the Provincial Government establish a tribunal of that kind. Will the report of the Railway Inspector be made available to that tribunal?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think this is somewhat hypothetical. In any case I shall want notice.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the proceedings of the inquiry committee and the evidence recorded be available to the magisterial inquiry or any other inquiry that might be held?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I shall have to inquire into the legal position. The magisterial inquiry can be held quite independently. The Government Inspector's report is ultimately published.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: What is the exact value of the report if it is not made available to the magistrate?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is only a white washing inquiry.

STRIKE IN INDIAN SIGNAL CORPS, JUBBULPORE

Seth Govind Das: Will the War Secretary kindly state:

(a) the number of people involved in the strike at Jubbulpore in the Indian Signal Corps;

(b) the number of persons under arrest;

(c) whether there was any firing ordered, and whether there was also a bayonet charge;

(d) the number of people wounded and the number of the people who died;

(e) the number of people who are likely to be court martialled;

(f) what sort of an enquiry is going to be held, and who will constitute the enquiry; and

(g) whether the Government of India will kindly consider the desirability of associating members of non-official public with this enquiry?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The total number of people involved in the mutiny at Jubbulpore in the Indian Signal Corps was 1,716, of whom 950 were involved for one afternoon only and another 410 were only very slightly involved.

(b) The number of persons now under arrest is 55. The rest are all back at work.

(c) No firing was ordered, nor did any firing take place. There was no bayonet charge, and I should here explain, since there seems to be some misunderstanding of the term that a bayonet charge is something essentially offensive, not defensive. What did happen was that troops were ordered to arrest certain individuals from among the mutineers with whom they had to get at close quarters. In order to avoid firing, which would have caused much more serious injuries, bayonets were fixed. There was, as I have said, no charge, but some of the Signal Corps men attempted to overpower the troops and were wounded.

(d) 35 persons were wounded and were admitted to hospital, of whom 8 had bayonet wounds and the remainder had minor injuries from barbed wire or from contusions. Two persons were seriously injured. No one has died.

(e) It is difficult to make an estimate of the numbers likely to be Court Martialled. It is the intention to bring to trial only the Ring-leaders, and a preliminary examination of the evidence has placed between 20 and 30 men in this category, but it is the policy to reduce the number as much as possible, and the evidence is still being examined. The number actually brought to trial may be considerably less than this.

(f) and (g). Courts of Enquiry are in progress and Courts Martial may be held in due course. I do not think it would be advisable to associate non-officials with service enquiries of this nature.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that before this strike the strikers placed certain demands before the authorities for consideration?

Mr. P. Mason: I think not.

Seth Govind Das: Did they make any representation on this subject to the authorities?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. I think the first thing that happened was they refused duty.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that the Deputy Commissioner of Jubbulpore, a European official himself, has issued a statement saying that these people demanded certain things from the military authorities.

Mr. P. Mason: I had a long letter from the Deputy Commissioner. My impression was—I have not got the letter with me—he did not make any such allegation.

Seth Govind Das: Did the Deputy Commissioner himself state that these soldiers who struck work were all along peaceful?

Mr. P. Mason: Their movements in the town were certainly peaceful.

Seth Govind Das: Why were these bayonet and other charges made on them?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already explained what a bayonet charge is and I would like to make that clear again because there seems to be some misunderstanding about it. What a bayonet charge means is that a number of men hold rifles with fixed bayonets in their hands and run in the direction of their enemy with the object of driving their bayonets into them. During the whole proceedings in the town of Jubbulpore there was no violence used, but later on when these men were back in barracks, it became necessary to divide the leaders from the others. As they refused to obey the orders, a guard was ordered to divide the leaders from the others. In order that there should be no need to fire, which would have caused much more serious injuries, the guard was told to fix bayonets. The men were then separated from the remainder of the troops in Jubbulpore who were continuing their duty, but those who had taken part in this demonstration at the time did try to overpower the guard and the guard had to use bayonets to defend themselves.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member accepts that these soldiers were wounded. May I know if they were wounded on account of their own charge or on account of the charge made on them?

Mr. P. Mason: They attempted to overpower the guard and the guard used bayonets to prevent them.

Seth Govind Das: Was the guard or other officials wounded by these soldiers?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir, because they had no weapons.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask whether it is the policy of the Government not to associate non-official members with this service inquiry?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask if the Honourable Member will consider the advisability of asking the Members of the Defence Consultative Committee to serve on this service inquiry?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. In the first place, it would be wholly illegal. The service inquiry is held under the Indian Army Act and it will be quite illegal to associate non-official Members with it.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why will it be illegal? Does he mean to say that he has no confidence in the Members of the Defence Consultative Committee?

Mr. P. Mason: I have every confidence in them in their proper place.

Seth Govind Das: Has the Honourable Member seen in today's *Hindustan Times* that one Jemadar Naidu and 29 others are under arrest in this respect?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already explained that there are 55 persons under arrest.

Seth Govind Das: Has the Honourable Member seen another item of the news that it is further gathered that about 500 service men are likely to be

discharged from service by the end of this month? Are they going to be discharged because they took part in these strikes?

Mr. P. Mason: I cannot answer that. I think there will be at least that number to be discharged at Jubbulpore. I think it will be in accordance with the policy of continual reduction which my friends continually press us to follow.

Seth Govind Das: Will it be because these persons took part in this strike that they will be discharged or it will be done in the ordinary course?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not know which 500 persons the Honourable Member is referring to. Many thousands of persons will have to be discharged from Jubbulpore. There may be some dismissals by summary procedure.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member take into consideration the demands which these strikers put before the authorities before they struck work and will he see that their reasonable demands are conceded to them, so that such instances may not occur in the future?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think any demands were placed before the men refused to do their duty, but I can assure the Honourable Member that all reasonable demands are always considered. In fact, we have a Special Branch in General Head Quarters which deals exclusively and entirely with demands of this nature.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the ring leaders who will be tried be given the benefit of a counsel from outside?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir, if they are tried. I am not even certain that there will be a court martial because the courts of inquiry are still proceeding, and it is not certain that a court martial will be necessary.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Defence Consultative Committee be consulted in regard to this matter as was done in the case of R.I.N. when the matter was placed before them?

Mr. P. Mason: This is a very different matter. The Defence Consultative Committee was consulted in connection with the R.I.N. with regard to the general policy and with regard to the setting up of a Commission of Inquiry. There is no question at present of setting up a Commission of Inquiry in this connection and the general policy with regard to this matter is, after all, in no way different from the other.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Until and unless the rank and file of the army behave or misbehave in the way they did in the case of R.I.N., Government will not take the co-operation of the public in satisfying the reasonable demands of the personnel?

Mr. P. Mason: We are always glad to satisfy the reasonable demands of the public.

Mr. President: Order, order. No more supplementary questions; the matter has been sufficiently discussed.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Mr. H. Weightman (Secretary, External Affairs Department): Sir, I move: "That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan, the Tribal Areas and India's membership of the United Nations Organisation for the un-expired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and the financial year 1946-47."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan, the Tribal Areas and India's membership of the United Nations Organisation for the un-expired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and the financial year 1946-47."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): There is an amendment in the name of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha. He did not expect this item to be reached just now. May I be permitted to move it on his behalf?

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchant's Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I understand the official side is willing to accept it.

Mr. H. Weightman: If it is moved, I will accept it.

Mr. President: In that case, I will permit the Honourable Member, Prof. Ranga, to move this amendment himself. I will not allow him to move it on behalf of Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I move:

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight', the word 'ten' be substituted."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in the original motion for the word 'eight', the word 'ten' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I would like to have a little more information about the exact scope of the work of this particular Committee. We are anxious that this Committee should not confine itself merely to the discussion of the tribal areas and the affairs connected with the tribal areas. Its work should be extended not only to the U.N.O. and its activities but also to the whole foreign policy of the Government in which India is interested. Sir, unless we take early steps to try to get as many of our Members as possible properly acquainted with the various International responsibilities into which this Government is getting our country, it will not be possible for this House to play its proper part in serving our country in regard to the foreign affairs. For a very long time this Government has relied too much upon the British Government for its foreign policy. So much so that, when the other day we wanted to know from the Honourable Member in charge of this Department whether he would explain whether the Indian delegate was a member of the Security Council of the U.N.O. or not, the Honourable Member had to display his ignorance because he himself did not think it necessary to keep himself up-to-date in his information in regard to these International affairs. A number of International responsibilities are being heaped upon this country. Wherever such institutions have cropped in, such as, Bretton Woods, Hot Springs and Philadelphia in the name of labour, we have been involved in them.

The world now seems to be in a very queer position. Mr. Churchill has already warned us that the world is in for the third World War. Even today the *Hindustan Times* has published a very ominous news that the British papers are very nervous about the general International situation of the world. *The Times* of London has itself stated that all these three great Powers, instead of trying to bring about some sort of world peace and harmony and also a settlement and conciliation amongst themselves, are trying to play power politics between themselves and all of them are competing with one another. In these circumstances, it is most necessary that the Legislative Assembly as well as this Government should try to come nearer to each other and put themselves in possession of the relevant facts that are necessary in order to make themselves competent to deal with the situation. Only yesterday, Sir, we had the ominous news that Russian troops were marching towards Tehran, but today we got the news that it was not towards Tehran that they were marching but that they were proceeding to Azerbaijan to strengthen their regiments there. Let us simply consider the prospect that there would be for India if Soviet Russia were to become our next door neighbour on that side of Baluchistan on the one side, and Chinese forces also becoming our next door neighbour on the other side, and Burma also becoming more and more unfriendly to India, thanks to the imperialistic policy pursued by the Britishers in Burma and treating the Indians there as tools.

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member propose to review the whole world situation?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In one sense, I have done it. I have a very good object in doing so, because this is the first occasion when this particular move is being made in this House that there should be a Standing Committee to advise the

External Affairs Department, to deal with foreign affairs and foreign policy with which this Government has got to concern itself. I am extremely anxious that our Government should make this External Affairs a first class foreign affairs department and take this House into the fullest confidence so that the Government will be in a better position to deal with this matter and advise people in regard to various subjects, various international problems with which we are likely to be faced very soon. Therefore, I want the Honourable Member to give us an assurance that he is going to place all these things before this Committee.

Mr. H. Weightman: Sir, the motion which I have moved today.....

Mr. President: I have to remind the Honourable Member that today being Friday, the House will have to adjourn at Quarter to One of the Clock.

Mr. H. Weightman: I will be brief, Sir. The motion which I put before the House today is as a result of the discussions which I held with representatives of the main Parties in this House on the possibility of extending the functions of the External Affairs Department Standing Committee. As a result of these discussions, agreement was reached and action was taken to amend the Legislative Department Rules governing the constitution and procedure of Standing Committee. The motion which I have moved is in terms of that amendment which was made with the agreement and consent of the principal parties in this House. I cannot go further than I have done.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): As the Honourable Member referred to some agreement among the Parties, it is as well that I should point out that there was no mention of the United Nations Organisation and now that the Government have agreed to include the United Nations Organisation as well within the purview of this Committee, I do not see what objection the Government can have to the proposition that has been put forward. At that time it was only with regard to British Baluchistan and the Tribal areas. There was no mention of the United Nations Organisation and once you have included that, that means the whole field can be covered.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, ten non-official Members to serve on the Standing Committee to advise the External Affairs Department on subjects pertaining to British Baluchistan, the Tribal Areas and India's membership of the United Nations Organisation for the un-expired portion of the financial year 1945-46 and the financial year 1946-47."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I have to inform Honourable Members that for the purpose of election of members to the Standing Committee for the External Affairs Department, the Notice Office will be open to receive nominations upto 12 Noon on Wednesday, the 20th March, and that the election, if necessary, will be held on Friday, the 22nd 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.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Quarter Past Two of the Clock. Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar) in the Chair.

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

THE RAILWAY COMPANIES (SUBSTITUTION OF PARTIES IN CIVIL PROCEEDINGS) BILL

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the substitution of the Governor General-in-Council for certain Railway Companies in certain civil proceedings.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the substitution of the Governor General-in-Council for certain Railway Companies in certain civil proceedings."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): 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.

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

BANKING COMPANIES BILL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to banking companies."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN COCONUT COMMITTEE (AMENDMENT) BILL.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat (Secretary, Agriculture Department): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Coconut Committee Act, 1944."

The motion was adopted.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AND SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, I move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Hindu Disposition of Property Act, 1916, and the Indian Succession Act, 1925, be extended upto Monday, the 25th March, 1946."

The Select Committee met on the 11th but some members wanted further time to consider the Bill and it was agreed that I should move the House for extension of the time for presentation of the report of the Select Committee till Monday the 25th. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Hindu Disposition of Property Act, 1916, and the Indian Succession Act, 1925, be extended up to Monday, the 25th March, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. Manu Subedar, Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala, Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Sir John Sheehy, and Mr. C. W. Ayers, with instructions to report by Wednesday, the 27th March, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

I do not think I need detain the House very long. Indeed, if the debate is confined to the scope of the Bill before the House, I do not think it will take the House very long to dispose of the motion. My brevity is four-fold. First of all, the Bill is very short; secondly, it is not only short but sweet, because it does nothing but confer concessions upon the taxpayers; thirdly, I think the notes on clauses adequately indicate the purpose of the amendment; and fourthly and lastly, as the Bill is going to be referred to a Select Committee, the House will have a further opportunity of debating it. I could, therefore, really sit down now, but, before resuming my seat, it might perhaps be of help if I laid emphasis on one or two of the points which require consideration. Honourable Members will remember that in my Budget speech I said that one of the objects of my financial proposals was to encourage Indian industry to rehabilitate and re-equip itself and make itself more efficient; and this Bill covers four means to that end. Firstly, it proposes a special initial depreciation allowance; secondly, it proposes to provide that money spent on research shall be regarded as deductible expenditure for income-tax purposes; thirdly, it extends and expands the scope of the obsolescence allowance at present allowed; and lastly, for the first time, it applies that obsolescence allowance to buildings. To take these things in turn.

As far as the question of depreciation allowance is concerned, the proposed special initial depreciation allowance on buildings will be 10 per cent. of the cost and, in the case of plant and machinery, 20 per cent. Three points have to be noted about this new initial depreciation allowance: First, it is in addition to the existing normal depreciation allowance that is to say, if a company at the moment is entitled to 10 per cent. depreciation allowance on its plant and machinery and if it is a company that is working double-shifts, it will under these proposals, get a total of no less than 35 per cent. depreciation allowance in the year concerned. Secondly, this special depreciation allowance will not be taken into account in determining the value of further depreciation. Thirdly, it will not reckon for excess profits tax.

The next one is research expenditure. Here again three points have to be noted. First of all, it covers both expenditure from revenue and expenditure from capital. It will apply not only to research expenditure incurred by an undertaking itself, but also will cover grants made by a company or a concern to recognized research institutions. Thirdly, by a provision, which you will find in the Finance Bill, this concession is going to be made retrospective, the result being that it will take effect just as if the abortive income-tax Bill last year had then been passed into law.

There is one other point to which I might draw the attention of the House in respect of this special allowance for research, and that is this: it will not be at the sole discretion of the Income-tax Officer to determine whether to allow expenditure as expenditure on research under the Act, but it will be subject, in case of a dispute, to a ruling by an independent prescribed authority. We have not yet determined who that prescribed authority will be, but it will probably be the Industrial and Scientific Research Department of the Government of India.

As far as the obsolescence allowance is concerned, it does four things: First of all, it extends it to buildings for the first time, and by buildings I mean not

[Sir Archibald Rowlands] merely industrial buildings, but it will apply to all the buildings which come under section 10 of the income-tax Act, namely buildings like shops, offices, or hotels. The second thing it does is that it extends the allowance not only to assets that have been discarded, as no longer required, but to assets that have been destroyed or demolished. Thirdly, it curtails in favour of the assessee the present provision under which, if an assessee's sale proceeds of a discarded asset exceeded the written down value, then the whole excess can be treated as taxable profit. What is now proposed is that the amount to be treated as taxable for this purpose will be limited to the difference between the original value and the written down value. And, lastly, it proposes to treat as income money received from an insurance company in respect of an asset that has been destroyed in the same way as money received from the sale of a distributed asset. That is to say, the total amount of receipts from insurance companies that can be treated as taxable will be limited to the difference between the original value and the written down value of the asset concerned.

If you remember, there is one other thing I proposed in the Budget which is now covered by this Bill before the House, namely the stress which I laid on the importance of private buildings for the purpose of restoring to the maximum extent possible the economic activity which will necessarily diminish by the heavy drop in defence expenditure. Apart from the administrative measures that we hope to take by making available materials—steel, timber, cement, etc.—I propose two concessions in respect of buildings which are erected within the next two years. In respect of residential buildings, I propose a tax-free exemption for two years, and in respect of other buildings, buildings for the occupation of business, there will be an additional initial depreciation allowance of 5 per cent. Both these points are covered in clause 2 and clause 3 (a) (i) of the Bill. Apart from clause 5 which merely remedies a handicap suffered by trustees and receivers,—I have now covered the whole Bill.

Sir, I do not think I need say anything more except to recommend that the Bill be examined by the Select Committee.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. Manu Subedar, Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala, Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Sir John Sheehy, and Mr. C. W. Ayers, with instructions to report by Wednesday, the 27th March, 1946, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I shall gladly respond to the suggestion that the discussion of this Bill need not be long drawn up. A portion of this Bill has a history. As the House will remember, this Bill was introduced last year and because there was an obnoxious clause which Members on this side would not agree to, the previous Finance Member,—whom I had occasion then to compare, in sensitiveness, to a temperamental *prima donna*—in a huff withdrew it. And, I think the present Finance Member has to be congratulated for not only bringing in the Bill, but in bringing it in without that obnoxious clause. Since I have come to Delhi, many friends have so frequently asked me what I think of the present Finance Member. I think I might as well give the reply here. His predecessor was more or less a head-clerk type of person, ponderous, elephantine and slow, without initiative, but in the present Finance Member we find a very superior person. He is constantly saying that he would go away. Whether it is a threat or a promise that he will go away, I have not the slightest doubt that he will very deservedly rise in position wherever he goes. But if the United Kingdom can make use of him in some high position and keep him in this country on their

behalf, I should be very glad. This is my opinion of the present Finance Member and to some extent it has been forced out because of the contrast between the present Bill and the previous one which was introduced.

Not only has the Finance Member restored those features of the last year's Bill which we all wanted, but he has introduced two or three good and desirable features. The small one, namely the injustice to persons deriving their income from trusts in clause 5 was overdue. It was wrong, in the first instance, that for some years people who derived their income from trusts and who had no other source of income were taxed at the maximum rate. Now the maximum rate itself has shifted and I am very glad that Government's conscience has now awoken and they find that it was wrong to tax small people deriving very small incomes at the maximum rate as they were doing.

On the other features I do not wish to dwell too long here. There are some points notwithstanding what the Finance Member said which want smoothening out which we shall doubtless attend to in the Select Committee. The wording of the Bill in clause 3 (c) (ii) and the two provisos there, namely, the second and the fourth, did not give us the impression which the Honourable the Finance Member gave in his speech, and I much rather rely on what he said just now, namely, that there is no intention to tax anything which will be in the nature of a capital receipt, namely the excess of sale proceeds over the written down value or the excess of proceeds of insurance companies' compensation, if and when such proceeds exceed the written down value or even the original value.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The difference between the two.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The difference between the two is something which Government have allowed by way of depreciation during the previous years, and I entirely agree that in the interest of revenue such difference ought to be taxed by Government. But may I point out that insurance is generally taken out by industries not on the basis of what it has cost them, nor again on the basis of what it stands at their books at: but on the basis of at what price they can replace it. In short, what is the replacement value of a particular asset? Let me make it clear. A motor may cost Rs. 5,000 and which I may have used for six or seven years. It may stand in the book next to nothing or Rs. 500. But I would insure it for Rs. 7,500 and I doubt whether in these days I could replace it even for Rs. 7,500 in case the motor burns down. We thought the Government was trying to tax the difference between Rs. 7,500 and Rs. 500 and bring it in, in which case it would be a capital tax, and I am very happy that that is not the intention, though unfortunately the wording of the clause is a little obscure and we shall have to put it right in the Select Committee.

Then, Sir, with regard to scientific research. But before coming to that, on this very question on which I was closing, may I point out that in England according to my information, Mr. Ayers can correct me, these benefits which are now being given to us were given from 1942 and therefore British industries have enjoyed these benefits in the past. The matter has been delayed here and according to last year's Bill, it was retrospective for the accounting period 1943-44; this particular benefit of extra depreciation which is being given, which is only a single occasion on which the party will enjoy it. I do not see why this benefit should be confined to new buildings which may come into existence hereafter or new machinery to be put hereafter. What about those unfortunate persons who have during the last two years been able to put down buildings or to re-equip their plants at very heavy cost during the war. Surely it is not intended to deny to these persons the benefit which is being extended more particularly as in the United Kingdom the industries has had these benefits, now offered to us, for the last three years.

With regard to scientific research, the object is very good. We all agree with it. Our only complaint is why was it not done earlier? Will not the income-tax authorities, the Board of Revenue, confirm me when I say that over and

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

over again industrialists who had spent money in these directions had been arguing with the income-tax officers to permit this as a legitimate and proper expense and that they were not permitted in this manner to deduct these expenses. They were told that it is not necessary for your business to do research. Sir, I do not wish to be cantankerous with regard to issues of the past, but I do feel that—and I am glad that the Government is throwing itself in line with civilized governments elsewhere in the matter of scientific research—just as they have improved matters in their attitude towards the assessee, in the scientific research expenditure, there are a few heads like charity towards which we have necessarily in this country to give something; you may say it is not necessary to maintain your business. You may think so. But it is practically a necessity for every business to maintain itself. You cannot, in the bazaar, when a good object comes round say that you cannot give anything. Still the income-tax authorities say this is not for the maintenance of your business. This is by way of illustration. The attitude of the income-tax authorities could be a little less wooden and a little more elastic and they could try to understand this at all events for limited amounts. But where they find that the particular privilege is being abused, then by all means let them do what they like for the safeguarding of the revenue position. But in all other cases let them be reasonable.

As regards scientific research, the position is that in other countries, research comes from three directions: one is the university research which is being done on a scale which is unknown to India; the other is research initiated by Government in institutions for general purposes, i.e., for general problems; and the third and the last is research directed towards the study of specific problems which a particular industry has in regard to the operations which it has to carry out. It is this last species of research which has hitherto been unknown in India. We find our industrial concerns have not only to import the process from outside, but the men who will tell them about the process, and we find they have again to import knowledge with regard to the adaptation of that process to Indian conditions, Indian climate and Indian raw material. In other words, for almost everything we have been hitherto woefully dependent on the outside and this is a position which no Government should have tolerated for long. I am very glad that this Government is now giving promise of specific encouragement, in the manner which is sought in this Bill, to scientific research, not of a general character, not merely in the air, not theoretical problems, but specifically directed towards problems which are in the way of industrial concerns who wish to achieve some definite result on the basis of given materials, on the basis of Indian conditions and on the basis of whatever is available here, and more particularly to adapt something which is done in another country and to adapt it in the cheapest possible way and not merely as a blind copy of what is done elsewhere.

There is a still more welcome feature in this Bill. It is the proposed encouragement to private buildings which is set out here. I do not think there is anything *sacro sanct* about these two dates—the 1st April, 1946, to 31st March, 1948. Buildings may be begun and completed during this period. But supposing some unfortunate person is unable to complete a building by 31st March, 1948. Do you wish to deprive him of all the 24 months benefit which you are offering to the others, or do you wish to give him the benefit of the balance of the period to which, in my opinion, he would be fairly and justly entitled? There are issues of this kind which we shall smoothen out in the Select Committee.

I want however to dwell just on one or two general principles contained behind these objects. The Honourable the Finance Member has admitted, and I am very happy to find myself in complete agreement with him that private

enterprise is in a position to move quickly and to engage a much larger number of people in a short period of time and that this particular form of encouragement is seeking to do it. I cannot help contrasting, Sir, the proposals which Government have got with regard to the increase of employment in this country by means of State expenditure. Big plans have been made elsewhere for Provinces and in the Central Government. I understood from Sir Ardesir Dalal himself some months ago that some of the Provincial Governments had not prepared any plan, that he was after them, and after a month or two he got a plan from them. This is the kind of plan which has been adopted and this is the plan which my Honourable friend is giving in his Budget a very heavy subsidy. I do not wish to go into all that here but I do say, Sir, that it is private enterprise which for a given amount can achieve larger and quicker results so far as employment is concerned. And if my Honourable friend would study the contrast and would create facilities in other directions which I am presently mentioning, the results would more likely be satisfactory.

Now, Sir, it is good that those who will build during the next two years will be encouraged and there will be no income-tax for two years on their property. This temptation may or may not bear fruit. If it is not the object of this Government merely to say that they made a very good gesture, if it is their object to see that good results are secured, that buildings should go up on a large scale and should bring about the employment of a large number of people, then, Sir, many more things would have to be done.

At present the dilemma is this. A man will save so much on income-tax but it will cost him so much more to start building operations now. He will certainly consider whether it is worth his while to put the money now or wait for a year or two until prices come down. In other words the great danger to the fructification of the scheme which the Honourable the Finance Member has put forward is this. Unless prices of building material,—not only the mere availability which he mentioned (he said that he would make building material available in larger quantities as and when required)—are brought down and, at the same time if the transport required for building materials is not given priority, results achieved would not be satisfactory. Building is like cooking: if one of the ingredients is lacking you cannot have the cake. It therefore the transport is not provided and prices are not brought down the incentive sought to be given through this Bill may be lost. I do not say that this Government is not doing all this, because I have information that they are trying to attend to these aspects also.

Let me put another aspect to which rather incomplete attention has been given. This aspect is with regard to the continuation of the Rent Act. The Rent Act is a very good law but I would like to make one or two suggestions about it. The cost of repairing materials has gone up. Many properties have been in disrepair and if you wish the owner of a property generally to be smart about his business and to be enthusiastic, then you must create some facility and modify the provisions of the Rent Act applicable to a smaller extent so far as people owning residential properties are concerned but to a slightly bigger extent so far as business premises are concerned. The tenants of business premises were permitted to make large profits but the landlord is not permitted even to cover himself for the extra cost of repair. There is another provision by which a tenant can profiteer as much as he likes. A tenant can put up a couple of sticks and say that he is letting out furnished quarters! It may cost him Rs. 90 and he can let it out at Rs. 300. These are abuses. Not only that but the absurdity is that a tenant can put any other tenant behind him, including a prostitute in the midst of respectable families living all round and the landlord is unable to do anything. The Rent Act protects the prostitute!

There are other aspects too of the Rent Act which ought to be remedied but in particular I would mention the provision of the Rent Act as it applies to new buildings. Has the Honourable the Finance Member any idea how a new building, the building of which he is encouraging through the provisions of this

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

Bill, how that building will stand with regard to the fixing of rents when it is ready? I find that the Bombay Government have definitely put forward the plea that no permission will be given for a new building unless the builder agrees that when the building is ready, it would be made first available to the Government, if they want it or it should be made available for any tenants who are after it and the rent shall be fixed by the Rent Controller! The Rent Controller who was appointed under one of the Ordinances during the war is not even a permanent official. I think it is this kind of discouragement from other quarters which will counter-balance any encouragement which my friend may give in the form of the relaxation of income-tax under clause 2 of this Bill. And unless all these things are taken together and, studied together and unless the whole machinery is revised in regard to the reduction of prices of building materials, the transport of these materials, the relaxation of the provisions of the Rent Act, wherever they are found to be unsuitable, unless all this is done I feel that the good intentions of the Finance Member as embodied in this Bill will not fructify.

Sir, I support the motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I do not want to take much time but I wish to express my surprise at the manner in which the two Honourable Members who have spoken before me have managed to fall in love with each other without appearing to be doing so.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Two capitalists.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I wish to warn the present Finance Member, that the praising is done by my Honourable friend while he is still in office and this of course is the usual practice of businessmen. Our party is not a party of businessmen. We represent different interests of which our nation is composed. It is all right for the Finance Member to give all these bouquets to these big businessmen. There was a time when we were in a little less embarrassing position when all the gentlemen used to be on the other side. We have no objection to the Honourable Member making a number of concessions as he has done in regard to earned incomes of all those people who are professionals. This is a reform which should have been made long ago. I am glad it has been made at last now. But in regard to various other things which my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar and the *Eastern Economist* (both very able exponents of their points of view) have asked for, I only request the Select Committee to be very careful, because it is easy to go on asking for more and more and getting them out of this Government as it is in a mood to yield to these rich people. But who is going to fill the gap? This Budget is bad enough. The financial proposals that have been placed before us are very discouraging: they are one-sided. One interest, a very small and tiny interest, if it is looked at from a human point of view, has been given all the advantages. The great masses of our people have been given nothing at all. My friend Mr. Gadgil tells me that there are only 7 lakhs of these people.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): 7.73,192, to be exact.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Therefore I would like them to bear in mind the need of all these masses of people for relief from tax burdens. How can this relief be given unless these rich people are prepared to bear the tax burden. Their shoulders are broader and stronger and they ought to be prepared to bear these burdens.

Then, my Honourable friend gave a bouquet to himself and to his class by saying that the Finance Member had recognised the fact that private enterprise, which is very enterprising, will be able to build more of these houses and so on. But what is its record? Why should the Honourable the Finance Member come forward offering a 25 per cent subsidy to the building trade, if these capitalists

are so enterprising. It only sows that this capitalistic enterprise cannot be carried on in this country unless this 25 per cent. subsidy is given. That is what it means.

Then there is the question of charitable funds. Wherever from do these gentlemen get all these funds, I want to know. The time has come when the Finance Member or someone else on that side should take the earliest opportunity to introduce legislation in order to control the collection and utilisation of these charitable funds. I know that every one of our *beoparis*—I do not wish to use any other name—collect these charity funds from our peasants whenever we sell anything. Even when we purchase anything we have got to pay: these gentlemen accumulate all these funds and afterwards call them Birla funds or Bajaj funds or Ispahani funds and all these great gentlemen with their names placarded start these great charitable funds, get all the kudos and they make our biggest and noblest people go to them in order to get some of these funds, and afterwards they prepare their way to heaven. That is the game these gentlemen have been playing point so, if you cannot touch these funds through income-tax and place them at the disposal of the general taxpayer and help them by development and social services, at least introduce some legislation as soon as you can.

On one other point I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar—I have already agreed with him in regard to earned incomes—and that is in regard to research. I want that our industrialists should spend as much money on industrial research as possible, and in this direction I do not want the tax-gatherer to trouble them very much. But at the same time I do not want them to become monopolists of the results of these researches. The state must keep an eye on this and they must have some control also. The state should also try to develop with the help of industrial research or whatever they have, and to plan out these various researches. When these gentlemen set apart a portion of their funds for industrial research, let them submit their schemes of various kinds and let the Government have a look at those schemes, and then relate them, one with the other, and say that such and such things are really necessary, and give them an opportunity to embark on these researches; but the results of these researches should not be made a monopoly. To the greatest extent possible, first preference should be given to that particular industrial concern which makes some discovery or whatever it is out of its industrial researches, but the public also must be given an advantage of it. I hope the Select Committee will keep in mind not only expansive ideas of the needs of the vested interests that my Honourable friend has, so rightly, placed from his own point of view, but also these and very many other persons that they ought to think of when they have to keep in mind the interests of the masses.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: Indian Commerce): Mr. President, the two Members who spoke just now have demonstrated the necessity for a consolidating and amending Act on this question of income-tax. The present Bill is a very modest measure; it deals only with three small points; whereas questions of somewhat far-reaching importance have been raised, and they have to be dealt with by another Bill, if the Honourable Finance Member is going to bring one before his term is up. Anyway the Income-tax Act is a very old Act—it is an Act of 1922, and it requires to be gone into very completely again and re-enacted with such changes, either in terms of what Mr. Manu Subedar wants or in terms of what Mr. Ranga wants, as a separate measure.

I do not want to go into those questions. I will confine myself to the Bill before us. There are only three points referred to in the Bill. They are reliefs which have to be given and which are overdue to the industrialists for things for which they are entitled. One is the question of scientific research, about which I do not think there will be any difference of opinion. But the provision that is made in the Bill before us is defective in one way. At the present moment the industries which can individually take up

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research are very few. When a whole business is concerned, there are several industries, several companies, which can combine together and undertake research. For instance, the textile concerns all over the country have got their associations in different places. I consider that except in the case of very big capitalists and very big companies, the natural course of advancement will be for these associations of the same industry to undertake research for the benefit of all. For instance the millowners in different parts of the country may not take up industrial research separately. In that case each mill will have to make a contribution to the association. I fear that contribution is not covered by the provisions of this Bill. It no doubt says 'institution'—I do not know if the Honourable Finance Member means to bring such associations under the term 'institution'. Anyway it is absolutely necessary that it ought to be made clear that if research is undertaken by any association of the same business, then any contribution made to such association should also get the benefit. That is one point which I should like the Select Committee to bear in mind when they consider the Bill.

The second point to which I should like to make reference is the concession which is given with reference to buildings put up already, or to be put up hereafter and the plants installed or to be installed hereafter. The market prices have been very high during the last two or three years. The prices are going down. Take for instance building materials; during the last two or three years, the prices were very high. Now, already within the last few months there is a downward trend in the prices. What the Honourable Finance Member proposes is to give relief to such industries as will instal machinery or as will put up buildings hereafter. He wants to put that in class one. In class two he wants to place those cases in which buildings have been erected and machinery has been installed from the 1st of April, 1945. It is before this period that prices were high. Such of those industries as had to put up buildings or instal machinery before that time had to pay very heavily for those things. They had to put up those things and instal machinery, in most cases, on account of pressure that was there for producing more. The pressure was exercised both by the circumstances of the time as well as the pressure put on them by the Government for more production for war materials and thinks like that. Under these circumstances they have put up buildings and installed machinery at very great cost. So, I would very strongly urge that the period that ought to be taken into consideration in giving this concession should be ante-dated by at least three years: we ought to say, that all machinery erected and all buildings put up from the 1st April, 1942, should have this concession extended to them. That is only fair. As I said, if anything, the prices are going down. The relief that is wanted is more for those who have already put up these buildings and installed their machinery, rather than those who are going to do it hereafter.

I would also join Mr. Manu Subedar in saying that there is a risk. When industrialists undertake to put up new machinery and new buildings hereafter and if they are not able to complete before the end of March 1948, they should not be penalised. If they take more time, they ought also to get the concession. Otherwise there will be a lot of discontent. Machinery is very difficult to get and it is not known when we are going to get them. I know of a case in which orders were placed in 1940 and 1942 and the machinery has not yet come and where inquiries are made the manufacturers are not able to say when they will be able to send the machinery. (An Honourable Member: "You will have to wait till doomsday.") Hereafter if you give new orders no manufacturer is prepared to guarantee the delivery of the machinery within any particular time, apart from the cost involved. So far as the cost is concerned, the orders we have given just now come to something like $3\frac{1}{2}$ times the prices which they quoted before the war. Even after paying $3\frac{1}{2}$ times the pre-war price, we are not in a position to say whether we will get the machinery in time or at any

particular time. Such being the case the restriction with regard to the time for putting up the buildings or installing the machinery should not be there. If anything is started within a particular time or if an order is given within a particular time, the concession should be given in such cases also.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You get the allowance on machinery at any time, whenever it is delivered.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Not the higher amount you are proposing now?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes. Read the Bill.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: That is a point which the Select Committee should look into. Now, that the Bill is going to a Select Committee I will ask the Select Committee to pay special attention to these two points I have mentioned and give relief.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): I am sure we are greatly relieved to hear the Finance Member describe this Bill as a Bill of concessions. It is to a great extent a Bill of concessions and concessions which were justly due but there is a clause in the Bill which has given rise to considerable apprehension and I only hope that this apprehension is wrong but I would like to draw the attention of the House to what the apprehension is. My friend Mr. Manu Subedar alluded to it. It is with regard to the clauses of obsolescence and it is clause 3 (a) (ii). The interpretation of the amendment is a question which the Select Committee will have to study with great care. The following words have been added to the old section: "such building", and the words "discarded or demolished or destroyed". Now, the insertion of the word 'destroyed' makes a very big change in the Act. So far as we understand the interpretation of this section it is as follows: If 15 or 20 years ago machinery cost 30 lakhs and it is today written down to 10 lakhs of rupees and if you have insured it for 25 lakhs and if the machinery is destroyed by fire, then according to my interpretation of this clause Government will allow 10 lakhs to go to capital and 15 lakhs will be taken to profits on which they will charge income-tax and Corporation-tax.

Sir John Sheehy (Government of India: Nominated Official): That is correct.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Now that is my interpretation of this clause. I find that the British Act was amended in 1944 somewhat in a similar manner and concessions were given in that Act—very much the same as given to us today but so far as my reading of the 1944 British Act is concerned, the principle you are now trying to adopt was adopted only for assets acquired after the amendment of that Act. It applies to new machinery and new buildings and this principle did not apply to any of the old buildings or old machinery which had been brought into existence, say 15 years ago. As I understand the English Act, I see the logic of it and I would be prepared to concede the principle adopted in England in 1944, but I see great danger in adopting the principle suggested in this Bill if my interpretation is correct. I stand open to correction when depreciation was allowed and Government did not charge income-tax and Corporation-tax on those amounts from year to year till we come down to 1946 when the depreciated machinery was down in the company's books at 10 lakhs. I can understand when Government turn round and say that since they allowed a concession for a number of years and allowed the company to depreciate their machinery and if on account of fire the insurance company pays the full amount of the insured money, Government is entitled to its share of the income-tax and super-tax which it has let off for so many years. I admit that principle but the concession that was given was during a course of a number of years at a much lower rate of income-tax and super-tax. Income-tax and super-tax have gone on rising during these years and if the fire takes place, in 1947, Government will

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir]

charge income-tax and super-tax at the highest rate possible. I think I have made the point perfectly clear.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: After all you have to pay tax on the income you got?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sometimes my friend's logic is rather complicated but if he would make himself more clear or tell me what his point is we can discuss it.

Now, with regard to the individual who has a building which has been depreciated from year to year, he gets off his income-tax and super-tax on small amounts. If it is burnt down and he gets his insurance money say, 15 lakhs of rupees, the Income-Tax Department will charge him 60 pies income-tax and the highest slab of super-tax, while the concession that he has received is at a very low rate of income-tax and slab of super-tax. I think that Government will secure a great deal by this amendment with regard to individuals. Government will practically take a large percentage of the moneys received from the Insurance Companies with regard to individuals. I think that point should be seriously considered by the Select Committee and I would urge that if the amended British Act is what I believe it to be, that principle should be adopted. It appears to me to be quite equitable.

These are the only remarks I have to make with regard to the Bill and that this clause of the Bill requires the serious consideration of the Select Committee. I will again thank the Honourable Member for having described this Bill as a Bill of concessions and I trust, when he looks into it in the Select Committee with his other colleagues, he will really make it a Bill of concessions.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, this Bill contains so much which is beneficial to industrial concerns that naturally, as a spokesman of such concerns, I appreciate all that has been given to us. I, therefore, endorse to a very large extent what my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar said in regard to the beneficial nature of this Bill. At the same time, there are one or two questions to which I should like to draw attention at this stage, because they will undoubtedly cause a lot of talk in the Select Committee. But before I deal with these, there is one minor point of drafting to which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Sir John Sheehy; that is, at the end of clause 3. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons there is a reference to clause 3(b). I confess I searched for about 20 minutes before I was satisfied in my own mind as to what that reference was; but I came to the conclusion in the end, possibly rightly, possibly wrongly, that it referred to what is marked (c) at the very end of clause 3. If I am not correct, I should like the Honourable Sir John Sheehy, in replying to this debate, to tell us whether sub-clause (b) is really sub-clause (c).

Sir John Sheehy: It is sub-clause (c).

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: That is the first minor point. As I am dealing with this particular clause, the second point that arises out of this is the precise interpretation of the words "Provided that in the case of a building previously the property of the assessee, etc." I do not suggest that the Honourable Member should reply to that now, but I would ask him to give it his very serious attention because the wording is not very clear; and in view of the importance of the sub-section, it is desirable that we should be quite clear in our minds as legislators what it means.

Then, with regard to the main clauses of the Bill themselves. I will deal first with clause 5. It is a small clause, but to poor people and to those who are less well-to-do it is very important. It is a clause which will relieve what has been an undoubted hardship to widows and children and we whole-heartedly support it.

Then, Sir, in clause 2 we have the first of a series of very important concessions to industrial concerns. I refer to the sub-clause which says: "and

where the buildings have been newly erected, or the machinery or plant being new has been installed, after the 31st day of March, 1945". Now, Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House by going into that but I hope that either in his reply to this debate or at a later stage Sir John Sheehy will be able to explain in very clear terms precisely what is involved by that date. It has, for example, raised a doubt in my mind regarding the position of machinery which begin to be installed before the 31st day of March, 1945, but was completed perhaps six months later, and, similarly, at the other end, installed before the 1st day of April, 1946, and completed during the period 31st March, 1948. It is perhaps a small point, but it is important to all those who have got to administer the act, and in that matter naturally they will have to work very closely with his officers; otherwise in regard to the earlier part of sub-clause (a) of clause 3 we in this Group whole-heartedly support the Government and we welcome these proposals. As the Honourable the Finance Member has pointed out, these are additional and special terms and special conditions in relation to new plant and machinery in regard to depreciation. In that connection, again, I raise another important query. And that is the position of colliery plant and machinery, which is now subject to certain special depreciation rates; I should like to hear from the Government whether the depreciation rates now given, which are special, will be in addition to the new additional rates now proposed.

Then, Sir, I leave for the moment sub-clause (ii), which seeks to insert a new clause (vii), and pass on to the proposed concessions to scientific research. Every one in the country, who has at heart the welfare of industrial progress in this country, will whole-heartedly welcome these proposals of the Government. They are sound. They were introduced a year ago but for reasons over which we, in this Group, have had no control they were dropped. We regretted that at the time and we, therefore, take this opportunity of thanking the Honourable the Finance Member for making the concession, if I understood him correctly, retrospective to last year.

Then, lastly, I refer to the new proposed clause (vii), which will come in as a paragraph of section 10 of the Act. That new clause to sub-section (ii) of section 10 deals with obsolescence and has been dealt with already by several Honourable Members. I do not propose at this stage to go into details but should just like to raise again one or two queries. It has aroused doubt in some minds and hostility in others. As regards the doubts, I personally agree that we shall have to give it very careful consideration in the Select Committee, because we must bear in mind that so long as Government adheres to the policy of seeking to put an income-tax amendment through the Finance Bills, which can sometimes be better dealt with through other legislation, there will be hard cases. I hope the Honourable Member will be prepared to consider sympathetically hard cases if these are brought to light, and one of our task in the Select Committee will have to be to consider how these can be provided for. But in saying that I should like to make it also very clear that we, in this Group, fully appreciate why it is that the Government have brought in the fourth proviso, which is mentioned here. Knowing as I do some of the things which went on in Bengal in 1943, my only comment would be that I am surprised that Government have not brought in some similar proposal a long time ago. There have been concrete cases of people who have deliberately over-insured their property in order to get the full amount of concession which they would get by so doing, from the income-tax authorities. Having got all those benefits when prices were rising, apart from the result of their activities, they now seek that on the downward move of prices, they will get similar benefits, and therefore, I sympathise fully with the Government's reasons for bringing in proposals of this kind, though I earnestly hope that they will give very serious consideration to my earlier remarks regarding the hardship cases which will undoubtedly arise. With these observations, I support the reference to the Select Committee.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): I will not go into controversy here today, but I feel, the Income-tax Bill

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

as proposed is not perfect as all Income-tax Bills are. They sometimes try to remove a lacuna here and there, they sometimes try to remove injustices here and there and sometimes the result is that they perpetrate some more injustices and they create some more lacunae. I would refer to the building activities. The Honourable the Finance Member has given some concessions, but the time limit allowed is so short, especially the starting of building activities is laid down as from 1st April. In these days when materials are not available, how is it possible to start buildings so quick. Plans have to be prepared, they have to be sent to the municipal corporations, contractors have to be contacted and it takes at least a few months to place orders. If the real benefit of this clause is to be given, the time limit, I feel, has to be raised. Regarding clause 8(ii)—Amendment of section 10 of the Income-Tax Act—although this provision, “provided that such amount is actually written off in the books of the assessee” has been in the Bill for the past so many years, yet, I feel that this provision ought to go because it is an injustice to those concerns which have been discarded or demolished and destroyed, and they are asked to write off immediately. The loss may be very heavy, actually the profits may be reasonable, and if they write off these losses immediately in that very year, then the balance sheet would show a loss and in that case, although they have made reasonable profit, that concern will not be able to declare a dividend. The concern may suffer. In the case of industries it is not compulsory to write off the depreciation allowances that have been allowed. It is customary to allow them to accumulate and the Income-Tax office and the assessee get together and consider and account for the depreciation allowance, and that depreciation allowance is not to be written off, but is being allowed. The same procedure, I feel ought to be laid down in this case also. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member would consider this point and the difficulties that he puts in the way of those concerns by laying down strictly that the amount must be actually written off and therefore this may be removed.

Regarding research allowances, I should congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member in bringing it up in this Session. Last year the same provisions were being brought, but his predecessor in a huff threw them away because the Finance Bill was thrown out and due to various other reasons. Without research no industry can prosper, no country can progress, and this research allowance ought to have been allowed for the last so many years, as was done in the case of U. K. and U. S. A., and also Germany. But this Government brought it very late and then too when they brought forward these provisions, they withdrew them. At that time a commission on scientific research was established under the Chairmanship of Sir Shanmukham Chetty, and that Commission went round the country, saw industries and industrial Associations and discussed with them and persuaded them to set apart certain funds for research. Many Associations agreed, some did lay out certain amounts, and when the Bill was brought in last year, some Associations actually collected and set apart those amounts, but to their surprise this Bill was withdrawn in the last Assembly. In U. K. the allowances have been made since 1942-43, and due to the persuasion of this Commission, the Government having agreed to do this, and having brought forward a Bill, I feel it would be quite proper that wherever such amounts have been set apart in any part of the country, those amounts should be allowed to be included in the relief so that scientific research may start at once.

As I said before, I find that in the whole Act certain lacunae and certain injustices are there and it is quite necessary, I feel that a committee of this kind should be appointed to go through the whole Act and put it in proper perspective compared to the various Income-tax Acts in other parts of the world. The provision about the difference between written down value, the depreciation, and the charging of higher amounts obtained from insurance

has been brought about. The reason behind that is quite correct, but I fear some injustice may be perpetrated as my Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir stated. The position would be this. If an industrial concern has written down a certain amount and that has been allowed by the Income-tax authorities, and when the prices of these machineries have gone up and he has to replace these machineries at a much higher price, then it would be unfair that the difference between written down value and the original cost is being charged by the income-tax authorities. I will just explain how this would happen. The correct way would be that if one is to pay very high price for replacement value, what should be done is that he should be allowed to reduce the cost from that high cost to the amount of difference between the written down value and the original cost, that is if an establishment has cost one crore and the difference between the written down value and the original cost is 25 lakhs, it should be taken for income-tax purposes that the value of his asset is not one crore, but the depreciation may start from 75 lakhs. In that way real justice would be done, otherwise there would be lot of complications and injustice to the industries concerned.

My Honourable friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir referred to the present high rate of income-tax and the past low rates of income-tax and super-tax when depreciation allowances were given, and the position was that the Government allowed a certain amount as depreciation at the then rate of income-tax. Government cannot take back from the assessee any extra amount than they have actually allowed. If the provision as worded is kept as it is, Government have given three annas or two annas in the rupee, and they will be taking back not those two or three annas that Government have suffered in revenue but six annas in the case of companies and 12 or 14 annas in the case of individuals who own industries. That will be very unfair and unjust and actually some money will be taken away from the industrialists and from industries instead of giving them a fair deal. I hope this will be considered by the Finance Member and in the Select Committee we may be able to give a fair deal to both the Treasury and the industry.

Various allowances have been allowed from March, 1945. In other countries like the U. K. they have been allowed from April 1944, as I understand it, and as Government were thinking of allowing these allowances last year, so in this case retrospective effect should be given. The other point is about section 28-A. Although it is in the Finance Bill, I feel that the exemption of section 28-A which is sought to be allowed is not clear there and it ought to be rather in the Income-tax Amendment Bill when this may be brought about every year wherever exemptions are sought to be given rather than put and discussed in the Finance Bill. I feel that the proper sphere for such exemption is the Income-tax Act and not the Finance Bill.

There are various circulars being issued by the authorities here to the Income-tax Departments in the provinces whereby wherever there are any injustices found they are sought to be removed. The time has come when whatever is done by circular should be done by an amending Bill; and that is why I put forward the proposal to review afresh the sections of the Income-tax Bill. As regards exemption under section 28-A the rates to be charged for super-tax is 30 per cent of the profits or 5 per cent of the capital whichever is higher, but in case of private companies, in case of trading companies, in case of managing agency companies, this would create great hardship. Industries would certainly benefit if they accumulated reserves and they are not frittered away by giving dividends. That would be certainly good for industries but it would not apply to managing agency companies, because they are for managing the industrial concerns, and if they have to keep reserves I do not know what they are going to do with those reserves and the shareholders of those companies which are managing agency companies would suffer. The proviso about this is in the Finance Bill and I need not dilate upon it today because it is out of the

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

sphere of the Income-tax Act Amendment Bill as it is today. But I wish the Finance Member keeps this point in view.

In conclusion I should like to bring in one more point, that income-tax and customs revenues or excise which fall upon the whole country are increased to a certain extent by the nefarious activities of the tax-evaders, and the Finance Member has not yet been able to find out ways and means to stop this tax-evasion. These tax-evaders are specially to be found in speculation businesses and if they are not caught and tax-evasion is not set right the effect would be that the honest tax-payer would have to pay higher sums because whatever is evaded goes out of the revenue and this revenue suffers and it has to be made up from honest traders and honest people who want to pay their income-tax dues honestly. That would be one of the most important things that the Finance Department ought to tackle. Sir, I have done.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I do not think there is much to reply to as most of the points are really Select Committee points. I was really helped by the unusual unanimity shown by the Congress Party Benches today; they seemed to speak with one voice, which is not very usual; and you will understand how difficult it is for a Finance Member, when he is trying to please everybody, to please one single body. However, we will do our best in Committee. I can assure my Honourable friends that the many questions of hardships they raised will be certainly sympathetically considered. I foresee some difficulty in going some of the way with Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai without doing irreparable damage to the revenue; but, as I said, most of the points raised were Select Committee points and the House will have an opportunity of considering them when we submit our report.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. K. C. Neogy, Mr. Manu Subedar, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala, Seth Yusuf Abdooli Haroon, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Sir John Sheehy, and Mr. C. W. Ayers, with instructions to report by Wednesday, the 27th 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.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 19th March, 1946.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 19th 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. Sir John Philip Sargent, C. I. E., M. L. A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

Mr. President: Mr. Manu Subedar.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I have been authorised by Mr. Manu Subedar to put the questions standing in his name.

Mr. President: May I have the authority?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I gave it to the Secretary.

Mr. President: The questions will be taken up at the end.†

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

GOVERNMENT POLICY RE BROADCASTING NEWS, DISCOURSES OR MUSIC IN ENGLISH
1028. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of **Mr. Manu Subedar**):

(a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to give an idea of progressive increase of licences in connection with broadcasting during the last six years?

(b) Have any cases been detected of working radios without licences?

(c) What percentage of the total time is given for English news, discourses or music in (i) Bombay, (ii) Calcutta and (iii) Delhi?

(d) Have Government any information as to the percentage of non-Indian, i.e., European licence-holders? If so, what is their percentage in the total?

(e) Why do Government give English music and news in English and discourses in English when the bulk of the licence-holders are Indians?

(f) Have Government received any representations on this subject either against the time given to the English language, or in its favour?

(g) What is Government's considered policy in this matter?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) I place a statement on the table.

(b) Yes.

(c) (i) Bombay—18 per cent., (ii) Calcutta—21 per cent., (iii) Delhi—22 per cent.

(d) No.

(e) Besides non-Indian listeners, a considerable number of Indians listen to English Talks and Western Music. The majority of those who broadcast talks in English are Indians.

(f) No, but listeners' criticisms and appreciations of these as well as other programmes are duly considered.

(g) The maintenance of the *status quo* modified from time to time in the light of public opinion.

† These questions have, however, been printed in these debates in their serial order.—Ed. of D.

Statement showing the number of licences for radio receiving sets

On 31st March 1940	97,537
On 31st March 1941	1,25,347
On 31st March 1942	1,55,733
On 31st March 1943	1,67,123
On 31st March 1944	1,80,833
On 31st March 1945	1,99,510

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the unsettled condition of the world, will Government collect the information asked for in part (d)?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why do you not want to collect this information.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: How can you find out the number of European licence-holders. That will mean an all-India inquiry. Licences change. A man sells his radio. A man hires it from somebody else.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that Government are absolutely indifferent as to the nationality of the licence-holder and also to the probable politics of that gentleman in case there is a war?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The Government are entirely indifferent because anybody can buy a radio or hire a radio.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the licences of a large number of Congress men were withdrawn in 1942?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have no knowledge of it, but I will find out.

Seth Govind Das: With reference to clause (d) of the question, the Honourable Member just mentioned a certain percentage of the English news and the broadcast in English, which is, I think, more than 20 per cent. Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state when the percentage of Englishmen in this country is so low, why such a large percentage of English broadcasting is allowed?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: My Honourable friend must be aware that quite a number of Indians do listen to broadcasts in the English language and quite a number also speak on the radio in English.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that this percentage of Indian people who listen to English news and English broadcast is only because they are not getting enough Hindustani broadcast and other messages in Hindustani?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: That is a matter of opinion.

HONORARIUM FOR INDIAN MUSIC AT DELHI RADIO STATION

1029. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. Manu Subedar):

(a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state whether Government have got a very powerful transmitter at Delhi?

(b) Have Government considered the issue of relaying good music from Delhi to three or four other centres and are there any technical or other reasons why this scheme should not be tried?

(c) What is the highest honorarium or reward for the Indian music at the Delhi Radio Station?

(d) Are Government aware that musicians or singers of good reputation do not care to come for this standard of reward?

(e) Have Government considered whether it is possible to increase these rewards in certain cases and thus relay the superior music to other stations?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) A certain number of such relays are in fact arranged.

(c) Information about fees paid to individual artists is confidential and cannot be disclosed.

(d) I am advised that this is not the case.

(e) Does not arise.

EXPENDITURE ON BROADCASTING AND AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS.

1030. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. Manu Subedar):

(a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state from how many stations broadcasting is now taking place, and what the personnel at each station is?

(b) What is the total cost incurred in connection with these stations, and what were the figures of expenditure in connection with each station during the last five years?

(c) Have Government looked into the question of the increased cost?

(d) Who sanctions the extra expenditure, and what steps have been taken to prevent unnecessary increase?

(e) Are the accounts of the Broadcasting Department audited and are the accounts of each station separately audited?

(f) How many officials, besides the Station Director, are at Delhi?

(g) What is the number of the Station Directors, and what are the remunerations given to each of them?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Nine. A statement showing the sanctioned strength of the staff at each Station (excluding inferior staff) is placed on the table.

(b) (1) The total capital cost of these Stations is Rs. 71,33,252.

(2) I place a statement on the table.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Governor General in Council. Proposals involving minor additions to the expenditure in All-India Radio are first examined by the Information and Arts Department and thereafter by the Finance Department. Proposals involving substantial additions to expenditure are placed before the Standing Finance Committee of the Legislature after the Information and Arts and the Finance Departments have examined them.

(e) Yes.

(f) 108 permanent and 35 temporary.

(g) First part.—9.

Second part.—A statement containing the required information is placed on the table.

STATEMENT I—contd.

Designation of Posts	Delhi		Bombay		Calcutta		Madras		Lahore		Lucknow		Trichinopoly		Peshawar		Dacca		Remarks
	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	Permanent	Temporary	
Clerk Grade C	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Clerk Grade II	21	5	19	2	20	5	17	3	16	4	16	3	15	5	13	1	12	3	
Telephone Attendant	...	...	2	1	2	1	2	...	1	1	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Stenographer	3	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	
Librarian	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	
Store-keeper	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	
Motor Driver	7	1	5	...	5	...	4	...	4	...	4	...	4	...	4	...	3	...	
Sub-Editor	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	
Translator	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	
Inspector, Rural Broadcasting.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Technical Supervisor	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	

STATEMENT II

Statement showing the (recurring) expenditure of Stations of All-India Radio

Year	Delhi	Bombay	Calcutta	Madras	Lahore	Lucknow	Dacca	Trichinopoly	Peshawar
1940-41	Rs. 4,11,299	Rs. 3,50,857	Rs. 3,61,854	Rs. 2,76,178	Rs. 2,35,785	Rs. 2,26,255	Rs. 1,38,711	Rs. 1,90,595	Rs. 54,837
1941-42	4,51,644	3,82,856	4,05,176	3,00,217	2,44,119	3,36,474	1,53,910	2,15,896	68,352
1942-43	5,58,628	3,82,308	4,00,730	3,51,932	2,58,341	2,51,221	1,73,378	2,45,245	1,36,106
1943-44	5,05,212	4,05,339	4,47,566	4,00,091	2,82,299	2,70,980	1,92,513	2,62,670	1,95,641
1944-45	6,38,400	4,76,000	4,89,200	4,45,790	3,38,200	3,19,100	2,36,700	3,20,300	2,37,900

Statement showing the salaries drawn by the Station Director of All-India Radio

	Rs.
Bombay	1,050 Plus Rs. 100 Special Pay.
Delhi	700 Plus Rs. 150 Special Pay.
Madras	675 Plus Rs. 100 Special Pay.
Calcutta	600 Plus Rs. 100 Special Pay.
Dacca	650
Lahore	600
Trichinopoly	600
Lucknow	600
Peshawar	575

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: With reference to part (c) of the question, may I know with what results?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: The result is stated in the Budget allotment.

REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST INCIDENCE AND OPERATION OF EXCISE DUTY ON TOBACCO.

1031. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. Manu Subedar):

(a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member received representations complaining against the incidence and the operation of the excise duty on tobacco?

(b) What is the principal complaint in connection with this levy?

(c) What is the yield of this duty since it was levied, for the period for which the figures are available?

(d) On what class did Government expect this duty to fall, and has it really fallen on that class?

(e) Is it not a fact that the producer of tobacco is penalised, contrary to Government's expectations and assurances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes.

(b) Complaints have been various as was inevitable in the early stages of a new and extensive measure of this kind, and no particular complaint has predominated.

(c) The yield is as follows:

1943-44—Rs. 9.65 lakhs.

1944-45—Rs. 17.28 lakhs.

1945-46—Rs. 17.35 lakhs.

(April-January)

(d) It is rarely possible to determine in advance the exact incidence of a particular tax. By and large, it was expected that this tax would fall on the consumer and this was borne out by the rise in price of the article after the imposition of the duty.

(e) No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Government have been apprised of the fact that with regard to part (d) of this question the tobacco growers are also being penalised?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir, but every tax-payer claims that he cannot bear the tax.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We have not been able to follow you at all. This is the easiest way of answering a question.

REPRESENTATIONS AGAINST INCIDENCE AND OPERATION OF EXCISE DUTY ON ARECA NUTS

1032. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. Manu Subedar):

(a) Has the Honourable the Finance Member received representations complaining against the incidence and the operation of the excise duty on areca nuts?

(b) What is the principal complaint in connection with this levy?

(c) What is the yield of this duty since it was levied, for the period for which the figures are available?

(d) On what class did Government expect this duty to fall, and has it really fallen on that class?

(e) Is it not a fact that the producer of areca nuts is penalised, contrary to Government's expectations and assurances?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The chief complaint has been that the burden of the duty has fallen principally on the producer.

(c) The revenue so far realised from this excise is as follows:

1944-45—Rs. 1.32 lakhs.

1945-46—Rs. 1.51 lakhs.

(April-January).

(d) and (e). It is rarely possible to determine in advance the exact incidence of a particular tax. By and large, it was expected that the tax would fall on the consumer. But, owing to the poor bargaining position of the grower vis-a-vis the wholesaler and the expectations of large imports of foreign nuts, the probabilities that it would fall on the consumer have not been realised.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not also a fact that due to the carelessness or callousness of the Central Board of Revenue raw areca nut is being made to pay as per weight?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has it been brought to the notice of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Allegations to that effect have been brought to the notice and the Department have satisfied themselves that the complaint was unfounded.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member order an impartial inquiry into this matter?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not know what he means by an impartial inquiry. I have never known my officers to carry out these inquiries improperly.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that a suit was filed by the growers themselves and the judgment was given against the Government?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If the judgment has been delivered as stated, that is the end of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The suit was on the specific issue that, contrary to the Act, duty was being collected on raw areca nuts instead of collecting it on cured areca nuts?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think there is a technical difficulty about the cured areca nuts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are taken by Government to get over this technical difficulty and what answer is being given to the growers?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: As my Honourable friend knows, the Department is always willing to discuss, with the growers or with their very vocal representatives, any legitimate complaints that they may have.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: In view of the fair admission by the Honourable the Finance Member in his Budget speech that the incidence of tax has fallen on the growers, may I know whether the Honourable Member is prepared to give some relief to the growers pending the setting up of a proper marketing arrangement to protect them?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is one of the matters I am chewing over.

Sri A. Karunakara Menon: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member has admitted in his Budget speech that the grower is unable to pass on the excise duty to consumers and also seeing that he is already paying a land tax, will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of abolishing the excise duty on betel nuts altogether?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have just answered that.

WORKING HOURS OF GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

1033. *Sri N. Narayanamurthy: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the inconvenience caused to the General Headquarters staff and their families as a result of the working hours of the General Headquarters being longer than those of the other Departments of the Government of India;

(b) whether the recent announcement fixing the working hours of all Civil Departments of the Secretariat from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. will apply to the General Headquarters as well; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, do Government propose to bring the General Headquarters also in line with the other Civil Departments of the Secretariat in the matter of working hours?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir, Government are conscious of the inconvenience these longer hours of work and no closed holidays or free Saturday afternoons have caused to persons employed in Defence Headquarters. In fact I am very conscious of that myself. At the end 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.

(b) and (c). 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.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In reply to part (a) of the question the Honourable Member has said that persons employed in Defence Headquarters have longer hours of work than those of other Departments. May I know how many hours on an average per day they work at present?

Mr. P. Mason: At present it works out on an average to slightly less than 40 hours, and from the 1st of April it will be slightly less than 35 hours.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When does he propose extending this order to that Department also?

Mr. P. Mason: I have explained that we are coming into line with other Departments with effect from the 1st of April 1946.

SUSPICION AGAINST MR. D. W. FRASER DISCHARGED FROM ARMY

†1034. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether the Government of India have ever entertained any suspicions against Mr. D. W. Fraser who was discharged from the Army (or his parents), that they had at any time been engaged in any activities whatsoever which they considered might be prejudicial to the safety or security of the State?

(b) If so, did these suspicions originate in India, or were they communicated to him through His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom?

(c) Has the Central Government ever entertained any suspicions of any kind against Mr. D. W. Fraser?

Mr. P. Mason: With your permission Sir, I will answer questions 1034 to 1038 together.

The man referred to in these questions was an Emergency Commissioned Officer of the rank of Lieutenant in the Scinde Horse. There has never been any suspicion of any kind against him nor was he ever subjected to surveillance while a serving soldier in the field. He first began to show signs of abnormality in March 1941, and became more and more mentally unstable, until he had to be placed on the sick list in P.A.I. Command in July 1943. His disease was diagnosed as Schizophrenia Paranoia by the Medical Board which examined him on the 23rd of that month. He was accordingly graded in medical category 'E' and returned to India where he arrived in the beginning of October that year. He was again medically boarded in Karachi on the 27th of that month. His medical category 'E' was confirmed but the diagnosis on this occasion was Obsessional Neurosis. The case was then reviewed by the Standing Medical Board at Poona who again confirmed the medical category as 'E' but changed the diagnosis to Schizophrenia Paranoia. I need only explain that Obsessional Neurosis may be said to be a mild form of Schizophrenia Paranoia, which is a disease of the mind that we laymen should call a persecution complex. As he had three times been graded in medical category 'E' he was not considered fit for military service. He was therefore relieved of military duties and asked to relinquish his Commission.

In questions 1034, 1035, 1036, and 1037 (a) to (d), the Honourable Member has asked me 26 separate questions, to every one of which the answer is either "No" or "Does not arise". With regard to 1037 (e) the answer is "Yes", he was discharged as suffering from a form of insanity. (f) Not exactly at variance; the difference is a matter of degree (g) There is no reason to suppose there was a mistake.

1038 (a) to (e). I do not think there would be any point in entering into discussion regarding the regulations with an officer suffering from this form of obsession.

(f) I venture to suggest, Sir, that this is a question which might well have been raised in the first place by a private letter to me; and I would have explained the position privately to the Honourable Member had I received the facts earlier.

SUSPICION AGAINST MR. D. W. FRASER DISCHARGED FROM ARMY.

†1035. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether the Central Government ever made any request or issued any directive to the Provincial Government to take any action due to their suspicions?

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

‡For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1034.

- (b) Did the Provincial Government accede to their request and take action?
- (c) Did the action take the form of police surveillance?
- (d) If so, are the police continuing to watch and report his movements or take any other measures to harass and annoy Mr. D. W. Fraser?
- (e) Have the military authorities ever entertained any suspicions of any kind against Mr. D. W. Fraser during his service in the Army?
- (f) If so, what were the suspicions?
- (g) Was he treated as a 'suspect'?
- (h) Were military officers ever used in the guise of *agents provocateurs* in their dealings with Mr. D. W. Fraser?
- (i) Was he ever placed under special surveillance with his correspondence, conversation and all his movements subjected to that system of observation and report which is usually considered as being the monopoly of the German 'gestapo'?

INTERROGATION OF MR. D. W. FRASER BY ADMINISTERING SPECIAL DRUG.

- †1036. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if Government are aware that Mr. D. W. Fraser was sent to hospital at Baghdad in order that the authorities might have an opportunity of either confirming or disproving their suspicions?
- (b) Is it a fact that he was given a drug, known as the 'truth' drug, perhaps Penathol Z, for purposes of interrogation?
- (c) How many times was Mr. D. W. Fraser given this special drug and interrogated in this way?
- (d) Is it a fact that this drug has the effect of overpowering all resistance of the will and compelling a person to speak?
- (e) Was the interrogation of Mr. D. W. Fraser carried out in such a manner as to classify it as 'third degree'?
- (f) Was Mr. D. W. Fraser ever asked to confess whilst he was in hospital?
- (g) Is it a fact that Mr. D. W. Fraser was hypnotized or kept under hypnotic influence during his detention in hospital?
- (h) If so, what was the object?
- (i) How many times was he subjected to hypnosis?
- (j) Will the Honourable Member please state the method of inducing Hypnosis that was employed?

INTERROGATION OF MR. D. W. FRASER BY ADMINISTERING SPECIAL DRUG

- †1037. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether any information was extracted from Mr. D. W. Fraser whilst he was in the hypnotic state?
- (b) Was Mr. D. W. Fraser ever psycho-analysed in hospital?
- (c) If so, will the Honourable Member please state the psycho-analytical method employed?
- (d) Did the authorities make a calculated use of terror in an attempt to break his spirit whilst in hospital?
- (e) Is it a fact that he was discharged from the military hospital, Poona, as suffering from the Army as suffering from a form of insanity?
- (f) Is there any variance with a diagnosis by a previous Medical Board?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1034.

(g) Does the Honourable Member think it possible that the Standing Medical Board at Poona might also have made a mistake?

TREATMENT GIVEN TO MR. D. W. FRASER IN HOSPITAL.

†1038. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether he proposes to make available a detailed report of the treatment given to Mr. D. W. Fraser during the six months that he was detained in hospital including all the factors which led the Army Medical authorities to diagnose the case as one of 'Schizophrenia Paranoia'?

(b) Was there any collusion or connivance on the part of the military medical authorities in deliberately arriving at a diagnosis which they must have known was false?

(c) Is it a fact that Mr. D. W. Fraser soon after his return to Karachi from Poona, called at the office of the Assistant Director of Medical Services to inquire what the Regulations under which he was discharged might mean and that the then Assistant Director of Medical Services refused to give him any information?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. D. W. Fraser still does not know what is meant by those Regulations?

(e) Does he propose to ask the Director of Medical Services in India to furnish Mr. D. W. Fraser with a copy of the extracts from Regulations M. S. A. (i) 442 and Appendix 13?

(f) What further action, if any, has been taken or is contemplated with reference to Mr. D. W. Fraser since his invalidment from the Army by either the Civil, Military or Medical authorities?

EXPENDITURE ON PUBLICITY AND BROADCASTING

1039. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state:

(a) the expenditure in various constituents of the Information and Arts Department in matters of publicity and broadcasting, etc., as between the English Section and Indian Languages Section, separately (i) in 1939 (ii) in 1942, and (iii) at present;

(b) the strength of the staff both officers and clerical as between the English Section and Indian Languages Section, separately (i) in 1939 (ii) in 1942, and (iii) at present;

(c) the expenditure allocated for (i) Research and Reference Division, (ii) the Field Publicity Organization, and (iii) Publications Division;

(d) the nature of the work that the Field Publicity Organization is doing; and

(e) if it is a fact that the Field Publicity Organization is carrying on anti-Indian propaganda?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) I lay a statement on the table.

(b) It is not possible to divide the staff according to Indian and English Languages as most of it works jointly for both the languages.

(c) (i) Rs. 8,58,700; (ii) Rs. 27,11,600; (iii) Rs. 2,97,200.

This is the probable expenditure during 1945-46.

(d) and (e). I would refer the Honourable Member to my speech on the cut motion in respect of this grant on March 12th.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1034.

Statement showing the expenditure on various constituents of Information and Arts Department in matters of publicity and broadcasting as between the Indian and English Languages Section.

	1939		1942		1945	
	Indian	English	Indian	English	Indian	English
All-India Radio	5,45,703	1,34,686	9,11,775	1,65,294	24,77,234	2,47,178
Press Information Bureau	15,500	42,100	92,100	1,21,800	1,56,200	2,20,500
Publications Division	...	...	38,000	...	1,65,500	1,33,700

There are no sections on linguistic basis in the other constituents of the Department.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the person in charge of the Field Publicity Organisation was the man who was in charge of the National War Fund?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: For some time he was.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know if it is a fact that one or two officers, who are in charge of the Field Publicity Organisation, are now going about from Member to Member of the Legislative Assembly trying to persuade them to restore this grant again?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have no information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government take steps to see that these gentlemen are not allowed to carry on this sort of propaganda?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Not merely propaganda.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: As servants of Government they have no business to go round making any sort of propaganda of this nature.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member make enquiries whether they are carrying on such propaganda, or not?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Certainly.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does the Honourable Member propose giving effect to the cut motion that has already been passed so far as this Department is concerned?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have given effect to it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has he already disbanded any portion of his Department?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member said that the person in charge of the National War Front was for some time in charge of the Field Publicity Organization. Was he in charge of the Field Publicity Organisation for some time only, and he is not there now?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: As I said in my speech the National War Front was converted into the Field Publicity Organization and the officer in charge of the National War Front became in charge of the Field Publicity Organization.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What are the qualifications of that man? May I know if he is a graduate at least, or is he well-versed in Economics or Rural Uplift work? What special qualifications that gentleman has?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have to mention his name because, I think, if I do Members opposite will know his qualifications. He is Mr. Rashid Ali Beg. He has good educational qualifications, was sheriff of Bombay and took a notable part in the city's municipal life.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that he is not even a matriculate?

(No reply was given.)

Mr. President: Next question.

1040.

Withdrawn

GRANT OF PRIORITIES FOR PASSAGES ABROAD

1041. ***Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

- the present basis of granting priorities for passages abroad;
- whether Government are aware that there is favouritism practised in the granting of these passages;
- if it is a fact that Government grant priority passages without any discrimination between persons who propose to go abroad for a first-hand knowledge of industrial technique and others; and
- whether Government propose to give an assurance that priority will be given for such passages to such industrialists who propose to go abroad for a first-hand knowledge of industrial technique?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Passage priorities are granted in accordance with the schedule of priorities, a copy of which is placed on the table of the House.

(b) No.

(c) No; persons who wish to travel to the United Kingdom in order to obtain first-hand knowledge of industrial technique are eligible for priority III or priority V-e if so recommended by the Department concerned—either the Industries and Supplies Department or the Commerce Department.

(d) Does not arise.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING FORM A.

Note i.—Ref. item 1 (a).—The applicant is the person responsible to the shipping or Travel Agent for the passage money of the party, either in the form of cash or certificate. See note vi below. Surname in Block Capitals.

Note ii.—Ref. item 1 (b).—If you are likely to leave your present address before you receive orders to embark, it is better to have correspondence addressed to your Travel or Shipping Agent.

Note iii.—Ref. item 2.—Priorities are not allotted to young persons under 18 years of age but to their guardians.

Note iv.—Ref. item 4.—Against this item is required information as to the target date by which the applicant must leave India or reach the U. K., as the case may be.

Note vi.—Ref. item 5.—(a) If the cost of your passage is to be defrayed by Government (other than on Lee Commission a/c) a certificate from the authority concerned, accepting responsibility, must be obtained and sent to your Travel Agent/Shipping Company's Agent.

(b) If you are a Lee Commission passenger, the necessary Form of authority must be obtained from your Financial Controller and sent to your Travel Agent/Shipping Company's Agent.

(c) You will not be allowed to embark without a passage ticket obtained from your Travel/Shipping Agent.

Note vii.—If you wish to be certain of a return passage, you are advised to apply to the local National Service Advisory Committee for a Key Leave vacancy. Families are not given return passage.

Officials should apply throughout the normal official channels. Non-Officials should apply to the National Service Advisory Committee of their area. Families of persons granted Key leave, whether by sea or air are entitled to sea passage on the same priority. Families can sail in advance if desired and if shipping is available.

Note viii.—Sea passages cannot be allotted to women who are more than 5 months pregnant.

Note iv.—Children's attendants must be of Non-Asiatic domicile.

Note x.—In addition to this application you should register with a Travel Agent, or Shipping Company's Agent. Agents issue passage tickets, labels, etc., and call passengers to port of embarkation.

Note xi.—Passages for Defence Services personnel and their families are dealt with by G. H. Q., A. H. Q., or N. H. Q., as the case may be. Applications for these should NOT be submitted to the Home Department.

Note xii.—Persons making false statements on Form A, render themselves liable to prosecution under Sec. 182, Indian Penal Code.

General :—The chain of responsibility in the allotment of sea passage to the United Kingdom is as follows :—

The Civil Passage Controller allots priority. He formulates and presents shipping demands before the Sea Passages Board which is a joint civilian services organisation, and in relation to the shipping availability the basis of allocation is agreed. Detailed allocation to individual ships is finalised by War/Sea Transport and Deputy Civil Passage Controller, Bombay. The latter nominates individual civilian passengers from his waiting lists. Shipping Agents then issue directly or through Travel Agents embarkation orders and allot cabins/berths. Normally 10 days' embarkation notice is given to passengers.

Inquiries regarding the allotment of priority should be addressed to the Civil Passage Controller. All other inquiries should be addressed to Travel Agents, who by close liaison with Deputy Civil Passage Controller in Bombay are aware of your position on the waiting list. As your name progresses towards the head thereof, they can indicate in general terms when your embarkation orders are likely to be issued.

Applications for Air Passage ex-India (other than Key Leave) for business reasons should be made to the Civil Secretary, Air Priorities Board (India), New Delhi, through the Commerce Department or Department of Industries and Supplies. Others may apply direct.

Applications from the families of Service personnel should be made to Naval, Military or Air Force Headquarters.

If you find it necessary to postpone your date of sailing you are requested to inform the Deputy Civil Passage Controller, Bombay as early as possible. Last minute cancellations cause considerable inconvenience to substitutes who must frequently be offered berths at very short notice.

APPLICATION FOR PRIORITY PASSAGES TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

PARTICULARS

Before completing this form, read carefully the instructions inside.

1. (a) Name of applicant.
(see note i)

[Surname in Block Capitals]

(b) Full postal address in India, with telegraphic address (if any), to which information and instructions are to be sent.
(see note ii).

2. Names of all individuals for whom passages are required showing age, sex and relationship. (See note iv).

3. Month in which passage is preferred. (See note v).

4. Responsibility for payment of passage money.
(See note vi).

5. Any special reasons not covered by the schedule of priorities.

6. Name of Travel Agent employed.

7. Whether prepared to accept troop deck accommodation (which ensures earlier passage (applicable to European passengers below 30 only).

8. Any preference as to port of embarkation.

I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above statements are correct.

Date.....

Station.....

Signature.....

On completion, this form should be submitted to :

The Civil Passage Controller,
Government of India;
Home Department,
New Delhi.

SCHEDULE OF PASSAGE PRIORITIES

Although the schedule of priorities for passage to the United Kingdom as published on 12th February 1945 remains substantially unaltered it has been found necessary in the light of experience to subdivide certain priorities and to add instructions to others.

Key Leave has been included in the schedule as Priority V (b) and the whole has been divided into two main Groups, viz., Group A—those for whom it is expected that accommodation will always be available each month and Group B—those who, until the shipping situation improves, must remain on the waiting list.

The amended schedule is given below :—

GROUP A.

PRIORITY I

Government servants on duty and non-official travelling on Government business or certified by Government to be travelling for a purpose essential to the war effort.

Applications under this category must be supported by a certificate from the Government Department concerned stating the latest months by which the applicant must leave India if the purpose of the journey is to be achieved.

Families cannot travel under this priority unless the head thereof is to be out of India for at least 8 months.

PRIORITY II

Persons on whose behalf it is certified by a Provincial Medical Board that early passage is essential to save life or reason.

PRIORITY III

Persons certified by Government to be travelling in the national interest or for furtherance of the war effort or persons travelling to join certified appointments in the United Kingdom.

Applications under this category will state the month in which the applicant must leave India if the purpose of the journey is to be achieved.

Families cannot travel under this priority unless the head thereof is to be out of India for at least 8 months.

Applications must be submitted through the Government Department concerned or the National Service Advisory Committee as the case may be.

PRIORITY IV

Persons on whose behalf it is certified by a Provincial Medical Board that early passage is essential to save permanent impairment of health.

This priority is divided as under :—

- (a) Those certified as most urgent.
- (b) Those certified as very urgent.
- (c) Those certified as normal.

PRIORITY V

(a) Government servants and their families recruited from the United Kingdom on contract guaranteeing repatriation whose contracts have expired or been terminated and who do not qualify for Priority I or III.

(b) Key Leave Officials and Non-officials and their accompanying families.

- (c) Compassionate cases (higher). Unaccompanied Key Leave families.
 (d) Retiring civilians (Official or Non-official) and their families who are recommended by Provincial Governments/National Service Advisory Committees for this priority.
 (e) Persons travelling on urgent business whose application is supported by a Government Department.

GROUP B.

PRIORITY VI

- (a) Children between 12 and 16 with their guardians going to the United Kingdom for education and who normally have secured vacancies in educational institutions.
 (b) Children between 8 and 12 with their guardians going to the United Kingdom for education.
 (c) Adults going to United Kingdom for higher education. Applications must be supported by proof on admission to a University, Technical Institution, etc.
 (d) Children between 6 and 8 with their guardians going to United Kingdom for education.
 (e) Compassionate cases who do not qualify for V (c).
 (See note IV.)

PRIORITY VII

Retiring civilians (Official or Non-Official) and their families who do not qualify for priority V (d).

PRIORITY VIII

Those applicants who do not qualify for a higher priority.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that many technicians have not been given priority passages?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: There are a great number of people of all classes who have not been given priorities high enough to get them away, but if technicians are eligible under either of the priorities I have mentioned they have a very good chance of getting a passage.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: What is the position of the Government scholarship holders who want to go abroad for technical training in the list of priorities?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I believe Sir, subject to correction, that a number of them get priority III, which is a very high priority.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member look into the matter if instances are brought to him?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Certainly.

Mr. President: Next question.

DACOITIES COMMITTED IN AJMER-MERWARA

†1042. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) how many dacoities have been committed in Ajmer-Merwara within the last two years, the names of the villages in which they were committed, and the loss of men and money occasioned in each case;

(b) how many such dacoities have been traced and the culprits brought to book;

(c) the strength of the Dacoity Forces maintained, the work so far done by them, and the amount of money expended on their maintenance;

(d) if any of the dacoities have thus far remained untraced, and the reasons therefore;

(e) pursuant to recent dacoities and on the failure of Government to effect their arrest, how many applications were received for grant of gun licences for self-defence; how many such applications were either refused or granted.

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

(f) in the cases where the licences were refused, what are the reasons for the same; and

(g) whether Government propose to relax their policy for the issue of gun licences under the present circumstances of dacoities prevailing in Ajmer-Merwara; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Seven. A statement is laid on the table.

(b) No case has yet resulted in the conviction of the culprits. Five cases are still under investigation. In two of these, arrests have recently been made and arms and some stolen property recovered. It is hoped that they will end in conviction.

(c) No special dacoity forces were employed.

(d) The investigation of two dacoities [Nos. (1) and (2) shown in the statement] have been closed as untraced. In the first of these absconding *sansis* were strongly suspected but when arrested they were not identified by the complainant. In the second case a number of absconders some of whom have since been killed in encounters with the police, were strongly suspected to have been responsible. Investigation will be resumed should any of the suspected absconders be arrested.

(e) Six. Licences were granted to five applicants.

(f) Because the applicant did not satisfy the licensing authority that his possession of arms would further the purpose for which he made his application.

(g) The policy in this respect is already liberal and licences are freely granted to respectable and resourceful persons in villages, who can be trusted to use their arms in protection of their own and their neighbours' houses.

Statement showing the year number of dacoities committed in several villages in Ajmer-Merwara and the loss of men and money involved

1 Year	2 Number of dacoities	3 Names of villages in which committed	4 Loss of men	5 Loss of money
1944 . . .	Nil	(1) Road dacoity near village Paranga, Police Station—Bhinai.	Nil	Rs. A. p. 15 0 0
1945 . . .	6	(2) Village Rawatmal, Police Station—Jawaja.	Nil	82,693 7 0
1946 to date .	1	(3) Village Ararka, Police Station—Gegal.	Nil	625 0 0
		(4) Village Bhagwanpura, Police Station—Pushkar.	Nil	550 0 0
		(5) Village Morajhari, Police Station—Nasirabad.	Nil	7,958 12 0
		(6) Village Karel, Police Station—Pushkar.	Nil	9,573 2 0
		(7) Road dacoity near village Bandanwara, Police Station—Bhinai, Makarwali and Picholian.	Nil	11 12 0
Total .	7			101,427 0

EXPULSION ORDER PROHIBITING MR. SRI RAM AGAR TO ENTER MHOW CANTT

†1043. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that Mr. Sri Ram Agar, son of Moti Lal Maheshwari, is a resident of Mhow Cantonment, where he holds house property and where his family has been residing for a very long time?

(b) Is it a fact that in connection with the disturbances of August, 1942, the Commander, Mhow Area, by his order No. 3189-S., dated the 7th September 1943, expelled Mr. Sri Ram Agar from, and has forbidden his entry into, Mhow?

(c) Is it a fact that this expulsion order has not so far been cancelled?

(d) In view of the altered political situation in the country, do Government now propose to take steps to cancel this order against Mr. Sri Ram Agar's entry into Mhow?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes Sir; but he himself holds no immoveable property in Mhow Cantonment.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The order has now been cancelled.

TEST FOR MINISTERIAL STAFF IN INCOME-TAX OFFICES IN SIND

1044. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Income Tax Commissioner, Bombay, introduced a test for ministerial staff in Income Tax Offices in Sind?

(b) Is it a fact that clerks in the lower grade irrespective of age or service were required to appear for the test?

(c) Is the Honourable Member aware that under the Government of India Home Department Office Order No. 44-2-5-S. T. S.(s), dated the 21st June 1945, clerks below the age of twenty-five only may be required to appear for a test? If so, why were these orders ignored by the Income Tax Commissioner, Bombay?

(d) Is it a fact that papers in the test consisted of (i) English—Essay and Precis-writing, etc., (ii) Arithmetic, and (iii) Office routine procedure?

(e) If the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, why were the first two subjects included, since the employees satisfied the minimum educational qualifications?

(f) Do Government propose to afford relief to the affected staff by cancellation of the results of the tests so held? If not, why not?

Mr. B. O. A. Cook: (a) Yes.

(b) No; permanent Lower Division clerks officiating in the Upper Division only were so required. Other permanent clerks desirous of being considered for promotion were also permitted to sit.

(c) No such order would appear to have been issued by the Government of India, Home Department. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(d) Yes.

(e) As indicated in my reply to part (b) of the question, the test was held with a view to selecting clerks suitable for promotion or retention in the higher grade and a test in these subjects will give a good indication as to such suitability.

(f) No. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to my reply to part of his question No. 940, on the 13th March, 1946.

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

CERTAIN POSTS FILLED BY MUSLIMS THROUGH FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

†1045. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the total number of posts in Class I and II Services of the Government of India and other such posts that have been filled by the Muslims through the Federal Public Service Commission without a written competitive examination during the past one decade, and the qualifications of the persons selected for each such post as compared with those candidates that have not been selected by the Commission?

(b) Will Government kindly lay on the table a full and complete list of all the candidates that applied from time to time for all such posts with the qualifications against each name and a separate list of those selected for each of the vacancy that has been filled?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). To compile this information would mean an immense amount of labour for the Federal Public Service Commission and I do not think the value of the results would justify my asking the Commission to undertake it.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

†1046. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the total number of officers in the Finance Department, Civil, Military, Supply, Food, etc., showing, separately, the number of Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, Superintendents, Financial Advisers, etc., and indicate clearly the number of Muslims in each cadre?

(b) How far and since when Government have been making efforts, if any, to send up the Muslim ratio to the statutory figure as required to be maintained by the Communal Award in the Constitution of India?

(c) What is the ratio of Muslims in the Ministerial Establishment of the Home, External Affairs, Political, Commerce and Finance Departments of the Government of India now, and how far does it fall short of the statutory minimum?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please state when and how he proposes to make up this deficiency in the strength of the Muslim officers of the Government of India as a whole, generally, and in the Finance Department particularly?

Mr. B. O. A. Cook: (a) A statement giving the required information is placed on the table of the house.

(b) As these posts are filled by promotion, the communal ratio rules do not apply; but I would assure the Honourable Member that every opportunity is taken of according adequate representation to minority communities in these grades.

(c) A statement giving the information as regards the Finance Department is placed on the table of the House. The percentage of Muslims in the Ministerial Establishment in the Finance Department and its Divisions as a whole is 22.83. As regards other Departments of the Government of India the question may be put to the Honourable the Home Member.

(d) The question regarding the Muslim Officers of the Government of India as a whole may kindly be put to the Honourable the Home Member. As regards the Finance Department, every endeavour is being made to make up the small deficiency in the recruitment of the Muslims to the Ministerial Establishment.

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

STATEMENT I
Showing the number of Gazetted Officers in the Finance Department and its various Branches and also showing the number of Muslims

Branches of F. D.	Principal Secretary	Secy.	Addl. Secy.	Jt. Secys.	Dy. Secys.	Under Secys.	Asstt. Secys.	F. As.	Addl. F. As.	Jt. F. As.	Dy. F. As.	Addl. D. F. As.	Asstt. F. As.	Supdt.	Other Officers	Total
1. F. D. (O. B.) & F. A. C.	1	1	1	4	7	6	6	1	...	...	2	...	3	19	4	55
2. Food Finance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	1	1	...	5
3. Supply Finance	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	3	9	...	18	3	19	53
4. Military Finance	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	3	1	9	4	27	16	7	69
5. C. B. R.	...	...	1	2	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	35	44
Total	1	1	2	6	9	8	6	2	4	5	22	4	49	42	65	226
No. of Muslims in each cadre	...	...	...	...	1	2	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	10	30

(STATEMENT II)

Statement showing the percentage of Muslims in the Ministerial Establishment of the Finance Department and its various Branches

Branches of the Finance Department 1	Total strength 2	No. 66 Muslims 3	Percentage 4
1. Finance Department (O. B.) and Financial Adviser (Communications)	283	65	22.96%
2. Food Finance	26	9	34.6 %
3. Supply Finance	224	51	22.76%
4. Military Finance	400	93	23.3 %
5. Central Board of Revenue	188	38	20.21%
Total	1,121	256	22.83%
Percentage required	...	...	25.00%
Shortage	...	...	2.87%

SECRET CIRCULAR RE TURNING OUT FROM ARMY POLITICALLY-MINDED INDIANS

†1047. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state if it is a fact that Doctor Major General O. Buen of the Indian Army or any other Army Officer has issued a secret circular with the object of turning out from the Army politically-minded or patriotic Indians or shadowing them while in the Army?

(b) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the front page of *Taj*, dated the 2nd March, 1946, where such a piece of news has appeared?

(c) Will Government kindly lay the circular, if any, on the table of the House?

(d) Are Government aware that the Army Officers consider political-mindedness or patriotism in an Indian to be a crime?

(e) Have any persons serving in the Army been penalised or turned out for being patriotic or for entertaining particular views on politics?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The letter to which the Honourable Member presumably refers is a confidential document, the object of which is to exclude from the fighting services those subversive elements of the population which exist in every country. I do not agree, Sir, with the implication that the words "Subversive" and "patriotic" are synonymous.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. It does not appear to be necessary.

(d) No, Sir. The view of the Army to-day is that: "Every Indian worth the name is a nationalist". On the other hand service personnel are not permitted to take an active part in politics, nor to attempt to seduce their comrades from their duty. An extract from the Regulations on the subject is placed on the table.

(e) No, Sir.

Extract from the Regulations for the Army in India.

No person subject to military law or any member of the nursing or women's services while serving in India or with the Armed Forces of the Crown in the field is permitted to speak or appear on the platform at, or take any active part in, any meeting or demonstration held for party or political purposes, or act as a member on a candidate's election committee or in any way actively to prosecute a candidate's interest, or to belong to or

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

subscribe in aid of any political association or movement, until he or she has retired or been discharged, or in the case of a field marshal, until he has relinquished, any appointment which he may be holding.

No person subject to military law or any member of the nursing or women's service may, while serving in India or with the Armed Forces of the Crown in the field, issue an address to electors or in other manner publicly announce himself/herself or allow himself/herself to be publicly announced as a candidate or as a prospective candidate for election to any legislature, legislative assembly, municipality or other public body.

This rule shall apply to officers and soldiers, of the A. F. (I), I.T.F., A.I.R.O., and Indian Supplementary Reserve only when they are embodied or called up for service in war.

No election agent or any representative, whether paid or unpaid, of any candidate, or prospective candidate for election to any legislature, legislative assembly, municipality or other public body shall be allowed into any regimental lines, barracks, military establishment or other place where persons subject to military law are living or working for the purpose of holding a meeting or debate, making an election address or distributing electioneering literature.

PROMINENCE TO CONGRESS MEMBERS OF CENTRAL ASSEMBLY ON CINEMA SCREENS

1048. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Information and Arts aware of a letter under the heading "censorship" published on page 4 in the *Dawn*, dated the 28th February 1946?

(b) Is it a fact that only Congress Members of the Central Assembly, as alleged in the letter, were photographed and flashed on Cinema screens? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN ACCOUNTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, BIHAR

1049. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the ratio fixed for Muslims in the Office of the Accountant General, Bihar?

(b) Why was this ratio not revised after the separation of Orissa, when there was a consequential increase in the percentage of Muslim population in Bihar?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) The ratio fixed for Muslims in the Office of the Accountant General, Bihar is 10 per cent.

(b) After the separation of Orissa, the percentage of the Muslim population to the total population in Bihar increased from 11.3 to 12.9 only. As the increase was small, it was not considered necessary to make any change in the existing ratio.

REPEAL OF ARMS ACT

+1050. *Mr. Debendra Lal Khan: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government are aware of a long-standing demand by the public for the repeal of the Arms Act;

(b) the attitude of Government to such demand; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take for according increased facilities for the use of firearms by the adult population of the country?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The matter has from time to time been brought up in the Legislature but I am not aware that there is any great public interest in it.

(b) Government are not prepared to remove from the Statute Book all provisions for the regulation of arms and ammunition.

Mr. Sir.

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

INDIANIZATION OF ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCES

1051. *Mr. Madan Dhari Singh: (a) What steps has the War Secretary taken to Indianise the Army, Navy and Air Forces?

(b) Do Government propose to give a time-limit by which the Army, Navy and Air Forces will be fully Indianised?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I invite attention of the Honourable Member to press communiqué on the subject issued on the 22nd October 1945 a copy of which is laid on the table.

(b) The R.I.A.F. is a purely Indian Service. As regards the R.I.N. and the Indian Army, it is impossible at this stage to quote any definite date. The progress of nationalisation will depend on the number of young Indian cadets coming forward and the views of the Government of the future.

PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTORATE,
GENERAL HEADQUARTERS, INDIA,
New Delhi, October 22, 1945.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

New Delhi, Oct. 22—The Government of India have had under consideration for some time the policy to be followed in the future officering of the Royal Indian Navy, the Indian Army and the Royal Indian Air Force, and in agreement with His Majesty's Government have made the following decisions.

The grant of permanent commissions in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army will, in future, be restricted to Indians and to other persons domiciled in India who are subjects of His Majesty's or of a Prince or Chief in India.

The recruitment of officers to the Royal Indian Air Force is already subject to this restriction. As a temporary expedient, however, and in order to meet immediate needs, it has been decided to offer 40 regular commissions to European officers of the R. I. N. Reserves. This will enable the R. I. N. to obtain officers of intermediate seniority with war experience a category to fill which, a sufficient number of Indian officers is not at present available.

It will be generally recognised that the three Indian Services will still require a quota of British officers until such time as there is an adequate supply of qualified Indian officers completely to fill all grades in the officer cadre. It has been decided therefore that British officers for service in the three Indian Services shall hereafter be obtained by secondment or attachment from the Royal Navy, the British Army and the Royal Air Force respectively for so long as may be found necessary.

The quota of seconded or attached British officers of the three Indian services will be systematically and progressively reduced as Indian officers become available.

Certain matters arising out of these decisions such as the duration of periods of secondment or attachment of British officers from British Services, and the terms and conditions under which such officers will serve are being examined by the Government of India in conjunction with His Majesty's Government.

These decisions do not affect the position of regular British Officers already holding permanent commissions in the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Army.

AERODROMES CONSTRUCTED DURING THE WAR

1052. *Mr. Madan Dhari Singh: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state—

(a) the number of aerodromes constructed during the war; and

(b) the number of aerodromes to be maintained, and also their locations?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) 240.

(b) The number of airfields to be maintained post-war and their location has not yet been definitely decided.

RETIRING PENSION OF MEMBERS OF I. M. D. GRANTED EMERGENCY COMMISSIONS

1053. *Mr. Madan Dhari Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the provision regarding retiring pension of those members of the I. M. D., who were granted emergency commission in the I. A. M. C.?

(b) What is the basis of computation of their retiring pension?

(c) Will it be the same as for Allied Branches of fighting services where people were commissioned from the ranks or like I. A. M. C. of the different section, viz., Ambulance Section, Nursing and Clerical Section?

(d) If the answer to (c) is in the negative, what are the grounds for the differential treatment?

(e) Is it a fact that I. M. D. of the Indian Cadre and I. M. D. of the British Cadre were amalgamated on the basis of the same pay, allowances, etc., and both the cadres were named as combined cadres (Special Medical Section)?

(f) Is there any difference of pay between the Indian Cadre and the British Cadre of the combined cadre holding the same length of services? If so, what are the grounds for the differential treatment?

(g) Is it a fact that this old I. M. D. (Special Medical Section) is going to be abolished in the Post-war Reorganisation Scheme of the Army Medical Department?

(h) What will be the pension rate of the Indian and Anglo-Indian Members of the same length of service?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b) and (c). The question of retiring pensions for members of the I.M.D. granted emergency commissions in the I.A.M.C. is being examined in detail, and until this matter is decided, it will not be possible to provide the information which the Honourable Member requires. It is hoped that a decision in the matter will be reached shortly.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) There is some difference between the pay of the two cadres at corresponding years of service which has arisen through the amalgamation of two different cadres with different terms of service and different qualifications before amalgamation.

(g) The future of the Army Medical Services is not yet decided.

(h) The matter is being considered as I have stated above. I may however add that Indian members may elect to draw pension under the British Cadre rules.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to part (c) how long will Government take to decide this question?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I cannot see into the future.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government considering this matter?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: For how long have they been considering this?

Mr. P. Mason: Since the end of hostilities.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: Will it go on till the beginning of another war?

Mr. President: Next question.

PACT BETWEEN SIR REGINALD MAXWELL AND MR. P. C. JOSHI FOR ANTI-CONGRESS PROPAGANDA

1054. *Srijut Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that some understanding was arrived at or some written or unwritten pact was made between the Ex-Home Member Sir Reginald Maxwell and Mr. P. C. Joshi to carry on anti-Congress propaganda for the sake of helping the war efforts?

(b) Is it also a fact that large sums of money were placed at the disposal of the Communist Party for this purpose? If so, what amount was so placed, and in what manner was it spent?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). No.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Has the attention of the Honourable Member been drawn to a statement by S. S. Batliwalla given to the *National Herald* of February 22nd referring to the correspondence between Mr. P. C. Joshi and Sir Reginald Maxwell in their capacities respectively of General Secretary of the Communist Party and the Home Member of the Government of India, in the course of which Mr. Joshi offered to put at the disposal of the Government of India the services of his party for the war and showing that the various drives undertaken by the party were part of the understanding embodied in the correspondence?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have glanced through the article.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the Honourable Member say whether the allegations made by Mr. Batliwalla are true and to what extent?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Most of them are incorrect.

Mr. M. R. Masani: In that event will the Honourable Member publish the correspondence between Mr. P. C. Joshi and Sir Reginald Maxwell?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot undertake to do that without the consent of the writers of the letters.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Which portions of the allegations were correct?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not remember the details of the articles.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the Honourable Member say whether it is correct as alleged by Mr. Batliwalla, that Mr. Joshi also maintained confidential contact with the Intelligence Department of the General Headquarters of the Army in India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot answer that. I am not responsible for the Intelligence Department of General Headquarters.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is responsible?

Mr. President: Order, order. Mr. Masani.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Is it correct as alleged by Mr. Batliwalla that part of this contact was devoted to the apprehension, with the support of Communist Party members, of people working underground in the 1942 movement and the agents of the Azad Hind Government in India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I believe that is quite incorrect.

APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPAL INFORMATION OFFICER

1055. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state the qualifications of the newly appointed Principal Information Officer for this post?

(b) Why was not the appointment made through the agency of the Federal Public Service Commission?

(c) Why has no Muslim been so far appointed substantively to this post?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Experience of over 30 years in journalism with news agencies and news papers.

(b) This post is exempt from the purview of the Federal Public Service Commission.

(c) This post is exempt from the scope of the orders regarding communal representation and appointments are made solely on the basis of personal suitability.

COMPOSITION OF THE PAY CODE COMMITTEE

1056. *Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state the composition of the Pay Code Committee now sitting in India?

- (b) When was it formed?
 (c) How many times has it met since its formation?
 (d) What is the number of Indians on that Committee?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The Post-War Pay Committee is composed of representatives of those Branches of Naval Headquarters, General Headquarters and Air Headquarters which deal with pay, allowances and pension problems and of the Military Finance Department, meeting under the Chairmanship of an officer of the War Department. The representatives of Naval Headquarters and Air Headquarters are part-time members only; the Chairman and the representatives of General Headquarters and Military Finance Department are full-time members.

(b) The constitution of the Committee was sanctioned with effect from the 26th January, 1946, but the first full meeting was held on the 5th February, 1946.

(c) The full-time members of the Committee meet every day and are joined by the representatives of Naval Headquarters and Air Headquarters as business requires.

(d) One of the three full-time members is an Indian. I must however explain that the work of the Committee is extremely complicated and highly technical and therefore purely official.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the other sections of the Committee? How many of them are Indian?

Mr. P. Mason: I do not think either of them are. I am not quite sure.

Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: Could I get some information whether this Committee is considering the pay code of the Indian personnel also?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. Of course it is.

Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: What have they done about it?

Mr. P. Mason: They are making enquiries and will eventually submit a report, which will be considered by the Government of India.

Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: When do the Government of India expect the report?

Mr. P. Mason: I think they will probably report sometime during this summer.

SPECIAL INDIAN AND COLONIAL ALLOWANCES TO BRITISHERS

1057. *Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that British officers serving in India get a special Indian Allowance in addition to the Colonial Allowance?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. The existing rates of pay of British officers (both British and Indian Services) were fixed in 1925 on the basis of the U.K. rates of pay of rank, ration allowance, fuel and light allowance which were converted at the concessional rate of exchange of 1s. 4d. to the rupee. To these were added a servant allowance at Rs. 30 p. m. and an 'Indian Allowance' at varying rates according to rank. The object of the Indian allowance was to bring the pay calculated as above to a certain level considered sufficient for the maintenance of the British officer in India.

These rates are now admissible to I.C.O.s (See AII 282/45).

In addition to the rates referred to above Indian Service officers receive an 'Indian Army Allowance' which may be deemed to be an overseas allowance. The equivalent of the Indian Army allowance is paid to I.C.O.s when they are serving in India under the name of 'Expatriation Allowance' (See AII 282 of 1945).

The only British officers who received Colonial Allowance while in India are those temporarily detained. In this case they continue to draw their U.K. rates of pay which, of course, contain no Indian Allowance.

PARITY IN PAY OF BRITISH AND INDIAN OFFICERS IN INDIAN ARMY

1058. *Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: Will the War Secretary kindly state the difference in technical rates of pay between British and Indian Officers of the Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Branch of the Indian Army?

Mr. P. Mason: I place on the table of the House a statement giving the required information. It will be observed that there is no difference in the rates of technical (corps) pay between the British officers commissioned in or posted to the I.E.M.E. after the 1st December 1942 and Indian officers after the 19th April 1943:

Statement

The following are the rates of corps pay in the I. E. M. E.

British officers commissioned in or posted to the I. E. M. E. prior to 1st December 1942

	Ra.
Lt. Col. ...	300 p. m.
Major ...	200 p. m.
Captain ...	125 p. m.
Lieut. ...	100 p. m.

British officers commissioned in or posted to the I. E. M. E. after 1st December 1942.

Lt. Col. ...	160 p. m.
Major ...	115 p. m.
Captain ...	70 p. m.
Lieut. ...	45 p. m.

Indian officers irrespective of the date of commission or posting.

Prior to 19th April 1943.

Lt. Col. ...	130 p. m.
Major ...	100 p. m.
Captain ...	60 p. m.
Lieut. ...	40 p. m.

From 19th April 1943.

Lt. Col. ...	160 p. m.
Major ...	115 p. m.
Captain ...	70 p. m.
Lieut. ...	45 p. m.

NOTE:—British officers commissioned prior to 1st December 1942 are entitled to draw old and higher rates of corps pay as a reserved right. As Indian officers never drew higher rates of corps pay the question of giving them these rates as a vested right does not arise.

FAMILY ALLOWANCE TO INDIAN OTHER RANKS OF R. I. A. F.

1059. *Squadron Leader Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia: Will the War Secretary please state whether Indian other Ranks of the R. I. A. F. get any family allowance? If not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. This question is being investigated by the special committee now considering the post-war pay code for India.

DISMISSALS OF V. C. O.'s ON ACTIVE SERVICE

1060. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to the words "Punishments may be inflicted in respect of offences committed by persons subject to this Act and convicted by Court Martial according to the scale following" occurring in Section 48 of the Indian Army Act and state whether he is aware of cases in which—

(i) punishments specified in the scale in (a) have been inflicted in the absence of a conviction by Court Martial,

(ii) punishments prescribed in the scale in (a) have been exceeded, not only by a sentence of Court Martial, but also by an order of an authority other than Court Martial,

(iii) punishments more than one specified in the scale in (a) have been inflicted by an order of a non-judicial body, and

(iv) appeals against the infliction of punishment in excess of the scale in (a) by an authority other than Court Martial have either been withheld or the punishment upheld as valid?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the negative, will he please take the case of the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers mentioned in the India Army Order No. 816 of the 26th October, 1920, as instances and see that the decisions under which punishments were inflicted in 1920 and which are still in force are revised?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I am not aware of any such cases.

(b) The V. C. O.'s mentioned in India Army Order No. 816 of 26th October, 1920, were dismissed from the service by order of the Commander-in-Chief under section 18 of the Indian Army Act and the connection between these cases and those referred to in (a) is not apparent to me.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member please state how convictions are awarded to Indian personnel in the army?

Mr. P. Mason: I am sorry I cannot follow the question.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: There are certain acts according to which punishments are inflicted but in practice is it not a fact that punishments are inflicted on V. C. Os. and Indian soldiers even without the sanction of a court martial?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I am unable to follow the question.

Mr. President: I think the Honourable Member's question is whether it is competent for any authority to award punishments without a court martial.

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. The Commander-in-Chief can under Sec. 18 of the Indian Army Act.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that the Commander-in-Chief inflicts only minor punishments and not major punishments?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. He can dismiss.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Can the Commander-in-Chief inflict major punishments?

Mr. P. Mason: He has powers of dismissal.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Commander-in-Chief cannot be expected to know personally every one of these officers and other ranks, with whose help does he come to these judgments whether a particular officer or a member of other ranks should be punished and, if so, to what extent?

Mr. P. Mason: As in all other matters he listens to his advisers and then he forms an independent judgment.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Can the court martial give a man punishment of imprisonment as well as forfeiture of pay and allowances?

Mr. P. Mason: I had better have notice of that question. It is rather a technical point.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether the Honourable Member will take into consideration if particular instances are brought to his notice?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly, Sir.

DISCRIMINATION IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF SOLDIERS AFFECTING THEIR PENSIONS

1061. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that the maximum term for which an Indian soldier gets enrolled in the Army is fifteen years, while it is only twelve years in the case of a soldier of regular Forces, and both these aforesaid soldiers are re-engaged on the expiration of the aforesaid original terms of engagement, and while serving on re-engagement terms, if they are dismissed by Court Martial or otherwise, the former forfeits his pension earned in respect of the full term of his previous engagement of fifteen years, whereas the latter's previous term of engagement is not at all affected for the purpose of his pension?

(b) What are the reasons for the discrimination referred to in (a) with reference to his reply to starred question No. 641 of the 21st November, 1944?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The Honourable Member presumably means 'British soldiers' when he refers to the 'Regular Forces'. British soldiers are enlisted for a period of 12 years with the prospect of re-engagement. Indian soldiers are normally enrolled for 15 years also with the prospect of re-engagement.

British soldiers discharged with ignominy forfeit all past service qualifying for pension or gratuity under the provisions of the Royal Warrant for Pay, 1940, Article 1104(d) read with Article 1105. The Army Council may relax these rules in deserving cases.

Indian soldiers dismissed from the service similarly forfeit all past service qualifying for pension or gratuity under Pension Regulations, Part II, Rule 195. The Government of India may relax this rule in deserving cases.

(b) There is, therefore, no discriminatory treatment between British and Indian soldiers in this respect.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that in regard to this question of relaxation of punishments the British personnel in the army are more frequently shown this concession than is done in the case of Indians.

Mr. P. Mason: I should require notice of that question for an answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Since the Honourable Member has been given notice of that now, will he kindly look into it and place the answer later on the table?

Mr. P. Mason: If the question is put down I shall answer on the floor of the House, or lay the information on the table of the House. Or if the Honourable Member would rather have a reply privately, I shall be glad to give it to him without a question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I do not want private information.

STOPPAGES AND FORFEITURES OF PAY OF INDIAN OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS

1062. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please refer to the Preamble to Pension Regulations for the Army in India, Part II, 1923, 1928 and 1940 Editions and state if, in embodying rules in these regulations relating to the stoppages of pay, non-effective pay and all other emoluments payable to an Indian officer or soldier, reference has been had to the Royal Commands:

(i) "We deem it expedient that like provisions shall extend to our Indian Empire wherein the provisions of the above Warrant as regards the full pay and allowances and other pecuniary benefits are not in force"; and

(ii) "We do hereby command that the pay, non-effective pay and all other emoluments payable under the Army Regulations, India, to an officer, soldier or other person shall be held liable to be stopped upon the general or special orders of the Governor-General of India in Council to meet any public claim that may be against him, any regimental debt that may be due from him or any regimental claim, which the Governor-General of India in Council may direct him to pay"?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state the reasons for stoppages and forfeitures as per Government's view expressed in reply to starred question No. 781 of the 6th March, 1945, which was placed on the table of the House on the 7th March, 1945?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The terms of the Royal Warrant have been borne in mind in framing the Regulations.

(b) The reply to starred question No. 781 explained that ~~the~~ be withheld at the Royal pleasure. The Royal Warrant printed as ~~part of~~ the preamble to Pension Regulations for the Army in India, Part II, 1940, empowers the Governor General of India in Council to make certain stoppages in certain circumstances. But it in no way debars the Crown from making or authorising stoppages in other circumstances if the Crown sees fit.

HALAL MEAT FOR MUSLIMS IN R. I. N.

†1063. *Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: Will the War Secretary please state what arrangements exist in the Royal Indian Navy to ensure that Muslim Officers and other Ranks are provided with *halal* meat and are not served with non-*halal* meat?

Mr. P. Mason: Ratings.—All meat supplied for Ratings is *Halal*.

Officers can (i) Obtain *Halal* Meat on payment from Service sources, or (ii) purchase their requirements privately in the Market.

No case has been reported of any Muslim officer requiring *Halal* Meat and not being able to obtain it.

MUSLIMS IN NAVAL HEADQUARTERS (INDIA)

†1064. *Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: Will the War Secretary please state the total strength by ranks, stating in each case the number of Muslims on the ~~Naval Headquarters~~ the Naval Headquarters (India)?

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I lay a statement on the table. Although the figures among the members of the R.I.N. serving in Naval Headquarters ~~are~~ I should say that in this service as in the Royal Indian Air Force

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

there is no class composition and no distinction is made between the different communities for the purposes of appointments.

Statement

Ranks	Total strength	Muslims
<i>Services Personnel—</i>		
Vice-Admiral	1	...
Commodores	3	...
Captains	7	...
Commanders	16	...
Lieut.-Commanders	22	...
Lieutenants	42	5
Sub-Lieutenants	5	3
Ratings	82	24
<i>Civilians—</i>		
Officer Supervisors	25	3
Superintendents	13	1
Upper Division Clerks	139	20
Lower Division Clerks	129	17
Stenographers	23	5

MUSLIMS IN R. I. N.

†1065. *Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: Will the War Secretary please state the total Indian strength of other ranks, tradewise, for each trade of the Royal Indian Navy, stating the number of Muslims in each case?

Mr. P. Mason: The total strength of ratings in the Royal Indian Navy on the 1st of February, 1946, by religions is made up from the following totals:

Hindus	9,050
Muslims	8,542
Christians	4,242
Others	770
Total	22,604

There are a large number of different trades and rates in the Naval Service. A general statement is laid on the table of the house giving the details of the totals given.

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

Statement

	Hindus	Muslims	Christians	Others	Totals
Seamen	2,771	3,751	1,129	183	7,834
Communications	1,536	596	812	142	3,086
Engine Room Artificers	228	628	70	51	975
Stokers	1,052	1,146	489	61	2,748
Artificers/Artizans	399	309	316	114	1,138
Writers/Store Assts.	740	191	268	33	1,232
Cooks & Stewards	564	1,305	669	10	2,548
Topasses	950	29	139	1	1,119
Sick Berth Attendants	290	111	120	12	533
Schoolmasters	83	47	26	8	164
Coders	9	...	...	2	11
Cinema Operators	33	8	14	...	55
Bandsmen	6	13	8	...	33
Photographers	4	...	3	...	9
Apprentices	59	10	48	19	136
Boys	326	400	131	126	983
Total	9,050	8,542	4,242	770	22,604

(NOTE—Included in the above are 2834 ratings under release orders but not written off.)

MUSLIMS IN INDIAN ARMY

†1066. *Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: Will the War Secretary please state the total Indian Officers' strength of the Indian Army as on the 1st March, 1946, stating also the total number of Muslims?

Mr. P. Mason: The number of Indian Officers in the Indian Army on the 1st February 1946 (the date on which the latest statistics are available) were: Combatant—8,941; Medical—5,540.

Statistics of officers are not maintained by communities.

MUSLIMS IN GENERAL HEADQUARTERS

†1067. *Mr. Ali Asghar Khan: Will the War Secretary please state the total strength by ranks, of officers, civilian officers, other ranks and civilians below the ranks of officers, giving the total number of Muslims in each case on the strength of the General Headquarters (India)?

Mr. P. Mason: A statement is laid on the table.

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

Statement

Actual Strength—G. H. Q.—March 1946

	Nos.	No. of Muslims
(a) OFFICERS		
(i) Military		
Lt. Generals	8	Information not available.
Major Generals	28	
Brigadiers	72	
Colonels	111	
Lt.-Colonels	286	
Majors	545	
Captains	684	
Lieutenants	39	
W. A. C. (I)	145	
R. A. F.	6	
R. I. A. F.	14	
Total	1,938	
(ii) Civilians		
With the status of 1st grade officer	1	...
2nd grade officer	46	3
Officer Supervisors	125	7
C. G. Os. and others	42	4
J. C. As. (Women Officers)	10	...
Total	224	14
b) OTHER RANKS BELOW THE RANKS OF OFFICERS		
(i) Military		
B. O. Rs.	890	Information not available.
W. A. C. (I)	213	
V. C. Os., I. O. Rs. and clerks of various arms of services.	263	
Total	1,366	
(ii) Civilians		
Superintendents	183	21
Assistants-in-Charge	267	60
Lady Clerks	89	...
Clerks	4,983	889
Stenographers	251	28
Miscellaneous about 25 grades such as Draughtsmen, Tracers, etc.	285	76
Total	6,058	1,074

MUSLIMS IN R. I. A. F.

1068. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the War Secretary please state the total officers' strength, by ranks, giving the number of muslims in each case, as on the 1st March, 1946, in the following Branches of the Royal Indian Air Force:

- (i) General Duties Branch—(a) Pilots, (b) Air Gunners, and (c) Air Observers;
- (ii) Technical Branch—(a) Engineering, (b) Electricians, and (c) Signals;
- (iii) Administrative and Special Duties Branch;
- (iv) Legal Branch;
- (v) Balloons Branch;
- (vi) Equipment Branch;
- (vii) Education Branch;
- (viii) Medical Branch;
- (ix) Special Commissions I. A. T. C. Duties;
- (x) Unemployed List; and
- (xi) The Total in Office Ranks of the Service?

Mr. P. Mason: A statement is laid on the table, but it does not give the number of Muslims in each category of officer as this information is not available and I do not propose to collect it. The declared object of Government is, and has always been, to develop the R.I.A.F. as an Indian Service, recruited on an all-India basis and to eliminate as far as possible all communal differentiation within it as far as this can be done without offending the religious susceptibilities of any class. Statistics are not, therefore, maintained on a communal basis.

Statement

	W/Cdr.	S/Ldr.	F/Lt.	F/O.	P/O.	A/P.O.	Total
<i>General Duties Branch—</i>							
(a) Pilots	3	10	35	287	84	93	512
(b) Air Gunners	...	...	...	6	...	...	6
(c) Air Observers	...	...	4	47	...	...	51
<i>Technical Branch—</i>							
(a) Engineering	...	...	4	19	1	3	27
(b) Electricians	...	...	...	8	5	2	15
(c) Signals	...	...	1	39	7	1	48
<i>Administrative and Special Duties Branch</i>	...	1	22	407	40	...	470
Legal Branch	...	...	...	1	...	...	1
Balloons Branch	...	...	1	22	...	...	23
Equipment Branch	...	...	2	64	10	...	76
Education Branch	...	...	1	42	6	...	49
Medical Branch	...	...	56	...	...	...	56
Special Commissions, I.A.T.C. Duties.	...	...	...	5	...	9	14
Unemployment List	...	1	3	7	1	...	12
* Total	3	12	130*	990*	168*	108	1,411*

*Includes officers of Accounts, Armament and Meteorological Branches.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Does the Honourable Member mean that Muslims as a class are altogether ignored?

Mr. P. Mason: All classes are ignored as such but it does not mean that individual Muslims are ignored.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Does the Honourable Member know that representation has been given to Muslims in different services and all the Government Departments do keep statistics?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir: but we are in advance of the others.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: You are going backwards rather than advancing.

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

MUSLIMS IN R. I. A. F.

1069. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the total R. I. A. F. personnel strength, by ranks, including civilians as on the 1st March, 1946, stating in each case the number of Muslims on the strength of—

(i) the Air Headquarters, India,

(ii) the Air Command, South East Asia,

(iii) the H. Q. Base Air Forces, India, and

(iv) the G. H. Q. India in vacancies filled by the Air Force Officers; and

(b) the total strength as above in the manning, personnel and resettlement sections, respectively, of the above formations?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the table.

The number of Muslims in each category is not available and I do not propose to collect such information. The declared object of Government is, and has always been, to develop the R. I. A. F. as an Indian Service, recruited on an all-India basis and to eliminate as far as possible all communal differentiation within it. Statistics, therefore, are not maintained on a communal basis.

STATEMENT

(a) (i) Air headquarters, India.

R. I. A. F.

W/Cdr.	S/Ldr.	F/Lt.	F/O.	P/O.	Total	W/O.	F/S.	Sgt.	Cpl.	AC.	Total
1	8	24	67	...	90	1	3	11	14	68	97

Civilians

Officers	Supdts.	Asstts. i/c.	Clerks/Stenos.	Misc.	Total
16	9	6	172	5	208

(ii) Air Command South East Asia.

Total No. of R.I.A.F. Officers as at 31-1-46 in ACSEA 10

Total No. of R.I.A.F. Airmen as at 31-1-46 in ACSEA 375

Figures by ranks for R.I.A.F. personnel and civilians not available.

(iii) H.Q. Base Air Forces, India.

R.I.A.F.

W/Cdr.	S/Ldr.	F/Lt.	F/O.	P/O.	Total	W/O.	F/S.	Sgt.	Cpl.	AC.	Total
...	3	4	18	3	28	...	...	1	4	245	250

Civilians

Officers	Supdts.	Assts. i/c.	Clerks/Stenos.	Misc.	Total
6	17	11	537	68	639

(iv) General Headquarters, India.

R.I.A.F.

W/Cdr. 2	S/Ldr. 4	F/Lt. 9	F/O. 1	Total 16	Other ranks Nil.
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(b) (i) Air Headquarters, India.

Manning Section—

W/C. 1	S/L. 2	F/Lt. 2	Sgt. 1	Civ. Clerks. 3	Cpl. 2	AC. 7
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Personnel Section.—

I.O. Rs. 8	Civ. Supdts. 4	Civ. Clerks 34
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[Civilians employed are not on the strength of Air H. Qrs. (I).]

(ii) H.Q. Base Air Forces, India.

Personnel Section.—

F/Lt. 1	Civilian Clerk 1
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There are no Manning and Resettlement Sections in H.Q., B.A.F.S.E.A.

(iii) Information in respect of Air Command, S.E.A. is not available.

(iv) General Headquarters, India.

	W/C.	S/Ldr.	F/Lts.	Total
Manning		2	..	2
Personnel	2	2	3	7
Resettlement		2	1	3
Total				12

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know the reasons why the Honourable Member does not propose to collect the information? Will it involve time or trouble or money?

Mr. P. Mason: No. I explained—because we feel that the wider the basis and the less the differentiation that is accorded within the service, the better.

MUSLIMS IN R. I. A. F.

1070. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the War Secretary please state the total number at present of Indian other ranks as on the 1st March, 1946, stating, separately, in each case the total number of Muslims, tradewise, in each trade of the Royal Indian Air Force, giving also the totals for all trades combined?

Mr. P. Mason: The total number of Indian other ranks in the Royal Indian Air Force on 15th February, 1946, was 22,832. The figures for the 1st of March are not yet available.

The number of Muslims, in each trade, is not readily available nor do I propose to collect this information. The declared object of Government is, and has always been, to develop the R.I.A.F. as an Indian Service, recruited on an All-India basis. But I have said all this before.

Jhatka MEAT SERVED IN INDIAN AIR FORCE OTHER RANKS' MESSES

1071. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Indian Air Force other Ranks' messing is joint;
(b) what arrangements have been made to ensure that Muslims airmen are not given Jhatka;

(c) whether it is a fact that complaints recently arose at the Royal Air Force Station, Drigh Road, that Muslim I. O. R. were being served with Jhatka;

(d) whether it is a fact that the same complaint has arisen at a large number of other Air Force stations; and

(e) what steps are being taken to prevent a recurrence of the complaint?

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

(b) All meat for R. I. A. F. airmen is drawn from the R. I. A. S. C. who supply only *halal* meat to the R. I. A. F.

(c) No, Sir, and I deprecate a suggestion which might tend to rouse communal feeling in the forces.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it not a fact that the R. I. A. S. C. contractors supply both *halal* and *jhatka* meat in the same mess.

Mr. P. Mason: My information is that they do not, in the R. I. A. F.

MUSLIMS IN R. I. N.

1072. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Will the War Secretary please state the total officers' strength, stating in each case the number of (i) Indians, and (ii) Muslims for each Branch of the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. P. Mason: I lay a statement on the table.

Statement

On the 1st of March 1946 R.I.N. officers and Reserve officers were divided as follows :—

Branch	(1) Total number of officers borne on 1st March 1946 (including R.I.N. and Reserves)	(2) Number of officers of Asiatic domicile borne on 1st March 1946 (included in column 1)	(3) Number of Muslim officers borne on 1st March 1946 (included in Column 2)
Executive	1,154	749	158
Engineer	232	65	5
Supply & Secretariat	217	166	19
Electrical	51	31	1
Headmaster	3	3	2
Instructor	9	8	Nil
Special	214	144	31
Medical	88	80	13
Totals	1,968	1,246	229

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Has their number been reduced after the Bombay mutiny?

Mr. P. Mason: Only by the casualties that have been already announced.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Not by way of punishment?

Mr. P. Mason: Not yet.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is there any likelihood of any reduction?

Mr. P. Mason: A small one.

Sardar Mangal Singh: Are there any communal proportions laid down for these officers in the Royal Indian Navy?

Mr. P. Mason: No.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN CENTRAL EXCISE SERVICE UNDER CALCUTTA COLLECTORATE.

1073. ***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state if he has seen the article headed "Jobbery, Nepotism and Co." which appeared in the *Morning News*, Calcutta, dated the 19th January, 1946, and the article headed "Persecution of Muslims" which appeared in the same paper, dated the 20th January, 1946?

(b) With reference to the points stressed in the first article referred to in (a) will the Honourable Member be pleased to state:

(i) the total number of Superintendents serving under the Calcutta Collectorate, and how many of them are Muslims;

(ii) the total number of Deputy Superintendents in the said Collectorate, and how many of them are Muslims

(iii) the total number of Inspectors in the said Collectorate, and how many of them are Muslims,

(iv) whether it is a fact that Muslim officers appointed during the period 1939 to 1943 have received no promotion while caste Hindu officers were promoted within six months or one year after their appointment,

(v) whether Government propose to institute an enquiry into the allegations contained in the said articles and to give *Morning News* an opportunity to substantiate the allegations by proving specific cases, and

(vi) what steps Government propose to take to ensure fair and adequate representation for Muslims in the various grades of the Central Excise service under the Calcutta Collectorate?

Mr. B. O. A. Cook: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) There are 41 Superintendents in the Calcutta Collectorate out of whom 8 are Muslims; but the Superintendents in the Calcutta, Allahabad and Delhi Collectorates form a single cadre and the true position is that out of 100 posts in the combined cadre 30 posts are held by Muslims.

(ii) and (iii). The required information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House as soon as it is received.

(iv) It is not true that Muslim officers appointed in the Calcutta Collectorate during the period 1939-43 have not been promoted. On the contrary, no less than 18 officers appointed within this period have been promoted at least once and three of them have received two promotions.

(v) If any specific instance of discrimination against Muslims is brought to the notice of Government, they will certainly enquire into the matter.

(vi) I assure the Honourable Member that all possible steps accordant with the policy laid down in the 1934 Resolution are, and will be taken to ensure fair and adequate representation for Muslims in the Central Excise establishment, both in this and other Collectorates.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: On a point of order, Sir. The question has been addressed to the Honourable Finance Member and I find that though the Honourable Finance Member is present in the House, the question is being replied by the Secretary.

Mr. President: What is the point of order? He is the Secretary and therefore he should not reply?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: When the Finance Member is present in the House and the question is addressed to him, I would like to have your ruling as to whether a reply by his Secretary is permissible.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member knows that so far as Bills are concerned the Member-in-Charge, so far as Government Members are concerned, means any member who is authorised. Similarly here too, the Finance Member would mean the Finance Member himself or any other person authorised by him to reply on his behalf.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I submit that the Honourable Finance Member is a Member of this House and while he is present in the House it has been the practice that the Member-in-Charge of the question always replies?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will it not act as a precedent to his other colleagues and they may import their secretaries into this House to reply?

Mr. President: I do not think it is a bad precedent. If anything, it is a good precedent—it would mean that more Government men are trained for the purposes of the business of this House; and it will be necessary to train them, if the business is to be attended to with efficiency. It is not possible for one man to carry all burdens; and just as in the recent discussion on the Budget and cut motions, though the Finance Member was present and moved the demands, the necessary explanations were given by the Members of the Departments concerned, similarly here also I see no objection.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why not have all the secretaries on the Treasury Benches?

Mr. President: If they so choose, they can do so.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: With the greatest respect to the observations you have made, may I suggest that Honourable Members in charge of the portfolios might, as a matter of courtesy to the House, answer these questions? It is not a question of a rule. If they are absent, then of course any one else on their behalf might reply; but when they are present I think they ought to reply, if only as a matter of courtesy, to questions that are addressed to them?

Mr. President: With due respect, I would differ from the Honourable Member. I do not think any considerations of courtesy really arise in a case like this. All that the Members want is information and the particular Member of the Government who has studied that particular subject and is competent to reply will be the best person to reply. That will be more courteous rather than that a person who has not studied the matter should get up and reply.

MUSLIM REPRESENTATION IN CENTRAL EXCISE DEPARTMENT

1074. ***Maulana Zafar Ali Khan:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Collectors in the Central Excise Department and how many of them are Muslims;

(b) the total number of Assistant Collectors in the said Department, collectoratewise, and how many of them are Muslims;

(c) the total number of Assistant Collectors on special duty in the Central Board of Revenue, and how many of them are Muslims; and

(d) the total number, collectoratewise, of Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents and Inspectors in the whole Central Excise Department, and how many of each class of these officers are Muslims?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a), (b) and (d). So far as the gazetted ranks are concerned, namely, Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Assistant Collectors and Superintendents, the Honourable Member's attention is invited to the statement which I laid on the table of the House in reply to Starred Question No. 323, by Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, on 18th February 1943. As regards the non-gazetted ranks, namely, Deputy Superintendents and Inspectors, a statement is laid on the table showing the total number of these posts in the Delhi and Allahabad Collectorates, and the number of Muslims in each of these grades. Similar information with regard to the remaining three Collectorates is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House as soon as it becomes available.

(c) There are six Assistant Collectors on special duty under the Central Board of Revenue of whom one is a Muslim.

Statement showing the total number of posts in the grades of Deputy Superintendents and Inspectors in the Central Excise Collectorates and the number held by Muslims on 1st January 1946

Serial No.	Collectorate	Deputy Superintendents		Inspectors	
		Total number of posts	Number of posts held by Muslims	Total number of posts	Number held by Muslims
1	Delhi	59	32 (54.2%)	547	265 (48.4%)
2	Allahabad	66	33 (50%)	623	314 (50.4)

BLACK FLAG DEMONSTRATIONS AT LUCKNOW BROADCASTING HOUSE

1075. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Information and Arts aware of the black flag demonstrations made at the Lucknow Station of the All-India Radio?

(b) How many such demonstrations have so far taken place?

(c) What steps, if any, have been taken by him to meet the demands of the demonstrators?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) Two.

(c) I understand that these demonstrations were against Hindi poets who had come to All-India Radio Lucknow to take part in the *Kavi Sammelan* broadcast by All-India Radio.

HINDI ITEMS BROADCAST BY ALL-INDIA RADIO

1076. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state who guides the policy of Hindi items broadcast by the All-India Radio under its Hindustani programmes at the Headquarters?

(b) What is his (i) designation, (ii) present salary, (iii) knowledge of the Hindi language and its literature, and (iv) standing in the Hindi literary world?

(c) In case there is no experienced Hindi scholar at the Headquarters of the All-India Radio, why is it so, and how is the work of guiding policy of Hindi items carried on? Who does this work in the absence of a Hindi scholar?

(d) How is this work to be carried on in the future?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) and (b). The general policy of programmes broadcast by All-India Radio is guided by Director General, All-India Radio, assisted by other officers at Headquarters and subject to instructions issued by the Government of India from time to time.

As questions of general policy do not normally require an intimate knowledge of the various languages in which programmes are broadcast or of their literatures, appointments at headquarters are not made on a linguistic basis. The details of the programmes are entrusted to the Station Directors and to the programme staff at the stations.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is proposed to appoint a Standing Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the *Anjuman-e-Taraqqi-e-Urdu*, the *All-India Hindi Sahitya Sammelan* and the *Hindustani Prachar Sabha* to advise Director General, All-India Radio on linguistic questions.

MOLESTATION OF GIRLS AT LUCKNOW BROADCASTING HOUSE

1077. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state if Government are aware of the incident which happened at the Lucknow Station of the All-India Radio in which it is said, as has appeared in the press, that some girls were molested by some intoxicated All-India Radio official and that these girls abandoned the programme and thereupon the gap had to be filled by the recorded music?

(b) Who was this official, and what action has been taken against him? Is he still working on the same post at the Lucknow Station?

(c) What steps, if any, have been taken by the authorities to check such recurrences in the future?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) The Press Report referred to by the Honourable Member is incorrect. A full investigation has been held and it has been established that no official of All-India Radio was intoxicated and no girls were molested. The facts are that a woman artist, left her infant sister unattended at the studios. She was reprimanded by the Programme Executive. This was resented by the lady in question. The Station Director received an anonymous telephone call that the Programme Executive was drunk and the artist also complained to the Station Director. The former was not drunk and all that happened was that there was an unpleasant exchange of words between him and the artist.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

NUMBER OF INDIAN SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS BEFORE AND AFTER WAR

1078. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the number of Indian soldiers and officers in the Indian Army before the War which has just ended;

(b) the number of Indian soldiers and officers recruited during the last war,

(c) the number of Indian soldiers and officers who are to be demobilized; and

(d) the number of Indian soldiers and officers to be retained as the Standing Indian Army?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The number of Indian Officers and soldiers (including non-combatants enrolled) in the Indian Army on the 1st October, 1939 was respectively 592 and 154,060.

(b) The number of Indian Officers and soldiers (including non-combatants enrolled) recruited during the period 3rd September, 1939 to 31st August, 1945, was 15,460 and 2,499,909 respectively.

(c) and (d). The total number of Indian officers and soldiers who are to be demobilized will depend on the size of the post-war Indian Army, which is still

under consideration. As I have said before however it is anticipated that by the 1st of April next year, approximately 32,000 British Officers, 7,000 Indian Officers, 180,000 B. O. Rs., and 1,540,000 V. C. Os., I. O. Rs. and Enrolled Non-Combatants will have been demobilised.

Sardar Mangal Singh: What was the reply to part (d)?

Mr. P. Mason: I have replied to parts (c) and (d) together.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: As regards part (c), the Honourable Member says the matter is under consideration, and under part (d), he gives certain numbers. May I take it that the number of those who are to be retained has been fixed, and the rest will be demobilised?

Mr. P. Mason: No. That would not be a correct assumption, if I understood the Honourable Member correctly. There has been a certain amount of wastage and a certain number of casualties; so that the figure to be retained will be considerably smaller than the difference between the total recruitment and the total demobilised.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: What are the conditions attached to the retention of Indian soldiers?

Mr. P. Mason: They continue to serve on the terms on which they were recruited.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Some of them have been retained and others demobilised?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already pointed out that they continue to serve on the terms on which they have been recruited.

Sardar Mangal Singh: May I know if the report of the Indian Army Re-organisation Committee is available?

Mr. P. Mason: It is not available to the public, because it is really a Staff study. As I have already explained, the report was made to the Commander-in-Chief.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to officer the Indian army completely by Indians?

Mr. P. Mason: Does that arise?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the declared policy of the Government of India, as I understand it from the recent declaration of the Commander-in-Chief to completely Indianise the army, will Government consider the advisability of demobilising only that portion of the Indian officers' ranks who will be found to be surplus after completely Indianising the officer ranks of the Indian army?

Mr. P. Mason: May I draw your attention, Sir, to the rule which says that supplementary questions are intended to elucidate the facts given? I submit that this question goes beyond the terms of the original question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My questions arise out of the main question. May I seek your protection?

Mr. President: It is not a question of protection. The question appears to me to be this: "Whether in demobilising, they (Government) will proceed in such a manner that the British ranks will be demobilised before Indians are demobilised."

Mr. P. Mason: The demobilisation of the British army and the demobilisation of the Indian army proceed entirely separately. Both proceed on the same grounds, according to the age and service groups.

Seth Govind Das: In the interests of the country, will it not be proper that British officers should be demobilised?

Mr. President: That is a matter of opinion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is this demobilisation, so far as the Indian officers are concerned, to be carried on even irrespective of the need for Indian officers of

the Indian army, so that the Indian army may be completely officers by Indian officers?

Mr. P. Mason: I respectfully submit that the rule lays down that supplementary questions shall relate to the elucidation of the facts given and this question asks me a number of facts about Indian soldiers and their number. Another Honourable Member did put down questions for question which deal with this subject, but he does not present to put them. These questions seem to me to go beyond the terms of the original question. I respectfully submit that these do not arise out of the original question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My point is this. If they are thinking of officering the Indian army with Indian officers, then the demobilisation of Indian officers should be very much less. Therefore I want to know whether the Government will demobilise Indian officers only to the extent they are surplus.

Mr. P. Mason: I have no objection to answering these questions but I take my stand on this point of order. I respectfully submit that I have supplied the information asked for regarding the number of Indian soldiers and I cannot see how this question of Prof. Ranga elucidates the figures I have given.

Mr. President: When the Honourable Member gets the numbers he is entitled to know the reasons as to how the numbers are to be arrived at.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In that case, the Honourable Member should have asked for the reasons when he put the question.

Mr. President: The question was not clear.

Diwan Ohaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether it is the policy of Government to discharge Indian officers to such an extent that there will be no Indian officer left to take high command?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly not, as the Honourable Member is well aware.

Diwan Ohaman Lall: The policy which my Honourable friend is pursuing will lead to that very result.

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly not.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: On what grounds are Indian officers being demobilised?

Mr. P. Mason: Is that in order, Sir?

Mr. President: That question does not arise.

INDIAN CASUALTIES IN DIFFERENT THEATRES OF WAR

1079. ***Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the names of countries where the Indian soldiers were deputed to fight the Italians, Germans and Japanese;

(b) the number of Indian soldiers and officers (i) killed (ii) wounded; and (iii) taken as prisoners of war;

(c) the number of Indian soldiers and officers (i) who went over to the sides of the enemies, and (ii) who joined the Indian National Army to Free India;

(d) whether all the Indian officers and soldiers who joined either the enemies or the Indian National Army have been brought under the British Control; if so, whether they are all in India; and

(e) the number of Indian soldiers and officers (i) who are still in the custody of Government, and (ii) who have been released?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Abyssinia, British and Italian Somalilands, Burma, the Dodecanese Islands, the East Indies, Eritrea, France, Greece, Italy, Malaya and North Africa.

(b) 28,048 were killed, 64,837 wounded and 82,786 were taken prisoner.

(c) The number of soldiers who, having been taken prisoner, took up arms against their former comrades, were approximately 25,000 of whom 22,000 were members of the I. N. A.

(d) All the Indian soldiers who fought for the Germans have now been discovered and brought back to India except for about 250 who are still untraced; two of these have very recently been found and are now in England. 19,586 of the members of the Indian Army who joined the I. N. A. have been accounted for, of whom 16,839 have been brought to India.

(e) 4,462 of those 16,839 are still held in India; the remainder (12,377) have been released. Of the 2,745 men who have been brought back to India, having fought against their former comrades in Europe, 875 are still held and the remainder (1,870) have been released.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How soon do the Government propose to release the 875 still in their custody?

Mr. P. Mason: I hope early in May.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the others, about 4 thousand?

Mr. P. Mason: They will be released early in May or in the middle of May.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there still Indian officers and soldiers in occupied Europe?

Mr. P. Mason: If the Honourable Member means those who have fought against us and not those who are part of our army, there are 250 who are still untraced. Presumably most of these are dead but some may be still untraced in Europe.

BIHAREES IN INDIAN ARMY

†1080. ***Babu Ram Narayan Singh:** Will the War Secretary please state—

(a) the number of Biharee soldiers and officers in the Indian Army today;

(b) the number of Biharee soldiers and officers killed, wounded and made prisoners of war; and

(c) the number of Biharee soldiers and officers who joined the Indian National Army, and their whereabouts?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The number of officers from Bihar at present serving in the Indian Army is estimated to be 300 and the number of V.C.Os., I.O.Rs. and Enrolled Non-Combatants is 58,900.

(b) Battle casualty figures of Biharees are not available.

(c) One V.C.O. and 43 I.O.Rs. are known to have joined the I.N.A. None of these is in detention.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WITHDRAWAL OF CONTROLS

139. **Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state, with reference to his remarks in the Budget Speech regarding the withdrawal of 150 controls:

(a) the number of staff employed in connection with (i) controls that are withdrawn, and (ii) controls that are still in force from 1939 onwards, year by year;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on account of (i) controls that are withdrawn; and (ii) controls that are still in force from 1939 onwards, year by year; and

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

(c) (i) the number of staff discharged so far, and (ii) the reduction in total expenditure owing to withdrawal of the said controls?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: The question has been transferred to the Industries and Supplies Department and a reply will be given by the Honourable Member in charge on a later date.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF DEARNESS AND WAR ALLOWANCES PAID TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES SINCE THE BEGINNING OF WAR

140. **Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state:

(a) the total amount of salaries paid to the Central Government employees (excluding all allowances) from 1939 onwards, year by year;

(b) the total amount of dearness and war allowances paid to Central Government employees from 1939 onwards, year by year;

(c) the percentage of the total amount of dearness and war allowances to the total amount of the salaries of the Central Government employees for the above years; and

(d) the number of officers of the Central Government, separately, under the following categories for each of the above years:

(i)	drawing salary of over	Rs. 5,000 per month,
(ii)	" " "	{ Rs. 4,000 and below Rs. 5,000 per month,
(iii)	" " "	{ Rs. 3,000 and below Rs. 4,000 per month,
(iv)	" " "	{ Rs. 2,000 and below Rs. 3,900 per month,
(v)	" " "	{ Rs. 1,000 and below Rs. 2,000 per month,
(vi)	" " "	{ Rs. 500 and below Rs. 1,000 per month.

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) to (d). The information is not readily available and its collection would involve time and labour which would hardly be commensurate with the results obtained.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 1197, asked by Shrimati K. Radha Bai Subbarayan on the 21st March, 1945.

EXAMINATION HELD IN LAHORE FOR LADY HARDINGE MEDICAL COLLEGE STUDENTS

It has been ascertained from the authorities of the Punjab University that the examination of the students of the Lady Hardinge Medical College was held at Delhi in 1943 and 1944 as a result of the decision of the Syndicate of that University that for the duration of the war these students should be examined in Delhi. For the examination held in January, 1945, the Syndicate, however, decided that the students should go to Lahore as the number of candidates to be examined was very small.

Information promised in reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 1331 and parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 1332, asked by Mr. Anant Mohan Das, on the 26th March, 1945.

CERTAIN FAILED STUDENTS REJOINING SCHOOLS IN DELHI.

No. 1331.—(a) 544 ; 204.

(b) (i) 526, 17.

(ii) 397.

(iii) 112.

REQUISITE QUALIFICATIONS OF PRINCIPAL AND HIGHER SECONDARY DEPARTMENT TEACHER IN A SCHOOL IN DELHI.

No. 1332.—(a) The minimum requisite qualifications of Principals and Teachers in Higher Secondary Department of Schools in Delhi are as follows:—

Name of post	Minimum qualifications.
(1) Principal	(1) A Master's Degree or an equivalent qualification ; or an Honour's Degree of a British or an Indian University and (2) experience as below : (a) At least 3 years' experience of administrative charge of an Intermediate College, or (b) At least 5 years' experience of administrative charge of a High School, or (c) Teaching of experience of five years in an Intermediate college, or (d) Teaching experience of 8 years in a recognised High School.
(2) Teachers of English Mathematics, History, Economics, Physics and Chemistry— (Up to X Class)	Graduate in the subject with a training degree or a recognised training diploma.
(Up to XI Class)	Master's Degree in the subject with either, (a) Degree or a recognised diploma in Education, or (b) 3 year's teaching experience of Intermediate or Higher Classes.
(3) Teachers of Modern Indian Languages, viz., Urdu, Hindi, Bengali or Punjabi— (Up to X Class)	(1) B.A. with the Modern Indian Language concerned as an optional subject and a recognised Diploma/or Certificate in Education, or (2) Honours in the Modern Indian Language concerned and Matriculation in English, or (3) Matric S. V. if his departmental certificate entitles him to teach in the High Department.
(Up to XI Class)	(1) M.A. in the subject or in the allied Classical Language, or (2) Honours in the Language and Intermediate in English.
(4) Teachers of Classical languages, viz., Arabic, Persian or Sanskrit— (Up to X Class)	(1) Honours in the Classical Language concerned and Matriculation in English or (2) B.A., with the Classical Language concerned as an optional subject and degree or a recognised diploma in Education.
(Up to XI Class)	(1) M.A., in the subject concerned, or (2) Honours in the language and Intermediate in English.
(5) Teachers of Geography— (Up to X Class)	A University degree in the subject or specialisation in the subject in a Training College course.
(Up to XI Class)	(1) M.A., or M.Sc., in Geography, with a teaching degree, or (2) M.A., in Economics with Commercial Geography and B.A., with Geography with either, (a) a Degree or recognised diploma in Education, or (b) Three years' experience of teaching Intermediate classes.

Name of post.	Minimum qualifications.
(6) Teachers of Civics— (Up to X Class)	Graduate in political Science or History or Politics and a degree of a recognised diploma in Education.
(Up to XI Class)	(1) A Master's Degree in Political Science (Politics) or History either with (a) A degree of a recognised diploma, or (b) Three years' teaching experience of Intermediate Classes. (2) An M.A. in Economics who had taken up Political Science as one of the papers for his M.A. Degree and Political Science as one of the elective subjects for the B.A. Degree either with (a) A Degree or a recognised Diploma, or (b) Three years' teaching experience of Intermediate Classes.
Note.—In addition to the qualifications given above an M.A. in Political Science who had offered for his M.A. degree, Principles of Economics as one of the papers and had taken Economics as one of the elective subjects for the B.A. Degree, is also qualified to teach Economics upto the XI Class.	
(7) Teacher of Drawing and Painting— (Up to XI Class)	(a) Teachers' Training Diploma or Certificate of the Mayo School of Art, Lahore, or (b) Drawing Teachers' Training certificate of the Government School of Arts and Crafts, Lucknow, or (c) Drawing Teachers' Training Certificate of the Maharaja's School of Arts and Crafts, Jaipur or (d) Intermediate Grade Examination of Sir J. J. School of Arts Bombay, (Provided that such a candidate should have taken a regular course of study at the Sir. J. J. School of Arts, Bombay ; or failing this, should have passed a Higher Examination of the same school), or (e) Drawing Teachers' Training Certificate Examination, Calcutta.
(8) Teacher of Music— (Up to X Class)	Any of the following examinations— (1) A University degree in Hindustani Music. (2) Highest Examination of the Madhava Sangeet Mahavidyalaya, Laskar, Gwalior. (3) Highest Examination of the Baroda State School of Music. (4) Entrance Music Examination of the Holkar State. (5) Alankar Examination of the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya, Mandal. (6) Diploma Examination in Vocal and Instrumental Music (both) held by the Allahabad University.
(Up to XI Class)	(1) The Highest Examination of :— (a) The All India Marris College of Hindustani Music, Lucknow, or (b) The Madhava Sangeet Vidyalaya, Laskar (Gwalior State), or (2) Sangeet Pravin Examination of the Gandharva Mahavidyalaya Mandal. A musician or a teacher of music may be granted exemption from the minimum qualifications stated above on the grounds of his or her reputation or achievement as a musician.

Name of post.	Minimum qualifications.
(9) Teacher of Domestic Science— (Up to X Class)	(1) A graduate in Medicine; or (2) A graduate with a recognised diploma of education who has passed in Domestic Science at the High School and Intermediate examination of an Education Board or a University; or (3) A Diploma holder of three years' course of Lady Irwin College, New Delhi, provided the teacher is a Matriculate of a recognised Board or University.
(Up to XI Class)	The above, but in the case of No. 3 above with an additional qualification of an Intermediate Certificate from a University established by Law.
(10) Teachers of Physiology and Hygiene, and of Biology— (Up to Class X)	(1) A graduate in Medicine. (2) A B.Sc. with Botany and Zoology.
(Up to Class XI)	(1) An M.Sc. in Zoology, or (2) A graduate in Medicine.
(11) Teachers in Agriculture	(1) A B.Sc. in Agriculture with a teaching degree or Diploma.
(12) Teachers in Commerce— (Up to X Class)	Graduate in Commerce with a recognised training Certificate or a Degree;
(Up to XI Class)	(1) M.A., (Economics) or (2) B. Com. with either: (a) training degree or a recognised diploma, or (b) three years' training experience of Intermediate Classes.
(13) Teachers of Technological subject	The minimum qualification will be recommended by the Technological Committee.
(14) Demonstrator of XI Class	A B.Sc.
(15) Physical Instructor	Higher Grade Government Certificate of the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education, Saidapet, Madras or the Diploma of the Punjab College of Physical Education (one year course) or an equivalent qualification.

Note.—A teacher including the Headmasters who is serving in a recognised institution but does not possess the minimum qualification prescribed in the subject he teaches, may be granted exemption provided that (1) he has been continuously in the service of the institution recognised by the Board at least for 5 years in the case of trained graduates and 3 years in the case of persons holding a Masters Degree (2) he has 8 years teaching experience in a particular subject or subjects in a High School or an Intermediate College and (3) his work has been reported to be uniformly satisfactory.

Exemption may also be given to first class M.A.'s provided such teachers get the necessary training within a period of first 3 years of their employment in a Higher Secondary School.

Note. 2.—Persons teaching in the High Department of a School, before it was recognised as Higher Secondary School, can be permitted to continue, as a very special case, to teach those very subjects only to the 9th and 10 Classes in the Higher Secondary Department of a School. No relaxation shall be allowed in case of new entrants.

- (b) (i) Principals . . . 10 for long Administrative and teaching experience.
(ii) Teachers . . . 43 for exemptions granted on the merits of each case.

Information promised in reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 1364, asked by Mr. T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, on the 27th March, 1945

PROSECUTIONS AGAINST ARMY MISCREANTS

(a) 35.

(b) A list giving the particulars of the incidents and the nature of punishments awarded by courts is attached.

List of cases of assaults and affrays, involving military personnel.

A. PROVINCE OF ASSAM (OCCURRED UNDER A.L.F., S.E.A. COMMAND).

Particulars of Incident.	Punishment awarded.
1. Sapper RAM CHANDRA MANLIKER outraged modesty of ASEULA KHATUA at DOHAZARI on 11 April 1946	6 months rigorous imprisonment.
2. Sepoy Butcher ALLAH MIHR of 116 Ind Sup Coy arrested by RAMU Police on 11 May 44 on charge of attempted rape.	Case dismissed.
3. Pioneer LUIS HEM BROMI in outrage of modesty upon female in house at UMALAPLONG on 10/11 Jun 44.	Sentenced to 6 months R. I. under each of secs. 451/354 I.P.C.
4. One Naik, two IORs of 334-Rec Coy in case of attempted rape at SILCHAR MEHERPUR, on 2-7-44.	Accused convicted in court of Sub Deputy Judge SILCHAR under Secs. 456 and 324 I.P.C. and awarded 1 year and 3 months R.I.
5. Sapper RAISINGH alleged to have murdered a woman and child on 12 Jul 44 near HATHAZARI.	Transportation for life.
6. Sepoy NIAJ ALI of 4/14 Punjab entered house of ABDUL KASHAN AT KATALGANJ on 14 Aug to seek women.	Awarded 7 days F. P. No. 2 by Summary disposal.
7. Girl OMEMAUN assaulted in her boat on 6 Sep by two Bengali soldiers on the KALI RIVER at Cox's Bazaar.	Case dismissed.
8. NK MOHD AKHAR and Sepoy KHODA BUX alleged to have chased women with designs on her near FAUDZERHAT on 18 Sep 44. Unit 499 Ind. Sup Sec.	Trial of Sepoy Khuda Bux concluded on 4 Sep 45 and the accused was found guilty under Section 435 I.P.C. and sentence to 4 months' R.I.
9. Khasi women of MONGTHYAMMAL, KA MARTIMA by name, murdered and KA KRIMON seriously injured by IORs in stabbing affray at SHILLONG on 4 Nov 44.	Mess Waiter MOHD AKBAR & Ward Servant SANT RAM were sentenced to transportation for life by the Additional Sessions Judge SHILLONG.
10. Alleged house trespass, theft and outrage modesty committed by BORs. Charges preferred by Supdt Civil Police SHILLONG. Incident occurred Dec. 44.	Fus. Mc Ghee P, was awarded 72 hours detention on a charge of being out of bounds. As regards the other B.O.R. case considered closed by the Civil Police owing to lack of evidence.
11. Alleged assaults on coolie women by 2 soldiers at CHIKAMPANDI on 14 Jan 45.	As a result of investigations No. 193776 Sepoy KALIYA & SSD MOHAMMED NIWAS were tried by SGCM, the former received punishments of 6 months R. I. and dismissal, later commuted by Sub Area Comd. to 2 months R.I. SSD MOHAMMED NIWAS was honourably acquitted.
12. 54958 Sepoy Driver ANTHONY 4 Corps Ordnance Field Park Company. Committed Rape on the person of HTOOMAY the wife of MAUNGSAT of Chinsai Village District, on 6 Jan 45.	3 years R. I. and dismissal by Court Martial.
13. Six or seven IORs in assault upon two women in CHITTAGONG on 13 Jul.	Unit disciplinary action taken.
14. Four IORS molest women at PAHARTALI, on 1-8-44.	28 days Field Punishment.
15. Pnr molests a girl aged 9. Unit 1506 IPC and suspect Pnr ABDUL MANNAH. The girl was raped. Incident occurred in Nov 44.	Case dismissed because of lack of evidence.
16. AOR THOMAS KWAKU of 81 East African Recce Regt. in outrage of modesty upon ASIA BIBI on 27 Sep 44.	Summary Trial—28 days Field Punishment
17. Hav Clerk HARVAHS LAL of 175 IROC alleged to have assaulted wife of HARA BANDHU on 17 Sep at CHITTAGONG.	Summary award—severe reprimand.
18. IOR of 2 MWCU molests woman on 17 Oct 44 by dragging her from house at JAMALKHAN village.	Summary award—28 days R.I.

Particulars of Incident.

Punishment awarded.

19. Pnr ANJIT MULLAH alleged by villagers of BUDH-AIR village to have interfered with one of their women on 25 Oct 44. Summary awarded—7 days R.I. under Sec. 39(4) for being out of bounds.
20. East Africans of 121 Inf. Tpt W/Shop in interference with Manipuri women. Two IORs and 5 Manipuris wounded. Native hut burnt down. Incident occurred on 23-10-44. Cfn GAITERERA and L/Cpl. KAGWI the accused in this case were dealt with summarily by Comd 202 L of C Area on the charge of breaking bounds. Major charges were dropped on account of insufficient identification evidence.
21. Naga woman HONALIE assaulted by Sepoy on 27 Oct 44, in KHUZANA village. Tried by SGCM and awarded 28 days Field Punishment.
22. Sepoy JAM MOHD of 14 Punjab Attd HQ 114 Ind Inf. Bde arrested for abduction of a male and female on 5 Nov 44. Tried by SCM and awarded 2 months R.I.
23. 2 AORs, KAFI TITRIKA and NATHANIEL EDIK-PAN alleged to have molested school girls in Nov 44. Both accused acquitted by F.G. C.M.
24. Attempted assault on wife of civilian by IOR at IM-PHAL, on 13-12-44. Tried by SGCM and awarded 6 months R.I.
25. 7 Africans entered compound at SHUEBO, threaten civilians and rape woman, on 15-1-45. Pte. JONAS S/o LUPAMGA, 3 IB Coy., EAASC sentenced by FGCM to 5 years' IHL and discharged.
26. Dvr AMATAO of 892 Coy WAASC in attempted rape of girl KUMUDAH BALAN DE of RAMU on 4 Feb 45. Driver O. Amartiso, 892 Coy. W.A.A.S.C. convicted by F.G. C.M. of attempted rape and sentenced 2 years I.H.L.
27. Dhobi BADAR UDDIN accused by civil police of murder of woman in TEIPURA STATE, in Feb 45. GURUDAYAL SINGH AND BADAR UDDIN were convicted of the offence of abetment of murder, GURUDAYAL SINGH who took the leading part in connection with this offence was sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for six years and BADAR UDDIN was sentenced to undergo rigorous imprisonment for 4 years. The case is now closed.
28. Gnr PILKINGTON of 32 Rft Camp with 2 BORs entered civilian house at MAJHIRAGAS near PALAS-BARI and when refused a woman, set fire to the house, 10-2-45. Tried by S.G.C.M. Bdr. EBDON and Gnr. PILKINGTON each awarded 6 months detention. EBDON reduced to ranks.
29. Pte. SAKA alleged to have attempted rape on native woman at FATEKHARNUL. This WAOR beaten up by civilians on 4 Feb. 45. Pte. SAKA tried by FGCM and awarded 2 years IHL and dismissal.
30. Sepoy SAKHI Mohd. of 5/16 punjabis assaults upon woman at GARJANIA on 17 Aug. 44. Sepoy sakhi mohd. discharged from service under I.A.A. rule 13B(III)(V)
31. Two women from West of MANGALDAI kidnapped and violated by American Negroes on 23 Apr 44. The matter was put into the hands of U. S. Authorities who undertook to investigate and take steps to prevent recurrence of similar incidents. No further report necessary. Acquitted.
32. Woman assaulted by IORs at HI-JILI KHARAGPUR (early May 44). All acquitted of rape. Havildar sentenced to 6 months R.I. on charge of wrongful confinement and rioting: four sepoyas sentenced to 4 months R. I. on similar charges. 3 acquitted.
33. IORS of 25/8th Punjab Regt. accused of rape in Dunka District, SANTHAL PARGANAS (early May 44). Tried by SCM and conviction set aside.
4. Affray between Sepoys of 78 Ind. Anti-Malarial Unit and civilians at Ishrude, at prostitute quarters on 25 Jul 44. IORs sentenced to 14 and 7 days R. I. respectively (Summary award).
35. Two IORs tried to molest a beggar woman on 29 Jul 44 at KANCHRAPARA.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1718, asked by Hajee Chaudhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, on the 9th April, 1945

LICENCES FOR FISHING AT OKHLA

The issue of the licences is at the discretion of the Executive engineer who issues them to amateur anglers after satisfying himself of their bonafides, and a few professional fishermen. The same procedure was followed in 1943-44.

Some applications for annual licences from previous holders were refused in the succeeding year as it was considered necessary to reduce the number of licences in that year. There were no complaints against any of them and no intention of not recognising them as bonafide amateur anglers.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIAN LABOUR FEDERATION

Accounts of the Indian Federation of Labour for the monthly grant of Rs. 13,000 for Labour propaganda.

Month	Pay of Propagandists	Travelling expenses	Printing charges	Meeting and demonstrations	Dissemination of news	Total	
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
June 1944	4,769 2 0	779 7 0	3,291 3 0	3,328 1 0	879 0 0	13,046 13 0	13,046 13 0
July 1944	5,003 6 0	569 7 0	2,915 2 0	3,690 2 0	1,074 4 0	13,252 5 0	13,252 5 0
August 1944	4,944 6 0	872 0 6	3,126 0 0	2,998 14 6	1,048 14 0	12,990 3 0	12,990 3 0
September 1944	3,914 6 0	817 6 6	2,986 0 0	3,136 15 0	944 0 0	12,797 11 6	12,797 11 6
October 1944	4,669 6 0	522 8 0	3,252 8 0	3,394 9 0	992 0 0	12,830 15 0	12,830 15 0
November 1944	4,754 6 0	1,054 9 0	3,451 8 0	3,046 9 0	1,008 11 0	13,315 11 0	13,315 11 0
December 1944	4,669 6 0	1,035 6 0	3,992 8 9	3,165 2 0	1,130 7 0	13,992 13 9	13,992 13 9
January 1945	4,789 6 0	942 14 0	3,104 9 4	2,718 2 0	1,066 0 0	12,640 15 4	12,640 15 4
February 1945	4,589 6 0	878 4 0	3,236 5 6	2,601 6 6	1,226 0 0	12,531 6 0	12,531 6 0
March 1945	4,815 0 0	658 1 0	3,139 0 0	3,090 13 0	1,286 0 0	12,988 14 0	12,988 14 0
April 1945	3,550 0 0	681 10 0	2,728 8 0	4,238 3 0	1,113 0 0	12,311 5 0	12,311 5 0
May 1945	1,780 0 0	897 11 0	2,308 0 0	3,633 2 0	3,941 10 0	12,560 7 0	12,560 7 0
June 1945	1,780 0 0	777 3 0	2,281 9 3	3,265 13 0	4,414 0 0	12,519 9 3	12,519 9 3
July 1945	1,790 0 0	1,148 14 0	2,001 8 0	4,032 6 0	4,213 6 0	13,186 2 0	13,186 2 0

Details of expenditure incurred during the months of August to December 1945 will be placed on the table of the House as soon as they become available.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 35, asked by Pandit Mukut Bikari Lal Bhargava, on the 5th February, 1946

CHAIRMANSHIP OF BEAWAR MUNICIPALITY

(a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The newly elected committee will be permitted to elect its own chairman.

Information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 33, asked by Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, on the 12th February, 1946

PROSCRIBED PUBLICATIONS

Books and Publications proscribed by the Central Government and the Chief Commissioners since January, 1942

1. Ravaged India. (Anonymous).
2. The Revolution of 1905 by Lenin. (This book is not now under ban).
3. Arya Satyagraha by Satya Dev Vidyalankar.
4. Shahri Azadi by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya.
5. Jang (Urdu Daily) dated the 19th July, 1943. (One copy forfeited under Defence of India Rules).
6. Jai Hind by Satya Dev Vidyalankar.
7. Nau (9th) August by Shri Hari.
8. Jai Hind by Sri Ram.
9. Tarikh Azad Hind Fauj by Maulana Imdad Sabri.
10. Sangharsh Kyon (Hindi pamphlet). (Published by the Dictator Marwar Lok Parishad, Jodhpur, and printed by Pannalal Gupta Anant at the Adarsh Press, Ajmer).
11. Scented Garden by Dr. Bernhard Stern and Translated into English by David Bergen.

Presses from which security was demanded in Chief Commissioner's Provinces since January, 1942

1. Kodagu Press, Coorg.
2. Ambike Press, Coorg.
3. Arjun Press, Delhi.
4. Hindustan Times Press, New Delhi.
5. Booprani Printing House, Delhi.
6. Raj Hans, Delhi.
7. Parkash Printing Works, Delhi.
8. Sarswati Press, Delhi.
9. Rajasthan Press, Ajmer.
10. Adarsh Printing Press, Ajmer.
11. Narain Printing Press, Beawar.
12. Shree Narain Printing Press, Beawar.
13. Ram Krisna Printing Press, Ajmer.

Newspapers from which security was demanded

Delhi

1. Tej (Urdu Daily).
2. Aj (Urdu Daily).
3. Hindustan Times (English Weekly).
4. Vir Arjun (Hindi Weekly).
5. Riyasat (Urdu Weekly).
6. Mahshir-i-Khayal (Urdu Monthly).
7. Tej (Urdu Daily).
8. Hindustan (Hindi Daily).
9. Sachitra Darbar (Hindi Weekly), published by Pandit Prabhat Vidyarthi.
10. Sachitra Darbar (Hindi Weekly), published by Lala Shankar Lal Gupta Vindu.

Ajmer

11. Navajyoti, Ajmer.
12. Prakratik Chikitsak, Ajmer.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 281, asked by Shri Sri Prakash, on the 14th February, 1946.

PURCHASE OF WHEAT BY UNITED PROVINCES GOVERNMENT.

(a) (i) Within the province	Tons
(ii) From outside the province	98,393
	1,05,059
Total	2,03,384

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) In the beginning of the year, the U. P. Government were subsidising the sale of pure wheat on the ration. Subsequently they decided to stop this and to subsidise the sale of coarser grains instead. The discontinuance of the subsidy naturally led to an increase in the price of wheat.

(d) The U. P. Government suffered a net loss of Rs. 5,000 on wheat, over and above the cost of administration.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Retail selling price of Wheat on Government ration shops in the U.P.

Date	Lucknow Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Moradabad Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Cawnpore Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Benares Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Meerut Region Seers Chattanks per rupee
1	2	3	4	5	6
1-1-45 to 28-2-45	4 0 Bareilly and Shah-jahanpur 3 12 Rest of Lucknow Region.	4 4 (plains)	3 12 Cawnpore and Allahabad Districts. 4 4 Rest of Cawnpore Region.	3 8	3 12 Dehra Dun District. 4 4 Saharanpur District, (except Hardwar and Roorkee Regulated Towns) 4 0 Hardwar and Roorkee towns. 4 4 Rest of Meerut Division. 4 0 Agra Division. 3 8 Dehradun District and Agra District. 3 12 Rest of Meerut Region.
1-3-45 to 31-5-45	3 8	3 12 (plains)	3 8	3 8	

Date	Lucknow Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Moradabad Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Cawnpore Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Benares Region Seers Chattanks per rupee	Meerut Region Seers Chattanks per rupee
1	2	3	4	5	6
1-6-45 to 16-6-45	3 8 Fyzabad, Shahjahanpur and Bareilly Districts. 3 12 Hardoi, Sitapur, Kheri, Barabanki, Pilibhit and Budaun Districts. 3 4 Rest of Lucknow Region.	3 12 Moradabad District. 3 8 Bijnor District. 3 0 Nainital and Lansdowne Towns. (Hill). 2 4 Pauri Town (Hill). 2 14 Almora and Rani-Khet Town (Hill).	3 4 Cawnpore and Allahabad Districts. 3 10 Farrukhabad, Fatehpur and Etawah Districts. 3 8 Jhansi District. 3 12 Rest of Cawnpore Region.	3 12 Gonda and Bahraich Districts. 3 8 Basti District. 3 4 The rest of Benares Region.	2 14 Mussoorie Town. 3 4 Rest of Dehra Dun district. 3 8 Hardwar Town and Muthra District. 3 10 Muzaffarnagar and Meerut Districts. 3 12 Bulandshahr District. 3 6 Agra District and Hathras town. 3 8 Aligarh District (excluding Hathras.) 3 12 Rest of Meerut Region. 3 6 Aligarh District including Hathras. No change—Rest of the Region.
16-6-45 to 31-7-45	3 4 Fyzabad District No change—Rest of the Region.	No change.	3 6 Farrukhabad and Etawah Districts. No change—Rest of the Region.	No change.	No change—Rest of the Region.
1-8-45 to 31-8-45	No change.	No change.	No change.	No change.	3 8 Meerut district, Saharanpur and Roorkee towns. 3 6 Muthra district. No change—Rest of the Region.
1-9-45 to 30-9-45	3 6 Shahjahanpur and Bareilly Districts. No change—Rest of the Region.	3 8 Moradabad District. No change—Rest of the Region.	3 4 Jhansi District. 3 6 Fatehpur District. No change—Rest of the Region.	No change.	3 6 Mainpuri and Etah Districts. No change—Rest of the Region.
1-10-45 to 1-12-45	No change.	3 12 Moradabad. No change—Rest of the Region.	No change.	No change.	No change.

The above shows detailed price changes for the whole Province. The following four towns are typical examples of how the price increased throughout the year 1945.

1. Bareilly . 4 srs. 0 ch. (January 1—February 28), 3 srs. 8 chs. (March 1—August 31).
3 srs. 6 chs. (September 30—December 31.)
2. Cawnpore . 3 srs. 12 chs. (January 1—February 28), 3 srs. 8 chs. (March 1—May 31).
3 srs. 4 chs. (June 1—December 31).
3. Benares . 3 srs. 8 chs. (January 1—May 31), 3 srs. 4 chs. (June 1—December 31).
4. Meerut . 4 srs. 4 chs. (January 1—February 28), 3 srs. 12 chs. (March 1—May 31).
3 srs. 10 chs. (June 1—July 31), 3 srs. 8 chs. (August 1—December 31).

Information promised in reply to parts (a) and (b) of starred question No. 566, asked by Srijut Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury, on the 27th February 1946.

TICKETS TRAVEL

(a) and (b). The figures "more than 2,000" as given in the news item are correct and relate to the whole month of January 1946, during which many trains at different stations were subjected to special checks.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

ADMISSIONS OF STUDENTS IN FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a message by the Free Press of India reported in the *Free Press Journal* dated the 9th March, 1946, entitled "Training in U. K. A Big Scandal";

(b) if it is a fact that as stated therein by a student from England that many Indian students were shoved into a third rate polytechnic school without regard to their qualifications;

(c) if it is a fact that the India Office were not informed of the qualifications and requirements of the students;

(d) the colleges or schools in United Kingdom into which Indian students have obtained admission, how many yet remain to be admitted and how many have been forced into institutions entirely unsuited to them;

(e) if any of them were admitted into Matriculation class of Cardiff when their qualifications were far higher than that class; and

(f) if the Government propose to reconsider their decision of sending further batches of students before proper arrangements are made for their studies in the United Kingdom?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. The majority of the scholars have been admitted to Universities. The Polytechnics selected for some are the leading ones in the country which provide courses of a type not available in Universities. A point to be borne in mind in regard to the scholars selected for certain subjects is that although they may have very good science degree of the ordinary kind their qualifications do not provide an adequate background for advanced studies in the special subjects for which they were selected. In the case of a number of subjects regarded as of great importance for India's post-war development the facilities in this country have hitherto been either non-existent or of an elementary character. Students of these must therefore begin more or less at the beginning. For some of these subjects, e.g., Plastics the best training is provided in Polytechnics which only offer Diploma courses. These are not familiar to and therefore not appreciated by some of our students who are inclined to consider a Doctorate or a Masters degree as always a better qualification than a Diploma. In a few cases genuine mistakes have been made which are now being rectified.

(c) Full information was in all cases furnished to the High Commissioner regarding the present attainments of the students and the subjects which they were to study abroad. The India Office are not concerned.

(d) A statement showing the institutions in the U. K. in which places have been secured for the Government sponsored students is placed on the table. Only 18 out of the 182 students sponsored by the Government of India now remain to be placed in educational institutions in the U. K. 143 students have secured admission and have already left. 15 have secured admission and will proceed shortly. Six Central Government scholars declined the scholarship. Out of the 151 students sponsored by the Provincial Governments and intended for the U. K., 112 have been placed in educational institutions and places have still to be secured for 39. No figures are yet available as to how many of these have been placed unsatisfactorily; but this matter is being looked into.

(e) So far as our records show, no student has been admitted to any institution in Cardiff.

(f) No Sir. The difficulties experienced last year were partly due to the fact that owing to unavoidable causes, the final selections could not be made till July when it was rather late for securing admissions to institutions abroad and partly to the fact that owing to passages difficulties some students did not arrive in time to take up reservations already secured and had to be fitted in elsewhere. This year, however, efforts are being made to complete the selections by the middle of April in order that there may be ample time in which to secure places.

List of Institutions where admissions have been secured for Central Scholars, 1945

Edinburgh University.
Ministry of Agriculture Laboratory, Weybridge.
Cambridge University.
King's College, New Castle-on-Tyne.
King's College, London.
Manchester University and College of Tech.
Glasgow University.
Liverpool University.
Tory Research Institute (for Fisheries).
Huddersfield Technical College.
Scientific and Industrial Research Lab. Teddington.
University College, London.
Plymouth Marine Biology Station.
Leeds University.
Princes Risborough Agriculture College.
Hannah Dairy Research Inst.
Stoke-on-Trent Technical College.
Meteorological Office.
University College, South Wales.
University College, North Wales.
Birmingham University.
Sheffield University.
Automobile Engg. Training College.
Loughborough College.
Chelmsford Technical College.
Marconi Technical Institute.
B. B. C.
Borough Polytechnic.
Faraday House.
Central Electricity Board (Edmunds, Elec. Corporation, Ltd.).
City of Birmingham Central Tech. College.
City of Oxford School of Technology.
Woolwich Polytechnic.
Derby Technical College.
Battersea Polytechnic.
Imperial Institute.
Imperial College of Science.
Pharmaceutical College.
Imperial Forestry Institute, Oxford.
Rothamstead Agricultural Research Institute.
Aberystwyth, University College.
London School of Economics.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: May I know the machinery and the authority which actually decides upon the particular institutions to which the students are to be admitted when they reach there?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: When the students appeared before the Central Selection Board, they were all asked—I myself was present all the time—whether they had any particular institution which they would like to go to. Where they had a definite preference, that was put down as the place selected. In other cases, the Technical Members of the Board discussed the matter with the students and if the students agreed, then the institution recommended was put down. Failing any particular desire on the part of the students or any recommendation by the Board, the question was referred to our Educational Liaison officers in U.K., and in U.S.A.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Does it mean that the final decision in the matter rests with the Educational officer in U.K. or U.S.A., and if so, do the Government consider that it will meet with the needs of the situation much better that there should be a committee of two or three persons here in India who should decide upon each candidate's case with specific relation to the accommodation which is available there and the institution to which he should be sent.

Dr. Sir John Sargent: The difficulties as I explained, last year were these. When we embarked on this ambitious scheme, we did not overlook certain serious difficulties, but there was one problem which turned up afterwards and which very much complicated the position and that was the unexpectedly early termination of the War in the East. It not only added to the pressure on institutions, but also caused very serious transport and passage problems, which have meant in a number of cases that students who were ready to go have been held up in this country some for a few months and some are still here. Another result was that certain reservations which we had been able to procure in institutions abroad could not be kept open after a certain date owing to the fact that the institutions, having so many students clamouring for places, did not think it fair to keep these places reserved indefinitely in the hope of Indian students turning up sooner or later. In those cases, they have offered sympathetic consideration for places next year. I am afraid the machinery which my Honourable friend suggests would not have relieved us in that particular difficulty which we had last year. As I said, we hope this year with more time and much better machinery, to overcome these difficulties. There were some cases of bad placing, but the last report I have received from my Educational Liaison officer in U.K. states quite definitely that these have now been satisfactorily settled.

Sri. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: What arrangements have been made for sending those students selected last year and who are still waiting here for whatever reason they have not been sent till now?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: We have done two things. Where there is any probability that a student will have to wait probably until the opening of the next academic year, we have tried to arrange that he should continue his studies in some research institution in this country and I hope that will at any rate prevent the wasting of his time while waiting for passage. We hope of course that the passage position may improve at any moment, in which case we shall get more students away. With regard to the question of looking after them, we have made, I think, reasonably liberal arrangements for their maintenance until such time as they are able to go and take up their scholarships.

Seth Govind Das: May I know how much time of these students have been already wasted?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: I think it is inevitable that one or two months—and in some cases perhaps more—have been wasted, and for the reasons I have explained. I am afraid we could not help that, and we have done what we could to mitigate the effects of it.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Will those persons who were selected last year be given preference over those to be selected this year?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: Yes, I can safely say that.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Notwithstanding the difficulties, will Government realise that instead of these students going to the United Kingdom merely for the purpose of going there, the object of these students being sent should be that they should receive certain instructions, and that therefore a proper machinery should be created to ensure that they go to the proper institution and get the proper training and they should themselves feel satisfied? Will Government consider that it may after all be better not to send them for the time being and detain them here rather than send them there to take admission into any institution, good, bad or indifferent?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: My Honourable friend is quite correct. It is our intention and it has been our intention that students should be sent to study a specific subject for which they have the necessary background and which subject will be of definite and known use in the postwar reconstruction plans. And I can assure my Honourable friend that we shall not spend money on sending students abroad either to waste their time or ours by not placing them in satisfactory institutions. I may inform him that the few cases which have come to our attention were cases of genuine mistake. And the mistakes have been quite curious in some cases. For instance, there have been mutilations in original telegrams, where students wanting to study Physiology were reported in London to be wanting to study Physics, etc. We have cleared up these things and I hope they will not occur again. But certainly it is our intention that as every student is selected for a specific technical subject—so far as we can possibly manage it—to see that that student studies that subject when he goes there and not some other subject.

Seth Govind Das: Are we to take it that before they are sent out from here proper arrangements for their admission to various institutions abroad will be made?

Dr. Sir John Sargent: Yes. But, as I have explained, owing to this delay in passage, some of the institutions in which we got admission had to say reluctantly that they could not keep them open any longer and therefore alternative arrangements had to be made in the United Kingdom for these students.

HUNGER STRIKE BY R.I.N. RATINGS IN MULUND CAMP

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the War Secretary kindly state:

(a) Whether it is true that, as reported in the *Free Press Journal* of March 14, 300 R.I.N. ratings, segregated in the Mulund Camp as a result of action taken in connection with the incidents of last month, have been on hunger strike since the morning of March 12;

(b) whether this step has been taken by the ratings as a protest against the insufficiency of food and the insult and maltreatment by an officer to one of them who carried a message complaining of the inadequacy of the food supplied on the morning of March 12;

(c) whether the Flag Officer Commanding, Bombay, Rear Admiral Rattray and an Army Brigadier visited the Camp on the morning of March 13 and that, after listening to the complaints of the ratings, the Flag Officer Commanding told them that he would consider the matter and communicate his decision to them later; and

(d) whether the Government will take immediate steps to have matters put right at the Mulund Camp so as to enable the hunger strike to be terminated?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). At about 1 p.m. on Tuesday, the 12th March, a rating in Mulund camp complained to an officer that the food allotted to him for his mess was insufficient. The rating alleges that the officer then pushed him; the officer alleges that the rating first used insulting language to

him and threatened him with a stick. Actually the report is that the officer says he told the man to go to the cookhouse and get some more food, and the man replied that he was asking his officer for food and he was not going to the cookhouse for that. The truth of that will come out in the inquiry. The officer has been removed from the camp, and a Board of Enquiry into the incident sat at 1400 on the 13th. Its report is awaited.

At the midday meal on the 12th (i.e., immediately after the incident first referred to), certain ratings refused their food, and started a general agitation for a hunger strike.

On the 13th, the bulk of the ratings at Mulund camp would not eat the rations provided for them; a small number, however, asked the officer-in-charge to be allowed to eat their food under protection, and rations were furnished to them, and protection given to enable them to eat.

On the evening of the 13th, about 100 ratings in the camp asked for protection as they were being intimidated into refusing their food. Protection was given by placing a special guard round their barracks.

Early in the morning of the 14th, about 40 of the ratings who were suspected of intimidating the rest were taken out of Mulund camp and moved temporarily to a hutted building some little distance away, under military guard. The 300 ratings then remaining in Mulund camp thereupon sat down to their breakfasts. While they were eating, an uproar arose in the hutted building, owing to a difference of opinion among the 40 extremists as to whether they too should resume eating. On this, 28 men in the Mulund camp started a further agitation, and only about 180 of the Mulund ratings ate their midday meal on the 14th. At supper-time, about 240 ate their meal.

In the evening of that day (the 14th), the original 40 extremists were removed to another camp at Kalyan, and the 28 who had started the agitation on the morning of the 14th were segregated at Mulund. All the ratings in the main Mulund camp and all those at Kalyan have eaten their normal meals since the morning of the 15th, and the 28 segregated ratings at Mulund have eaten their normal meals since the evening of the 15th.

(c) This is incorrect. At no stage has Rear Admiral Rattray visited the camp. The officer-in-charge of the camp, whose duty it was to do so, heard all complaints and representations which were put forward, and dealt with them in the normal Service manner.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Did the Honourable Member receive my telegram on the 12th about this very incident and did he take any steps in pursuance of what I suggested there?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir, I received the Honourable Member's telegram about the same time as I received the other Honourable Member's short notice question, and by that time it appeared that the matter was already in hand.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is it a fact that, apart from the incident to which the Honourable Member has referred, the main grievance of these people in Mulund camp was insufficiency and unsatisfactory nature of the food that was being given?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir, that is not my information. My information is that apart from this one incident there was no general complaint. I have got the officer's story and I have got the man's story, and I do not know which is true. But according to the officer's story this man came with a *degchee* and said that he should be given more food in it. The officer asked him to go to the cookhouse and he said, "I am asking you for food, I am not going to the cookhouse."

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is the Honourable Member aware that the real complaint in Mulund camp was that Lieut. Singh who was the officer on duty on that day really behaved rather badly towards one of these ratings? The story that the Honourable Member has given here may be the account given by the officer against whom this complaint was lodged. I am not aware of one or the other and so I do not know which of the two stories is correct. But all that I am wanting to know is whether it has been brought to the knowledge of the authorities that the actual grievance was about the insufficiency and unsatisfactory nature of the food given to them, which led to some kind of complaint from one of the ratings to Lieut. Singh and he behaved rather badly towards this person, with the result that others joined in the protest. Have all these facts been brought to the notice of the authorities yet?

Mr. P. Mason: My information is not quite the same. As I have stated with regard to the particular incident about the officer, I think both sides have been fully represented; and my information is that there was no general complaint about the food. But I will have further inquiries made to make certain that that is so.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Will the Honourable Member take it from me that the complaint about food is general even now, not merely in Mulund camp but elsewhere too, and the sooner this is looked into the better?

(No reply was given)

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I know whether this food is supplied by contract?

Mr. P. Mason: It is supplied by the R.I.A.S.C. in the same way as to other members of the armed forces.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is it a fact that the food is being supplied by some department or other and this complaint about food has been going on for a long time, not for a day or two but for weeks and months together? The *dal* supplied has stones in it, and the rice is uneatable, and so on; and the same *dal* is supplied from day to day for weeks and months together. These stories go about and I see no reason why these complaints cannot be remedied straightaway.

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I should like to answer that. I rather welcome the opportunity of answering that because, as I say, all the Armed Forces are supplied by the R.I.A.S.C. The rations are considerably more than those given to the civil population—rather less than 50 per cent. more—and Members on the other side of the House were suggesting to me the other day that they should be reduced. They are, as I say, already considerably in excess of those supplied to the civil population. In the case of the R.I.N. they are also rather in excess of those supplied to the Army. It is perfectly true that from time to time reports are received that the quality of *dal*, or the quality of rice, or sometimes the quality of *atta*, is not what it should be. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Also it is badly cooked.

Mr. P. Mason: Cooking is another point. But when the quality of the actual stuff supplied is questioned, it is generally found that there is a good reason for that, and steps are taken to put it right, but it takes some time before the old stock is used up. For example, there was a general complaint, I know about the quality of *atta* some months ago. It transpired that that was due to the landing of large shipments of wheat in Calcutta as a result of which the great deal of hoarded wheat which had been kept against the rise of prices had been brought out and had weevils in it and as a result a good deal of not very good *atta* came into circulation. But I cannot suppose that in the present conditions of food any of my friends on the opposite side would suggest that we should throw that stuff away.

With regard to cooking, there is always a continuous improvement and the Army School of Cookery is putting through and training people as quickly as possible.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is common knowledge in Bombay that about the time when these grievances were talked about no less than 150 sacks of the finest atta that you could imagine was being sold in the blackmarket and people were purchasing this. This atta had been supplied to the blackmarket by certain Army authorities—God alone knows who they were; contractors or somebody—but it was being sold in the blackmarket everybody knows it. When it is said that the stock ought not to be thrown away, I agree, but surely good stock which is held by the authorities should not be thrown into the blackmarket, and these people supplied the rotten stuff.

Mr. P. Mason: I entirely agree, but it has been my experience that matters of common knowledge do not in effect always prove to be correct.

Mr. M. B. Masani: In order to end such unpleasant incidents, will Government act on the spirit of their assurance against victimisation by introducing an Amnesty Bill in this Assembly?

Mr. P. Mason: There is no necessity for putting through an Amnesty Bill, but I don't think my friend will have any complaint when they examine our conclusions in this matter.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Since this matter has been raised, I would like to put one other question. I have heard a number of things about demobilization. The Selection Board that is now dealing with the question is not paying any attention to the fact that certain age rules, etc., are to be tackled first and a number of persons who are perfectly eligible for retention for permanent Commissions are being sacked. The main grievance, as far as I could judge, was that out of 2,500 officers only about 66 are likely to be retained, and all the others are being demobilized. This is apart from ratings. This was the real grievance which was in the background many months ago which went on maturing until the particular incident which brought about the strike; it was the last straw on the camel's back. To my mind the policy of demobilization in the R.I.N. needs to be overhauled completely in view of the fact that we would like to expand our Navy rather than contract it, and therefore the demobilization of these persons, who are really able to continue working at this amazing rate, is entirely wrong.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may answer if he likes, but I am afraid it is outside the scope of the question.

(No reply was given.)

MOTIONS FOR ADJOURNMENT

INABILITY OF PEASANTS IN JUBBULPORE TO HARVEST THEIR WINTER FOOD GRAIN CROPS OWING TO RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY FOOD GRAIN CONTROL ORDER

Mr. President: I have received notice of an adjournment motion "to consider a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely the inability of the peasants in Jubbulpore area to harvest their winter food grain crops caused by the working of the Food Grains Control Order which prohibits agricultural labourers from taking grains paid to them as wages in kind to their homes situated in villages, other than those where they work and also the inability of the peasants who own lands to pay adequate wages to local labourers in order to attract them away from *biri* factories." The notice is by the Honourable Members Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Prof. Ranga, Mr. Venkatasubba Reddiar.

In the first place, it relates to two different matters.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): In regard to the first question, I would like the Honourable Member to give any information that he has to the House because that is a sort of complaint which is generally prevailing. We got that news in the press.

Mr. President: I understand that, but as the motion stands it relates to two different matters. I take it the Honourable Member agrees that one part of it must be cut out.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Yes, Sir. The latter portion goes out.

Mr. President: The only portion that remains then is about the Jubbulpore area. How is the matter of sufficient importance? What does he mean by 'Jubbulpore area'?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is how we got the information. The news emanated from Jubbulpore. Specific information is given that so much area of land and crops thereon are lying there ready to be harvested, but there are no workers to harvest it, because workers are suffering under that particular difficulty.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Ripe but no reaper!

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan): There are four Tehsils in Jubbulpore District—Jubbulpore, Pitan, Sinora, Murwara. In all these four Tehsils there is *Rabi* crops generally and the position there is that the crop is ripe for reaping. Until now the labourers were paid in kind. Now according to the new rules they are paid in cash. There are very few labourers in that district and labourers come there from Rewa and Narsinghpur, the adjoining two places. Because they are not getting anything in kind, they are not coming there, and, if these rules are not changed, I am afraid the *Rabi* crop will not be reaped and there will be a big famine in that area.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): May I rise to a point of order. I submit it is for the Chair to decide the admissibility of this motion, the urgency of it, and whether it cannot form part of the general discussion on the Finance Bill, or whether it is so urgent that it should be admitted as an adjournment motion. It is for you to decide first before the Food Member answers.

Mr. President: That is why I put the question to the Honourable Member as to what he meant by the words 'Jubbulpore area'. I wanted to be clear. . . (Interruption by Seth Govind Das) Order, order. No interruptions. I wanted to be clear about the extent of the area. If the area is sufficiently large, then the matter would stand differently. If it really affects a very small area and it is a matter of administrative convenience, the matter will stand differently and need not be taken up on an adjournment motion. That is why I wanted to know from the Honourable Member what the facts were. I did not want to go into the merits.

Seth Govind Das: The area is sufficiently long.

Mr. President: Order, order. I have heard sufficient on the question of area.

Seth Govind Das: I wanted to say something about the population.

Mr. President: Order, order.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I can understand my Honourable friend's anxiety because he comes from that place. I have given notice of the adjournment. When the harvest is ripe there is no reaper: this is the substance of the news in the "*Hindustan Times*" dated 16th March. We have sent our best men to load ships with grains for U.S.A. but here when the harvest is ripe there is no reaper. This is due to the orders passed by the Central Government and not by the Local Government. The persons who reap have no food. It is for the benefit of others they work. This is a large area. I am giving the symptom in a particular part of the country. Therefore, it is urgent. I do not want to censure the Government. I would like to know what the truth is. If the answer is not proper, then it is a case for censure.

Mr. President: What does the Food Secretary have to say?

Mr. B. B. Sen (Secretary Food Department): On receiving notice of this adjournment motion I sent a telegram to the Central Provinces Government and I got a reply this morning which I sent over to the Whip of the Opposi-

tion to see. I thought that after reading that reply they would not press this adjournment motion. That reply makes clear the circumstances in which a certain order under the Foodgrains Export Control Order, which has been in force in the Central Provinces for some time; *bona fide* travellers are allowed to take 2½ maunds of rice when they go out of the Province. But last week they amended that order and have laid down that *bona fide* travellers could take only ten seers of rice. This they have done in order to prevent smuggling. This particular incident had not come to the notice of the Central Provinces Government but as soon as they heard of this adjournment motion, they said they would institute enquiries and if they found any genuine hardships being caused they would re-examine the case. So there is no reason for the apprehension which is in the minds of the Members.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): By what time will we get the information?

Mr. B. B. Sen: No crop will remain unharvested for this reason. As soon as this matter is investigated, necessary permits will be issued.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am satisfied. I do not press the motion.

Mr. President: Very well, the matter then ends. Sir Archibald Rowlands.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir I move:
"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April 1946 be taken into consideration."

Mr. President: Motion moved:
"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April 1946 be taken into consideration."

Mr. President: I understand that all sections of the House have arrived at a general agreement on the question of the time-table for the Finance Bill and the Supplementary Grants, Railways as well as General. The time-table will be as under:

Commencing from Tuesday, that is today, the 19th instant, all stages of the Finance Bill will be completed by 5 P.M. on Thursday the 28th, and all questions then outstanding in regard to the Finance Bill will be put to the vote of the Assembly without any further discussion on any question.

The Railways and General Supplementary Demands will be taken up on the 29th instant and continued on Saturday the 30th instant, which will be a working day. The Assembly will similarly dispose of, on that day, all the outstanding Supplementary Demands by 5 P.M.

It is understood that if the consideration motion in respect of the Finance Bill is not finished before 5 P.M. on Tuesday, the 26th instant, the closure may be moved in respect of the consideration motion on Wednesday, the 27th March at the commencement of the Legislative business that day. If closure is moved and carried and subsequently the consideration motion is carried, the House will then proceed to consider the Finance Bill clause by clause.

During all these days, the question hour will ordinarily not be suspended, unless exigencies of the situation require the suspension on account of the time of the House being up by any adjournment motion.

It is further understood that while spokesmen of various parties and groups may have about forty-five minutes as time limit for speeches, the ordinary time limit will be twenty minutes for each speaker, but in any case not exceeding about thirty minutes.

I trust the arrangements being the result of agreement of all parties, Honourable Members will co-operate with the Chair in giving effect to it.

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is it understood that the House must necessarily adjourn at 5 o'clock every day, because

if my recollection serves me right, there had been occasions in the past when the House sat for longer hours for the purpose of disposing of such business.

Mr. President: I cannot say what was passing in the minds of the Honourable Members of the House, in preparing the time-table but at any rate, my impression has been that we do not sit beyond 5 P.M.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Forty minutes of our time have been taken up. Cannot we sit so many minutes after 5 P.M.

Mr. President: We may sit if the House so desires. But the time that is taken up every day is entirely in the hands of the House. If there are lesser number of questions and points of order and so on, we shall be saving time. If short notice questions are also disposed of more quickly than what we have done today, we can save time.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): This time should be cut from the Congress Party.

Mr. President: I am not concerned with the Congress, Muslim League or the Government. I am speaking for the whole House.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): He was saying that this half hour be taken from the Congress.

Mr. President: We shall see to that. If necessary, it may be done, for doing even justice between the parties. But that is a different matter.

Another aspect which I would like to point out to the Honourable Members is that sitting for longer hours does mean a lot of strain on the staff. If Honourable Members have certain points to make, they are entitled to speak them out. If they can help to relieve the staff of the trouble of overstrain of work, I shall be happy. It is not on their representation that I am saying something but the strain really becomes unbearable and I am saying this from my experience of some other House and not this House. It does really become a strain. But if necessary, we shall certainly sit, if the House agrees.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): May I make the point that sitting late also means an intolerable strain upon the front bench and the Officials of Government who have to carry on the administration of the country after the House rises. I strongly object to sitting after 5 P.M.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): I would like to submit. . .

Mr. President: Let us not take more time.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: It has been suggested that except in the case of the people speaking on behalf of parties, the time limit should be twenty minutes. I do not know how that agreement was arrived at but in the case of unattached members, twenty minutes is far too small and if you would kindly, either on your own indulgence or by not looking at the time too meticulously give the unattached members time to speak for half an hour, it would be appreciated.

Mr. President: Perhaps the Honourable Member did not follow what I said. This is what I said: "It is further understood that while spokesmen of various parties and groups may have about forty-five minutes as time-limit for speeches, the ordinary time-limit will be twenty minutes for each speaker, but in any case, not exceeding about thirty minutes."

Therefore, if any Honourable Member is making out a point which has not been made before in the House, if he is not repeating what has been said, I may say that I shall make the best possible effort to give him more time. I cannot go beyond that.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): He is an unattached Member.

Mr. President: Yes. There is another general agreement among Parties which has just come to my hands. The time apportioned is:

Congress Party—12 hours and 30 minutes, Muslim League Party—6 hours and 30 minutes, European Group—2 hours and 45 minutes, Unattached Members including Nominated non-official 2 hours and 30 minutes and Government Members 4 hours in all.

These are approximate time limits.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee: Sir, if the time allotted has been arrived at by the number in each party, the European Group which contains about ten members are given 2 hours and 45 minutes and the unattached Members who are at least 20 are given about the same time, which is rather unfair.

Mr. President: It would save time if we proceed with the business of the House now. If members will take care to see that they do not repeat what has been said by other members, the time allotted would be adequate.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): In allotting the time there should be some sense of proportion. The time allotted to the European Group should not be equal to the time allotted to the Unattached Members who number 20.

Mr. President: The time allotted is the maximum limit but it does not mean that that amount of time must necessarily be taken by each party. I shall see that other parties do save some of their time, so that the unattached members are able to get some extra time.

I have also to inform Honourable Members that on account of the continuance of the strike in the Government Press it will not be possible to get more copies of the Finance Bill printed. Honourable Members are, therefore, requested to preserve the copies of the Bill which have been placed on their tables today and to bring them to the Chamber for use during the progress of the Finance Bill.

Diwan Ohaman Lall: Sir, on behalf of my Party, the Indian National Congress as represented on the floor of this House, I rise to oppose the consideration of the Indian Finance Bill.

Sir, today we stand on the threshold of a new era. Whether we shall enter the mansion of the new age with the banners of peace flying or with the dust and noise of turmoil and the clamour of strife I cannot tell. But I can say this that during a quarter of a century of public life in this country I have never known the situation in India to assume so explosive an aspect as it has done today. No doubt we welcome the statement made by the British Prime Minister in this situation. I have known a Prime Minister or two in my time, Mr. President, and I can say quite frankly that this is the first occasion on which a British Prime Minister has spoken frankly and with realism. But it is not enough to have statements. Hope does not lie in statements. Hope lies in quick effective immediate and final action, if we are to weather the storm that hangs over us and if we are not to be found without shelter when the storm breaks.

It is, Mr. President, in this situation, tense as it is, that we have been considering the budget and let me say that this budget too marks the end of an era. It seems to me that the old order is ended not only for India but it has ended for the rest of the world. What was the old order? It was an order in which the foreign capitalist, as far as my country is concerned, was given the pick of the loot in exploiting this rich and noble land, while his Indian counterpart was left with the leavings. It was an order in which death, hunger, famine and disease stalked the land. It was an order in which the foreign capitalist earned his 90 per cent dividend while the miserable Indian worker obtained a very small modicum of the profits earned by the capitalist and lived on a starvation diet and was housed in tenements or huts which have been aptly described as "the ant-heaps of pestilence." It was an order in which my Honourable friends over there grouped themselves into a self-appointed but unlawful association for purposes of the preservation of law and order and in which association my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, was merely a tax-gatherer. It

was an order which I hope with this budget is now ended but I have no doubt in my mind that if the order does not die an unhonoured death, we shall face such chaos and revolution in this country, as will shake the very foundations of peace, prosperity and security not only in India but throughout the East. It is in this light, Mr. President, that I would like to face the financial aspects of the Budget presented by my Honourable friend and it is in this light that those aspects must be lifted from the old morass into something new, from the sphere of muddle and hand-to-mouth existence to the sphere of conscious and determined planning, purposeful planning, in the interests of the people of India, the people of India conscious of their own power and determined to achieve their own freedom.

The emphasis in regard to this Budget has been laid on what has been stated to be post-war reconstruction, a phrase which I do not like, because it is a phrase that does not tell the truth. Post-war reconstruction is valid, if it can be established that there was any construction in the previous period, either *ante-bellum* or *intra-bellum* but there was no such construction. We have actually to start from scratch. Therefore it should mean not the reconstruction of a battered old tenement unable even to support its own walls but the building of a well conceived structure with dynamic ideas and on sure and secure foundations. In short it should mean national development, and national development I want my Honourable friends, to remember, is linked with the question of national freedom. You cannot in this country have national development with my Honourable friends sitting over there, sitting upon the dying body of this nation. You must have national freedom. Let me therefore, Mr. President, look at these problems from the point of view of this reconstruction of the nation with dynamic ideas.

It will be admitted, let me say quite frankly, by those who are well versed in these matters that the Budget has done something akin to what I may call streamlining, in that it has integrated the surcharges into taxation and it has made the structure certainly simpler. It has further done two other things. It has extended the principle of relief for earned income. Instead of 1/10 of the total income subject to a maximum of Rs. 2,000, relief hereafter will be 1/5 subject to a maximum of Rs. 4,000. It has done another thing. The corporation tax has been reduced by two annas. But while these things have been done and the structure simplified, my Honourable friend has done something which to my mind, looking at the interests of India, appears to be exceedingly objectionable. He has at one stroke removed the Excess Profits Tax and the cost to the nation by that action of his is about 75 crores of rupees. It has no doubt resulted in the market soaring, and no doubt it has given a fillip to the profits of those who were in a position to pay this Excess Profits Tax. But what about those poverty stricken masses for whose benefit this money might have been utilised? What about over a million people on the railways and 2,00,000 workers in the Posts and Telegraphs and the various centralised services for whose benefit this large sum could have been utilised and for whose relief this could have been spent?

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about the peasants themselves?

Diwan Ohaman Lall: I am coming to the peasants as my Honourable friend has reminded. Do I take it that the rich were so indigent that they could not afford to part with this sum of 75 crores from this Excess Profits Tax? Already we have, as my Honourable friend has shown, a deficit of 44 crores. But that is not really the true picture. There is a sum of Rs. 26 crores, which is available to us in 1946-47 from the two War Risk Insurance funds which hereafter will not be available to us. So, when we are considering the deficit, we have to look upon it not merely as a deficit of 44 crores but a deficit of 70 crores. Add to this 70 crores this drop in the national income of 75 crores through the Excess Profits Tax being removed. I say to the Finance Member, what have you done? Here

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

is a gap, a tremendous gap that you have to fill. How are you going to fill this gap

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: By reducing the defence expenditure.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend reminds me of the defence expenditure. Does not my Honourable friend know that *pari passu* with the decrease in defence expenditure there is going to be mounting expenditure in the matter of planning which you are going to pay out to the Provinces. At the present moment you have made provision for about 85 crores for financing this planning. Is my Honourable friend going to remain at that figure? Is he not going to extend his generous hand to the Provinces? What happens to them? I do agree that there may be some slight decrease in defence expenditure; but is my Honourable friend going to wait until that decrease takes place to fill in this yawning gap or is he leaving this problem for his successor? Let me ask him now if he is not going to do it and he had instruments to his hand, why did he not utilise those instruments which were in his hand? Is it a fact that the budget should be looked at more from the point of view of the things he has not said than from the point of view of the things that have been stated on the floor of the House? One of the most important things that have not been said is this: my Honourable friend has not shown to the nation how he could fill this gap, not only by reducing the defence expenditure but by some positive action. Let me ask him whether it is not a fact that the question of death duties has been investigated by my Honourable friend's Department. Is it not a fact that a special officer was deputed to go into the matter of death duties? Is it not a fact that this question of death duties was solved by the preparation of an actual measure which the Government intended to place on the floor of this House? What has happened to that measure?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If the Honourable Member will wait two days he will have a copy of it on the table of the House.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend is bringing it in at the tail end of this session, with no intention whatever of getting the measure through this session, leaving this problem to be solved not by him but by his successor. It is not as if this idea has struck my Honourable friend just at the present moment. He knows perfectly well that it will not be available for the benefit of the nation at this stage

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If the Honourable Members on the other side will accept the Bill without further argument, we will arrange to get it through this session.

Diwan Chaman Lall: It is a most improper proposition that we should accept a Bill without having seen the Bill and without finding out if it is an acceptable measure—we do not even know what the name of the Bill is going to be—I do not know whether the Finance Member is going to give it the name that I have given to it. I ask my Honourable friend whether he is aware that out of this measure alone—I dare say the official figures are different, but the economists are agreed that the national Government when it comes into power will be able to receive the sum of nearly Rs. 300 crores a year out of these death duties. Here was a source, which we shall certainly examine with due care. I ask my Honourable friend the Finance Member whether it is not a fact that one of his predecessors made a very important observation when he said that not sufficient attention had been paid to the question of state owning and state management of industry with a view to the augmentation of central revenues. This was not merely a random shot in the dark. It was a suggestion made with the purpose of implementing it. I ask my Honourable friend whether he has considered and if he has not, why he has not considered that suggestion? Should he have any qualms, should he have any hesitation in regard to this matter? Let me declare on the floor of the House on behalf of the Indian National Congress that we are

wedded to the proposition of state ownership and state management of industry

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Socialism.

Diwan Chaman Lall: The time has gone by when my Honourable friends sitting over there can run industry for private benefit. (Interruption.) The time has gone by—and if the cap fits my Honourable friend he is welcome to it—when these resources can be handed over to the private individual when the need of the country is a dire one.

May I make a suggestion to my Honourable friend and may I ask him whether that suggestion has been considered? Is he aware that there are two very simple industries—the Food Member need not get nervous, Mr. President, I am not referring to his industries for the moment—but is my Honourable friend aware that there are two industries of a very simple character that could be nationalised and should have been by now nationalised? I refer to the match industry and I refer to the tobacco industry. Many countries in Europe for a long number of years after the last war went in for nationalisation and have been reaping a very rich harvest. Here the problem is a simple one. We draw from the tobacco excise duty something like 22 crores revenue. We draw about 6 crores from matches. But if you were to nationalise these industries, I will hazard the guess that the national revenues would gain something like 70 crores from tobacco and 30 crores from matches. That money is sorely needed for the amelioration of the condition of the peasants and kisans whom my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga represents. Why has it not been done? It has not been done because these two industries are not even Indian industries

Rao Bahadur N. Siva Raj (Nominated: Non-Official): Nationalise insurance.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Yes; my Honourable friend may rest assured that we shall actually nationalise him and insure him as well under the new scheme. The match industry is an industry which is completely under the control of a Swedish concern. The profits it makes do not even remain in this country.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir (Nominated: Non-Official): Not all; that is not correct.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend might be a shareholder and can bag some portion of its profits himself. Perfectly true. But is it or is it not a Swedish concern? Let my Honourable friend deny that. It is a Swedish concern; the combine is a Swedish combine. The tobacco industry is also practically a single monopoly of the Imperial Tobacco Company. Why has my Honourable friend not considered the nationalisation of these two industries? I suggest their nationalisation because in the future in the time that is coming immediately before us, it is necessary to husband every resource that we possess in order to put India on the path of prosperity. I concede that the step taken by my Honourable friend with reference to the high denomination currency ordinance has probably resulted in a windfall to the treasury of about 25 crores—I speak subject to correction. The Indian National Congress is determined to uproot the evil of bribery and corruption. Let my Honourable friend not run away with this fact that we are going to have a tender spot for any one, high or low. We desire to set in motion such machinery as will secure that in future there will be none of this bribery, none of this corruption but at the same time

we should find some way or means, as my Honourable friend should have done, to discover the hundreds of crores that are lying there as tax evasion money. I daresay if suitable methods were adopted a matter of about 6 to 7 hundred crores would be available for my Honourable friend—another windfall which I make a present of to my Honourable friend. But for all this it is necessary that the tax collection department must be strengthened as the first step. I notice that the appropriation for this year for the tax collection department is one crore 30 lakhs as against one crore 27 lakhs last year. What is needed is a complete overhaul of the machinery for this purpose in order that no one who is guilty of evasion of taxation, to be utilised for the benefit of the people of this country, should be capable of getting away with it.

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

Now, Sir, let me come to the main problem of planning. This budget, as I have already stated, provides for 35 crores for the Provinces.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Plus 15.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Total 50 crores. I ask my Honourable friend what was the result of the unplanned expenditure of 7 hundred to 8 hundred crores a year on behalf of Indian and Allied Governments? Is it not a fact that though it was unplanned it was an emergency expenditure, the result was the stabilisation of wages? The result was more or less the high margin of return of primary produce. The result was the disappearance of unemployment. Now, I ask my Honourable friend if this expenditure is suddenly to cease, if the tap is going to be turned off immediately, how is he going to shape the economy which he has in view? How is he going to shape the entire system of taxation, of raising loans and his financial structure if he is going to turn off the tap suddenly in this manner? I do not want him to turn off the tap in this manner. Had there been an opportunity to consider this matter on the floor of the House, I daresay he would have got a consensus of opinion that *pari passu* with the decrease of this expenditure there should be mounting expenditure on development and I want to see, Mr. President, this mounting expenditure reaching its zenith within the next two or three years until we are in a position to spend no less than a thousand crores a year on planning and thus improve the fabric of our nation.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Start from the bottom.

Diwan Chaman Lall: When you start looking at it from the bottom as my Honourable friend wants, you have to look to the worker and the peasant. I want to suggest to my Honourable friend that all these sources of revenue should be tapped, by the institution of State owned and State managed factories, the taking over of monopolies and the collection of tax evasion money and other similar steps. I would ask him whether he could not give us a charter for the masses of this country. Where is the Beveridge plan for the masses of this country? Where is your plan to civilise every village, bringing to it and its inhabitants all the security and the amenities of civilised existence? Where do I find it in the Budget, in the plans of the Government, in the conception of the future which my Honourable friends have for this country? We must make an aggressive start. We must, as I said, keep on mounting this development expenditure until it reaches the peak figure which I have mentioned.

Of course some of this expenditure for development will not be productive expenditure, from the commercial point of view. It will be spent on education and health but I must confess that in reality there is no more productive expenditure than expenditure on these beneficent Departments, because they increase the tax paying capacity of those whom they benefit, because they raise the morale of the nation.

Let me, Mr. President, at this stage say a word or two about certain fetishes that people have in regard to this concept of planning. The old fetish was to balance the budget from year to year. The new concept is not that. The new concept is balance the budget over a certain number of years and that is the new concept so universally accepted and therefore there should be no difficulty for my Honourable friend in raising all the necessary loans that he wants for the purpose of the planning that we have in view. Again it is said, it was said in the past, that the more you borrow the more you are at the mercy of the lender. That situation has completely altered. You don't have to go to the lender. The lender comes to you. That is the change that has taken place in this country and in most countries but the essential condition is necessarily that you must have a Government in which the people have confidence, not a Government of a few despots sitting there, hand picked men who are today running the Government of this country, the most colossal despotism that has ever been known in history. Let us not forget that this war has proved that for a war which was a

war of destruction it was easy enough for my Honourable friend to raise 800 crores a year in the way of loans and is it doubted, Mr. President that for purposes which are productive, which are constructive, which are going to benefit the nation there should be any difficulty in raising yearly loans to the extent of 300 to 500 crores.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: We are doing it.

Diwan Chaman Lall: All this money will supplement the revenue of the Central Government. Of this money, 50 crores that is to be handed over to the provinces will supplement the revenues of the provinces which must necessarily now take the same steps in the matter of nationalising industry and nationalising finance in their own particular areas.

Then, Mr. President, is the question linked with all this. Our resources have been mortgaged and are lying in London as a book entry. I refer to the question of the sterling balances. I want my British friends, not only the very few of them here on these benches, to realise that it is not we who exacted immediate payment but it is they who have been suggesting the partial repudiation of this loan. When the Indian National Congress 12 years ago suggested that we should go into the question of our foreign debt immediately there was a hue and cry raised because we wanted to examine whether the debt had been incurred for the purposes of India or not and it was said that there was an attempt made by the Indian National Congress to repudiate that debt. This charge came strangely from a country which having taken a loan from America repudiated, after the last war the entire loan that they had taken from America. My Honourable friend knows that a bitter controversy is raging and has been raging all over this country over this issue and I advise him to find a quick and final solution of this problem.

Sir Cowasji Jehangir: What is the problem?

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend has just awakened to the problem. The problem is the return of the sterling debt and it is a very serious problem. If my Honourable friend finds a quick solution of this problem, I am certain it will have a great psychological effect upon Indo-British relations. I have no reason to doubt that we have paid for this debt in hunger and starvation and with the blood of our people. But I am also certain that if a great leader, a generous-hearted leader, like Mahatma Gandhi were approached and all the facts placed before him, I am quite certain that he will deal with the matter in a most generous manner, but by postponing a decision and by behaving as if you were the creditors and not we, my Honourable friends are embittering the feelings in this country. Do not forget that when you were the creditors and we owed you money, you asked for guarantees and safeguards and got them. We are the creditors now five to six times over and we have not been given any guarantee or any safeguards.

It has been suggested that expropriation is one of the methods whereby a settlement could be arrived at of a portion of the sterling debt. I am quite certain that my Honourable friend's Fascist step children, the South Africans did not let my Honourable friends have credit without impounding their assets. I think it is a fact that when they wanted a similar state of affairs in South Africa, South Africa impounded British assets in that country. They were the Fascist children of my Honourable friend, but a large portion unfortunately of British assets here in India today have been liquidated. I think that man would be very bold who suggested that the Yules and the Sassoons and the Scottish jute owners and the Scottish and British tea-planters have assets in this country which are more than two hundred million sterling. As a gesture, of goodwill, why did not this Government expropriate those assets and pay the owners in sterling that is locked up in London? What was the justification for not taking this step? My Honourable friend should not forget that many shares of these concerns have been bought over by Indians.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Nobody knows.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I agree, nobody knows but it is worth while finding out, and whatever is left over should be handed over to us.

Then, Sir, I am amazed, indeed, at the irresponsible manner of this Government in dealing with the connected problem of retrenchment. Today, even before we have known what stupendous personnel would be needed when planning is stepped up and how many more men will be employed or will be necessary, blindly in the dark without any plan whatsoever my Honourable friends have started discharging men. Does not my Honourable friend realise the serious significance of this? The very basis of the budget, the very estimates of revenue the Government has made, the loan programme of the Government, all these things depend upon the maintenance and continuance of full employment. If unemployment grows with retrenchment, a fatal blow would have been struck at the national fabric, a fatal blow would have been struck at the national economy and I cannot understand why my Honourable friend is not prepared to spend a crore or two in keeping these extra hands until schemes are laid rather than by putting men on the market and creating unemployment, thereby, in the end, losing hundreds and crores of national money.

Mr. President: The House will now adjourn for Lunch and the Honourable Member may resume his speech after Lunch.

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.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Sir, this is the over all picture that I have been painting with regard to this matter. I was saying in reference to retrenchment that it must not be confused with economy. Retrenchment does not mean the same thing as economy. If I may use a very homely simile, economy means getting sixteen annas in the rupee, whereas retrenchment means getting eight annas where you should be getting sixteen annas. I ask my Honourable friend to remember that if retrenchment leads on to unemployment, the very basis of the budget which he has presented, the loan programme that he has outlined, all the taxation proposals will all be jeopardised. All these depend, as he knows full well, upon the maintenance of full employment in the country. Any danger to that means danger to the economic fabric of the country. If unemployment grows, that danger grows. I submit to my Honourable friend that in the context of world conditions, and our entry into the new era of planning that we have in view this new era will itself be jeopardised if retrenchment continues leading on to unemployment. I say to my Honourable friend, suspend retrenchment, raise the standard of life of the working classes, create a charter for the masses, remember that the past belonged to the classes and that the future belongs to the masses. The past ethics of work give way to the ethics of planned leisure, leisure enough for 98 per cent, of our population, leisure not only to cultivate their patch of land but leisure to cultivate their minds and resources enough to enable them to do so. Sir the wealth of the country lies not in rupees, annas and pies, but in the man power of the country. Do not let us be penny wise and pound foolish. A predecessor of my Honourable friend on the floor of the House paraphrased that item by relating the story of a Jewish gentleman, who in order to save candle light went to bed early with the result that he had a large family. Let us not imitate the example of that Jewish gentleman. The international sky as well as the national sky are darkening with hovering clouds. We have been treated like helots in this land, we are treated worse than helots in the British Empire. Prejudice, racial arrogance, incompetence, inefficiency unequal treatment have nearly brought our armed forces to the verge of collapse. The hand of the imperialist today is a dead hand, unfortunately it is still gripping the wheel of our destiny. I say to my Honourable friends opposite, the time has come when you should quit and quit with grace. We are ready to welcome you as the servants of the people, but no longer, can we welcome

you as the masters of this country. A stupendous revolution is now in the offing in India, indeed throughout the East. You can guide that revolution so that it may leave behind it not the story of suffering but peace and prosperity. We want leaders of world wide reputation, free leaders in a free land. The prophets of the past believed in the ethics of scarcity, the prophets of the future will believe in the ethics of plenty. Our friends over there believe in work for the few, unemployment for the many. We now have to find work for all, leisure for all, prosperity for all. Our friends believe in *laissez faire*, and the profit motive. We believe in the good of the common man. That is the new hope. You cannot give it to us. That is the new future, you cannot provide for us. That is the new idea we are looking forward to: the common man of India coming into his own. Let us both work towards that end, both nations, so that we may live in peace and friendship and let the unfriendly sword rest in its scabbard.

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): Mr. President, Sir, I listened with great interest and appreciation to the speech which has just fallen from my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall. With him, Sir, I also feel a deep consciousness of the effect of the political situation on the Finance Bill that we are now discussing. The question of the revenues of the country is after all a matter of administration and it would be unwise, indeed absurd to pretend that that administration is not vitally affected by the general political situation. I am conscious too of the enormous effect of a nationalist spirit behind the administration of the country and I hope most sincerely that that nationalist spirit will pervade the administration and actuate it fully. But, Sir, while I appreciate the effect of politics on administration and in particular upon the Honourable the Finance Member's proposals, there is a spectre at our feast which will not be denied. That spectre will not be denied whatever your politics dictate. It is the spectre of famine. We on this side are by no means happy about the situation. We are told that we are facing a shortage of some six million tons of food grains which I calculate to be something like a year's food for 40 million people. In the face of that situation I cannot feel that there is at present being shown in any side of the House a proper appreciation of the seriousness of the situation. I feel, Sir, that the matter is still being considered as academic and almost as if it was a danger to come and not a present danger. We are being treated largely still to gestures, the gesture of Government hostels being told that they must have two pieces of bread with a meal, the gesture of private gardens being ploughed up for vegetables, the possibility of the vista being ploughed up, bad though the ground may be, to grow vegetables. Now, Sir, I in no way object to gestures but I like them to be linked to reality. I like, for instance, to think that what you are doing is either going to be an outstanding example which is going to bring something definite and substantial by its example or that it is a specific saving which is going to matter that is going to result. Otherwise I feel that we are still rather playing with the subject instead of doing something really vital and really effective. I am reminded of the story of the Chinese gentleman who was taken to lunch at a quick lunch place in New York. He was rushed here and there and given a quite substantial meal, and his host said to him afterwards, "There now, was not that magnificent? You had a four-course lunch and it was all concluded in ten minutes!" The Chinese gentleman replied, "Yes, I agree, but how now shall we more profitably spend the time that we have saved?" I feel rather the same way about these gestures to which we are at present being treated. If we have a definite cut in rations all-round I am very glad that it should be so; let us meet the emergency that way. But I am still wondering what will be the result of arbitrary gestures of this sort,—two bits of bread here, and so on. And at the same time I wonder what will happen to your various vegetables grown under private auspices unless there is some methodical method of marketing their produce. But what I am really after, Sir, is less gestures and more real stuff. We are up against an emergency and, as far as I can see, that emergency is being tackled very largely by the Agriculture Secretary Sir Pheroze Kharegat and by the Food

[Mr. C. P. Lawson]

Member when he is here or, when he is ill, by the Food Secretary Mr. Sen. I cannot help feeling that this is a matter which has got to be tackled not departmentally but by Government as a whole. I have been much impressed by the Finance Member's methods of dealing with black markets by his demonetisation ordinances, and the like. Now, Sir, it would be idle to pretend that there are no black markets in food, and I would hate to put a figure on the amount of food that may be underground. I do not know where it is; it may be underground in the villages, it may be in godowns, it may be in private houses. As I said on a previous occasion, if everybody in this country were to put aside a month's food, five million tons of grain would be taken from the market. I am going to suggest to Government that they should tackle this matter as a matter of first-class emergency upon which not merely the efforts of two departments shall be focussed but every department should focus its full attention and think out a plan to meet this situation. I am quite convinced that by taking the powers which they can take they can do a lot to deal with the whole situation as it stands. I am perfectly convinced that something can be done in the way of registration of stocks just as the Finance Member forced the registration of high denomination notes. I do not quite know how it is to be done—I am not in the administration—but I feel that something can and something should be done.

And, now, Sir, I am afraid, I must come back again to my old hobby-horse of fish. I will not pretend that either I or my party are in any way satisfied with the explanations that we have received. I am going to quote to you a relevant portion of Sir Pheroze Kharegat's speech, and I apologise to him in advance for what I fear will be perhaps a little bit of rough treatment. He said:

"A great deal has been said about fish, and here I would like to place before the House the difficulties that we have encountered. I too had thought in the beginning when we started that all we had to do was to go to the sea or to the rivers and catch the fish. They were just waiting there to be caught and brought in. We approached the fishermen; they turned round on us and said, 'Where are the boats?' So we started building boats for them. Having got the boats they said, 'Where are the nets?' We asked, 'Can you make them?' They said, 'Give us the twine'. And so we went to the mills and got them the type of twine that they required and supplied them. Then they said, 'We want hooks'. So we had hooks made in the country. They were used exactly for one day and the fishermen came back and said, 'Your hooks are of no use to us'."

Now, Sir, would anybody in the world take that account to indicate dynamic energy? (Several voices: "No.") I do not need to come to this House to be told that fishermen require boats and nets and hooks. I quote it because here you have an enormous inexhaustible source of supply. If we think that we are going to get six million tons of grain from abroad we are barking up the wrong tree; we will never get it or anything like it. So, for Heaven's sake, let us use to the greatest possible advantage such sources of food as are available to us. I refuse to believe that it is impossible, if necessary, to get from abroad trawlers and folks to go out into the sea with sufficient ice and ice machinery to bring the fish in. I refuse to believe that plans cannot be produced by folks even in this country who know the fishing industry and can bring the stuff in. The tanks can be stocked, the rivers can be fished and the seas can produce an infinity of food. I would like to know whether any scheme, for instance, of technical trawler fishermen's systems from abroad has been contemplated, if there is any difficulty of producing it in this country. Sir, we must not leave this question to the academic mind of what I may call the head of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. This is not a problem for him; it is a problem for a keen dynamic business type of mind which wants to get the stuff and wants to make it available to the people. It should not be left even to Provincial Governments. This Government have got powers if they like to take them and they can see that things are done. I do most earnestly hope that this matter will be taken up

rather more dynamically than it is taken up now. We do not want gestures, we want big ideas and a big job done. Now, Sir, that deals largely with the matters that I wish to raise in respect of food. It has been debated before and so I do not want to waste too much time on it, but I raise it in this position in my speech because I feel it is one of the things which may turn the country upside down. If there is a bad famine, if forty million people in this country lose a year's food, God knows what the result may be.

And now Sir, I want to spend a very little time doing what for my Group is a most unusual thing, and that is to make a rather political utterance as it effects my community. The House is not used to hearing political utterances from this side of the House. Our reasons are of course that, to a large extent, there are problems which might be said to be hardly our business but equally it might be considered that this was due to the fact that we were not interested, or it might be thought that we preferred rather more quiet methods of negotiations, not in the public eye. Both of those suggestions would be incorrect. In the first place, we are most vitally interested and in the past twenty-five years in every step of the reforms we have combined to make those reforms a success. We have sat now together with our Indian friends in this House and in other Houses for a long time; we have made friendships that I hope will last longer perhaps than we shall. Sir, we shall go on co-operating in these reform steps; we shall combine in the next step, and we shall do all in our power to help in producing in this country what we consider to be a very important thing not merely for us, but for everybody, and that is stability. We in this Group are mainly concerned with commerce and industry and frequently we come under the lash of the other side on these grounds. Exploitation as far as I can see becomes largely a matter of colour. You may be an exploiter on the one hand or you may be a captain of industry developing the resources of the country on the other. But let me leave that point. The fact of the matter is that it is to our benefit and to everybody's benefit that there should be in this country a workable and a stable constitution, and that, Sir, is the aim that we have in mind and an end towards which we will do whatever we are permitted to do to help.

Now, Sir, in these discussions which are coming we shall play our part on that basis. We shall ask for no special concessions for ourselves as a community. We shall ask only for those forms of protection which will protect everybody without sufficient voice in the legislatures to protect themselves, or indeed those who have no voice at all. We shall ask only a fair field, and no favour, and we shall ask that there shall be no expropriation to deprive us of our livelihood in this country.

Sir, I hope most sincerely that we have seen the back now of the hatred and the bitterness that appeared in the press and on the platform at the end of the war. I hope that is a bad dream which is now behind us but I must mention it because people of my community have been attacked; people wearing European dress have been attacked for that reason alone. I cannot believe that that is the form of freedom for which this country is seeking, and I know that my friends opposite condemn it as much as I condemn it myself. But I must point to the result; the result of such happenings as have occurred cannot but make more difficult the unavoidable issues which will shortly come up for solution, issues which concern Great Britain and India. It is by that means that the atmosphere will be vitiated and indeed civil disorder on its own can do no more than put the clock back. I am hoping most sincerely that the moderate and wise utterances that have come from political leaders in respect of these disturbances will be most carefully headed and that the disorderly elements, who perhaps are seeking disorder for disorder's sake, may be kept in check by the nationalist leaders of the people themselves.

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Now, Sir, I have mentioned the possibility that it may be thought that we were working perhaps with one party, perhaps with His Majesty's Government privately, for special terms. I wish here also to lay that ghost for ever. It has been made perfectly clear by Sir Stafford Cripps that our possessions, indeed, our future in this country would not be made a constitutional prerequisite to a constitutional change. Also, Sir, it has been some times suggested that by allying ourselves with one or another party we might secure from that party certain guarantees of protection to ourselves in the future. I ask this House to acknowledge in all truth that we have never sought such alliances. We have sought stability wherever we have been represented and as long as the Government was stable and was just we have supported that type of Government. We have never asked for office and we have never asked for the loaves and fishes of office, but we have served in these legislatures, and I hope that we have served well. How long we shall go on serving is a matter for India to decide, but I hope that this House and the country will realize that our assistance is here for the asking if it is wanted.

Sir, we have sometimes been asked to interest ourselves in the partition issue in this country. We have not done so for obvious reasons, but when the time comes we shall do all we can to assist in the settlement of that issue too. I will content myself at the moment with saying this only that a solution will not lie in the complete and full achievement of the policy of any one party. It will come only by a mutual giving way on either side. Sir, that is all I am going to say about the partition issue that a complete realization will I think show us no path to solution but when the time comes, if we are able to do so, we shall do all we can to see that this issue is settled so that this country may realize a stable form of Government which is what we are out to produce if we can.

Now, Sir, as I have said before I do not know how much longer we shall be here to assist in the Legislatures of the country. We are not ashamed of the part we played in this country as traders and honest traders. We have opened up the resources of this country, we have supplied employment for the people and taxation to the State and I at any rate will never attempt to apologise for this part. We hope we shall be able to continue to serve this country in the future

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Surely you are not going to quit India?

Mr. C. P. Lawson: as we have served it in the past. Sir, we are on the brink of big events. Today the Cabinet Mission leaves for India and events are crowding upon us at a speed with which is almost frightening. We can only hope that the corner which is ahead of us will be turned successfully and it is the most vital issue that confronts us. Around that corner there is a path to complete freedom in its best sense, a freedom of compromise and a freedom of progress. There is also round that corner another path to failure and chaos. I cannot do better, Sir, than conclude my speech with the earnest hope that the leaders of this country will be given wisdom to turn that corner and to take the path which will lead them to happiness and freedom and not to chaos.

Khan Bahadur Habibur Rahman (Tirhut Division: Muhammadan): Sir, this budget which the Finance Member thinks is a socialist budget is not a poor man's budget. It will benefit only the industrialists with whom the Government want to have an alliance for trade purposes. Now when the British Government has declared the self-liquidation of their power in India, the best they want is to keep their trade interests intact and this is reflected in the budget. Sir, I do not know if the Finance Member knows or has got the means to know the views of the man in the street. But I may

tell him that the masses in general are hard hit with direct and indirect taxes. The statement at pages 65 and 66 of the Explanatory Memorandum on the budget exhibits the relief given to the income-tax payers. I would not mind if the relief given to the income-tax payer was upto the level of 18,000 or even 20,000. But when it is raised to the level of 60,000 and beyond, it is something which I cannot contemplate with happiness, especially when it is proposed to partly recoup this loss by raising the tax on betel-nuts. I may say here that this will fall mostly on the poor. The relief afforded to the poor people on kerosene oil is so small that instead of benefiting the consumers it will benefit the sellers and their agents. If, however, railway freight is reduced then this along with the reduction proposed could give some relief to the consumers. As it is in the villages, the people have to pay for one bottle of kerosene oil more often than not twice or thrice the control price. Therefore, the proposed relief on kerosene oil instead of benefiting the consumers would go to fill the pockets of the agents and the black-marketeers.

Now when the war is over, everybody had hoped that the prices on postcards and envelopes would be reduced. This would have been a welcome change and would have benefited the public in general and would have added more to the comforts of the poor especially.

Owing to a number of circumstances, there has been large migration of population and a very large number of the poor has been living away far from their families. They cannot write or hear from their families regularly because of the high price of postcards and envelopes.

Now that Rs. 93 lakhs have been sliced off from the Information Department, I hope the Government will use this saving for lightening the burden of taxes on the poor.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma (Meerut Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The budget has been discussed for a fairly long time and practically every item and every aspect of it has been debated on. Taken as a whole, it may be said to the credit of the present Finance Member that it is certainly an improvement over the pre-war budgets. It goes further than the pre-war method of static equilibrium but it falls short of that economic dynamism of social purposes necessary to meet the situation. It is not a bold and expansionist budget. Looking at the transition period, war has ended now eight or nine months back. The United Kingdom and the United States of America have done a great deal to provide employment to the demobilized soldiers, and to those people who were working in the war industries and they are meeting the situation bravely. But in India they have not only failed to meet the situation but they let more difficult problems to crop up and are facing now more critical situation. New problems are arising and Government incapable as they are do not seem to move at all. This is an alarming situation. Compare the performance of this Government with that of other countries. If honesty is necessary in the personal life of an individual it is much more necessary in matters of public administration. Therefore the honest course open to my friends on the other side is to quit the office and leave the job to those who can do better and meet the situation boldly. It is no use making pretences. They cannot do the job, they are incapable of doing it and it is no fault of theirs either. They are creatures of circumstances and hence cannot face boldly the facts as they are today. The other day my friend Sir Edward Benthall showered encomiums on his Indian colleagues. He called them loyal, courageous and complimented them for having won the war. But he failed to see what the Indian people on whose behalf they are said to have won the war thought of them. They may be loyal to you, not to us. They had had our copper but they went away to fill their pockets with gold. Do you think we can believe in them. Can anyone who has any brain think even for a moment that such men, in the history of any country, in any clime or at any stage in a nation's history,

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can meet the situation boldly. They are incapable of meeting the situation and their remaining any longer in office is a dishonesty, dishonesty to themselves and dishonesty to the country. Loyal they may be to you but they are guilty of treason to the people on whose behalf they are sitting there.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Leave it to history.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: Sir, the history has given its verdict and now the only course open to my friends, who the Honourable Member said were so loyal and courageous, the gentlemen who have won the war for him, is to quit office.

Two essentials arise for consideration. The first is the liberty of the individual. If you cannot ensure liberty for what are you here? In the life of a nation as in the life of an individual there comes a crucial moment and it is the decision at that time which makes or mars the future of either the individual or the nation. This was the time when war was declared on our behalf against the wishes of our people. Our men, our resources were called in aid to help a war which to our mind was meant for strengthening the chains of slavery. The Congress on behalf of the people of this land demanded a declaration about the aims and objects of that war. We were, frankly speaking, suspicious, as rightly we should be, of the intentions and motives of our rulers, because the only light for a mortal being is the lamp of experience. We fought the first Great War for them and sweet promises were made to us. What was the result? Jallianwala Bagh, murders, inhuman humiliations which India had never experienced in her whole history. Our children were made to crawl on their bellies in Amritsar. This was a wrong which India could not forget and no country could forget and we have not forgotten after so many years. With that experience we demanded a clear and unequivocal declaration of the aims of this war. "War was to be won" was the only answer. Instead of standing by our side, instead of playing an honourable part and adding their voice, however feeble it may be, they went straightaway to our rulers. They had had our copper and we had only copper but they wanted gold. They are now loyal people, they have won the war. This is the crux of the situation. We cannot willingly supply them the wherewithal to carry on the administration. The situation is difficult but only bold people can face it bravely. It is not a situation which the present members of Government can meet but the representatives of the people, the people who came at the call of the country, who bravely fought its battle, who gave it the stature, who brought this country to the place which she occupies today, it is they who can solve the problem. It is men with the sanction of the people, men with courage and popular support who can solve these difficult problems, not the people who change sides and weigh the copper and gold. Such men have never solved great problems in the history of the world. They will never do in the history of any nation, human nature being what it is. It is idle to think that this personnel will ever be able to do anything. They failed because they were bound to fail and they would ever fail. So the only course open to them, as I pointed out, is to quit office.

The people at a critical time react and take a stand. What did they do then? India had its own stand which was different from what the Englishman said. We would not have been a nation had we been silent. We would have had no place in history or in the world if we had remained silent after war had been declared on our behalf. We raised our voice and said to the world "What the Englishman says is not what we say. 'Our stand is different'." And for this, our friends, those loyal and courageous friends sent us to prison. They misrepresented us; they made huge false propaganda against us in foreign countries. But great as the issues were, and having strong feelings as the country had and the awakening we had, the country could not be silenced by sending a number of people to jail. Two years passed and the country rose in revolt. It was in revolt against what the

Englishman was doing on behalf of the country against its will. The country rose in revolt and our friends, instead of having wiser counsel, embarked on an era of repression. What was the result? There was a reign of terror, feast of blood and orgy of loot, raging throughout the country, and India experienced things which probably no country in the world has ever experienced. Much is talked about German atrocities. But if you go to Ballia and Azamgarh these German atrocities pale into insignificance . . .

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member come to the present administration and the Finance Bill?

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: Very well, Sir. I am referring to these things merely to point out that the only course open to these gentlemen is to leave office here because they cannot inspire confidence in the people.

Mr. President: That point is already made.

Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma: So my respectful submission is that they will not be able to inspire confidence in the people; and if they have no sanction behind them, they cannot meet the situation as it ought to be met.

Having said all this, I now come to the problem of food. As far back as 1942, there was a Food Production Conference and this conference recommended an increase in the area under food crops and fodder crops, by bringing new land, including fallow land, under cultivation, double cropping, diverting land from non-food crops to food crops and increase in the supply of water for irrigation by the improvement and extension of existing irrigation canals and the construction of additional wells, the extended use of manure and fertilisers resulting in increase in the supply of food yielded. This was in 1942. If they had the will and the courage they could have done a lot. It was known to them that Burma had gone out of their hands, and that the Bengal famine was a possibility. But they slept, they did not meet the situation; they did not take courage in their hands and they did not move. They made lame excuses as at page 12 of the report. The result was that 35 lakhs of our people died in the Bengal famine. Now, three years have passed, and the position is worse than it was before. There is a shortage of food, as my friend said, to the extent of about 6 million tons of grain. Import to that extent is an impossibility. You have to meet the situation from the resources at our command. I dare say a bold man who can inspire confidence in the people and has the courage to face the situation boldly can meet it. What is there? Such vast lands are there. In the U. P. and in Bihar and in Bengal; and even in Madras; the water level is not very deep. In U. P. I know that in the three days three people can dig a *kutchra* well and they can get irrigation for the crops. Of course you cannot have cereals in such a short time, but you can have substitute foods, you can have vegetables; you can have many other things that can reduce the quantity of cereals to half the necessary quantity for consumption; and with a systematic well organised propaganda it can be brought home to the people that it is not necessary that they should take so much of cereals; and with that propaganda and with that procurement of food, whatever is available by paying higher prices to the people who are expected to have some grain and selling it cheaper to the people, the situation can very well be met in no time. There are short term crops which can be grown in six weeks, in two months; but a bold move is required. I submit, Sir, this present Government is incapable of moving boldly and quickly. I therefore submit the only course open to them is to quit office; this is the only straight and honest course and men who have the courage and who have the confidence of the people and who have stood beside the nation—they only should take up the job and do the needful. Sir, I have done.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Mr. President, I feel that speaking on a day like this I labour under two serious handicaps. The first is that I am a nominated member and the longer one goes on this House, the more one feels what a terrible handicap that is. Sir, a nominated member is neither good fish nor fowl. If he supports Government and then pleads, as he often can, that he

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has done so because government were right or that His Majesty's Government must be carried on, then, he is made the object of ridicule both by Honourable friends opposite and in the press. If, on the other hand, he opposes Government and votes with the opposition, then in some quarters it is felt that he is not playing the game. After all he does owe a duty to his electorate or in this case to his nominators. That is my position. That is my first great handicap and my second great handicap, which, I think, is an even greater handicap is that I should have to represent here a religious minority, that I should have to speak in the name of 7 millions, or according to our computation 8 millions of people and be the only one here to speak for and watch the interests of those 7 or 8 millions of people spread all over India.

Sir, I have always refrained, as you may have noticed, from asking questions on anything which gives a communal tinge or asking questions about the interests of my own community in the public services of the land, but I feel that on an occasion like this it is up to me to state what their view point is. I do not think I should waste any time in trying to persuade you to believe whether I really represent the Indian Christian Community. I fully believe that I am voicing the majority opinion of my own community. I claim that I am an average member of my community, one of them, and thinking alike with the thinking part of my community, I feel that today we stand on the threshold of great events and I believe it would be of some use if I ask for your indulgence to give to the House and to you, Sir, a full expression of our point of view, of our hopes and fears in the new India which we hope is beginning. The question of minorities in this country or in any other country is one of the thorniest of problems which face Governments. It is also a position of the greatest difficulty and of serious handicap to minority communities themselves. In the very first place, I would like to say this, that so far as my community are concerned, humble or poor or weak or scattered though they may be, we have not the smallest desire to stand in the way of the progress of our nation. We welcome that progress and we are entirely at one with them and we have always been at one with them. Now, if I say anything about our own viewpoint, it is, as I say, unfortunately the viewpoint of a minority labelled under a religious label, a label which I very much deplore and which the majority of my community would also deplore in the field of politics and in matters of national importance. I am not referring at all to my Muslim brethren because they claim that they are a nation and therefore not a minority. Sir, I am a believer in self-determination. If a particular community wishes to be a separate nation, it is up to them and whatever I say does not apply to them in the least, I only wish to state our own position. As I have already stated, our position is that we wish to march with our country. We want to be and we have always felt that we are completely identified with the rest of the country. We ask for no safeguards, we ask for no special reservations either in education or in any other sphere of public life.

Now I come to the two or three main problems which face every community in this country. The first question is the representation of a minority on the new legislatures which are coming into being and which I trust will come into being very soon. We stand and we have always stood for joint electorates. We do not desire either nominations or reservations. We do not want that we should be given so many seats as Indian Christians. Nobody can realise more than I can during the several years that I have been here, the futility of trying to protect the interests of any community, if you separate them from the body politic. If one or two or even ten members were here, representing the interests of my community, what good would that do as compared to the good they would receive if they had the good will of the nation as a whole. That is the position which we take, that is the position which we have always taken and even now I hope that such position would be taken up in a united India namely that a man would be elected by a joint electorate. If it is not practicable, if that

is pure idealism as most people here would say, then I would say let us make a beginning in that direction. Let us have reservation of seats for particular interests in elections to be held by joint electorates. May I ask my friends who will probably soon be here, whether they are prepared to begin with a panel which may be elected by the particular community concerned which seeks representation and from that panel the joint electorates should elect their representatives. That surely is not very much to ask but I hope the day will soon come when none of these reservations and none of these panels will be necessary.

Next I come to the question of representation in the services. So far as my community is concerned I wish to say most emphatically that we wish to stand on merit and merit alone as the test for entry into the public services of the country. I have urged it before and I urge it again here that the public services of this country should be selected from the best material available. As regards the Civil Service which may not be very highly thought of these days, I feel that even for the Civil Service when there was open competition we got far better men than we do now. I mean no disparagement to the men already here but that is the general opinion. As one who has spent all his life in education, I feel that there should always be a fair field and no favour. You may prescribe whatever test you like. You may add a number of marks for the assessment of character if you can so assess character. You may add marks for personality, if you can assess personality in a short interview. But let me say that so far as the public services of the country are concerned, they should be recruited as a result of open competition. That is what we ask. I have said before and I say again that very often appointments are given either because of a man's colour or because he belongs to a religious community and in proportion to the nuisance value of his religious community. We would like to have no reservation. We realise under what handicaps the minorities have to work. Take all the high offices of the State. Take the Municipal Chairmanship in Delhi which is nearest from the place. The Senior Vice-President and the Junior Vice-President hold office for three years and they have to be alternately a Hindu and a Muslim and nobody else can have a look in. In the same way take the high offices of this land. We have to admit that there is always a member of the majority community elected or appointed. I do not say that they are not able or they are not abler than members of minority communities like mine but it is a sad thing that a man should know that while being a national of a country the greatest offices in the land are denied to him because he does not belong to a particular faith. We may have a high or a low opinion of a person but the fact remains that the high offices in the land are closed to all except members of the majority communities. I am making no grievance of this. These are some of the handicaps which minorities have to suffer from, but I hope that a day will dawn when a man will be appointed to an office or elected to a legislature, without any regard to his religious denomination, or to the religion he professes. To have any other test in the field of politics or in the field of public services is entirely wrong, entirely incorrect and if that mentality does not disappear, minorities will always be a thorn in the side of the Government of the day and the nation.

Now, I ask for no safeguards. I believe a safeguard written down in a constitution is not worth the paper on which it is written down. The only safeguards which minorities can have, the only safeguards which are worth having are the good will, the trust and the confidence of the nation, and though I fully realise the truth of this I am going to speak on one point, in talking of safeguards, I wish to present to you a serious fear which is in the minds of some members of my community. That is, Sir, their fear that a time may come when their religious liberty, and by that I mean the liberty to profess their religion and to worship in the way that religion enjoins them to do, may become difficult. That is, Sir, what I should like to put to you, as one of our greatest fears and we hope that the nation will rise, and that those who will shortly be

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in power will rise to that height to ensure that no man in this country shall suffer or be prevented from exercising his religion in the way he has learnt to do and for performing the observances and rites and sacraments of his religion in the manner in which he has been taught and has been brought up. Sir, we have heard with great grief in some places of the burning of Churches. One in Calcutta, another of the burning of the Salvation Army home in Bombay. Not for a moment, do I ascribe these tragedies, these most unhappy things to any thinking man of any other majority community. Do I, Sir, ascribe it for a single moment to leaders of public opinion who have already condemned such things. But such tragic events which mob violence produces, create a sense of fear in the minds of minorities. These outrages which I referred to have been condemned by the President of the Indian National Congress, all honour to him. They have been condemned by Muslim leaders, all honour to them, but I would have liked, my people would have liked a wider condemnation. I would have very much liked to have seen a condemnation from the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition in the matter of the burning of the Church at Calcutta. It would have carried much greater force because he is an eminent and a leading citizen of Calcutta. Do I blame my Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali for these things. Not at all. Nobody has ever suspected him of any kind of any tinge of communal feeling. But I should have liked a public statement from him declaring that he emphatically condemned these acts. This is the only safeguard which we very much desire. I have tried to make the position of my community clear on important matters, in the matter of election to legislatures, in the matter of public service, in the matter of religious safeguards. It might be said that I have probably changed or that my community now realising who is going to get into power have begun to express views quite different or that we have altered overnight. At the risk of a personal reference I should like to read a few lines which appeared in a leading article dated so far back as 28th December 1928 in the *Hindu* of Madras. The *Hindu* was commenting on my presidential address which I delivered at the all-India Conference of Indian Christians held at Madras, the day before. This is what the *Hindu* says:

"It is only fair to say that while defending co-operation with the Commission, (that is the Simon Commission,) Mr. Chatterjee has emphatically endorsed and supported the wise and patriotic attitude of his Federation in setting himself against communal electorates and nominations. Mr. Chatterjee strikes the right note when he says, 'we fully realise that till such a time as religion or what goes by the name of religion continues to dominate Indian politics, the Indian Christians have little chance of securing any adequate representation through joint electorates either on the legislature or local bodies'. But in all humility we are prepared to face this handicap for a time. So far as our particular community is concerned, in response to a higher duty to the nation as a whole and in the full hope that if we are called upon to make a sacrifice it will not be in vain."

Now, Sir, when the Simon Commission came here, a number of important organisations and communities refused to co-operate with the commission. Sir, in our politics we are what are called responsivists, that is we believe in responsive co-operation. I was then a Member of this Assembly and I took a small delegation to the Simon Commission, to meet Sir John Simon and his colleagues. There again I want to show what our demands were, not in any words of mine but through the columns of the *Hindustan Times*. The *Hindustan Times* can never be suspected of any special partiality to myself. This is what the *Hindustan Times* wrote in a leading article on 29th November 1928 under the caption, "A study in contrasts". They said:

"A delightful study in contrasts is presented by the memorandum presented by the Anglo-Indian and Indian Christian communities to the Joint Free conference. . . . The Indian Christian memorandum is characterised by a breadth of vision, a nobility of outlook which deserves the unstinted praise of all patriotic Indians. It is a pleasure to see such an exhibition of moderation on the part of a minority community when most minorities are setting up such a plaintive howl for communal privileges and perquisites. The Indian Christians have adopted a truly patriotic attitude, and have said that whatever disabilities such a step may impose on them, they are quite prepared to scrap communal electorates and

the pernicious principle of nomination. By their courageous stand on these two points, the Indian Christians have set a conspicuous example of self-sacrificing patriotism which has evoked a mead of praise from even Sir John Simon."

Now, Sir, I have tried to put before the House, before you and before my like one's own trumpet. My only object was to show that the opinions which I save today expressed were held by my community and by myself as their only representative in this Assembly so far back as 1928.

Now, Sir, I have tried to put before the House before you and before my Honourable friends opposite the position which my community desires to stand by. As I said earlier, we all believe in responsive co-operation, and I give him the fullest assurance that not only our co-operation, but also our steadfast loyalty and our best services are at the command of our nation, at the command of any Government which will be by law and constitution established in this country.

Finally, Sir, before I sit down, I should just like to say one word about the Finance Bill itself. What I desire to say refers to what I just now said namely that we believe in responsive co-operation. I believe that this is the highest ideal which any man or any community can adopt in political, national or even in religious matters, in other words that we should be prepared to co-operate with all men of good will. Wherever and whenever there is good will forthcoming we should not turn it down merely because we are sore over the past or because the past has left us an unhappy legacy. I plead, Sir, today not that my pleading has any great value. I am fully aware of my humble station in this House and in outside life, I do not presume to advise my Honourable friends opposite. Far be it from me to do that. But I would submit that we have a Finance Bill here on this occasion which to my mind is a very good improvement, in fact a transformation over former Finance Bills that I have seen here. Here is a Finance Member, I have got nothing to gain from him, but I do feel this that we have a Finance Member here who has not grown rich at the expense of India, he has not been here long enough to be called a sun dried bureaucrat. He has been here for a very short time. We also probably should not forget that his predecessor was getting Rs. 6,666-6-6 and the present Finance Member is getting Rs. 5,000 a month. We therefore cannot accuse him of wanting to make money out of India. He has never asked for dearness allowance, as far as I know. He pays income-tax as an honest citizen. I feel that when he comes to us extending his right hand of friendship, since he has been responsive to our criticism of his Bill and has done his utmost to bring it up to what popular opinion desires, since he has in all these matters taken popular element in the House into his confidence and has done his best, I feel, Sir, that it would be a sad thing if the Finance Bill were to be thrown out. It may be said by my Honourable friends opposite that it has become a custom for the last few years. I shall refer them to Tennyson and say that they should realise that one good custom corrupts the world. We have now entered into a new order of things let us change this custom on the threshold of new things.

An Honourable Member: From next year.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I think it should be this year. There is no time so good as the present and I think it would be fair and graceful that we should pass this Finance Bill because I believe it has been framed in the best interests of the largest number of people of this country, and that it is an honest effort on the part of my Honourable friend to solve the financial problems of India. I therefore support the Bill.

Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan (Bakarganj cum Faridpur: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President: I am no financier dabbling in high finance nor an industrialist interested in import and export quotas nor even an abstract economist, who can with incisive insight analyse and expose the implications of the Finance Bill and its effect on the economy of the country. I am a layman, a man in the street, and as such the outlook I can bring to bear on the financial proposals for the ensuing year are those of the average citizen, a very poor citizen, and how he reacts to them.

[Hajee Chowdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan]

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan).]

Sir, a few days ago, over the Income-tax Bill, there was an exchange of bouquets as between the Honourable the Finance Member and a front bench Member of the Opposition. The latter was complimenting the other on his wisdom and foresight in giving a grant of 25 per cent. (half from the Central Government and the other half from the Provincial Government) to the encouragement of building activities. Though this concession was meant according to the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member "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" a construction was brought to bear upon the proposal which would not enthuse very much the poorer classes for whose benefit the concession was intended. It was thought that the grant would encourage 'enterprising capital' to become more enterprising. Such a prospect is not very reassuring for the poor man, who knows too well that enterprising capital becomes very enterprising only where the returns involved are what it considers 'adequate' and profitable. I would therefore warn the Honourable the Finance Member that if this tendency is not checked the purpose of the grant which he has proposed would be defeated and the poorer classes would be left as helpless as they were.

Sir, I hail from a rural constituency of Bengal and as such my primary concern is the economic condition, welfare and amenities of the villager or the peasant. "India" the Honourable the Finance Member has said in the opening paragraphs of his budget speech "is still confronted with 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." Yes, India's poverty is the keystone of the arch of misery under the shadow of which we live and breed. Has the Honourable Member's tax proposals done anything to alleviate the poor man's misery, though I know no Finance Member can wield the magic wand and eliminate poverty overnight. Looked at from this point of view I must express my keen disappointment. The villager's primary concern are his food, his clothes and a few other necessities like kerosene, cheap postcard, salt and last but not least, betel nut, the poor man's luxury. In regard to every one of these items his condition is as pathetic and unrelieved as it has always been. His food and clothes are daily problem, not so much due to lack of purchasing power as due to their unavailability. His postcard still costs him as much as before, though this House has been clamouring for its reduction for near two decades. His kerosene is as scarce as it has been during the war and its price has had an inconsiderable reduction, salt stands where it has always been and his betel nut, the least considerable luxury, is subject to an excise duty. Where, I ask, has the poor man had any consideration in the Honourable Member's Finance Bill? The higher income levels have had their relief in income-tax and in other ways but the poor man is the neglected and unconsidered under-dog that he has always been.

Let me now, Sir, turn to the subject, 'Food', which engrosses now all our attention to the exclusion of anything else. From all that we have heard from His Excellency the Viceroy, from all that is said by international statesmen and the press in and outside this country and from our daily experience too we understand that a scarcity and famine of unprecedented magnitude is staring the country in the face, before which the Bengal famine of 1942 would appear as mere picnic. One of the causes attributed, at any rate, to Indian famine, is the growth of population and the inadequate food-growing resources of the country. But may I ask the powers that be whether population has grown only in India and in no other part of the world? Has not Russia grown in population all these years (though of course there has been depletion due to war) and if so, how is that despite all the ravages and destruction of war she has an exportable surplus of foodgrains, in regard to which the other day we

requested the Government to make representations to His Majesty's Government, so that India might get at least a moiety of it. Ours has been a sad tale of neglect, despite all the propaganda that has been made in regard to Grow More Food and the committees and conferences that have been held. As in politics so in every other sphere of this Government's administration the words "TOO LATE" are writ large on its activities. I only pray that the frantic last moment efforts that are being made to obtain foodgrains from abroad will bear fruition and the threatened disaster will yet be averted. But in the meantime Government's long term plans for the avoidance of similar catastrophies should be prosecuted with feverish vigour, for there is bound to be a continuously growing population in the country as in any other country and every time scarcity or famine is threatened to plead the growth of population as being the cause or to attribute it to the vagaries of the rains would betray a bankruptcy of foresight and wisdom and apathy towards the interest of the people on the part of the Government which would in time create a deluge that would sweep them root and branch. Cultivable land which is lying waste at present is not lacking in the country. Man power is not short in a country subject to chronic unemployment among the rural population. As to co-operation from the public on no other question has there been such absolute, unconditional and unanimous support from among all parties as on this question of food. Granting the honest will, an earnest drive, an uncorrupt and incorruptible administration of measures designed in this regard together with the unreserved and wholehearted co-operation that all parties are prepared to extend, I see no reason why India could not tide over the crisis with confidence.

Sir, closely connected with the problem of food is nutrition and health and India is the country most woefully deficient and neglected in either respects. It required a war to ginger up the authorities to appoint a Health Survey Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhore, to invite experts from abroad and to produce a report suggesting measures for tackling a problem, in attention to which all these years has been eating into the vitals of the nation. The Bhore Committee report is an excellent report but however good a report might be its utility and success depend upon the working of it. It is to be earnestly hoped that both the Central and Provincial Governments will implement the proposals with vigour and see that nothing stands in the way of the early fruition of the results expected out of them.

Next only in importance to the problem of food is the cloth famine and in this matter, I believe, there is no part of the country which can be called a surplus area and another deficit area, though of course the scarcity varies in degree from place to place. My part of the country is perhaps the most afflicted in this matter and has been so for a very long time without even the proverbial silver lining to the cloud. I am aware that the grim spectre of the impending food famine has overshadowed this problem for the present but it is none the less urgent. In our helpless state in regard to food I learn that some of the countries from which we have to import foodgrains stipulate in return an export of cloth from this country at a time when the country can least afford to part with even a yard of cloth. Hunger added to nakedness is the cruellest fate that can befall a country. I hope Government is sparing no endeavour to increase the production of cloth by all means possible, whether through mill's or hand-looms and also are trying to import as much cloth as possible at least to tide over the present crisis. For long term plans in this connection import of capital machinery, and replacement of over-worked and aged machinery in the country are the primary needs and I hope Government is giving first priority to this matter.

Talking of industrial development, Sir, I would like to bring to the earnest consideration of Government one submission. As the House is aware many industries have developed in this country during the stress of war and lack of

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imports. There is a tremendous drive in England for the export of consumer goods to other countries, particularly to India and, in fact, export is a matter of life and death to the United Kingdom. In any import programme of this country care should be taken to see that only such articles are imported as would not prove deleterious to the interests of the nascent indigenous industries. The first duty of the Government should be the preservation, consolidation and stabilisation of those industries which are useful as much in peace as they were in war. Even in regard to the import of other consumer goods the country's long term industrial expansion programme must be kept in view and wherever possible import of capital goods should have priority and every effort should be made to see to the installation of capital machinery for the manufacture of consumer goods in India to make the country self-sufficient as early as possible, at least in regard to such articles as are necessary for the population's normal existence. This war has taught India, if anything, how helpless she is in regard to some of the essentials of human existence if imports from outside countries were cut off. Such a situation should not be allowed to occur on any future occasion and the country's preparation towards self-sufficiency should begin in right earnest immediately.

So far I have talked about subjects of all-India importance but before concluding let me touch on some of the problems peculiar to my own community. First in importance is of course the adequate representation of Muslims in the services. This, some Honourable Members may say, is a hardy annual. But it is bound to be a hardy annual until such time as the community is satisfied that they have had their legitimate and adequate share in the services of the country. The other day on the cut motion moved by my Party the Honourable the Home Member acknowledged that if he were a member of my community he would certainly feel dissatisfied with the rate of progress achieved so far in securing the proper representation of Muslims in the services. He therefore assured the House that he meant business this time and that he was trying to evolve a system of running check to see that the representation of minorities in the services does not suffer for avoidable or untenable reasons. I hope he would be able to announce his plan to the House before this session concludes, although at the time he was not sure that he would be in a position to do so. But the members of my party would feel reassured before they return to their homes that something worthwhile has been done by them during this session of the Assembly.

In this connection may I make bold to voice the grievance of my province, I mean the Muslims of Bengal. It is said to reflect that the Bengal Muslim's case has always gone by default in the services of the Central Government for what reason I cannot imagine. I do not know whether it is because Bengal is a far cry from Delhi or because she is less clamant than others. Bengal was the first to come into contact with English education, she was the first to have English colleges, she was the pioneer in all the services of the Government and in fact she has been the pioneer in all the forward movements of this country. Her Muslim boys are not whit inferior in education, aptitudes, attainments and skill to their brethren in any other province. But despite all his tradition, his history and attainments he seems to be the 'Harijan' in the Central Government service. Among the Muslim Executive Councillors at the Centre my friend the Honourable Sir Muhammad Azizul Huque is the first Bengalee Muslim to hold the post and perhaps he is there because Government could not get a Muslim nearer home. I am sure my Muslim friends from other provinces will support me in my plea on behalf of the Bengalee Muslim. It is a claim based on justice, and equity and well deserving of recognition at the hands of Government by virtue of our young men's education, intelligence and ability in all walks of life.

Another hardy annual, Sir, which is peculiarly the concern of my community is the Haj pilgrimage. This has been the subject of a full length speech by the Deputy Leader of my party last year and several questions both last year and

this year. I understand that the number of pilgrims this time is going to be the largest for several years, perhaps because peace conditions have come and there is a little superfluous money available in the country. I do not wait to talk at length on this subject. Government is not unaware of the difficulties and grievances of the pilgrims. I earnestly hope that this year the Government will do their utmost to see that every facility in regard to shipping accommodation, embarkation, exchange and other conveniences are secured to them with foresight and sympathy. In addition I strongly urge that Haj Pilgrims should now be enabled to embark from the port of Calcutta.

This year, 1946, is said to be a momentous year which will be full of outstanding and epoch-making events. The deliberations of this House are carried on under the shadow of the Cabinet Mission that is shortly visiting India to settle, we hope, finally the problems that mean life and death to the millions of this country. It is not for me to express opinions on the great problems that are going to be discussed and solved. It is for my leader to give us the guidance and the lead. All that I can do as a humble follower is to pray that in the eventful weeks of discussion, negotiation and decisions that are to follow justice, wisdom, sagacity and statesmanship will inspire the deliberations conducted and the decisions arrived at.

Sri Bhagirathi Mahapatra (Outtack cum Puri: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, in connection with the proposals made in course of the budgetary provisions of the Central Government for the year 1946-47 I shall, with your indulgence and that of the House for this my first attempt to speak out, make the following observations:—

Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member refers to the transformation of International and domestic scenes through the utter destruction of the Fascist forces in the course of the last year—1945—after a protracted and worldwide conflagration of six long years. None would deny the change for better in other countries which are favoured with their own Governments and specially in Britain, where the end of the war witnessed the fall of the Churchillian Government at the first crush of the new thought-currents and the establishment of a Labour Government. But what is the change for better here? Is there any transformation in the domestic scene here? If any, the change is for worse and far worse than what it was when the war was on. True that during the war years, millions in our country knew only miseries, hunger and destitution, quite apart from the millions that met their ends through famine—man-made famine of 1943—and pestilences caused by the war and apart from those hundreds and thousands of Indians who gallantly sacrificed their lives in various theatres of war in the Near, Middle and Far East and on the Italian and German soils with no other results than prolongation of the slavery of India and her millions had to go through innumerable sufferings and hardships to no purpose. In spite of all fond hopes the termination of the war has not brought India her freedom so solemnly promised by the powers that still want to hold on. Other countries of the world which have been more or less affected by the war have settled down to occupy themselves in reconstruction and recuperation. They had neither to suffer from the pangs of hunger when the war was on nor when the war was over because they have their own national and responsible governments. But here in India after the war was over a famine hundred fold intense and acute, in comparison to that of 1943, stares us. Sir, this is the most burning problem that absorbs a common man's thought—this is the most vital problem—the food problem—which we will have to face with all its grimness and rigor.

Sir, let me briefly touch the various causes of food shortage—famine euphemistically and administratively called. The increase of our population at rapid strides has been regarded as the first of all other causes. Sir, true it is that the population of India has increased by 32 per cent. in half a century. But in Britain specially during the same period the increase is by 54 per cent, and in other countries generally the increase of population is far greater than that of

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India. Britain could check the soaring of prices of commodities and of food-stuff and the increase was only 25 per cent. whereas in India the increase of prices of necessary commodities was 3 to 4 hundred per cent. So there is no ground to infer that the increase in prices is due to increase in population. Experts like Kale, Mitchell and others hold that "there is every reason to believe that by making full use of her resources India could support a far larger population than at present".

Sir, India is still an agricultural country despite all tall talks of industrialisation and have got immense possibilities in the direction of expansion of agricultural field by well recognised methods of cultivation. But in the words of the Woodhead Commission:

"These can be developed only by the efforts of human beings—by the Government and the people of India."

"A great responsibility rests on the Governments and the Government servants of all grades in organising and stimulating the work of nation building. The duties of modern Government extend far beyond the maintenance of law and order; they include within their compass social and economic development in all its aspects."

But, Sir, to take into account what really happens, one must say that the much advertised Grow More Food Campaign has been carried on as a half-hearted and face-saving measure in which, in the words of the Woodhead Commission, "the results achieved by the Grow More Food Campaign during 1942-43 and 1943-44 have not been spectacular." A campaign for Grow More Food had been adopted by all other countries at the very start of the war, but in India it was started after the war was on for three years. The reason for all this is not far to seek and that is nothing but the stern fact that India is governed by an irresponsible, impersonal and consequently heartless and inefficient bureaucratic system, both in the Central and Provincial administration.

Sir, so far as the campaign for Grow More Food is concerned, there are some essential matters to deserve notice. The present land system should be revised and improved and the agricultural labour is to be encouraged to pronably devote their whole attention and energy to large scale production of foodgrains and foodcrops. The producer should always get the remunerative price for his produce. Material resources, say availability of land and of skilled agricultural labour are there, the State must take proper and adequate steps and effective measures in time to give them facilities and in no time India can be made self-sufficient in her food supply. But at present the State is apathetic in making plans and still more halting and ineffective in carrying them out. The people have no confidence either in their plans or in the method the State suggests. Thus a government enjoying the confidence of the people can only stimulate the process.

Next comes the baffling question of irrigation, manuring and availability of agricultural tools and implements. Irrigation is the most important part of the plan. Sir, if I refer to my own province which is widely known to be a place of chronic flood and famine, I can make bold to say that the problem of irrigation and consequent control of flood against annual damages to crops through inundation have not received the attention that it deserves either of the Central or of the Provincial Government. Lands covered by sand deposited on them through annual floods have been paying rents although they have been rendered unproductive for years. In this there is no uniform policy. I mean an All-India policy. Thousands of acres of land bordering the rivers of the "Mahanadi", "Bramhani" and "Baitarani" have become sandy and unproductive due to heavy floods year after year, but no effective remedy in the direction of controlling the floods and utilising the water in well-planned projects of irrigation has been adopted, though flood expert committees have been appointed by the Government of India since 1927. This is by way of illustration. It is well known that every province suffers from this havoc of constant

and annual flood and overflow of water and droughts and consequent scarcity of water causing damage to agriculture and to any regular yield of crops. For this up till now nothing substantial has been done on an All-India basis.

The necessity of exporting foodgrains outside India, which had to be resorted to during the war years under the specious plea of provision of foodgrains to Far East and Middle East, does not now exist and it is now obligatory upon the Government to see that all-out sincere efforts are made to stop export of foodgrains from India for years to come. But it is futile to believe that this will be complied with unless the Government at the Centre changes its colour. Even before the war India was not self-sufficient in her requirements of foodgrains which had therefore to be imported to a small extent. During the war years there were shipping difficulties. Secondly the loss of imports from Burma caused by Japanese occupation of Burma had been also regarded as a direct cause of the Bengal famine and general food shortage. But these difficulties are now non-existent. To meet the present requirements of foodgrains for the Indian people, the Government have to seriously move for sufficient import of foodgrains from other countries. Requirements of foodgrains for the increase in defence services and of the influx of population on that score, which still continues, are also to be taken into account. Normally, India, should import one and a half million tons of foodgrains net every year in the terms of the Report of the Gregory Commission. According to present calculation of experts, the deficit of foodgrains in India stands to be near about two million tons. Therefore it is now imperative upon the Government to discontinue export and to facilitate imports of foodgrains.

Sir, here I may incidentally raise the question of national shipping industry. The absence of a national mercantile marine has also been felt during the Bengal famine of 1943, so fresh in our memory. The lack of proper and prompt shipping arrangements was then used to be regarded as a cause of delay in affording facilities for transportation and importation of foodgrains from abroad. Had India possessed a mercantile marine, Government of India could have easily stood up against a corporation like the U. K. C. C. which, supported by British vested interests, had monopolised the normal channels of trade usually controlled by Indians themselves. In connection with this important industry of shipbuilding, the Government of India, under instructions from "Home" made a definite declaration before the Council of State in April 1941 that they had no intention of encouraging shipbuilding industry even as a part of the war efforts. We have seen during the war years that America could build four ships a day, dominions of Australia and Canada developed their shipbuilding industries, but we were not encouraged by the powers that rule our destiny to build even one ship during these many years of war. The underlying reason is the helplessness of the Government of India which is always dominated by the Home Government. The then Commerce Member to the Government of India, Mr. N. R. Sircar said in this connection:

"One cannot help feeling that had adequate steps been taken to promote the development of an Indian mercantile marine and an Indian Navy our country would have been in a position to play a larger and more effective part in overcoming Axis aggression. . . ."

I hope the lessons of this war will not be lost upon us and that every effort will be made to help to develop Indian shipping and shipbuilding industry. One can very well conclude from this that the Government itself is utterly helpless and anti-national in character and is bound by the dictation of the Home Government anxious to safeguard the British vested interests in India.

Sir, due to corrupt and inefficient administration, the last world war of 1939-45 has been, so far as India is concerned the cause of enriching the rich and impoverishing the poor. Against one thousand and one ordinances and rules under the Defence of India Act, black-marketing and profiteering are openly indulged in and the present Government are not only incompetent and inefficient to check the anti-social activities but betray stolid indifference in dealing with their own men held to be widely participating in all such activities as bribery

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and corruption and thereby encouraging all anti-social elements in their nefarious methods. Controls and procurements are not effective. They lead to profiteering and all sorts of corruption and they help only those who have got enough and trouble those who do not have anything. The system of control that now prevails in so far as foodgrains are concerned can never succeed unless the popular co-operation is secured and unless the Government remain alert to check black methods aided and encouraged by the officials concerned and unless the outlook of the Government changes and the Government becomes a responsible government instead of a government not enjoying the confidence of the people at large.

The last but not the least important of the causes that have brought about this famine condition and a general food shortage in our country is the indiscriminate expansion of currency and the consequent inflation. The currency circulated rose abnormally. The figures show an increase of 1,000 crores in quantity between the 1st September 1939 and September 1945. It was 170 crores in September 1939 and it rose to 1,151 crores in September 1945. This produced its natural economic effect on the prices of the commodities and specially led to the high prices and unavailability of food stuffs.

Pethic Lawrence, the present Secretary of State for India, has opined in the course of a parliamentary debate "The main cause of the increase in price ~~and~~ inflation and for that inflation the Government of India and nobody else could be held responsible." The money increased in quantity and the volume of goods remains stationary thus leading to the fall in the value of the money and an abnormal rise in the prices of materials. Money became cheap and goods are dear. There is therefore a necessity for adopting methods for contraction of currency in such a way as will not harm the production. The steps may be gradual but needs to be taken. There is certainly no move on the part of the present Government in that direction.

Sir, with regard to the next important need of the people, let us briefly examine the Government's policy. During the first few years of the war there was rise in production of cloth by 20 per cent. The annual output before the war was 4,269 million yards and in the year 1941-42 the output went up to 4,493 million yards. But the civilian and military needs also increased abnormally. The stocks that had accumulated with Indian mills in pre-war days met the preliminary and immediate demands, but when the war continued, the cloth shortage came into existence towards the end of 1942 and onwards up till now.

In spite of bringing into being the Cotton Textile Advisory panel and other allied committees and introduction of "standard cloth" and rationing system, the Indian mills could not meet the demands of increasing population caused by the influx of large contingents of military personnel from abroad here and the same increase has been continuing up till now and consequently there is a terrible cloth shortage. At the time of the Bengal famine millions of semi-starved beggars roamed about in the open streets of Calcutta either semi-clothed or completely naked. In this matter also the present administration has miserably failed.

Sir, turning our attention to the direction of industries we find that India has not been made to take advantage of the war time exigencies, which other interested countries have been able to take. It is a fact that industries have been neglected in India for many generations. In the United Kingdom the annual *per capita* income from industries is about 600 out of the total *per capita* annual income of about 1,000, in the United States the corresponding figures are Rs. 830 out of Rs. 1,187. But here the income is only Rs. 65. The reason is not far to seek and it is this: that the Government of the country have never tried to encourage indigenous industries. During the war years a number of industrial missions from England and America visited India. The report of the Roger Mission was not shown to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. The Grady Mission from America demonstrated more frankness in their

dealings with business people of the country but their report still remains unpublished.

But what the investigation carried on by these missions led to? So far as India is concerned, with all her natural resources, unlimited man-power, she remained where she was, simply due to her political dependency, while all the self-governing countries and dominions made incredible progress in their industries through the joint efforts of their governments and peoples. The Indian industrialists were helpless, they had high hopes of expansion of Indian industries during war, but their hopes were shattered and they were convinced that only a national government will be able to help them and help industries of all types—small or heavy—to thrive. India, the ancient land of civilisation, with all her natural wealth, men and material can restore to her large population of 400 millions a decent life above want, if resources of modern scientific methods are utilised in all departments, health, agriculture, industry and communications and that is not possible without a real national government and without wresting of real and effective political power from our foreign masters.

Sir, side by side with this grim spectre of starvation and nakedness, this want of food and cloth—the two barest necessities of life, there is the appalling darkness of illiteracy. One, in every three villages, has got a primary school and in every 100 square miles there is a middle school. In very few selected areas—e.g., some municipal or contiguous areas—one finds compulsory elementary education. Ten persons at the most in every hundred can read and write. This is the boon of over 150 years of British rule. So far as collegiate and higher education go, that has made the recipients forget the link with their own culture and genius and has made them so many blotting-sheets of western modes and ways of life.

After the war was over for over six months and in spite of a Labour Government at "home" and with all their advocacy of freedom for India, the same old policy of the Churchillian and pre-Churchillian days is being followed.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member must conclude. He has already had two minutes more.

Sri Bhagirathi Mahapatra: Just two more minutes, Sir. Our tried patriots like Jai Prakash Narayan, Lohia, Bakshi, Jaglal Choudhuri and Surendra Dwivedi are still behind the bars. The representatives of this Labour Government ruling over India have been insisting on putting the men and officers of the Indian National Army to trial in the name of law and discipline. Their crime was their love of this country and their attempt at throwing off the yoke of foreign domination and defending and protecting their people against the then Japanese aggression. These trials are being carried on for the last three months in spite of the countrywide strong and vocal opinion against these trials and for a general amnesty to the I.N.A. men and officers.

During the first Great War big hopes were aroused in the minds of the Indians by the August Declaration of 1917 which still forms the Preamble of the Government of India Act of 1935, *vis.*, "the gradual development of self-governing institutions with a view to progressive realisation of responsible government in India." But after the treaty of Versailles India had been rewarded with the Rowlatt Act and all that followed in its wake. The needs of the Far East and of India were all forgotten; nor was any solution of the political and economic problem of the people made during the thirty years that passed. So far as political status is concerned, India stands where it stood in 1917. During the second Great War one recollects the faint-hearted and humiliating declaration of 1940 and of the much-vaunted Cripps Proposal of 1942 leading to a strong sense of desperation and nation-wide frustration which found its outlet in the unprecedented mass uprising of August 1942 and in the sacrifice and untold sufferings of millions of people. Only a foreign rule has retarded all national progress in India, despite the opportunities that were offered by war time exigencies. It is admitted that the entire social and economic structure of our country has received

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a terrible shock, which can only be undone by an intensive and extensive programme of rehabilitation. To achieve all this, we urgently require our own national government instead of this alien government, and complete freedom of India.

With these observations, I conclude my speech.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I get up to oppose the consideration of the Finance Bill. Before I begin my speech, I repeat the protest which is so repeatedly made in this House against the absence of Government members. Sir, the Finance Bill does not concern the Finance Member only. During its discussion of this Bill all Government activities throughout the country come under examination. Members will speak sometimes on this subject and sometimes on that and it is for the Government to reply to all those points. But if they are absent they cannot do it.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The clerk is taking notes!

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: I think the other members and secretaries also should be present all along in the House when the discussion is going on.

Sir, in view of the coming events the tone and tenor of the speeches have been naturally tempered. When we find and hear that something great is going to happen in this country in the near future, it is difficult to talk as we used to talk about the Finance Bill. In today's morning paper I find that the Archbishop of Canterbury and 9 Bishops have issued an appeal to all classes of people in Britain for prayers for the success of the British Cabinet Mission to this country. I also wish them God-speed and I think all lovers of the country wish them God-speed; but they must remember one thing. If they are really sincere to make the country free, it is not difficult. They may leave the country any day. They will find no difficulty whatsoever in doing so. Whatever difficulties they point out, they must remember are their own creations. I take it as a fact that there are disunions and disunities in the country; but everybody knows and I think the Cabinet Mission in their heart of hearts also must be knowing that all these disunions and disunities are the creations of the British Government in this land. I therefore give a word of warning to the ministers coming that if they really want to free India they can do it easily and they should do it even at the risk of a probable civil war in this country

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Why do you not do it?

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: It is altogether foolish and unpatriotic to talk of civil war in this country after the British will go. But supposing if there be any

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: You forget that Mr. Patel said the same thing.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: But if there be an any, I think it will be in the process of there being a permanent good to the country. I therefore repeat again the only course for the good of India is that the British should leave the country. The Finance Member has submitted the Finance Bill to this House for our consideration. I object to his very right and title to do so. All pundits of constitutional law and experts on political philosophy agree that existence of a government presupposes certain laws according to which any government can aim to have been established. This so-called government also claims to have been established by law. But the world knows that there is no such law in this and according to which this government has been established and in which law the will of the people has been expressed. According to all political jurisprudence law is defined as nothing else but the will of the people expressed in terms of law. As I have said before, there is no such thing in this country. Similarly, it can very well be said that there can be no government in this country. Let them be called anything, but not the government. In the absence of a government, the submission of a Finance Bill in the constitutional method by a Finance Member does not arise. It is better for him and this will be a practical thing,

to withdraw the Bill. They are strong enough, they are powerful enough, they can realise any amount of money for their purposes from the people of this country. They have been looting the country, they have been extorting money from all classes of people in any manner they like. Then what is the use of this farce? As we find, this kind of government is something not only unlawful and illegal, but it is also unnatural. The result is miseries all over the country, misfortune all over the country. Everybody is suffering from the tyranny of this government. Only the other day Mr. Churchill said in his speech in America that it was the British people who first placed the government in their proper place as the servants of the people, and not their masters. Yes. This was done long ago in England, in the British isles. But what is happening here? What to speak of the people on the Treasury Benches, they are big people. In the mufassil what do we find? Even the lowest servants of government, even constables and police sub-inspectors consider themselves as the masters of the people. They never think in their mind that they are the servants of the people and that they should discharge their duty accordingly. They always think in terms of masters and nothing else. The result is that they cannot even arrange for the food and clothes for the people of the country. There has been a hue and cry all over the country that there is no food and no clothes. The Government ask for our co-operation. This also is a foolish talk. Why do they want co-operation. Is there any co-operation between a cattle and its owner possible. Government consider the people of this country as property belonging to them. They never consider the people as their equals or masters whom they have to serve. Co-operation is possible between equals who are working for a common object but here the Government want something quite different. There should be no talk of co-operation any more in this country. Either obey or be obeyed. There is no half way house. In my own province of Bihar the paddy crop has failed. There is a shortage of food everywhere. The import quota of the province has also not been received for the last three or four months. The result is that people are suffering from want of food. I have been receiving letters almost every day that such and such a place is in utter want of food but helpless as we are we cannot do anything and above all there is one thing, and that is the realisation of the National Savings Certificates which is going on. Can there be anything more inhuman than this. For that, I think Sir Archibald Rowlands, the Finance Member is directly responsible for the mischief which is being done there. People are starving. There is no food and no clothes and still the realisation of the national certificates is going on. In his speech the Honourable the Finance Member said that the purchasing power in the hands of the people had enormously increased and that the consuming public had been anxious to make effective use of its spending capacity. He said that in other words there were still pockets of inflationary forces which required to be closely watched and controlled. This is a wrong belief which is at the root of this trouble in the province. He feels that the purchasing power of the people has increased. I therefore say that at the helm of affairs in any country should be those who know the country perfectly well. My Honourable friend does not know the country. I am a Congress worker. I move from one place to another. Where is the purchasing power of the people. People are starving and suffering for want of clothes and the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands says that the purchasing power of the people has increased. I asked him in private—please explain to me this and I request him again to explain to the House how he considers that the purchasing power has increased? I know during wars some people have got more money. Their purchasing power has increased no doubt. For instance war contractors have got more money and along with them Government officials who were connected with them also got money for they shared half the profit. Their purchasing power has increased. Along with them some labourers have got some money and their purchasing power may be said to have increased. Besides these people, it is possible that some cultivators who grow more than what is necessary may have got something which may have increased their purchasing power but their number is so small that it is negligible and it

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may not be counted. There are people who have not more corn in their houses but they need to purchase many other necessary things and hence they sell but it cannot be said that their purchasing power has increased. In the same way if we examine the question in detail, we shall find that a very small number of people may have got more money but the Finance Member said that the purchasing power of the people in general has increased and it has to be controlled. I think this is altogether wrong and it is rather dangerous. We know how money is realised from the people. They are asked to mortgage their land and to sell their land and their cattle and other belongings and thereby to pay to the Government by way of National Savings Certificates. In fact the money is extorted.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I hope that is out of date. If you can give me recent examples, I will investigate them personally.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: I am stating this as a fact. In my constituency of Chota Nagpur, in the area of Hazaribagh in the Chatar sub-division about six lakhs of money were realised by extortion.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Not in the last 12 months. It has been stopped now.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: I am talking of the last year. People are suffering in all possible ways but the money is extorted from them and I think this has got to be stopped. When we think of the coming events, we feel pleased and proud but when we see all these things as to how the present Government is working, our heart is full of dismay and disappointments. This is not the way to help the people. Sir, I am an old member of the House.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has only two minutes left.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Only ten minutes are left. I do not think any other Member would like to speak now.

Mr. Deputy President: If the Honourable Member takes any extra time, it will be debited to his party.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: All right, Sir, I shall finish it now. As regards the Finance Bill I will only say that the principles of taxation ought to be direct. Tax people as much as you like but let people know what you tax them, why they pay, what amount they have to pay and so on. That is the principle of direct taxation. But indirect taxation is something like stealing. People do not know what is taken from them as tax. Take salt tax for instance. Salt tax is a blot on the British financial policy. By salt tax you tax every morsel of a beggar's food. This salt tax reminds me of a proverb:

Andher Nagri Chaupat Raja; Take ser Bhaji, take ser Khaja.

Chaotic town, idiot King, two pice per seer vegetables, two pice per seer sweets.

If the Honourable the Finance Member says that he is an expert in principles of taxation, I think, he is not. He does not know whom he should tax. So far as indirect taxation goes, only luxuries should be taxed. Tax motor car, tax many other things which are matters of luxury. But do not tax every morsel of the beggars food. It is inhuman. I request the House to make all possible attempts to remove this salt tax altogether and come to any terms possible with the Finance Member, we may even allow the Finance Bill to be passed, only let the salt tax go. I think the Finance Member will agree to this. With these words, I oppose the Finance Bill.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Mr. Deputy President, this morning I listened with great admiration to the speech of my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall, but I am sorry to say that he tried to ignore the Muslim League organisation. He tried to argue that the Congress was the only organisation which can deliver the goods.

Some Honourable Member: Did he say so, Sir? Question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I will explain presently, if only my Honourable friends have the patience. My Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall tried to force the hands of the Government and asked them to come to a settlement with the Congress, ignoring all other parties in India.

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Diwan Chaman Lall in his speech this morning said that the Congress was the only party which can afford to cross the floor and take the reins of Government.

Some Honourable Members: He never said that. You have misunderstood him.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I listened to his speech carefully, with great attention.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Mis-statement of facts.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: No. The Congress party today in this House has decided to throw out the Finance Bill. Great publicity has been given to that in the Press and it was stated on the floor of the House that it was being thrown out because of political reasons. The Congress party has decided to do so because the Indian National Congress has decided so. It means that the Congress party in this House has given no consideration to the merits of the Finance Bill. As far as I am concerned, I may say it should be considered on its merits. I am not here to say what the attitude of the Muslim League party will be. I would request the Finance Member to see his way to understand the point of view of the Muslim League Party. After all this Government has got to be carried on. It may be that this Government is an interim Government for the period till my Honourable friends to my right who are anxious to cross the floor take the reins of office into their hands without coming to an understanding with any other party in India and who are now trying to force the hands of the British Government, with all the force at their command, but I am sure it will not be so easy for them to do so. May I then suggest to the Finance Member that this Government is to be carried on and if it is to be carried on, why not have the goodwill of those members of this House who try to put forward arguments, who try to put forward their ideas and suggestion before him.

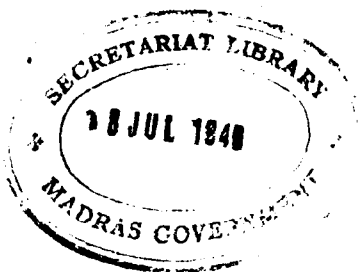
As far as the Planning and Development Department is concerned, it was after 18 months struggle that 29 panels were created. When Sir Ardeshir Dalal took charge of that Department, the people in India felt confident that as a businessman he would do his utmost to see to the reconstruction and development of India. The men in the panels were nominated by the Government without consulting or approaching any organisations or industries which were interested. Some of the Members who were put on the panel do not even know the A, B, C of the Department or the industry in which they were serving. However, we have not seen the reports of these panels. They have not even been placed before the House. The Honourable the Member for Planning and Development who is new to his Department said the other day, please wait and then judge me. But he has not yet placed the report of any panel before the House for judgement. I feel that it is high time that the Members of the Assembly are taken into confidence. We should be told what steps the Government are going to take to carry on the plans which are being put forward through this Department. I notice that the Government are trying to lay down the location of all these industries. Textile mills, vegetable ghee plant—all these are being located without reference to the province and without reference to the different centres where these will be wanted, without deciding whether these will be suitable at those centres. This is altogether absurd. A businessman who has studied a particular area in which that industry should be located should be allowed to proceed normally. Even without giving him a

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definite data, whether raw material will be available, simply because a particular area has no textile mill or that it has no vegetable ghee plant, he should not be forced to open mills there. I must say that the Planning Member does not even know the programme and the policy which different Departments are going ahead with. He is today acting simply as a post office.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. The Honourable Member may continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 20th March, 1946.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 20th 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

ZONE CIRCULAR TICKETS

+1081. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if the various Railways in India had a system of issuing Zone Circular tickets;

(b) if the same has been discontinued, if so, why; and

(c) if the system is likely to be introduced at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, with a view to discouraging travel.

(c) The question of the re-introduction of such tickets will be considered when conditions of passenger travel return to normal, but this is not likely to be at an early date.

RESERVATION OF BERTHS ON B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY

+1082. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the B. B. & C. I. Railway have discontinued all reservation of berths for the second class passengers;

(b) if the system of such reservation continues in the first class; and

(c) if only seats are reserved for the second class passengers even at nights; if so, in how many seats a berth is usually divided?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. The discontinuance of reservation of berths for second class passengers has been done in respect of particular trains only.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes. Seating accommodation only is provided at night for second class passengers where reservation of berths has been discontinued. Reservation of seats is made at the rate of three seats per lower berth.

PUBLIC AMENITIES ON BAKHTIARPUR BIHAR LIGHT RAILWAY

+1083. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) the fares of the different classes on the Bakhtiarpur Bihar Light Railway;

(b) if the Nalanda Railway Station, which is a pilgrim centre, is not provided even with a bench for passengers;

(c) if even at Biharsharif, another pilgrim centre, there is no arrangement for supply of water to passengers;

(d) if very few carriages are provided with lights, and if there is always overcrowding in the compartments; and

(e) if he proposes to impress upon the Administration concerned the desirability of improving their working in all particulars?

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

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) First class—Two annas per mile.

Second class—One anna per mile.

Inter class—Nine pies per mile.

Third class—Six pies per mile.

(b) Benches are not provided, but the provision of a Waiting Room is under consideration by the Administration of the railway.

(c) Arrangement for supply of water is made.

(d) Government understand that carriages are provided with lights and that every effort is being made to replace stolen or damaged train lighting bulbs to the greatest extent possible. Government are also aware of there being overcrowding which is unavoidable under present conditions.

(e) The attention of the authorities of the Railway will be drawn to this request.

EFFICIENT WORKING OF OFFICE OF CHIEF COMMERCIAL MANAGER, E. I. RAILWAY AT BENARES THAN AT CALCUTTA

†1084. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is fact that the office of the Chief Commercial Manager of the East Indian Railway has been working at Benares for sometime past;

(b) if this office has been able to deal with matters connected in the United Provinces with greater efficiency than was possible from Calcutta; and

(c) if it is the intention of the Administration to make this office permanent?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No, Sir. The Claims Office, which forms an integral part of the Headquarters Commercial Organisation was, excluding the Howrah Branch, transferred to Benares. Another section of the Claims Office, dealing with compensation claims relating to parcel consignments booked to Howrah and Calcutta stations as well as goods and parcels traffic booked to other stations on the Howrah Division was retransferred from Benares to Calcutta in August, 1944.

(b) The work of the Claims Office cannot be considered in relation to any particular locality, but must be considered in relation to the E. I. Railway Administration as a whole.

(c) The Claims Office is already a permanent organisation. If the Honourable Member's intention is to ask whether this office will be permanently located at Benares, the answer is in the negative.

APPOINTMENTS OF U. N. O. SECRETARIAT

†1085. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the Reuter's message of February 17, regarding the appointments of the U.N.O. Secretariat;

(b) if the Government of India or their Delegation were consulted before these appointments were made;

(c) whether the Government of India or their Delegation have asked for adequate representation on the Secretariat of the U. N. O. if not, why not; and

(d) the nature and extent of representation that India has been promised and has been given so far?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Yes.

(b) No. These appointments were made by the Secretary General in the exercise of authority delegated to him by the General Assembly on which India is represented.

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

(c) and (d). It was decided by the General Assembly that permanent recruitment to the Secretariat will be made on a regional basis in accordance with recommendations made by an International Civil Service Commission. The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the Press communique, dated 26th February, 1946, regarding recruitment of Indians to the Secretariat.

NUMBER OF DETENUS UNDER BENGAL REGULATION III OF 1818

†1086. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With reference to the answer given on the 21st February, 1946 by the Honourable the Home Member to starred question No. 412 regarding the number of detenues under Regulation III of 1818 of Bengal, will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Executive Council is consulted before detention orders are passed under Regulation III of 1818, of Bengal; and

(b) whether the Executive Council is consulted at any later stage to decide for how long detentions are to continue and when they are to terminate?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) and (b). Orders of detention are passed by Government and cases of detainees under Regulation III of 1818 are periodically reviewed by Government.

I am unable to give information relating to the proceedings of the Executive Council.

APPEAL OF MOHD. KHALIL, COOLY SUPPLIER, E. I. RAILWAY

†1087. ***Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of cooly contractors on the East Indian Railway, and how many of them are Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact that one, Mohd Khalil, an experienced cooly supplier, supplied for contract, but it was rejected and then his appeal was recommended by Sir Allen Parson which was also rejected on the ground that the contract is given only to the retired Railway servants?

(c) Are Government aware that the plea was incorrect as the contract was given to two outsiders viz. R. B. Saligram and Messrs. Maiden?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (1) Number of contractors other than Railway staff.—33.

(2) Number of Muslim Contractors.—4.

(3) Number of contracts held by Station Masters.—14.

(b) It has not been possible at this distant date to trace the applications referred to or the replies given to them.

(c) Does not arise.

RE-MODELLING OF CUDDORE AND TINDIVANAM RAILWAY STATIONS ON N. T. AND S. I. RAILWAYS

1088. ***Sri E. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that repeated representations have been received for re-modelling the Cuddore N. T. Railway Station and Tindivanam Railway Station in the South Indian Railway Meter Gauge main line?

(b) Are Government aware that the stations referred to do not have waiting rooms worth the name, covered platforms and passenger sheds with sufficient capacity?

(c) Are Government aware that the main trains at both the stations arrive between 11 A.M. to 3 P.M. in the day and 11 P.M. to 3 A.M. in the night

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

and the passengers are exposed to severe sun and rain as platforms are not covered?

(d) Are Government aware that the first mentioned station is a District Headquarters station and the other has got the Headquarter of a Sub-Collector's Division?

(e) Are Government aware that the daily earnings at each of the above stations are near by one thousand rupees?

(f) Do Government propose to re-model the stations at an early date?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (f). The reply is in the affirmative. The remodelling of the two stations has been included in the post-war plan during 1947-48 and 1950-51 respectively.

(b) There is a rather out-of-date common waiting room for both men and women at these stations. The platforms are not covered. The provision of more waiting accommodation for 3rd class passengers, separate waiting rooms for upper class passengers to modern standards, and covered platforms will be considered when the remodelling plans for these stations are taken in hand.

(c), (d) and (e). Yes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Have the Government planned to remove those defects and remodel all the stations on the South Indian Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That does not arise out of this question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It arises in this way. The Honourable Member said that the remodelling of these stations had been included in the post-war plan from such and such period to such and such period. To avoid similar questions that may come up, I would ask the Honourable Member to let the House know whether all such defects in various stations are covered by the post-war scheme?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There is a general plan, but I should have to answer questions in respect of each station separately.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the scheme been prepared in consultation with the Railway Advisory Council or with the Standing Finance Committee?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will that plan be placed before the House at any time for discussion as to what the needs are?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. It is a matter for the local Advisory Council.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has it already been sent or is it going to be sent to the Local Advisory Council?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I could not tell you whether these particular stations have been discussed by the Local Advisory Council, but it is a local matter.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: The Honourable Member said that it had been included in the post-war plan during 1947-48 and 1950-51. Will the Honourable Member expedite putting up those shade on platforms, if possible?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There is a programme covering the whole line phased as in the case of these two stations.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a complete five-years programme or is there going to be another programme for a later period?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. Railways have prepared a programme covering the whole Railway, but it cannot be done at once, and therefore it has been divided into different years.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I want to know whether the period of time is divided into two periods covering five years each in which all the defects are to be removed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: So far as I can recollect it is a five-year programme to begin with.

CONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY LINE FROM JACOBABAD TO KASHMORE THROUGH UPPER SIND FRONTIER

1089. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have sanctioned the construction of a broad gauge line from Jacobabad to Kashmore;

(b) whether it is a fact that Government or the North Western Railway have received a representation from the people of the upper Sind frontier that the Railway line from Jacobabad to Kashmore should go through from Thul to Khandhkot via Karampur and Jhounspur;

(c) Whether it is a fact that Government or the North Western Railway have received a representation from the people of the upper Sind frontier that the Railway line from Jacobabad to Kashmore should go through from Shikarpur or Habibkot to Khandhkot via Khanpur and Ghauspur;

(d) what action Government intend taking on the above representations; and

(e) whether Government propose to construct these lines as suggested in the representations; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The conversion of the Jacobabad/Kashmore narrow gauge line to a broad gauge line is a project approved for investigation.

(b) and (c). Representations referred to by the Honourable Member have been received both by the North Western Railway and by the Railway Board.

(d) Suggestions of this nature would be considered during the investigations.

(e) Decisions could be taken only after the survey reports have been received and duly considered.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member how long this survey will take because, I believe, it has already taken about seven months?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The actual field work has not been started. I think it is a fairly long line, and I doubt if it could be finished in this surveying season.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: It is about 40 miles only.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether the survey report will be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for consideration?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The procedure is that all these projects are ultimately placed before the Standing Finance Committee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if it is a new line or is it in place of a narrow gauge line?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I refer the Honourable Member to my answer to part (a) of the question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a general scheme to convert all meter gauges into broad gauges so that there is a uniform standard for the whole of India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are individual cases taken up from time to time for the purposes of connecting two broad gauge lines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not necessarily. Each case is considered on its merits.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what considerations have prevailed in deciding to convert this meter gauge line to a broad gauge line?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The circumstances on the line including strategic requirements.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have Government considered the financial implications and also the advisability of converting meter gauge lines into broad gauge lines?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How much has it been found to cost more if all meter gauge lines are to be converted into broad gauge lines?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is referring to this particular line or generally?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Generally.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It is a general scheme.

Mr. President: It does not arise out of this question. Next question.

DISPOSAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES SURPLUS PROPERTY IN INDIA

1090. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if it is a fact that within six weeks of the publication by Government of the details of the agreement between the United States Foreign Liquidation Commission and the Government of India, there has been a radical alteration in the method of disposal of the United States Armed Forces surplus property in India?

(b) What were the reasons for the alteration in the method of disposal of this property?

(c) What is the gross value of the property, in question, in rupees?

(d) Is it a fact that the approximate amount of money that India is to pay to the United States of America is provisionally put at 500 million dollars that is £125 million sterling?

(e) How is it proposed to produce this colossal sum at this juncture having regard to other large financial commitments?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state some of the advantages to India arising from this agreement?

(g) Will there be more than one agency functioning for the sale of surplus goods and how long do Government consider it will take before both the Government of India's disposal organisation and general public are able to adjust themselves to this sudden change in the position regarding surplus stores in the country which involve enormous sums of money?

(h) To what extent will the Indian tax-payers be affected by this financial transaction?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Wagh: (a) and (b). Last September the United States Government authorities constituted a Mission to dispose of U. S. military surpluses in India, Burma and China. The principles on which surplus surpluses would be disposed of in India by the American Liquidation Authorities were agreed with the Government of India on 24th September last, and were announced in a Press Note. On 24th December last the U. S. Government agreed to sell to the Government of India all U. S. Government surplus property in India not already sold or offered for sale by their Foreign Liquidation Commission or withdrawn for military purpose. The reasons leading to this agreement were stated in a Press Release, dated 27th December, 1945, of which I lay a copy on the table.

Discussions as to the means of implementing this block take-over of U. S. military surpluses were carried on during January and February. The results of these discussions were stated in a Press Release, dated 28th February, of which I lay a copy on the table.

(c), (d), (e) and (h). A mission is shortly leaving for Washington to discuss these matters with representatives of the U. S. Government. Meanwhile comment on valuations is not possible, but the Honourable Member will appreciate that book values and residual values are two very different things.

(f) and (g). I would refer the Honourable Member to the reasons for the change set forth in the Press Releases, dated 27th December, 1945, and 28th February, 1946, referred to in replies to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

PRESS RELEASE

27th December 1945.

The U. S. Government has agreed to sell to the Government of India all U. S. Government Surplus Property in India which has not already been sold or offered for sale by the Foreign Liquidation Commission and which will not be withdrawn for military purposes. This agreement was reached on December 24, 1945, at a meeting in New Delhi of representatives of the two Governments.

Exempted from the agreement will be all property which is now in the process of being sold to private buyers, as well as property which may be required by UNRRA up to January 15, 1946. With these exceptions, the agreement covers all surplus property which the Foreign Liquidation Commission has been or will be authorised to sell. This means that the Government of India will take over a vast tonnage of United States property, possibly in excess of 600,000 long tons with a book value probably in excess of \$500,000,000.

This figure does not, however, represent the actual sale price, which is to be agreed upon at a meeting in Washington D. C. in January or February 1946, at which representatives of the two Governments will settle questions arising from Lend-Lease, reciprocal and obligations, and other matters arising from the war.

The property will be turned over at dates to be agreed upon between the Commanding General, India Burma Theater, the Foreign Liquidation Commissioner and the Government of India. Dates of turnover will probably be determined by the progressive evacuation of depots now in the hands of United States Forces.

By the terms of this new agreement, the U. S. Government signalizes a fundamental change in its policy of selling surplus property. Heretofore, all sales have been made on the basis of priorities which were set up in the following order:—

1. U. S. Government Agencies and UNRRA.
2. Charitable, educational and religious institutions.
3. Agents or Representatives of American Manufacturers of branded articles.
4. Foreign Governments.
5. General Public.

The Foreign Liquidation Commission, India-Burma Theater has already sold a substantial quantity of surplus goods to these five groups. These sales will go through as planned. The rights of these buyers will be scrupulously protected. However, this system will be discontinued, and all property declared surplus in the future will be automatically taken over by the Government of India.

By means of this agreement the two Governments expect to attain the following objective:—

1. The evacuation of U. S. troops from India will be accelerated.

2. The Government of India will be able to exercise control over the distribution and use of all surplus articles. This will facilitate the necessary adjustment of Indian economy for the vast outflow of surplus materials.

3. Both Governments expect the agreement to further their joint aim of making these goods serve the general welfare of the Indian people.

4. Both Governments are confident that they have taken an important step in international co-operation and understanding.

Not to be broadcast or published before March 1, 1946.

PRESS NOTE

GOVERNMENT TAKE CUSTODY OF AMERICAN SURPLUSES

Conversations between the Government of India and the Foreign Liquidation Commission of the United States Government concerning the subsidiary agreements necessary to implement the block take-over of U. S. Army surpluses agreed upon on December 24, 1945, have reached a successful conclusion and the transfer of custody of these surpluses to the Government of India has begun.

As it is in the interest of both Governments, this transfer of custody will be pressed with the utmost speed in order to supply present demands and avoid excessive deterioration. Early completion of the transfer will ensure prompt beginning of sales to the public, movement of goods from Assam prior to the monsoon and the early withdrawal of U. S. troops from India.

While the conversations just completed were in progress, the exceptions agreed to under the 24th December block take-over have been utilised to satisfy the priority purchasers under the U. S. Surplus Property Act. Those U. S. citizens, firms, agencies, non-profit institutions, UNRRA, in India which may develop new requirements, will be free to purchase from the Government of India on exactly the same basis as Indian firms, institutions and the general public. The Directorate General of Disposals Organisation will be responsible for the movement of surpluses to areas where sales will take place and for the general control of disposal in accordance with the disposals policy of the Government of India. Prospective purchasers should note that none of this surplus property can be sold for the purpose of export to the United States or its possessions except on consignment to a person or firm in the United States for reconditioning for re-export. As agreed to on December 24, 1945, all aspects of the block take-over and the result of these subsequent conversations are subject to review when the representatives of India visit Washington to make final settlement of Lease-Lend, Reciprocal Aid, surplus property and other matters arising from the recent war. It is expected that the representatives of the Government of India will leave for Washington in the near future.

INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT;
New Delhi, February 28, 1946.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there any effort being made to pay the United States of America from out of the sterling accumulations in England for these various things that the Government of India is taking over?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that the Government of India are not considering that possibility, in view of the fact that the total amount of money that is to be paid to the U. S. A. is likely to go up beyond 100 million pounds?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The necessity of considering this question has not yet arisen.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will it be considered at the right moment?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I hope the necessity will never arise.

NUMBER OF DEGRADED EMPLOYEES ON N. W. RAILWAY

1091. ***Seth Sukhdev:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees reduced from the higher to the lower grade or post as a disciplinary measure, separately, on each Division of the North Western Railway during the calendar year 1945; and

(b) if the figures for the calendar year 1945 are not readily available whether the Honourable Member will please lay a statement on the table of the House, compiled under the Railway Board's orders circulated to the Divisional Superintendents, under the General Manager, North Western Railway, Lahore, letter No. 698-E/29/HER, dated the 18th February, 1946?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement which gives the required information as far as it is available.

(b) Does not arise.

Statement showing the number of employees reduced from higher to lower grade or post as a disciplinary measure on each division and extra division

Name of Division or Extra Division or Office	No. of employees reduced permanently	No. of employees reduced temporarily	Total
Delhi	1	33	34 (This excludes Engineering Inferior Staff)
Ferozepore	1	28	29
Karachi	1	57	58
Lahore	5	51	56
Multan	7	5	12
Quetta	1	...	1
Rawalpindi	2	16	18
Mechanical Workshops Division .	11	36	47
Signal Shops	...	...	...
Superintendent of Telegraphs .	...	...	...
General Stores, Moghalpura .	3	5	8
Stores District, Karachi Cantt. .	...	...	...
Walton Training School . . .	...	...	...
Track Supply Office	1	...	1
Executive Engineer, Bridges, Jhelum.	...	1	1
Assistant Engineer, Bridges, Sukkur.	...	...	...
Headquarters Office	...	2	2
Accounts Office	1	2	3
Total	34	236	270

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether there is any appeal against punishments meted out in particular cases or whether the person who took the disciplinary action is the final authority?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That does not arise out of this question.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It does, Sir. The question asks for the number of employees reduced from the higher to the lower grade or post as a disciplinary measure. If there is a large number of employees who have been degraded from the higher to lower posts, I would like to know whether the person who degrades them is the final authority.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member asked for certain figures and I have placed them on the table. If the Honourable Member will put down a question I shall be prepared to answer it.

DISCIPLINARY REMOVAL FROM SERVICE OF CERTAIN N. W. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

1092. *Seth Sukhdev: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the number of employees in (i) subordinate, (ii) inferior, (iii) labour, and (iv) daily-rated services, separately, for each category and each Division of the North Western Railway, removed from service as a disciplinary measure during the calendar year 1945?

(b) If the information is not readily available, will the Honourable Member please supply the information in a tabulated form for the latest half year, as compiled for each Division, under the provisions of the Railway Employees Discipline and Appeal Rules in the State Railway Establishment Code?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a statement which gives the required information.

(b) Does not arise.

Statement showing the number of staff removed from service as a disciplinary measure during the calendar year 1945

Division	Subordi- nate Staff	Inferior Staff	Labourers	Daily-rated Staff	Total	Remarks
Karachi . . .	6	3	12	2	23	
Rawalpindi . .	33	98	136	106	373	
Multan . . .	13	604	...	45	562	
Lahore . . .	27	24	187	3	241	
Delhi . . .	56	25	146	17	244	
Quetta . . .	7	18	242	...	267	
Ferozepore . .	6	45	20	20	91	
Supdt., Mech. Work- shops.	17	65	...	1,279	1,361	
Financial Adviser & Chief Accounts Officer.	4	1	...	...	5	
Headquarters . .	8	3	...	...	11	
Executive Engr., Bridges, Jhelum.	...	...	1	20	21	
Asstt. Works Manager, Signal.	...	4	...	140	144	
Asstt. Bridge Engineer, Sukkur.	...	...	...	9	9	
Distt. Controller of Stores.	6	7	8	121	142	
Executive Engr., Water Supply.	...	1	...	...	1	
Track Supply Officer .	1	...	41	...	42	
Total	184	798	793	1,762	3,537	

CHANGE OF NAME OF B. & N. W. RAILWAY INTO O. T. RAILWAY

1093. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) when the Bengal and North Western Railway was re-named as Oudh and Tirhut Railway;

(b) the reason for the change of name; and

(c) the exact significance of the word 'Tirhut' in the name of the Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). On purchase by the Government and amalgamation of the Bengal and North Western Railway with the Rohilkund and Kumaon Railway and certain other smaller Government lines with effect from the 1st January 1943, the combined system was named as "Oudh and Tirhut Railway". From the 1st November 1945 the name has been further changed to "Oudh Tirhut Railway".

(c) The word 'Tirhut' has reference to the former Government line known as "Tirhut Railway" which served a part of Bihar known as "Tirhut" and is now merged in the combined system of O. T. Railway.

DISCRIMINATORY SERVICE CONDITIONS FOR EUROPEANS AND INDIANS IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

1094. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) if any report has been received by Government from the Additional Director General and Administrative Officer, Ordnance Factories Division, recommending the withdrawal of recognition from the All-India Association of Supervising Staff of the Ordnance and Clothing Factories;

(b) if it is the only Association of its kind;

(c) whether a number of complaints have been sent from the Association regarding the discriminatory treatment meted out to Indians actually serving in the Ordnance Factories in the matter of pay, promotion, housing, medical aid, conditions of living, etc., the difference in the aforesaid conditions of service between Europeans and Indians;

(d) whether Government have made any enquiries regarding the complaints so received;

(e) if there is any proposal to fill up vacancies in the Cordite Factory at Aruvankadu by Europeans and non-Asiatic in preference to the Indian staff;

(f) the conditions of employment of Europeans and non-Asiatics in the Ordnance Factories; and

(g) if it is a fact that Indians are only given subordinate positions in Ordnance Factories?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Such a recommendation was made, but was later withdrawn.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Yes.

(d) The complaints have been investigated by the Director General, Ordnance Factories, and are now under the consideration of Government.

(e) No.

(f) A statement is laid on the table.

(g) No, Sir.

STATEMENT

Rates of pay, etc., of officers of the Indian Ordnance Service and non-Gazetted staff of Indian Ordnance Department serving in Indian Ordnance, Clothing and Harness and Saddlery Factories

A.—PAY

Appointments	Rates of pay in force before 28th September 1931 (Asiatics, Europeans & Non-Asiatics)	Revised rates of pay in force since 28th September 1931 (Asiatics)
(i) Gazetted Officers—		
1. Superintendent	Rs. 1,350—100—1,750 + £ 30 Overseas Pay*	Rs. 1,100—70—1,450
2. Works Manager	Rs. 850—100—1,250 + £ 30 Overseas Pay*	Rs. 650—35—1,000
3. Asst. Works Manager	Rs. 600—50—800 + £ 25 Overseas Pay*	Rs. 500—25—625
(ii) Non-Gazetted Officers—		
1. Principal Foreman	Rs. 600—20—700†	Rs. 475—15—535
2. Foreman	Rs. 500—20—600† (after 10 years 650)	Rs. 400—15—475 (E. B.)—25/5—500
3. Asst. Foreman	Rs. 375—15—435† (6th, 8th, 10th yrs. 450, 470 & 490)	Rs. 300—12—360 (E. B.)—15/2—390
4. Storeholder	Rs. 500—20—600	Rs. 400—15—475 (E. B.) at 445
5. Asst. Storeholder	Rs. 375—15—435	Rs. 300—10—350 (E. B.) at 320
6. Chargeman	Rs. 200—10—300 (after 5 yrs. 350)	Rs. 170—10—250 (E. B.)—40/4—290

* For Officers of European & Non-Asiatic domiciles.

† plus Rs. 75 increase in pay for those of European & non-Asiatic domiciles.

B.—War Allowance

Gazetted and Non-Gazetted Officers of Asiatic, European and non-Asiatic domiciles are entitled to War Allowance at the following rates:—

I. O. S. Married	17½%
I. O. S. Single	7½%
I. O. D. Married or Single	17½%

Gazetted officers of the Ordnance Factories living in Presidency Towns receive compensatory allowance according to the usual scales.

C.—Education Allowance

European and Non-Asiatic domiciles Asiatic domicile

Principal Foremen, Foremen, Store- holders, Asst. Foremen, & Asst. Store- holders.	Rs. 50 per child of school age.	Rs. 30 per child of school age.
Chargemen	Rs. 30 per child of school age.	Rs. 10 per child of school age.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (f) of the question, may I know if it is a very long statement? Otherwise we would like to know the various conditions of employment of Europeans and non-Asiatics.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: It is a rather lengthy statement.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that from the Jubbulpore Factory also certain complaints have come of racial discrimination?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: That does not arise.

Seth Govind Das: It does, because in part (g) it is asked whether it is a fact that Indians are only given subordinate positions in Ordnance Factories?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: For the information of the Honourable Member I should like to state that when pays were reduced in 1931, the pay of Europeans was not reduced, and therefore there exists discrimination in salary, and also in the matter of education allowances, but not in the case of war allowances. At that time the Ordnance Factories were under the charge of the War Department, and I am not aware of the circumstances which led to this discrimination. The question of abolishing this discrimination which exists in no other branch, at present, of the Industries and Supplies Department, is being sympathetically considered, and I think that orders will issue in the course of this year.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any efforts being made to increase the number of Indians in the superior positions in Ordnance Factories? In part (g) it is asked whether it is a fact that Indians are only given subordinate positions in Ordnance Factories. I want to know whether any efforts are being made to give superior positions to Indians.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir. It is not a fact that Indians are only given subordinate positions. The difficulty has been one of securing really good munition workers with the requisite qualifications. I am glad to say that Indians are holding an increasing number of the higher posts, and one is, in fact, the Superintendent of a very important Ordnance Factory.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On what ground did the Additional Director General recommend the withdrawal of the recognition of the Association and why did he subsequently withdraw that recommendation?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The Association addressed in terms which were not in consonance with the rules for the recognition of associations, and they subsequently explained that they meant no offence by this, and therefore the head of the Ordnance Factories withdrew his objection.

RETRENCHMENT OF EUROPEANS AND INDIANS IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES

1095. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the number of non-gazetted officers Indian and Europeans, working in the Ordnance Factories in India and in the Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu, in particular?

(b) Are there any permanent gazetted officers in the Ordnance Factories, European and Indians, and what is the number of temporary officers?

(c) Are there any proposals for retrenchment of officers? If so, how many Europeans and how many Indians?

(d) How many of the existing factories are old and how many were established during the war? Of these how many will be closed now and how many switched on for production of civilian consumer goods or goods for Railway needs?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) There are 2,065 non-gazetted officers in the Indian Ordnance Factories in India. Of these 1,386 are Indians, 162 Anglo-Indians and 567 are Europeans. The number of Indian, Anglo-Indian and European non-Gazetted officers in the Cordite Factory, Aruvankadu, is 33, 5 and 40 respectively.

(b) Yes, Sir, there are 61 permanent gazetted officers in the Indian Ordnance Factories, of whom 60 are Europeans. The number of temporary gazetted officers in the Factories is 257. I might add 87 are Indians and 170 are Europeans.

(c) Yes, Sir; retrenchment is in progress. Actual figures will be available when the retrenchment is complete.

(d) 10 Factories are old and 21 were established during the war. 15 are likely to be closed down. The remainder will be used for both military and civil requirements.

Seth Govind Das: With reference to part (c) of the question, is it a fact that as far as the Jubbulpore Ordnance Factory is concerned, there is no retrenchment amongst European officers and only Indian officers are being retrenched?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have no information. That may refer to the permanent staff, but I do not think that will be the case with temporary staff.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Jubbulpore Ordnance Factory also going to be closed?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: No, Sir.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Of the 15 factories which are likely to be closed, how many are munition factories?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Five.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is there any clothing factory going to be closed?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, seven.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will Government consider the advisability of not closing them and using them to meet the requirements of the civilian population?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, we are already doing that in respect of three factories which are not going to be closed down.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many persons will be retrenched by closing these factories?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Of the remaining 10 factories how many are munition factories and how many produce consumer goods?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I might explain to the Honourable Member that all the factories to be retained, in fact all the factories now working, with the exception of only three, are engaged in both military and civil production.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Shahjahanpur Army Clothing Factory going to continue?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will every effort be made to keep in service as many Indians as possible before any of them are to be retrenched?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Every effort will be made.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member lay later on on the table of the House a list of articles and consumer goods which have been produced in Ordnance Factories, so as to give an opportunity to the House to find out if any of them can be retained and make suggestions to that effect?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The Honourable Member will give me a little time so that I can prepare a full catalogue of the articles that are being made in the Ordnance Factories. The Honourable Member will understand that the work is developing every day. So far, the chief things that have been manufactured are; tools and gauges, badly needed by various industries; textile machinery; road roller equipment; and a beginning has been made with agricultural machinery and house fittings.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then why is the Honourable Member closing down these fifteen factories?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: We are only closing down factories which by their nature are only fitted for purely munitions work and no longer required.

GRIEVANCES OF INDIAN NATIONALS IN INDO-CHINA

1096. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) If Sjt. Aney and Mr. Dayal visited Indo-China to study the conditions of Indian nationals there;

(b) if the Indian nationals there submitted their grievances and requested for early relief;

(c) whether any report has been sent by M/s. Aney and Dayal to this Government suggesting measures to relieve distress;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to lay on the table the said report; and

(e) what steps, Government have taken to implement the recommendations; if none, why?

Mr. H. Weightman: The reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) of the question is in the affirmative.

(d) No, Sir. The report is a secret document addressed to the Government of India.

(e) The most important of Mr. Aney's recommendations are for the provision of facilities for travel between French Indo-China and India and for the remittance of funds. These matters have been dealt with in my replies to questions Nos. 440 and 441. Mr. Aney also recommended that the Government of India should consider the desirability of providing supplies of foodstuffs and other necessities for the use of Indians in French Indo-China. In view, however, of acute shortages in India and of transport difficulties, which would have involved great delay, it has been decided not to pursue this recommendation. His Majesty's representative at Saigon has, however, been asked to move the French authorities to issue "European style" rations to those Indians who live in European style. Mr. Aney also suggested consideration of the possibility of appointing an Indian Vice-Consul to the staff of His Majesty's Consulate General at Saigon, and this proposal is being examined.

Seth Govind Das: Is there no part of the report which is not confidential and which could be laid on the table of the House?

Mr. H. Weightman: It would be a little difficult to split it up. But what I would propose to do is, when we have completed action on Mr. Aney's report, to issue a press note summarising his recommendations and the action taken.

Seth Govind Das: By what date can we expect this press note? Will it be before the Assembly adjourns?

Mr. H. Weightman: It is a little difficult to guarantee that.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that this statement may come too late, and we shall not be in a position to consider it or to put any question in this Session of the House, and then it would be too late for the next Session.

Mr. H. Weightman: That is true, but I think the Honourable Member can rely on me to follow up this matter to the best of my ability.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what particular facilities have been given for the remittance from Indo-China of the funds which were frozen long ago?

Mr. H. Weightman: It has not yet been possible to provide full facilities but arrangements have been made, I think, I am right in saying, for small sums to be remitted from Indo-China by Indians resident there to their dependents in India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When does he expect to afford facilities for transmission for all the funds locked up there?

Mr. H. Weightman: That depends on the settlement of the unfreezing of the assets of the Bank of Indo-China.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Who are negotiating on behalf of India with French Indo-China for this purpose?

Mr. H. Weightman: The Commerce Department.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member prepared to give facilities to Muslim League leaders to visit Indo-China and Malaya on the same lines offered to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru?

Mr. H. Weightman: I do not think that question arises from this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government place before the External Affairs Committee of this House a summary of the reports submitted to them by Mr. Aney in regard to Indo-China?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am prepared to consider that suggestion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On what grounds are they held to be confidential?

(No answer.)

CONFIRMATION AND DISCHARGE OF EMPLOYEES ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

†1097. ***Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that committees have been set up on Indian Railways to select employees for confirmation;

(b) whether it is a fact that confirmations are usually made on the basis of seniority and good work as reported by the immediate officer of the employee;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that confirmations were delayed for long owing to embargo on them, with effect from the 1st June 1942;

(d) whether confirmations are usually made through committees; if not, the reason for this innovation;

(e) if it is a fact that senior employees not selected are to be discharged to make room for ex-servicemen;

(f) whether the Honourable Member's attention has been drawn to a paragraph in the Murphy Court of Inquiry's (1932) Report to the effect that inefficient employees may only be combed out on the basis of departmental inquiry and not searched for when block retrenchment is to be made;

(g) whether the employees who were denied confirmation and finally discharged, will be given an opportunity of departmental inquiry; if not, why not; and

(h) whether Government propose to abandon the system of committees referred to in part (a); if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (c). In pursuance of the policy of reserving 70 per cent. of permanent vacancies occurring since 1st June, 1942, for war service personnel after the war, persons appointed since that date were not allowed confirmation in permanent vacancies, having been warned at the time of appointment that they have no claim to permanent retention and would have to make way for ex-service men. Selection committees have been set up on railways to nominate from among such persons holding permanent vacancies in a temporary capacity those who should now be confirmed against vacancies, amounting to 30 per cent. of the total not reserved for war service candidates. Subject to the exclusion of persons not considered fit for retention, the criterion to be followed in making nominations is seniority.

(b) Yes.

(d) The reply to the first portion is in the negative. As regards the latter portion, the circumstances governing the appointment of the persons referred to in the reply to parts (a) and (c) above being different from those obtaining in normal times and as the persons concerned were definitely informed that they would have no claim to appointment in a permanent capacity, a further selection was considered necessary.

(e) This is not generally the case. The names of persons who are not successful in being confirmed against the 30 per cent. vacancies will be placed on a waiting list and they will have an opportunity of being confirmed against future permanent vacancies and will have preference in retention against temporary vacancies. Only if neither of these opportunities is available, will they have to be discharged when war service candidates join. The above does not refer to the small number of those not considered fit for permanent retention who will be discharged.

(f) Yes, but, as block retrenchment of persons holding permanent vacancies in a temporary capacity is not contemplated, the question does not arise.

(g) The reply is in the negative. As stated in my reply to parts (a) and (c) above, the employees concerned have no claim to permanent retention, while the Selection Boards insure that no injustice is done.

(h) No, in view of my replies to the preceding parts of this question.

REMOVAL FROM SERVICE OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES WITHOUT DEPARTMENTAL ENQUIRY

1098. ***Diwan Chaman Lall:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Railway employee charged with an offence meriting removal from service may demand a departmental enquiry to look into charges against him;

- (b) whether it is a fact that this provision of the rules is nullified by a proviso permitting the competent officer to dispense with such an enquiry if he so desires;
- (c) whether Government are aware that the Railway employees feel greatly agitated over this proviso in the rules;
- (d) whether Government propose to amend the rules doing away with this proviso; if not, why not; and
- (e) the special reasons for insertion of this proviso in the rules; and whether they still continue?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). A railway servant may ask to be heard in person but the discretion of holding a departmental enquiry or granting the railway servant a personal interview rests with the officer competent to pass the order of removal from service.

(c) Government are not aware of any general agitation in regard to this rule.

(d) No. Government do not feel that the elaborate procedure of a departmental enquiry is called for in every case, particularly in view of the alternate procedure provided in the rules.

(e) It is neither desirable nor administratively convenient to hold departmental enquiries except in cases of a very serious nature. The rule in question is still in force.

STOPPAGE OF OUTSIDE RECRUITMENT TILL ABSORPTION OF SURPLUS STAFF IN RAILWAYS

1099. *Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in each category of subordinate service directly recruited after the 1st September, 1945, up to date on the North Western Railway;

(b) the justification for recruitment from outside, when there is said to be surplus staff on the Railways;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain posts in the Survey and Construction Branch of the North Western Railway, have been advertised through press; if so, whether the Honourable Member is aware that there has been sharp difference amongst officers on the principle of outside recruitment *versus* taking men already in service; if so, what action is being taken in the matter; and

(d) what general instructions Government propose to issue stopping direct recruitment till surplus staff is absorbed in the Railways; if none, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a statement which gives the required information.

(b) Government are informed that the direct recruitment of staff from outside the railway was resorted to as a purely temporary arrangement pending recruitment of ex-service personnel, and that no surplus staff in these categories were available at the time of making such recruitment.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. As regards the second portion. Government are not aware that there have been any differences amongst the officers concerned on the point referred to. The reply to the concluding portion does not arise.

(d) Government do not consider it desirable to close entirely all avenues of employment in railway service to students passing out from schools and colleges in the post-war period and have, therefore, decided that 50 per cent. of the vacancies in subordinate categories should be available to candidates from the open market. As regards inferior and labour staff, instructions have already been issued to the effect that all vacancies should first be filled from surplus staff on the railway.

Statement showing the number of employees recruited directly on this railway after 1st September, 1945, upto date in each category of Subordinate Cadre

Category of Staff	Number
1. Office Clerks	176
2. Shed Clerks	11
3. Electric Clerks	1
4. Correspondence Clerks	2
5. Works Clerks	8
6. Commercial Clerks	23
7. Trains Clerks	39
8. Rationing Branch Clerks including Cash Memo. Clerks	26
9. Carriage Clerks	2
10. Electric Clerks	2
11. Tracers	10
12. Draughtsmen	1
13. Stenographers including Lady Stenographers	2
14. Typists	2
15. Signallers	67*
16. Guards	3
17. Dispensers	3
18. Nurse Dai	1
19. Train Examiners	2
20. Asstt. Train Examiners	4
21. Journeyman (Shop)	3
" (Shed)	13
" (Electric)	1
22. Shedman	1
23. Number Takers	9
24. Saleman	1
25. Wardkeeper	1
26. Sub Bridge Inspector	1
27. Asstt. Watch & Ward Inspector	1
Accounts	
1. Clerks Class I	6
2. Clerks Class II	201
3. Routine Clerks	2
4. Stenographers	2
	627

* Out of these 2 were engaged from amongst retired staff.

Engaged from retired staff.

RECRUITMENT OF INDIAN OFFICERS AS AGAINST FOREIGNERS IN CIVIL AVIATION EXPANSION

1100. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers so far taken up in the Civil Aviation Directorate for Civil Aviation expansion;

(b) the method of recruitment of such officers and their qualifications, pay and prospects; and

(c) how many of such officers are Indians, and how many foreigners?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable member is referred to the reply given by me on the 11th March, 1946, to unstarred question No. 96, put up by Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member say how many appointments started on Rs. 1,000 and more and how many of these are Indians?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: There are three officers under (a) and they all start on more than Rs. 1,000.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many of them are Indians?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: None.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How many of them have been recruited through the Public Services Commission, if any?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: They were selected in England.

Seth Govind Das: Could not one Indian be searched for for such a post?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No suitable Indians were available. There are other posts in which Indians have been or are being recruited.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state how these posts were advertised?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: In England the High Commissioner was requested to approach His Majesty's Government in the Air Ministry in the Civil Aviation Ministry and the Air Transport organisations in order to find suitable men.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Was there any advertisement in India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Because such suitable men are not available in India.

Seth Govind Das: How were Government satisfied that such persons were not available in India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The Government of India in the Civil Aviation Department are aware of the people engaged in aviation matters.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Isn't it a fact that the Assistant of Sir Frederick Tymms, who was an Indian, had to resign his post recently as a protest because three Europeans were imported?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am not aware to whom the Honourable Member is referring. But there was one officer on contract, who on the expiry of his contract reverted to his civilian status.

Seth Govind Das: Did any Indian offer for this post in England?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member if those Europeans who were recruited, have been recruited on a permanent or contract basis?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: They are on contract.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: For what period?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Two of them are on a five-year contract and one on a three-year contract.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it one of the terms of the contract that they should train a particular number of personnel in India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: They are not for training. They are going to perform a definite job, and they are holding a particular post. The men who will be in the next grade will get the experience of the work and will in due course succeed them.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why were they only given such a short term of five years and not ten years?

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question

PROPOSED AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING BOARD

1101. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an Air Transport Licensing Board, if not, when it is proposed to be set up;

(b) whether Government intend to include non-officials in such a Board, if so, the proportion of such non-officials, and the principle of selection of membership of the Board;

(c) the functions and nature of authority of such a Board; and

(d) whether Provinces are having representation on the Board?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a), (b) and (c). The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me to parts (a) and (d) of unstarred question No. 103, put by Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma, on 11th March 1946.

(d) No, Sir.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know what is the proposed qualification, technical or otherwise, for membership of the contemplated Board?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: There is no particular qualification, except in the case of two Members. The rules say that the Board shall consist of a Chairman appointed by the Central Government, who shall be a person who is or has been a Judge of the High Court in British India; the Director-General, who shall be the Deputy Chairman, and three Members appointed by the Central Government, one with special knowledge of aviation or air transport, another with special experience of financial matters, and the third appointed in consultation with the Crown Representative.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member state whether the Central Government has been in communication with the Provincial Governments over this question?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is the third appointment to be in consultation with the Crown Representative? Is it in order to give representation for the Indian States or not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes; that is so; you cannot run civil aviation in India in compartments: we want to get the Indian states to co-operate with us and come into the general arrangements, and in order to satisfy them it is provided that one person will be appointed to this Board in consultation with the Crown Representative.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not the function of the Chamber of Princes to represent the Indian States?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The arrangement is that the Crown Representative will consult not only the Chamber of Princes but also the princes who are not members of the Chamber of Princes.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: The point is . . .

Mr. President: Order, order: next question.

RULES GOVERNING ISSUE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT PILOT LICENCES

1102. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

- (a) the rules governing the issue of a public transport pilot licence;
- (b) the minimum solo flying hours required of an applicant for a pilot's licence in this country, and the corresponding figures in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, South Africa, and Great Britain; and
- (c) in the matter of application for pilot licences, whether Government take into consideration the flying hours put in or experience gained by the applicant while in other countries; if not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to sub-rule (3) of rule 41 of the Indian Aircraft Rules, 1937 a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given on the 11th March, 1946, to part (b) of unstarred question No. 91, by Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The second part does not arise.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to explain why the number of hours referred to in page 9 of Postwar Planning Careers in Civil Aviation is 200, whereas at page 8 of the same book it is mentioned as 300?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I shall require notice of that. I have not got the book in question here. I do not know exactly in what reference the Honourable Member is making this statement. But there is a difference in the standards adopted by different countries for the purpose of giving a commercial public transport pilot's license.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: I am referring to page 9 of this book—a Government publication—Postwar Planning Careers in Civil Aviation. It is said that for a B pilot's license he will have to fly for 200 hours solo; but at page 8 of the same book it is said that the same pilots will have to undertake solo flying for 300 hours.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I shall want notice of that. I really cannot reply to that now.

CONSTRUCTION OF BATALA-BEAS SECTION OF N. W. RAILWAY

1103 *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- (a) if it is a fact that the Batala-Beas section of the North Western Railway was surveyed some years back and that the construction of the project was also decided upon;
- (b) if it is a fact that while the construction was going on and the line was completed upto Qadian, it was decided to abandon the project as the remaining portion between Qadian and Beas was not considered to be a paying proposition;
- (c) if Government are aware that some of the other abandoned projects on the North Western Railway and other Railways are being re-surveyed now with a view to investigating their traffic prospects; and
- (d) if the reply to (c) above is in the affirmative whether Government propose to order the re-investigation of the traffic prospects of the Qadian-Beas Section also? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The portion beyond Qadian was abandoned due to financial stringency.

(c) Yes.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The plan for investigation of new lines in the Punjab has been evolved in full consultation with the Punjab Government and the line referred to is not included therein.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how many miles have been already laid and at what cost on this section?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Two lines, one for each wheel.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Arising out of the answer to part (b), if it was decided upon—not two lines—but I want to know how many miles of line have been already laid on the track before it was abandoned?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I have not got the mileage handy.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If this was abandoned on account of financial stringency, is it going to be taken up in the post-war scheme?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No; it is not proposed to build any more on this alignment.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As I understand it, the Batala-Beas section of the North Western Railway was surveyed some years back and the construction of the project was also decided upon. Part (b) of the question says that while the construction was going on and the line was completed up to Qadian, it was decided to abandon the project as the remaining portion between Qadian and Beas was not considered to be a paying proposition. I understand the Honourable Member to say that it was abandoned not because it was not a paying proposition but on account of financial stringency. If it is already surveyed and so much money has been spent and some of the track has been laid, why should it not be continued as a post-war scheme?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question of this alignment as of all other projected alignments in the Punjab was fully discussed with the Provincial Government and they advised that this was not one of the projects which they particularly recommended for construction.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the provincial government was not consulted before the survey of this line was undertaken and the project proceeded with?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I presume they were consulted in 1928, when the first portion of the line was built. I do not say that this line will never be constructed, but it is not in the present plan.

NUMBER OF LOCOMOTIVES PURCHASED FROM OUTSIDE INDIA

1104. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Railway Member kindly state the number of locomotives purchased from outside India per year during the period from 1939 upto-date naming the country from which they were imported, the price paid and the quality and weight in tons of these locomotives; and if they were upto or below the standard, giving full details?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I lay on the table a statement showing the number of locomotives imported during the years 1939-40 to 1945-46, their approximate cost and weight.

The design and workmanship of the locomotives shown in the statement is considered satisfactory, but in the case of the Metre Gauge locomotives from U. S. A., and also some of the Broad Gauge locomotives from U. S. A., obsolescence is likely to become operative comparatively early. Allowance has been made for this factor in prices to be negotiated for such locomotives.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask if there is any possibility of manufacturing all these locomotives in India? Is he going to take any steps to encourage this industry for the manufacture of locomotives?

Number of locomotives imported from abroad for Government-owned Railways during the years 1939-40 to 1945-46 (up to 28th February 1946).

Year	No. of locomotives received during the year	Imported from	Approximate average cost per loco in India	Approximate weight in tons of empty engine and tender
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Broad Gauge</i>				
1939-40	...	...	...	...
1940-41	8	U. K.	1.32 to 2.17	65 to 110
1941-42	...	...	...	...
1942-43	4	U. K.	1.36	50
1943-44	4	do.	1.26	50
	40(a)	U. S. A.	4.41	125
	40	Canada	3.14	100
1944-45	103	do.	3.14	100
	199(a)	U. S. A.	1.76 to 3.29	39.00 to 100
1945-46	258	Canada	2.93	100
(up to 28th February 1946).	116(a)	U. S. A.	1.76 to 3.29	39.00 to 100
	8	U. K.	3.10	112
<i>Metre Gauge</i>				
1939-40	16	do.	0.72	43
1940-41	6	do.	1.39	64
1941-42	...	...	...	...
1942-43	10(b)	U. S. A.	2.12	66
1943-44	3	U. K.	2.04	64
	212(b)	U. S. A.	2.12	66
	12(c)	Egypt	0.41	35
	29(c)	Iraq	0.35 to 0.43	30 to 36
1944-45	167(b)	U. S. A.	2.12	66
1945-46	9	U. K.	3.00	102.98
(up to 28th February 1946).				

NOTE.—(a) Obtained on L/L (includes 60 locomotives on C3). The Rly. Department are negotiating prices to be paid before taking them over. The prices will be based on the market value and the condition of these locos.

(b) H. M. G.'s property. The Rly. Department are negotiating prices on the basis mentioned above prior to taking them over.

(c) Repurchased stock (originally supplied for overseas operations). Prices based on double depreciation for overseas service and present day replacement costs.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; that matter was fully debated in the course of the Railway Budget discussions and I think I gave a full exposition of what was actually being done now.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know . . .

Mr. President: Order, order: next question.

NUMBER OF WAGONS, AND COACHES, PURCHASED FROM OUTSIDE INDIA

1105. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Railway Member kindly state:

(a) the number of wagons, and coaches, if any, purchased from outside India per year from the year 1939 up-to-date giving the country from which they were imported, the price paid for them, and their quality if they were up to or below the standard; and

(b) the amount of money spent per year for Railway materials expecting locomotives and wagons imported from outside India from 1939 up-to-date naming the country of import?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a statement showing the number of wagons and coaches imported during the years 1939-40 to 1945-46 with their approximate costs.

Except for the wagons imported ex U. S. A., all others are standard I. R. S. wagons. The U. S. A. wagons are non-standard and will need rebodding before they can compare with I. R. S. stock. This has been taken into consideration in arriving at the price at which the Railway Department are negotiating to take them over.

(b) The information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would not be commensurate with the value of the results.

Year	No. of wagons and coaches received during the year		Imported from		Approximate average cost per erected wagon and coaches in India. (In thousand of rupees).	
	Wagons	Coaches	Wagons	Coaches	Wagons	Coaches
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
BROAD GAUGE.						
1939-40	}	...	Nil	...	...	...
1940-41						
1941-42						
1942-43						
1943-44						
1944-45	256 (a)	20 (a)	Iraq	Iraq	2.7 to 9.00	10.0 to 60.00
1945-46	1390 (b)	...	U. S. A.	...	10.00 to 33.00	...
	4550	...	Canada	...	15.00 to 16.00	...
	5596	...	U. K.	...	10.00 to 11.00	...
METRE GAUGE						
1939-40	}	...	Nil	...	...	...
1940-41						
1941-42						

1942-43	40 (d)	...	Not known	...	Not known	...
1943-44	2240 (c)	...	U. S. A.	...	10.6 to 20.7	...
	88 (a)	...	Egypt	...	1.4 to 4.9	...
	25 (a)	...	Iraq	...	1.4 to 4.9	...
1944-45	8990 (c)	...	U. S. A.	...	10.6 to 20.7	...
	332 (a)	...	Egypt	...	1.4 to 18	...
	488 (a)	...	Iraq	...	1.4 to 4.9	...
	...	12 (a)	...	Iraq	...	29 to 57.8
1945-46	303 (c)	...	U. S. A.	...	10.6 to 20.7	...
	12	...	U. K.	...	Not known	...

NOTE.—(a) Repurchased stock (Originally supplied for overseas operations). Prices based on double depreciation for overseas service and present day replacement costs.

(b) Obtained on L/L. The Railway Department are negotiating prices to be paid before taking them over. The prices will be based on market value and the condition of these wagons.

(c) H. M. G.'s property. The Railway Department are negotiating prices on the basis mentioned at (b) above prior to taking them over.

(d) Frustrated cargo for Siam. Being offered to Siam as they are non-standard to Indian Railways.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why are these U. S. A. wagons being imported, in view of the fact that they have to be reconditioned again in this country?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They were imported as a war emergency; and as soon as V.-J. day came all outstanding orders on that account were cancelled.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: With reference to part (b), will the Honourable Member for War Transport please give the names of the countries from which these articles were imported?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No. Part (b) covers a vast number of articles and I just could not undertake to collect full details of them. A great many of them came from the United Kingdom but a certain number came from America also, and I think Australia too.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Is preference in the matter of importation given to Britain or to America?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There was no question of preference during the war: we had to get them from where we could. I think the bulk of them came from Britain.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy of the Government now to manufacture all wagons in India alone now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; in the course of the Railway Budget I said that the capacity in India should be ample to provide for our future requirements.

CONTRACT FOR LORRY TRAFFIC FROM SIMLA TO KOTGARH

1106. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport kindly state if a contract for lorry traffic from Simla to Kotgarh has been given to some contractor or contractors?

(b) What are the rates for passengers and goods from Simla to Kotgarh?

(c) Is it a fact that inhabitants of these areas applied for the contract being given to them but their applications were rejected and that the contract was given to outsiders?

(d) Is it a fact that officials and subordinates of the States Agency are interested in these contractors?

(e) Is it a fact that applications quoting lower rates were ignored?

(f) Is it a fact that there is an acute feeling of resentment among the people on account of the contract being given at exorbitant rates to an outsider?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (c), (d), (e) and (f). The contract in question was given by an Indian State and I am not in a position to give any information regarding the arrangements made.

(b) Passenger rates are fifteen pies and ten pies per mile for first and second class passengers respectively between Simla and Theog, and one anna six pies and one anna per mile respectively between Theog and Kotgarh. Goods rates are seven pies per maund per mile between Simla and Theog and ten pies per maund per mile between Theog and Thanedar.

NUMBER OF FACTORIES TURNING OUT BRASS WORKS

1107. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies kindly state:

(a) the number of factories, Province-wise, in which the industry of melting brass scraps into brass ingots and rolling them into brass circlets was carried on during the last year; and

(b) the number of factories Province-wise, which had adequate arrangements for the suitable disposal of factory works from the industry?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Four; all in Bombay. One factory in Bengal also pigged fired brass cartridge cases but did not roll ingots into circlets.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement

Province	Number of Factories
Bengal	10
Bombay	2
Madras	3
United Provinces	2
Punjab	1
Sind	1
Central Provinces	1

TOTAL PRODUCTION IN YARDS OF COTTON BY INDIAN MILLS AND PROVINCIAL QUOTA

1108. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state the total quantity of production in yards of cotton of all varieties and description by Indian Mills in India during the period from January to 31st December 1945?

(b) What was the quota given to different Provinces for the purposes of distribution either through rationing systems or otherwise, stating Province by Province and quantity in yards?

(c) Who fixed these quotas of Provinces, and what were the facts and circumstances which decided the fixing of these quantities?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The total quantity of cotton cloth of all varieties produced by Indian mills during 1945 was 4,654 million yards.

(b) The quotas allocated to each province during 1945 (including handloom cloth) were:

	Million yards
Bombay	522
Sind	66
U. P.	610
Bihar	382
Bengal	646
Assam	112
Orissa	167
C. P.	245
Punjab	692
N.-W. F. P.	117
Madras	637

These figures include cloth for consumption in certain states in the same zones as the Provinces in question.

(c) These quotas were fixed by the Government of India on the basis of the population and the estimated pre-war consumption of cloth in each province, in consultation with the Provincial Government.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The Honourable Member forgot to mention Delhi and Ajmer in his reply?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The Honourable Member has got a subsequent question on the subject.

Seth Govind Das: The population of the Central Provinces is more than that of Orissa and Assam. Why is it then that the cloth which is given to C. P. is less than that of Orissa?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have explained that it is based on the pre-war consumption per head.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the quota for the Madras Presidency in cotton mill cloth has been reduced and also the yarn that is supplied to the handlooms?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The Honourable Member does not state since when he thinks it has been reduced.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Since the beginning of this year.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I must ask for notice of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about last year—1945?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I do not think there was any reduction in the quota of mill made cloth except as from September when the Provincial Governments agreed to the allocations made to all the provinces.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that both the quota of mill made cloth as well as the quota of yarn for handlooms were reduced in the case of the Madras Presidency?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: In order to secure a fair allocation for all the provinces.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Is it not a fact that the figures for the consumption of cloth in the N.-W. F. P. were supplied not by the N.-W. F. P. Government but by the Punjab from whom they used to take their cloth?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I must ask for notice.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if in the case of Madras and Assam the quantity of handmade cloth was taken into account in fixing the quota?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the quantity of yarn that is supplied to those provinces has been considerably cut down and on account of that a revision has been made in the quantity of yardage that is supplied now?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: There was a small cut in the amount of yarn that is being consumed by Madras.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that Madras is the second biggest province in the matter of handloom industries?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I believe that that is so.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that the Bihar quota of cloth remaining in the Ahmedabad Mills could not be taken to their place of destination owing to shortage of wagons?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: In reply to an earlier question by the Honourable Member I have given details as to what stoppages occurred in railway movements.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that in Madras only 12 yards are allowed whereas in the Punjab and the N.-W. F. P. 18 yards are allowed and on account of the handloom production having gone down, will the Honourable Member try to revise the yardage that is allowed to Madras?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: That will be looked into.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Not at the expense of the Frontier?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Certainly.

DISTRIBUTION OF COTTON CLOTH THROUGH RATIONING SYSTEM IN DELHI PROVINCE

1109. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state the total quantity of cotton cloth in yards placed at the disposal of the Delhi Province for distribution through Rationing System in the Delhi Province and in the Delhi City (including New Delhi) in 1945?

(b) How many retail shops were appointed licencees for "Ration Shops", and were the Delhi Cloth Mills and Birla Mills also given licencees for "Ration Cotton Cloth sales"? If so, how many depots did they create, and how many shops were given to each Delhi Cloth Mills and Birla Mills, separately?

The Honourable A. A. Waugh: (a) The total quantity of cotton cloth allotted in 1945 to Delhi Province including Delhi city and New Delhi since the commencement of rationing was 1,18,53,000 yards (7,902 bales). Actually, the quantity received during this period as part of the Delhi quota was 1,08,54,000 Yards (7,232 bales), and 9,99,000 yards (666 bales) were obtained from stocks available locally.

(b) 198 retail shops including the retail depots of the Delhi Cloth Mills and the Birla Mills were authorised as ration shops. Nine of these shops belong to the Delhi Cloth Mills and seven to the Birla Mills. They did not create any new depots and only existing depots were recognised.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if these mills stocked products manufactured by their own mills? Is it a fact also that although they were sold within a radius of three miles they are still allowed 20 per cent. middlemen's profits?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: They were selling their own products. As to the rate of profits, I must ask for notice of the question.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it not a fact that the ex-mill rate and the retail rate differ by 20 per cent. that the retail rate is 20 per cent. higher than the ex-mill rate and further that these two mills lie within a radius of three miles and are not entitled to more than 4 per cent. profit on ex-mill rate?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I must ask for notice.

DISTRIBUTION OF UN-RATIONED COTTON CLOTH IN DELHI PROVINCE

1110. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state what quantity in yards of cotton cloth was placed at the disposal of the Delhi Province for being sold as "Unrationed Cloth", and how their Director of Civil Supplies distributed the same, stating the quantity in yards given for sale to Hindu cloth merchants, the quantity in yards given to the Muslim cloth merchants and quantity in yards given to Mill depots of the Delhi Cloth Mills Limited?

(b) Is it a fact that cotton saris and dhoties which were given to be sold in ration shops of Delhi retail cloth merchants were being sold by the Delhi Cloth Mills at their depots as "Un-Rationed Cloth"?

(c) Is it a fact that, Muslim cloth merchants represented to the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, that they were given only such quantities for sale as would bring them Rupees twenty-two and annas four per month income and that the said Director has given no heed to the same, in spite of repeated representations?

(d) Is it a fact that in distribution of 'Un-rationed cotton cloth, the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, has given less than ten per cent. of the total quantity to the Muslim merchants in Delhi? If not, what is the fact?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) No particular quantity of cloth was placed at the disposal of the Delhi Province for being sold as unrationed cloth. The Delhi Administration decided from time to time what varieties of cloth should be treated as unrationed. The Honourable Member has not specified the period for which the information is required, and I am therefore giving information for the period December 1945 to February 1946, during which period only was any appreciable amount of course cloth of the local mills issued as unrationed. From the reserves of such cloth available, allocations were made to dealers on the basis of actual business done by them on information obtained from a statement filled in by the dealers. These statements were not furnished by all the dealers, and in cases where the information was not available, and of petty dealers whose business was under 20 bales per year, an allocation was made at the rate of one bale per quarter. The distribution among Muslims and non-Muslims was as follows:

	Yards
Non-Muslims	11,25,000
Muslims	2,25,000

The Delhi Cloth Mills during the same period sold at their retail depots 436 bales (6,54,000 yards). This quantity was not "given" to them for sale, but was sold by them in accordance with their previous practice and with the permission of the Government of India.

(b) No.

(c) A representation, in which Rs. 22/8/- per month was mentioned as the income, was received by the Delhi administration from the Cloth and General Merchants Association on the 2nd of March, 1946. As the distribution of cloth was limited by the actual quantity available and this had to be distributed among numerous claimants, it was impossible to provide a larger quantity of cloth. 964, dealers received a quota of one bale per quarter only, and of these 800 were Muslims.

(d) No. As stated in answer to part (a), 150 bales were issued to Muslim dealers and 750 bales to Non-Muslims, making a percentage of 17.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Does the Honourable Member know that the Muslim Merchants' Association referred to represented their case from May, 1945, to December 1945, and the matter was referred to by Statements in the Press? I saw the Chief Commissioner myself.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, Sir, there has been a series of representations.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: How is it possible to say that this letter was received only on the 2nd March and how has the plea been made that they do not know the position of the Muslim merchants.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am referring to the representation received by the Central Government, not by the Delhi Administration.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The Delhi administration was appraised of this fact from June onwards and in spite of that they have given only 2 lakhs yards out of a total of 18 lakhs yards.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I submit that this is a statement not a question. I do not know what the facts are.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What is the total number of all cloth merchants before this control came into force?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I would have to collect that information.

CONTROL PRICES OF SILK CLOTH AND ARTIFICIAL SILK CLOTH MANUFACTURED IN INDIA

1111. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if it is a fact that control prices of silk cloth and artificial silk cloth manufactured in India are nearly eight times higher than the prices prevailing in India in 1939 and 1940 for the same variety of silk and artificial silk cloths? If not what proportion they bear to prices ruling in 1939-1940 for the same class of cloth?

(b) Is it a fact that Murshidabad silk, Mysore silk and Kashmir silk of an average quality width 36 inches were being sold in India on an average of Rupees two and annas eight per yard in 1939 which has been controlled at the rate of Rs. 13 to Rs. 14 which are the present ruling prices?

(c) Is it a fact that heavy imitation China silk produced in India was being sold at Rupee one and annas eight in 1939 which has been controlled at Rs. 7-8-0 to Rs. 10-8-0 at the present time?

(d) Does the Honourable Member propose to explain the principle governing such controlled prices?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) On an average, the present control prices of silk and artificial silk fabrics are about five times higher than the prices prevailing in India in 1939 and 1940.

(b) Yes, Sir. The average price ruling before control prices were fixed last July was about Rs. 18 a yard.

(c) The term "heavy imitation China Silk" is understood to mean artificial silk made in India. The pre-war price was about Rs. 2-8-0 per yard. The present price is about Rs. 12. Before Control was introduced, the Bazaar price was round about Rs. 18.

(d) The control prices are based on costs of production. By and large the ultimate basis for real silk is a price for cocoons bearing the same relation to the price in 1941 as the cost of living indices of 1945 and 1941. In the case of artificial silk it is the landed cost of yarn.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is the Honourable Member aware that his predecessor gave an assurance to this House that the peak prices of 1943 would be reduced by 50 per cent. immediately?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am not aware of the statement referred to.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Will he refer to the old debates?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I am quite prepared to do so.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When were the prices of silk fixed last?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I shall endeavour to supply the information. I have not got it with me.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know if the Honourable Member is prepared to look into the whole question again and see that the prices do not remain at five times, but that it is reduced to just twice the old rate, which is equitable?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I only wish there was no scarcity. If the scarcity of raw material would come down, I would be pleased to look into the whole question.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: The price of raw silk today as compared to the prices of 1938-39 are considerably higher?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: Yes, considerably higher.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Where it should not be more than 200 per cent. it is now more than 500 per cent.

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have not got figures. I think that the rise is higher than 200 per cent.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are these prices reviewed from time to time in relation to the fall in the index prices of food stuffs?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have not observed that the cost of living is coming down.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it a fact that since the price was fixed last time, that was a long time ago, the prices have not been reviewed at all?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: They are constantly under review; at the moment, the price of raw silk is far from satisfactory.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: When was it reviewed last?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I want notice.

RETURN OF ALL-INDIA VILLAGE INDUSTRIES RESEARCH CENTRE AT POONA

1112. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the All-India Village Industries Research Centre at Poona run by Mr. K. B. Joshi; under the direction of Mr. Vaikuntha Mehta, Managing Director of Provincial Co-operative Bank, was taken over by Government under the Defence of India Rules in 1942 and have not returned it to them ever since;

(b) if they had made drastic changes in the very fundamentals of the work of the Centre, abandoned all research work and have now decided to dismantle it;

(c) if they have seen Dr. J. C. Kumarappa's Condemnation of their policy in his article "Vandalism", published in the *Gramodyoga Patrika* of October 1945, Wardha;

(d) why Government have not proposed to hand over the buildings and machinery to the former management; and

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of handling it over to the A. I. V. I. A. management at least now?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: The question will be answered by the Honourable the Home Member on the appropriate day.

ENQUIRY INTO THE NUMBER OF WORKERS EMPLOYED IN COTTAGE AND INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS

1113. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) in connection with his reply to Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena's Starred Question No. 460, dated the 22nd February, 1946 regarding the number of

Industrial undertakings, whether Government will consider the advisability of holding an enquiry to ascertain the number of industrial concerns and workers employed therein, in which less than 20 workers are employed by Cottage or factory employers;

(b) whether Government are aware of the estimates made by the Textile Fact Finding Committee in regard to hand loom weavers employed in concerns with less than twenty workers;

(c) whether they have seen the estimates made by the Cottage Industrial Enquiries conducted by the Madras Government in 1928-29, and by the Kumarappa Enquiry Committee of the Central Provinces Government, in 1939;

(d) whether on the basis of the 1931 Census Reports (Industrial and other occupational Sections) any estimate has been made or is sought to be made about the approximate number of workers employed in Cottage and other industrial concerns, with less than 20 workers each;

(e) if it is a fact that the Royal Commission on Labour has deplored the absence of such Statistics and any effort to protect their interests; and

(f) in view of the industrial planning and development which are in the offing, whether Government propose to hold a rapid enquiry in co-operation with Provincial Governments into the real importance, numbers of concerns and workers employed in Cottage and other small industrial concerns?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Government are pursuing this question. The Labour Investigation Committee appointed in pursuance of Resolution No. L-4012, dated 12th February, 1944, has conducted enquiries in respect of the more important indigenous handicrafts and small scale industries.

(b) The report of the Fact Finding Committee makes no mention of estimates in respect of handloom weavers employed in concerns with less than twenty workers.

(c) No. These estimates are being called for.

(d) No, Sir. I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (a) above.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Government will examine this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May we know some of the list of cottage industries which the Government are enquiring into?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I shall be pleased to give my Honourable friend information in detail.

Seth Govind Das: Do the Government propose to start spinning and weaving in the villages?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I have said that the Government are examining the question of what will be the most practical and effective scheme. I would welcome the opportunity of discussing this with the Standing Committee attached to my Department, with a view to shaping out an effective scheme.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that the Government in this Department have got a statistical section, and if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government consider the advisability of making the collection of these statistics one of its primary activities?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: I shall consider it.

CLASSIFICATION OF 'SELECTION POSTS' ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

1114. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the principles observed in the classification of 'Selection Posts' on the Indian Railways;

(b) if the Honourable Member is aware that the list of "Selection Posts" intimated to this House in reply to unstarred question No. 11 on the 6th February 1940, has been greatly enlarged since then on the North Western Railway, if so, why;

(c) whether it is proposed to lay down a pay limit on which the classification of Selection Posts is made in future; and

(d) if the reply to (c) above be in the affirmative, whether it is proposed to fix this pay-limit for posts carrying pay of over Rs. 200 per mensem on old scales; if not, what pay-limit do Government propose to fix?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Generally speaking, selection posts include fairly senior posts and posts outside the cadre. The power to determine selection posts in non-gazetted cadres rests with General Managers any they can declare as a selection post any post to which promotions is made on the basis of selection in accordance with comparative merit and not seniority alone, *vide* rules 2(3) and 3 of the rules governing the promotion of subordinate staff as contained in Appendix II-A of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. The North Western Railway's list did not include certain posts which at the time were not treated by them as selection posts because they were filled by selected men in order of seniority. It was subsequently decided to treat the latter posts also as selection posts. Apart from this revision, additions to the list have been very few and were made as a result of the experience gained of the special abilities required of the incumbents of such posts.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

(d) Does not arise.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Are there any definite rules laying down which posts ought to be regarded as selection posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have answered that in part (a).

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that just with a view to avoid a person getting a particular post, the General Managers are usually in the habit of declaring that post a selection post?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is not done, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It may or may not be done. What are the rules regulating the decision of certain posts to be selection posts or not? Are they merely left to the whims and fancies of the General Managers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think if the Honourable Member will study the Establishment Code which I have referred to, he will see that the rules are fairly satisfactory.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has this practice been continued from the time of the company management or have the Government set down new rules just now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: These are State railway rules.

SENIORITY RULES OF NON-GAZETTED SUBORDINATE STAFF ON INDIAN RAILWAYS

1115. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the general principles in determining seniority of the non-gazetted subordinate staff on the Indian Railways;

(b) if the Honourable Member is aware of the general complaints about frequent changes in seniority rules on the North Western Railway; and

(c) if it is proposed by the Railway Board to issue a general set of seniority rules for the Indian Railway; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (c). Rule 10 in Appendix II-A to the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume 1, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House, authorizes the General Managers to prescribe the necessary rules for the determination of seniority of non-gazetted staff. No uniform set of rules for the purpose of determining seniority can be framed which would be applicable to all groups, classes and grades alike on the different Railway systems in view of the divergent conditions prevailing.

(b) Government are informed that the Railway Administration is not aware of any general complaints in the matter.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to part (b), I should like to know if uniform rules are observed on all railways, and whether N. W. R. have been changing their rules from time to time?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I expect they have been.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from the question of general principles, have there not been general complaints about frequent changes in seniority rules? What steps have Government taken to collect information on the point?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: After referring this question to the railway, I am informed that the railway administration is not aware of any such general complaints in the matter.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Apart from complaints, has it come to the notice of the railway administration that the rules are being changed from time to time?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I expect they have been.

'HOWRAH SYSTEM OF BOOKING' AT KARACHI BUNDER STATION

1116. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if he is aware that there was much mismanagement in the supply of wagons at the Karachi Bunder Station?

(b) Is he also aware that certain members of staff were shifted and new system known as 'Howrah System' was introduced?

(c) How long did the 'Howrah System of booking' work, and what was the total expenditure thereon?

(d) Is the Honourable Member aware that "Howrah system" was stopped in spite of adverse opinion from the commercial community, including the Karachi Chamber of Commerce?

(e) Is it also a fact that the same staff has been re-transferred to the Karachi Bunder?

(f) What step do Government propose to take to avoid recurrence of abuses referred to in part (a) above? If none why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. Owing to the acute shortage of wagons resulting from conditions created by the War there were the same difficulties in supplying wagons at Karachi Bunder at many other stations. Government is not aware of any mismanagement in the supply of wagons at this station.

(b) Regarding the first part, information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House in due course. With regard to the latter part of the question, the reply is in the affirmative.

(c) The "Howrah Scheme" was operated at Karachi Bunder from 22nd January, 1945, to 31st October, 1945. The information asked for in the latter part of the question is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House when received.

(d) and (e). Presumably the word "stopped" is a misprint for the word "started". The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the House when received.

(f) This does not arise.

(B) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DIFFERENT RATES OF SPECIAL PAY FOR DEPUTATIONISTS IN RAILWAY BOARD

1117. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that a special pay was sanctioned for those of the staff who are transferred to the Railway Board's Office on deputation mainly on the consideration that the duties and responsibilities of arduous nature are involved in the Railway Board's Office?

(b) Is it a fact that a higher rate of Rs. 50 per month as special pay has been sanctioned for those who are on deputation to the Railway Board's Office in New Delhi from stations outside Delhi and a lower rate of Rs. 30 per month is given to those who are taken locally?

(c) If the answer to (b) be in the affirmative why is this differential treatment meted out to the persons transferred from local offices, specially in view of the fact that both the categories of the persons are considered to be discharging duties of arduous nature and responsibility?

(d) Do Government propose to remove this discrimination by introducing uniform rates of special pay, viz., Rs. 50 with retrospective effect? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) A special pay is granted both in consideration of the arduous duties and heavier responsibilities attaching to posts in the Railway Board's office as well as on other considerations, such as additional expenditure entailed in the maintenance of double establishments, etc., which apply only to persons coming from outside Delhi.

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). In view of the reply to part (a) above, Government do not propose to introduce a uniform rate of special pay.

PROTESTS BY INDIAN TRADE UNION ORGANISATIONS AGAINST EXECUTION OF REPUBLICANS IN SPAIN

1118. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state: whether Government have received any representations from Indian trade union organisations protesting against the execution of ten Republicans in Spain by the Government of General Franco and asking their protests to be forwarded to the Spanish Government; what action Government have taken in the matter?

Mr. H. Weightman: Such a representation has been received from the Indian Federation of Labour. A reply has been sent that the Government of India do not conceive it to be their business to forward the protest to the Spanish Government, it being open to the Indian Federation of Labour to send a communication on the subject through the post if it wishes to do so.

TENDERS FOR WORK IN E. I. RAILWAY LOCO. RUNNING SHEDS

1119. *Mr. Madan Dhari Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the system of giving contract for the work of coal handling, engine and ash pit cleaning, cinders picking and labour supplying in the East Indian Railway Loco. Running Sheds?

(b) Who is the authority for accepting the tenders?

(c) What is the number of contractors who were given the work at Gaya, Moghulsarai and Jhajha from the year 1938 to the year 1945?

(d) Is it a fact that the accepted tenders for the work were not the lowest? If so, what are the reasons for the acceptance of higher tenders?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The information is being obtained and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

REVIVAL OF OLD INDIAN STORES DEPARTMENT

1120. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state what retrenchment was proposed in the Industries and Supplies Department from the peak and how much of it has been achieved already?

(b) What was the pay and allowance or the total establishment charge of the Department per month at the peak period, what is it now, what further reduction is aimed at, and when do Government expect to achieve it?

(c) What is the intention of Government in regard to the old Indian Stores Department, and is it intended to revive it in any form in the near future?

(d) Are all the stores purchase rules, as they existed before the war, still in force?

(e) Have Government restored the general practice in the matter of purchase in India and scrutiny of indents going outside India before such indents are made?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) and (b). The information is not readily available. It is being collected, and will be laid on the table in due course.

(c) The I.S.D. has been incorporated in the DG (F. & S.), and it is not intended to revive it as a separate entity.

(d) Yes, Sir, except for deviations during wartime emergencies.

(e) The general practice in the matter of purchase in India continued during the war and I would invite attention to the reply I gave on the 8th February, 1946, to part (b) and latter part of part (c) of Starred question No. 102, asked by the Honourable Member. As regards scrutiny of indents, Government never scrutinized indents going outside India before such indents were made. They only scrutinized after these indents were sent to D.G., I.S.D., London. The Supply Department had, however, enough time to challenge any such indents before any purchases against such indents were actually made, and this continues to be the practice.

NUMBER OF LIAISON OFFICERS AND RELAXATION OF CONTROLS

1121. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how many liaison officers still continue to function, and why?

(b) How many officers, who were working under the Director-General of Munitions production, still continue to function, and what is the work which they are now doing?

(c) How many controls have been relaxed, or are proposed to be relaxed in connection with (i) steel and (ii) non-ferrous metals?

(d) Do Government propose to continue the fixing of ceiling prices for the protection of the civil population in regard to (i) steel and (ii) non-ferrous metals?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) There are three Liaison Officers for consumer goods and twelve Honorary Advisers. The former are employed for the administration of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance and Consumer Goods Control Order. They look after imports of consumer goods made on Government account and still awaiting disposal, answer very numerous enquiries from the public, and see that consumer goods the distribution of which is still controlled are in fact despatched by importers as ordered. Their services will be terminated on 31st March, 1946, after which their functions on a reduced scale will be discharged by the Secretariat Delhi.

The Honorary Advisers advise on Jute Supplies, Rope, Wool, Tanning, Petroleum, Webbing, Hides, Cement, Rubber, Coffee, Cotton Textiles and Textile Machinery. They advise Government on problems connected with the industry concerned, and enable Government to keep in touch with the industry.

(b) 126. They are concerned with procurement of metal and engineering stores for railways, civil departments of Government and the Army. The D.G.M.P. as an organisation will shortly be closed down and amalgamated with the D.G.I. & S., leaving in Calcutta only a branch of the Purchase organisation for normal peace time work.

(c) The Iron and Steel Movement by road and rail Orders and the Cotton Baling Hoops (Control of Movement) Order have been cancelled. The Iron and Steel (Control of Production and Distribution) Order and the Iron and Steel Scrap Control Order still remain in force. The former is being modified with a view to abolish the licensing of steel from 1st April, 1946. There are three Control Orders on non-ferrous metal: (1) Non-ferrous metal (Control) Order, (2) Brass and Copper (Control) Order, (3) Aluminium Utensils (Control) Order.

(d) Yes Sir. The fixation of ceiling prices is to be continued for both steel and non-ferrous metals in order to prevent black market activities.

CONTROL AND SALE OF WOOLLEN GOODS IN INDIA BY GOVERNMENT

1122. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether the manufacture and sale of woollen goods in India is under the control of Government? If so, on what basis is the same regulated?

(b) Is it a fact that Government sell the Indian woollen goods at a price much higher than what it pays to the manufacturers? If so, what is the margin of profit, and how much profits have Government made over such scales since the control was enforced? To what fund is the money so earned credited; and how is it utilized?

(c) What is the quantity and value of woollen goods produced by the Indian woollen mills since the promulgation of the Control Ordinance? Were the Indian woollen mills working to their full capacity during this period? If not, why not?

(d) What is the quantity and value of foreign woollen goods imported into India during the corresponding period?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) Yes, Sir, the manufacture and sale of woollen goods is under the control of Government. Goods for the civil market are purchased by Government, who pay the mills a margin of 12½ per cent. over their cost of production, and are sold to recognised dealers who retail them to the public at a fixed price. This price allows dealers a margin of 12½ per cent.

(b) Yes, Sir, it is correct that Government often but not always charge the dealer a slightly higher price than they have paid or expect to pay to the manufacturer. The reasons are firstly that Government initially fixed ceiling prices slightly on the high side to allow for a possible upward trend in costs of production, and secondly in the earlier stages retail prices were based on estimates of cost while payments to mills were based on costs of production worked out subsequently. In some cases, the price chargeable by Government to the dealer is lower than the price payable by Government to the manufacturer and these deficits are met from the surpluses accruing from other items. There is no fixed margin of profit, and it is not possible to give a figure of the surplus accruing to Government so far, because mills have been paid at provisional rates and it will be some time before the prices payable to them are finalised. If any surpluses remain when the control is wound up, Government will consider how to spend these and one way would be to spend them for the benefit of India's woollen industry.

(c) The quantity of woollen goods produced by Indian Woollen Mills since the promulgation of the Control Order is about 44.86 million lbs., and their value about 14.14 crores of rupees. Indian Woollen Mills were working to their full capacity during this period, except for occasional stoppages owing to lack of coal.

(d) The quantity of foreign woollen goods imported into India during this period was about 1,354,000 lbs., and their value was about 1.2 crores.

CONSUMPTION OF CLOTH IN N.-W. F. PROVINCE

1123. *Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state the consumption of cloth in the following areas of the North-West Frontier Province before the World War II: (i) Khyber Agency, (ii) Malakand Agency, (iii) Kurram Agency, (iv) Mahmand Agency, (v) Tochi Agency, and (vi) Waziristan Agency?

(b) What is the amount of cloth supplied to each of these Agencies now?

(c) What was the amount of cloth supplied before the last war to the North-West Frontier Province, and what is supplied now?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) and (b). My Department has asked the N.-W. F. P. Government by telegram for this information, but the N.-W. F. P. Government have not yet replied.

(c) *Before the war:* On an average about 70,148 bales per annum.

At present: About 62,592 bales per annum.

APPLICABILITY OF GOVERNMENT RAILWAY RULES TO STAFF ON B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY SCHOOLS

1124. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that according to the declared policy of the Railway Board, all teachers employed in Railway Schools on the East Indian Railway are Government servants and are allowed scales of pay in force in Provincial Government Schools of the Province in which they are situated?

(b) Is it a fact that the B., B. and C. I. Railway was taken over by the Government of India in 1942? If so, is it a fact that all employees of the now defunct B., B. and C. I. Railway Company became Government servants from that date?

(c) Have the Railway Board laid down a policy for the B., B. and C. I. Railway Schools different from the policy already in force for Railway Schools on other Government Railways? If so, on what grounds? If not, are the staff employed on the B., B. and C. I. Railway Schools governed by Government Railway Rules in the matter of leave, passes and P. T. Os. rent rules, scales of pay and other service matters? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative and to the second in the negative.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative.

(c) The reply to the first portion is in the negative. The second portion does not arise. The reply to the third portion is in the affirmative except in regard to leave and scales of pay of ex-Company school staff. In accordance with the terms offered to non-gazetted staff of the ex-B., B. & C. I. Railway Company taken over by Government on and from the 1st January 1942, such staff are governed by the ex-Company's rules in these respects. The reply to the last portion does not arise.

SERVICE LIMIT FOR OFFICIALS TAKEN FROM CIRCLE OFFICES INTO P. & T.
DIRECTORATE

1125. *Mr. Ramayan Prasad: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state if it is a fact that a limit of more than five and less than ten years' service has been prescribed for taking men from subordinate offices to Circle Offices of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for permanent appointments? If so, is it the intention of the said condition that the officials so taken should be of use for the maximum number of years in the latter office? If not, what is the intention?

(b) Is there no such service limit prescribed for taking officials from Circle Offices into the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate? If not why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative. As regards the third part, the intention in fixing the service limits is to import comparatively young officials who, at the same time, have had some years practical experience of post office work.

(b) There is a minimum service limit of three years but no maximum service limit for importing staff from Circle Offices to the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate. The intention in not prescribing the maximum limit is to improve the efficiency of the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate by obtaining the best available officials with considerable practical experience especially in the technical branches of the Department.

SERVICE LIMIT FOR OFFICIALS TAKEN FROM CIRCLE OFFICES INTO P. & T. DIRECTORATE

1126. *Mr. Ramayan Prasad: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that while drafting on deputation officials from subordinate offices to the Posts and Telegraph Directorate in the year 1941, a similar service limit of about ten years was prescribed. If so, what was the intention behind the prescription of this service limit?

(b) Is it a fact that some officials from amongst those drafted from subordinate offices to the Posts and Telegraphs Directorate have been recently selected for confirmation in the latter office? If so, what was the service put in by each such official on the date of his entry in the P. & T. Directorate?

(c) How many officials thus selected conform to the condition of service limit referred to in part (a) of the previous question and also to part (a) above?

(d) Are there no officials on deputation who fulfil the condition of service limit? If there are, why have they not been selected instead?

(e) Do Government propose to make the selection afresh, taking into consideration the condition of service referred to?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) presumably, the Honourable Member is referring to the maximum limit of ten years service mentioned in part (a) of his previous question. If so, the reply is in the negative. The latter part does not arise.

(b) Yes. I lay a statement on the table.

(c) As will be seen from my reply to part (a), no maximum service limit was prescribed. Part (a) of the previous question which relates to recruitment to Circle offices does not apply in this case.

(d) Does not arise in view of my reply to part (a) of the question.

(e) This does not arise as the selections already made are in keeping with the existing orders.

Statement of officials of subordinate services selected for permanent appointment in Posts and Telegraphs Directorate

Name	Service
(1) Mr. T. N. Mehta	About 14 years.
(2) Mr. M. Y. Shaikh	12 "
(3) Mr. A. K. Gupta	16 "
(4) Mr. N. P. Raman	14 "
(5) Mr. Mohd. Jan	18 "

CONTROLS ON PRICES AND MOVEMENTS OF CHARCOAL, WOOD AND OTHER FUEL

1127. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) how long it is proposed to continue the present controls on the prices and movements of charcoal, wood and other fuel into Delhi;

(b) why all these controls cannot be abolished immediately or at least before the 1st April, 1946;

(c) the number of staff employed on working this control, and the cost incurred in its working during the financial year 1945-46, in the Delhi Province; and

(d) whether Government are aware that the controls are continued merely in the interests of the staff employed for the purpose?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) to (d). Information is being collected from the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, and will be placed on the table of the House when it is received.

FACILITIES FOR INDIAN NATIONALS IN INDO-CHINA

1128. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) all the arrangements made for the safety of properties of Indian Nationals in Indo-China, and all the facilities given to those persons to return to India;

(b) whether representation was made to the Government of India to that effect; and

(c) whether instructions were given to the British Representative in Indo-China to negotiate with the French authorities to secure all facilities in the interest of Indian Nationals since the occupation of the French Government is completed?

Mr. H. Weightman: With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions Nos. 1128 and 1129 together.

The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given by me on the 22nd February, 1946, to questions Nos. 440 and 441.

BANKING FACILITIES FOR INDIAN NATIONALS IN INDO-CHINA

†1129. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the French authorities refused to allow Indian Nationals in Indo-China to send money to their families in India on account of the blockade imposed during the war by the Government of India; if so, whether the Government of India propose to cancel the blockade, take immediate steps to impress upon the French authorities to have exchange rates, and allow remittances to India in the interest of Indian Nationals and their families in India;

(b) whether there is any representation made by any individual and by the then Member of the Assembly, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar, on the above points and if any information is forthcoming whether the same will be placed on the table of the House for the information of the public; and

(c) all the arrangements made by the Government of India for securing priority in passage facilities for Indian Nationals stuck up in Indo-China to come to India and for persons in India owning properties there to go there to look after their property?

CREATION OF INDUSTRIAL STATISTICS DIRECTORATE AND QUALIFICATIONS OF ITS DIRECTOR

1130. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state when the Directorate of Industrial Statistics was created?

(b) What are the special qualifications of the present Director? Has he any academic qualifications in statistics or experience in any statistical branch in Government or elsewhere?

(c) Was the present incumbent drawing only Rs. 600 in another Department of Government, some four years back? What is his present salary?

(d) Was the post advertised and was the selection made by the Federal Public Service Commission? If not, why not?

(e) Why is not the Economic Adviser asked to look after the Industrial Statistics also? Why is a separate Department found necessary?

(f) Is it a fact that persons with qualifications in Economics are preferred to those with qualifications in Statistics? If so, why?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) In April, 1945, the late Industries and Civil Supplies Department decided, with the concurrence of the Economic Adviser and the Finance Department, to set up an organization adequate to deal with the enforcement of the Industrial Statistics Act, 1942, and with the question of taking a Census of Industrial Production. The sanctioned posts include a Director, two Deputy Directors, two Assistant Directors and four Research Officers.

(b) The present Director, Dr. Kaul, holds the Ph.D. Degree of London University for work done with Prof. A. L. Bowley of the London School of Economics. He had, also, training in advanced Statistical methods in the Department of Applied Statistics, London University, under Prof. Karl Pearson. Dr. Kaul spent some 10 years teaching Economics and Statistics in the Universities of Rangoon, Allahabad, Aligarh and the Punjab. From 1937 to 1940 he was employed in the League of Nations at Geneva, where he dealt with Statistics from member nations in the preparation of international studies. On return to India he was appointed in the Commerce Department in 1941, and in the late Industries and Civil Supplies Department on its creation in 1943. After holding the posts of Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary, he was appointed Director of Industrial Statistics on 27th April, 1945.

†For answer to this question see answer to question No. 1128.

(c) On return to India, Dr. Kaul was first appointed in the scale of Rs. 800—50—1,000 in 1941. At Geneva he had been drawing the equivalent of Rs. 1,500. His present pay is Rs. 2,000.

(d) No, Sir. The post of Director has been sanctioned for a period of one year only. Under the rules Departments of the Government of India are competent to recruit candidates for such temporary appointments.

(e) The Department of Industries and Supplies is in charge of Industrial Statistics. There are obvious advantages in having the Department in charge of Industries dealing with industrial statistics through its own officers, and the scope of the work, which is largely 'pioneer' work, justifies the organization set up in the Department.

(f) For work of this kind good qualifications in both Economics and Statistics are necessary, together with considerable administrative experience.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

NUMBER OF POSTS UPGRADED ON N. W. RAILWAY

141. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement in a tabulated form showing the number of posts upgraded on the various Divisions of the North Western Railway separately for each Division, permanently and temporarily as a war emergency?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I regret I cannot undertake to supply the information as its collection will entail an expenditure of time and labour incommensurate with the results to be obtained.

FRAUDS COMMITTED IN FOOD DEPARTMENT OF N. W. RAILWAY

142. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay a statement on the table of the House, showing frauds committed in the Food Department of the North Western Railway, giving particulars of the shop, commodity, and the amount involved during the calendar year 1945, and the action taken in each case?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: According to the information available there were in all 65 cases of frauds in the grainshops of the N. W. Railway during 1945 involving an aggregate amount of Rs. 26,681-8-6. Out of these, 23 cases involving Rs. 19,988-7-0 relate to misappropriation by the staff of the grainshop organisation or by the wheat distributing contractors and the other 42 cases involving Rs. 6,642-12-6 are those in which the Ration Card holders had drawn rations at concessional rates to which they were not entitled either on account of the pay-limit beyond which concession rates are not admissible or by false declaration of particulars of family members in Census Cards.

A statement is placed on the table of the House giving particulars of the five most important cases involving a total amount of Rs. 15,788. The balance is made up of items of less than Rs. 500 each.

In five cases a sum of Rs. 1,379 in all has been recovered and in two cases action is being taken to recover Rs. 845 from the parties found guilty. One Cash Memo Clerk, one Salesman and one Weighman have been discharged from service and 2 Grainshop Managers have been transferred from their posts. The remaining cases are still under investigation.

Statement showing the particulars of frauds involving more than Re. 500 each over the N. W. Railway during 1945

S. No.	Name of shop	Particulars of fraud	Amount involved			Action taken
			Rs.	As.	P.	
1	Various Coupons-Sellers of Lahore Division.	Unauthorised sale of coupons of certain commodities by certain sellers.	823	0	0	The matter is still under investigation.
2	Chhanga Manga and Wazirabad.	Short delivery of 138 maunds and 54 seers wheat and 2389 empty bags by the distributing contractors.	3,581	0	0	Ditto.
3	Loco Grainshop No. 2 Lahore	Embezzlement of Government money by a clerk who was alleged to have been handed over the sum of Re. 895-15-3 for depositing with the Chief Cashier and Treasurer but who failed to do so.	896	0	0	The alleged culprit has been acquitted by the Court. The question of fixing the responsibility of other staff in the light of the judgment given by the Court is under consideration.
4	General Stores Grainshop Lahore	Fraudulent sale of 3 Cash Memo Books and misappropriation of sale proceeds.	661	0	0	The amount was recovered from the Cash Memo Clerk directly responsible for the mis-appropriation. He was discharged from service. One salesman and one weighman have also been discharged. The Grainshop Manager has been served with a charge sheet and action will be taken against him in due course.
5	Gujranwala Reserve Depot	Rejected supply of soap weighing 366 maunds 15 seers paid to Ward Manager.	9,337	0	0	The matter is being investigated by D. I. G. and Special Police Establishment (War Department).
Total			15,788	0	0	

CONTROL OF SILK YARN IN BENGAL

143. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

- the various measures for control of silk yarn in Bengal;
- the purposes for which such measures were adopted;
- whether after the cessation of war there is any purpose for keeping alive these control orders;
- whether Government have in contemplation any measure for controlling silk woven texture; and
- the general policy for such control?

The Honourable Mr. A. A. Waugh: (a) The ceiling prices of silk yarn were fixed by the Central Government last June. These prices apply to Bengal as well as to other parts of India. I do not know whether the Bengal Government have taken any additional measures.

(b) The object is to try to ensure that the public can buy available supplies of silk at a reasonable price.

(c) India's consumption of silk before the war averaged about 4 million pounds a year. At present our silk production is barely 1½ million pounds a year, and imports are much lower than in the pre-war years. Supplies are therefore much less than demand and it is for this reason that Government have continued control.

(d) Control of prices of silk fabrics is in force. No new measure is contemplated.

(e) The general policy is to try to see that silk fabrics are sold at reasonable prices to consumers.

TRAVELLING ALLOWANCE TO N. W. AND G. I. P. RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

WHILE ON DUTY

144. Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that no travelling allowance is paid to a Railway employee required to proceed on duty within a radius of five miles from his headquarters station;

(b) whether such a radius is calculated by (i) Rail or (ii) Rail-cum-road; in the latter case, the minimum and maximum distance which an employee may be required to cover by road; and

(c) whether any carriage hire is allowed to an employee for road journey referred to in part (b) above; if so, the scales on the North Western and Great Indian Peninsula Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, except in certain circumstances as explained in reply to part (c).

(b) As regards the first portion, the radius of 5 miles is calculated by the shortest route, whether by rail or road or by rail-cum-road, from the railway station where the headquarters of a railway employee is located. The reply to the second portion does not arise.

(c) Yes, the actual cost of hiring a conveyance within the rates prescribed by the Municipality or Local Government concerned is admissible to railway servants required to travel on duty occasionally. Those required to travel frequently on duty within a radius of five miles are granted a motor car or motor cycle or conveyance or horse allowance in accordance with Rules 244 and 245 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Vol. I., a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

SELECTION OF FOOD INSPECTORS IN KARACHI DIVISION, N. W. RAILWAY

145. Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a selection for the Posts of Food Inspectors was held in January last in the Karachi Division of the North Western Railway;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the result of the selection was shelved on the ground that junior employees were allowed to compete;
- (c) whether it is a fact that the posts of Food Inspectors are temporary and that no employee is eligible for confirmation against them;
- (d) whether it is a fact that under the provisions of paragraph 6, Appendix II-A, of the Establishment Code, Volume I, proper employees were called for selection;
- (e) why then the selection results were cancelled;
- (f) what steps Government propose to take to ensure selections in accordance with rules; and
- (g) if it is proposed to revise the orders and allow selection results held in January to stand good?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have called for the information and will place the same on the table of the House in due course.

STOPPAGE OF BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY DOWN BOMBAY MAIL AT GHATSILA

146. Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

- (a) why the Bengal Nagpur Railway Down Bombay Mail does not stop at Ghatsila, though the Up Bombay Mail does stop there;
- (b) whether, and if so, why an exception is made in respect of the men of the Indian Copper Corporation for whose benefit the said Down train stops there for some days in the month; and whether it is a fact that even when the said train so stops other passengers (including upper class) are not allowed to avail of the said train; if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether he is aware that there is a large and pressing demand from the public for a short stoppage at the said station; and
- (d) the difficulties in the way of arranging for such stoppage?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Up Bombay Mail has for many years been scheduled to stop at Ghatsila as the traffic offering from Calcutta to this station justifies the stop. The Down Bombay Mail was not scheduled to halt at the station as in pre-war days it passed it at an inconvenient hour and there were alternative services at more convenient times.

(b) Yes, out-of-course halts, limited to a maximum of 4 a month, were agreed to as a special war-time concession in favour of officials of the Indian Copper Corporation, who had to maintain close liaison with Government officials in Calcutta in connection with important war production. With the termination of the war emergency, the Railway Administration are considering the discontinuance of the special dispensation. Information is not available in regard to the second part of this question. A copy however of this question and my reply is being sent to the General Manager for suitable action.

(c) The Railway Administration have not received any representations to indicate a large and pressing demand from the public in this direction.

(d) The Railway Administration propose in their forthcoming Time-table to reintroduce the second Howrah-Nagpur Passenger Trains Nos. 11 Dn. and 12 Up, and this will restore the train services serving Ghatsila to the pre-war level. As passengers will then have the choice of three convenient down trains at Ghatsila, there is no justification for stopping a long-distance mail train at

the station, and thus adding to its over-all timing, particularly when the Administration are endeavouring in response to the public demand, to accelerate the mail timings.

TERMS OF REFERENCE OF DR. AHMED, OFFICER ON SPECIAL DUTY, RAILWAY BOARD

147. Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the terms of reference of Dr. Ahmed, Officer on Special Duty with the Railway Board and place on the table a copy of the questionnaire issued by him; and

(b) whether it is proposed to create posts of Director and Deputy Director of Medical Service with the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Dr. Ahmed is a member, representing the Railway Medical Department, of the Housing Committee appointed by the Railway Board to look into the general question of the scale of accommodation to be provided for various classes of non-gazetted railway employees on the different Government Railways. In addition, he has been detailed to look into certain questions connected with post-war medical facilities on Railways. As regards the second portion of this part of the question, two questionnaires have been issued by Dr. Ahmed regarding the re-organization and development of medical services, but Government do not consider that any public interest will be served by placing copies on the table of the House.

(b) The question of creating a temporary post in the office of the Railway Board to accommodate a Railway Medical Officer is still under consideration.

RULES FOR FILLING OF SELECTION POSTS ON STATE-MANAGED RAILWAYS

148. Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rules for filling 'Selection Posts' have been framed by the Railway Board, if so, where are they incorporated; and

(b) whether it is proposed by the Railway Board to lay on the table of the House a list of 'Selection Posts' on each of the State-managed Railways; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, the Honourable Member is referred to the rules governing the promotion of subordinate staff contained in Appendix II-A of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, (as amended by Correction Slip No. N. 566), a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) Up-to-date information is being obtained from railways and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

STATUS OF INDIANS AND CONSTITUTIONAL REFORMS IN MALAYA

Seth Govind Das: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations been drawn to the reports of the recent debates in the House of Commons on Constitutional Reforms in Malaya?

(b) What action have Government taken to safeguard the status, rights and privileges of the Indian population in Malaya under the proposed Constitution?

(c) Is any new Indian labour to be sent to Malaya? If so, what action have Government taken to ensure that proper working conditions and the quality of status with other residents in the country are secured for such Indian labour?

(d) What action have Government taken to safeguard the status, and rights of Indians other than labour proceedings to Malaya?

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

(b) Under the proposed new constitution of Malayan Union, Indians are to be eligible for acquiring Malayan Union Citizenship by fulfilling certain residential conditions and they will not be debarred from acquiring that status on grounds of race or origin. No special action is, therefore, considered necessary at this stage; but the Government of India will continue to maintain a close watch on all developments.

(c) and (d). The Government of India would permit emigration of fresh Indian labour to Malaya only after an agreement has been arrived at between the Government of India and the Government in Malaya in respect of adequate wages and satisfactory working conditions for Indian labourers and of equality of status for Indians of all classes resident in Malaya with other residents.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member said that citizenship rights for Indians in Malaya depend on residential qualifications. If Indians who are there now return to India and wish to go back on account of economic reasons, may I know if those citizenship rights will be given to them?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I think so; that is how we interpret the announcement.

Seth Govind Das: Has the Honourable Member seen in today's *Hindustan Times* that the British Government has announced modifications of its plans for setting up the Malayan Union? May I know what those modifications are?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have seen the report but I cannot recall having seen any suggestion about modifying the proposals about Malayan citizenship.

Seth Govind Das: Has the Honourable Member seen in the same report the following:

"A more violent attack was launched by Communist William Gallagher who also levelled a charge that the people were being divided up and advocated giving equal rights to the Chinese, all Indians and Malaysians and giving them all opportunity to express themselves and to build up their country as responsible citizens and not as something to be played with by British administrators. He named as an arrogant presumption talking about the people of Malaya as inferior races."

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have seen that, but what is the question?

Seth Govind Das: The question is. Is it a fact that the British Government is playing with Indians and Chinese there and for a long time to come the condition of Indians in Malaya would be just the same as in South Africa or Kenya?

Mr. President: I think that is a question for the British Government to answer.

Seth Govind Das: My question is whether the British Government are introducing this legislation with a view to making the condition of Indians in the Malayan Union as precarious as in South Africa.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: This is about the most liberal pronouncement made by His Majesty's Government with regard to the status of Indians in any overseas country within the Commonwealth.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether he is prepared to give similar facilities to Muslim League leaders to visit Malaya as were given to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I do not suppose that question arises out of the original question.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: This is a question affecting Indians in Malaya; we want to send our representatives to look after the Muslims in Malaya.

Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if these Indians in Malaya who are already settled there will automatically become domiciled citizens by virtue of the Act?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, provided they satisfy the conditions regarding residence as laid down in the White Paper.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what the residential qualifications are?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Roughly, ten years' residence in a period of 15 years or five years' residence plus a declaration of the person's intention to adopt Malayan domicile.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With regard to persons who satisfy the first condition as given by the Honourable Member, will they also have to send a declaration or will they automatically become citizens of the country?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I think, Sir, the declaration is not necessary.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government associate with themselves representatives of non-officials from the south, from where a great part of this labour population hails, before they come to an agreement in regard to labour emigration to Malaya?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: This House and the other House have elected a body of wise representatives who constitute our Standing Committee. And I can assure the Honourable Member that all these matters will be duly placed before that Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will they be consulted before they come to an agreement at all?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Departmental Standing Committees are intended to be consulted before any action of importance is taken.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Sir, with regard to these questions I have to make a submission. Some time ago a circular was issued that owing to press difficulties copies of questions will not be supplied to those Members who have no questions on the agenda for the day. Now that questions have, as I find, begun to be printed I request you to supply us with these copies.

Mr. President: I understand that Members are getting some copies. Is that so?

Mr. B. B. Varma: They are not supplied to Members who have no questions. We should also like to get copies.

Mr. President: The press difficulties have not been yet over. The arrangements are to have a limited number of copies printed and the old request to Honourable Members stands. If any Honourable Member wants a copy he can have it from the Notice Office. It may be that in distribution some Honourable Member may not have been supplied with a copy. He can have it from the Notice Office. The old request of mine still stands.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the Finance Bill.

Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Can we continue the debate when neither the Finance Member nor the Finance Secretary are present in the House?

Mr. President: Yes.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, Sir. I was referring to the Planning Department yesterday when my Honourable friend was not in the House. I would suggest that the Planning Department should be closed down because it has served no useful purpose. Every Department is planning by itself and is going ahead without any co-ordination. I happen to be a member of the Planning Committee and, as far as I know, the various Departments are not submitting their plans to this Department, and

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they are going ahead with their programmes without referring them to the Planning and Development Department. My Honourable friend on the right yesterday rightly pointed out that the Planning Department cannot be successful in its work unless they have got the confidence of the people. Sir Ardesbir Dalal himself had referred to this on many occasions, and we know fully well that his resignation came as a surprise to all of us here, but the Government did not tell the House the reasons for his resignation. No explicit statement has been made on this point and it is the right of this House to know the reasons of his resignation and also why this Department has not been able to co-ordinate the work properly. If the Department has failed, it is for lack of organization, lack of experienced men, and for lack of confidence of the commercial world.

Sir, the problem of shipping has also been a very acute one. During the war the British Government established here a branch of the British Ministry of Shipping which took over shipping from the shipping companies which existed in India at that time. I do not know whether this branch of the British Ministry of Shipping is still functioning and whether it has still got the same powers. Assurances have been given to us that attempts are being made to increase the mercantile marine, but so far the Government have not been successful in doing that. The trade of India, both import and export trade, is restricted through the bottleneck of shipping, and because of the subordinate position of this Government to His Majesty's Government in the matter of shipping. This is terribly unsatisfactory. The sterling balances are being accumulated and yet we cannot impress upon His Majesty's Government for the release of shipping. Although during the war we were told through the machinery of propaganda of the Information Department which is at their command that shipping and mercantile marine had increased to the double as compared to what we had before the war, yet we do not find any improvement in the situation. What has happened to this shipping? The Government of India's Agent in the United States has never paid any attention to this point. He has never taken the trouble to enquire where the surplus shipping of the United States and other Allies have disappeared. The Agent-General, as far as this House knows, has only one job to do, and that is to propagate against Indians and their interests, and to propagate in favour of the present Government and their ideals—what they stand for. May I request the present Government to make an enquiry into this matter, and let us know what amount of shipping can be made available to us immediately? The sterling balances on the V. J. Day stood at three-hundred crores and I suggest that the great need of India in the matter of shipping should be impressed upon His Majesty's Government for two reasons: Firstly, to prevent accumulation of sterling balances, and, secondly, to solve India's transport requirements. The transport problem has been extremely acute, and that is one of the reason why there is food shortage in this country. If shipping had been released at an early date, the problem which is facing this country today would not have been so acute as it is at present.

Coming to the question of sterling balances, they are compulsory savings of this country. I regret, Sir, that I was not present in the House when this question was debated, but I would like to stress that the Muslim League Party is as much interested as any other party in this country. It is the moral obligation of England to repay them. I have been hearing and reading about the scaling down of the sterling balances which is indeed offensive to this country. For one of the richest countries of the world to talk of scaling down the debt which she owes to a country which is the poorest is really offensive. I would like the Honourable the Finance Member to give a definite assurance that further accumulation of sterling in this country will be stopped immediately, or he should state definitely that further accumulations will amount to so much. We would like to know where we stand. This could have been avoided if export was allowed to us

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Exports increase the sterling balances.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): He means exports from England.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I mean imports. My Honourable friend has been credited for talking of a delegation. I do not know whether there is any truth in it. A delegation should be sent from India to England, I am personally against such a move. My country being placed as a creditor country, we should expect a delegation from England to come to us and tell us as to what they want to do and what are their intentions. Our view is that the sum should be repaid by England from such resources as England has got including the mobilization of assets in India to which my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lal referred to yesterday.

I would like to draw his attention to another fact that there are other assets than to what my friend referred. There are the tramways, the banks in India whose owners have no interest in this country but not only having good fat dividends in England, the "*Times of India*" and such like.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowland: Better take over the "*Hindustan Times*".

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: They should be made over to us immediately and this will amount not to 200 crores but to 400 crores of rupees.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The policy must be changed.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: My friend suggests to me that it should be handed over to the Muslim League Party which has no paper and I welcome the suggestion.

I would like the Finance Member to tell us what is the total volume of orders which are being negotiated by this country in England. The other day the Honourable the Finance Member replied to a question that about 30 crores of textile machinery was on order in the United Kingdom. Then there are locomotives and the wagons and the orders placed for railways by the Honourable the Transport Member. The Government of India Department for Agriculture are placing orders for irrigation machinery, for boring, for road-making and hydro-electric schemes, forests, posts and telegraphs and many other central activities are also placing orders in England. There is a large order being planned and placed by Provincial Governments. Then there are orders collected from India and placed in the United Kingdom for and on behalf of the Indian States, who also have large plans involving the importation of capital goods. All these amount to a very big sum. Has not the Finance Department looked into it and are they not able to tell us the total amount of these orders which have been placed? There are also current requirements like motor cars which are being negotiated for. I think that these orders run up into 400 to 500 crores of rupees. Am I right in this, and if the Government say that my figure is wrong, will they give us the correct figure or the approximate figure as to what these orders amount to? If India wants to buy all this from the United Kingdom, would it be a fair proposition to tell us that we cannot use our sterling balances which are frozen and that the payment of these balances will begin from 1951 at the rate of two per cent every year, and that in the meanwhile for all our immediate requirements during the next five years, we will have to find fresh money? Or we will have to export largely in order to pay for these orders? Is it a fair deal to India which the Honourable the Finance Member is offering? Why do His Majesty's Government leave us in suspense and why is not a fair deal being given to us? If there is a feeling in England that financial justice is to be given to India only when the Anglo-American Treaty is signed, I should say it is not at all fair to us. We are not responsible about what agreement or what arrangement they arrive at. But we are only interested to have our sterling balances back of a proportion of them back in the fresh orders which are being placed. If justice is not being done to us, then to the words of the Prime Minister, Attlee "to seek voluntarily to remain in the British Empire", I would only reply to him in such words but in a different sense according to the expression used by

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one of the members of the European Group the other day, namely, "that you will get as good as you give us". I am sure the Finance Member will, not, when he gets up to reply, say that I am leaving, and therefore

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: But the responsibility is yours. Till you keep your seat you owe that responsibility to the country. I know how irresponsible you have been.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is addressing the Chair!

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I am very sorry. Irresponsible as the Government have been, still they owe a sense of responsibility to this country and they should before quitting their offices do something good for India and not divert whatever they have towards the other country to which they are going. While my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, was speaking, the Honourable the Finance Member said that he is cutting down Defence expenditure. Defence expenditure amounts to Rs. 244 crores which cannot be regarded with complacency by any Member of this House. We do not want to be told that the officials have done everything to reduce this expenditure. They have not been able to do so. The Finance Department and my Honourable friend has very little control over the War Department. Mr. Mason with his iron fist will not allow him to reduce whatever he desires or wishes.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Rubbish.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I hope that it will be rubbish. I hope that he will succeed in cutting down to the extent that the Standing Finance Committee proposed to him.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): He failed!

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I am sure that he will not say then that it was rubbish. There has been a great delay in demobilization of both Indian and British units. There is an expenditure of Rs. 3 crores on army entertainment. We want the army to be reduced and we want the entertainment charges to be reduced at a very early date, not simply on the floor of the House to be said that we will do it but it should be done and we want to see the results. We want that at least this Standing Finance Committee to go into the question and deal with it. They should be given a free hand and not be ruled by the War Department. I am sure, before quitting his office, if the Finance Member gives India this present of curtailing the Defence expenditure, I think he would have done a great service to India. Regarding the civil side I would remind him that this war taxation cannot be maintained without ruination to this country and the only sound method is to curtail expenditure. After the last war the Incheape Committee was brought into existence, because the then Finance Member failed to curtail expenditure during the war. I am sorry I have to bring to the notice of the Finance Member that he will not succeed, his Department will not allow him to retrench unless he has the backing of the members of this House. To have the backing of this House he should appoint a non-official committee to go into the details. It should be a committee with full powers to look into all the aspects of expenditure, and if you do that and if you give them a freehand, I am sure the Government will benefit and also the country, whose interest is dearer to us than to them. I hope the Honourable Member will at least go into this question of appointing a non-official committee and he will have the blessing of all sections of the House in retrenchment and in curtailing expenditure which is being incurred without any reason, just to provide jobs to some people in some Departments, people who come from a foreign country where they could not be employed. This should be done away immediately. I hope the Honourable

Member will have the benefit of the advice on this question of the members of this House and when he leaves his office he will himself feel that he has done some justice to India during his term of office. I am sure Indian will then at least remember him with gratitude. I have done.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, when I heard from the lips of the Finance Member the following words:

"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, under-employment—and of these the most formidable is poverty."

I thought that the British rule, through the Finance Member, was going to confess before its formal death. When I listened to these words, immediately similar words came to my mind which are contained in the Congress Pledge. When that pledge was framed by the Indian National Congress in the year 1929 there was a good deal of criticism to the effect that matters had been exaggerated. Sir, with your permission I will read the relevant portion:

"We believe that it is an inalienable right of the Indian people as of any other to have freedom and enjoy the fruits of their toil and have the necessities of life so that they may have full opportunities of growth. We believe also that if any Government deprives the people of these rights and oppresses them, the people have a further right to alter it or abolish it. The British Government in India has not only deprived the Indian people of their freedom but has based itself on the exploitation of the masses and has ruined India economically, politically, culturally and spiritually. We believe therefore that India must sever the British connection and attain purna swaraj or complete independence."

I think if any proof was needed as to whether what the pledge contains was absolutely true, it will be found in the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member. There is, however, a slight omission. He has stated "And of these the most formidable is poverty." I ask him what is the primary cause, who is the principal collaborator of these enemies?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The British, of course!

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: The British Rule. Therefore, if he is sincere and I have no doubt that he is, he must join us in ending that rule.

Yesterday and a few days before that also, I heard everybody talking the language of leave-taking. Everybody wants to say that the British Rule is about to end. I just thought whether it was going to be a reality after all and suddenly I thought of referring to the history of the Indian National Congress. When its first session was held in Bombay in 1885, its resolutions were reviewed by the *London Times* on the 2nd January, 1886. This is what the paper said:

"The resolutions mean that we are to withdraw but if ever we have to withdraw we will not withdraw in favour of middle class lawyers and agitators but we will withdraw to strong arm and sharp weapons."

That was sixty years ago. If the present English Premier talks about peaceful transfer of power, I am quite willing to believe him for the time being. But the history of British rule in India is a history of promises made to the ear and broken to the heart and if some of us distrust them, the Honourable Finance Member and the community which he represents have to excuse us for that.

Now, Sir, I have often been told that the British Empire in India was founded in a fit of absent-mindedness and that they have always been muddling through. At any rate, they do not propose to leave this country in a fit of absent-mindedness. Not only that, but if you visit the North Block of the Secretariat, on the top of the main entrance you will find: "Liberty is not a boon: you have to earn it." That is a standing challenge and those who visit it or those who visit this Assembly may well remember whether after all the Britisher is prepared to part with power in the terms in which the British Premier Mr. Attlee referred to it the other day.

It is really a regretful phenomenon that all these things have happened—enduring poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment and under-

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employment. Why? How is it that so few have kept so many, so long toiling in slavery, ignorance and poverty? There is no parallel to this in history. How is it that these few but not faithful, these handful but not helpful, still continue to rule the many millions in India? I thought about it outside and inside the jail and I have come to the conclusion that we have not understood what a modern state is. A modern state is something which must be based on consent and not on coercion. Throughout these 150 years and even long before that we have been taught the virtues of obedience. I want to teach my people if I have that right, that the moment you understand the real foundation of the state to be your own consent, that moment you will be free. You must reject the doctrine of unqualified obedience. There are limits to it and I want to inform the Honourable Finance Member that the era of indiscriminate obedience is gone, that of resistance both to individuals and to law has come to stay. Nothing will be accepted on authority. Nothing on tradition. It will be considered on its merits, and if the Indian people have become wide awake today, it is because they have now understood, some of them at any rate, that no power, however great it may be, can rule or can dominate if the people have the determination and the irresistible will to oppose it.

Now, coming to somewhat mundane affairs, the Honourable Finance Member has listed the enemies. After all, what is the object of the budget? After all it is not for things that we budget—it is for men; not for commodities, but for communities. There should be no restriction from that point of view; and in this connection I may respectfully bring to the notice of the Honourable Finance Member what Sir William Beveridge has laid down as the criterion of a good budget and the place it occupies in the financial arrangements of the country. According to him, the new budget must be drawn, not in terms of money available, for there is no limit to it, but in terms of human data of the men that must be employed, and the standard of productivity that must be aimed at. There are three rules. The first rule is absolute. It is better to employ people in digging holes and filling them up again than not to employ them at all. The second rule is hardly less absolute. The object of all human activity is not employment, but welfare, to raise the material standard of living, and to make opportunities for wider spiritual life. For these purposes the wise direction of outlay and so of employment, in the general interest of the community is only less important than adequacy of outlay as a whole. The third rule is this. The state in matters of finance is in a different position from any private citizen or association of private citizens; it is able to control money instead of being controlled by it. Many of the mistakes of the past have arisen through failure to make this fundamental distinction. Spending in excess of current income and borrowing have altogether different implications for the State than for private individuals

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is why I have got a deficit budget.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Borrow as much as you like; there is no harm. Now, as I have said, the main function and I should say the only function of the budget is to provide for men; and if by your policy, general unemployment is the result, that is no tribute to your capacity to frame a right budget. In this country, there has been, as a result of the war, less unemployment; now that the war is over it is time we must exactly apportion and fix up what remedies we ought to take to solve this great problem. In this vast country, 67 per cent of the population are depending upon land, and it is an admitted fact that the land cannot provide adequately for every one of them—so on the basis of adequate remuneration or return.—I have worked up certain figures; and I also find that those are the figures which tally substantially with the figures given, not by an irresponsible agitator, but by a person belonging to the heaven-born service, Mr. Trilok Singh, I.C.S.—in his book 'Poverty and Social Change'.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: He is in the Finance Department.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: He has calculated that out of the rural population of 25.78 lakhs, 7,15,86,506—27.8 per cent. are surplus, in the sense that they cannot be required to make agriculture paying; and if you add to this the unemployment in the urban areas, and if you want to make provision, not for 1946 or 1947 but taking a fairly long term view—we must have a target for the total new employment we must find in the next fifteen years. We should name the figure of the order of 22 million workers, representing a population of 108 millions. In other words that target is 33 to 35 per cent. of the total population of British India, on the figures of the 1941 census.

Now, what are your plans to find employment? The Honourable Finance Member has said in his speech that the Government expenditure has decreased and is bound to decrease in course of time. There will be a great gap and that gap must be filled by private enterprise. Why? In order to enable the private enterprise to do so, he has reduced the excess profits tax

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Abolished.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I am sorry—abolished. The word 'reduced' occurred to me because in the article written by the *Statesman*, it is suggested that the Finance Member should have reduced it instead of abolishing it totally. The excess profits tax brought in 75 crores of rupees. Why is it that he has abolished it altogether? The reason, I think, is that whatever may be his personal views, this Government is afraid to take a major decision whether it stands for state socialism or private enterprise

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It stands for private enterprise, that is true.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: The British people have taken the decision. They have decided in favour of socialism; and I do not think there will be anybody to reconsider it. But here in India, with the best opportunity offered—it is only in war time that the big capitalists agreed to control, because they know even under those circumstances they stand to gain, but once they have got the controls it was an easy job for the Government to introduce nationalisation in many fields of economic activity. I think my description which I gave to one of my friends about the Finance Member and which I want to repeat here, is more or less correct. He looks a middle-class man, his accent is socialist, but his action is capitalist. Whatever may be his personal opinions, I think this Government flies the same flag which the conservative party flew at the time of the general election, namely, private enterprise. Now, what does this private enterprise really mean? What has it meant during the war time, in point of food, in point of clothing, in point of housing? I will not say anything about food, because I have dealt with that subject while I was speaking on the cut motion with respect to the Executive Council. Prices of all other commodities have risen many times but the prices of agricultural products, especially the cereals, have not risen to the same tune.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Excuse me. That is entirely wrong.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member is entirely ignorant.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: My facts will be more eloquent than words and Prof. Ranga will come in and explain them later. Then in the matter of clothing I understand that out of the 75 crores of E. P. T. 75 per cent. came from the textile industry. I understand that one of the mill owners in Ahmedabad has got a photo of a cheque for more than a crore of rupees which he gave to the Government by way of E. P. T., to show probably his loyalty and greatness. I only wish he has kept by the side of the same photo the pictures of the half naked and half starved persons in Bengal and in other parts of India. Even after paying the E. P. T. this and other industries have made still huge and abnormal profits; at whose cost? You control the prices. I know how the prices are controlled. Every time the industrialist got his way. Has he reduced the prices? Having given them this great relief, what does the Finance Member say? He only makes a request. He says:

"In my judgment the profit in certain sections of industry here 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."

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Will they reduce the prices? For three years, they won't reduce the prices.

Now, take other industries also. The rate of freight and passenger fares from Bombay to ports in the Konkan have risen by 6 to 7 times and the advice that this Government usually gets in the matter of fixing rates is always from those very persons who are interested in those particular industries. The E. P. T. was not paid by the mill owners from their pockets. It has come from the pockets of the poor. What have you done for the poor. Reduction in the duty on kerosene oil, so that they may burn their already dilapidated houses. In this connection I am reminded of what the then Finance Member did for the villages in 1935, not from very good motive. He budgetted one crore for the year 1935-36 but he would not budget it for the year 1937 because the elections went against his expectations. You have given all sorts of concessions for building activities in the city. I have no grievance because I know the overcrowding in Bombay—4.92 persons in one single room, 10' by 10'. Even in London with present difficulties the proportion is 1.7 or about that. I have no grievance about these concessions but without some control of rents these concessions will be worked in a manner which will not give any benefit to the poor. May I ask what you have done for the housing problem in the rural areas. During my election tours, I have visited villages after villages. I have visited them also on other occasions. Half the number of houses are down and dilapidated. They are without ceilings, without roofs. There has been no bombing, I know and yet the houses have gone down. What have you done? What provision have you made? You have got enough forests. Have you ever thought that you should provide timber and teak or other building material necessary for the building of houses in the rural areas free or at cheaper cost?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: We are making a start about it.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Your principle of taxation, if there is any principle at all, is that you make the poor poorer and the rich richer. It reminds me of what the Bible says: 'Take from him that hath not and give unto him that hath'. Taxation in India, if it is carefully scrutinised, is such that every truth seeker can come to only one conclusion and it is this, that it distributes wealth in the most inequitable, invidious and unequal manner. To illustrate it in mathematical terms, if Rs. 100 is the income, then Rs. 33 go to one person, Rs. 33 to 33 persons and the remaining 34 to 66 persons. Has it ever occurred to the Finance Member that taxation is not merely a means to raise revenue. Taxes are a potential factor, they are a great weapon in securing equitable distribution of national income. I want to know what he has done in that respect.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Nothing.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will tell you.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: What have you done to remove poverty? It can only be removed by finding out full employment, by making the system of taxation more equitable, by planning expenditure in the most scientific manner. I find that the position as regards expenditure is the same today as it was some years ago. May I bring to the Honourable the Finance Member's notice the wise words of the Honourable Mr. Gokhale uttered before the Welby Commission in 1892:

"Everything depends in this matter on the nature of the purposes for which the increase has been incurred and the results produced by such outlay of public money. While increased expenditure in other countries under popular control has helped to bring increased strength and security to the nations and increased enlightenment and prosperity to the people, our continually increasing expenditure has under autocratic management, defective constitutional control and inherent defects of alien domination, only helped to bring about constantly increasing exploitation of our resources, has retarded our national progress, weakened our national defences and burdened us with undefined and indefinite financial liabilities. Compelled to meet the demands of a forward imperial frontier policy and the exigencies of conquest, imperial defence and constant borrowing for commercial enterprises, often undertaken in consequence of the pressure of English commercial classes, our Indian Government has little money to spare, with all its increase of taxation, for purposes of national education; and I add other nation building activities."

Even in the present budget, if we just analyse the figures of expenditure, to see how much has gone to the nation building expenditure and what its proportion is to the expenditure on non-nation building departments what do we find? Rs. 158.10 crores out of Rs. 355.71 crores are to be spent for nation-building departments. No one can call this progressive. It is the same sorry tale. The Finance Member said in his speech that these enemies have to be fought. His Excellency the Viceroy just stated as to how they are to be fought. Here are his words "From the task of Tomorrow"—No. 1. He says, "it is to lift the poor man from poverty to security, from ill-health to vigour, from ignorance to understanding". For that they are planning. But I do not know whether they are planning for prosperity or they are planning for further poverty. I am sorry I have to use this language, nobody regrets it more than I do, because I am of the opinion that words are more powerful than atom bombs. But truth requires it to be stated that today at any rate, whatever is being done is not done for the poorer classes. How do they live? A great Sanskrit poet has said "in the morning with a small mouth, in the evening with a small mouth, with body cramped and with the sun shining and supplying heat he had met hunger and cold." (*Evan sitam Maya nitam ganu bhanu krushanubhi*). That is an accurate description of Indian poverty. Not that you do not know it. You are just like Dhritarashtra. You know what is good, but you do not want to do it, you know what is bad, but you do not want to desist from it. There may be a fatality dogging your steps. It may not necessarily be a conscious thing or a conscious act, but all the same taking it objectively the description is correct. Now, Sir, we are told that British rule is going; as I said the other day, British connection has been a tragedy. The last act should be a noble act, what began in the equivocation of Lord Hastings and forgeries of Lord Clive should end in the execution of an honest document transferring freedom to the masses. What you should take back, may I again end this in the words of a great Sanskrit poet when he says what a man takes to the world and what he leaves behind. He leaves the wealth in the iron safe, he leaves the cattle in the shed, his wife inside the room and the relatives in the funeral ground, his body on the pyre. What follows him? Whatever good he has done follows him to the other world. If any precedent is necessary, I shall give it to the English officials here that when Mahatma Gandhi left South Africa, for good, you know he only took one pound per head and left whatever he has earned for the benefit of the South African people there. May I appeal to you in that strain, leave everything, leave your plantations here, do not talk about expropriation, leave your public utility concerns in which you have shares, give up your pensions, you have done enough harm, and let it be said that whatever he may have been when he lived, he died a noble death.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Sir, we are told by the Honourable the Finance Member, I hope it is correct, that this is his last budget.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, certainly.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I therefore pay him a personal tribute for being the most popular Finance Member India has ever had. I share with my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar the hope he expressed that we may see him occupying a higher position in the United Kingdom. If we have more Englishmen of his type in India, I think the great anti-British feelings that exist in the country at present will soon disappear.

Speaking in this House eleven years ago, in March 1935 on the Finance Bill, I said then and I repeat it this morning that we the Muslims of India demand from the Government of India, the unclaimed interest lying with them in respect of deposits made by Muslims in the post office savings banks, government promissory notes and investments in various banks in India. We want this amount to be utilised for the cause of the advancement of Muslim education. Sir, this question has a long history behind it. It was in 1925 that my late father Sir Ebrahim Haroon Jaffer moved a Resolution in the Council of State when he demanded that this amount should be handed over to the Aligarh Muslim University. Speaking on that occasion the then Finance Secretary, Mr. MacWaters

[Mr Ahmed E. H. Jaffer]

said that "the interest which would accrue on these deposits is roughly Rs. 10,000 a year. At the present time the amount lapses to Government". After that he also considered the question of administrative practicability of this Resolution. This is what he further says:

"As regards the second point, whether the proposal is administratively practicable, I think I can say without hesitation that so far as post office savings bank is concerned, there would be no difficulty."

I hope my Honourable friend Sir Gurusath Bewoor would also agree with that. Further he said:

"It will be possible to credit this interest to a separate account. With regard to cash certificates the position is much the same."

Sir, in 1925, it was decided that this question should be postponed for eliciting public opinion from Muslims. Then the Council of State was dissolved. After fresh elections again in 1927, the same Resolution was brought forward by my father and it was then adopted. Speaking on the same occasion, the then Finance Secretary, Mr. Brayne said:

"It has been estimated that at the outset unclaimed interest in the post office savings banks does not amount to more than Rs. 10,000. As regards Government securities, owing to the complexity of the system, it is impossible to say how much the amount is, but such investigations as have been made indicate an inconsiderable amount. Probably not more than Rs. 15,000 are involved in this discussion."

Again the question of consulting Muslim opinion was raised. Here he says:

"Government, as the Honourable Mover of the Resolution has stated made very full enquiries of the Local Governments and Muslim opinion throughout India. The majority of opinion is in favour of the proposal."

After that, the Resolution was finally adopted in 1927. Up to date we do not know what is the exact position. I feel that we are entitled to claim from the Government of India at the rate of Rs. 25,000 per year, according to the figures mentioned by the then Finance Secretary. I would not ask for compound interest. We shall be very happy indeed if the Honourable the Finance Member would give us that amount up-to-date and not only that, he would see this way to appoint a very sympathetic officer like Mr. Cook, the Joint Secretary of the Finance Department to go through the statement of accounts and see that we, the Muslims, get what is due to us in future years.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of welfare and well being of Indian troops in India, it is a matter of great regret that Indian soldiers families have no family hospitals for Indian troops in India, while the British troops have first class family hospitals for them. Similarly there are no schools for children of Indian soldiers. In every military cantonment in India we find first class schools run for children of British troops with very good arrangements for their transport in motor buses; but I am very sorry that nothing has been done for Indians and I do not find any provision in the defence estimates for expenditure on these items. It was only two days ago that I was discussing this question with the Welfare General Lt. General Sir Noel Beresford Pierse whom I have the good fortune to know for the last ten years. And knowing him as I do, I am certain that the interests of Indian soldiers are safe in his hands sympathetic general as he is. But he is helpless for want of funds. Whatever schools and hospitals are run today in the Indian regimental lines are entirely run out of funds donated by military officers themselves. I feel that some sort of arrangement should be made, and I think if the Finance Member strengthens the hands of Lt. General Sir Noel Beresford Pierse matters might improve.

When I come to the grievances of commercial concerns all over India. I have received several representations in this respect in regard to the question of outstanding dues against officers who served in the course of this war in the army, navy and air force. Many of them have been suddenly transferred in India and outside and their whereabouts are unknown. At the moment no army lists are available, and during the course of the war when inquiries were made of Army Headquarters the reply was that the information could not be disclosed. Now

that the war is over I hope Government will appoint in every Area Command committee of adjustment under the Chairmanship of the Brigade Commander concerned to see that claims put forward by the commercial concerns are looked into and settled and the amounts recovered from the officers concerned whether they are in India or in England. I am sure that the General Headquarters in India and the War Office in England will co-operate in bringing to book these defaulters who have conveniently disappeared from this country under the plea of termination of the war.

The other day the Finance Member very kindly said that he was reducing three annas per gallon from the duty on petrol. In my budget speech the other day I referred to the question of the abolition of petrol rationing. I am afraid no attention was paid by the Finance Member in his reply the other day. So I repeat that it is no use reducing the petrol duty if you cannot make sufficient petrol available to the consumers. Now that the war is over and the situation has improved I feel that petrol rationing should disappear immediately, if possible by the end of April, so that from the next quarter we may have as much petrol available as we require. Secondly we want that cars should be manufactured in India, and every facility should be given to those concerns who are floating these companies for that purpose. Not only that, but the prices fixed for these cars should be such that they may be within easy reach of the middle class people. Today it is very difficult to buy a car and even if you want to buy a second-hand car you have to pay a good bit of money.

Now I come to the question of direct recruitment to the Imperial Police Service. Speaking about the Province of Bombay I very much regret to say that in the last 15 years not more than one Muslim has been recruited to this branch of the service. I forgot to bring this point specifically forward on the cut motion the other day but I hope that in future recruitment the claims of Muslims will not be overlooked and the quotas that we are short of now, will be made up.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And it should be completely Indianised.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Certainly I want Indianisation first, but out of that I hope our quota of 25 per cent. will be given and the deficit made up.

Now I shall draw the attention of Government to the serious concern with which the present policy regarding salt is viewed by the Indian salt industry.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member may continue his speech after Lunch.

The Assembly adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (one of the Panel of Chairmen) in the Chair.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Sir, I now wish to draw the attention of the Government of India to the serious concern with which their present policy regarding salt is viewed by the Indian salt industry. I trust that the Honourable the Commerce Member will consider it necessary to tell the House of the steps he proposes to take to remove the legitimate apprehensions of this national enterprise, and to safeguard its position by removing foreign competition particularly from the Middle East countries. The apprehensions of the Indian salt industry are justified and their grievances need to be looked into immediately.

The Government of India favoured the establishment of a national salt industry as they have realized that it meant progressively lesser dependence of the country on foreign sources for an essential commodity like salt. Within a few years, the existence of the Indian Industry was threatened by foreign salt works from the Middle East ports viz., Port Said. As a result of many representations and a tariff enquiry, the Government of India enforced a policy of protection for the benefit of the Indian salt industry from 1931 and the protective duty was continued until the year 1938 when it was not renewed.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: What document is it?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: These are my notes. I am not reading any document.

On the lapse of the protection an impetus was given again to foreign salt works to send shipments of salt to Bengal in large quantities and Port Said particularly took advantage of the market to re-enter it.

The Salt Survey Committee, which Government of India had set up in 1931, had reported that India could be made self-sufficient with regard to its requirements of salt by expanding the potentialities of the existing salt works in the country. According to their estimate the West Coast Salt Works could increase their output from 2,20,000 tons to 4,95,000 tons per annum. The anticipations of this Committee have been fully justified as today their productive capacity, on a conservative basis, amounts to 4,70,000 tons. The West Coast Works are thus in a position to meet immediately 80 per cent. of the requirements of Bengal and its adjacent markets.

I regret to say that as a result of the war the position of imports of salt into Bengal altered radically to the detriment of the Indian industry. There was a considerable decline in imports from the West Coast ports, and a corresponding increase from foreign salt works, particularly Port Said which took away a large share of it. It may be pertinent to observe that a result of the war when other industries in India have made advance under Government encouragement, the Indian salt industry has had to put up a hard struggle to maintain its position and retain a fair share of the trade in Bengal. This can only be ascribed to the neglect of the Government of India to look after the interest of the Indian industry by permitting import from foreign sources under one pretext or another.

One of the main reasons for the dwindling of the imports from Indian salt works was the reduction in the number of ships placed at their disposal for salt traffic. For example, in 1939-40 while 70 ships carried salt from the West Coast Works to ports of Bengal, in 1943-44 they were reduced to only 11 ships. During past two years only two ships a month of about 12,000 tons capacity were being allotted to West Coast as against Bengal's requirement of 45,000 tons of salt per month. The Honourable the Commerce Member stated in his answer on the 28th February that during the war it was necessary to build up stocks as a precaution against salt famine, but the House would like to know from the Honourable the Commerce Member why it was necessary to curtail shipments from West Coast and starve the Indian salt works of their legitimate share of the Bengal market and at the same time build up stocks from Port Said and Red Sea ports. To talk of building up stocks of salt against famine by foreign imports is unconvincing when the Honourable the Commerce Member is aware that during the critical period of the war when the menace of Japanese submarines in the Bay of Bengal was serious, it was only the West Coast Salt works who were prepared to take the risk of navigation and ship salt to Bengal ports, and neither Aden nor the Middle East salt works would take the risk. The consequence of heavy salt shipments from foreign sources has not only resulted in a grossly overstocked position in Bengal, but has brought the Indian Salt Works almost to the point of closing down. At present there are between Karachi and Kathiawar nearly 17 salt works. The Honourable the Commerce Member said the other day that during the current six months Bengal will get 5 ships of salt from the West Coast and four from Aden. Can the Honourable the Commerce Member explain the necessity of providing four ships to Aden and giving to the 17 salt works on the West Coast only 5 ships in 6 months? Did he realize the implication of his policy and of the effect it has had on the salt works on the West Coast? The Honourable the Commerce Member must be aware that many lakhs of rupees have been invested in the Indian salt industry and the policy that the Government of India are following is likely to lead to the extinction of the industry unless the Government of India completely revise their policy.

I wish to draw the attention of the House to the answer which the Honourable the Commerce Member gave on the 28th February when he stated that the Government were not in a position in the present situation to discontinue imports of salt from foreign sources altogether. This House is entitled to know what is the 'present situation' and what are the reasons which prevent Government from stopping imports of salt from foreign sources other than Aden? The maintenance of a well established salt industry on the continent of India is vital to the national economy, because salt is basic commodity; it is necessary for the development of the chemical and agricultural industries. It is also important for vital national defence purposes. In view of this, we demand that Government should stop imports of salt into India from Red Sea and Port Said immediately or else they should adduce sound reasons for wishing to permit these imports.

I strongly urge the Government of India to examine the case of the Indian salt industry immediately as these issues are of great importance for the industry which is of national importance. The Members of the industry have taken a serious view of the present policy of the Government of India and have a right to expect that Government do take adequate and early steps to safeguard their interests. I sincerely trust the Honourable the Commerce Member, who has at heart the welfare and well being of the Indian industries, will take immediate steps to see that the grievances of the salt industry are looked into and justice is done to their cause.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Chairman, I regret I cannot support the present Finance Bill. Being the representative of the poorer classes in this country I cannot possibly support this Bill which I think is an attempt at placating the upper classes. The present incompetent Government realizes that it is no more possible for them to continue to rule this country unless and until they make certain concessions to the upper classes. They are trying to be in the good books of the vested interests of this country. They have a lingering hope that by doing so perhaps they will be accepted as junior partners. If any one listened patiently to the speech by a member of the European Group, he could not help feeling that all that they want now is junior partnership in the exploitation of this country.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal: European): By Government or the European members?

Miss Maniben Kara: I am coming to that.

The present Finance Bill seems to me to be yet another example of the graceless acts of dying Imperialism. Sir, I have the proud privilege to belong to the Radical Democratic Party which, Sir, was the first and the only party in this country to visualise that as a result of this war the very foundations of imperialism would be shattered. The Radical Democratic Party was the first in this country

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No, no.

Miss Maniben Kara: to realise this situation which had arisen in the world.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You are the hench-woman of the Government.

Miss Maniben Kara: The support which was given to the war was whole-hearted and purposeful. It was a bold and scientific step which was taken by the Radical Democratic Party of which I am proud to be a member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is why you are here.

Miss Maniben Kara: I am not going to be disturbed by these interruptions. I am glad that the attitude which was adopted by a young and small party in support of this war stands vindicated.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With Rs. 30,000!

Miss Maniben Kara: What about monies received by Harijan Fund, the Planning Committee etc. from various governments? Let us not start that controversy here because I have lots of things which I can say on the point. Today every party come forward and wants to have a share in the victory of the United Nations and the defeat of the Axis Powers. All the political parties, who opposed the war in those days are very anxious to reap the fruits of victory after the war is over. These people have overnight turned against the Japanese and are today rejoicing in the victory of the allied powers.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You have calumniated us ruthlessly. Disgrace!

Miss Maniben Kara: The so-called rice soldiers of yesterday have become all of a sudden the proud assets of my friends on the other side, and they call them our Army, our Navy and our Air Force. The victory if it has been won, has been won because of the sweat and toil of the working classes, and the peasantry who are in the air force, the army and navy of this country. If any benefit as the result of this war can be claimed by any party, it should be that party alone which can claim to represent these people. In spite of the opposition of the National Congress, these are the people who fought the war and have won the war and have destroyed Fascism and they have prevented this country from going under the clutches of Japan.

Now, let us turn to the accumulation of the sterling balances. Who are claiming the sterling balances? Who owns them? The owners are not the people who opposed the war yesterday. The owners of the sterling balances are not the handful of industrialists of this country. The owners of the sterling balances are the poorer sections of the people who fought this war and on account of whom the war was won. The sterling balances should be utilised for the development of state-owned key industries. The sterling balances will have to be utilised for the development of agriculture. They will have to be utilised for relieving the burden of indebtedness on the peasantry. They will have to be utilised for developing and undertaking public works. These are the things for which the sterling balances can be legitimately utilised. The sterling balances are the property of the people of this country and I expect that the Finance Member will have something to give to the people who have helped him to win this war.

Now coming to the Finance Bill itself, I am sorry to say that it is a very disappointing affair. I am not one of those persons who believes that there should be no taxation. I believe in taxation and more taxation. Without taxation it is not possible to run the state in the interests of the people. Taxation there will have to be but the Government will have to be run in such a way as will ensure the prosperity and progress of the country. The present Government, Sir, up till now has been functioning not in the spirit of serving the people but in the spirit of policing the State. The days of policing are over. The Government have to act as if they were there to serve the cause of the people.

In order to do all these things, we shall have to have our revenues expanded. Because as I said before, so long as our country is living in a state of semi-starvation, so long as there is no purchasing power in the country, I cannot visualise how there will be industrialisation. I cannot imagine how the people can think of the industrialisation of this country when 90 per cent. of our population is perpetually living under semi-starvation conditions. Unless there is an internal market there can be no development of industry as the Finance Member visualises and there will not be any possibility of creating an internal market so long as the present economic and social structure remains the same. Under the present feudal system which exists in this country, is there any possibility of expanding industries. The countries that can be industrialised must first create a home market and in order to create a home market, you will have to lift the peasantry out of the out-moded structure of society where they are living under age old oppression. They are heavily indebted and have to work under primitive conditions. Unless our people are freed from such conditions, it is not a practical

proposition to talk of industrialisation. These things will have to be done first and when I view the Finance Bill from this point of view I cannot help feeling that it has no underlying principles which will show any ray of hope to the starving millions.

I was very happy yesterday to listen to my friend in the European Group drawing the attention of the Finance Member to the coming famine and he has made certain valuable suggestions. But let me draw the attention of the Finance Member to the fact that it is not a matter of famine today or a famine tomorrow. India is perpetually underfed. Indians have always been a semi-starved people and so long as the Budget shows no underlying idea of helping these semi-starved people I as a representative of the common man of the country cannot support a budget of this kind. The Finance Member instead of showing any concern or sympathy for the conditions in which our Indian people are existing today, conditions of semi-human existence, nay sub-human existence, has shown great concern for the rich and has offered his helping hand to them by proposing the abolition of the Excess Profits Tax. I welcome the speech of my Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, who also thought that the abolition of the excess profits tax was not justified, that the money realised through the tax could be utilised for the betterment of the common man of the country. I take it that when views are expressed on the floor of this House by responsible members of the Congress Party, they are the views of the Party as a whole, and that the Congress Party is against the abolition of the Excess Profits Tax.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is the view of the Congress Party.

Miss Maniben Kara: I am very glad to get that assurance. If that is so, I would request the Honourable the Finance Member to take notice of the views expressed in this House and amend his Bill accordingly. At a time when the country was facing the danger of aggression from outside and starvation and hunger inside, these are the very classes who minted money at the cost of the poorer sections of society. These are the people who in any other country would have been treated as thieves, thugs and dacoits. They would have been imprisoned but in this country the Finance Member has extended a helping hand to them.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: He is dallying with them.

Miss Maniben Kara: When I stop to think why such a thing should have happened, why such a concern has been shown by the Honourable the Finance Member for such anti-social elements in society, who to my mind should be regarded as thugs and dacoits and enemies of the country, it seems to me that he is hoping that if these people are relieved of the Excess Profits Tax, perhaps they would develop industries, they would undertake public works which would eventually result in giving employment to people and raise their standard of living. I am sorry that the Honourable the Finance Member has not yet learnt a lesson from the war, if he still feels that there is a possibility of private enterprise being in a position to raise the standard of living of the people. I am sorry for him if he thinks so, even in these days when the capitalist system in all the countries has not only failed but led to a devastating war. Yet in spite of that if the Honourable the Finance Member wants to pin his hope on a handful of industrialists in the belief that if they are relieved of the Excess Profits Tax, perhaps they would develop their privately owned industries thus solving the problem of unemployment and raising the standard of life of the people I have no words to express what I think of the Honourable Member's credulity.

If as a result of the present Finance Bill the country has to face unemployment and famine, let me sound a note of warning that the present Government will have to be blamed for it. They will have to take the responsibility, if as a result of this Bill there is greater unemployment, starvation, death and disease in the country. The charge will be at the doors of the Government of the country. Does he not realise that in the present structure of society it is impossible, even with the best will on the part of the industrialists of this country, as long as the

[Miss Maniben Kara]

industries are in the hands of a few people, that the standard of living of the people can ever be raised?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member's time is up.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowland: I will give five minutes of my time.

Miss Maniben Kara: Apart from death and estate duties other measures should have been taken for the benefit of the people. My friend Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad has given the vast sums accumulated by a few people during the war a proper name—Rupee Balances. May I ask why the rupee balances should not be made available for public purposes through appropriate taxation?

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Member can have three minutes more.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): I think the Honourable the President said that ordinary members could have anything between 20 to 80 minutes.

Several Honourable Members: Only 20 minutes.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Therefore I submit that our Honourable speaker should be allowed to go on.

Miss Maniben Kara: I regret that the Honourable the Finance Member has adopted a very timid policy: instead of boldly taxing the richer sections of society, he has pinned his faith on them. In other words, he is trying to hand over, tied hand and foot, the Indian masses to the mercies of the upper classes. There are vast possibilities for development in our country in men and material. If this country is left in chaos and starvation by the present Government, it will not be because we are lacking in resources, in men and material, it will be simply because the Government lacked the courage to adopt a bold policy to reconstruct the entire society.

Lastly, I must say that in this bill I find the shadow of coming events.

The British Cabinet Mission is coming here for a political settlement. All the indications show that the reality of power will be in the hands of the few. People talk of freedom and of independence. But it will merely be a replacement of the white by the brown. We will have in this country the rule of the Indian upper classes in place of the rule of the British imperialism. I cannot feel enthusiastic about a political settlement of this nature, because to me

that will not mean any improvement—it will only mean a continuation of slavery though under different masters; and change of masters does not mean, to me, freedom. But that does not mean that I am in the least enthusiastic about the present government, because I feel that the present Government, has acted as policemen and as tax-gatherers for the upper classes. They have not acted in any other capacity—they have acted as mere tools in the hands of the upper classes of this country; and I am afraid that the same will continue if my friends on the opposite benches move a little closer this side and occupy the treasury benches, which my friends on the treasury benches are now very anxious to quit. An understanding has been reached between the present occupiers and the would-be occupiers. That is why, during the discussion on the budget, even though I was not here, from what I could follow from the press reports, I felt that there was nothing but great appreciation for the Honourable the Finance Member and I am surprised that now the tone of the speeches has changed. The reason to me is very

clear, because orders have come from the high command, the working committee of the Congress.

Mr. Chairman: The Honourable Speaker had better finish her speech now.

Miss Maniben Kara: That being the case, the Congress may throw out the Bill as a political stunt. I have no sympathy with the Bill because I have my fundamental differences with the underlying policies of the Bill. I should have expected from the Honourable the Finance Member that the first peace time budget should have been framed with the object of pooling the entire resources of the country in the public treasury and utilising them for the betterment of the common man of this country.

Sri N. Narayanamurthi (Ganjam cum Vizagapatam: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Chairman, encomiums have been showered on the Finance Member—encomium after encomium—for what is styled by interested people to be a departure from the old rut of budget making. He is credited for his skill and forensic abilities, for having made a departure from the old methods and for presenting what is thus advertised to be a liberal and sympathetic budget. But so far as our party is concerned, we have never joined in that encomium. From the very beginning, even from the day on which the budget was presented, our party has made it absolutely clear that the budget has given nothing for the poor man. If there is any party or established organisation in the whole of this country, which can take care of the interests of the common man, it is the Indian National Congress, and no other like it. Other mushroom parties and organisations cannot claim to be better guardians and better protectors of the rights and interests of the common man than the Indian National Congress itself which has got a glorious record of sixty years' fight for the people of this country, irrespective of class, caste or any other distinction among the people of this country. The independence for which the Indian National Congress is and has been fighting all along is for every man, every woman and every child and every class of people in this country. The Congress has all along proclaimed its ideal as to safeguard the interests and liberties of the entire nation, and not of any section of it. So either the Honourable lady member who has just spoken before me, or any other section of the House need not have any fear or doubt whatsoever that in the transitional stage, in case of any transference of power by amicable settlement, if by God's grace anything turns up and the interests of the country are placed in the hands of the Congress, I can assure every section, not only of this House, but every political party, and every man born in India and claiming this with any patriotism as his motherland, that the Congress will be the organisation that will make and work for the establishment of a cent per cent Swaraj for the people.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): May I ask the Honourable Member what did the Congress ministries do in their own time? Have you got any record of that?

Sri N. Narayanamurthi: Coming to the Finance Bill, the Finance Member himself claims his budget to be a mark-time budget. Now, Sir, it is not a mark-time budget that the country expects of him at this stage. Immediately after the termination of one of the greatest world wars, India has a right to expect a peace time budget, a peace time budget of far reaching statesmanship and constructive proposals and plans for the emancipation of this country. Nothing of the kind is given in the budget. I do not doubt even for a moment the forensic abilities of the Finance Member. I do not grudge him the compliments that are being paid; but I refuse to join in them because he has not done anything for the common man, for the poor man, as has been pointed out by all the previous speakers that have spoken already on this subject.

The Hon'ble The Finance Member claims and perhaps expects cheap popularity by the abolition of the excess profits tax. That was not asked for by us; and just now the Honourable Lady member, speaking before me, has been asking what the attitude of the Congress is towards this. The Congress never asked for the protection of vested interests. Congress on the other hand

[Shri N. Narayanamurthi]

has got its own definite views on these and other matters, relating to taxation. The Congress has never asked for the complete abolition of the Excess Profits Tax. On the other hand the Congress has all along been pressing for the utilisation of every pie available in the finances of the Government for the betterment of the country and the entire nation. If the Honourable the Finance Member is bidding for cheap popularity, it is because he is aware of the fact that his budget is only to mark time and that he will have no responsibility to shoulder in the near future. We are aware of the fact that even in England the excess profits tax has not been completely abolished. As has been said by several of the previous speakers, it would have been much better if he had planned directly a big nation-building programme and had utilised these monies for the benefit of the common man. But we cannot blame the Finance Member alone for this, because if the various Departments of the Government had their own definite programmes and plans for nation-building and had they pressed for the necessary money, perhaps the shape of the present budget would have been different. But we know how the present Government Departments are working. In England if they have conserved 50 per cent of the excess profits tax, it is because England is a self-governing country which knows its own post-war requirements and has got its own post-war plans. But here we are governed by a Government which neither knows the country nor even its own mind. Take, for instance, the case of the Information and Broadcasting Department, which has suffered a very drastic cut at our hands. We have cut the supplies to the extent of 98 lakhs. Does it mean that the entire body of elected members of this House who have voted for it do not know the importance and the imperative urgency of information and the need for a real kind of national propaganda. Not at all. The cut was intended to destroy the present cobweb of corruption, nepotism and jobbery that was going on in the name of Information and Broadcasting. We know how to organise our own department of information when the time for it comes. We shall have our own publicity and information departments in the provinces as well as in the Centre. My point is this. If these departments had their own constructive plans for nation-building and if they had come forward with their definite plans for progress and expansion, that cut would not have taken place.

Take again the instance of the refusal of the rail-road co-ordination plan. We are not opposed to the principle of the nationalisation of transport. In fact, the scheme that was brought and placed before us was not a real nationalisation of transport project. For that matter, they wanted to kill bus competition and get more money for the railways at the cost of the poor bus owners. If there had been a real nationalisation of transport and if the Government had come forward with a full fledged nationalisation programme, the Congress and every other progressive party in the country would have been the first to support it. For instance, along with the nationalisation of transport or "rail road co-ordination" as they called it, if the Government had brought forward a definite plan for a national automobile industry, the whole nation would have been glad. There are very many key industries which the Government themselves ought to take up in a post war period like this. They could have raised a huge loan if necessary. Did they not raise huge loans when they required money during war time. Just like that, if they had raised a huge loan the whole nation would have responded as gloriously as it has responded on previous occasions. The main charge against the Government is that it does not know its own mind. It has not got any comprehensive or clear cut or definite plans of nation building and that point has already been emphasized.

I was just now speaking of the drastic cut which we carried in the case of the Information and Arts Department. Simply because we passed the Broadcasting Department without any special cut, it should not be taken that we are satisfied with the working of the Broadcasting Department. We have a

great deal to say against the working of the Broadcasting Department. It has not brought forward any definite proposals for expansion even though it is now nearly 7 or 8 years since the A. I. R. and other broadcasting institutions and the department was started in this country. Even all the provincial capitals are not as yet equipped with broadcasting stations. There is the case of Patna about which the other day the Honourable Member was being asked a question. The Provincial headquarters of Orissa, Cuttack or other provincial centres like Nagpur and Karachi have not got any broadcasting stations. As far back as 1936 or 1937 experts went and inspected and approved a spot at Rajahmundry in the Andhra Desa but none of these projects have materialised, even though 8 years have now elapsed.

[At this stage, Mr. Chairman (Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan)].

Take again the question of encouraging the manufacture of receiving sets and supplying cheap radio sets to the people. There is nothing of such expansion in these budget proposals.

Let alone industrial planning even so far as political planning is concerned, the present budget does not forecast any good to this country. For instance, take the question of the reorganisation of the Provinces of India on a linguistic basis. This is a question at least 35 years old. The Andhra movement and several other movements such as the demand for the unification of the Karnataka have been on the anvil for over 40 years. Several Resolutions have been passed favouring that proposal. In the pre-Montagu Imperial Legislative Council also a Resolution was passed accepting the principle. The Montagu Report accepted the principle and subsequently the Madras Legislative Assembly passed a Resolution and very recently the Council of State also passed a Resolution agreeing to the principle of reorganisation of the entire provinces of India on a linguistic basis. The Indian National Congress has accepted the principle in effect and yet the Government does not seem to be aware of the consensus of opinion. The revision of the boundaries may be primarily a matter of the provinces concerned according to the present constitution but the general question of appointing a Boundary Commission for the whole of India and the reorganisation of the whole country on the language basis is essentially an all-India matter. The Government should have taken up the consideration of this question long ago. These reforms are long overdue and would have been taken in hand long ago if there had been a national government in existence in this country. Let me say in this connection that the demand for a separate Andhra Province or a Karnataka province is not based on any separatist or clannish or communal cry. The demand is based on the fundamental principle that if the Government of the country is to be a real Government of the people by the people for the people, then it should be in the hands of the people themselves. It is on this ground that we have been agitating so that we may be in a position to safeguard the interests of the common man. If there were linguistic provinces, and if the actual cultivators and the actual workers of the country had been able to participate in the administration of their own province, irrigation projects and things like that would not have been neglected in the manner in which they are being neglected by the present Government. In the present budget even with regard to irrigation schemes and hydro-electric projects much attention does not seem to have been paid. Being on the Standing Committee for Labour, I know that the Government of India this year are going to carry out four major projects of which the Mahanadi Project in which I am directly interested as coming for Orissa is one. As a matter of fact after a delay of about 20 years this is being undertaken. I know there are three other major projects, the 'Damodar Project,' the 'Sone Project' and a fourth project somewhere on the Indus. All these are long overdue ones which are being taken up now. There are very many of this nature which the Government should immediately undertake in all the provinces. Some of them may be primarily matters for the Provincial Governments to take up but the lead in matters of this kind must come from the Central Government especially

[Sri N. Narayanamurthi]

in view of the grave food crisis facing the country, as well as in the interests of the agricultural development for which the Government have to start an All-India campaign. The sooner, therefore, the Government takes up these projects and carries them out, the better.

Let alone the nationalisation of industries. Take the question of the encouragement of private enterprise. The Honourable the Finance Member claims some credit for the abolition of the duty on raw material imports and machinery. But it may be noted that the Government is going to get more customs revenue from manufactured goods to be imported in the current year than during the war-period. What does it mean? It only means that they are going to dump this country with manufactured goods from other countries. Nothing has been done to develop our local industries. Unless that is done on an all India scale, with regard to nationalisation of industries as well as by way of encouragement of cottage industries in rural areas, nothing tangible can be effected in the economy of this country. Mere exemption of duty on imported raw materials will not help matters, even in this matter a great injustice has been done to the Film Industry of India. They propose to tax the entire quantity of raw film required on a linear foot basis at the rate of half anna per foot. Like the raw stock for any other industry, raw film is the raw product required for the film industry, which has a rightful claim for protection and encouragement at the hands of the government. As far back as 1929, there was a ~~Committee~~ Committee under the Chairmanship of the late Dewan Bahadur ~~Shri~~ Shri ~~Chandrasekhar~~ Chandrasekhar, which enquired into and recognised that raw film is as much raw material as any other and that Government should exempt it wholly from import duty. Even though 18 years have lapsed ever since and even though also subsequently in 1932 the same question was discussed on the floor of the House on the motion of Mr. Jadhav and the then Commerce Member Sir Joseph Bhore promised sympathetic consideration nothing was done and now instead of giving protection they are going to levy a tax of six pice per foot in the shape of import duty. This is a great hardship. I shall deal with this in detail when the House considers the Bill clause by clause.

Now, Sir, a word with regard to food problem. I need not speak at length as it has already been covered by the previous speakers on the subject. In an emergency like this, as was pointed out by my Honourable friend Mr. Lawson yesterday the food problem should not be left to be the concern of only one Department of the Government. The entire Government machinery should be set in motion and the Government should take extraordinary measures for encouraging agricultural production of the country as well as supply of food stuffs, distribution and procurement and everything connected with it. In that respect also there is no definite plan or programme envisaged or provided for in this budget. Of course the present Government is only biding its time. It is in a transitional stage. That is why the Honourable Finance Member does not seem to have made any provision for an all-round and comprehensive programme of reconstruction and therefore the present budget is wholly disappointing.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): Sir, I do not want to comment on the taxation policy of Government, as I have already said what I felt about the budget proposals in my speech on the general discussion. I would confine my remarks on the present occasion to a particular Department, the Civil Supplies and Industries which has been concerned with the supply of the necessities of life only second to food. On 10th March 1945, speaking on the Cut Motion in this House I made my point of view very clear in the matter of marking of prices by this Department. It really remains a mystery to the common man as no body can understand the method and process of marking of prices on the cloth by this Department. We find that *latha* of inferior qualities are marked at higher rates compared to *latha* of superior quality. I understand this is probably due to the fact that a fixed rate of profit is allowed to all the mills and because certain mills have particular proficiency in producing certain kind of cloth, say, for instance, *latha*

these mills can produce at fourteen annas a yard, whereas for others it costs nearly Rs. 1-2-0 a yard. This price ~~reflects~~ on the marking of prices on mill and ~~retailed~~ rates. As the element of competition has been taken away from these mills because of the Government rates being marked on them, I would only point out that this matter should be fully investigated into. This is what I said when speaking last year but I do not think the Department has done anything so far in their connection. The only concrete suggestion in this respect is that those mills which are efficient in producing a particular kind of cloth like *latha*, muslin, shirtings and so on, they should be asked to concentrate on the production of that particular quality and variety which they can produce at a cheaper rate and with better skill. To make myself more clear, I would say this that supposing a certain mill can produce *latha* at the cost of Rs. 0-14-0 a yard which is finer and of better quality than the other mills which can only produce at the cost of one rupee, then that particular mill which has its costing at 14 As. per yd. should be asked to concentrate on the production of that one type of cloth, that is *latha*. Other mills in the same way should be surveyed to see which other kind of cloth each can produce best in quality and cheaper in price. This is a concrete suggestion which I want to offer to the Department if they would care to pay heed to this. If they insist on flouting suggestion in this House, we can not help it in the present circumstances.

Now, I come to the position of Muslim traders. I am sorry the Honourable Mr. Waugh is not present here. I would like to refer him to his letter to me during last February in which he said that out of 816 licences issued, for the sale of woollen cloth, only 59 licences were issued to Muslims by his Department for the distribution of woollen cloth all over India. In his reply today to a question of mine, he said that in Delhi nearly 14 lakhs of yards are being sold as unrationed cloth out of which the share given to Muslim traders is nearly 2 lakhs 25 thousand yards. You will notice that the share of the Muslims is only 15 per cent. The figures for other provinces are not available to me, and the Civil Supplies Department has not been able to give same on the plea that the distribution was a provincial subject. I know Mr. Deputy President from my experience of Bihar Province that the condition of Muslim traders there is bad enough and in other provinces like U. P. the condition is also no better as my friend the Raja Sahab of Mahmoodabad tells me. Probably the position is that the share of Muslim merchants in the matter of supply of both rationed and unrationed cloth remains at 15 per cent. or less for which licenses have been issued up till now. As a specific question was put on the distribution in Delhi a concrete reply was given in regard to Delhi and I would particularly refer this, as a specimen. The Honourable Member of Government in his reply said that the question of the miserable plight of Delhi Muslim traders was not brought to the notice of the Government till so late as 2nd March 1946. Probably he refers to the letter which I wrote to him on this issue saying that only Rs. 22-4-0 per month was the earning of this Muslim merchants to whom this unrationed cloth has been given for distribution so far in Delhi.

I would now refer to the correspondence which my Deputy Leader Nawabzada Liaqat Ali Khan began with this Department and with the Chief Commissioner of Delhi as early as in June 1945. This correspondence was followed up by the correspondence I had with them in July, August and September. I saw the Chief Commissioner in this connection, and an assurance was given to me that the Muslim quota will be given due consideration. I have been insisting on 50 per cent quota to Muslim merchants which according to principle of population in Delhi was absolutely necessary but in actual practice, this percentage was only worked up to fifteen per cent. in the matter of un-rationed cloth for muslim cloth merchants. It is still in the region of prejudices. We notice that in the matter of un-rationed cloth, in spite of many statement that has been published, in spite of protest meetings held by the Muslims citizen of Delhi during last ten months, the share of the Muslims cloth merchant has only remained at less than 15 per cent. Still the Department claims to be ignorant of the subject which we have taken up so long. This is a position

[Mr. Muhammad Nauman]

which requires very careful consideration. I refer to the position of the Muslim cloth merchants because although statements were issued and *Dawn* and many other Urdu dailies and weeklies were writing articles day in and day out, the plight of Muslims cloth traders continue to be miserable and we have not been able to improve things with all these efforts. That was because the men in charge in the Department were working with religious prejudices in their minds and attempts were made to keep everything in secret pool. I wrote a letter to Mr. Ramadhyani, the Director of Civil Supplies, Delhi, on the 19th February last and asked for certain information and detailed figures regarding the distribution of unrationed cloth to Muslims and non-Muslims Traders. His reply was evasive and ambiguous. He replied:

"Correspondence is not likely to allay your apprehensions. I am requesting Mr. Yar Khan to take an early opportunity of meeting and explaining your apprehensions."

He was shelving the position and not replying to my issues raised. He replied in 8 lines to my letter of nearly 150 lines. The reply given in the House today reveals the position to be even worse than what I suspected. That is how the Department has been behaving towards the Muslim cloth traders. Mr. Ramadhyani's representative promised in his letter never met me at all.

Sir, I will not refer to the question of Muslim proportion in services because this has been ably dealt with by other Honourable Members of my party a few days ago. I will only say with reference to the Finance Bill that although I do not know what the decision of my party will be, yet I certainly feel that, this is a rich man's budget and nothing has been done for the common man in this country. Unless some relief is given to the common man it is difficult to convince people that the Finance Member has shown any appreciation of the needs of this country. In this connection I feel that the duties on kerosene, salt, betel-nuts and such other things should be reduced to an extent that it may make an appreciable difference in the poor man's household. The post-card, for instance, may be made cheaper so as to give the poor man some relief. Every one writes at least 12 or 15 letters a year, and a saving of even four annas to a poor man would make a good deal of difference. I do not propose to give concrete suggestions here, as this may be done by my Leader or Deputy Leader later in the week.

With regard to our sterling balances I have already spoken at length during General discussion and will not deal with them any further at this stage. Sir, I have done.

Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan Bhattacharya (Nominated Non-official): Sir, I could not take part in the general discussion on the budget. Hence my first words today shall be words of congratulations to the Honourable the Finance Member on his new approach to the solution of the difficult problems of India's finance during this difficult period of transition. I believe, Sir, you will agree with me if I say that the office of Finance Member has never been a soft job and often proved to be the grave of many reputations; but Sir Archibald Rowlands who assumed office only a year ago has chalked out a programme for India with commendable boldness and imagination indicating the shape of things to come in a regime under her natural leaders to which we are all looking forward.

I think, Sir, I would be guilty of no inconsistency if I begin by saying that the Finance Member has given a new orientation to the Indian fiscal policy having an eye to India's good only. Expansion of India's industry is one of the foremost planks in any scheme of peace-time rehabilitation and the abolition of the Excess Profits Tax is sure to give a fillip to the much needed industrial regeneration of India. This development of industry, if carried out, will not only make India self-sufficient so far as her daily needs are concerned but will absorb a good many people discharged from war-time services and will thereby help to solve the problem of unemployment that looms so large today.

Sir, men of moderate means find relief in the reduction of the rate of income-tax and the poor is benefited by reduction in the duty on kerosene.

As one hailing from Bengal I am thankful to the Honourable Finance Member for subvention of eight crores of rupees to Bengal to enable her to tide over her difficulties. But it is rather disappointing, Sir, that the Finance Member who has a soft corner for all has forgotten the case of a section of unfortunate people who derive their income from forests. They have been practically ignored and no relief has been extended to them. I speak from my experience in Bengal that the forest-owning people have made very valuable contributions to the economic, social and cultural development of Bengal, but they seem to have fallen on evil days. The Provincial Government of Bengal has initiated the agricultural income-tax on income derived from forests and the Indian Income-tax Department has recently discovered that the income from forests, although grown according to the usual processes of agriculture, is liable to taxation under the Indian Income-tax Act, and the result is that this income is being subjected to double taxation, once by the Provincial Government and again by the Central Government. May I tell the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands, who modestly describes himself as a tax-gatherer-in-chief, that his followers in the lower ranks of the Department are anxious to go ahead of their chief and in their over-zealousness they want to prove themselves perhaps more loyal than the king himself. I may submit, Sir, that if forests are subjected to high rates of taxation of the Indian Income-tax Department, it would spell disaster for their future growth leading to their ultimate extinction. The forest owners will find no interest to look after the forests only for the benefit of the Government and the condition of forests will naturally deteriorate and no one need be surprised if forest areas are ultimately converted to arable lands or waste lands. The process of deforestation which has already commenced in fear of this high rate of taxation will have a baneful effect on the country's rainfall and will be a contributing factor in causing drought and thereby loss of agricultural produce. If the Government feels keen on the preservation of forests in the general well-being of the country, I think, Sir, it should come to the rescue of the forest owners by treating income derived from forests as purely agricultural and not to make this income liable to taxation under the Indian Income-tax Act.

Sir, I would like to say a few words more not in a spirit of criticism but a statement of genuine grievances which I hope the Honourable the Finance Member would kindly look into and see that the grievances are remedied.

Sir, lands, forests and houses were requisitioned by the Government during war for war purposes and the people did not object to it as all works relating to war should have first priority. At the time of requisition, Sir, District Officers assured the people that their claims for compensation would be sympathetically considered and that compensation would be paid at rates which would satisfy all concerned and actually, Sir, in cases in which compensation had been paid during the war, the rates of compensation were very fair and equitable. But at present, Sir, attempts are being made to pay as little as possible. Compensation is now probably being calculated at pre-war rates, although the prices of land and forests have now gone up by more than four or five times the pre-war rates. I know, Sir, one landlord whose forests measuring about 800 acres were requisitioned for construction of Airfields. Trees were cut down and uprooted, thus making the growth of forest in future impossible. The Land Acquisition Officer at the time prepared the schedule of compensation to be paid to him and he came to know unofficially that his compensation money would be about three lakhs of rupees. The amount, however, was not paid during the war on some pretext or other. But now the war having been over, the gentleman has been officially informed recently by a new Land Acquisition Officer that his total compensation money would come up to about a lakh and a quarter only. This difference in rates for payment of

compensation money cannot be justified on any ground whatsoever and I find no reason why owners should not be paid at increased rates which prevail at the present moment, however high they may be.

Then, Sir, these people are faced with another difficulty. The Income-tax Officers are hovering round about these gentlemen and they will jump upon them and swallow a major portion of the compensation when the money will be actually paid. I know one gentleman, Sir, who will have to pay more than 80 per cent. of his compensation money to the Income-tax Department, and he will have very little left with him to make up the loss he has suffered from. This is really a great hardship and I would request the Honourable the Finance Member to see if he can make this kind of compensation money—money paid by way of compensation for properties requisitioned during war—income-tax free.

Sir, I would refer to one thing more and then I will finish. I find, Sir, that the rate of income-tax on unearned income is higher. I know many owners of unearned income who are very generous and make large annual donations which lead to the growth and foundation of many useful institutions in this land of ours from time to time. To bring some relief to this section of tax-payers, may I request the Honourable the Finance Member to see if he can find his way to place the amount of the unearned income donated for bona fide charitable purposes beyond the purview of the Indian Income-tax Act. I believe, Sir, this concession, if agreed to, will encourage the owners of unearned income to donate more in future for institutions which depend largely on public charity.

With these words, Sir, I support the Finance Bill.

Mr. P. B. Gole (Berar: Non-Muhammadan); Mr. Deputy President. I rise to oppose the passing of the Finance Bill moved by the Honourable the Finance Member.

Before I come to the actual provisions of the Finance Bill, I would like to make a few remarks regarding last year's conditions. The year 1945-46 can be said to be a memorable year from several points of view. The greatest war in the annals of history came to an end perhaps by the use of Atomic bomb; we do not know whether it could have ended otherwise. But it ushered in new problems and to use the words of the Honourable the Finance Member himself, it has created new enemies in the form of poverty, ill-health, squalor and other things, and we are asked to fight these. The Honourable the Finance Member said that he was going to quit office and the new incumbents will have to find ways and means to fight these enemies. He has shown the way in which this could be done and some provisions could be found in the Finance Bill by which these enemies could be fought.

I have tried to look at the Finance Bill from the test which the Finance Member himself has laid before us, and from his point of view if I were to look at this Bill then I may say that beyond reducing some tax on kerosene and beyond certain promises which in reply the Honourable the Finance Member gave regarding reduction in other taxes or indirect taxes, I have not been able to find in the Finance Bill any provision which will at least prepare the nation for fighting the enemies.

During this war there were several Commissions and several Committees held by the United Nations. We have got the U.N.R.R.A., we have got the U.N.O., we have got the Philadelphia Charter, and several others have been devised in order to make this world safe for peace as well as for happiness. And from this point of view the position of India so far as these UNRRA, UNOs and conferences are concerned, although India had been a party to these, I do not find that India has been recognized anywhere in any of these Conferences and Commissions. I draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member to what is called the Philadelphia Charter. There

the motto that was laid: "Poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere." is a trite saying which will hold good everywhere. Therefore, if India is poor, and for the matter of that the poorest, of all the countries in the world, then this will constitute a danger to the peace of the world. That is an accepted saying, and in order to fight this there are certain aims which were laid before the Philadelphia conference. Seven points are mentioned in what is called the Philadelphia Charter and I shall try to examine the Finance Bill by placing before me these aims and objects to be achieved in order to have permanent peace in this world:

"1. Opportunity for useful and regular employment to all persons who want work at fair wages and returns and under reasonable conditions with provisions for the protection of health against injury in all occupations.

2. Raising standards of living to provide adequate nutrition, housing, medical care, health and education."

3. The establishment of a programme of standard of employment to prevent exploitation of workers whether employed or self-employed whose opportunities of higher wage employment are limited.

4. Provision for child welfare.

5. Provision for a regular flow of income for all whose employment is interrupted by sickness or injury, by old-age or lack of employment opportunity.

6. The recognition of the right of freedom of association and collective bargaining.

7. Provision of labour trading."

These are the aims laid down by what is called the Philadelphia Charter and let us examine this Finance Bill in the light of the aims put forward. I suppose India was a party to this Conference and I suppose when these aims are put forward they are equally applicable to India. Let us examine, Sir, from this point of view whether the Finance Bill of the Honourable Member comes up to this standard. In the course of his budget speech, the Finance Member said:

"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 from the schemes economic and social which will be financed by the yield of the taxes contributed by the richer sections of this community."

Excepting the reduction on the duty on kerosene, he leaves everything to be done, so far as relief of the poor is concerned and their uplift economically, to the schemes to be put forth, socially, economically and industrially. I have tried to see whether there is any provision in this Finance Bill for raising the standard of living to provide adequate nutrition, housing, medical care and education. Is there anything in the schemes whereby better nutrition could be given. My view of the whole Finance Bill is that beyond removing the excess profits tax, and perhaps filling the coffers of the already rich people, and giving some relief to the income-tax payer in the form of direct taxation, so far as those persons are concerned who are not able to pay any tax directly (and the majority of Indians are such who cannot afford to pay income-tax or pay indirect tax), the relief to these poor people (and the majority of Indians are poor) is practically nil. Let us see if India is to be left a poor country all its life. It was poor before the war. It has become poorer still. Then this will be a danger for the peace of the world. I need not, Sir, dilate upon this at great length, but I may point out to you, Sir, that today in the 'Hindustan Times' there is a report from America. There the question of giving a quota of wheat was raised in the United Food Board and Argentina, I am told, refused to give its quota. Mr. Ramamurti, one of the Indian Food Delegates who have gone to America, has issued a statement in America. I will only quote two or three sentences from that statement. Under the headlines ten millions will die and not easily, and with a large map showing the Indian famine areas, the article declares:

[Mr. P. B. Gole]

"In the famine of 1943 in Bengal, it was the poor people, the voiceless people who suffered. Now the people who face death belong to all ranks of the population, vocal and intelligent people. They will not die easily and if the food supplies fail, they will bring down the whole fabric and administration of life in India."

That is what Mr. Ramamurti, one of the Food Delegates who have gone to America has stated publicly and published it in the newspapers. Has it got any effect on this Food Board or upon the U.N.O. conference? Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar is one of the members of this U.N.O. committee. There also the question of food for India was raised. In fact the Food delegation is going with a begging bowl before these nations for food for India and they are receiving very scant courtesy at the hands of the U.N.O. and the Combined Food Board. Why is it so? We know that in winning the war India has played the greatest part. India has supplied men and money, has shed its blood, and India has been bled white and with all this India has been famished and today at this hour, all the food is being concentrated and those persons who are said to have suffered on account of war are being given food. I do not hear, for instance, in the whole world that the Germans are being famished or the Germans are dying of hunger. I do not hear that the Austrians are dying of hunger or the Italians. But I do here that Indians in millions are dying of hunger. Here Mr. Ramamurti says that ten millions of people, if food is not supplied in time, will die of hunger; and with all this United Food Board and the U.N.O. I am still not hopeful. The reason is obvious. These delegates have not the backing of the people. They are not recognised. They are an appendage to the British Government and it is the duty of the British Government really speaking to feed India at this juncture. And what is being done? We are asked to go with a begging bowl to America, to the U.N.O. and to U.N.R.R.A. Only last year India was made to contribute Rs. 8 crores to U.N.R.R.A. and this year also a provision was being made for a contribution of Rs. 4 crores. India has suffered in the war. India is asked to contribute Rs. 4 crores for rehabilitation for countries which have suffered in the war but you cannot get food even for India, not even recognition of food for India, and from this point of view I say, Sir, that really speaking, the Finance Member has not provided us with any means by which, our case can be influenced, nor our power felt, and that is the test really speaking by which we judge the Finance Bill. Therefore, the Congress Party is perfectly justified in throwing out the Finance Bill. When the question of action comes, India is thrown to the corner.

Now coming to certain details, I have got to remark about the way in which this planning is going on. The other day I put certain questions—unfortunately the Member for Supply is not here: But I will try to point out that the Central Provinces Government formed certain cooperative societies of actual manufacturers of brass utensils and it was expected that sheets of brass and copper would be supplied to them. That Government wrote a long letter to the Government of India, Supply Department, asking for the supply of brass sheets and pointed out that really speaking, in view of the control order passed by the Government of India, these brass sheets should be supplied to the actual manufacturers and not to the dealers who make a lot of profit. That was pointed out but that letter was suppressed. These workers went without any work. They could not get the sheets. The merchants got the sheets from the Government of India but they would not part with them. The Registrar co-operative societies sent an urgent wire, a distress wire, if I may say so, to the Supply Department saying that his position had become very awkward, that he encouraged the formation of new societies, that after the formation of these new societies, in pursuance of the orders passed by the Government they were bound to supply Brass sheets to these workers. In spite of that these merchants to whom these sheets had been supplied were suppressing them without giving them to the workers.

That telegram was not responded to. He sent another urgent wire to the Supply Department, (an I.C.S. gentleman,) and even that remained suppressed. Ultimately he became desperate. I asked the Member for Supplies the other day why it was not replied. He said that it was replied later on. That is also not correct. I know that these merchants themselves sent a circular round asking the other merchants in different Provinces to wait upon the Supply Member. They waited in deputation not on the Supply Member but on the Deputy Secretary and they allocated to themselves all the Brass sheets supplied. When I put to the Supply Member the question why in pursuance of the orders of the Government of India these sheets are not supplied to the actual workers but to the dealers, the answer given by the Honourable Member was that the ordinary trade channels were used. These trade channels have been discouraged by the order of the Government of India. Yet the answer to me was that the normal trade channels were resorted to and these trade channels consisted of middlemen and merchants who made a lot of profit. I have got a number of telegrams and a number of resolutions passed by different cooperative societies complaining that they are not getting Brass sheets at all and that is not the complaint of C. P. and Berar alone, it is a complaint from the U.P. and the Punjab also. I have got instances where Merchants withheld Brass sheets from co-operative workers. Why this discourtesy? You are talking of planning for cottage industries. The Registrar himself wired for it and after so much trouble why this discourtesy to the Registrar of a province? Is this way in which planning of cottage industries is to be encouraged by the Government of India? I heard the other day that actions speak louder than words. Here the actions of the Government are louder than the words of encouragement of cottage industry which they have proclaimed. I would submit that the way in which they are going to plan will remain planning only in name and will never come into action. That is what I am afraid of. My request to the Honourable Member is that he ought to look into this and remove the just grievances of the actual workers.

I would only touch on one more point before I sit down and that is about corruption. The other day I was surprised to hear the Honourable the Home Member saying "You offer bribes and therefore you should not blame the bribe-taker." Perhaps both are blameworthy because bribe is offered by us, he takes it. I do not think that is so. The Honourable Home Member forgets that almost every day during this war time there was a printing press which issued Ordinances after Ordinances. In fact I myself did not know whether I was committing a breach of any ordinance. It was very difficult to keep pace with the ordinances as they were issued one after another and how can the ignorant people be expected to know about them. If anybody commits a breach the law comes down upon him. The officer comes, the man wants to save himself from disgrace or jail and therefore he pays a bribe and thus gets rid of the officer. That is the state of things which everybody knows. The Honourable Member has got a C.I.D. at his disposal. They have all the means to find a political offender wherever he may be but they cannot find out a corrupt official who takes bribes. They have got tribunals which try persons for taking eight annas or five rupees but what about those high placed persons who take bribes of very large sums? I know one or two cases of high officials have been discovered in Bengal but how many persons are there who are highly placed and who are known to be taking bribes. What have you done with them? Judging from this point of view all their planning may mean nothing ultimately. The Finance Member says—and I take his word—that he is going but his action does not show that. Therefore we are justified in throwing out the Finance Bill.

Mr. Madandhari Singh (Bihar and Orissa: Landholders): Sir, at the very outset I congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member for presenting a Budget which has got good reception. I think this is the first budget which contains plans for development.

[Mr. Madanbhai Singh]

I welcome the Cabinet Mission that is coming to settle matters relating to our independence. I hope all the parties will join together to attain the independence of the country.

Before I discuss the Budget, I would like to appeal to the Finance Member regarding my Province, Behar. We get a very small quota from income-tax, revenue, whereas actually we should have a larger amount than what we are getting today. In Chota Nagpur Division there are large factories working but the companies are registered either in Bengal or in Bombay. Take the instance of Tata at Jamshedpur. The company is registered in Bombay, whereas it is actually functioning in the Chota Nagpur Division. The income of the company ought to be assessed in Behar but it is done in Bombay. It may be all right so far as the Central is concerned but as far as our province is concerned we are getting much less than what we should under this item. So I would request the Honourable Finance Member to amend the income-tax Act so that an income may be assessed in the place where it arises. The other thing I want to mention is about the policy of the All-India Radio regarding Hindi. At this time, I would like to assure my Muslim friends that I am not against Urdu—I like very much the ghazal songs. I only want that a fair and due place should be given to Hindi. Hindi is the language of almost the whole of north India; Hindi is the language which is spoken by the majority of the population residing in this country; and I think Hindi should be given its proper place and I appeal to the Honourable Member for Broadcasting to give full consideration to this point, that Hindi should get its proper place in the All-India Radio.

Again, Sir, we are having future planning in this budget. India is an agricultural country and the majority of the people are residing in the villages; and in my opinion the villages should get the first preference. The villages should all be connected by roads and there should be a net work of railway lines; there should be hospitals and public health centres in rural areas so that people can take advantage of these things. If we are to raise the standard of living of the people, we must do it so as to raise the standard of the people in the rural areas. All of us should try to ameliorate the condition of the people in the rural areas and give them all kinds of help—educational or medical and all the facilities for communications. I appeal to the House and especially to the members on the treasury benches to take up this part of planning at once and get the lot of the villagers improved.

One other matter also I would like to put before you—the problem of beggars. This is a very bad type of problem. There are three kinds of beggars. As regards the first kind, I would call them professional beggars, I think the Labour Department should take action at once and they should be forced to work and not to go on begging. The second class are the sick beggars. They should be sent to hospitals or homes where they can be cured. The third class is one about which I would appeal to members on this side and also on that side—they are the beggars who are unfit for work: they cannot work as they are blind or have no hands or have no legs. They should be given shelter. I would appeal to my honourable friends to consider this thing, that they should be provided with shelters.

With these remarks I would like to appeal to the Finance Member to consider the points raised by me.

Seth Govind Das (Central Provinces: Hindi Divisions: Non-Muhamadan): Sir, I also rise to oppose the consideration of the Finance Bill. This motion has been opposed from different points of view, and the grounds on which I oppose it are the conditions of our people abroad.

First of all I shall take South Africa. On the 4th February 1946, when I moved my adjournment motion in this respect the Honourable Secretary for

Commonwealth Relations Department said that he did not know all the provisions of that Bill. But since then the main provisions of this Bill have come out in the press, and I want them to go on the record of this House—what the main provisions of this shameful Bill are:

"The Bill will enable properly designed townships to be established on land assigned by the Parliament for this purpose. Under the Transvaal Law of 1885, Asiatics may only own or occupy land in areas specially set aside for them in already established townships. To enable local authorities and private persons to make adequate provision for the housing of Asiatics in townships yet to be established, the Bill provides for the assignment of land outside the existing townships in which Indians may own and occupy property. The Bill also enables Parliament to assign other areas whether or not intended for townships for occupation by Asiatics. In addition to controlling permanently the acquisition and occupation of land in Transvaal and Natal, the Bill provides for Indian representation in Senate, Assembly and the Natal Provincial Council. Indians will be represented in the Senate by two Europeans one of whom will be elected by Transvaal and Natal Indians and the other nominated by the Governor General. In Assembly, Natal and Transvaal Indians will be represented by three Europeans."

Now, before the provisions of this Bill were published, there was a talk going on both in South Africa and in India that such a Bill was going to be introduced in the Union Parliament, and this is what has been said with respect to this Bill by the South African Indian Congress:

"The proposals of the Prime Minister to deal with the Indian question are totally unacceptable to the Indian community in that they constitute an attack upon human rights and human freedom of an unrepresented substantial minority in South Africa, and they moreover violate the high principles underlying the Atlantic and United Nations Charters on which their authors pin their implicit faith for the future peace of the world."

This charter was drafted by Field Marshal Smuts himself, who has brought this Bill. I know that the economic sanctions on South Africa have been applied—at least notice of the application of these economic sanctions has been given. But let me say that this is a very belated act of the Government of India, and it is not only a belated but a half hearted act. Without recalling the High Commissioner from South Africa, the application of economic sanctions does not mean that we have really broken our connection with that country. My Honourable friend Mr. R. N. Banerjee is there. May I ask him whether he has seen a report in yesterday's evening papers and this morning's papers that the South African Indians, especially the Natal Indians, are going to offer satyagraha. As far as this satyagraha is concerned, the Muslims of Natal will be with the Hindus. There is no question of the communal problem there. Under these circumstances if the High Commissioner is not recalled, will the Honourable Member assure this House that he will be the first satyagrahi in South Africa and will break that law. I cannot understand his remaining there but if he remains there and the satyagraha movement starts there, I would like the High Commissioner for India to offer satyagraha and to be one of the prisoners in the Natal prison. I want to know whether the Government is going to do that? If the Government is not going to do that, let the Government recall Mr. R. M. Deshmukh. He comes from my province, he was once a Congressman and a Congress minister also, I am sure that if instructions are given to him by the Government of India, he would be the first man to court arrest and break this shameful law. If that is not possible, I would again request the Government to see that he is recalled and that our relations with South Africa are broken once for all till this obnoxious law is removed from the statute book.

Now, Sir, I come to the question of East Africa. The question of the Highlands of Kenya is where it was. It is an old question. It is an old grievance and I am surprised that even after this war this question has not been solved. We who fought the Germans in this war and fought them in the last war cannot live on those Highlands but the Germans can. I cannot understand what this means.

Then, Sir, there is the question of the inter-territorial organisation of East Africa. Let me point out that as far as this question is concerned, I feel

[Seth Govind Das]

that is the thin end of the wedge of the plan of Field Marshal Smuts for pan-white association of the whole of East Africa with South Africa. It is said that the Indians in East Africa have supported this plan. I think this is because the representation which is going to be given to Indians in the Legislative Assembly of three territories of East Africa, Kenya, Tanganyika and Uganda will be equal to that of Europeans. I feel that this has tempted them to accept this. So far I have not seen any Resolution of the East African Indian Congress in this respect. I do not know whether the support that is said to have been received in favour of this inter-territorial organisation of East Africa by the Government of India is from the East African Congress or from certain individuals. I would like to see that support but as I have said I am at present opposed to this inter-territorial organisation in East Africa. There is one more reason why I am opposed to this. It is that the question of Indians in Tanganyika and Uganda is not so keen as it is in Kenya and Kenya being the most important territory of all these three territories, if Tanganyika and Uganda are put with Kenya, then this white discrimination affair will come in its acute form in Tanganyika and Uganda also. I do not want that the problem which is at present confined to Kenya alone should spread; both in Tanganyika and Uganda.

And then the question of emigration into these territories is still not solved. It is again and again said that restrictions against emigration are going to be removed but they have not been removed so far. When I moved my adjournment motion on East Africa on the 5th February 1946, I said that portfolios have been given to certain non-official Europeans in Kenya. Before this no portfolios were given to any non-official member of the Executive Council of Kenya and this had been done for the first time. May I know what this Government has done so far in this respect. It is now more than a month since the adjournment motion was discussed and I want to know whether non-official Indian members of the Executive Council of Kenya are going to get portfolios or not.

Now, I come to Malaya. This morning I asked certain short notice questions regarding the new legislation about constitutional forms which have been introduced in the House of Commons with respect to Malaya. Mr. Banerjee said that he is seeing that the interests of Indians there are well protected. That has been said by this Government with respect to South Africa, East Africa and with respect to every country where our people are living and we have seen that though these assurances were given their condition deteriorated more and more as time went on. I read this morning from the 'Hindustan Times', what a communist M. P. Mr. Gallacher said about the position of Indians in Malaya. It is going to become as precarious as it has become in South Africa and Kenya if the Government of India is not strong enough and do things in a half hearted manner as it has been doing. I should like to know from Mr. Banerjee whether he is going to take measures with full strength and not with half heartedness and see that the Indian interests are well protected. Even today the condition of Indians there is far from satisfactory. The food problem is there. It is reported that Indian women for want of cloth have to put on gunny bags in Malaya. I think nowhere in the world any human being is putting on gunny bags except in Malaya. (An Honourable Member: In jails also). I mean free people and this report that women have been wearing gunny bags has not been contradicted so far. The Indian National Congress wanted to send a medical mission under Dr. M. R. Cholkar. When Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru recently flew to Malaya he saw Dr. Cholkar who said that they were ready to go but still the arrangements for their transport had not been made. Now everybody ought to know that these medical missions should get priority over everybody else and if the medical mission does not reach in proper time it is useless even to send it. Then there is the question of cases against

Malayan Indians about collaboration with Japan. We do not know whether any actual collaboration with the Japanese took place or not. But even if there was, the world conditions were quite different at that time. Now the conditions have changed, the allies have become victorious and it is not, in my opinion, magnanimous on the part of the allies or the British Government or the Government of Malaya to proceed with these cases. I wish the Indian Government to represent to the Malayan Government that as far as these cases are concerned they should be withdrawn.

Sir, it is not only about East Africa, South Africa and Malaya that we hear complaints, but with respect to every country at some time on the other we hear that they are not as happy as they should be; and I say that it is on account of the imbecile attitude of the Government of India that our people abroad are in such great misery. That is Sir one ground on which I want to oppose this Finance Bill.

Now, I wish to say something about our internal affairs. The food question has been debated in this House and it is going to be debated again and again so long, as it is not solved. The prime necessity of every living being is food, and if it is repeated again and again, if arguments of the same kind are repeated again and again it should not surprise any one. There is a shortage of food and certain Provinces are called surplus provinces. As far as my Province is concerned, H. E. Sir Henry Twynam the Governor of the C.P. made a recent statement calling my province a surplus province. I know how this statement has been made. I am intimately connected with agriculture in my province and I know how every year these patwaris, Revenue inspectors, tahsildars and naib tahsildars go and get crops from the best fields of a village and make their average estimate according to the crop which they cut from the best fields. On these estimates there is going to be procurement in my province and not only in my province but in other provinces as well. It would be said that so much was the estimate of the crop, so much has been taken from the tenant and so much has been left with him for his food, his seed and for other agricultural expenses. I am afraid that because these estimates would be wrong estimates the grain which would be left with the tenants and the agriculturists would not be enough for these three things, viz., food seed, and agricultural expenses. The first need is always food and the grain which is left with him for sowing purposes and for agricultural purposes will be eaten up; and at the time of the next sowing there will not be enough seed for sowing as well as for agricultural expenses. The result will be that the famine which we find this year in spite of the Grow More Food campaign is going to continue next year and I do not know for how many years to come. And what I feel about my Province I think other Members here must be feeling about their Provinces. So I want to point out that if after all this things are left to popular ministers, they are not going to be responsible for a catastrophe; the whole responsibility for the disaster will be on the present Government. Mahatma Gandhi and the Congress Working Committee were absolutely right when they said that unless and until there is a change in the Central Government there is not going to be any real benefit to the agriculturist and the labourers and the poor people in the country. I feel that as far as the estimates of crops are concerned Government should be very careful.

Then comes the question of cloth because it is the second necessity of human beings. It is said that cloth is exported only to those countries from which we are going to get food materials. I have collected some figures about this export of cloth, and I want to know whether all those countries to which cloth is exported are going to send foodgrains to this country. For instance among these countries I find Aden, Bahrein, Egypt, Italian East Africa, Anglo-Egyptian Sudan, Rhodesia, Belgian Congo, Madagascar, Palestine and many other countries; I have only named those countries where the majority of this cloth goes. From the sea-borne trade reports I could not find that

[Seth Govind Das]

foodgrains have been imported into this country from the countries to which we send our cloth. This is the only argument that is generally advanced in favour of exporting our cloth, and I want to know whether we are going to get foodgrains from those countries to which we export our cloth.

The third necessity is medicine. Practically all parts of the country are affected with malaria and we know that the quinine supply has become very meagre. The Indian Medical Review said in this respect;

"The actual consumption in India according to the Public Health Commissioner has been remarkably steady at about 2 lakhs pounds per annum of which approximately 1 lakh and 10 thousand pounds are imported and 90 thousand pounds are produced in India. The present consumption is only a third of the lower estimate of India's requirements and 1.20 of larger estimates."

It is well known that if any one goes to a chemist and wants some quinine pills or quinine powder it is not available. When Sir, this is the condition of the most popular drug it may be taken for granted that India is starving as far as medicines are concerned.

These three are the prime necessities of civilised or uncivilised, whatever sort of life you may call it. As far as our education and sanitation and other nation-building departments are concerned, it is well known that they are starving, but in spite of that the huge military expense is there and the huge civil administration expense is there. The Honourable Finance Member himself admitted that even in England such high salaries are not paid as are paid here. And if there is reduction in taxes it is with regard to the Excess Profits Tax. Sir, I come from the same class, who generally pay this Excess Profits Tax, and I can say that if Excess Profits Tax had not have been abolished, or if, it had been reduced by 50 per cent, the people of my class would have welcomed it. They would have felt that real good has been done by the Honourable the Finance Member by abolishing the other taxes, by reducing the post card rate, by reducing the salt tax, by reducing the excise duty on matches or by reducing so many other things. If the people, of my class do not feel that, then, I, from the floor of this House, say, that this class is going to be ruined and it must be ruined. (Interruption). Sir, I am not an old man, I feel myself quite young, and therefore such vigorous words fall from my lips.

This is what Professor Hill said as regards development of this country:

"If a country is poor and undeveloped, let us spend more on research and not less. Let us aim at giving one per cent of our national budget, one per cent of the value of our industrial and agricultural production, one per cent of the loss due to ill-health, one per cent of the cost of our transport our houses, our water, our coal, even our broadcasting to research and in ten years we shall be getting back not one per cent. but 10, 20 or 200 per cent. in dividends."

Sir, we find that very very little is being done in this respect. His Excellency the Viceroy himself said, 'our great aim must be to plan for economic and social development so as to raise our standard of living and general welfare, we must lift the poor man of India from poverty to security, from ill-health to vigour, from ignorance to understanding and our rate of progress must no longer be at bullock carts standard, but at least at the pace of the handy and serviceable jeep'. Sir, we find that this is not being done. I know that the present Prime Minister Mr. Attlee made a declaration. I know, Sir, that the Cabinet delegation is coming. We have an open mind as far as this Cabinet Mission is concerned, but, Sir, unless something is done, I would regard these declarations as mere platitude. The Honourable the Finance Member said that as far as the British rule in India is concerned, it is going to end 'unhonoured, unwept and unsung.' Such a rule which has been so disastrous to this country, such a rule which made our condition so poor as the condition of people nowhere else is in the world, it will not be surprising if in the words of my Honourable friend the Finance Member this rule ends unwept, unhonoured and unsung.

*Chandhri Srichand (nominated non-official): Sir, If a member desires to speak in Urdu in the British Parliament or in English in the French House of Deputies he will not, in the first instance, be allowed to speak; if he does he will have to give reasons for his doing so. But, in India everything is different! Today, I had to request to speak in Hindustani in the biggest Assembly of the country. If Englishmen speak in English they have a reasonable plea: They can speak English well. Hindustani members whose mother-tongue is Hindustani can speak and understand that language well. Barring a few, all other members can speak Hindustani well, and yet some fairly-aged members, who cannot speak English well, in their desire to speak that language memorize like school-boys for nights speeches written by others in English. They give trouble to others to write speeches in English for them. When they can speak well in Urdu I don't understand when they try to speak in English standing foppishly in their seats. Why don't they simply speak in Hindustani? Some members whose memory on account of old age has lost its retentive power and cannot learn by rote, read out written speeches. Some of them read incorrectly while others get out of breath when reading and yet speak they must in English no matter how badly they face in their attempt. The reason is that big parties in the Assembly want to keep the villagers uninformed the proceedings of the Assembly by conducting them in English. If at the time of election a villager requests for a ticket; he is summarily deprived of his rights and told that he does not know English so he cannot get the ticket. The town capitalist does not allow the poor villager to become a member of the Assembly. That is the reason why I don't see on the benches before me any labourer, cultivator, Rajput, Jat, Ahir or Gujar. There are capitalists and merchants from Peshawar, Lahore, Delhi, Madras, Bombay, Lucknow and Karachi sitting as their representatives. The lessees of India love every thing Indian except its language and its grains.

They are raising a great hue and cry against the All-India Radio in connection with the use of Hindustani. Some say that All-India Radio do not use Hindi; some say that they do not use Urdu prose on the Radio; but when they themselves happen to speak they don't let a single Hindi or Urdu word come to their lips. For years together it has been dinned into my ears, that we should wear swadeshi. Every leader is clamouring from the pulpit and through the press that we should use swadeshi things. But, I have never heard a leader say that we should eat swadeshi food. If foreign clothes produce slavish mentality and entail financial loss to the country, does not foreign food produce slavish mentality and drive the cultivators and with them the country to insolvency? A few capitalist cloth mill owners spend, lacs of rupees to keep the propaganda going in favour of swadeshi cloths from the pulpit and the press. At one time they went even so far as to effect a boycott of foreign cloths; picketted the foreign cloth shops and burnt their stocks. But, nobody ever gave a thought to the state of cotton-producers as to how they suffered for want of export of their produce and consequent fall in its price.

I have never heard a leader say nor have I ever read in a paper that we should eat swadeshi food. And why should they say or write that! That would compel the town capitalists to buy cereals from the poor farmer at a higher rate. Capitalists give large monetary contributions to the leaders; the cultivators cannot do that. If 'eat swadeshi food' propaganda had been done in time, and the poor cultivators given a fair price for their products India would not have to face the time when Indians have to beg for food from England and America. It has never been attempted to ascertain how much cereals can India manage to yield. If fair prices are offered to the cultivator he can even now give large quantities of cereals besides producing a variety of other eatables. He can sell large quantities of wheat in the bazaar for the rich people. In a very short time he can produce melons, cucumbers, onions and many other vegetables. We are prepared to eat bajra and sell wheat to the rich which even now can be had in large quantities. At the present

*The Honourable Member spoke in Urdu.

[Chaudhri Srichand]

control rates the cultivator suffers loss in wheat. If Rs. 12 is spent in the production of wheat and Rs. 10 is realized by selling it, who will go in for its production? No cloth dealer can sell cloth at Re. 1 per yard when his cost price is Rs. 1-8-0 per yard. Such a business cannot last long. Similarly, if Rs. 10 per maund is fixed as the control price for wheat the farmer will have to stop producing it and India will ever have to face a famine.

In the matter of control the authorities, like all other matters, have tried to imitate England giving no thought to the fact that conditions in England and India are poles apart. In England the necessities of life of a labourer and a wealthy man are one and the same and their food is also about the same. In India conditions are quite different. Here the wealthy people eat meat, eggs, fruit, vegetables, dry fruit, cakes, pastry, coffee, tea and what not. They live to eat, while the poor eat to live. Middle class people in India eat meat, fruit, vegetables and wheat bread, still others eat meat, wheat bread and little vegetables. The poor eat *bajra*, *jawar*, Indian corn and *phakkar* while the poorest people live on scraps that fall from the tables of the rich. Still other poor people eat once every four days.

Now keep these conditions in view and imagine the Government desiring to give wheat to eat to all the people of India. India has never produced so much wheat as to supply the whole of its population with wheat bread. Owing to the control wheat is being sold at four seers per rupee while the gram is offered at three seers per rupee. Government is trying to sell sugar from the U. P. to the Punjab at Rs. 16 per maund while a few months ago *gur* from the Punjab was being sold in the Sonapat Mandi at Rs. 24 per maund. Even at present red-sugar produced in the Punjab is being sold at the rate of Rs. 21 per maund. Under these conditions you can imagine yourselves who would like to eat *gur* and red sugar instead of wheat and white sugar? The cause of present famine in India is largely due to the control besides lack of rain. If you desire to get rid of the scarcity of an article the simple way is to have its price controlled. The moment you do it the article disappears from the bazaar. The reason is the fear that the article would not be obtainable in the bazaar and so everyone tries to have it as much as he can. Those who have a stock of it, hide it and sell it in the black market. Thus the controlled article is sold at two rates: one forced rate under the control on which that article is naturally not obtainable—in the matter of cereals this rate is so low that it forbids their cultivation. This rate is for the authorities, their friends and for those wealthy people who have some influence with those authorities. The other rate is that on which that article is sold in the black market and this is the rate for the poor who get controlled articles at rates much higher than those prevalent in the black market. For instance, the controlled rate of white sugar is at present Rs. 16 per maund. If a villager desires to buy it at controlled rates he will have to get a certificate from the *Patwari* who will not give it until he gets at least a rupee for it, then he will have to approach the *gardawar* who will also charge a rupee for his attestation. He then goes to the *Tehsildar* or the supply officer where he has to go for days, spending at least 2 rupees in the town every day, before he gets his signature. Now comes the turn of the clerk who is naturally paid something before he parts with the permit for 5 seers of white sugar. Thus the villager has to spend Rs. 7 to get 5 seers of white sugar.

As I am given only 8 minutes to speak I stop although I have many things still to say.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. Deputy President, after listening to the very lucid account we just had of the practical working of controls, I propose to take the House back to the Finance Bill and discuss the various clauses of that Bill as best I can.

Taking clause 4 which seeks to reduce the duty of kerosene; the duty is to be reduced from 4/6 to 8/9 and in fact what the Honourable the Finance

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Member has done is to eliminate the additional duty on that commodity so widely consumed by the poor. Then in clause 5 he takes further steps towards dealing with the general problem of the surcharge on customs. I was very glad to see in his speech that he considered that these surcharges required looking into and he shows what his general attitude is going to be by what he has done in this Bill. I am sure, Sir, he will agree that one of the most urgent problems for examination by the Committee which he is setting up is this very question of import duties that is to say I am talking here only of those imposed for revenue purposes, and not those imposed for protection purposes. These duties have grown up over a period of about 20 years. During periods of crisis they have been steadily increased and some of them today undoubtedly operate so as to hamper trade. For example, heavy duties on machinery, raw materials, and so on, are definitely a burden on the poorer classes. We, therefore, welcome what the Honourable the Finance Member seeks to do in clauses 5 and 6 of his Bill.

There are one or two more detailed points to which I should like to refer in connection with these two clauses. For example, he proposes in connection with films to change the present duty from an *ad valorem* duty to a specific duty. I am sure he is right in thinking that that will lead to administrative convenience and also, in the long run, it will operate more fairly, while from his point of view being incidentally better.

Then, with regard to duties on bullion, I am sure that every one will respect the reasons he has in mind in imposing these duties. But I should like to call his attention to the following words:—

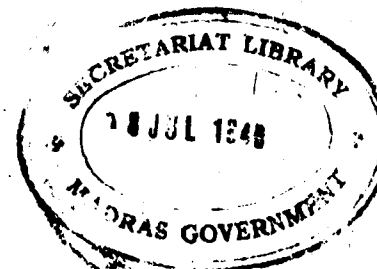
"While the immediate effect of the new imposts was bearish, what would be the ultimate consequences? At first sight it might appear that the latter would be bullish to the extent that domestic prices would be higher than world prices by at least the amount of the impost. A moment's reflection, however, will show that the consideration underlying the levy of these imposts can have only a bearish effect."

Now, Sir, we in these benches support these duties.

Mr. Deputy President: Would the Honourable Member like to go on tomorrow?

Mr. Chapman-Mortimer: Yes, Sir, I would.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 21st March 1946.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 21st 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

SALE BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF EASTERN AND WESTERN HOUSES IN NEW DELHI

1131. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have noticed the news in the *Hindustan Times* of the 4th February, 1946, that the White Hall was putting pressure on the Government of India to purchase the Western House and the Eastern House on the Curzon Road and Asoka Road, respectively; if so, what reply, if any, has been given by the Government of India; and

(b) Whether the Government of India consider that the price obtained for the material would be only a fraction of the purchase price?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes. In this connection I would refer the Honourable Member to my answer to parts (a) and (b) of the Honourable Mr. Venkatasubba Reddiar's short notice question No. 23, of the 8th February, 1946.

(b) The purchase price has not yet been settled but the price of the materials on the demolition of the building will necessarily be very small as compared with the price of the building.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In reply to part (a) the Honourable Member said 'yes'. Does that mean that pressure was brought to bear from Whitehall?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: What does the answer 'yes' to part (a) mean?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It means that I have noticed the news in the *Hindustan Times*.

Mr. President: Next question.

THREATENED STRIKE BY EMPLOYEES OF JOINT WATER AND SEWAGE BOARD, DELHI

1132. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Health Secretary please state whether it is a fact that the employees of the Joint Water and Sewage Board, Delhi, have threatened to strike if their demands are not met with?

(b) If such a strike takes place, are Government aware that the citizens of Delhi would be put to a great difficulty in regard to their water supply?

(c) What steps do Government propose to take to meet the situation?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise. A body calling itself the Joint Water and Sewage Board Employees Union submitted a list of demands to the Board last month. The Board has the demands under consideration.

PARTICIPATION OF INDIA IN GETTING JAPANESE TEXTILE MACHINERY

1133. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an International Textile Group is shortly visiting Japan for examining Japanese textile machinery and that India has been invited to nominate observers on the same;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the Government of India have accepted the invitation of the United States of America in this respect;

(c) if the reply to (b) is in the affirmative, why India should not be represented on this international body directly rather than as an observer;

(d) the exact role that these observers are expected to play as compared to the direct nominees of the said International Textile Group;

(e) in view of the non-availability of the British textile machinery in the immediate future for the Indian textile industry and as part of the reparations to which India is entitled by virtue of the leading part it played in the victory over Japan, whether the Government of India have made representations to the proper authorities that India should have a fairly large share of the available Japanese textile machinery;

(f) whether Government are aware that the Australian Government have already made a move to get this machinery in sufficiently large quantities, so that they can quadruple their textile production in a very short period; and

(g) what immediate action, if any, the Government of India propose to take in this matter?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). The Government of the United States of America has sponsored the visit of a Textile Mission to Japan to report on the status of the Japanese Textile Industry, with special reference to its ability to assist in meeting the world-wide textile shortage, anticipated by the Combined Resources and Production Board in 1946. The Mission left Washington for Japan on the 15th January 1946. The Government of India were invited to nominate an observer to accompany the Mission and they have accepted the invitation.

(c) The Textile Mission to Japan is really an American, and not an international body, and the question of securing direct representation on it for India does not therefore arise.

(d) Observers accompanying the Mission will endeavour to secure that during the course of investigation, the special view points and requirements of their respective Governments are not overlooked. They will be free to report on facts of interest to their Governments and will not be expected to participate in the preparation of the official report.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Government are in correspondence with the authorities concerned.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask what is the name of the gentleman whom Government has nominated as observer?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As far as my information goes, it is Mr. Bharat Ram.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I ask whether spinning mills will also be included in this?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have got our Trade Commissioner there, who is observing the whole situation *vis-a-vis* the textile position; and there are others from whom we are taking advice on this point. It is not always possible to send a representative of each different interest, specially in view of the difficulties of transport to Japan.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will he make this report available to the Members of this House?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have not yet received the report. But if a suitable occasion arises and if I remain here, certainly I shall place it before the House.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: In view of the Indian textile machinery having been overworked, what steps is Government taking to get Japanese machinery, as the Australian Government is doing?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have been pressing our requirements and claims for certain parts of the textile machinery; but to what extent these machineries exist or to what extent they may be available and

to what extent we may get our share as between the different countries, is a matter which is now being discussed between the different Governments.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will Government put up a case that India's right to this machinery should be considered first in view of the fact that India helped to clothe the whole world, even undergoing cloth famine here?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes; we have done our very best in this matter and we have placed our case even higher than my friend put it.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: Before nominating this observer, did the Honourable Member consult the textile industry?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: This is a matter really for the Industries Department. The Commerce Department in all these matters has to consult the different departments concerned, and the other department must have been consulted.

Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: May I ask the Honourable Member if he is prepared to inquire into this matter?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: If I am put a question as to what exactly my Honourable friend wants, I would certainly be delighted to give him an answer.

THREATENED STRIKE IN GOVERNMENT PRESS, ALIGARH

1134. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if he is aware of a notice of strike given by the employees of the Government Press, Aligarh?

(b) Is it a fact that the employees are being paid Rs. 12, Rs. 14, and Rs. 15 per month?

(c) Is he also aware of their other grievances with regard to pay, amenities, working hours and supply of rations?

(d) What action has the Government of India taken or propose to take to meet the demands of the workers?

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

(b) Yes, certain categories of employees.

(c) Yes.

(d) The grievances are receiving attention. Attention of the Honourable Member is invited in this connection to the reply given to the starred question No. 896, on the 12th March, 1946.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (b) of this question, how many hundreds of these workers are being paid only 12 or 14 or 15 rupees per month?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am afraid I have not got the facts here.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it one of the proposals of the Government to increase the salaries of these people who are so low paid?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend knows that the Government has appointed a salaries commission which look into this case generally.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is the Honourable gentleman aware of the fact that the University of Aligarh pays a minimum salary of Rs. 30 per month to the low paid staff?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I congratulate my Honourable friend on that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: It is no question of congratulation to me or condolence to you: this is the minimum standard for living: we cannot starve our own employees.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it necessary for the Government to wait until that particular commission reports about the salaries in general of all employees and servants in the Government of India, before they can think of increasing these pitiful salaries of 12 and 14 and 15 rupees per month?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Government's intention is that they should have a general policy based on some uniform principle; and that policy cannot certainly be brought into execution unless the matter has been examined by a commission.

Seth Govind Das: By what date is the report of this Commission bring in?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I am unable to say but Government propose to expedite this matter.

Seth Govind Das: By that time these people will be starving. Does Government think that till then these people should go on getting this 12 or 14 or 15 rupees per month?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Government has no such intention.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will Government consider the advisability of giving them some temporary relief until the recommendations are received?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said, the grievances are receiving attention.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How long will they take to decide?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The matter is under active consideration.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that press employees have gone on strike in other places?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Yes; that is so but they are working elsewhere, I understand.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member see that temporary relief is granted before they are forced to resort to a strike?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: As I said, the matter is under active consideration.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member does not say by what time the report will come and till then, should these people starve?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot give any time limit.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it not a fact that the words "under active consideration" usually indicate that there is no time limit, as far as my Honourable friends are concerned?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not think so.

CEILING PRICES FOR FOODGRAINS

1135. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) what steps are being taken to see that the present level of ceiling prices fixed for foodgrains are not below the level of remunerative and equitable prices;

(b) whether any Provincial Governments have represented that the present levels are inadequate;

(c) what proportion of the ceiling prices are actually being received by producers;

(d) what steps are being taken to ensure that producers get the maximum even under the ceiling prices; and

(e) what steps have been taken since the House passed the motion on the food situation on the 5th February, 1946, to ensure the payment of remunerative prices to the growers of different Provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (e). The present foodgrain prices are considered to be fair both to the producer and the consumer. It is not considered advisable to raise prices during a period of acute scarcity.

(b) One Provincial Government represented that the present price levels were not economic compared with the prices in the neighbouring provinces.

(c) and (d). There are fixed producers prices in a number of provinces while in others the statutory prices are applicable to primary producing markets.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My Honourable friend has not taken the trouble to give a proper answer to this question. In part (a) of the question, I have asked what steps are being taken to see that the present level of ceiling prices fixed for foodgrains are not below the level of remunerative and equitable prices; and in part (e) I have asked what steps have been taken since the House passed the motion on the food situation on the 5th February, 1946, to ensure the payment of remunerative prices to the growers of different provinces. My Honourable friend simply says that the Government consider that the existing prices are remunerative and therefore they need not take any steps. What I would like to know is whether they have reconsidered the whole position in the light of the Resolution passed by this House. What are their conclusions?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member has put another question and he will get the answer when I reply to that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is that particular province which has represented that the present price levels were not economic compared with the prices in the neighbouring provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Bihar.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Several of the District Collectors in the Madras Presidency have asked for the raising of the prices prevailing there and yet the Madras Government and the Government of India have conspired not to raise them? What is the reply?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Madras Government consider that the present prices are economic and they are not in favour of raising the prices.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the Collectors' reports?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I would point out to the Honourable Member that the whole question of prices was gone into by the Famine Inquiry Commission and when replying to the cut motion I read out extracts from the report. The report says that the present level of prices which are about 240 per cent. above the pre-war levels should be the target for all provinces in India for bringing their prices down.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (c) of this question, what proportion of the ceiling prices are actually being received by producers. Has any inquiry been made? My information is that whereas Rs. 11 per bag of 166 lbs. was fixed as the ceiling price in the Madras Presidency, peasants were in receipt of only Rs. 9 to Rs. 10—never more than Rs. 10.

Mr. B. R. Sen: In certain provinces the prices were fixed *ex-mill*. In other provinces, the prices are those of primary markets. If in Madras the producers are getting something less than the ceiling prices that has already been taken into account in fixing the ceiling prices.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The fact is that ceiling prices are fixed, putting a sort of ceiling to the prices that the peasants can ever receive from the market. But actually there is no definite price fixed, which is assured to the peasant. I want the Government to inquire into the fact whether actually peasants are receiving the ceiling prices which are considered to be reasonable by Government and if they are not in receipt of this ceiling price, what steps do Government propose in order to see that the reasonable price is actually received by the peasants and middlemen are not allowed to exploit the peasants?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There seems to be some misapprehension in the mind of the Honourable Member. Taking the case of Madras, the prices which the Madras

Government pay are the ex-mill prices and naturally the prices which producers will get will be something less than that price.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It cannot be

Mr. President: Next question.

FIXATION OF REMUNERATIVE PRICES OF FOODGRAINS.

1136. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken on the various items of the motion on the food situation passed by the House on the 5th February 1946, and

(b) whether Government propose to fix one fixed remunerative price, as the price for a season or a year as the case may be in place of the existing ceiling prices which are never reached by peasants in order to induce peasants to grow more foodgrains?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The following action has been taken on the Motion adopted by the House at the end of the Food Debate:

(i) A telegram was sent to Sir Robert Hutchings in London to take up the question of India's independent representation on the Combined Food Board with the appropriate authorities.

(ii) A copy of the Resolution on the subject of procurement of foodgrains has been sent to all Provincial Governments and States for necessary action.

(iii) Subsidies are given to producers in respect of irrigation facilities, land improvement, distribution of manure, making of compost, multiplication and distribution of improved seeds, diverting areas from cotton to food crops and other similar measures designed to increase the production of foodgrains. Government do not consider it feasible to prohibit or restrict other cultivation of all crops other than foodgrains as that would mean the stoppage of the cultivation of tuberous crops, vegetables, fodder, etc. Steps have, however, been taken by a number of Provincial Governments to regulate the cultivation of non-food crops. Bengal regulates the acreage under Jute. Bombay have passed a Growth of Food Crops Act prescribing the maximum proportion of a holding that can be placed under non-food crops. Madras have placed restrictions on the cultivation of certain varieties of short staple cotton. Hyderabad has imposed a special tax on land put under cotton. Propaganda has been resorted to in other areas with the result that the cotton acreage has dropped from 24 million acres before the war to 15 million acres at present.

(b) Prices of foodgrains are normally fixed statutorily for the whole of the crop year at levels considered fair both to the producer and the consumer. A number of Provincial Governments have fixed producers prices as well. In certain Provinces where prices are not fixed statutorily, ceiling prices for Government procurement are adopted. These prices are fixed at levels closely related to the statutory prices prevailing in adjoining areas. Care is taken to keep the middleman's profit to the barest minimum.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that there is a difference of 2 to 3 Rs. between the ceiling prices fixed in Madras and the producer's price that is fixed in other Provinces and which peasants actually receive in the Punjab and the U.P.

Mr. B. R. Sen: That must be a difference between the prices which producers get and the prices which the mills get. That difference is accounted for by various factors which are well known to the Honourable Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the mills are expected to get Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per bag merely for the purpose of hulling rice and selling it?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We had a series of questions during the last Session on this subject. I think all the components of this difference were explained to the House. If the Honourable Member likes I can collect further information to explain as to how that difference is made up.

Seth Govind Das: At the time of procurement of grain the scale of price is one and when the seed is given to tenants as *takavi* loans, the scale of price is entirely different? Is it a fact?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That question does not arise.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will Government make no profit on foodgrains? Is that principle observed?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir, that is observed.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: The Government of Bihar asked for authority from the Central Government to increase the price of foodgrains and it was turned down by the Central Government?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have already replied to that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (b) here is a specific question. A proposal is made to fix one fixed remunerative price and see to it that the peasants actually get it. Why is it that the Government does not wish to take any definite steps to see that a definite price is fixed and peasants do get it? Why are they so accommodating to the factory owners and middlemen and various other people and why do they leave the peasants to their own wits?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is a matter of administrative convenience. I am prepared to go into this question over again.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware of the fact that news appears in the 'Hindu' of March 15th that the *mirasdars* of Tanjore had made a representation to Mr. Dixon who is his prototype in the Madras Presidency suggesting that all middlemen's profits should be cut out and that middlemen's services should not be made use of but that peasant organisations and associations should be made use of for distribution of paddy and Mr. Dixon says this

Mr. President: What is the question you are putting?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My question is this. In view of the profits to middlemen, the peasants could not be expected to work with zeal. The peasants themselves offered to supply the grain to Government straight and yet Government interests have been interposing these middlemen. I ask what steps Government propose to take in order to eliminate the middlemen's profiteering and help both the producers and the consumers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: As I said I am going into the question over again. There are different methods followed by different provinces. Primarily it is a matter for the provincial governments to decide what procedure they should adopt in procurement.

Mr. President: Next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How soon will the Government find it

Some Honourable Members (on Treasury Benches): Order, order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Evidently Honourable Members on the Treasury Benches do not want any supplementary questions.

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

FOOD SUPPLY IN AJMER-MERWARA.

1137. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of food supply in Ajmer-Merwara;

(b) what arrangements are being made to supply adequate quantities of foodgrains to this area; and

(c) the *per capita* ration of foodgrains that is actually made available to people in Towns and villages?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given by me to Starred Question Nos. 896 and 897, asked by Pandit Mukat Bihari Lal Bhargava, on the 12th March, 1946.

(c) The scale of cereal ration in the rationed areas of Ajmer-Merwara is 6 chhataks per adult per day and three chhataks per child per day. In addition, a supplementary ration of two chhataks is allowed to heavy manual workers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government satisfied that these rations are really enough to enable these people to carry on their work and live a healthy life?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have replied to this question more than once. The Government must distribute the shortage in the country as evenly as possible and with the resources that we have got at present, we consider that it is not possible to give more than this ration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Government consider the advisability of calling a conference of representatives of provincial governments, including that of Ajmer-Merwara at the earliest possible date and also the representatives of different interests concerned on this food question in order to devise a more satisfactory plan for facing this food famine?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No, Sir. We do not consider it advisable to call such a conference at this stage.

SURFACE WORK FOR WOMEN WORKERS IN COAL MINES.

1138. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many of the twenty thousand women workers withdrawn from underground in coal mines have been provided with work on the surface;

(b) whether he will enquire how many of the women withdrawn from underground in the State Railway collieries have been fully employed on the surface on a permanent basis, and how many with six days employment in the week; and

(c) how many of these women have come to be employed by the Welfare Fund mentioned in answer to starred question No. 466, dated the 25th February, 1946 and how many by Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) exact figures are not available but approximately 50 per cent. of the women workers withdrawn from underground in coal mines have been provided with work on surface. Of the remaining 50 per cent. about half have gone to their villages while some of the remainder are sitting down at collieries because they are refusing contract work, e.g., coal loading.

(b) All women withdrawn from underground in the State Railways' Collieries have been fully employed on surface works on a permanent basis; 1060 women employed on six days per week basis.

(c) No women have yet been employed by the Welfare Fund but sites are being requisitioned for the establishment of vegetable gardens and farms in the Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields and after requisition it is intended that women excluded from underground works will be employed under Head "Malis" appointed by Welfare Fund. The number of women which will be employed by the Provincial Governments is not known at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to the women who are obliged to stay at home because they do not like to work under the terms of contract work, what steps do Government propose to take in order to help these women with some employment without the mediation of these contractors?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I cannot give an off hand answer.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why do Government fail to provide work without the mediation of these contractors?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: This practice has been going on for a long time in State railway collieries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Royal Commission on Labour reported very strongly against the system of contractors. Will the Honourable

Member devise some system to control the vagaries of these contractors? Why do not Government take urgent steps to devise some other means of providing employment to these women?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I hope we shall be able to deal with that matter.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member consider the question of submitting this to the Coal Commission that is about to tour India?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know that I can do so. I can bring the matter to the notice of the Department concerned.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Before I put my question No. 1139, I wish to raise a point of order. I find that the original question which I gave notice of has been substantially altered. I had asked for various figures. I find that the question has been recast completely. I seek the protection of Chair.

Mr. President: That is not the concern of the House.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: My question should be fully answered and it ought to have been printed in the way I gave notice.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is perhaps not aware that questions are amended by the Chair, and the protection he seeks is really protection against the Chair.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Very well, Sir Question No. 1139.

NUMBER OF STAFF IN RATIONING DEPARTMENTS OF CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS.

1139. ***Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) the number of staff employed in Rationing Departments of the centrally administered areas;

(b) the expenses for the years 1944-45 and for the months of the year 1945-46 for which figures are available, for Rationing Departments, of the centrally administered areas; and

(c) the total population of the cities, towns and villages where rationing of foodgrains is enforced at present, and also during the periods stated in (b) above?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). A statement giving the information about the staff employed in Delhi and Ajmer Food Rationing Organizations is laid on the table of the House.

(c) In 1944-45 the number of rationed towns was 495 with a population of about 52 million people. The present number of rationed towns is 583 with a population of about 54 million people.

Statement showing the number of staff employed in the Delhi and Ajmer Food Rationing Organizations and the expenditure incurred thereon.

(a) Delhi—

During 1944-45—

Permanent Staff	808
Temporary Staff	700
	<u>1,508</u>

During 1945-46—

Permanent Staff	1,111
Temporary Staff	120
	<u>1,231</u>

Ajmer--

During 1944-45--

Permanent staff 330

Temporary staff 50

380

During 1945-46--

Permanent staff 336

(b) Expenses for the year--

	Delhi Rs.	Ajmer Rs.
1944-45	13,82,933	1,71,140
From 1st April 1945 to 31st January 1946.	12,05,874	2,61,339

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that a large quantity of these grains was spoiled in Ajmer town because of the inefficiency of rationing there?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That question does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are Government taking to see that the Rationing department works more efficiently in Ajmer?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That question does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is a question of efficiency.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that the expenditure on rationing staff is so great that there is a great difference between the price paid to growers and the price charged to consumers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There is always a difference between these prices, but the difference is not very greatly influenced by the expenditure on rationing organisation. If I remember aright, in the case of Bombay presidency, the total expenditure is about one rupee per head a year, for the whole of the food administration in the province, I have not got calculations for these two areas, but the expenditure in these areas will be the same.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it not a fact that the difference between the two prices is very great?

Mr. B. R. Sen: In some cases the difference is great. For this reason that the food grains were secured at a particular price but when the price came down in the markets, the price in the rationing areas did not come down in the same way.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The *per capita* income in the Bombay presidency is only Rs. 98 a year, and is it not wrong on the part of the Government to spend one rupee *per capita* on distribution of food alone, not to speak of the cost of food?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Somebody has got to bear the cost and under the present arrangement the consumer has to pay it.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Government see that the difference between the two prices is reduced? Take for example, Bombay and Ahmedabad. The price of rice in Bombay is Rs. 10 a maund, whereas it is Rs. 14 a maund in Ahmedabad.

Mr. B. R. Sen: As the House is aware, the whole question of subsidy was referred to a committee last year and we are hoping to get the report of the committee very soon. They will have made certain recommendations.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government make a fresh examination to see whether it is possible to reduce the cost of distribution for instance in Bombay?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That matter is continuously under examination.

DESCRIPTIVE NOTES FOR PROTECTED ANCIENT MONUMENTS IN INDIA.

1140. ***Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of protected ancient monuments in India; and

(b) whether steps have been taken to place brief descriptive notes near those monuments for the benefit of visitors; if so, whether the notes are in the regional language in addition to English; if no, such arrangements are already made, whether Government propose to arrange for such descriptive notes also in the regional language of the province where the monuments is situate?

Sir John Sargent: (a) The number of ancient protected monuments in India is, at the moment, 2826.

(b) In many cases steps have already been taken to place brief descriptive notes on these monuments for the benefit of the visitors. In accordance with the policy laid down urgent steps are now being taken to provide adequate notices on all monuments throughout India both in English and in the regional language or languages. As a matter of fact a number of such notices have already been prepared but in view of the difficulty of producing metal plates at the present moment, temporary notices are in a number of cases being displayed on wood and board.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: May I know whether these brief descriptive notes are in the regional languages?

Sir John Sargent: Yes, I have answered that they are also in the regional languages.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that in Bijapur, the Muslim monuments have no inscription written in Urdu language? Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of having the description written in Urdu also?

Sir John Sargent: Certainly. That is the policy which we are endeavouring at the moment to follow.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: It is not there at present.

COMPOSITION OF RESIDENTS AND POLITICAL AGENTS IN INDIAN STATES

1141. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state the number of Residents and political agents in the different Indian States on March 31st of the last three years, how many of them were Indians, and how many Europeans?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The number of Residents and Political Agents in the different Indian States on March 31st of the last three years was:

12 Residents and 13 Political Agents on March 31st, 1943;

12 Residents and 12 Political Agents on March 31st, 1944; and

11 Residents and 13 Political Agents on March 31st, 1945.

All of the officers in these posts were Europeans on those dates. An Indian Officer has been holding the post of Political Agent from May 1945. Another held such a post for a short period in 1943 but had to be withdrawn for an important appointment elsewhere.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy of Government to keep all these posts securely in the hands of Europeans?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir; I have explained that Indians have been appointed to these posts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that a preponderating numbers of these offices are continuously filled by Europeans only?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: For historical reasons.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Can the Honourable Member give us any idea as to when we may see the political Department Indianised?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. I should want notice of that question.

Seth Govind Das: Is it because Indians are not trusted and therefore Europeans are kept in this Department?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it or is it not the policy of Government to Indianise this Department and its various offices?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I have explained that an Indian is holding one post already.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When do Government expect to reach full Indianisation, if at all?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already answered that question.

GRANT OF SUGAR FOR MARRIAGE PARTIES

1142. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the Government of India issued instructions to various Provincial Governments in respect of grant of permits for a definite quantity of sugar for each marriage; and

(b) if so, whether any complaints were received from any Provincial Government in respect of inadequacy of such quantity and a consequent tendency towards fostering the growth of black markets in sugar?

Mr. B. B. Sen: (a) The Government of India have not issued any instructions specifying a definite quantity of sugar to be issued for each marriage. But in January 1945, with a view to bring about uniformity in the issue of rationed foodstuffs for social and religious occasions, the Provincial Governments were supplied with a schedule giving a suggestive basis of supplementary supplies.

(b) No, Sir.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Now when there is food shortage will these instructions also continue for the future?

Mr. B. B. Sen: We have issued instructions to Provincial and State Governments asking them to see that the consumption of foodstuffs on these occasions is reduced to the very minimum, not only in rationed areas but all over the rural areas.

BAN ON CONTRACTORS RELATED TO OFFICERS OF C. P. W. D.

1143. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the Central Public Works Department, orders have been issued that contracts for works should not be awarded to any contractor who is a close relative of any officer employed in the Department?

(b) Is it a fact that near relatives include cousins, brothers-in-law, etc., and that officer includes for the purpose of this order Head Clerks, clerks, draftsmen, surveyors, etc.?

(c) Why was the order issued, and how many contractors have been put out of the list as a result of this order?

(d) Does any such rule exist in the working of Public Works Departments in provinces or other countries or in Departments like Military Engineering Service, Railways, Municipal or District Boards in India?

(e) Was the order issued under directions of the Government of India or by the Chief Engineer, Central P. W. D. on his own initiative?

(f) In view of the obvious hardship on persons being penalised for the sin of being related to others working in the Department, do Government propose to reconsider the order and withdraw it? If not, why not?

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

(b) The term 'close relative' includes also first cousin and brother-in-law.

The term 'officer' does not include for the purpose of the order non-gazetted staff.

(c) The object was to ensure greater public confidence in the Central Public Works Department.

Names of 25 contractors have so far been removed from the approved list of Contractors. Cases of others are under consideration.

(d) Enquiries on this matter have not been made and the Government of India are not aware whether such rule exists in other Departments or Countries.

(e) By the direction of the Government of India.

(f) The matter is under the examination of Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about nephews who come under the nepotism? (No reply was given)

PROPOSED PUBLICATION GIVING HISTORIES OF TITLES AND HONOURS

†1144. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) if there is any publication which gives short histories of the various titles and honours that are awarded by His Majesty the King or His Excellency the Governor-General, to persons in India, the significance of the names under which these titles and honours are known; and

(b) if no such publications is available, whether Government will consider the desirability of bringing out a proper publication in this behalf?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No.

(b) No.

CONTROL PRICE OF EGGS AND MILK IN DELHI

1145. *Mr. Madan Dhari Singh: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that control price of eggs, in Delhi, has recently been reduced to Rs. 1/8/- per dozen;

(b) if it is also a fact that this reduction is partly due to the fact that most of the American have left the station; and

(c) if the reply to (b) be in the affirmative, whether, on the same ground, Government have considered the necessity of reducing the control price of milk; if not, why not?

Mr. B. B. Sen: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

COMPENSATION TO RESIDENTS OF WARD NO. 14, DELHI, GIVEN NOTICE UNDER TOWN IMPROVEMENT

1146. *Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: (a) Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state whether notices under sections 36 and 38 of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1919, as extended to the Province of Delhi, have been served on the residents of Delhi, Ward No. 14? If so, on what date will the residents of that Ward be actually required to vacate their houses?

(b) In what Locality do Government propose to house the men of Ward No. 14 when they will vacate their houses?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the locality which is situated close to Ward No. 14? If not, why not?

(d) Will the residents of Ward No. 14 be given houses constructed by Government under the Poormen Housing Scheme?

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

(e) What are the conditions under which poor men are given those Government houses?

(f) What compensation will be given to (i) the Zamindars who own the land, (ii) the owner of the house to whom the buildings belong, and (iii) the tenants who live in hired houses of that Ward, and in what form will it be given?

(g) Have Government paid any compensation to the Zamindars of Ward No. 14, Delhi? If so, on what date?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Notices have been served under the Serai Purani Idgah and Ahata Kidara Schemes which fall within the limits of ward No. 14. Under the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme, residents will be required to vacate if their properties are acquired. Acquisition can take place only after the scheme is sanctioned under section 42 of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1919, as extended to Delhi. The scheme has not yet been submitted to the Chief Commissioner for sanction. In respect of the second scheme, acquisition after sanction is nearly complete. A few properties remain to be acquired and a few have been acquired but not yet vacated.

(b) No decision has yet been taken in respect of the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme. As regards the Ahata Kidara Scheme a number of families have been rehoused in the Western Extension area and within the area of this scheme. All remaining families will be rehoused in other suitable localities.

(c) The possibility of rehousing in areas close to the area included in the Scheme will be considered.

(d) Yes. All those who are eligible for rehousing under the State subsidised scheme.

(e) The conditions under which persons shall be eligible for the benefits of the rehousing scheme are at present under consideration.

(f) Compensation is paid in all cases in cash in accordance with the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1919, as modified by the Schedule to the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1919, as extended to Delhi.

(g) The acquisition proceedings in respect of the Ahata Kidara Scheme commenced on the 22nd November, 1941, and compensation has been paid after that date according to the progress of the acquisition. The acquisition proceedings have not yet commenced in respect of the Serai Purani Idgah Scheme.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to clauses (f) and (g), will Government consider the advisability of giving alternative sites somewhere near Delhi to these Zamindars who own the land and whose land is taken away by Government now, if they wish it?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: No, Sir, compensation is paid in cash.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why should Government insist upon paying these people in cash when they are agriculturists and land which is their chief means of livelihood is taken away by Government? Why should not they be given alternative pieces of land?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Because alternative land is not available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that in New Delhi there are still vast extents of land which are not occupied either for house sites or for cultivation purposes and could be allotted to these people?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: No, Sir, I am not aware of that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government make inquiries?

(No reply was given)

INSTRUCTIONS TO ELECTION RETURNING OFFICERS FOR BETTER TREATMENT FOR LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS.

†1147. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Returning Officers for elections to the Legislative Assembly from general constituencies, are usually district magistrates;

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

(b) if the position of candidates is the same as that of the litigants before district magistrates;

(c) if it is a fact that candidates and their agents at election time are treated by Returning Officers as mere litigants before district magistrates;

(d) if candidates and their agents have to keep standing while presenting their papers or their points of view before Returning Officers just as ordinary litigants, while Returning Officers are seated in their official magisterial chairs;

(e) if Government propose to consider the desirability of putting candidates for elections to the Legislative Assembly on a different footing;

(f) if Government propose to instruct Returning Officers to fulfil their various functions as such in a special room where the candidates and their agents and other persons authorised to be present, are all seated along with Returning Officers round a table;

(g) if it is not a fact that all the processes of election are fulfilled in open courts of magistrates, and that many persons who have other work in the court, happen to be present there; and

(h) if Government propose to issue detailed instructions on the subject to ensure proper arrangements before Returning Officers?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) No, Sir. There is no general constituency of which the Returning Officer is the District Magistrate as such and it is only in Madras and the United Provinces that the District Magistrate is the Returning Officer under the designation of Collector and District Officer respectively.

(b) I would not regard candidates as occupying the position of litigants.

(c) and (d). I am informed by the Government of the United Provinces that it has been the general practice in that Province to require candidates to stand while presenting their papers on their points of view before Returning Officers. I do not know what other modes of treatment the Honourable Member has in mind when he refers to the treatment of candidates as mere litigants.

(g) I am informed by the Government of the United Provinces that most District Officers perform their duties as Returning Officers in open court with other persons present. Their attention has been called to Regulation 8 of the Legislative Assembly (United Provinces) Electoral Regulations which entitles each candidate, the election agent of each candidate, one proposer and one seconder of each candidate and one other person duly authorised in writing by each candidate but no other person to attend at the time and place appointed for the scrutiny of nominations. A similar Regulation is in force in all other Provinces.

(e), (f) and (h). The Government of the United Provinces have intimated that the suggestions made in parts (e) and (f) of the question will require further consideration, but that *prima facie* they see no objection to instructing District Officers to hold the proceedings round a table in their retiring rooms if there is sufficient room. I do not propose to issue detailed instructions, but I will send copies of the Honourable Member's question and of my reply to all other Provincial Governments for such action as they may consider appropriate.

LEGISLATION OF HINDU CODE

†1148. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

(a) the stage which the preparation of the Hindu Code has reached so far; and

(b) if he intends to introduce any legislation on the lines suggested; if so, when?

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

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) A complete Hindu Code was prepared by the Hindu Law Committee and circulated by them for opinion in August, 1944.

(b) As indicated in my reply to Starred Question No. 438, asked on the 21st February, 1945, Government must await the Report of the Committee before considering what legislation, if any, should be introduced by them.

DRAFT OF PROPOSED ANGLO-INDIAN TREATY.

1149. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state the subjects included in the draft of the proposed Anglo-Indian Treaty?

(b) Who has made a draft of it?

(c) When will this be made available to the Members of this House for their consideration as a draft?

(d) Is the issue of commercial safeguards contained in sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act included amongst the subjects or topics covered by the proposed treaty?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b), (c) and (d): As the Honourable Member is aware, in his broadcast of the 19th September, 1945, His Excellency the Viceroy stated that His Majesty's Government were proceeding to the consideration of the content of the treaty which would require to be concluded between Great Britain and India.

The question is now engaging the attention of officials both in India and in England. These discussions are still in a very preliminary stage, and I regret I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will copies of the draft Treaty be supplied to the Leaders of the different Parties which will be meeting the Cabinet Mission?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am unable to anticipate the procedure which will be followed in the discussions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My question has nothing to do with the procedure to be followed by the Cabinet Mission. In order to enable our own Indian leaders to deal with the Cabinet Mission in the interests of India, will Government consider the advisability of placing before them this draft Treaty?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will take note of the Honourable Member's question, but I am not able to make any further statement on the subject.

LICENCES ISSUED FOR CERTAIN INDUSTRIAL PLANTS.

1150. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of **Mr. Manu Subedar**):

(a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state the total number of licences issued by the Commerce Department in respect of (i) complete plants for textile mills, (ii) complete plants for vegetable ghee manufacture, and (iii) complete plants for other industries, including sugar and cement?

(b) What is the total approximate value of the plants, for which licenses have been issued as above, and how much of this amount would go to the United Kingdom and how much to the United States of America and other hard currency areas?

(c) On what principles have these licences been issued, and on what basis generally have applications of those who have made them, been rejected?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). I presume the Honourable Member is referring to the licences issued for complete plants under the Capital Goods Registration Scheme. I lay on the table a statement showing the total number of licences issued in respect of imports of complete plants for textiles, vegetable ghee, sugar and cement production and the total approximate value of the plants to be imported countrywise.

I am afraid that the time and labour involved in the preparation of a similar statement in respect of complete plants for all other industries will not be commensurate with the value of the results.

(c) The grant of licences for import of capital equipment depends on such factors as the source of supply, danger of overexpansion and the location of the proposed factory. Where a plan is complete, as in the case of cement, or very nearly complete as in the case of cotton textiles, production targets are fixed for different regions and individual schemes approved within these targets. In such cases, import licences are granted only to those whose schemes have been approved. Where plans have not yet reached an advanced stage, import licences are freely given subject only to currency considerations except where the schemes would obviously be contrary to the country's economic interests, for example, where it is proposed to establish a factory in an area in which there is already excessive concentration of industry.

Subject to the general principles stated above, licences for import from the sterling area are granted freely. Licences for import from non-sterling area are granted only if it is proved that the equipment required for a suitable substitute therefor could not be obtained from a sterling area within a reasonable time and at a reasonable price.

Statement showing the number of licences issued for imports of complete plants for Textiles, vegetable ghee, sugar and cement production and the total approximate values of the plants to be imported countrywise

Industry	Number of licences issued	Value in rupees					Total value (Rs.)
		United Kingdom	U. S. A.	Switzerland	France	Denmark	
Textile mills	41	8,11,52,950	29,62,468	18,00,000	3,00,000	.....	8,57,15,418
Vegetable Ghee	31	1,57,20,356	46,97,766	.....	.....	.....	2,04,18,122
Sugar	6	1,57,44,026	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,57,44,026
Cement	9	95,08,818	28,27,666	20,000	.....	53,73,233	1,77,44,817

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With reference to part (b), it is rather important for us to know about our trade with other countries as this will help to solve the question of the sterling balances.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: That is why we have been issuing, having regard to the sterling position as also the sterling reserve which we have in the issue of import licences.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Muslim share of import of plants nil with reference to the cement machinery?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I cannot answer that because we have to take the advice of the Planning and Industries Department as to what schemes are to be sanctioned and the Provincial Government's distribution of the quota allotted, and if there is any fault for non-distribution of non-licences in any region, the fault lies with the authorities that grant those licences.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it because of the difficulties created by Government for licences for import that Indian industrialists and Government were not able to make full use of the 20 million dollars placed at the disposal of industrial development last year?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir.

Mr. President: Next question.

ILL-TREATMENT OF INDIAN PASSENGERS TRAVELLING BY *M. S. Battery*1151. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of **Mr. Manu Subedar**):

(a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Commerce Member been drawn to a letter in the *Blitz* of the 2nd March, 1946, under the caption: "Upper berths for whites, lowest for blacks," written by a large number of Indian passengers travelling by "*M. S. Battery*", which left Glasgow for Bombay on February 2, 1946?

(b) Have Government ascertained the true facts with regard to the alleged ill-treatment of the Indian passengers and the deliberate discrimination against them in assigning berths?

(c) Have Government secured any explanation from the P. and O. Steamer Company's authorities for their strange behaviour?

(d) What steps have Government taken to prevent a recurrence of this kind of discrimination of, and ill-treatment and affront to the Indian passengers by other boats of this steamship company?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azisul Huque: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government are making enquiries, and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

STOPPAGE OF EXPORT OF RICE

1152. ***Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri:** (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the report made by the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, published in the *Bharat Jyoti* in its issue of Sunday, the 24th February, to the effect that there has been scarcity of rice even in the surplus districts owing to heavy export in a clandestine manner at dead of night?

(b) Do Government propose to enquire if these reports are correct? If so, to what place has the rice been exported, and what steps are being taken to stop such exports?

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

(b) Inquiries were made from the Government of Bengal who have reported that there is strict cordoning of surplus districts and that they have no information of any heavy clandestine exports of rice from surplus districts.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state if instructions were given to the Bengal Government to contact the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee for getting such evidence as might be available?

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

RECRUITMENT OF OUTSIDERS IN AJMER-MERWARA

1153. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state if Government are aware that there is a strong all round resentment in the public of Ajmer-Merwara about the importing of outsiders in Government services of the Ajmer-Merwara Administration?

(b) Is it a fact that recently a representation was made by the Ajmer-Merwara Zamindar Sabha to the Secretary, Education Department, regarding the recruitment of local candidates to the vacancies in the Educational Administration of the Province? If so, what action has been taken thereon?

(c) Is it a fact that in spite of all this recently two important appointments in the Education Department for the posts of Superintendent and Deputy Superintendent have been made and the candidates selected are a Punjabi and a Bengali who do not understand even the language and dialect of the Province and have no claim in the administration of Ajmer-Merwara?

(d) Is it a fact that there were qualified and suitable local candidates available in Ajmer-Merwara for both these appointments, one of whom was a Principal of a Degree College already in first class Government service with considerable educational experience and the other a District Inspector of Schools

with long administrative experience of the Ajmer-Merwara Education Department?

(e) Is it a fact that the newly selected candidates have superseded both the Ajmer-Merwara candidates in service? If so, how do Government propose to redress the wrong done to the Ajmer-Merwara candidates?

Sir John Sargent: (a) The Government of India have received representations in the matter from time to time.

(b) Yes, Sir, According to the existing rules, all gazetted posts are filled through the Federal Public Service Commission. The claims of local candidates are given due consideration in the recruitment for the local education service.

(c) The posts of the Superintendent and the Deputy Superintendent of Education cover Delhi, and Central India as well as Ajmer-Merwara. These appointments have been made on the recommendation of the Federal Public Service Commission. Both the officers belong to the Central Services and are familiar with the local languages and educational conditions in Ajmer-Merwara.

(d) Applications from the two officers referred to were duly considered by the Federal Public Service Commission, but neither of them was selected by the Commission.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware of the feelings of Muslims of Ajmer that Muslim officers in the Education Department are being removed from Ajmer?

Sir John Sargent: No, Sir.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Has the Honourable Member read my speech on the cut motion wherein I brought this complaint to the Honourable Member's notice? If so, has any action been taken after that?

Sir John Sargent: I am not aware that there was any removal of Muslim officers from Ajmer. I will make inquiries and let the Honourable Member know the result. As far as I am aware, there is no such intention.

VEGETABLE CULTIVATION IN DELHI PROVINCE

1154. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Agriculture Secretary please state:

(a) What steps if any, have been taken to bring all available land in the Province of Delhi under the cultivation of vegetables or other food crops since the cessation of hostilities against Japan;

(b) If any steps have been taken to bring under vegetable cultivation the vast spaces of land under grass or flowers throughout the Province and in Government-owned compounds and bungalows; if so, what additional quantity of vegetables is expected to come into the market during the coming summer months; and

(c) what steps, if any, are being taken by the Provincial Governments in this direction, and what results are expected?

Sir Pheroz Kharegat: (a) Schemes have been sanctioned for the immediate sinking of 500 pucca masonry wells on a subsidised basis and for the provision of 20 motor trucks to carry manure from Okhla and Badli to be distributed to growers both of food crops and vegetables on a subsidised basis.

About 1,000 tons of extra food may be expected from all the measures taken.

(b) Steps have been taken to bring under vegetable cultivation about half of the Central vista, i.e., some 60 acres and part of it has already been dug up for the purpose. Householders and occupants of bungalows have been asked to bring as large an area as practicable of their compounds under vegetables. Special staff has been appointed 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 factor in most cases is water. It is not possible to estimate at present the additional quantity of

vegetables that will be marketed from this area; it is expected that the house-holders will utilise the vegetables for their own consumption. The increased production if adequate water is available and all the arrangements made work according to plan may be estimated to be 500 tons.

(c) The Honourable Member may please see the replies given to Question No. 757, asked by Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala, on the 6th March, 1946.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that there are large expanse of unoccupied but cultivable land still available in the environs of New Delhi?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Yes, Sir. There are large areas of land available, but there is not the water available owing to which vegetables cannot be grown.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government make available the necessary quantities of water and also give first preference for the allotment of this land to those people who are going to be evicted from their lands in Ward No. 14, as referred to in Question No. 1146?

Mr. President: This is a suggestion for action. The Honourable Member may ask for information.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: From whom?

Mr. President:if he has any to ask.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of giving first preference to those people who are likely to be evicted from their own lands in Delhi—Ward No. 14—as a result of the operations of Town Improvement Act?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The suggestion will be examined. I do not know exactly what may or may not be feasible, but the matter will be looked into.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if the Honourable Members of the Executive Council have started growing vegetables in their gardens?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Asif ul Huque: They have done that long before.

Mr. President: Next question.

COMPILATION OF UNWEIGHTED RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBER

1155. ***Shi H. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state the purpose behind the compilation of unweighted Retail Price Index Number by groups about industrial cities and town of this country published in the *Indian Labour Gazette*?

(b) Were the items and their qualities constituting the groups for which Retail Price Index Numbers are worked out ever made known to the public? If not, why not?

(c) Will the Honourable Member place before the House total number of items for each group of every centre for which Retail Price Index Numbers are being released by the Labour Department? In this connection, will he also state what the criterion was for fixing upon items, their qualities and numbers, on which these unweighted group index numbers are based?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The Government of India decided in 1942 to undertake a scheme for the compilation of cost of living index numbers on uniform lines. As the preparation of such index numbers was likely to take some time, it was felt that retail price data should be available as this might be of some value in wage disputes. Government, therefore, decided as an interim measure, after consultation with Provincial Governments to collect price data for certain selected centres in the country and to prepare index numbers based on such data.

(b) The items constituting the groups are not published. There is no particular reason except the desirability of limiting space in the *Gazette*.

(c) A statement regarding the number of items included in each group in the Retail Price Index number for each centre is placed on the table of the House. The main criteria adopted for deciding upon the list were the consumption habits of the class of the community concerned and the availability of reliable price data.

Statement showing the number of items included in the various groups for each centre for which retail price index numbers are being published in the *Indian Labour Gazette*.

I.—URBAN CENTRES

	Cereals	Pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel & Lighting	Clothing*	Miscellaneous	Total
1. Ajmer	7	5	15	27	3	9	2	41
2. Hubli	2	4	13	19	3	5	6	33
3. Surat	3	3	11	17	3	7	6	33
4. Dohad	3	3	12	18	3	6	4	31
5. Akola	3	3	14	20	4	8	6	38
6. Delhi	9	3	16	28	5	5	6	44
7. Rawalpindi	4	3	16	23	3	5	5	36
8. Amritsar	4	4	15	23	3	6	4	36
9. Ludhiana	4	3	17	24	3	6	4	37
10. Sialkot	4	3	15	22	3	5	4	34
11. Lucknow	9	3	10	22	3	9	7	41
12. Agra	9	3	10	22	3	9	7	41
13. Bareilly	9	3	10	22	3	9	7	41
14. Gauhati	3	4	19	26	3	6	7	42
15. Tinsukia								
16. Dehri-on-Sone	5	3	11	19	4	3	6	32
17. Patna	5	3	13	20	4	4	6	34
18. Cuttack	1	4	17	22	3	4	8	37
19. Beshampore	3	2	19	24	3	3	5	35
20. Khewra	4	3	16	23	3	5	4	35
21. Karachi	4	2	16	22	4	4	2	32
22. Benares	4	3	10	17	3	9	7	36
23. Meerut	9	3	10	22	3	9	7	41
24. Howrah	4	4	16	24	5	5	7	41
25. Budge-Budge								
26. Kankinara								
27. Narayanganj								
28. Serampore								
29. Gauripore	4	4	16	24	5	5	7	41
30. Kanoharapara								
31. Kharagpur								
32. Calcutta								
33. Raniganj								

*In the *Indian Labour Gazette*, it has already been stated that due to changes in clothing grades, it has not been found possible to work out the index numbers for the clothing group.

	Cereals	Pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel & Lighting	Clothing	Miscellaneous	Total
1. Burma	1	2	8	11	2	3	5	21
2. Maibang	1	2	10	13	2	6	5	26
3. Rajapur	1	2	14	17	3	6	5	31
4. Shankargarh	7	3	8	18	2	3	4	27
5. Sonaili	3	3	12	18	2	6	5	31
6. Multapi	2	4	9	15	2	5	4	26
7. Nana	4	2	13	19	3	5	3	30
8. Salemtpur	3	4	12	19	2	4	3	28
9. Shujabad	5	4	11	20	4	6	3	33
10. Gujarkhan	2	4	12	18	3	6	3	29
11. Krishna	2	2	14	18	2	6	4	30
12. Lakh	2	3	10	15	2	5	3	25
13. Malur	3	4	13	20	2	4	5	31
14. Muniguda	2	3	13	18	2	4	4	28
15. Kudohi	2	2	13	17	3	7	4	31

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are figures being collected of the actual prices being paid by the working classes, or only the prices that are supposed to be scheduled to be paid in the retail shops?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think if my Honourable friend waits there will be an answer to the next question by Mr. Ayyangar in which you will find the information about family budget.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What information have Government collected and kept in their possession of the prices which are actually prevailing in the blackmarket in which alone the ordinary working class people in towns are able to purchase most of their necessities?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not think Government have any information on blackmarket prices.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government collect that information?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: That suggestion, I must say, does not commend itself to me.

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

REPORT ON FAMILY-BUDGET-ENQUIRIES

1156. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state when he intends to publish reports on the Family-Budget-Enquiries which started nearly three years back?

(b) Will the Honourable Member place before the House the dates on which the first and the last Family-Budgets were collected in every centre where such enquiries were conducted and state why such an extraordinary period was chosen for the conduct of such enquiries?

(c) Are Government aware that the whole purpose and results of these enquiries have been most seriously vitiated by leaving out of account the factor of qualities of items consumed by the workers from the questionnaires of the Family Budget Enquiries altogether?

(d) Will the Honourable Member please state if an Experts Committee was appointed to ensure uniformity and correct procedure in such Family Budget Enquiries? If so, how many times did it meet? Is it a fact that sampling techniques and other important decisions on methods and principles of obtaining and Compiling data applied in these enquiries, were approved by the said Experts Committee either before or after their application? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Reports on the Family Budget Enquiries are expected to be completed and published by the end of September 1946.

(b) A statement containing the information required is placed on the Table of the House.

As cost of living index numbers constituted an essential basis for adjustment of dearness allowance, which was urgently required during the war period and as no reliable data in this respect were available, a beginning had to be made without waiting for conditions to return to normal.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

(d) An Experts' Committee was appointed to discuss methods of preparing cost of living indices. It met once and laid down general principles regarding the methods of investigation, which were generally followed.

Statement showing the dates of starting and closing the Family Budget Enquiries at the various selected centres

Name of centre	Date of starting the collection of budgets	Date on which the work was finished
I. Ajmer (1)	15-11-43	15-11-44
II. Bengal (4)—		
1. Howrah & Bally	28-7-43	28-7-44
2. Kharagpur	28-7-43	28-7-44
3. Narayanganj	28-7-43	28-7-44
4. Calcutta	1-8-44	31-7-45
III. Bihar (4)—		
1. Monghyr & Jamalpur	9-5-44	31-10-44
2. Dehri-on-Sone	1-11-44	31-1-45
3. Jamshedpur	1-2-45	30-6-45
4. Jharra	1-7-45	25-11-45

Name of centre	Date of starting the collection of budgets	Date on which the work was finished
IV. Bombay (4)—		
1. Bombay	22-1-44	28-2-45
2. Ahmedabad	22-1-44	28-2-45
3. Sholapur	22-1-44	28-2-45
4. Jalgaon	22-1-44	28-2-45
V. C. P. & Berar (2)—		
1. Jabulpore	10-4-44	15-4-45
2. Akola	2nd week of July 1944	15-4-45
VI. Delhi (1)	13-10-43	31-10-44
VII. Punjab (3)—		
1. Lahore	1-1-44	30-4-45
2. Ludhiana	1-1-44	30-4-45
3. Sialkot	1-1-44	30-4-45
VIII. Khewra (2)—		
1. Khewra	1st week of April 1944	10-1-45
2. Dandot & A. C. C. I.	15-10-44	10-1-45
IX. Sind (1)—		
1. Karachi	1-8-44	31-7-45
X. Orissa (2)—		
1. Cuttaok	15-12-44	15-9-45
2. Berhampur	15-12-44	15-9-45
XI. U. P. (1)—		
1. Cawnpore	January 1945	Enquiries are proceeding
XII. Assam (3)—		
1. Tinsukia	April 1944	15-10-45
2. Silchar	April 1944	15-10-45
3. Gauhati	April 1944	15-10-45

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will such enquiries be made at least in a few test case in regard to agricultural labour?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will bear that in mind although cannot commit myself.

ENQUIRIES ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE INTELLIGENCE ROOM AND ITS DIRECTOR

1157. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state the functions of the Administrative Intelligence Room, and the total cost of its maintenance and establishment per annum?

(b) Are any independent statistics prepared or researches made in this Administrative Intelligence Room? If so, of what nature?

(c) What are the qualifications of the Director, Major Homfray, for the office, and what are his general and special qualifications?

(d) Is he the son-in-law of the Governor of Burma, Sir Reginald Dorman Smith?

(e) Was the Administrative Intelligence Room sanctioned by the Standing Finance Committee? If not, why not?

(f) Were applications invited for the post of the Director, and was the Selection made by the Federal Public Service Commission? If not, why not?

(g) Is the recruitment of the staff done by the Federal Public Service Commission? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) A copy* of the Interim Progress Report of the Administrative Intelligence Room for the period from 5th March to 5th November 1945, is laid on the table. The functions of the Administrative Intelligence Room are given in part I of the Report.

The total cost of the maintenance and establishment of the organization is Rs. 1½ lakhs per annum.

(b) Yes, Sir. A reference is invited to pages 2—4 and Part II of the Report.

(c) Major Homfray belongs to the Indian Army and has seen active service during the War. Before being appointed Director of the Administrative Intelligence Room, Major Homfray had acquainted himself fully with the working and set-up of the War Room of the General Headquarters, on the lines of which it was proposed to run the Administrative Intelligence Room. His services were originally lent for a period not exceeding six months to enable the new organization being set up. During this period he did valuable work and as it was considered necessary to provide for continuity of management, the Army authorities were requested to agree to his retention in the post of Director of the Administrative Intelligence Room for a period of another seven months.

(d) Yes, Sir. But as far as I understand the marriage took place seven months after the appointment was made.

(e) Yes, Sir; the latter part of the question does not arise.

(f) No, Sir; because the post of Director was originally sanctioned on a temporary basis for a short period only and the services of Major Homfray, who had full background knowledge of the working and general set-up of a similar organization, were readily available for a short period.

(g) No, Sir. Recruitment has so far been made on a purely temporary basis, as, pending the approval of the Standing Finance Committee, the future of the Administrative Intelligence Room was uncertain. In view of the fact that the establishment of the Room has been sanctioned for a period of five years, the question of recruitment to the posts in the organization will now be taken up.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With regard to part (d) of the reply, is it not a fact that the appointment was made because he was found suitable and not because he happened to be the son-in-law of the Governor of Burma?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have said that Government does not set up an enquiry to find out who happens to be the son-in-law of whom. In this case the marriage took place seven months after the appointment was made.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: That is what I want to know.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What was the qualification of the gentleman who appointed him?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know the qualifications of that man but he had an understanding of the problem and also to find out as to how to find a suitable officer to deal with that problem.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who is that gentleman?

*Not printed in these debates. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.—
Ed. of Debates.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I want notice of that question.

NUMBER OF EVACUEES BROUGHT DOWN TO INDIA

1158. *Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (on behalf of Sri V. O. Vellingiri Gounder): Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of evacuees brought down to this country—British India and Indian States—since the beginning of the war;

(b) how many have been sent back so far;

(c) when the rest of them are going to be sent back;

(d) where the remaining persons are located;

(e) the reason for delaying them from being sent back;

(f) the amount of money so far spent to support them from the beginning up till now, year by year; and

(g) how this expenditure is being met?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The total number of evacuees in India is about four lakhs and six thousand. Of this, about 7,000 were sponsored by or through His Majesty's Government and the rest evacuated to India of themselves.

(b) and (d). About 20,000 evacuees have so far been repatriated to their former homes. Of the remaining, about 17,000 evacuees are maintained in camps, the rest being distributed in the various Provinces and States.

(c) and (e). Arrangements are being made, in consultation with His Majesty's Government and the Government of Burma, who are principally concerned, for the repatriation of evacuees to their former homes, as early as possible. The return of refugees will be gradual, owing to the acute shortage of shipping and to the abnormal economic conditions prevailing at present in the countries concerned, as a result of the devastation caused by the war.

(f) and (g). I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the amounts spent on Indian evacuees from 1941-42 onwards, for which alone the Government of India have accepted financial liability. The figures of expenditure on non-Indian evacuees are not readily available.

As regards the allocation of such expenditure, attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the statement referred to in my reply to Seth Govind Das' question No. 394, on the 20th February, 1946.

Statement showing the total expenditure incurred on Indian evacuees in connection with their reception, dispersal and maintenance in India

	Rs.
Actuals for 1941-42	8,34,181
Actuals for 1942-43	1,21,32,665
Actuals for 1943-44	2,93,23,918
Actuals for 1944-45	3,11,51,222
Revised estimates for 1945-46	3,02,31,600
Total	10,36,73,586

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the acute shortage in India, may I suggest to the Honourable Member the desirability of sending back these evacuees immediately so that they may not be an unnecessary drain on the limited foodstocks in India?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have replied to that in my reply to parts (c) and (e).

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I want that they should be sent back immediately without the least delay.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: With reference to part (b) of the question and the answer which the Honourable Member gave, namely that the total number of evacuees so far sent back amount to 20,000, is he in a position to state what

percentage of the 20,000 are non-Indian evacuees, and what percentage of available civilian shipping space is being used by these evacuees in returning to Europe?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I am afraid the percentage of non-Indian evacuees is very small. These 20,000 mostly include people who have gone back to Burma. Some of them may be non-Indians, including a few British officers of the Burma Government. I am afraid I have no information about the percentage of shipping.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the serious food shortage in Southern Districts of Bombay Province, will Government consider the immediate closing down of the Polish Camp in Kolhapur where there are 5,000 Polish evacuees still there?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Having accepted responsibility for them, we cannot now send them away without the consent and co-operation of His Majesty's Government, at whose instance we took charge of them. But I can assure the Honourable Member that we are doing our very best to ensure as speedy repatriation of these evacuees as may be practicable.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Is it proposed to use any percentage of available civilian passages for the purpose of repatriating these 5,000 Poles at Kolhapur? The Honourable Member has stated that it is the intention of Government to repatriate them, as soon as possible. I am asking him if he could indicate whether that will have any bearing on the available civilian shipping space?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I should not think so.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: How many Italian prisoners of war are there still in India? I am given to understand that there are 5,000 or more. Are they going to be sent back or not?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Italian prisoners of war are not included in my figure of non-Indian evacuees.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: The Honourable Member says he does not know whether it is proposed to encroach on civilian shipping space. Will he undertake to make enquiries to ensure that it is not proposed to encroach on civilian shipping space?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Certainly, Sir.

Seth Govind Das: Was it not a fact that the responsibility of these evacuees were taken by the Government of India when the war was going on?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Which evacuees? The question is not clear. The responsibility of which class of evacuees?

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member refer to the Polish evacuees?

Seth Govind Das: I am referring to evacuees who are non-Indian. Was the responsibility of these evacuees taken by the Government of India when the war was going on?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: We undertook to arrange for their maintenance and care in India but we have accepted no sort of financial responsibility for them. The expenditure incurred on their maintenance is debited to the governments of the countries concerned or to His Majesty's Government.

Seth Govind Das: The Honourable Member said that the Government of India have undertaken the responsibility of their stay here. The responsibility was undertaken during the war, when there was not so much food shortage. In view of the food shortage at present in the country will it not be proper now, in spite of the responsibility which the Government of India have taken for these evacuees, to send them back to their own country?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I hope the Honourable Member will look at the humanitarian aspect of it. Having taken charge of them we certainly cannot throw them overboard. But, as I have said, we are doing our very best to have them repatriated as soon as practicable.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RE-HOUSING UNDER POORMAN HOUSING SCHEME

149. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) With reference to the reply to part (a) of starred question No. 152 asked on the 11th February, 1946 regarding eligibility for re-housing under the Poorman Housing Scheme, will the Health Secretary please inform this House of the date by which persons shall be eligible for the benefits of the Re-housing Scheme?

(b) Does he propose to assure the House that while laying down conditions referred to in (a) above, due consideration will be paid to the financial conditions of the people affected with a view to afford relief to the largest number of persons?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) No particular date can be fixed, but persons will become eligible for the benefits of the re-housing scheme when the Sarai Purani Idgah Scheme is sanctioned and execution of the scheme is taken up.

(b) Yes.

ELIGIBILITY UNDER RE-HOUSING SCHEME

150. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** (a) With reference to the reply to part (d) of starred question No. 110 on the 4th March, 1942, and the reply given to part (b) of starred question No. 152 on the 11th February, 1946, will the Health Secretary please state whether he has finally decided the limit of Rs. 80 per month as income within which persons will be provided with accommodation under the Re-housing Scheme? If not, how does the matter stand?

(b) By what time will Government declare the name of the place or places where they propose to house the persons of Ward No. 14 after the Sarai Purani Idgah Scheme has been considered by the Trust?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) The matter is under consideration of the Improvement Trust and no final decision has yet been reached.

(b) The names of localities, in which the families evicted under the Sarai Purani Idgah Scheme will be re-housed, will be made known when the scheme is sanctioned.

PUBLICITY TO APPROVAL OF RE-HOUSING SCHEME BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

151. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With reference to the reply given to starred question No. 153 on the 11th February, 1946, will the Health Secretary please state whether the general public will be informed of the approval of the Re-housing Scheme by the Delhi Improvement Trust through the medium of newspapers? If not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: The general public will be informed through the medium of the newspapers.

ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT TO WOMEN PREVIOUSLY WORKING UNDERGROUND IN MINES

152. **Miss Maniben Kara:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) how many women were employed underground in coal mines in India before the last day that the ban on the employment of women underground in mines was re-imposed;

(b) how many of the women mentioned in (a) have been given alternative employment since the imposition of the ban on women working underground;

(c) the nature of alternative employment provided to them;

(d) how their earnings in the new employment compare with their earnings while working underground;

(e) apart from wages what the other concessions are that they have lost as a result of ceasing to work underground; and

(f) what steps Government propose to take in order to compensate them for their loss of earnings and other concessions?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) About 20,000.

(b) No exact figures are available but approximately 50 per cent. of the women mentioned in (a) have been given alternative employment since the re-imposition of ban. Of the remaining 50 per cent. about half have gone to their villages while some of the remainder are sitting down at collieries because they are refusing contract work e.g. coal loading;

(c) Loading of coal on surface, loading and unloading of sand and removing of overburden in quarries.

(d) The earnings of women so employed are from ten to twelve annas per day (excluding half seer free rice and bonus of two annas for each woman) as against twelve annas to fourteen annas per day paid to underground workers.

(e) Women so employed have lost the concession of free supply of milk which was granted only by reason of working underground.

(f) Attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 466 on the 25th February, 1946.

SUGGESTION re KEEPING OF HISTORY SHEETS AT EVERY HISTORICAL MONUMENT

153. **Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the letter of Mr. S. S. Lall of Peshawar in the *Hindustan Times* of the 4th March, 1946, in the forum of letters to the Editor, suggesting that "History Sheets" should be kept at every historical monument;

(b) if it is a fact that no such plates are kept at any of the South Indian Historical monuments like Amaravati, Bhattiprolu, Nagarjunakonda, Jaggurpetta, Ghantasale, etc., and

(c) if Government will consider the advisability of adopting this suggestion?

Sir John Sargent: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Short historical notices are already affixed to a large number of ancient monuments in various parts of India including some in the South India. In accordance with the policy laid down urgent steps are now being taken to provide adequate notices on monuments throughout India both in English and in regional language or languages. A number of such notices has already been prepared and investigations have for some time been in progress as to the best ways and means of displaying them on monuments. In view of the difficulty of producing metal plates at the present moment, temporary notices are in a number of cases being displayed on wood or board.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Mr. M. R. Masani: Sir, I would like to state that this question was put last Friday: otherwise it would appear partly pointless.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST IRAN

Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the strong sympathy in this country for our Iranian neighbours and the indignation at the flagrant breach of its pledges to evacuate its troops from Iran on the part of the Russian Government and its attempts to destroy the integrity and independence of Iran; and

12 NOON

(b) whether the Government of India, as a member of the United Nations Organization, will take immediate steps to invite the attention of the Security Council of the United Nations Organization, which is due to meet on March 25, to the Russian aggression against the neighbouring country of Iran, which is a matter of grave concern to this country and to the peace of the world, and to urge the Security Council to devise sanctions to protect the integrity and independence of Iran?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Government are aware of the existence of the strong feelings of sympathy and indignation to which the Honourable Member refers.

(b) Government understand that an appeal has been made to the Security Council of the United Nations Organization by the Persian Government themselves.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Since India is unfortunately not represented in the Security Council, will the Government of India convey to the British Government the public opinion in this country that if small defenceless nations like Iran are to be left helpless against their powerful imperialist neighbours, the continued existence of the United Nations Organisation will become meaningless?

Mr. H. Weightman: Sir, Government have sensed feelings of urgency, alarm and indignation in all parts of this House and in the country generally and they have represented these feelings to the Government in the United Kingdom as a member of the Security Council.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to an article of the Purposes and Principles of the Charter of the United Nations, which states that all members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State and, if so, will Government take the earliest possible steps before the Security Council actually meets to make all the members of the Security Council aware of the great anxiety felt by India about what is happening in Persia in her relation with Soviet Russia and of the threat involved in the same to India's own territorial integrity on account of the international rivalries that are being carried on in Persia?

Mr. H. Weightman: Sir, I think the answer to that question is really implicit in what I have just said. India is not a member of the Security Council and is therefore not seized of this matter, unless of course the question comes before the General Assembly of which she is a member. Consequently, since the Government in the United Kingdom is a member of the Security Council, the Government of India have taken care to draw the attention of the Government in the United Kingdom to the feelings which I have mentioned in my reply to the last supplementary question.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the House whether the presence of Russian troops in North Persia was arranged at the Yalta Conference?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am not quite sure what the Honourable Member means. Is he inquiring whether an arrangement was made at Yalta that Russian troops should be brought into Persia? If so, the answer is 'No'.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I am suggesting that Russian troops are in Persia because the two other members of the Big Three had agreed to it. Is there any truth in this suspicion?

Mr. H. Weightman: None whatsoever.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Government of India so helpless in the matter? Cannot something substantial be done instead of merely representing Indian feelings to His Majesty's Government?

Mr. President: Order, order.

HINDU MARRIED WOMEN'S RIGHT TO SEPARATE RESIDENCE AND MAINTENANCE BILL

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to give Hindu married women a right to separate residence and maintenance under certain circumstances.

Sir, I might mention for the information of the House that I have not been able to get the signature of Sardar Mangal Singh, because he is running a temperature of 104° or 105°. All other Members have signed the report.

THE HINDU MARRIAGE DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, with your permission I beg to move:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus be extended up to Saturday, the 30th March, 1946."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus be extended up to Saturday, the 30th March, 1946."

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: Indian Commerce): Will it not take the Bill up to the next session. There is only one day for non-official Bills before this session ends.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: That does not matter. It is only for the presentation of the Select Committee Report.

Mr. President: That cannot be helped. The question is:

"That the time appointed for the presentation of the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu Law in respect of marriage between Hindus be extended up to Saturday, the 30th March, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

ESTATE DUTY BILL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of an estate duty in British India.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the levy and collection of an estate duty in British India."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, when the House rose yesterday I was saying that we in this Group support the proposed new bullion duties. But, at the same time, I uttered a note of warning that the results might not be quite the same as the Honourable the Finance Member anticipates, unless he takes very good care and, I may add, very active steps, to see that what he intends is now destroyed and undermined by the activities of the same kind of people who nearly ruined the policy of his predecessor. Sir, I would ask him to remember three things. The first thing is that wealthy operators can move markets, especially the bullion market, even though Government may not desire these markets to move in that way. The second thing I would ask him to remember is that there is more than one bullion market now in this country: That state of affairs has

[Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer]

arisen since about 1942. Thirdly I would ask him to remember what happened in 1919 and 1922 and what happened in 1942 and 1948. If he remembers these things, Sir, and then looks at certain things to which I shall refer now, I have no doubt that he will achieve the purpose he seeks to achieve by imposing these duties. Three things he must watch: firstly, 'changes in the rules or in the terms of contract of the bullion exchanges', and I may add the same remark applies also to other commodity exchanges. He should keep a very careful watch on any change or suspension of the rules. That does not apply only to the bullion market, though it applies to it more especially at the present time. The second thing he must watch is "market comments" in the press and the way in which markets are being guided by those who seek to make them move in any particular direction; bearing in mind that the greatest movements in markets can be brought about when you first give them a lever upwards before you attempt sending them down. Thirdly I would ask him to watch very particularly the silver market and those who operate therein. But since it is useless to make comments and observations without perhaps at the same time offering some suggested remedies, I suggest for what it is worth (1) the registration of dealers in these markets, (2) disclosure of the names of partners of firms and directors of companies operating in these markets, and (3) disclosure also of stocks of bullion. Finally, Sir, he should take very good care to see that no new company enters into these markets at the present time. That is related not merely to the operation of the markets, but it may undermine his purpose in another direction: namely to deprive his revenue officers, who sit behind him, of their legitimate and proper dues. Before I leave this question of bullion there is just one final observation I should like to make and that is that I noticed in one of the newspapers the comment that "one large operator seemed to be in the know and was buying heavily". I have not the least doubt that that statement is totally incorrect, because I cannot imagine any Honourable Member of Government would commit such a breach of official practice and behaviour as to disclose anything that the Honourable Member had in mind; but I draw it to his attention for another reason. That statement has been made in the press, and the purpose is either one of two things. One is to encourage the people that they should follow that operator because he has influence—thus discrediting the Government—and the other is to give the suggestion that perhaps that is the right line to take.

Now, Sir, having commented on bullion duties I pass to income-tax and super-tax. The House will have heard, and will in fact hear more in the next few days, of the suggestion that the present proposal contained in this Finance Bill operate purely for the advantage of the rich, or mainly for the advantage of the rich. Any one who looks at the table attached to the Explanatory Memorandum given to all Members of this House along with the Finance Bill will see what nonsense that is. The individuals who are in receipt of *unearned* income up to Rs. 18,000 will all benefit. Those who are in receipt of *earned* income up to a lakh will also benefit. In the case of *unearned* income over Rs. 21,000 and in the case of *earned* income over a lakh, the advantage will not be to the assessee but the other way round. Therefore I hope that those Honourable Members who tell us that this is a rich man's budget will be a little more guarded in what they have to say, and—before they repeat their observations elsewhere—take the trouble to study the statement set out in the Explanatory Memorandum.

Now, Sir, in connection with this question of income-tax I have seen a statement by Sir Padampat Singhanian in which he says that the rich get no relief. Then he goes on to talk about E.P.T., income-tax and super-tax. His contention is that during the war the Finance Member's predecessor deprived industry of as much as 93 per cent. of the income of companies. This is the kind of nonsense that we frequently hear from men who pose as leaders and captains of industry. They come along and tell us "You are merely politicians; you don't really understand these matters. We are telling you that

we are mulcted to the extent of 93 per cent. of our profits." Well, Sir, that is nonsense. Every member of this House who has any idea at all of income-tax matters knows perfectly well that it is nonsense. The position in fact is that the *individual shareholder* pays the income-tax in so far as the income is distributed. The individual pays on the distributed income of the company, while the company pays income-tax on that portion of the income which is not distributed, plus, of course, the one anna super-tax payable on the total income.

Having said that, I turn to paragraph D of part II of the Schedule where the most important proposal in this Finance Bill is set out. There we find a scheme for a graded additional super-tax on companies. We on these Benches have given the matter very careful consideration during the last fortnight and we have now come to the conclusion that the Finance Member's proposals are correct, and that if he has to change these in any way, the whole scheme which he and his able officers have brought out will be undermined or perhaps even destroyed. I hope therefore that the House will support this proposal. It has been suggested in some quarters that it imposes an additional burden on industry. Now, Sir, I have for my personal satisfaction worked out a number of illustrative cases and I am satisfied that that is not so. My own conclusion in the matter is borne out by the remarks made in the speech of the Chairman of the Bengal Coal Company, which remarks indicate very clearly that in general, and subject naturally to the precise effect of the technical details, it should be possible for properly managed companies to maintain reasonable dividends.

Having said that, I think we can now attempt to assess the effect of the Bill in the light of the Honourable the Finance Member's intentions. He has set out his intentions very clearly in his speech, more particularly in para. 4 and para. 24. But before I discuss that I just want to refer for a moment to the Excess Profits Tax. It has been suggested that because the Honourable Finance Member has decided not to impose the Excess Profits Tax for the coming year, he has done something which is going to be of benefit to the rich and hurt the poor. Now, I cannot understand the line of argument that thinks like that for one moment. In fact, as I have already indicated, the rich man will pay more, as a result of this budget. On the other hand, industry will pay less and will thereby be able to build up the reserves which it needs, to enable it to buy new machinery and so forth. He has also had in mind very clearly another important aspect of this Finance Bill, namely, stability. We know perfectly well from what has been told us that very large sums of money which were spent in the past are not going to be spent this year; and in these circumstances, unless the Honourable Finance Member had taken off the Excess Profits Tax, the result would have been not good for the poor, as some people suggest, but utterly disastrous. In fact, I go so far as to say that there could have been made out a strong case for the removal of this tax a year ago. It is of course no use discussing the past; it was not done a year ago; it is being done now. There are Honourable Members who may say that it has not been done in the United Kingdom and why should we not follow their example of reduction of the tax, instead of taking it off altogether? Well, in the first place, the circumstances are not parallel in the two countries; Government in the United Kingdom reduced the Excess Profits Tax and did not take it off altogether because their last budget was brought in within a very few months of the termination of the war. When their next budget comes in, I have a very shrewd suspicion that their proposals will not be very different from the kind of proposals which my Honourable friend the Finance Member has introduced here. Those who think that by reducing the Excess Profits Tax they are helping the poor entirely overlook certain factors in the operation of the Excess Profits Tax which become increasingly effective and operative as the war expenditure of Government declines. If they will refer particularly to the first schedule rule 4, part (2), they will see special advantages given to banks and others. In other words, the Excess Profits Tax, if merely reduced, would have left in an advantageous position the very class of people—banks

[Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer]

and investment companies—which has played so big a part in the inflationary trend in this country in recent years. I am very glad therefore that the Finance Member has courageously decided to do away with Excess Profits Tax altogether. When I say that of course, I fully recognise that the Excess Profits Tax Act itself must remain the law for a good many years to come, because otherwise the Government could not administer all the problems that are arising now and will arise in future out of this tax which was put on as a war measure.

Then we come directly, from his attitude towards the Excess Profits Tax, to his whole plan and purpose, which is to secure as great a degree of stability as is possible in a period when government expenditure is declining rapidly; and when if they were not very careful, the downward spiral would be even more disastrous than the upward spiral in 1942-43. Therefore his whole purpose in these tax measures which he has set before us is to secure as great a degree of stability as possible. Now, I do not say that he will achieve one hundred per cent. stability: he obviously cannot—no man possibly can do so but I believe, and we in this group unanimously believe, that his measures are the best that in the circumstances he can make having regard to the overriding question of stability.

The second thing he has set out to do—and it is very clear throughout the whole of the Finance Bill—is that he has sought to give minor relief to the poorest classes. I emphasise the word 'minor' because I am quite sure that the Honourable Finance Member will be the last to claim that merely because he has, for example, reduced the duty on kerosene oil he has done something wonderful for the poor. What he has done is, having regard to the circumstances, all that he could, in that and in other directions. As regards industry, he has not merely reduced taxation in the manner I have indicated, but he has also decided to give concessions in regard to machinery and so forth, all of which are very important if Indian industry is going to recover in these next few years, and if we are not going to see a repetition of the disasters of the years 1920 to 1924.

Another result that will arise directly from his proposals is that industrialists and traders will be encouraged to hold smaller stocks. There is evidence of that already in the speeches of various chairmen of industrial and trading companies. He is forcing them to disgorge stocks on which,—to be quite plain,—some of them had been sitting when they ought to have been releasing them for the public. That in its turn will mean not merely greater availability of supply but it should mean that prices of commodities that directly affect the masses will tend to go down—slowly, I hope, but I think they will tend to go in a downward direction, which is all to the good.

Then there is one aspect of the matter which is political perhaps rather than strictly financial, and that is the general question of the relationship between the Finance Member's proposals and the whole of the activities of Government. He has rightly stressed in one part of his speech that finance is merely a projection of the policy of Government into the sphere of rupees, annas and pies. That being so, I would earnestly urge him to remember this or to consider this: viz., that it is not always wise, and it is not always effective either, to try to seek by means of income-tax Bills, etc., objectives which can better be achieved by amending other commercial legislation of Government. I should like to give him an illustration to show what exactly I mean. He presented to the House yesterday a Banking Bill. In 1942, Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar made one of his "better" contributions to the welfare of his people—he brought in a Bill to amend the Companies Act. I need not waste the time of the House by repeating it; but to sum it up, what he said was that any company calling itself a bank was a bank; and now, four years later, the Government have to bring in a Bill to define and control banks! A great deal of the trouble (and I say this advisedly having studied the position in Bengal very carefully) in Bengal in 1942 and 1943 and since,

and a great deal of the trouble elsewhere in India is due directly and indirectly to that amendment of the Companies Act slipped in as an unimportant measure by Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarkar; and I would therefore suggest that in matters of grave commercial concern and in matters touching on the law of merchants and traders, the Government should consider whether their present method of handling such legislation is as good as it may be. Sir, I support the Bill.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces: Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the question was raised whether this is a capitalist's budget or whether it is a poor man's budget. The very fact that this paper 'Commerce' is in favour of this budget shows clearly that it is not a poor man's budget. It is really a billionaire's budget.

The first thing I would refer to is the repeal of the Excess Profits Tax. Certainly when I heard the Finance Member's speech I was shocked when he said that this should be abolished altogether. I was expecting that he would give some relief this year, perhaps reduce it to half and abolish next year. It was not expected that it would be abolished entirely this year.

The second thing is that he did not give any relief to the poorer people in income-tax. We were expecting, as he has expressed repeatedly on the floor of the House that he is always for the poor people, that the income tax level will be raised from Rs. 1,500 to at least Rs. 2,000 and that the dearness allowance will be free of income-tax. These were the two reliefs which we were expecting for the benefit of the poor. Of course this would require a change in the Act and the change ought to have been provided for in the present Income Tax Act.

The next thing is about the duty on silver and gold. This also is a thing which requires careful consideration. I have been pressing in connection with the Bretton Woods Report and elsewhere that the selling and purchasing prices of gold should be fixed and brought on par. Abnormal difference in purchasing and selling prices is very unfair to the country. It unstabilises the whole commerce and demoralises the purchasing power of the rupee. If the purchase price is at Rs. 42 or 43 and the selling price is 100 and over, it means that the purchasing power of paper rupee is reduced from Rs. 100 to Rs. 43, this is very demoralising and I do not know whether the duty which he has imposed will stabilise the prices or it will have tendency in the reverse direction. Finance Member may have in his mind some ingenious method by means of which the price of gold may be stabilised. I agree with him. I know his views he is in favour of bringing the sale price and the purchasing price at par or bringing them within very narrow limits. There I entirely agree but whether leaving this duty will bring it at par is a thing which I could not visualise at the moment. This duty has created a good deal of gambling in the bullion market of Bombay. The Honourable Member must have got the figures. I only hear from hearsay. I have no opportunity to find out the facts. A good deal of gambling in bullion market occurred on the 27th and 28th of February. I happened to be in Bombay soon after and I was told that a number of people knew the budget proposals particularly about gold and silver a day before. I have no evidence. I only rely on what I heard from persons who carry on business in Bullion. I hope that the Finance Member will collect the facts of transactions on the 27th and 28th and investigate the matter. He may gather facts and convince himself that this duty was known when this gambling was going on. I have pressed repeatedly and I repeat again that these gambling houses ought to be abolished because unless we abolish these gambling houses, there cannot be any commercial stability in this country, any stabilisation of prices and the purchasing power of the rupee cannot be stabilised. The three gambling houses are the Stock Exchange, the Bullion Exchange and the cotton markets. Unless these three gambling houses are abolished, it is absolutely impossible to have scientific commercial transactions in this country, because these people engaged in this business spend so much of their energy and money in gambling that honest people can

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enter into the field. If my friend and the Commerce Member do want that commerce should proceed on scientific lines, and stabilised in the country there should be some kind of security and these three gambling houses should be abolished and exploitation should be stopped. I tabled a motion to this effect but unfortunately I have not succeeded in the ballot. In fact during the last 15 years I could not draw a single Resolution in my name by ballot. I had to move Resolutions tabled in other names. I am very unfortunate in this respect.

Now, the Honourable Member in the course of his speech referred to the appointment of a taxation committee. This thing is needed after the war, because we must now proceed on certain principles. If the principles are accepted, then naturally there will be no grievance in taxation because people will know what the taxation would be and the method that we are adopting now is that we are taking up a few articles here and there. My friend the Finance Member is not so speculative as his predecessors had been. The taxation was done in such a way that no regard was paid to the law of diminishing returns. There ought to be some scientific basis behind taxation. After the Great War things have changed enormously. The recommendations of the Taxation Committee were made 20 years ago and those peoples no longer hold good. We must reconsider the whole thing.

Along with the Taxation Committee, there ought to be a Fiscal Commission also. The recommendations made by the Fiscal Commission in 1921 and 1922 are no longer correct at the present moment. Things have enormously changed. Their theory of protection has proved to be impracticable. It has proved to be a source of income to the capitalists and a great discouragement and nuisance to the consumers and the poorer people. These capitalists are exploiting the poor people. Protection once given could not be removed on account of vested interest. Look into the protection given to sugar and other articles and we find that it has worked only for the benefit of the mill owners and not for the benefit of the consumers of the country. Capitalists did not consider it as a loan but their rights. These two things require special consideration.

There should also be a radical change in the Companies Act. It is out of date and the Law Member and the Commerce Member may by co-operation change the Companies Act in a radical manner. Piecemeal legislation will not serve the purpose. The views have enormously changed. No person will favour the enormous profits given to the shareholders. Labour has been ignored and it is the duty of those who represent labour to bring this forward. If we want the labour in this country to be contented, then the piecemeal legislation that we have been having is no good. It only gives temporary relief and those who get it soon forget all about it. The relief must proceed on a substantial basis. There are only two methods by which you can solve this question. You should not employ labour for the production of wealth for a few. This is the principle of Communists; or you have the German method of having labour as business partners. The profits should be divided in a certain proportion between the capitalists and the workmen. The ratio should be fixed, so many annas and pies in the rupee. Capitalists have got the right to demand a bank rate of interest and a little more on account of the risks. Labour should have a living wage and whatever profit is left should be divided in a certain proportion among all the persons. If labour is convinced that they are partners in the business, they will cheerfully work and earn the money, even if it comes to working 16 or 18 hours a day. If I am asked to work 16 or 18 hours a day for my own benefit, I will not hesitate but if I am asked to work 18 hours a day in order that the earning may go to somebody else, then I will always say that I should work only 56 hours a week or 48 hours a week or 36 hours a week and so on, coming down and down. The only solution is that these persons should be business partners and earn the fruit of their labour. If this principle is accepted, then all the legislation that you pass will be back number and

they will be no longer required. I think this present Government or any Government of the future should adopt this bold step for the protection of labour.

Now, I come to the air service in this country. I am sorry the Honourable Secretary for Posts and Air is not present here, but I must say that he has completely failed to take lessons from the history of the development of Indian railways and learn something from the mistakes which the Indian railways have made, in this particular direction. The railways started with the same idea with which my Honourable friend Sir Gurunath Bewoor is now starting that you must begin with company management. That was the policy which the Railways laid down in 1854. All the time we continued this policy of company management till the Acworth Committee published its report in 1922. The opinion at that time was divided and the question of State control and State management of railways was decided by the casting vote of Mr. Acworth himself. He decided that we should take over the administration of Indian railways. The Government of India accepted that principle and now all the Indian railways have come under State management. By the experience of the past we have now come to the right conclusion, a conclusion which has been accepted by almost all the countries in the world that railways should be State managed. Similarly in the case of air, we have not come to the right conclusion. I do not know why we should adopt a retrograde step in the case of air service alone. This will have to be rectified soon. My friend Sir Gurunath Bewoor, did not benefit himself by the early mistakes of the Railway Department. The mistake has now been corrected. I ask why not adopt a similar policy and bring the air services under State management. As regards the through services which pass over India, we charge for the use of aerodrome and charge royalty on tickets purchased in this country on journey included or ended in this country. This is the principle which we ought to adopt. This is the principle which should be adopted by the future Government. It is unfortunate that company management is encouraged without the consent of the legislature. If these proposals for private air services were brought forward before the House, I am sure they would not be carried in this House, but all these were done by backdoor methods. Before I leave this Department of Sir Gurunath Bewoor, I must say one little thing and that is the encouragement given to capitalists like Tatas to make more and more profit, but in the case of the poor postal employees who are living under hard conditions, they have not even given sufficient relief. The subordinate are paid very low and this requires to be considered.

Now, a word about the Labour Department. Really the Labour Department is not interested in the welfare of labour. This attitude of theirs became exceedingly clear when we put questions about labour in P. W. D. workshops at Aligarh this morning. Last time I mentioned this and I mention it again that it is a mistake to tag P. W. D. to the Department of Labour. Department of Labour—is the department of service. P. W. Department is a Department of profit. No connection between the two. I hope even the present Government will realise their mistakes and will separate the two Departments. We also pointed out on the floor of the House the other day that the work in C. P. W. D. passes through the Secretariat of the Labour Department where the representation of minorities is nil. I pointed out several cases in which the Muslims are handicapped on account of absence of representation. I drew the attention about the Executive officer, I drew the attention about appointment of the Superintending Engineer, I drew their attention to the appointment of S. D. O's. I am sorry that this particular Department has nobody's confidence. No one likes the way in which money is squandered, the way in which culprits have been let off. I just draw attention to the two Committees which sat on this point, one is the Prior Committee. The other was appointed 20 years ago. They admit that this Department is not honest, that it is a corrupt Department, but those people who were corrupt had all gone away and

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therefore we cannot take any action against them. Very little has been done about the culprits.

Now, a word about the post war development. I am not satisfied with the post war development. We have not been taken into confidence. This question was never brought before the Assembly, this question was not brought before the Standing Finance Committee, and yet we are asked to vote large sums of money. We do not know why we should vote for them. We were not taken into confidence. We do not know what happens. Policy committees were appointed, and in these committees a majority of people were big businessmen. The Government of India had no control over the businessmen, while the businessmen control the Government of India. These businessmen made certain recommendations for their own benefit. We only provide money for their advantage. The interest of the poor people, the interest of the cottage industries, the interest of the consumers never taken into consideration. They are always overlooked in all our post war developments. I said before, and I repeat again, that whenever you plan any scheme of post war development, the first thing to be considered is how many persons could be employed and what relief could be given to poor people. This is the first point we ought to consider. But this has never been done. What is generally considered is the dividend which any undertaking will pay to the capitalists, that is the only question on which the issue is decided. If it does not pay good dividend it is said to be uneconomic even if it employs large number of workers. But they never consider the question of the number of employments. The cottage industries are left out altogether, because they don't give enough dividend to capitalists. For given capital it would employ very larger number of workers. Unfortunately in all these planning committees that we have formed, in not even a single one the interest of the consumer is considered. In not a single one have I seen the interest of the cottage industries is considered, in not a single one have I seen the interest of the poor people is taken into consideration. The capitalists really know only one thing in what particular manner enormous profits could be derived. They derived huge profits during the war, they want they should continue to derive more and more profits even after the war. That is the only principle on which all the recommendations of these planning committees are based. This is a policy which the legislature would not like to endorse either now or in future.

Now, Sir, a word with regard to trade in skins and hides. I said on the cut motion and I repeat again that this is a trade which has been most unfairly treated by the Government, and this is evident from the fact that the price index of this particular commodity is not in keeping with the price index of other commodities. It varies between 137 and 147 whereas price index of wheat is 378. There are two fundamental defects which Government should remove as early as possible. One is the present system of monopoly purchase, i.e., two business firms of U. K. and U. S. A. are the sole purchasers to the exclusion of others. Monopoly purchase may be justified in war time because all possible resources must be directed to the successful prosecution of the war, but there is no reason to continue it after the war. The second thing is that the purchasers should not fix the price; it should be fixed on an economical basis, and the price index shows that that has not been done. The question of hides and skins requires serious consideration. These defects should be removed as soon as possible. It applies not only to raw hides but also to half-tanned hides. Some leather firms use the position to their own advantage and make fat dividends even after the war and therefore they are advising Government in the wrong direction. The time has now come that mentality should change.

The monopoly of purchase about hides and skins also applies to tea. It is unfortunate that the British Government has the sole authority to purchase tea

from India; they take the best tea to London and leave the poorer quality for us. I am fond of tea myself and I know how to convert poor tea by small process into good tea. But the price level of tea is 155 and of coffee is 508 which shows that the prices which they are given to tea cultivators are not economic prices.

Now I come to education. The country has accepted the recommendations of the Central Advisory Board of Education known as Sargent Report. But there are some lacunae therein and unless they are filled up the report will not be so popular. I do not refer to the financial aspect because these and many other proposals of post war development are in the same position. But if money is to be found, I hope it will be found for education first and also for health and agriculture. But with regard to the lacunae there are three of them; the first is about the mode of selection. At the age of 11 you have to select boys for high schools, other to remain in the ordinary board schools. The method of selection may work adversely in case of the depressed classes, who are not on a high level of mental equipment and culture. So that the educated people will be more educated and the less educated will further degenerate. That is a principle that I do not like; we should devise a principle by which we not only raise the intellectual classes but also the depressed classes who need education most. So here they have provided for the requirements of the better classes and not for the intellectually lower classes. The second lacuna is that we have not provided for religious instruction. In England and other places religious education has been accepted as a necessary part of general education; that principle should be adopted in India also where the people are certainly more religious than in the west.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, does my Honourable friend recommend the provision of religious instruction at State expense or at the expense of the religious community concerned?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: England has agreed to the principle of its being undertaken at State expense, and the same principle should be accepted in India.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: Does my Honourable friend realise that this has been done by those religious institutions giving up a great deal of their freedom. They have now almost become State-managed institutions.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am talking of the system of compulsory education. Whenever there is compulsory education most of them will come under State management and religious instruction will be necessary.

Then with regard to teachers, they have not made adequate provision about their training. Another important thing is what should be done about transitional arrangements, how should the object be achieved stage by stage, in five years, ten years or longer period. It is very desirable that these lacunae should be filled up. These are defects on account of which it has not been very popular. I know the Central Advisory Board is at work on these points; I hope they will remove these defects.

I will next draw attention to the Grants Committee. I pressed the importance of this question about eight years ago. Whenever this question is raised about grants to universities directly under the control of the Government of India, they say they wait for the recommendations of the Grants Committee. Year before last I pressed this; we were asked to await the report of this Committee. Then 1944 passed away. In 1945 we were told that the Committee has met; that year also passed away. Now 1946 has come; the Grants Committee has been appointed but its report is not there. I do not know if the Finance Member has confidentially received anything; I have not heard

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anything about it. The Grants Committee never went even to the universities on which they are going to report.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. O. Chatterjee: Is the Honourable Member satisfied with the present Grants Committee or its terms of reference?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffar (Bombay Southern Division; Muhammadan Rural): Does the Honourable Member belong to the Treasury Benches?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If this Grants Committee works in the same way as the Grants Committee in the United Kingdom it will be very useful. I recommended it in my book in 1929.

I will next deal with the controls. These controls may be all right in war time, when we need all the resources of the country for the successful prosecution of the war, but why should you continue them now?

An Honourable Member: The third world war is coming.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then we will have them again. Sir, it is certain that these controls raise the price-levels, and so when you remove them prices are sure to come down. That should be done quickly.

As regards corruption, some time ago the Standing Finance Committee had a special meeting to consider the question of corruption in the Supply Department; and it should now deal with the problem of corruption in the matter of all articles which are subject to control by the various Departments of Government. If the Honourable Member who has spoken about controls has referred to corruption. This question should now be tackled by the S. F. C.

Then I refer to co-ordination between road, rail, air and water. This co-ordination has not been set up. We are demanding grants for various services without having any scheme behind us. So I hope the Transport Member will look into the problem of co-ordination.

Then I come to death duties about which a Bill has been introduced. It will be bitterly opposed by Muslims as it is against Islamic law and it will be an interference with our religion. The moment a man dies his property is transferred to other people according to shariat and you have no right to deprive these people of a part of their share. The interference with religion will strongly be resented. We must have some kind of a good programme for roads. Unfortunately under the influence of Roorkee engineers we are now having instead of straight roads, roads in the shape of S. I have calculated that we have an extra length of half a furlong for every mile of road constructed by these Roorkee engineers. This means additional capital expenditure, additional

travelling for the public, and further we will have to spend large sums of money—probably about ten crores—to correct the follies of Roorkee engineers. All the roads made by them are zigzag, in the shape of S. When I asked some of the engineers, the reply was 'we want to change the perspective; if we have straight roads, the perspective will not change', this argument may have force for pedestrians and users of bullock carts! They are great nuisance to motorists. Well, we have to correct the follies of Roorkee engineers.

Then I come to the Bhole Committee Report which has now been published. I hope that some action will now be taken to improve our health, and to give us more doctors, hospitals and more medical colleges.

Mr. K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division; Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, as my Honourable friend, Sir Zia Uddin, was speaking, Mr. Ahmed Jaffar made a speculative interjection as to whether we are not going to face a third war in the near future. I have a shrewd suspicion that my Honourable friend the Finance Member is really apprehensive that we may have to provide for a third war very soon. I do not see how I can explain otherwise his anxiety to extend the so-called Financial Settlement that determines the respective financial liabilities of the Government of India and His Majesty's Government

in regard to defence expenditure. I cannot understand how he proposes to extend a settlement that was definitely intended to last during the war time, and devised a rough and ready method as a mere war expedient. My Honourable friend thinks that there is some confusion of thought and misunderstanding over this question. I very much think that my Honourable friend, in the extreme rush of his work, could not look up the debates that took place in this House in the past years over this controversy. My Honourable friend says that after all it is a single issue that is involved: The settlement proceeds to divide the responsibility of financing the war expenditure between two Governments on the basis, on the one hand, of what is India's liability, and, on the other, what is the liability of Great Britain. And he says, "after all, when you accept this formula it is only a question of a few accounting rules that have to operate for the purpose of working out the exact figures representing the liability of each party." Sir, the matter goes, I am afraid, very much further than that, and the objections that have been urged on behalf of the Opposition in past years are of a really fundamental character. Sir, under the financial settlement, the defence expenditure chargeable to Indian revenues is made up principally of three elements: First, a fixed annual sum representing the normal net effective costs of the Army in India under peace conditions, and a lump figure of thirty-six crores seventy-six lakhs and odd was adopted for the purpose of fixing this particular liability—there are no details available on the subject, but

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): At Pre-war costs.

Mr. K. O. Neogy: I know this was worked out on the basis of pre-war costs, but at the present moment, it represents a lump sum adjustment between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India. The second item is a variable item which is added to this figure of thirty-six crores and odd, as representing the extra cost due to increase in prices. This year the figure stands at seventeen crores forty-five lakhs and ninety-four thousand. Now, Sir, we come to the third item: cost of such war measures as can be regarded as purely Indian liabilities by reason of their having been undertaken by India in her own interests, and the figure in the present year's budget under this stands at Rs. 1,79,81,89,000. There is, besides, a fourth item which is to be found under the head 'Defence Services—Noneffective', and is responsible for very nearly eleven crores of rupees this year. In addition to this there is the capital provision which I need not refer to in this context.

Apart from the simplicity in accounting, one merit, in fact the principal merit, that was claimed by my Honourable friend's predecessor on one occasion for this financial settlement was that it would limit India's financial liability in connection with the war to such measures as are within her financial capacity and are taken for the local defence of India. This basic assumption has never been accepted by the people of India. In no sense can it be said that the defence expenditure that has been fixed under the financial settlement is within the financial capacity of India. Sir, I call my Honourable friend himself to bear witness to the financial capacity of India, and I need not do anything more than refer him to his own words which describe the economic condition of India today: "Poverty, squalor, ill-health, illiteracy, under-nourishment, and under-employment". If these results have been achieved under a system of administration, which includes the administration of defence, can it be claimed by my Honourable friend that whatever amount India has been made to pay in the past on account of the defence services really is within her financial capacity as was claimed by my Honourable friend's predecessor? The financial settlement cannot be allowed to continue any longer. It has been allowed to continue sufficiently longer, because it was expected to operate during the period of the war, and any further continuance of it would be a continued wrong.

Now, I come to the question of the procedure for the allocation of the expenditure under this financial settlement. We have in the past protested

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against the facile assumption that no injustice is done in the process of the allocation of expenditure under this settlement. I very much hope that my Honourable friend will not repeat the old argument, namely, that it is the Commander-in-Chief who decides as regards whether the particular figure is needed for the defence of India. It is humanly impossible for the Commander-in-Chief to look into every item of expenditure. I take it that some subordinates of his, who are authorised to act in his name, has it in their power to decide whether any particular expenditure should be charged to Indian revenue or not. I further hope that my Honourable friend will not repeat the argument that we have in the Auditor-General a watch-dog of the financial interests of India. After all the limitations under which audit has to work are not unknown to us, and I do not like that the Auditor-General should be dragged into controversial politics over this matter.

We have demanded the appointment of a committee of this House to go into the defence expenditure and scrutinise all the various items and satisfy itself as regards the justice and equity of the settlement, as also the accuracy and the propriety of the methods of allocation. Sir, this demand of ours has not been accepted, though in the case of the British House of Commons a committee on National Expenditure was allowed to go into the details of war expenditure a few years back and we have a number of reports of that committee in the library of this House, indicating that even during the war the non-official members of the House of Commons were entitled to information of a detailed character which has been withheld from us on grounds of security. Reference perhaps will be made by my Honourable friend, if he agrees to reply to these points, to the fact that year after year we have the Public Accounts Committee reporting upon the financial settlement although in a very cursory manner. I have gone into all the reports of the Public Accounts Committee as also the Military Accounts Committee on which that committee bases its report on this particular subject. It is definitely clear that neither of these committees was allowed the chance of examining actual cases which might have arisen—I mean the border-line cases in which doubts might have arisen in the minds either of the military authorities or of the audit authorities. My Honourable friend, if he goes into those reports, will find that all that they say is that “on the basis of the statements made before us, we find that the procedure of allocation is working satisfactorily”. It does not go any further. They do not get that opportunity which we want for a committee of this House to examine the propriety of the various individual charges that are levied on India for the purpose of defence.

Now, Sir, there is another point which I should like to mention. The defence of India is certainly a subject in which we are all interested, and I maintain that it is the right and the duty of Indian soldiers to defend their motherland. It is also—it should be also,—their exclusive privilege to do so. But what do we find, during the war in particular and also as a matter of general practice? We have a number of white soldiers maintained during peace times, and their number was increased to a record figure as was testified boastfully on one occasion by Mr. Churchill. He said: “Well, we have to remember that never before in the history of India we had so many white soldiers as now.” Now, Sir, we do not need white soldiers to defend us, and if they are here it must be as a part of an imperial strategy or for reasons of a political character. And when we know that a British soldier costs several times what an Indian soldier costs, from the purely financial point of view, the financial liability for the defence of India in this matter should be measured in terms of Indian soldiers being maintained for the defence of India, and the difference between the costs of Indian soldiers and the British soldiers should in all conscience be borne by the British Exchequer.

Mr. President: The House will now adjourn.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Half Past Two with Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan) in the Chair.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Sir I would just say a word on the subject of the financial settlement before I proceed to another subject. The Honourable Member in his speech wanted to emphasise that it was Whitehall and not Delhi that wanted to terminate the financial settlement at the end of the current financial year. I think I can claim to speak on behalf of this side of the House when I say that in taking this decision the Government acted contrary to public opinion in the country. The Government should have given this House a chance to reconsider the terms on which the defence expenditure should be shared between this country and Great Britain, and the Honourable Member has no justification in denying that opportunity to this House merely on the ground that it would have placed a very heavy burden on his staff. Administrative inconvenience is no excuse for ignoring a public demand of this character.

Sir, another relic of the war is the lend-lease arrangement, which is coming up for consideration in America in a few weeks time. The Honourable Member has announced the decision of the Government to depute certain officers to settle our lend-lease accounts with America. This is a very complicated question, and in the absence of full details I can only deal with a few broad points bearing on the subject.

Sir, lend-lease aid which was granted by America with effect from 1941 was not intended to be of the nature of a debit-credit arrangement. It was made definitely clear by the President of the United States in several statements of his that he made to the Congress, as also by Mr. Stettinus (Junior) in his book on Lend Lease, that it was a sort of co-operative effort, under which the United States' Administration were to help the other United Nations with all the materials that were needed for the purpose of the prosecution of the war, not in exchange for money or for goods necessarily, because I find that among the reciprocal assistance which the Government of the United States expected of countries that benefited by the lend-lease arrangement was even “information”, and it has been repeatedly stated by those in authority in the United States administration that

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammiadan): Sir, on a point of order neither the Honourable the Finance Member nor anyone representing his department is in the House when such important issues are discussed.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): I am taking notes, Sir, on his behalf.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: But then the agreements that were executed in pursuance of this policy, apart from ensuring mutual assistance, also committed the various governments who were parties to those agreements to certain economic policies that had to be followed in future—policies that were first of all adumbrated in the Atlantic Charter and reaffirmed in these documents. In the case of India there is no formal document of any kind. In the case of certain countries of the British Empire there were notes exchanged and no formal documents were executed; but a formal document does exist between the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It has been declared in this House on behalf of the Government that although there may not be any written instrument to indicate the conditions of the lend-lease arrangements and reverse lend-lease obligation undertaken by India, India is going to be treated exactly on the same footing as the United Kingdom in regard to the terms of the settlement. The justification which was put forward by Government for not having negotiated a formal agreement between India and the United States of America was that acceptance of the economic clauses in the preambles of those agreements might have had an embarrassing effect upon India in regard to the question of her future fiscal and economic policy.

[Mr. K. C. Neogy]

I have before me the relevant clause of the Mutual Aid Agreement, where those countries that entered into that agreement formally had to pledge themselves in favour of the elimination of all forms of discriminatory treatment in international commerce and reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers and, in general, the attainment of all the economic objectives set forth in the joint declaration which goes by the name of the Atlantic Charter. Now, Sir, although we have not subscribed to this particular form of declaration, it so happens that there is a formal agreement between India and Canada called the Indo-Canadian Mutual Aid Agreement dated November 1944. In one of the clauses of that agreement I find that there is more or less a substantial reproduction of the clause that I have already referred to in the other agreement, and India therefore stands committed to the following principle: Adoption of measures to promote employment, the production and consumption of goods (harmless in their own way), expansion of commerce through appropriate international agreements or commercial policy with the object of contributing to the attainment of the economic objectives set forth in the Atlantic Charter. On the one hand we are assured that we have not committed ourselves to any declaration of policy in regard to the economic future of India by not having entered into a formal agreement with the U. S. A., and on the other we find that we stand committed to the basic formula of the Atlantic Charter on which the subsequent agreements proceed. I should like to know whether the Atlantic Charter really provides a clue to our fiscal policy, the fiscal policy of India.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: (Nominated Non-Official): May I remind the Honourable Member that on several occasions in this House from Government Benches it was definitely stated that India was not bound with regard to that fiscal clause and an assurance was given from the Government Benches on more than one occasion in reply to the Honourable Member and myself?

Mr. K. C. Neogy: It was a vague assurance that was given. The present position is that India is a party to an agreement, one of the clauses of which I have read out and which referred to the Atlantic Charter.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Did not the Honourable Member draw attention to it at that time, to which he received a satisfactory reply?

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I got a very evasive reply. I am referring to this fact, because the question of the settlement of the lend-lease accounts is coming up very soon and in that connection also this very issue is likely to arise, as I shall show presently.

I was referring to the Atlantic Charter and the relevant economic clause, which reads:

"Further the enjoyment by all states, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access on equal terms to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity."

To this we definitely stand committed by virtue of the Indo-Canadian trade agreement. My excuse for referring to this aspect of the question at some length is that when the lend-lease and reciprocal aid accounts between the U. S. A. and the Government of the United Kingdom were settled, along with other financial proposals of the United Kingdom, it was stated that in arriving at this settlement both the Governments had taken full cognisance of the benefits already received by them in the defeat of their common enemies. So far so good. But then, what follows is very important. "They have also taken full cognisance of the general obligations assumed by them in Article 7 of the Mutual Aid Agreement of the 23rd February 1942", and the understandings agreed upon, that is to say with regard to commercial policy. So, it is not merely the reverse Lend-Lease aid that was given by the United Kingdom Government to the United States of America, that was taken into account for purposes of settlement of the bill, but it was also the consideration that the United Kingdom Government stands committed to the carrying out of the obligations contained in Article 7 of the Mutual Aid Agreement, from which

I have already read out a portion. Now, Sir, I should like to know what instructions the Government of India are giving to their officers in regard to the settlement of this vexed question. In this connection I should like to say that on different occasions, in very solemn language the President definitely declined to consider Lend-Lease and Reverse Lend-Lease as being of the nature of a financial transaction at all. This is what the President said on one occasion:

"Lend-Lease and Reverse Lend-Lease are not a system of debits and credits. They involve neither gifts, nor loans, nor transfers of money. Lend-Lease and Reverse Lend-Lease are not two sides of a financial transaction. The system is a system of combined war policy."

On one occasion Mr. Churchill himself made a declaration that the Lend-Lease policy of the United States represented the most unsordid transactions in the history of the world. But this was not the opinion of that perfect accountant, Sir Jeremy Raisman, who year in and year out was making provision under a suspense head for the price of each article of Lend-Lease goods received in India on the basis of cash transactions, and last year he took the trouble of assuring this House that our assistance given by way of Reverse Lend-Lease is not going to exceed the assistance which we are likely to get from the United Kingdom by way of Lend-Lease.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The United States.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I beg your pardon. The United States of America. As a matter of fact there is a great deal of confusion, in regard to this matter.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Not on this side.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I do not know whether the Honourable Member has been able to disentangle the very tangled accounts as between His Majesty's Government and the Government of India in regard to Lend-Lease aid.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I am very glad to hear that. But then, strict accounting is a thing which was never attempted even by the United Kingdom Government as being too complicated and too unpractical a task.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not want to reply to that now, but I think the Honourable Member's assumption is completely wrong. It was at the express wish of the United States Government that an attempt was made on the part of the United Kingdom Government or India to evaluate in terms of money the services rendered on either side. If you look at the book you will see it contains my photograph.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I was going to show it to the Honourable Member. This is what I find in Stettin's book:

"As Reverse Lend-Lease meant service as well as goods it is impossible to keep accounts." It is the opinion of Stettin who was in charge of Lend-Lease administration.

"For Reverse Lend-Lease, goods or services, in battle conditions, there has never been any account at all."

Do I take it that my friend has attempted to do what Stettin considered impossible?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Unfortunately the administration of the United States is like the administration in India, that is subject to a command called "Congress". And it was Congress who insisted upon the administration doing something that they had no intention at the beginning of doing.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I go by the statements made by the President who, I take it, has the support of the Congress.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: He had to withdraw from his original position as a result of the pressure brought upon him by the Congress just as this Government takes notice and yields to the view of the Congress.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Let me then come to the treatment which Great Britain has received at the hands of the United States of America, because I am

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entitled to claim the same principle being adopted in the case of India for the settlement of Lend-Lease accounts.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Certainly.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: The total Lend-Lease aid from the United States to the United Kingdom was estimated at 20 billion dollars and Return Lend-Lease from the United Kingdom Government to the United States was of the order of 5 billion dollars. Now, how did the United States of America settle this account which left a debit balance of 15 billion dollars against Great Britain? From the information that is available to us it appears that the debit balance of 15 billion dollars had been settled by the payment of 650 million dollars only.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: May I interrupt the Honourable Member once again in the interests of the debates? There is a complete misconception. I know it was referred to by Mr. Manu Subedar. This 650 million dollars had no relation at all to the difference between the 20 billion dollars supplied by Lend-Lease and the 5 billion dollars supplied by the United Kingdom Government in respect of Reverse Lend-Lease. It had relation merely to the amount, the value, of the articles left over at the end of the war.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I was going to say that.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I will just finish this. In paragraph 3 of the Joint Statement regarding settlement for Lend-Lease and Reciprocal Aid, the adjustment between the Governments of the U. S. A. and the U. K., I find this 650 million dollars mentioned in paragraph 8. I was coming to the point that of the 650 million dollars at which the net claims have been settled a sum of 118 million dollars, or one-fifth of the total, is in respect of supplies which were already in the pipe line when V. J. brought the Lend-Lease system to an end; and the remainder, 532 million dollars, has been reached by computing the net value of the supplies previously furnished under Lend-Lease and still consumed on V. J. Day.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is the point.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I find my friend was unnecessarily impatient. I was going to place all the facts. It comes to this that in regard to articles supplied to the United Kingdom on Lend-Lease basis, those that had been used up to the V. J. Day were not charged for.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is right.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: My Honourable friend agrees with me entirely. Would my Honourable friend see to it that an equally generous settlement is arrived at in respect of India

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: As the Americans say, you bet.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: And that there may not be any commitment with regard to the future economic policy of India, and that no reference to that particular point is made in the course of any settlement? My fear is that there may be an attempt to introduce this rather extraneous element into any agreement that takes place in settlement of our accounts on the lines of what I find in the Joint Statement which was executed between the two Governments of U. K. and U. S. A. If my Honourable friend is in a position to give me that assurance.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, unqualified and unrestricted.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: I should have liked to know from the Honourable Member as to what our economic policy is at the present moment. But I have no time—I should have liked to go into that question.

Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, when the budget for 1946-47 was presented to us, some of us thought that this budget had brought some improvements on the previous budgets; but when this Finance Bill came before us, we found no improvements at all. Taxes on postage, matches and salt and other things which affect the poor people are the same as before. Shortage of cloth is another difficulty which affects the poor people a great deal. I have seen in many houses of middle class that the ladies remain inside and cannot come out as they have not got sufficient cloth to cover themselves. I do not understand why the controls are not removed from the cloth now, when the mills are making enough cloth in this country. Why cloth is exported outside India when it is not sufficient for the people here, is not quite clear. There would have been some satisfaction if there had been provision in the budget to sell grain at a cheap price to the people who are poor; but nothing has been done. The ration of wheat which has been reduced to two chataks is not sufficient at all for keeping the health of the people in proper order.

The Government of India does not pay any regard for the preservation of the health of the poor people. Recently, about 2½ years ago, a committee called the Health Survey and Development Committee was formed, and the committee after about two years submitted a report; but we do not find any provision in the budget about any of their recommendations. Medical aid and pure water supply are necessities to keep the health of the poor man in India. But nothing is being done. There are about 1,400 towns in India, out of which only about 250 have got tested and piped water supply. After so many years of British rule, only about 4½ per cent of the population of India gets pure water supply, with the result that a lot of people in many places in the country die by using bad quality of water. The report says it will take about 35 years to give water supply to the 1,400 towns and other places in India. What is the good of such a report when nothing can be done immediately? I will suggest that the water supply throughout all the towns in India can be made available within ten years if they start water supply here like the water supplies in European and in England. Water supply is run by companies everywhere in the world. Why should we not adopt it here, so that pure water may be available to the people without any expenditure either on the part of the Government or of the municipal administration? The usual way of water supply starting in this country is that the municipalities construct their water works with the aid of the Government—about 50 per cent and the balance they provide; but as they never have sufficient money at their disposal, they are unable to make a start with the result that all these municipalities which should have water works in their areas are unable to start them. In the United Provinces several years ago, legislation was made which authorised the municipalities to grant licenses for waterworks, just on the lines of the electric supply companies. I see no reason why this is not done throughout the whole of India. The Central Government should make some legislation and ask the Provincial Governments to do it accordingly; and I am sure with the capital now available in India many companies will come forward who can take over these water works and run it with great efficiency. There is another feature of these water supply companies. There will be no taxes in the cities. At present where the supply of water is started in a municipality, they have to levy a tax called water tax; but with these companies, everybody in the towns will be free to use water according to his requirements without any tax, but will pay just as the electric supply bill is paid, that is, by measurement; and I am sure it will be much cheaper than what it is costing now. There are two companies already in the U.P. I think the water supply in those two places is ample and the charges are very moderate; and no responsibility is cast either on the municipality or the Government to make arrangements. They make their own arrangements. There was some little difficulty during the war in these two places on account

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of short supply of pumping machinery and other fittings, but now that the war is over, we hope the position of such companies if started in India will be quite safe.

I want to say a few words about the budget which is presented always to this House. The budget which consists of about 78 Departments and which is made by the heads of the different Departments in two or three months' time is brought before this House and discussed and passed within ten to fourteen days' time. I cannot understand how the members can go through this long budget in such a short period. I think it will be much better if every Department consults this House during the framing of the budget, so that expenditure may be curtailed and revised accordingly. I find a lot of departments are being created in Delhi, without any regard to the expenditure; because the Government knows that any extra expenditure may be met by levying taxes. I attended a meeting of the Standing Committee for Roads the other day and found that a sum of about Rs. 48,000 was provided for the employment of two mechanical engineers. I asked what the mechanical engineers are required for in roads. I got the reply that they were going to make arrangements for the purchase of road rollers. I find it a very strange thing that mechanical engineers are required to purchase road rollers and on a salary of about half a lakh of rupees a year. This is a great discredit to the P.W.D. engineers who use these road rollers. I think they were quite able up to this time to make purchases of these road rollers themselves. The specification for these road rollers is always given by the companies who supply them and I do not know what these mechanical engineers who have been appointed will do by their suggestions. About the Central P.W.D. I do not know what are the conditions in Delhi but I find outside Delhi in many sub-divisions and divisions advertisements for contracts are made just only in name and notice for small

3 P.M. works are put on the notice boards only a day or two before. I saw the other day an advertisement in the 'Hindustan Times' for a work of about half a lakh for which tenders were called by the Central P.W.D. at Dehra Dun for a work in Sitapur near Lucknow. The notice was published on the 14th, that will reach Lucknow or Sitapur on the 15th or 16th and the same date has been fixed for the tenders. How is this possible? Why this money is being wasted in advertisement, I do not understand. I have got another instance of a sub-division in Allahabad, of the Central P.W.D. who are supposed to send notices for publishing to other offices at Allahabad on the 31st October for calling for tenders for a small job on the 6th November. This tender notice goes to the office of the Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department who was supposed to put it on the notice board on the 6th November, the date of the tender. This is only cheating and showing favouritism to some contractors who are friendly with the Engineer in charge. I think these things must be corrected. Small contractors are being harassed every day by the Sub-Divisional Officers and others and no work is given to them. Now, the name of the contractor who made a report of this incident to the Executive Engineer has been struck off. I hope the Government will look into these things and make corrections. With these remarks, I resume my seat.

Mr. R. C. Morris (Madras European): Sir, in rising to support the Finance Bill, I wish to touch briefly on a few points which, to my mind, either require clarification or merit some observations. Sir, the office of the Examiner of Capital Issues was started as a war time measure, presumably to force investments in Government loans; as part of a fight against inflation; and for prohibiting the use of funds in the hands of the public for unproductive purposes. The control is now being continued as a peace time measure for other purposes, in connection with which we have had no clear statement by Government.

We have heard from the Finance Member of his proposal to set up a National Investment Board but in the meantime the Control of Capital Issues

is putting a brake on the introduction of new projects and the mobilisation of capital for worth-while industrial undertakings. We realise that we are living in a partial socialistic State, but we feel we should have a clear Government statement of policy in this respect; for how long is this control to continue and for what reason is continuance still considered necessary?

Then, Sir, I must deplore the continued lack of publicity in connection with the disposals of surplus British and American Army stores. When are the lists of such stores to be published? My constituents are interested in stores such as agricultural tools, wire, piping, electrical equipment, medical supplies, clothing, garage equipment, rubber hose, Army Transport carts, belting, wireless equipment, Field telephones and hardware. No information has been forthcoming as to what quantities of these will be available to the public, prices, condition and delivery points. I think I am correct in saying that after the last war the Ordnance Department organised the sales and publicity of surplus army stores in a business like manner and dealt direct with the purchasing public. In another two or three months the monsoon rains will commence and I can imagine that this will not improve the condition of the vehicles parked at Chabua in Assam.

Then, Sir, I have received several complaints over the delay in dealing with applications for import licences, and provision of permits, by the Department of the Chief Controller of Imports. In two cases applicants were not favoured with their licences for three months, and then only when the matter was taken up in Delhi by myself in person. Such delays cause the greatest inconvenience, and often serious financial loss. In one case, the commodity applied for was available in India, but this did not prevent a delay of three months in the granting of the permit to the applicant.

Now, Sir, the total cut passed in the Demand, by the Department of Information and Broadcasting in respect of Films' Research and Reference, Field Publicity and Arts can only result in a curtailment of the present income received by St. Dunstons' (who do wonderful work for the blind in India) and other charitable institutions, whose activities have been publicised by the excellent films produced by the Department. Such films being home to the public, in a manner nothing else can, the good work of institutions that depend largely on public subscriptions for their income, and it is a matter for great regret that this form of publicity is now to be shut down.

Sir, in my maiden speech in this House on the food situation, I touched on the necessity of increasing the production of foodgrains in existing cultivated areas. I trust that the suggestion to have agricultural experimental stations in every taluk or tehsil will be carried out. In addition, seed from improved strains of cereal crops should be widely distributed. The training of a large number of suitable men to run such Government experimental stations should be commenced without delay, and the salaries offered should be such as to attract the right type of individuals. Both Madras and the South Indian States have done a lot of good work in producing improved types of cereals, but much more remains to be done.

Sir, I should like to know what is proposed to be done to speed up the delivery of inland air mails. The position is at present farcical in that letters posted by air in South India are taking as long as, and frequently longer than ordinary mail to be delivered in the North and vice versa. Why is this? Surely the reason can only be that the ground work of the postal Department in this respect is defective.

Then, Sir, we should like to know the scope and value of the Botanical and Zoological Surveys of India for which demands have been passed. I believe these Surveys were suspended during the war; but it is hoped that the valuable researches, which have contributed beneficially to the field of economic biology in its relation to agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries will now be continued. I understand, Sir, that the Royal Asiatic Society submitted proposals to Government regarding the development of these scientific surveys

[Mr. R. C. Morris]

as part of a post war reconstruction policy, and we should like to learn what Government has decided about this matter. I believe the Royal Asiatic Society also recommended the establishment of a Central National Museum of Natural Sciences in Delhi, and it will be interesting to learn whether Government have arrived at any decision on this matter also.

I have mentioned, Sir, Scientific Research Work on Fish, and my Colleague, Mr. Lawson, in his speech on the 19th stressed the necessity of Government devoting proper attention to this very important side of food supply. Why is it that the supply of dried fish, which was, some years ago, available for all working classes, is now in such short supply? It is known that the Japanese working classes lived largely on fish. It is not necessary to wait until we have adequate cold storages in the country—let the Fisheries Department get down to it, and encourage the production of salted and sun dried fish, as was produced at very cheap rates in past years. Thousands of tons of this cheap food supply should be made available to the public—and the assistance of the Royal Indian Navy, and utilisation of all their suitable craft, should be made possible in order to achieve this. Sir, I support the Bill.

Mr. H. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): Sir, I would not have got up to encroach on the valuable time of this House, but I was rather taken unawares after a late lunch yesterday when I was told by our vigilant Government Whip that my Honourable friend Seth Govind Das who unfortunately is not present here at the moment thought fit to use the Finance Bill as a stick to hit my Department with. I rather expected Sir, that particularly in view of the economic war on which we are about to embark, my Honourable friend would vote the sinews of war for our Honourable Finance Member without uttering a word. I say this, Sir, particularly because, thanks mainly to the energy and persistence of my Honourable friend, the subject of the interests of Indians overseas has been discussed quite threadbare at the present session of the House. I recall, Sir, that there have been two adjournment motions, and a longish preliminary discussion when the Honourable the President was pleased to allow on an adjournment motion which was subsequently disallowed and a very large number of questions including a good few short notice questions from my Honourable friend himself. I think, Sir, in the course of these discussions I have placed enough material before the House to enable the House to judge what exactly the present Government have been able to do for safeguarding the interests of Indians overseas. I think, Sir, I have made out very amply that the only effective weapon open to us, namely, strong protests and representations has been used by us, every time there has been any effort in any part of the Commonwealth to prejudice the position of Indians. I expected some appreciation of all that the Government have done, and account of which I have given the House in the course of these discussions. I do feel that the charge of imbecility is not justified. I should say, if I may, that it is most ungenerous, if not unfair. In dealing with the question of Indians overseas, Sir, it is perhaps not realised that these problems are very old. Indian immigration into overseas countries started nearly a century ago. We have a great deal of bad legacy to tackle. There is no magic wand with which we can evolve solutions of these problems overnight. Sir, it is easy enough to carry out implicitly and automatically the suggestions made by the public for improving the position of our countrymen abroad, but our countrymen often forget that these Indians are settled down irrevocably in those lands and the Government of the day whatever may be its composition is to bear a continuing obligation and responsibility for the welfare of these Indians. The Government must therefore weigh very carefully the implications of any measures advocated by the public. That, Sir, always means time. We have got to ascertain the possible repercussions of any retaliatory action taken by us on the local Indian community. That again,

Sir, takes time. My Honourable friend wanted to know whether we are delaying the recall of the High Commissioner with a view to enabling him to make a start in passive resistance. Talking merely as a historian and I hope these words would be noted, I feel that my Honourable friend could not have made much allowance for the sentiments of his countrymen in South Africa. He lost sight of the obvious historical fact that passive resistance was a South African Indian invention and therefore if our countrymen do have occasion to use that weapon, they would not look for my Honourable friend's guidance. Sir, I have said that so far we have always used betimes the weapons available to us. My Honourable friend has not suggested any other weapon which might be effective immediately and which is open to us to use. I said the other day that this is a matter in respect of which there is a great deal of unanimity between the Government of the country and the public; and if that is admitted I think it stands to reason that some discretion must be allowed to Government, dissatisfied as the House may be with its composition, to determine the nature and pace of further action to be taken in dealing with this matter. We have only wanted time; we have never said that the High Commissioner would not be recalled. We have taken, such measures as we thought were timely and we can assure the House that we shall take further measures. These measures will be taken to record our maximum protest against the action of the South African Government. I should like to know from the Honourable Member what other really effective measures he suggests. I think Government have done all that they could do in the circumstances of the case.

I will now deal with one or two points of detail to which the Honourable Member referred. There are three grievances of Indians in East Africa. I gave full details of these grievances and of the action taken by this Government for remedying them, in the course of the adjournment motion. My Honourable friend seemed to suggest that in dealing with the new proposal for the inter-territorial reorganisation of the East African colonies we had taken a line rather contrary to the views of the Indian community there. That is not a fact. We had taken care to ascertain the views of the Indian community and the line that we have taken is quite in keeping with the stand that they have taken. The Indian community generally approve of this measure in principle and have agreed to support it subject to reserving their right to have modifications made in details. Apart from that, my Honourable friend himself knows that the Indian community in East Africa is not so utterly helpless as elsewhere. There they have Legislative Councils, they have representation in the Legislative Councils, and even in the Executive Council of Kenya there is an Indian member. I may even inform the House that our countrymen in that part of the Commonwealth rather resent our seeking to spoon-feed them, and they have often told us that they are able to stand on their own legs and look after themselves and the mother country need not worry so much about their future. In any case we have done all we could. The fact that there has not been sufficient response to our representations does not show that there has been any lack of vigilance on our part. There is no permanent remedy against the evils flowing from the colour bar and there will be none until and unless international opinion finally and effectively penalises colour bar. Therefore, for a cent per cent, remedy of the grievances of our countrymen in areas where they are labouring under the evils of colour bar we will have to wait for the future. As for ourselves we are keeping all these grievances alive. We protest and make our representations and, as our recent action indicates, we will take firmer measures and we shall go on keeping these grievances alive until the time is reached when we shall perhaps be in a better position to make more effective protests or perhaps our protests and representations will carry much greater weight. Short of that we have done all we could and, if I may say so, even when the composition of this Government changes it will be found that there is nothing else to be done in the immediate future.

Sri A. Karunakara Menon (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, it is with some diffidence that I attempt to speak on the Finance Bill. Not only am I new to an adventure of this kind, but I have to confess that I am not a financier or even a good accountant. The appeal of the Finance Member to judge his budget proposals on their merits and not to be rejected on political grounds urged me to examine the extent to which this House had power to direct the expenditure of its national income for the benefit of this country. The total expenditure for 1946-47 is estimated to be 355.71 crores. Of this defence expenditure absorbs Rs. 248.77 crores and the Assembly has no control over this. Detailed civil estimates come to Rs. 111.94 crores. The disparity between the military and civil estimates is by itself sufficient to take away the breath of a patriotic Indian. Now taking the total civil estimate by itself, what do we find? I find that the votable expenditure comes to 68 crores and odd. A large percentage of this votable expenditure will be found to have been taken up by salaries, pay of establishments and other items. The grain left out of the chaff is very small. How can an Indian, a representative of the people, in such circumstances reject politics in judging the budget? The administrative structure as existing today is too expensive for the poverty-stricken population. The British interests are more cared for than the Indian interests. People have no share in the administration.

I am prepared to concede that the budget to some extent has tried to patronise the industrialists and attempted the expansion of Indian industries. But the poor agriculturist has been neglected. Beyond stating in the speech that preparatory works of various kinds have been put in hand (such as the establishment of a Central Electrical Board, an Irrigation and Waterways Board, etc.), no concrete steps to help the agricultural prosperity of the country have been outlined in the budget. Seventy-five per cent of the population of the country are dependent on agriculture. Still in the 150 years of British rule in India it has not been attempted to make India self-sufficient with regard to food and other primary products. The Government was interested only to secure exportable surplus of raw materials (like jute, cotton, groundnuts, etc.), and neglected the production of food. We are suffering the consequence of that policy, viz., the constant recurring famines which carry all the evils like poverty, squalor, ill-health and under-nourishment mentioned by the Finance Member in his budget speech. There is no use blaming the people for this state of affairs in the country today. Only the State with all its resources can utilise and plan the utilisation of all our agricultural resources. Government should have foreseen the famines and spent money on a lavish scales on irrigation, wells, tanks and also on manures. Given manure and water our people will produce food even on rocks. The Central Government should have taken the responsibility in the matter for measures to supply water and manure and not left it primarily as a matter for private enterprise. The primary charge on the Central Revenues should have been the claims of agriculture.

I do not know why the Government is afraid of launching a policy of nationalisation of land and agricultural production. Agricultural production has to be converted into a public utility service. At least it is high time to make some attempt in the line of collective and co-operative farms suited to the conditions of our country. Economic self-sufficiency should be our aim. Instead of leaving the main task to the provinces, the Central Government should have taken charge of a greater sphere of agricultural policy than it is doing today. Instead of feeling themselves satisfied with researches and the power to deal with animal and plant diseases, the Central Government ought to have widened its outlook and powers and dealt with the agricultural problems more directly than it is doing today. The Government has still to do a good deal for the people in matters like malaria, soil-erosion, land reclamation, forest conservation, etc. Now on account of war, forests have been denuded of their trees. Afforestation should be an important item to be taken up in the coming years in the interests of our country.

Food problem is, as all know, intimately connected with agriculture. Lack of food articles produces famine. Famine is intimately connected with pestilence and revolution, as links in a chain. Americans are eating 64 ccs. of various kinds of foods in America as against 12 ozs. in India by Indians. Now that the famine threatens the country, the Government and the people have begun to come closer together to combat it. But until the foreign Government is replaced by an Indian Government and identity between the people and Government is established, it is in vain to hope for the fullest results that we all like to achieve. I am familiar with and I am hearing from my friends at home about the manner in which the food administration is carried on in those parts. There is no desire on the part of either the Provincial or the district administrators to get out of the red-tapism to which they are slaves. Inefficiency and corruption are rampant everywhere. The middleman is allowed to exploit the people. District administrators know that these middlemen can make huge profits and therefore appoint these middlemen from among their favourites to procure food. They are reluctant to give the business of procurement and distribution to co-operative societies and other public agencies. The wholesale dealers are purchasing paddy at Rs. 1/5/- per para, a local measure, and they sell it at Rs. 1/13/-. The profit is exorbitant. Per para, on an average not more than four annas cost has to be incurred by the wholesale purchasers. Formerly per bag of rice, the profit obtained before ration was introduced was one anna. Now it is Rs. 1/4/-. Another complaint is about the wholesale removal of paddy from the villages where they are grown, and those villages being supplied with inferior and rotten paddy instead. This takes away all interest that cultivators have in growing paddy. The Government is also reluctant to take leading non-officials into their confidence. At this time of 'Grow More Food' campaign, the Government should supply seeds, manures, cattle and cattle-feed at reasonable prices even bearing the transport charges and a portion of the price themselves. The Government is unmindful of these matters because they are not the producers of food but are only procurers and distributors through their own agents. None of these difficulties will arise if production of food also is undertaken by the Government.

Now coming to another matter—betelnuts. This is a subject, Sir, which is creating a stir in my constituency, Malabar and South Canara, and that is due to the continuance of the excise duty on betelnuts. It is refreshing to find that the Finance Member has admitted that the grower has to bear the excise duty himself and is not able to transfer it on to the consumer. Once that position is granted, the abolition of the duty should follow. For the same grower ought not to be compelled to pay both land revenue and excise duty for the same agricultural produce. It is not correct to say that any reduction in the excise duty will not benefit the growers but will go to fill the pockets of the wholesale dealers. The persons that will be really benefited will be the growers and the consumers and not the wholesale dealers. The growers are extremely thankful to the Finance Member for the increase in the duty on the imported betelnuts. It will undoubtedly help in arresting the further drop in prices. But it is wrong to contend that the increase proposed with respect to import duty will be able to meet the high cost of production that the growers have to meet, leaving sufficient profit to pay the excise duty. It is satisfactory to note that the peculiar position of betelnut growers has been taken note of by the Finance Member with respect to their existing lack of marketing facilities and poor bargaining capacities. The best way to assure the growers will be placing the betelnuts on a basis similar to that of coconuts. An Indian Betelnut Committee Act should be passed for the improvement and development of the cultivation, marketing and utilization of betelnuts in India. The same machinery that is now working for the coconut interest could be entrusted to look after the betelnut interest also. This will give not only relief to the growers but enable them to secure a proper price for their produce. It is not unwillingness to pay but incapacity to pay, that stands in the way of the

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betelnuts growers paying this duty. Secure them proper price and they will not mind to pay the duty to the Government. Anyway, the present circumstances demand the abolition of the cess or at least suspension.

I do not want to deal at length with the vexatious and oppressive manner in which the excise rules are administered, because I am hopeful that the Honourable the Finance Member will eventually abolish the tax. Most of these growers are illiterate peasants, owing less than an acre. Then there is the injustice of excise duty being charged on fresh betelnuts at six annas per hundred with husks. This I know is not evidently intended by the Government, but still it is there and should be put an end to.

That is all that I have to say.

Captain Syed Abid Hussain (North-West Punjab: Muhammadan): Sir, as I stand in this House amidst this quiet and calm atmosphere, the grandeur and the splendour of the Assembly Hall gives me a feeling of contentment and satisfaction and I begin to feel as if I am living in a country which is very well off and perhaps full of contentment. But just as I peep outside, I find the picture of a totally different state of affairs, I see thousands of poor, naked, and destitutes crying for a cloth to cover and clamouring for bread to eat. Such is the real picture of the inhabitants of this sub-continent which is naturally gifted with boundless resources the parallel of which would be quite difficult to find in this world. This sub-continent which has become the fortune of millions abroad leaves her, or I should say is made to leave her, own sons and daughters starving and dying. For the wealth and riches of India there are countless sharers: some as rulers, some as sympathisers, some as advisers, some as traders, and some as mere friends. But when death takes its toll, then it is only the poor Indian who shares it. I would not have the least grudge even to the man-wrought Bengal famine taking the lives of millions of my countrymen if even a handful of foreigners had also sealed their fates with us.

Mr. T. C. Chapman-Mortimer: On a point of order. I do not want to interrupt but there is not a single member of the front bench in the House.

Mr. B. R. Sen (Secretary, Food Department): I am listening on behalf of the Food Department.

Mr. Deputy President: I think there ought to be some Member from the Finance Department. I suppose, Sir John Sheehy is watching on behalf of the Finance Department.

Captain Syed Abid Hussain: Perhaps they would prefer reading their criticism in the news-papers rather than listen to it in the House. So, we are alone to be the sufferers and that is the reason why 400 millions are yearning and crying for their independence. If we were masters of ourselves such calamities would not be met with such a cold indifference. Today we are faced with another famine more severe than the Bengal one. Things I believe have never been too easy since the Bengal famine but the Government has only been taking half-hearted steps in the direction of remedying the troubles. A twelfth-hour effort could not have produced results which would meet our requirements and the Honourable the Food Member's gesture of flying to America, and Europe, although we appreciate it, still, it does not satisfy us, in spite of the fact that we on our part have extended our wholehearted co-operation to it. As for the efforts on the part of the Governments both Central and Provincial to do all that was possible to mobilise their resources to produce the maximum of foodstuffs, I can very well say how that effort has been going on in my province of the Punjab. Thousands of acres of culturable land are lying waste which could be brought under cultivation because of the water also being available. Schemes had been contemplated to increase the percentage of the water supply on certain canals which owing to the War could not be carried out. The war has ended, the famine is there, but the schemes

are still shelved by the Punjab Government, surely that is no gesture of an "all-out effort" to stop and avert that catastrophe with which India is being faced. The Punjab Government in the recent years had given some extra water supply shoots to the Agriculturists to grow more food. But recently, I hear that even that concession has been withdrawn. Will not that reflect adversely on the effort of the Government of India to avert this famine? No inducement whatsoever is offered to the grower for growing more food crops rather than what we call the money crops, which obviously fetch him more money and he is always inclined to grow these in preference to the food crops. It is the duty of the Government to come forward and create such circumstances that the grower becomes naturally inclined to grow more of those crops which would give us more foodstuffs. If the Government were to show complete indifference I am sure the grower would not by himself divert his attention to growing foodstuffs. In this connection Government could have very well given an inducement to the grower by curtailing the water rates or compensating him in some other suitable manner which could be very easily manipulated. This is the condition of indifference of the Government towards a country whose main occupation is Agriculture. The old system of agriculture continues. No modern methods are introduced. No machineries are brought in. No impetus is afforded by the Government to the Agriculturist to revolutionise the agricultural methods in the country. And we are allowed to carry on as we did 50 years ago. What have the Agricultural Department done to improve the standards of Indian agriculture? It is not the Agricultural Department alone, to be blamed. I feel that the Government in all its Departments always prefers *status quo* to any drastic measures of improvement. On my father's marriage two trains were running up and down between Malakwae and Shorekot Road thirty-six years ago and the Railway had not found it necessary, in spite of the public demand and the changed circumstances to add anything to its thirty-six years' old programme. This is just one small example out of the millions to show the way in which the Government continues to role on slowly without diverting its attention to take some quick, drastic and comprehensive steps to improve the conditions of the country. Unfortunately things are very peculiar in this country. With the beginning of the War, all progress came to a standstill. Every contemplated scheme was shelved and things began to deteriorate. Whenever any question was asked the pet reply of the Government was that owing to the war nothing could be done; The war emergency did not allow any progress to be made and so on. Now that the war has ended there will emerge various Resettlement problems, Postwar plans will crop up and so will come out the development schemes. All these of course will take so long that, by the time any material progress is made we will find ourselves again pushed into another war. What about the other countries I ask. What about Europe? How rapidly do they recover the lost ground and how quickly do they make progress? Why cannot India do the same?

Look at the Army of 2½ million men that was raised in this country during the war. Many of us were killed, many of us were wounded and many of us were taken prisoners. We fought for freedom, and we were asked to fight for liberty. We saved the British Empire. But what is the result? To be kept under the British autocratic rule and to be denied the liberty that we fought for? To be left without jobs, without money and without any land? The Government has done nothing to preserve land for the returning soldiers. On the other hand, government has been just throwing away lands. I know well of the Punjab. Under the guise of War effort land has been given to those agents of the Unionist Party who had done absolutely no War effort but had only acted as tools in the hands of Unionists in the recent elections. (Cries: Shame shame). For example most of the candidates contesting on Unionist tickets were helped with grants of a rectangle or two to compensate for their efforts in the election campaigns. I only wish that the Governor of

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the Punjab Sir Bertrand Glancy, had paid more attention to this primary job of his, rather than muddle himself in the party politics of the Punjab.

Mr. Deputy President: In this House the Honourable Member cannot criticise the Governors of Provinces.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: This Governor is not above party politics. He takes active interest.

Capt. Syed Abid Hussain: I close my speech with this sentence. The Government has unfortunately forgotten its real job. They are seen busy yet doing nothing—nothing that would solve our problems, nothing that would take us ahead, just as the Persian couplet says:

*"Khish-i-awwal chun nehad memâr Kaj.
Tâ Surayyâ mi rawad diwâr Kaj."*

The real trouble lies at the foundation, and when the fundamental stone is improperly laid sure the building could never stand erect.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President, I come from a 'backward' province and so I would request you to exercise greater forbearance when you apply brakes to my speech, more forbearance than what is ordinarily shown to a maiden speech.

Coming though as I do from a backward province I was shocked to hear what my Honourable friend, the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations said just now. He seemed to be quite satisfied with what is being done by this Government so far as the Indians in South Africa are concerned. I really wondered if there could be even today an Indian gentleman who could speak in that strain, an Indian gentleman who has had a fair amount of education. Does he realise that if the economic sanctions had been applied last year to South Africa things would have been quite different from what are today? Even today in spite of the demand throughout the country for the recall of the High Commissioner for India in South Africa, he seems to justify the retention of that officer there. If the European members of the Treasury Benches really mean to quit India, my advice to this Honourable gentleman, the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations is that he should also accompany his confreres and go to the country where the service to which he belongs was born.

Sir, I belong to a backward province in the sense that the people of my province do not know how to exploit others. They are exploited and they submit to this exploitation meekly and they submit also to all the injustice which they receive from different quarters, the Government of India and elsewhere, very meekly. That is why I say that in these days such a province cannot but be called a backward province. Take for instance the Otto Neimeyer Award. From the province of Assam a huge amount is taken by the Government of India by a special excise duty on petrol but what do we get in return? We get only a comparatively small sum a mere pittance of 30 lakhs. There is nothing sacrosanct about that Neimeyer award. That province bore the brunt of the war and in spite of that the Government of India has not thought fit to increase the amount of the Award. That is a great injustice which would remain to the Credit of the Government of India for ever.

There is another very glaring piece of injustice. That is the treatment meted out to Assam so far as excise duty on betelnuts is concerned. Apart from the general question that this excise duty should have been done away with now, because it was a sort of war measure, now that the war is over there is absolutely no justification for levying the excise duty at all. During the war there was no income derived from the import duty on betelnuts from other countries. Now import has again begun to flow and the import duty is being levied and the Honourable the Finance Member says that he expects as much

as a crore and a half from this import duty. After that, Sir, can anybody justify the Government of India for continuing that tax? It is also very well known that this is a sort of a direct tax on the agriculturists who already pay for occupation of their lands and for the yield of this particular crop by way of land revenue. It is generally the poor people, the poor and middle class people, who consume the betelnuts. Why have these poor people been subjected to this taxation? So far as the case of Assam goes, the position is still worse and still more unjustifiable. The tax was intended to be levied on cured betelnut only. In Assam the betelnut is never cured either for the purpose of consumption or for purposes of trade. That is a fact very well known. In reply to a question put by Mr. Jinaraja Hedge in the last session, I think on the 19th of March 1945, the Honourable the Finance Member's predecessor stated to this effect—He said that fresh betelnuts in the husk which were sold by the growers directly to the consumers and which had not undergone any sort of drying or water preservation are not chargeable to duty, and he added that curing involves either the process of drying or preservation in water. None of these processes are adopted so far as betelnuts in Assam are concerned. Sir, the poor and the middle class people consume a good quantity of betelnut. Mostly the betelnut grown in that Province is sold in the Province itself and there is very little export. Our people consume a good quantity of betelnut not only for their ordinary use but also on ceremonial occasions. The invitations to marriage and dinners have to be always sent—not in the ordinary way of sending an invitation letter but they have to be invited with at least about a dozen betelnuts and *pan* also has to be sent at the time of invitation. So, this tax has fallen heavily on the poor peasants in our country. Betelnuts are never grown in an extensive manner. They are to be found in the compounds of each peasant proprietor. They are not grown or cultivated for commercial purposes or for purposes of sale. It is only the surplus that is sent to the local markets. In spite of all this this tax has been levied. And, what is worse and what cannot be defended at all is this, that the tax is being levied in an arbitrary manner. Because the betelnuts there are not husked, it had been arbitrarily fixed that 100 betelnuts are equivalent to 3 lbs, that is that 100 betelnuts in husk are equivalent to 3 lbs. for which 6 annas is to be paid as the excise duty. But if these betelnuts were actually cured and weighed in would be found that the weight is only 1.5 lbs. So, the betelnut growers in Assam have got to pay three times what other taxpayers in other provinces of India where betelnut is used as *supari*, pay. Since there it is never used as *supari* they have to pay for their husks because the calculation has been made in that way, that hundred betelnuts with the husk is equivalent to 3 lbs. although the kernel, if weighed, will weigh only 1.5 lbs. So, a serious injustice has been done to Assam in the matter of the levy of the betelnut tax. The Honourable the Finance Member realises all this. He had admitted all this. But he says that he can make amends for all the injustice that he has done to the betelnut growers by giving out a dole of Rs. 3 lakhs for the purpose of helping them in the process of curing as well as in the process of marketing. I do not know about other Provinces, but those two concessions will not help Assam at all because the habit of curing or the habit of eating cured betelnut is not in vogue in that Province. As much as Rs. 3 to 4 lakhs are being levied from Assam on this head. If, instead of wasting money in the so-called process of curing of betelnuts or in helping to get a better market, if the Honourable the Finance Member exempt the Province of Assam entirely from payment of the betelnut tax in view of all these circumstances, then I think real relief would be given which the Province really deserves.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has two minutes more.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri: I would draw the attention of the Government to the exploitation in our Province. We have by 'we' I mean the people of the Province of Assam—no great industry of our own. We have not got in that Province even one textile mill. We have not got there a sugar

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factory. We have not got there a jute mill, or even we have not got any hydro-electric scheme functioning on a large scale. We thought that with the advent of the new Government the process of nationalisation of these industries will be taken in hand and in that case the now backwardness in the Province will be converted into advantage. Honourable Members of this House may have heard of the tea industry in Assam. That tea industry is practically the monopoly of the Europeans. Honourable Members of this House may have heard of the oil fields of Assam. That again is owned by a Scotch Company. Honourable Members of this House may have heard of the coal mines in Assam. That is again held by Englishmen. The only Indian company, the Assam-Bengal Cement Company which made some profit during the war is also a company not belonging to the Province itself. In these circumstances what we should have expected a sympathetic Government to do was to introduce the process of nationalisation of these industries in Assam so that we could get some advantage. What do we actually find? Instead of doing that, because that would have involved a loss of income-tax to the Government of India, the Honourable the Finance Member has thought it more to the interest of the Government of India to allow grants and concessions to the business magnates to relieve them of the Excess Profits Tax and to encourage them to organize those business themselves in my Province. If those businesses are organised by business magnates belonging to places other than India or belonging to places other than Assam, the people of the Province will get very little out of them. The Honourable Finance Member thinks that by adopting this process, he will be encouraging business people to start business in different places which will give employment to our unemployed youths. . . .

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri: But experience has shown that this is entirely wrong. What employment do we get in the various tea gardens and in the oil fields and other business? The highest salary which our young men get there is a nominal maximum of Rs. 50 a month to a burra babu or Rs. 30 to a moharrar and the others who may be matriculates get about 20 or 25 rupees. This is the salary they get. As my time is up, I finish by asking the Honourable Finance Member to consider these two aspects at least—nationalisation of industries in the Province of Assam in those industries which have not been already started there, and the absolute exemption of the Province from the excise duty on betel nut.

Choudury Md. Abid Hussain (Bhagalpur Division: Muhammadan): Sir, the war has ended and now we are passing in peace time, but our budget has no colour of peace time as it has not relaxed the burdens which were placed on the larger section of the population—the poor. It has done something no doubt for the rich. The poor people of this country were awaiting for the days when the war will come to an end and bring to them happiness and prosperity. They were waiting in the hope that the days were coming when most of the burdens by which they helped in winning the war will be lightened, but their hopes were shattered when no measures were taken for the betterment of their conditions. No doubt, as shown in the Bill, there is a deficit of 44 crores of rupees and the Finance Member has tried to balance it. But in adopting the ways and means for balancing the budget, he has not taken into consideration the condition of the country and the capacity of the people to pay. He should have considered these points and also the fact whether the larger section of the people are able to pay any more. I am of the opinion that the taxes should be levied upon those people who are able to pay and relief should be given to those who deserve it; and these are the poor people who were hard hit when they are labouring hard to live. But what we see is that the Honourable Member has done just the opposite. He has stretched his helping hand to the rich people who never care for the poor.

The wealth of a country depends upon the power of production. Therefore it is desirable that we should increase this power of production and this power of production depends upon two important factors, education and health. Now, if you see the health side of the country, you will find that according to the Bhore Committee Report, the public health is at a very low level, and this is evidenced by the wide prevalence of diseases and the high rates of mortality. We find that the rate of mortality among infants and children under ten years and of women are greatest in this country; and if we go into details we will find that every year about 100 million people suffer from malaria and more than 2 millions die from this disease. The next dangerous disease is tuberculosis by which five lakhs of people die every year. Cholera, small-pox, plague, etc. also take a heavy toll from this country every year. The cause of deaths by these diseases are many. In villages the people are unable to live healthily. They live in an unhygienic way; and the sanitation is at a very low level in almost all the parts of the country. There is no easy availability of health protection in villages. There is inadequate nutrition and this reduces the vitality of the people who easily come under the clutches of these diseases. The food consumed by the poor is insufficient and mostly adulterated. Therefore the Government should take these points into consideration and improve the health and sanitary conditions in the country.

Not only this. There must be another consideration also. The need for aid in these matters is greater for the poor than for the rich. Rich people can afford to take care of themselves. But it is the duty of the Government to give all facilities and all possible help, medical and other, without charging the poor anything. The state funds should be used in the health services of the nation.

There is no doubt that there is lack of co-operation of the people in the maintenance of their own health; but no change is possible without a change in the economic and educational condition of the people. There is necessity for increase of doctors, nurses, and hospitals; but these cannot reform the country side unless effective measures are taken to raise the standard of life of the people and eradicate illiteracy throughout the country. Co-operation of the people is required, and it is not possible to secure this co-operation if the people cannot afford to buy health services and cannot appreciate the value of maintaining health.

Thus an improvement in agricultural methods is necessary to augment the income from land and also the provision of adequate educational facilities is necessary in order to appreciate the value of maintaining health. Education should be given to all and the next step is to raise the standard of living.

Now, I come to the next point. Though the war has ended, we find that there is a heavy sum provided in the budget on the defence side. If we are going to spend so much money on the defence side, I submit that Indians should get their share in the higher posts in the defence services. This is the time when Government should come forward and help Indians to become officers in the army and in other connected departments on the highest ranks. I have not heard till now that Indians who are working in the Army Department or the General Headquarters are less competent or less qualified in comparison with Europeans. Therefore the number of Indian officers should be increased and Government should do all in their power to shake off the blame that they are only for British and they are exploiting the Indians.

In Indianising the Departments Government should see that all the communities are well represented in those services and Muslims must be given 50 per cent. share as they form the bulk of the martial races.

Now, I come to the food problems of the country. The food condition is very acute now, but the Food Department has done nothing to improve the condition of the country. The Food department has no doubt sent a delegation to the foreign Countries for begging, but they have not thought to improve

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the condition in the country itself. They have not improved the methods of agriculture, though there are very valuable schemes on paper to improve agricultural methods by implementing scientific methods. There are schemes of improved seeds and manures etc. but they are not helping the agriculturists with those things. The agriculturists cannot buy the scientific implements, because they are poor and they do not get sufficient price for the products of the land by which they can buy. Sometimes they do not get so much which they spend for seed, for ploughing, for reaping etc.

I now come to another point. Government has always thought about the irrigation of those lands where nature does not provide sufficient rains to produce foodgrains but the Government never cares about the drainage system of water where it is overflowed. In the Bihar province, the northern part of Bhagalpur Division is always washed away by the flood water of Kosi river. This Kosi river every year does very great harm to the lands which are good for the paddy crops. If the Government at the Centre takes control of the drainage system of the Kosi river, I think a great part of the food problem will be solved. The controlled water of this Kosi river can also be used for producing electricity which will be useful for the industry of the country.

Now, I come to the Industries and Supplies Department. Yesterday my friend Mr. Nauman referred to the maldistribution of cloth to the Muslim merchants all over India. On the question of scarcity of cloth I fail to understand why this condition should continue now when the Government Defence Department has released these mills for the supply of the civil population. I think the mills are exporting their products to the countries outside India and this should be absolutely prohibited. I would like to impress on Government that the cloth situation cannot be improved unless these mills are strictly forbidden to make export outside India.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to oppose the consideration of the Finance Bill. The Honourable the Finance Member in the speech which he made when he introduced his budget proposals said and hoped that this year the proposals would not be thrown out on political grounds. As one might discover easily there has been a special attempt this time made by the irresponsible executive of this country to defend itself before the eyes of the world.

His Excellency the Viceroy in the course of his address to this House also paid a compliment to them. He said:

"My much maligned colleagues have served India well and have had her true interests at heart."—(An Honourable Member on the Treasury Benches: Hear, hear.)—"I believe that any new Government is likely to adopt many of their ideas. They are all, without exception, ready and willing to hand over (I hope they will cheer this statement also) their responsibilities at the earliest moment to their successors to whom they will wish good fortune and godspeed in their difficult but vital task."

The Honourable the Leader of the House gave very special compliments in the course of a debate that took place some days ago to his colleagues and especially his Indian colleagues. It seems that the present executive council on the eve of its departure from office, is very anxious to feel that at last it has delivered the goods by the country. The position taken up by the party to which I have the honour and privilege to belong is that of throwing out the consideration of the Finance Bill. The House wants to make it clear to India and to the world that of the many things that could be said about the present executive, the prominent and the chief one is this, that the present executive rule of this country has never commanded and has ceased to command the confidence of the country. During the later years of its administration and especially during war times, the executive has thought fit, as I had occasion to remark in my earlier speech on the budget, to put forward before the world a lot of publicity regarding what it has done. Much has been said during the

earlier stages of this debate about the deficiencies of the present system of Government and the budget itself. The Honourable the Finance Member does, not, in my humble opinion, need any elucidation regarding the broad defects in his own budget. The principal one is that it is an Imperialistic budget put forward for Imperialistic ends. Secondly, this budget has admittedly done very little for the poor. When I spoke earlier I was under a delusion that the budget had done some good for the richer classes of this country. I am very much indebted to the Honourable Member for having disillusioned me on that point also and now I stand convinced that whereas the Budget had done nothing for the poor man the Finance Member on his own admission has done nothing for the richer classes also. If the budget stood condemned partially earlier, it now stands condemned wholesale.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: What about the Middle classes?

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: There was a middle class once in this country, of which we were all proud but thanks to the administration which the Honourable the Finance Member represents that middle class has vanished and we now find that the rich are richer and the poor poorer and there happens to be no middle class in this country.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: To which class does the Honourable Member belong? Rich or poor?

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: I do not know exactly to which class I belong but there is a class in this House and outside which has taken up the task of fighting this administration and I have the privilege of belonging to that class.

To pursue the point I was about to make, the present executive of the country has forfeited the confidence of the country as a whole. When we say that, the other side feels impatient about it and feels that we are the aggressors and the people to be criticised. The Honourable the Finance Member in his reply to the earlier discussion said that many brickbats had been hurled at him. He said it metaphorically. He has the good luck of being the Finance Member of a country which is known and which is famous for its patience. If he were a Finance Member in some other country which was also as slave country, I am sure it would not be wordy brickbats but real brickbats that would have been hurled at him. Thanks to the nation and thanks to Mahatma Gandhi, the Honourable Member has had to face only wordy brickbats which he can face on a pleasant afternoon and which he can forget next morning as the occupant of the Treasury Benches of an irresponsible Government.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The Honourable Member has thrown quite a number of brickbats.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Now, Sir, of course I must confess that I was one of the Members who threw one of those wordy brickbats against him. For once I want him to be serious, though he may not say so on the floor of the House. Mr. Attlee in his recent speech in the House of Commons has drawn our attention to the problems which confront us. In my opinion the most urgent and the most serious problem in India is that of the British rule. He referred to the minority problem, he referred to the States problem and latterly he mentioned the services problem too. He said:

"We are mindful too of the position of the services and of the men who have done great service to India. India should be sensible of the responsibility she has to those who have served her."

Then he makes another significant statement:

"Government which takes over the assets of the Government will also take over the liabilities. That again is a point to be dealt with later on."

One question that arose in my mind when I read the speech, when I came to examine the financial position, the political position, the moral position, and every possible position of the present executive, what do I find? What are the

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assets which they have created for us? The first asset of their rule for the last 150 years is they have impoverished my country as no other rule has done in any other part of the world. They have made us semistarved, a large population actually starving. On this point there came out during the course of the debate on another subject a very significant admission from the Benches opposite. While we were discussing about the reparations that were due from ex-enemy countries, we were given a short account of the speech made by a servant of this Government at a conference abroad: This is what Mr. H. V. R. Iyengar said:

"But I suggest that the conference should go behind these figures and consider what is the human sacrifice involved in this expenditure. India is one of the poorest countries in the world with an appallingly low standard of living. She has for generations been underfed, underclothed and underhoused. Whereas in economically advanced countries the war has meant that luxuries have had to be eliminated, in India it has meant that people who already were undernourished had still less to eat, and people already underclothed still less to wear. In other words while in the one case it was the sacrifice, relatively speaking of luxuries, in our case it has meant a sacrifice of the barest essentials of life."

Then again speaking about the deaths in the Bengal famine he said:

"But the lowest figure, which has been adopted recently by the official commission of inquiry appointed by the Government of India is 1½ millions".

But according to our estimates, this tragedy has cost us more than 3 millions. So, Sir, the Bengal famine is our next asset which the present executive has offered for the future generations of Indians. The next part of the asset lies in the people who are still to die. One would wonder at the incompetency of the Government which a fortnight earlier assessed food shortage at three million tons, raised this figure of 3 millions as if by a magic wand to six millions all at once. The Honourable gentlemen opposite are very responsible people, they have got a whole army of statisticians at their beck and call, and it is surprising that they should behave in such an irresponsible manner as not even to have correct figures about food shortage in the country when millions are likely to die due to direct cause of this food shortage. This is all about the food condition, which as I said is another asset of ours left by the British rule. An Honourable Member who preceded me drew pointed attention to the health conditions of this country. That is where we should find another asset of British rule. As my Honourable friend pointed out, more than 10 million men suffer from malaria, that is our next asset; about 2.5 million suffer from tuberculosis, a million men die from cholera, another million from small pox. That is our next asset which this irresponsible executive is handing over as a legacy to the new Government. That is not all. They have not been partial. They have been impartial to the people who live in India and who have got to live in India. Their rule has affected even our cattle position. There is great shortage of cattle and consequently of milk for our children. That is our next problem to be tackled. The live stock is in a state of semi-starvation. The Treasury Benches can satisfy themselves that here again they have been impartial, they have not only rendered human beings semi-starved, they have also rendered the cattle useless. Mr. Pepperall has summarised the cattle-problem. "Milk production is very low, human population is increasing, diseases take a great toll of lives of cattle".

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Does the Honourable Member mean that the executive is responsible for an increase of population of the country?

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: I do not know whether I should take the Honourable Member very seriously. He knows it possibly as a measure of experience, and possibly he has heard that increase of population is more consistent with the poverty of a country, because the richer the man, the less the number of children he has. The poorer the man, the larger the number of children he has. Owing to this fact, India's population has risen by leaps and bounds, but it has not increased its prosperity, as it has in England. In England there is less and less

population because it is grabbing more and more of the fortunes of other countries in the world.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The population also is going up. **Shri D. P. Karmarkar:** No wonder that 150 years of British rule is producing more and more children. We are proud of our children and I am sure our children would look after you if it comes to that. Now, Sir, what does the Report of Mr. Pepperall, the Milk Marketing Adviser to the Government of India say. According to this report we find that not only the human element in the country but also the cattle element has been neglected. That is our next asset left by the British rule. What shall I say of the legacy left as a result of the war which was ostensibly waged for our purposes, but really for their own benefit. On account of war, we have spent something like 1,650 crores over and above the pre-war expenditure, during these eight years. Then there are the sterling balances which represent the price of articles supplied by this country during the war to England. They are kind enough to say they will deal with it later on. Let us be content with this promise. They might as well pass an emergency ordinance and make these sterling balances vanish. If they had done so, nothing more would have been heard about it. The sterling balances are there. Our assets are there in the blood bank. But we are not able to realise anything. That is another legacy left to us as a result of this war. That is our next asset bequeathed to us by the rule of this irresponsible executive. These are observations which unhappily this executive is not able to appreciate. We feel very strongly that under the iron rule of this executive we are growing in slavery which has never been exemplified for its brutality, for its unkindliness, for its sacrilege against the wishes of the people of this country. I hardly find, Sir, a proper word in the English vocabulary which can really express our deep anguish and poignant feelings against the British rule in this country. That is a constitutional anomaly which exists here. We find the Treasury Benches, according to their own statement, responsible to a Government 6,000 miles away, they are subordinate branch of another Government. They say that this Government is not responsible to this section of the House, nor to that section, nor to any other section. We go on passing cut motions, we censure Government through Adjournment Motions, we throw out the Finance Bill.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Will you? Let us see.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: We carried two cut motions. The cuts were not restored. That raised some hope in our mind. We hoped that at least when the demand for Executive Council was thrown out, the Honourable the Leader of the House would come forward before us and make a sporting offer saying, "now that you have passed this censure motion and refused supplies for the Executive Council, we shall go out, we shall make room for you. We shall make a recommendation to the Viceroy that even during this session, this executive will be replaced by another responsible to the House". In view of the fact that they have to go out tomorrow, if not today, in view of that, I expected the Honourable the Leader of the House to have set an example and told the Viceroy, "look here, we do want to vacate. We do not want to be sitting in an undemocratic manner on these benches when we really do not command the confidence of the majority of the people, when we definitely know we are not needed and have ceased to command any confidence of the country". But that is not to be. And not only that but when Mahatma Gandhi made a sporting offer that if the food situation was to be met one of the remedies that he would suggest was that the present irresponsible executive must walk out and another Executive Council responsible to the various parties in the House should come in, there was no response to it. There are of course offers of all kinds. We ourselves often make the same kind of offer. If after we have finished our dinner a guest comes at midnight—in these rigid ration days—and we know he has had no food for 48 hours, we just ask him, "Have you had your meals? Otherwise go and have your meals." That is not an offer at all. If they were sufficiently serious there were plenty of ways open to them. Even at this time of

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crisis, the like of which this country has not seen before, they are not going to relinquish. Many words are hurled across the House that this is their last budget; but there again we find in the speech of the Prime Minister that other things have got to be settled, minority questions have got to be settled, the States question has to be settled, the service question has to be settled, etc. Then we shall also hear that the commercial question will have to be settled,—questions which we know will not be settled so long as they have their feet on Indian soil. They make an offer of self-government. I am not here to spoil the atmosphere in the House and outside it; I am not competent to do that and I am not authorised by my party to make any statement here which would prejudice the present atmosphere. In view of the fact that for the time being sweet words and good words like those used by my Honourable friends opposite should be used, I will say, Amen; let this be the last budget and let this be the last speech of the Finance Member and let this be the last House of an India which is at present a slave and which is promised liberty in the future.

Now, Sir, coming to the budget itself, the Finance Member at one stage said that perhaps this budget has been psychologically defective. Now I wonder whether the budget was psychologically defective or the framer of the budget was himself psychologically defective. I do not mean any insult or offence, but he is born and bred in a system which does not know a slave nation's feelings. And when I examine the whole thing, I find that it does not care for the masses of the country nor, according to his own admission, for the classes of the country. It is not due to any psychological defect in the frame of the budget itself but it is a psychological defect of the system which he is representing.

When I was speaking last time on planning I did not have any inside information about the workings of the Department. Now on that same day we had a statement from a gentleman who is competent to speak better and with greater authority. I refer to Professor Vakil who after resigning from the Planning Department had the goodness to tell us why he left it. In an interview at Bombay he said, what we knew from the outset, that:

"The atmosphere for economic planning of the right type did not exist because the outlook of the bureaucracy had not yet changed. By training and habit most of the bureaucratic men were not suited for the work of planning and they were, as a rule, not willing to take expert economic advice when it was offered. They wanted to sit in judgment on things they did not understand. 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."

That has not come from an "irresponsible" Congressman but from a responsible economist whom the Government of India appointed for the Planning Department.

The last reason why we want to throw out the Finance Bill is this, that the British Government during the long course of 150 years has not yet shed its real character. The character that it has had during a century and a half is principally—and shorn of all pretence—a type of military occupation. We have got this House where elected Members are speaking and Honourable Members opposite are replying, and everything else goes on. But as emergencies show and as events also show this present executive has continued to have its true self. It is essentially intended for the military occupation of the country. I will not take this House to the days of the Mutiny, I shall not also refer to the Jallianwala Bagh, nor even to the 1942 days when every kind of force that could be used physically against Congressmen, against every man, woman or child who rose against this Government in 1942 was used. I will not refer to that, but I will just refer to the recent happenings in the country, the various mob demonstrations which unfortunately have taken a character which we on this side of the House do not approve. The events at Bombay and Calcutta and many other places have demonstrated beyond measure that the present

administration has not at all lost its original character. I had tabled short notice question regarding the happenings in Bombay and one of the questions was whether it was a fact that innocent men, women and children had been killed during the firing in Bombay. The short notice question was not accepted by the War Secretary but a reply was given to me which I was authorised to make any use of, and I was told that:

"It is not true that only British troops were used. My reports are that the firing was very carefully controlled and was in accordance with the instructions which are that firing should, as far as possible, be directed at ringleaders."

What were the facts in Bombay? If the Leader of the House were to find out the real facts he would find just a measure of the tragedy which British rule represents in India, that a lot of women have been injured and a few children have been killed. And women and children were at no time in Bombay the ringleaders of the hostile demonstrations. My information is that not knowing the order of the military and the police, there was a party of ladies standing in front of a ration shop, and a squad of military came there and thought that it was an unlawful assembly; and the ladies were fired at and shot in cold blood. That is my information and I am open to correction by the other side. But the essential fact remains that the other side which represents the executive in this country has still retained not only its irresponsible character but its essential character as an army of occupation in this country. And it was very good of His Excellency the Governor General to have assured us, if assurance was necessary, that his much maligned colleagues were prepared to leave their places as soon as the new Government comes in. There is no other alternative. They will have to leave the country some day or the other; there is no mercy or courtesy shown to us that the present irresponsible executive are prepared to leave their benches. If they are not prepared to leave the time will soon come when they will find discretion the better part of valour and they will themselves be in a position to pursue the instruction which I understand was given in the critical days of 1942. The Honourable Leader of the House was once pleased to retort, "Who won the war? Did we win the war or did the Congress win the war?" My answer is that neither the Government nor the Congress won the war; it was the atom bomb. Their essential strength is of a kind that is humorously described in our remotest villages where they say that the one strategy that the British understand is the strategy of retreat. That is the strategy which they advised their own civil officers in 1942. That is the strategy which they will have to follow if with good grace and in good time they are not prepared to leave India. The country has been patient but even in a slave country there is a limit to patience.

Sir, I oppose the Finance Bill.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I really would not like to stand in the shoes of the Honourable Finance Member at the moment, and in spite of all my courage I am afraid it is very difficult for any one like me to do so. For the past two or three days my Honourable friend has been listening to various kinds of carping criticisms and still preserves a very genial attitude. (An Honourable Member: only outwardly). Not only outwardly, I am sure it is an inward buoying up that he has got. But he seems to me like a raw diamond; by the cuts that he receives, he improves his facets and becomes more and more valuable.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Becomes an asset!

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: Sir, I feel it is very difficult for any person to be a Member of an irresponsible Government,—in the sense of constitutionally irresponsible I mean,—it is difficult for any human being to be a nut or a bold in such a machinery and not feel embarrassed at every turn. But at the same time I feel, even with the limitations that such an irresponsible Government has, it is quite possible to frame a budget or at least to plan in a way as to improve the

[Sri T. V. Satakopachari]

opportunities given to them. It is true that the Budget is framed with a sense of one who has got soon to leave the scene. I believe this has been the psychological background which has actuated my Honourable friend the Finance Member to look out for a few financial stunts here and there, to put in one or two palliative measures to please a portion of the rich and to try to look as if he has helped the poor—to make gestures here and gestures there, because he knows or probably he wants us to believe that he has no permanent interest in the matter. That I believe has been a drawback in the Budget and so it is that we see a budget which does not fulfil the expectations of a nation, a nation which is awaking. Whereas I agree with most of the things said on this by my Honourable friend, Mr. Karmarkar, I am afraid the psychological defect is not with the gentlemen opposite or with the great people to whom they belong, or even the system of administration. They are not a set of physical defects or psychological defects or mental defects. They have their heads rightly screwed on; they know their job. But at the same time the setting in which they are placed is so difficult I think that it will be a great achievement if really they produce a budget or a plan worthy of the consideration of the nation's representatives. I wished to preface my remarks over the Budget with these observations, because I feel that in the situation in which the Finance Member has been placed, it will be almost next to impossible to satisfy the demands or the aspirations of the nation. The nation's representatives ought to be there. When and where or how is a matter which is still hanging in the balance. If I say that the Budget is defective or, as a matter of fact, if I say that any particular matter or any work is not up to the mark I always feel this difficulty: whether I should say not only where it is defective or how it is defective, but also how the defect can be cured, how the particular work should be made better. But at the same time I feel, as Dr. Johnson has said, you may criticize a table even if you are not a carpenter and cannot make a table. So it is not necessary that I should be able to suggest how the defects can be cured. That is the refuge I have, and I shall take shelter behind it. That is why I say that I would not feel comfortable in the Chair of the Finance Member, but I do feel very comfortable sitting here or rather standing at a safe distance and criticizing him. As my Honourable friend, Mr. Karmarkar said, we are or we may be trained people in indulging in wordy warfare, but I am afraid they have got stronger answers to all these things. In some occasions I have faced some of those things in my place, and I hate getting used to facing them here.

It has been said by my Honourable friends on this side of the House that the budget makes the rich richer and the poor, poorer. Much has been said on the subject, but I wonder whether when it makes the rich richer, it really makes the Indian rich richer. There also I have my doubts. What I mean is this. It gives chances to the rich man as such to get richer—that portion of the rich men which belongs to Indians is not given the opportunity that it ought to be given, that is to say the Indian rich man is not made richer. That is what I feel about it. If the Indian rich man has to be made richer, then he should be given opportunities of industrialising the country, getting capital goods from outside, and of improving the standard of living of the people in this country. You know the Bombay Plan which was prepared by some of our industrialists. They represent the rich classes of this country, I believe.

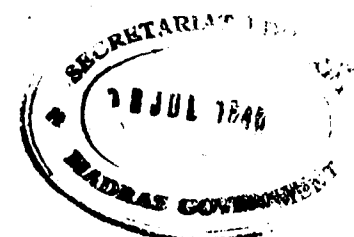
The Honourable Sir Archibald: Indians.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: Yes, Indians. I am concentrating my attention on Indians and my criticism is that the Budget which is said to make the rich richer, really makes the non-Indian richer, but not the Indian richer. And so I say that the Bombay Plan of Indian industrialists has not received any attention from the Finance Member and no help as such has been rendered to them. The gesture of doing away with the Excess Profits Tax is, I think, a mere gesture.

Of course as a psychological gesture we want such gestures to exist; but we don't want the E. P. T. to go; we want the Excess Profits Tax to remain, we don't want it to be abolished. Again abolishing the Excess Profits Tax alone is really not a great help to the rich people of India. If a portion of the sterling balances were made available either in kind or by multilateral transactions, that would certainly have kept them rich. But that is not the case. We are in a very nebulous stage.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. It is now 5 O'clock. The Honourable Member may continue his speech tomorrow.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 22nd March, 1946.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, the 22nd 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. M. W. M. Yeatts, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

Mr. President: Questions. Question No. 1159. Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar will put this question on behalf of Mr. Manu Subedar.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

REPEAL OF EXCESS PROFITS TAX ORDINANCE AND CONTINUATION OF WAR LEVIES

1159. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. Manu Subedar):

(a) What was the intention of the Honourable the Finance Member in the repeal of sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Excess Profits Tax Ordinance, 1943, and of the whole of the Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944?

(b) Why did Government not publish a communique from the Finance Department for the guidance of joint stock enterprise in India and of investors who are primarily concerned?

(c) What are the intentions of Government with regard to the charging sections in the pre-existing laws relating to this levy?

(d) What is the financial justification for Government to retain old deposits and to seek for new deposits after the official closing of the war on the 1st of April, 1946?

(e) Have Government examined the effect of the continuation of war levies on the general economy of the country? If so, do they propose to lay on the table of the House a summarised report of such examination?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) Sections 3, 4, and 5 of the Excess Profits Tax Ordinance, 1943 and the whole of the Excess Profits Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1944, having served their purpose of amending the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940, were superfluous and were repealed.

(b) In view of the clear exposition of the position in section 3(a) of Ordinance No. I of 1946, Government did not consider any communique necessary. It came to light, however, that mis-conceptions did exist and a Press Note was issued by the Central Board of Revenue on 30th January, 1946. In the result, it might have been better had a press note accompanied the Ordinance.

(c) The charging sections of the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940, still remain in operation.

(d) The main object was to sterilise a substantial portion of the "hot money" created by an abnormally high level of industrial profits which was a perpetual potential source of mischief. That object still continues, as is evidenced by the speculative boom which was developing in Bombay just prior to the promulgation of the demonetisation Ordinance.

(e) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Budget Speech.

(2757)

es of the Debates of the Legislative Assembly and of the Council of State,
obtainable on sale from the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: On a point of order, Sir. I thought you ruled that if a Member was not present in the House, his question should be asked at the end.

Mr. President: I am sorry. I missed that point. I must thank the Honourable the Finance Member for pointing this out.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: As questions were few, I thought you altered the procedure.

Mr. President: I must admit my mistake.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Then I withdraw the question*.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Then the Government withdraws the answer.

COLLECTION UNDER EXCESS PROFITS TAX LEVY.

1160. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar** (on behalf of **Mr. Manu Subedar**):

(a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state how much money was collected under the Excess Profits Tax levy (i) as tax payment, and (ii) as deposit for each financial period after the tax was levied?

(b) What is the estimated amount of arrears not so far collected?

(c) What is the reason for heavy arrears in the collection of income-tax, super-tax and Excess Profits Tax?

(d) How many officers have Government got in each Province for the collection of income-tax as compared with the number in 1938-39?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) I lay on the table two statements (marked I and II) giving the information required.

(b) I take it that the Honourable Member desires to know the amount of excess profits tax that could have been collected if the pending assessments had also been completed. On a very rough computation the amount may be taken at about Rs. 49 crores on the 1st April, 1945. The deposits on this amount would be about Rs. 13 crores.

(c) Various reasons such as—

(1) increase in the number of assesseees,
(2) slow progress of assessment work due to the necessity for closer scrutiny of accounts and intensive investigation arising from the enormous rise in taxable income, black market transactions and wide-spread malpractices designed to conceal profits.

(3) until recently difficulties of war time communication with countries outside India (including the U. K.) and consequent delay in getting information regarding foreign business of assesseees,

(4) delay in the submission of returns of income by assesseees and the adjournments required by them,

(5) assessment of partners having to await completion of assessments of the various firms in which they have shares,

(6) cases kept pending until decisions on the points in issue have been given by the Appellate authorities and the High Courts, and

(7) shortage of assessing officers and other staff.

(d) I lay on the table a statement (marked III) showing the position. The total number of officers has increased from 263 in 1938-39 to 553 in 1945-46.

*These questions have, however, been printed serially in these Debates.—Ed. of D.

I—Statement showing collection of Excess Profits Tax for the years 1940-41 to 1944-45

Year	Excess profits Tax Collection	Remarks
	Rs.	
1940-41	1,54,83,744	
1941-42	8,68,70,002	
1942-43	29,26,15,480	
1943-44	53,57,28,228	
1944-45	92,03,73,778*	* Provisional figures.

	1942-43		1943-44		1944-45	
	Receipts	Disbursements	Receipts	Disbursements	Receipts	Disbursements
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1. Amount of payment in respect of Provisional Assessment of Excess Profits Tax made under Section 144 of the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940		(Scheme was introduced only in 1943-44)	55,05,58,521	34,83,64,246(a)	57,38,07,612	74,98,19,164(a)
2. Account of Optional Deposits of Excess Profits Tax made under Section 10 of the Indian Finance Act, 1942	1,22,57,638	2,883	5,58,76,611	1,27,75,260(b)	1,94,31,864	1,55,10,529(b)
3. Account of Anticipatory Deposits made after Provisional Assessment of Excess Profits Tax			2,27,28,102	29,64,444(c)	5,98,93,933	1,86,96,580(c)
4. Account of Compulsory Deposits of Excess Profits Tax under Ordinance No. XVI of 1943		(The scheme relating to these deposits came into force only from 1943-44)	1,61,28,337	2,070(b)	14,72,08,331	42,52,571(b)

* The figures for this year are provisional.

(a) Amounts covered by regular assessment and transferred to revenue, amount of excess deposit refunded to assesses.

(b) Amounts refunded to assesses due to reduction of demand in appeal, deficiencies, etc.

(c) Amounts transferred to compulsory or optional deposit, refund of amount deposited in excess.

III—Comparative statement showing the number of Income-tax Officers employed in the Income-tax Departments in various Provinces during 1938-39 and 1945-46.

	1938-39	1945-46
Bombay	61	151
Madras	50	63
Bengal	49	128
United Provinces	35	55
Punjab	46	74
Central Provinces	16	18
Bihar and Orissa	18	36
Assam	6	8
Calcutta (Central)	...	6
Bombay (Central)	...	12
Bihar	1 (Part time)	1
Bombay	1 ..	1 (Part time)
	283	553

LEVY OF INCOME-TAX IN INDIAN STATES ACCORDING TO BRITISH INDIA SCALE 1161. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. Manu Subedar):

(a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state in how many Indian States income-tax is levied on the same scale as in the British India? and in how many States it is levied in a modified form?

(b) What is the position of enterprises which are located in the Indian States, but managed from the British India?

(c) With how many States is there reciprocal arrangement for the avoidance of double taxation?

(d) Has there been any recent modification of this arrangement?

(e) Have Government lent the services of any officers from the Finance Department to any Indian States for setting up or for reorganizing such Indian State administrations?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) In eight Indian States income-tax (including surcharge) is levied on the same scale as in British India; and in 65 States on a scale different from and lower than that in British India.

(b) Where management in British India makes the enterprise resident in British India, the enterprise is precisely in the same position as an enterprise resident in British India; but whether resident or not there is no liability to tax in respect of any income accruing or arising within an Indian State, unless such income is received in or brought into British India or is assessable under section 42 of the Income-Tax Act.

(c) 49.

(d) Yes. The basis of relief which was 50:50 has been changed to a proportionate basis, that is each unit makes a refund proportionate to the rate of tax it levies, and the aggregate relief in British India under arrangements with the United Kingdom, Ceylon and other Indian States is restricted to one half of the British Indian rate of tax.

(e) Yes; a few officials of the Income-tax Departments have been lent to certain states for appointment in their income-tax administrations.

SERVICE CONDITIONS OF COUNTESS OF CARLISLE AND DISBANDMENT OF W. A. C. (I)

1162. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. Manu Subedar):

(a) Will the War Secretary please state on what terms and conditions the Countess of Carlisle has come to this country, what the tenure of her office is, what her emolument is and when she is going back?

(b) Has the vacancy created by the resignation of Col. Miss Ranga Rao been filled, and by whom?

(c) In view of the disbandment of the WAC(I) recently announced, by what stages and in what manner will the services of the officers of the WAC(I) be dispensed with?

(d) What concrete plans have been drawn up for the resettlement of WAC(I) in civilian employment, and what percentage of civilian jobs has been set apart for them in the Central and Provincial Governments?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The Countess of Carlisle was appointed in 1944 to the post of Director of the WAC(I) on the recommendation of H. M. G. who had been asked by the Government of India to secure the services of an experienced Auxiliary Territorial Service officer to assist in the reorganisation of the WAC(I). She was commissioned as a Senior Commander in 1938. Her appointment was to last as long as her services were required. She receives pay of Rs. 900 a month together with free accommodation and messing.

Her appointment will come to an end when the disbandment of the Corps has proceeded so far that the responsibilities of the Director are reduced.

(b) The vacancy created by the resignation of Miss Ranga Rao has not been filled.

(c) Officers of the WAC(I) will be released in order of their Age and Service Groups or in accordance with the length of their deferment if applicable. The rate of disbandment will be about 2 groups per month.

(d) Personnel of the Women's Service are entitled to and are being given resettlement facilities equally with male ranks.

Pre-release training schemes are already in operation for WAC(I) personnel mainly in Educational and domestic science subjects. A course to interest women in civil welfare work will open shortly.

There is at every Regional Employment Exchange a special women's section to deal with the resettlement of women and to maintain contact with organisations dealing in women's employment and welfare.

Ex-personnel of the women's Services are normally eligible for Government employment along with war service candidates. A certain number of vacancies have been reserved wholly for women particularly in the teaching and nursing professions. Government also anticipate being able to employ a number of Ex-service women in a clerical capacity.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With reference to part (b) of his reply will the Honourable Member state why the vacancy created by the resignation of Miss Ranga Rao has not been filled up? Is it because Government are afraid that they will have to appoint an Indian who may be as critical as Miss Ranga Rao of Government's policy in this respect?

Mr. P. Mason: That is not the reason. There was no person available who seemed suitable for the job.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member please say in what way no Indian is suitable? What are the qualifications for this post? Does the

Honourable Member mean that there is not available one Indian lady to succeed Miss Ranga Rao?

Mr. P. Mason: The qualifications are contained in my answer to a question, the number of which I cannot remember, sometime ago.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: The Countess of Carlisle was brought for organising the WAC(I). But they are going to disband the WAC(I). May I know for how long the Countess of Carlisle is to be kept on here?

Mr. P. Mason: She was brought here to organise the Corps, as I explained, in 1944, the reasons being that she had six years Commissioned experience with the Auxiliary Territorial Service and there was no one in India who had six years service or who could have had six years experience of a Women's Corps. As to how long she is going to remain, as I explained in answer to another question, until we can run the Corps with someone of a lower rank than her present rank of Chief Controller.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What was her qualification before she gained that six years experience, except being a Countess?

Mr. P. Mason: Very considerable organising ability.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who discovered those abilities, Sir?

Mr. P. Mason: The question should be addressed to His Majesty's Government.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: May I know how long it will take for the complete disbandment of the Corps?

Mr. P. Mason: As I have repeatedly said, until April, 1947.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: May I know in what stages it is going to be disbanded?

Mr. P. Mason: As I have repeatedly explained, by successive stages, and, as I explained just now, two groups per month.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member then consider the question of appointing a successor to Col. Miss Ranga Rao, if we are in a position to recommend a suitable Indian lady?

Mr. P. Mason: We might. But I think it is improbable as we are reducing in every direction.

ENQUIRY ABOUT RESIGNATIONS OF W. A. C. (I) PERSONNEL AND MEMBERS OF A. T. S.

1163. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (on behalf of Mr. Manu Subedar):

(a) Will the War Secretary please state whether several Indian officers and personnel of WAC(I) have resigned as a protest against colour prejudice and favouritism in the WAC(I), and why no enquiry has been instituted in the complaints made by them?

(b) If there have been departmental reports on the subject, will Government lay copies of such reports on the table of the House?

(c) How many Indian officers have resigned since the 1st September, 1945, and for what reasons?

(d) Why are the members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service coming out to India, how many of them have come, what ranks are they holding what are their emoluments, and when is it intended to send them back?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) As I have repeatedly stated, Yes, Sir; and as I have recently agreed this is one of the questions which will be discussed at the next meeting of the Defence Consultative Committee.

(b) There are no formal reports on this subject. The noting and decisions on the question are privileged.

(c) As I have repeatedly stated, the following Indian Officers have tendered their resignations from the WAC(I) on the grounds of alleged discrimination within the Corps:

J/Comd.	Henry	5th October.
2/Officer	Thomas	6th October.
J/Comd.	Shreenivassaa	6th October.
4/Officer	Bonner	23rd October.
J/Comd.	Wahid	5th December.

In addition, J/Comd. Wasi was permitted to resign her commission on marriage, in accordance with the general rule.

(d) As I have repeatedly explained, Members of the Auxiliary Territorial Service came to India as normal reinforcements, the auxiliaries replacing male British Other Ranks, and the Officers, who are all either staff or technically trained, either replacing male British officers or helping in the training of WAC(I). Details of the numbers, ranks and emoluments are laid on the table. There are none coming now; the total numbers never exceeded 51 officers and 121 auxiliaries, and they are going back as fast as they can be replaced.

Statement

Rank	Number in India on the 24th February 1946	Salary per mensem
<i>(i) Officers</i>		
Chief Commander	1	Rs. 930
Senior Commander	5	720
[2 on loan to WAC (I)]		
Junior Commander	28	500 (including Japanese Campaign Pay).
[9 on loan to WAC (I)]		
Subaltern	1	395

Note—Officers have to pay for their own board, lodging, furniture, etc., Staff/Additional/Charge/Corps pay is admissible at 2/3 the rates payable to male officers in the same appointment. This is also admissible to W.A.C. (I.) Officers.

(ii) Auxiliaries.

On the 24th February, 1946, there were 110 A.T.S. auxiliaries in India.

Auxiliaries' rates of pay, including Japanese Campaign Pay, vary between Rs. 95 and Rs. 276 per month, according to rank and trade group.

Note—Japanese Campaign Pay is also admissible to W.A.C. (I.) Officers and auxiliaries when serving *ex-India*.

(iii) In addition, war service increments are admissible to both officers and auxiliaries on completion of a minimum of three years' war service.

FILLING UP OF PERMANENT COMMISSIONS BY INDIANS IN R. I. N.

1164. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has ordered that no more Europeans be recruited in the Royal Indian Navy?

(b) Is it a fact that sixty permanent Commissions are being offered to Indians?

(c) Is it a fact that forty permanent Commissions are being offered to Europeans?

(d) In view of the assurances given by Government, that Army is being Indianised, why do Government offer such a large number of permanent Commissions to Europeans?

(e) Are Government aware that competent Indian officers are available for permanent Commission, but they have been offered much less number of permanent Commissions than they are entitled to?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). Since the post-war size of the R. I. N. has not yet been determined, Government are at present offering only a small number of permanent commissions; but as soon as the size is known it is hoped that it will be possible to offer more. The policy regarding Indianisation is that after the present batch of 106 permanent commissions, there will be no more permanent commissions for Europeans. In the 106 which are now being offered, however, there are 40 for British officers of the R. I. N. Reserves, i.e., temporary officers serving for the war period only. I understand that it is unlikely that all these will be filled. The remaining 66 are for Indians. The reason for including 40 for Europeans in the case of the Navy alone of the three Services, is because of the greater difficulty of obtaining seconded officers in required numbers from the Royal Navy than from the other British services; and the fact that there are not sufficient Indian officers available of the seniority required who are suitable and who have the particular qualifications.

I should explain that Naval officers are required to specialise to a very considerable extent, and this measure is meant to tide over the gap until the period when a steady flow of trained and qualified Indian officers in all branches is available.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have any special steps been taken to give the necessary technical training to Indian officers so that they may be able to take up these positions now being offered to these 40 Englishmen within a year or two?

Mr. P. Mason: I am not quite sure what the Honourable Member means by special steps. Steps are continually being taken to that end.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What do you mean by sufficient seniority? Do I take it that these Indians who have been recruited as Sub-Lieutenants will not be given the necessary technical training so that they may become Majors in order to hold these special jobs?

How do the Government expect ever to be able to replace these 40 Englishmen, if they are to follow the usual methods of promotion and recruitment?

Mr. P. Mason: They will replace them as soon as they acquire the necessary training and seniority.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Am I to understand that out of 2,000 temporary commissioned officers, there are no one to replace these 40 Europeans?

Mr. P. Mason: The whole question is rather difficult and complicated because in the first place of the question of age, and in the second place of specialist branches. If you have an appointment of a Torpedo lieutenant, it is no good trying to fill it by a man who is a Communications Lieutenant Commander and it is for that reason that 40 only have been decided upon as necessary.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is it a fact that there were about 2,500 officers who were offered commissions during the war, and all but 66 of these are now being demobilised? May I know what exactly the Honourable Member means by qualifications of seniority?

Are there or are there not among those who have been demobilised, officers who have got the necessary seniority which is being made the excuse in the case of these 40 posts which have been reserved for being filled up by Europeans?

Mr. P. Mason: This is rather a lengthy and complicated question. I should explain that in the first place there are a large number of officers who do not wish to remain in service and as far as possible, they are being released. Of the remainder quite a number are not really suitable for peace time commissions. There are also a number who would be suitable if they were of the ages which are required, and there are also others, who would be suitable if they happened to be in the branch in which the vacancy exists. Finally, as I have explained before, the figure 66 is only a beginning. I hope very much, that it may be very considerably increased in the near future.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: As regards the first part of the answer, I should like to know why these officers do not want to remain in service? Have you tried to find out why these officers want to be released? Is it due to the fact that the conditions in the services are not suitable and if conditions were improved they would like to remain on?

Mr. P. Mason: I have not made any special enquiry on this question although it is one which is always being considered. I would answer the first part by saying that in the British services of course a very much higher percentage wish to be demobilised and to get away to peace time employment. I think it is not unfair to suppose that the very much smaller percentage of Indian officers who wish to go may wish to do so for the same reason.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But with regard to those Indians who wish to go has any effort been made to offer them these posts and to ascertain whether they would like to accept them?

Mr. P. Mason: It is not a matter of posts; it is a matter of number of officers in a cadre.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not the case that these Indian officers who wish to be demobilised have not been offered these posts and therefore as a matter of discontent or protest they would like to leave the service?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. We do not walk round offering each man a post and asking them whether they would like to have this or that post. We make an inquiry as to how many of them want to apply for permanent commissions and so many said they did not want them.

TRANSFER OF OFFICERS FROM BRITISH ROYAL NAVY AND INDIAN NAVY

1165. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that services of 500 officers from the British Royal Navy are being asked for?

(b) Are Government aware that there are about 2,000 Indian officers in the Royal Indian Navy?

(c) Are Government aware that these Indian officers managed and ran the Indian Navy during the war as efficiently as the Royal Navy?

(d) If the answers to (a) to (c) are in the affirmative, why is it that 500 officers from the Royal British Navy are being transferred or their services are being lent to the Indian Navy?

(e) Are Government aware that the services of 500 officers are being asked only for the purpose of retaining the surplus officers of the Royal Navy and putting burden on the Indian exchequer?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (b), (c), (d) and (e). The temporary loan of 270 (not 500) Commissioned officers and Warrant officers on secondment from the Royal Navy has been asked for, but it is not at all certain that the Admiralty will agree to provide them.

It is a fact that considerable numbers of British and Indian officers are being released from the R. I. N. Reserves. Those Indian officers who are suitable for

permanent commissions, are qualified for a branch in which vacancies exist, and are of the required seniority and age will be offered regular commissions; but it is considered that the presence of a number of officers of the Royal Navy on temporary loan will for some time to come be of great value to the Service.

The total number of officers available and suitable falls short of the number required for the post-war Navy. Additions made through Cadet-entry which has been increased will take three to four years for full training. In the meantime, secondment offers the best solution for filling up temporary vacancies without prejudicing the Government of India's policy of progressive Indianisation.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is it because we have not got suitable officers to fill up these vacancies that officers are being asked for from the Royal Navy?

Mr. P. Mason: We are doing very much the same here as was done in the case of the Australian and Canadian Navy where they borrowed a large number of officers and ratings from the Royal Navy to begin with, when they first started expanding more rapidly after the last war. And later on in continuation of that process there was a continual exchange of officers between the two navies, which I hope will take place in this case too.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I do not understand my Honourable friend. When we are releasing about 2,000 officers who are on emergency commissions, what is the special need now to have a loan of 200 officers from the Royal Navy?

Mr. P. Mason: For one thing, they are nearly all very young indeed. The Indian officers are nearly all of the same age,—between about 18 and 28.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: Apart from the 200 that are being asked for, how many European officers have been already seconded for the R. I. N.?

Mr. P. Mason: A very small number, may be about 20.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: How many permanent commissioned Indian officers are there in the R. I. N.?

Mr. P. Mason: I should require notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When, as the Honourable Member said, Indians could not be taken into these positions because they are not of the required age and seniority, why is it that Government wish to offer permanent commissions to Englishmen and thus prevent these Indians when they reach the required age and proficiency from getting these positions?

Mr. P. Mason: We would really have preferred secondment rather than offering permanent commissions. That is why we tried to get about 270 by secondment and 40 by permanent commissions. We would have preferred to get them by secondment and thus have no permanent commissions, which I understand is what the Honourable Member wants to avoid. But there are considerable difficulties in the naval service in the way of secondment. As I said, it is very doubtful whether the Admiralty will agree to secondment at all, and as regards the 40 whom we want to give permanent commissions I do not think we shall get all of them either.

COMMAND OF SHIPS TO INDIAN OFFICERS OF R. I. N.

1166. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) how many Indian officers of the Royal Indian Navy are in command of ships;

(b) whether Government are aware that officers of the Royal Indian Naval Reserve are as well qualified as any British officer;

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the affirmative the reasons that the command of ships is not being given to the Indian officers;

(d) if Government are aware that officers of the Royal Indian Navy are also as well qualified as any British officer; and

(e) if so, why command of ships is not being given to them?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) 21 HMI Ships out of a total of 50 in commission on 1st March, 1946, are commanded by Indian officers.

(b) and (d). Yes, Sir.

(c) Indian officers are appointed to command HMI Ships when their rank and seniority qualify them to do so in exactly the same manner as British officers.

(e) Does not arise.

COMPOSITION AND OFFICERS' STRENGTH AT NAVAL HEADQUARTERS

1167. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the officers' strength at the Naval Headquarters?

(b) How many of them are Hindus, Muslims, Europeans and Anglo-Indians?

(c) What is the number of European officers holding staff jobs other than ciphers and other stooge jobs?

(d) What is the number of Indian officers holding staff jobs other than ciphers and other stooge jobs?

(e) How many Muslims occupy staff jobs other than ciphers and other stooge jobs?

(f) Are Government aware that the education of the average Indian officer is in comparison not less but rather more than his European contemporary?

(g) Is it a fact that thirty permanent Commissions are being offered to the Indian Naval Headquarters staff? If so, how many of them are Muslims and Hindus?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) 96.

(b) Hindus 15, Muslims 8, Europeans 50, Anglo-Indians 13, other Indian Communities 10.

(c), (d) and (e). There is no caste system among appointments, Sir, and none are officially scheduled as stooge jobs. I assume, however, that the Honourable Member refers by this term to posts in cyphers, as Secretaries, and posts to which staff pay is not attached, though I do not accept the implication that these posts do not provide a very valuable field for service. Excluding posts of this nature, the figures are Europeans 48, Indians 28, Muslims 4.

(f) That, Sir, is a matter of opinion.

(g) Certainly not, Sir. No permanent commissions are reserved for officers serving at Naval Headquarters.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is meant by these stooge jobs?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already explained that that is not a term which we use. It is a term that I can only attribute to the questioner.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any Indians in the cypher section?

Mr. P. Mason: If the Honourable Member will take the trouble to subtract the figures that I gave in the one context from those I gave in the other, he will see that they are almost all Indians.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With reference to parts (e) and (g) of the question, may I know why the percentage of Muslims in these two branches is so low?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I do not know myself.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will Government make inquiries?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that all the responsible posts in the cypher branch are held by Europeans?

Mr. P. Mason: The figures I have given suggest that the posts in cypher are almost entirely Indian.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then what is the reason for keeping so many Europeans in these different sections? There are 50 in one and 48 in another.

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid the Honourable Member misunderstood the whole point of his friend's question.

DEMobilIZATION OF R. I. N. AND PLAN FOR RESETTLEMENT

1168. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that demobilization of the Royal Indian Navy is slow?

(b) Are Government aware that a lot of inconvenience is being caused to the ratings and that they have complained about it?

(c) Are Government proposing any plan for resettlement of the Royal Indian Navy ratings and officers?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) That, Sir, is a matter of opinion. Demobilisation from the Royal Indian Navy on 1st February, 1946, was 31.3 per cent. of the numbers borne on 1st October, 1945. It is actually the highest percentage of any service.

(b) Just as everyone wants more pay, there are some in every service who want early release; but until the recent mutiny, this did not seem to be a general complaint in the R. I. N. In fact there have been some complaints that demobilisation was too rapid.

(c) Yes, Sir. Resettlement plans for ex-service men are on an inter-Service basis and officers and ratings of the R. I. N. are entitled to the same facilities as other services.

PROMOTION AND STRENGTH OF INDIAN AND EUROPEAN OFFICERS IN R. I. N.

†1169. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) the strength of the Indian officers in the Royal Indian Navy;

(b) the strength of the European officers in the Royal Indian Navy;

(c) how many Indian officers have been promoted from Lieutenants to Lieutenant Commanders and above these ranks and their percentage in accordance with their number;

(d) how many European officers have been promoted from Lieutenants to Lieutenant Commanders and their percentage in accordance with their number; and

(e) the reasons for promoting less number of Indian officers?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The strength of the Indian officers in the Royal Indian Navy on 1st March, 1946—1,246.

(b) The strength of the European officers in the Royal Indian Navy on 1st March, 1946—722.

(c) Total number of Indian officers of the rank of Lieut.-Commander and above—59.

Percentage of Indian Officers promoted to Lieut. Commander—4.72.

(d) Total number of European officers of the rank of Lieut. Commander and above—224.

Percentage of European officers promoted to Lieut. Commander—31.02.

(e) The reasons why fewer Indian officers have been promoted are as follows:

The rules for accelerated promotion to the rank of Acting Lieut. Commander require that an officer should have attained the age of 30 and have completed a minimum of two years' service in the rank of Lieutenant. The Commissions of most Indian officers date from 1942 or later, and the average age of the Indian officer has been considerably below that of the European. These two factors have precluded the consideration of the majority of Indian officers for accelerated promotion above the rank of Lieutenant.

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner having exhausted his quota

PROPOSAL FOR ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

1170. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Home Member please state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Uruguayan proposal before the U.N.O. pleading for mercy for even the hated Nazi criminals;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is a widely prevailing feeling in this country also that the capital punishment should be abolished; and

(c) whether Government would consider the proposal for the abolition of capital punishment at least for the political prisoners?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I have seen a press report of the proposal.

(b) I have reason to believe that opinion on the subject in India is divided.

(c) The Government of India do not think it wise to abolish capital punishment for any type of crime for which that punishment is now provided.

LINGAYAT BATTALION IN INDIAN ARMY

1171. *Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the War Secretary be please to state:

(a) whether there is a unit in the Indian Army known as the Lingayat Battalion;

(b) when the Battalion was constituted, and why it was so named;

(c) the number of Lingayats (i) officers and (ii) other personnel, in the said unit;

(d) the number of Non-Lingayats—(i) officers and (ii) other personnel, in the said battalion;

(e) the reason for including Non-Lingayats in the Lingayat Battalion;

(f) the number of Lingayats who are included in other units of the Indian Army;

(g) the reason why they are not also included in the Lingayat Battalion; and

(h) whether it is a fact that clothing supplied to the members of the said unit is inadequate?

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

(b) This Battalion was raised on the 1st August, 1943, and was called the 'Lingayat Battalion' because the Lingayat community provided 75 per cent. of the battalion. The class composition of the battalion was changed to 100 per cent Lingayats on the 30th January, 1945, the Mahratta element of the battalion being left to waste out.

(c) and (d). The Battalion has nine officers. No record by classes is maintained of officers, and there is no particular reason to suppose any of them are Lingayats. Combatant V.C.Os. and O.Rs. total 878 of whom 745 are Lingayats and 133 'Others' (mostly Mahrattas).

(e) Because Lingayats were unable to provide infantry soldiers with sufficient length of service and experience for the V.C.O. and N.C.O. ranks, nor could the community find and maintained 800 trained infantry soldiers of any rank until recruiting had improved.

(f) Approximately 1,400.

(g) Because, Sir, an Army does not consist entirely of infantry and no one class can insist that all its recruits shall go to infantry.

(h) No, Sir. The scale of clothing is the same as for other Indian troops.

Mr. President: Yes, Mr. Saksena?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I would like to put some questions.

Mr. President: Has the Honourable Member got the authority?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I have not the authority; but they are very important.

Mr. President: Can he not point out any one particular question?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: They are questions Nos. 1172 and 1173.

Mr. President: I believe the gentlemen are released from Jail.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Not Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

Mr. President: Is Dr. Lohia still in detention?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir.

Mr. President: I will permit question No. 1173.

COMPLAINTS BY SARDAR SARDUL SINGH KAVEESHAH *re* JAIL CONDITIONS.

1172. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if his attention has been drawn to the statements given to the press by Sardar Sardul Singh Kaveeshar after his release regarding conditions in the jail, and if he proposes to make enquiries into the nature of the complaints made and take steps to bring the guilty to book and to obviate the repetition of such incidents?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have read an A. P. I. message in the Press which mentions conditions in the Lahore Fort. The statements are either untrue or greatly exaggerated. I do not propose to institute any special enquiry.

ALLEGATIONS BY DR. RAM MANOHAR LOHIA *re* HIS TREATMENT IN PUNJAB JAIL

1173. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (on behalf of Shri Sri Prakasa): Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state, with reference to his answers to various questions in this behalf, whether he has made any further enquiries into the allegations made by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia regarding the treatment meted out to him while he was in jail in the Punjab, and what steps Government have taken in that connection?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have myself questioned Mr. Lohia about his allegations. They are of such a nature that they cannot be verified and I do not propose to take any further action upon them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are they psychological? Are the complaints made by him psychological so that they cannot be verified?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am afraid I do not understand the question and I have doubts of the seriousness of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are his complaints of the mind that it is not possible for the Honourable Member to verify them or that they are based on facts?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not quite understand what my Honourable friend is after. I have spoken on this before in this House both in answer to questions and on other occasions and I have explained that the allegations are from their nature and from the circumstances of the time such that, I quite admit, it is not possible for Dr. Lohia to produce proof or corroboration of them.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member let the House know what those allegations are, because we do not know what they are?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: They have been in the press.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Did he verify those allegations while meeting Dr. Lohia?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have explained that it is not possible to verify them.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: After all the allegations we read about were of such a nature that they were definite and they could have been enquired into. I do not know how the Honourable Member says they could not be verified.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: From the circumstances of the incidents which were alleged by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Were the allegations he made to the Honourable the Home Member the same as those that appeared in the press?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Practically.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Will the Honourable Member please state how long he was detained in the Lahore Fort?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot answer that without notice.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: May I ask whether one of the allegations was that Dr. Lohia was kept continuously awake and was not that a complaint which the Honourable the Home Member could have easily verified?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: It was alleged by Dr. Lohia that for a time he was deprived of sleep.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: What was his statement regarding his being subjected to third degree methods during his detention in the Lahore Fort?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: It was a long statement. The gist of it had appeared in the press and I cannot reproduce it from memory.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know whether he made any enquiries from those in charge of Lohia's custody that he was kept awake for any length of time?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I did not follow the question.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want to know whether after the statement of Dr. Lohia that he was kept awake for some time, did he make enquiries from the officers concerned, in whose custody he was, whether it was true?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir, I did on my visit to the Lahore Fort and I tried to get to the bottom of the allegation.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Has the Honourable Member any ground to believe that Dr. Lohia's statements are false?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot give a specific answer to that. It is a matter of Dr. Lohia's word against the contradiction of his allegations by officers concerned, and I must leave it at that.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Was the complaint made to the Honourable Member by Dr. Lohia identical with the complaint I am going to read from Dr. Lohia's letter to Prof. Laski:

"I was ill-treated in one way or another for four months; I was kept awake day after day, night after night, the longest single stretch running into ten days and when I resisted the police in their efforts to make me stand, they wheeled me round on my manacled hands on the matted floor."

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes, Sir, more or less. I do not think, if I may say so, that in my conversation with Dr. Lohia, he was quite so picturesque as the description of the occurrences given in the statement.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: May I now whether the allegations made were examined by the Honourable Member or by any subordinate of his?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I questioned the officers in the Lahore Fort who were responsible for interrogation. I do not remember that Dr. Lohia has specified any particular officer.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Did the Honourable Member consider the question of bringing the matter into court for enquiry?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not know how that can be done.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the allegations constitute an offence under the criminal law?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: They would.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In that case did the Honourable Member consider the question of bringing the matter before a magistrate or judge for an enquiry?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Is the Honourable Member prepared to agree to the appointment of a Committee of this House to go into the allegations made by Dr. Lohia and by other prisoners in the Lahore Fort?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot answer as regards the other prisoners in the Lahore Fort. But as regards Dr. Lohia, I think the appointment of any such Committee would be quite infructuous.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Then what is the remedy for a prisoner in the position of Dr. Lohia who has been treated like that? Beyond making a complaint to the authorities, what other remedy could he have?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Well, Sir, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia did approach the Lahore High Court. I cannot from memory say whether it was once or twice. But he did present an application to the Lahore High Court and was, if my recollection is correct, heard.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that immediately after Dr. Lohia's application came before the Lahore High Court, he was transferred to the United Provinces?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I must ask for notice of that. I am not certain. I do not think so.

LARGE SCALE PURCHASE BY GOVERNMENT OF COPIES OF *London Times*.

+1174 ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that a large number of copies of the *London Times* (Daily Air Mail Edition) is purchased by Government;

(b) if so, the purpose for which these are purchased and the manner in which they are disposed of;

(c) if copies are distributed free to various officers of the Government of India; and

(d) the amount of money that Government spends for the purpose?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Hundred and four copies of the *London Times* are purchased.

(b) They are purchased for the use of certain officers of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments?

(c) Yes.

(d) The estimated expenditure during 1946-47 is Rs. 8,000.

'QUIT DELHI' ORDER SERVED ON PANDIT OM PRAKASH VAID.

+1175. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that Pandit Om Prakash Vaid, a medical practitioner of Ayurveda, was served with a notice to quit Delhi on or about the 20th February, 1946;

(b) if it is a fact that he had settled in Delhi as a Medical practitioner and was taking no part in politics; and

(c) if he was summoned again and again to the Chandni Chowk Kotwali Police Station, interrogated by the C. I. D. and asked to give any undertaking; if so, the reason for all this procedure, and why he was externed from Delhi?

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

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (c). No.

(b) Yes.

CHARGE AGAINST CH. RATIRAM OF SINGHWA VILLAGE IN DELHI PROVINCE.

1176. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member kindly state if Ch. Ratiram of Singhwa Village in the Province of Delhi is an absconding accused charged in connection with the occurrences of August, 1942?

(b) Was he proclaimed as an offender?

(c) Are any warrants of arrest still pending against him? If so, will Government consider the desirability of cancelling the warrants against him, in view of such warrants having been cancelled in respect of many persons similarly circumstanced?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. The case against him was withdrawn on the 19th September, 1945.

PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH IMPORT DUTY ON SPRAYING MACHINERY

1177. *Mr. R. C. Morris: Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether it is proposed to abolish import duty on Spraying Machinery for agriculture, including power sprayers, rams and pumps?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Under item 72(8) of the Indian Customs Tariff spraying machines are exempt from duty.

It is not proposed to abolish the import duty on rams and pumps as they are not exclusively used for agricultural purposes. The question of reduction of duty on certain imported plant and machinery is, however, receiving Government's attention as I indicated in paragraph 42 of my Budget speech.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does not this reduction apply to that portion of the machinery which will be used for spraying purposes?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have already said that under the Indian Customs Tariff spraying machines are exempt from duty.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am asking in regard to other machines.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Which other machines?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member is thinking of reducing duty on rams and pumps. I am only suggesting whether this reduction applies only to those portions of it which will be used for the spraying machinery or for any other purpose.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I did not know that a ram was used for spraying. It is used for various purposes. As I have already indicated, I am considering the whole question.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: As there is a great deal of demand for tractors and ploughing machinery, may I know if these machinery also is exempt from duty?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: As I have said, the whole question of reducing the tariff on machinery is at present under investigation by Government.

UTILISATION OF M. T. TRAINING UNITS FOR TRANSPORTING FOODSTUFFS.

1178. *Mr. R. C. Morris: Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that Army Transport in the Provinces including M. T. Training Units, will be utilised, on demand, for transporting grains and foodstuffs where local road transport is insufficient?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. It is our policy to assist Provincial Governments as far as possible in the transport of essential foodstuffs to deficit areas in military transport. Instructions to this effect were sent out on March 8th.

JAIL FACILITIES FOR CAPTAINS ABDUR RASHID AND BURHANUDDIN.

79. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Capts. Abdur Rashid and Burhanuddin have kept in jails? If so, in which places?

(b) In what class have they been placed?

What form of labour, if any, are they required to do?

(c) What facilities are they allowed in respect of interviews, letters, reading, and newspapers?

P. Mason: (a) Both are in the Central Prison at Haripur in the North-West Frontier Province as I have already informed the Honourable Member's colleague on the bench behind him.

(c) and (d). Since they have been dismissed from the Indian Army, they are now ordinary convicted criminal prisoners so that these parts of the question are the concern of the Government of the North-West Frontier Province. I have enquired what the decision of the Provincial Government is in the matter.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will they not be treated as political prisoners?

P. Mason: Certainly not.

M. N. G. Ranga: Is it not in the discretion of the Provincial Government how to treat them—whether as political prisoners or as ordinary prisoners?

P. Mason: No, Sir.

M. N. G. Ranga: Has not the Honourable Member just now said that they have been handed over to the Provincial Government? Now it is for the Provincial Government to decide in which class they should be placed and what form of labour they should be required to do.

P. Mason: Yes, Sir. But not to decide whether they are criminal or political prisoners.

Shri Govind Das: Have they been kept together, or separately?

P. Mason: I do not know, but I have no reason to suppose that they are kept together.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: In the North-West Frontier Province, there is a classification of prisoners. Will it be in the discretion of the Provincial Government to classify them or will it be in the discretion of the Central Government?

P. Mason: I have already answered that question of Prof. Ranga.

M. N. G. Ranga: Why should the Government of India come in the matter of the Provincial Government if they want to be liberal?

P. Mason: I thought that the Honourable Member was scolding us the other day because we did not take enough interest in them.

President: Next question.

M. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I want to reply to his observation. The other day I was anxious to support the Provincial Government when they were very liberal. When they want to be liberal, the Honourable Member comes in the way.

President: Next question.

TRANSPORTATION OF DEMOBILISED NON-INDIANS OWING TO SCARCITY OF CEREALS

80. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: With reference to the announcement in the *Hindustan Times* of the 2nd March, 1946, that the total decrease

in the Indian Army amounts to 4,952 officers and 292,561 men up to the 31st January, 1946, will the War Secretary please state:

- (a) the number of Indian officers and men who have been thus demobilised;
- (b) the number of non-Indians, British and others who have been demobilised;
- (c) how many in category (b) are still in India awaiting transportation to the United Kingdom or elsewhere, and when it is expected that they will be taken out of India;
- (d) if the total mentioned above includes permanent personnel who would have retired in any case or only the temporary personnel taken on during the war;
- (e) if, in view of the scarcity of cereals in India, he proposes to take very early steps to send out as many non-Indian personnel as possible before the 1st April 1946, if not, why not; and
- (f) the number of personnel retained in the Indian Army who are neither British nor Indian, but who have been taken on during the war for technical or other reasons and who are still in service?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) On the 31st January, 1946, the approximate figures were: Indian officers—900.

V.C.O's, I.O.R.'s N.C.S.E.—267,000.

(b) Non-Indians demobilised in India—300.

Released or repatriated outside India—29,000.

(c) Numbers in category (b) held temporarily in India awaiting transportation elsewhere average 2,500 and remain for periods varying from three to twelve days.

(d) Over 95 per cent. of all releases and repatriations are of temporary personnel on engagements for the duration of the war. Regular Army Officers, and Other Ranks whose colour service has not expired are included only on medical or compassionate grounds.

(e) As I have already explained in reply to part (b) of the Honourable Member's question No. 525, on the 26th of last month, the number of non-Indian military personnel in India is a small and decreasing fraction of one per cent. of the population, and they are fed almost entirely from imported food-stuffs.

(f) Accurate and up-to-date information is not available but the number when last ascertained was 124.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that only five per cent. of deficiency in food supply in Bengal had caused all that mischief as a result of which 35 lakhs of people have died, will Government reconsider their decision even though these troops form only one per cent. of our total population?

Mr. P. Mason: I am not quite sure what decision the Honourable Member is referring to.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member had referred to the fact that these people form only one per cent. of the population and therefore they do not very much matter in India's national economy.

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is out of that that my supplementary question has arisen. I want an answer to that. Will Government reconsider their decision?

Mr. P. Mason: What decision?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The decision to allow the *status quo* to remain.

Mr. P. Mason: I have a question for the next day when I am answering questions on the subject of the efforts which are being made by the Defence Services in general to relieve food situation, and I think I can answer that question then.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: May I know if milk powder is going to be supplied to Madras by arrangement with the Military Department by a cut in army rations on account of the food difficulties?

Mr. President: How does it arise out of this question?

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: It arises out of part (e) of the question and has a bearing on the military rations.

Mr. President: I do not think it directly arises out of it.

CUT IN CEREAL RATION OF ARMED FORCES

1181. *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 2nd March, 1946, about the British proposal to cut the ration of armed forces in Great Britain with a view to providing more for mine labour and other labour; and if the facts stated therein are correct;

(b) whether there is any proposal in India to bring down the ration of the armed forces, in the matter of cereals at least, to the level of the civil rations, in view of the fact that the armed forces are given large rations of meat and milk and milk products; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in the negative, will he kindly give the reasons in detail which preclude him from following such a course and for perpetuation of the difference in ration between the civil and military elements of the population?

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

(b) There is no intention at present of imposing a further cut in the ration of the armed forces. A cut of 4 oz of atta was imposed in November 1945, but this cut was found to be too drastic in view of the active life led by service men and 2 oz atta were consequently restored on the 24th December 1945. Cuts were also made in dhal, ghee and sugar and involved a total lowering of 480 calories in the day's ration. A corresponding cut was made in the rations of British troops in respect of bread, flour, butter, meat, oatmeal, tea and sugar.

(c) The reason for not further reducing the ration of the armed forces is that the men are engaged on active work and further it is essential to keep them happy and contented. I may point out for the Honourable Member's information that in Great Britain also the armed forces receive a higher ration than civilians for similar reasons.

Rations are calculated in part on calorific content which in turn is related to the calculated daily expenditure of energy which the military profession demands.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that there is now no war going on and no such active work is involved, will the Honourable Member see that their ration is reduced to some extent at least?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already answered that by saying that there is no intention at present of imposing a further cut.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Out of what total or maximum calories of food has this 480 calories been cut?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I cannot tell you.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is a very relevant omission. May I know what cut in calories has been imposed in the ration allowed to British army personnel?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid I cannot tell you that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that that information has not been obtained, whereas he has been careful to obtain the other information for the House?

Mr. P. Mason: I am afraid it was pure laziness. But I will obtain the information and supply it to the Honourable Member.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF STAFF IN CENTRAL REVENUE LABORATORY

†1182. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state, communitywise, the total number of junior and senior Chemists and other higher appointments existing in the Central Revenue Laboratory as it stood on the 1st January, 1946?

(b) To which Province does each one belong, and are any Sikhs employed therein? If so, how many, and in what capacity?

(c) Has there been any supersession of any Sikh in the Department? If so, when, by whom and under what circumstances?

(d) What is the total number of such temporary and permanent staff, and how many of them are Sikhs under each category?

(e) Does he propose to see that the claims of Sikhs are safeguarded in the temporary or permanent appointments and that no promotion without any serious handicap is allowed over the head of a Sikh?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) and (d). The establishment of the Central Revenues Control Laboratory includes four gazetted posts, namely Chief Chemist, two Chemical Examiners (Grade I) and one Assistant Chemical Examiner; and there are six non-gazetted posts of Chemical Assistants. On the 1st January, 1946, the gazetted posts were held by three Hindus and one Muslim and the non-gazetted posts by four Hindus and two Sikhs.

(b) Of the four gazetted officers two are from Mysore State, one from Madras and one from the United Provinces. Of the six non-gazetted officers, one is from Madras, one from Bengal, one from the Patiala State and three from the Punjab. As stated in the reply to parts (a) and (d), two Sikhs are employed as Chemical Assistants (Second Grade), one being permanent and the other temporary.

(c) No.

(e) In making appointments by direct recruitment the orders relating to communal representation are, and will continue to be, observed; appointments filled by promotion will continue to be based on merit.

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF INDIAN COMMANDING ROYAL ENGINEERS IN M. E. S.

†1183. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** With reference to the reply to starred question No. 1268 of the 22nd March, 1945, will the War Secretary please state what increase in the number of Indians in the grade of Commanding Royal Engineers has taken place up to the 1st March, 1946, and what attempts have been made to give more and more representation to the Indians in the cadre of Military Engineering Service of these ranks? If the number has since decreased, what are the reasons therefor?

Mr. P. Mason: On the 1st March 1946 four posts of the grade of Commander Royal Engineers (Lt.-Col.) in the M.E.S. in India were held by Indian Officers as against two such appointments held last March, i.e., 1945. In addition, six Indian officers hold equivalent posts in military formations.

Indian officers will continue to be given consideration for appointment to senior posts as and when they attain the requisite seniority and experience.

REPRESENTATION FROM CALCUTTA TEA MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION TO REDUCE EXCISE DUTY

1184. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether he has received a communication from the Calcutta Tea Merchants' Association inviting his attention to the present Excise duty at the rate of two annas on tea and suggesting its removal? If so, will the Honourable Member please place on the table a copy of the communication?

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

(b) Has the representation made therein been given due consideration, and in case no action is proposed to be taken thereon, will he indicate his reasons for not acceding to the representation, point by point?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) I regret I am not able to disclose the contents of the communication without the Association's permission, which it has not been possible to obtain within the time available.

(b) The representation has been given due consideration. A decision in a matter of this sort is a compound of various considerations and is not determined solely with reference to any particular individual point that arises.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to indicate what percentage this particular duty forms of the price of the cheaper brands of tea which are used by the poorer sections of the people?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have not worked out the percentage, but I can work it out for the Honourable Member if wanted.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has not the Honourable Member received representations from the Tea Growers of Kangra Valley about the excessive inroad that this tea cess is making upon them?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have not quite caught the second part of the Honourable Member's question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Whether the Honourable Member has received representations from the Kangra Valley Tea Growers Association complaining about the burden or the inroad which this particular duty is making into their ordinary income?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am not quite sure if the growers concerned are the constituents or friends of the Honourable Member. I have not seen any complaints: they have not come to me.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member undertake to give an answer to this question when he has received a reply from the Association agreeing to the communication being made public?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have already said that I am not prepared myself to give an answer point by point: it is pointless to do so.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it a fact that they made a representation? In fact they made repeated representations to the Central Board of Revenue that they formed one third of the total tea growers of the country but produced only one per cent. of the tea produced in the country and urged that this excise duty should be reduced.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir. It has not come to my personal notice. If the Honourable Member would like, I can call for the papers.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member prepared to give an answer to the points raised in the representation, covering the substance of those complaints?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am always reasonable, Sir.

APPLICANTS FOR SETTING UP CEMENT FACTORIES IN INDIA

1185. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that applications were invited in June, 1945, from persons desirous of setting up cement factories in India;

(b) the number of applications received by Government in this regard, from Indian and non-Indian parties separately; and

(c) whether Messrs. Bird and Co. have been allotted two cement plants for erection in the Punjab and in the Gangpur State, and whether there were any Indian applicants for undertaking cement production at these places, if so, the reasons why their applications were not granted?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) 145 in all. It is not possible to say from the applications how many of them were from Indian and how many from non-Indian parties.

(c) On the recommendation of the Punjab Government, the Punjab Minerals Co. Ltd., Calcutta (Managing Agents, Bird & Co.) have been given permission to set up a cement factory in the Punjab with a capacity of one lakh tons. A cement factory of one lakh tons has also been allocated to the Gangpur State and the State has been asked to recommend the firm to whom permission should be given to start the factory. I may explain that the Government of India have decided that the choice of the party to be allowed to set up production must be left to the Provincial Government or the State as the case may be, although formal orders are passed by the Government of India. They confine themselves to allocating quotas of production within different Provinces and States.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Do I take it then that the Government of India merely carry out the recommendations of the Provincial Governments in this behalf, or do they give any independent consideration to the merits of each application?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: As I have explained on a previous occasion the Government of India have given discretion to the Provincial Governments to do the allocation within the quota themselves. But if any case of hardship or, shall we say, impropriety comes up (no such case has yet come up) we will of course inquire into it.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: With reference to part (b) of the question, may I ask whether it is difficult to find out how many Indians and Europeans are there among the 145 applications?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: It is apparent from my answer to clause (c). In the Punjab, Government has given permission to a firm called the "Punjab Minerals Co. Ltd." I challenge the Honourable Member to find out from the name of the company what particular nationality its members belong to. My reply was in answer to a specific question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether it is not the duty of the Government to find out before giving licenses who are the Directors of a company, whether they are Indians or Europeans? I know for certain that in the Planning Department when an application has been received Government writes to the company asking them the names of the Directors, how much capital is subscribed by Indians and how much by Europeans. Was it not easy for the Government to write and find out that information?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: May I know whether the Punjab Government should have found out or the Government of India?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Ultimately the license is being given by the Government of India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to state the name of the firm that may be the managing agents of the company that he mentioned?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I have mentioned it—Bird & Company.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that not even one single Muslim Company has been given licence for starting a cement concern in India?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I do not know.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member look into it and see that the Muslims get their share? May I say that not one Muslim concern has been given licence not only for starting a cement concern but even for importing the machinery.

(No answer was given.)

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

LONGER HOURS' DUTY OF PROGRAMME ASSISTANTS OF THE ALL-INDIA RADIO, NEW DELHI.

1186. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state if it is a fact that at least once a week every Programme Assistant of the All-India Radio, New Delhi, has to be on duty at the Broadcasting House for six to seven hours in continuation of his office hours practically from 10 A.M. to midnight?

(b) Is it also a fact that the officer so placed in duty is expected to attend the office the next day again at 10 A.M.?

(c) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of taking steps to readjust duties in such a way as to eliminate the rigour and stress of such continuous duty and bring its action into line with the principles of International Labour Convention of work for eight hours a day?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Some programme staff has to be on transmission duty at the time of broadcasts which mainly take place outside office hours. But no one has to be on duty for six to seven hours in addition to the usual office hours.

(b) Yes.

(c) Additional staff is being recruited to give relief to the existing programme staff.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REMOVAL OF GURKHA TROOPS STATIONED AT DEHRA DUN

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to news in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 20th March 1946, regarding the removal of 300 Gurkha troops of the 2/9 Gurkha Rifles stationed at Dehra Dun;

(b) if the facts stated therein are correct; and

(c) the nature of the trouble and the causes that led to it?

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

(b) No Sir. The facts are quite incorrect. None of the troops of the 9th Gurkha Rifles who were involved in the incident of March 14th have been sent to Wana.

(c) The trouble arose because it was reported that men who were proceeding to their homes on release from the Army were taking with them articles of kit to which they were not entitled. The Commanding Officer therefore ordered a kit inspection, and it was proved that the report was correct and that a number of men had concealed certain articles which they should not have had. In the course of this inspection, all officers, British and Gurkha, left the lines to attend a conference, and on their return when the check of kit began again, the men became excited and eventually completely undisciplined.

The total number of men involved was between 100 and 200, of whom 26 who were the leaders have been separated from the rest. A Court of Enquiry is proceeding and at present the only grievances alleged by the men appear to be:

(i) Discontent at the scale of clothing permitted to be taken on release.

(ii) The fact that their release train had been postponed for two days.

(iii) The kit inspection.

The situation is now completely in hand and I hope it will be possible to release the great majority of the men from the Army without further delay.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What were the articles they were taking away that they were not entitled to take?

Mr. P. Mason: Extra boots and blankets.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that it is the scarcity of cloth outside that was responsible for their taking these extra blankets, because they thought they would not be able to get supplies on going back to their homes?

Mr. P. Mason: I should think it very likely.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member, instead of punishing them, make inquiries and see that they are given more cloth and blankets than they are being given at present?

Mr. P. Mason: It is, I think, very difficult to reconcile the requests that I receive from the other side of the House in this respect: one minute I am told, for example, that we should reduce the rations of troops in order to make more available to the civil population, and the next minute I am scolded because the ration is inadequate and they ought to get more; and the same thing with cloth and with boots. If we give them more cloth and more boots, there is less for the civil population.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The two can be reconciled in this way: that when these persons are discharged they go to civil life and they will then require cloth and blankets; and if they get from the existing stocks of the military, then to that extent the demand on the civil stocks here will be less.

Mr. P. Mason: But they already get a good deal more than the rest of the civil population because they are given both boots and blankets when they go out. In fact they wanted to take away double the quantity they were entitled to take.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that perhaps their grievance was reasonable and they required only a little more?

Mr. P. Mason: No; it is not a fact. I did not say it was reasonable. I said possibly on account of the shortage they endeavoured to take a double ration so that they could give some to other people.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable Member place the question before the Defence Consultative Committee for consideration?

Mr. P. Mason: I cannot see that there would be any advantage.

HUNGER STRIKE BY DELHI POLICEMEN

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Home Member been drawn to the news that has appeared in the newspapers that 2,000 Delhi policemen are on hunger strike and that it is spreading to various police stations attached to the province of Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that the twelve so-called ringleaders have been dismissed from the service?

(c) Will the Honourable Member be pleased to give detailed information to the House in regard to the said strike?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Sir, with your permission and with the indulgence of the House I shall answer this by way of a statement. I have not had time or opportunity since I received this question to prepare a written answer.

I must first—while not wishing in any way to minimise the seriousness of this trouble or any trouble among the police forces—deplore the exaggeration in the account which has appeared in a section of the press. This can only be described as very greatly exaggerated, at any rate as regards the circumstances at the time when these articles were written. It is not a fact that “2,000 Delhi policemen were on hunger strike” yesterday. The circumstances up to yesterday evening are as briefly described in the press

communique that was issued by the Deputy Commissioner, which I presume Members have read, and which it is not necessary for me to repeat. I should add in amplification of it that the number of men concerned was between 200 and 300. They were in the barracks in the police lines in Delhi; they behaved at some periods in a disorderly fashion. It was very difficult to ascertain their grievances. One grievance was understood to be the behaviour of a head constable, which has been mentioned in the press. As regards other grievances in regard to pay and the quality of rations, it was difficult, I understand, to get any connected account. However an inquiry was started; but the continuance of that inquiry was made impossible by the disorderly behaviour of the men in the lines.

That was the position yesterday evening. During the night, the Senior Superintendent of Police went round the stations, the thanas, but found everything very quiet: the men were on duty. About 20 per cent of the men in the thanas had refused to take their evening meal. He tried to get from them the reasons for this; they were not clear about that; they said that they had heard that the police in the lines were not taking their food and they were refraining from taking their evening meal in sympathy. No other grievances were stated by them. Then, early this morning, matters improved. About 150 of these men who had been disorderly yesterday were induced to come out on duty, and they started on a route-march; but two policemen came after them and interfered with them and induced them to give up their duty and go back into the lines. Those two men, who are distinct from the twelve men mentioned in the Press Communique to which I have referred, gave a great deal of trouble and it appeared that unless they were proceeded against the situation might even then become dangerous. I understand that they were arrested and they have been charged before the Additional District Magistrate and are now in remand.

The House will appreciate that there has been no opportunity for me to get a written report. What I am giving is the gist of what has reached me on the telephone. Rather later in the morning about 80 of these disorderly policemen broke out of the Lines and took up their station on the Tis Hazari maidan. Their police officers went to argue the matter out with them but the last I heard—and that was at about 10-15 this morning—was that these men in a disorderly fashion, some in uniform, some out of uniform, had set off from the Tis Hazari maidan towards the city. I have had no connected account of what has happened since. At one time it was expected that they were making for the Council Chamber, but I understand that they turned off at the Chandni Chowk to the Kotwali and there they were joined by other persons. Their numbers were increased by a considerable crowd of the type of disorderly people who are always ready to exploit disturbances and they went off again in a direction which I have not had an opportunity of ascertaining. If any Honourable Members have any precise information as to what has happened since, I shall of course welcome it. But I do deprecate believing in the rumours that are spreading about the premises.

That, I am afraid, is all that I can give the House as regards the facts, but I may be permitted to add that the Government and the Chief Commissioner and his officers do appreciate the gravity of anything which might be malled a mutiny in the police force. They do appreciate the need for dealing with it with the greatest possible restraint and tact and discretion. Perhaps I might make a suggestion to my Honourable friend opposite and to the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party. My suggestion is that, if they care to do so, they may with me meet the Chief Commissioner as soon as possible after Lunch. I will ask him to come to the Council House and we can then get the latest information. They are both residents of Delhi and their advice as to the manner in which the situation could be dealt with would be highly valuable.

Srijut Dharendra Kanta Lahiri Choudhury: Is it a fact that there has been shooting and the use of tear gas in connection with this incident?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have given the House all the information I have. I have had no opportunity of getting reliable news since the sitting began.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: How is it that the House is in possession of more information than the Honourable the Home Member himself?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Sir, the House may be in possession of information which perhaps has not been verified, as has that which I have given.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Is it a fact that the Delhi policemen are at present paid Rs. 22 as salary and Rs. 22 as allowance per month? If that is right, does the Honourable Member agree that it is absolutely insufficient in these days when the cost of living has risen so high?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I believe the information is more or less correct. The basic pay is, I think, Rs. 22 and the other items received by the ordinary constable here are Rs. 17 as dearness allowance and Rs. 5 as Delhi headquarter allowance. Whether that is adequate or not is, of course, a matter of opinion, but I certainly welcome any indication from my friends on the other side that they would be glad to see the pay of the police raised.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Is the Honourable Member aware of this news item:

"Following a conference of local officials in the Police lines, it was decided to put down the disaffection in the police force with a firm hand."

If these two items are correct, may I further ask the Honourable Member whether he realises that it is such firm action that is the source of more trouble than the original trouble itself.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot agree that firmness is not one of the qualities which have to be shown in a matter of this sort.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I know if some of these grievances were already known to the administration and if so, why did they not take early steps to remedy these grievances? Surely my Honourable friend will agree with me that these troubles do not always arise suddenly. There must be something behind. What is the explanation?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: One grievance was specific. It was quite a recent one—the behaviour of a certain head constable; but I understand my Honourable friend to refer to grievances such as those given here about pay and rations. Subject to correction after I get more information, my present information is that those grievances have not been represented.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member in a position to contradict the information which we have received that tear gas has been used this morning in Delhi.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am not in a position to do so.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Is it a fact that the number of hunger strikers today has gone over two thousand?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot be precise about that. What I am certain is that the number when this article was prepared could not have been more than a few hundreds.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: Will the Honourable Member try to verify this fact?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Am I to understand that the Honourable Member has already suggested that two spokesmen of these people who are on hungerstrike will also be present or will have an opportunity to be present at this conference which he has suggested?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I made no such suggestion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that just as the Honourable Member is dependent for his information on the Chief Commissioner, the Deputy

Leaders, whose meeting he has suggested, should be at the mercy of this gentleman for their information.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: That is an unwarrantable interpretation of what I said.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why does not the Honourable Member agree to my suggestion that the representatives of these people who are aggrieved should be enabled to be present at this conference to give the information on the spot and also to find out whether the information that will be supplied by the Chief Commissioner is correct or not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have not said whether I agree or disagree with the suggestion; but I don't think that it would be a profitable first step to take.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It will certainly be a proper step.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Is it not a fact that at present more trouble is brewing in the City, that the military is in possession of practically all the main streets of the City, that a procession of these police strikers has been broken up in two or three places by the use of tear gas, and I am not sure that fire has not been opened up anywhere at all? But the trouble is brewing. It is perfectly clear that the whole City today is without police and it would continue to be so until the trouble dies down. What is the suggestion which the Honourable Member has to make to meet the situation? Merely meeting the Chief Commissioner will not clear up the issue. It is a very serious situation which has got to be dealt with immediately, in a manner which would restore peace to the City and forestall any further trouble.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and I are in entire accord as to the end to be achieved. If he has any other suggestion to make as to how we can set about it, I should be only too glad to hear it.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Will the Honourable Member kindly inform the House whether this trouble in the Delhi police force has a political aspect to it?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I cannot answer that. I do not know.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: One of the suggestions made here on the floor of the House is that the Honourable Member should send for the representatives of the policemen and hear them. The Honourable Member himself informed the House that the procession was coming to the Council Chamber. I think it will be advisable to avoid that. It will be necessary that the representatives of these persons should be sent for and an opportunity should be given to them to put their case before the Home Member in the presence of the Deputy Leader of the opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My doubt about that is that it is most undesirable that any action should be taken which would diminish the capacity of the Chief Commissioner, who is the executive authority of the Delhi Province, to deal with the situation, and if we are to have the parties discussing their business here in the Council Chamber I cannot but feel that that will not be conducive to an early settlement so far as it is possible for the responsible authorities to arrive at one.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Would it not be better for the House to allow the Honourable the Home Member to ascertain the facts which he has undertaken to do and to leave the matter there? It seems to me quite a useless waste of time to discuss it now not knowing at all what the situation is. We must know the facts.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: I want to know whether the Honourable the Home Member considers the prestige of Government to be of more serious consequence than peace in the City.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, Sir. But so far as upholding of the prestige of the executive officers is conducive to peace and good administration, I am a great believer in it.

Seth Govind Das: Are we to take it that it is not a question of settlement, but it is only a question of how to crush the strike, so that such troubles may not arise hereafter?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I want to ask. . .

Mr. President: I am making a suggestion and the Honourable Member may speak after I have finished. I think questions and answers are going beyond the proper scope of eliciting information. This becomes a sort of debate, argument and discussion. I may remind the House that we are now adjourning today at 12-45 P.M. on account of Friday prayers. There is another short notice question also coming up and it would be well if the matter came up for discussion after we re-assemble again at quarter past two.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I have also got an adjournment motion, on this very question.

Mr. President: I have got that also in view. Perhaps on that adjournment motion also, some discussion might take place. I am just throwing out a suggestion as to whether it would not be advisable, instead of taking up the time of the House in these discussions, to meet just outside in the Lobby or elsewhere and see whether it is possible to come to some arrangement and declare it at 2-15 P.M.? Otherwise these questions will go on and there is to be some limit to them. They have to be stopped somewhere. We have already taken up over this question nearly 15 minutes.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Do I understand that we will discuss the fate of the adjournment motion at 2-15 P.M.?

Mr. President: That is what I would like to do, if that is possible.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: All that I wanted to ask was this. The Honourable Member has extended an invitation to me to meet the Chief Commissioner in his presence, together with the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I would like to know what is the object of this meeting. If it is only to ascertain the facts, then I would suggest that he should ascertain facts and relate them to the House, after Lunch interval.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Well, Sir, as I said, the object was to ascertain facts and to hear any advice that my Honourable friends could offer. But if it is the feeling of my two friends and the House that we could best proceed by ascertaining further facts and consider them immediately after Lunch, then I have no objection.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: It would not be possible for me at least, I do not know what my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party thinks, to offer any advice unless we hear the other side of the story also.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I say at once that I accept your suggestion, Sir, as far as the further questions are concerned. Let us in the meanwhile ask the Chief Commissioner to come over and perhaps we can meet here. I think I have some facts in my possession which may be useful for discussion at the time, but the main point is this, that there is a very serious situation developed on account of the fact that there is no police now acting anywhere. It is not merely a question of the City. According to my information the police has practically struck work in the rural areas. Nazibgarh is practically out of action. Nang'oi is also out of action. We do not know whether there are other places which are also out of action. At present they are on duty. But as soon as the news of the trouble goes there, I have not the slightest doubt that the Police there also will be paralysed. Does it mean that the City

should be delivered over to the military in the meanwhile. It is a very serious situation. It is not merely a question of police and the whole thing has developed into a regular clash between the military and the police. The matter has got to be considered immediately. As regards my adjournment motion, it is not the same. I mean to condemn the maladministration of this Department in Delhi. In any case that is a different matter. But here we have got to deal with the situation which has really assumed exceedingly serious proportions. It would be a perfect farce to go on debating a question like this, while regular battle is proceeding elsewhere.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I quite agree.

Mr. President: I have already made a suggestion about the matter. There are only fifteen minutes left for the House now to adjourn. I may now call the next short notice question. I believe it would be better if the representatives of various parties and the Honourable the Home Member meet immediately when we retire at 12-45 and come to some agreement or try to see if some agreement can be arrived at on this question, if possible, so that the situation may be saved.

DISALLOWANCE OF PANDIT JAWAHAR LAL NEHRU'S VISIT TO BURMA

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, been drawn to the news that has appeared in today's morning papers that the Burma Government has rejected the Indian Deputations' request to allow Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to visit Burma on his way to India from Singapore?

(b) Will he be pleased to throw light on the subject?

(c) Will the Government of India intervene in the matter and ask the Government of Burma to allow Pandit Nehru to visit the country? If not, why not?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) and (c). In January last the Government of India informed the Government of Burma that Pandit Nehru desired to pay a visit to Burma. The Government of Burma were not in favour of the visit at the present juncture in view of the unsettled conditions in Burma. Government have no specific information about the latest request made by the Indian deputation. It is, however, understood that it will not be possible for Pandit Nehru to halt in Burma on his way back from his present tour in Malaya. It will therefore serve no useful purpose for the Government of India seeking to intervene for facilitating Pandit Nehru's visit to Burma on his way back this time.

Seth Govind Das: How is it that the unsettled conditions in Burma are responsible for Pandit Nehru not being allowed to go there? Is it not a fact that if he goes there the position would improve?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have never said that Pandit Nehru is not allowed to go to Burma. I have only said that the Burma Government were not in favour of the visit and I have indicated the reasons which they gave.

Seth Govind Das: Are those reasons correct according to the Government of India? If they do not think those grounds to be reasonable they should represent to the Burma Government that Pandit Nehru should be allowed to go there.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I do not think the Burma Government have any intention of permanently debarring Pandit Nehru from visiting Burma. But I hope the Honourable Member will appreciate that it would hardly be in keeping with the recognised canons of international courtesy to make an issue of this matter. All that the Burma Government said was that they were not in favour of Pandit Nehru visiting Burma at the present juncture. But, as I

said, that related to a request made in January; and apart from the press report we have no information about the latest request made. And as Pandit Nehru is not likely to be able to halt in Burma this time I feel that it is no use pursuing it now.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Government of India ask the Burma Government not to obstruct Pandit Nehru from landing in Burma on his way back, if he has the time and intention to do so?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The Government of Burma will not obstruct Pandit Nehru's landing in Burma.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will this Government make it clear to the Burma Government that Pandit Nehru should be given all facilities to go there if he wants to avail of them?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I stated that it was understood that it would not be possible for Pandit Nehru to halt in Burma on his way back from Malaya.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is it Pandit Nehru's own difficulty, or is it the difficulty of the Burma Government or the difficulty of the Government of India?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have personal knowledge of the fact that it will not be possible for him to halt in Burma on his way back from Malaya, for his own reasons; and I hope the Honourable Member will accept it.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is this personal knowledge also the knowledge of the Government of India?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, Sir. I prepared the programme of his visit to Malaya according to his desire.

Mr. President: As regards the adjournment motion, the further consideration of its admissibility will be taken up at 2-15 p.m. when we reassemble after Lunch.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari (Tanjore *cum* Trichinopoly: Non-Muhammadan Rural) Sir, from an exciting period I come back to the ordinary atmosphere of the House and the policeman's dinner or lack of it will not disturb our lunch. When the House rose last evening I was adverting to the fact that the sterling balances were left in a nebulous state. Apart from how much we will be getting—we do not know how much we will get—we do not even know when we will be getting them. The Finance Member also agrees there. With regard to the negotiations he says that:

"It is highly unlikely that they will be held until the United States Congress has ratified the U.S.A.-U.K. Loan Agreement."

Then in regard to capital goods he says:

"The main consideration will not be the availability of exchange but the final capacity of the two exporting countries to meet the commitments of a war-shattered world."

Which two main countries? Does it mean only one country or two?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Two countries.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: But I believe you concentrate on one, because I do not think America is a war-shattered country. And then there would be no difficulty at all of capital goods to come from America if only Britain would not stand in the way. I do not want to comment more on this: I know as a matter of fact that machinery ordered from Skoda works at much less cost was stopped and the same machinery came from the U. K. at a much higher price. I refer to the machinery of sugar pans.

The other question which the Finance Member says is closely connected in the public mind with sterling balances is that of the Empire Dollar Pool. Not only closely connected but it is really a related question. It is a question of our capacity for exchange, and even the Finance Member tries to make it as equivalent to the sterling area or the sterling reserve system. It is not the same. There was a time when London was the hub of the financial world and the belle of Threadneedle Street was holding the world. But now she has turned an old beldame and the pivot has shifted to America, in spite of all that they say. I see my Honourable friend Mr. Chapman-Mortimer anxiously shaking his head.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Nominated Non-Official): There is no anxiety at all.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: The Empire Dollar Pool is only a sort of device for commercial relationships between the Empire, with England with a capital E, and America (*An Honourable Member*: Yes). Yes, so long as you are there it will be to your advantage. The whole fiscal policy is dictated by England's convenience and England's advantage which to my mind equates to India's inconvenience and disadvantage. Sir, my time is short and I am unable to compress *multum in parvo*, so I shall not refer to all these things. The Finance Member says we are under a misconception about the Empire Dollar Pool. But I must say that the Finance Member has himself given no right conception in his speech with regard to the Empire Dollar Pool. I am afraid he has no conception about it. If he has any we shall be glad to know what it is.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Read my speech again.

Sri T. V. Satakopachari: I have read it; it does not contain anything. There are two things I would like to refer to. The Finance Member says:

"Between September 1939 and March 1945 India earned hard currency assets to the amount of Rs. 364.33 crores, and India has utilized hard currency assets to the amount of Rs. 265.02 crores."

I wonder how he arrived at the latter figure. I find that import comes to Rs. 149.59 crores. How does he account for the balance of 115.43 crores?

Then I would like to refer to what he said about the existing pool assets:

"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."

Why should we accept a *pro rata share*? I shall leave the question there. What I said about the fiscal policy of England dictating the fiscal policy of India is therefore correct.

I now refer to the political aspect of the question. Only yesterday we heard Mr. Banerjee, Secretary, Commonwealth Department, stating that whatever steps were considered necessary were taken by the Government with regard to the South African question. This House has been insisting on recalling the High Commissioner, but nothing has so far been done in regard to that. Even last year this House wanted the economic relationship to be severed. He did not do anything of the sort. He went on in his own way, and he now turns and says that all these are grave questions which are considered by the Government and the Government know best what to do. If really they had studied the psychological aspect of the matter apart from the economic aspect, they would easily have learnt that the recalling of the High Commissioner would have made a great mark. What is the Honourable Member doing? When he answers and says everything has been done, I am reminded of the Guru, a man who fed well but not too wisely, and could not find his shoe being unable to look below a plane parallel to the earth. So he asked his *sisya* (disciple) to search for his shoes. The *Sishya* had gone one better than his *guru* in the

[Sri T. V. Satakopachari]

feast. The *sishtya* saw on a level 30 degrees above the plane of the earth! He replied he searched up to the stellar spheres and could not find the shoes. That is the wonderful way in which 'all that is possible has been done' by my Honourable friend on the opposite side.

Lastly, Sir, the political side is important because the denial of ways and means is the only way open to us to express our opinion. It is a difficult position for us, the tribunes of the people to do otherwise—One big fact there is—The utter immorality of 30 millions aliens holding down four-hundred millions of people. That one thing alone is ample justification for throwing out this Finance Bill and saying we find no ways and means for you. That is the one thing we can do, and I invite the House to do it.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly reassembled after Lunch at Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

MALADMINISTRATION OF DELHI POLICE DEPARTMENT RESULTING IN STRIKE BY A LARGE NUMBER OF POLICEMEN

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member wish to ask for leave to adjourn the House?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Sir, I do.

Mr. President: This is a notice of adjournment from Mr. M. Asaf Ali who wishes to discuss an urgent matter of public importance, namely;

"the situation created in Delhi by the maladministration of the Police Department, resulting in a strike by a large number of police men as reported in the press today."

Has the Honourable the Home Member to say anything?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): I understood that you wished me to give the House the latest information that reached me through official sources at this hour, and if that is your wish I shall be glad to do so.

I am glad to say that the position has very considerably improved and I am glad to say also that rumours that were flying about the House this morning have turned out to be very much exaggerated. The eighty odd persons to whom I referred this morning—they might be called the hard core of the disorder (they were 86 actually)—they were intercepted in Faiz Bazar this morning at, I think, about 11 o'clock. Four tear smoke bombs or missiles of some sort were thrown, mainly I think, in order to get those who had gone into houses in the neighbourhood, to come out, and they were all taken into custody. No one received injuries. There was no bayonet charge. There was no use of the bayonet at all and still less is it true or substantiated that there was any firing. Four tear gas missiles were thrown and the men were picked up without further interference, and.....

Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Was tear gas used?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes. Four missiles were used. That was the position in Faiz Bazar.

In the Police Lines I understand that a parade was held about 12/30 and this was attended by practically all the men in the lines. The men were told what had happened to these eighty-six policemen and were told in suitable terms that discipline had to be maintained. They took these instructions quite well. There was no disturbance of any kind and the parade broke off with every sign of their coming to a better disposition. How many were absent from that parade on roll call I am not quite certain but I am told that practically

All the men who were in the lines were there, and since the parade was held a number who were not then on the premises have returned and in effect have shown repentance by asking that they should be considered to have attended the parade.

From the rural areas of Delhi no information has been received of any trouble whatsoever. As regards the men at the police stations, there is no refusal of duty. Some of the men refused to take their morning ration. It is not a hunger strike, I am told. Actually those who will not take the Government ration are taking other food; and quite a number of the men are taking the Government rations, and there is no refusal of duty on the part of any of them.

Well, Sir, I think that is all there is to tell. My latest news was of ten minutes ago and that contains nothing in addition to what I have told the House and in effect the trouble for the moment, and I hope not only for the moment, is over.

I do not know, Sir, if you want me to say anything about the admission of the adjournment motion. I have nothing to urge strictly on the point of admissibility. I think it would be pedantic for me to do so. But I must say this about this motion, that I should regard further discussion of the matter today as unlikely to assist the process of pacification shall I say, which is now well advanced. I should be much disappointed with my friends on the other side of the House if they insist on its admission.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): May I ask if it is a fact that a police force was coming just now, about five or six minutes ago, in a procession and the military stopped them on the way? Has he received any information, because I received a telephone message just now.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I was in communication with the Chief Commissioner on the telephone up to ten minutes past two and he had no news of anything of the sort. I would suggest that any rumours need to be verified before they are repeated.

Mr. President: May I know what the Honourable the Mover of the motion has to say after what the Honourable the Home Member has said just now?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I understand that the Home Member feels that the motion is in order and that he would like the discussion to be postponed. That appears to me to be his desire. I am more or less in the hand of the Deputy Leader of the League Party and I should also refer to the Leader of the European Group. If it is the general desire of others that it should be postponed till Monday, then it is a different matter. Otherwise, I would rather discuss the matter straight away.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): What is your desire?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): I would strongly support the suggestion of postponement. I agree that there may be need for an early discussion on the police administration in Delhi, but in the public interest, I suggest that the discussion should not proceed today, but the debate should be held over for two or three days. I support that suggestion.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I want to know what is the desire of the Honourable the Mover himself.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The questions I have to raise are not likely to interfere with the process of pacification which the Honourable the Home Member has in view, because I am covering a much wider field. This is only a symptom. I want to deal with the disease itself and I hope in dealing with the disease I won't be in any way teasing the symptoms which have appeared now. But at the same time, as I say, I am entirely in the hands of the other parties, who, I hope, will be casting their votes with us in so far as the general situation is concerned as well as in respect of the specific matter with which I am dealing now.

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali.]

Once again I should like to know what the feeling of the Deputy Leader of the League Party is.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: It is rather unusual that the mover of a motion himself is not quite sure in his mind about its urgency.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: He is perfectly sure.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: In that case I do not know why he wants the opinion of this section of the House. If the matter is urgent and if the Honourable the Mover feels that it should be discussed today, then I do not see any reason why it should not be discussed. It seems to me that the Honourable Member is lukewarm himself and wants to put the blame on others.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Not a bit so.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Instead of taking the responsibility himself. As regards the question of voting, it will depend on the merits of the case and I am afraid I cannot say what the decision of my party would be, unless we have heard the whole case that may be put forward by the Honourable the Mover and the Government reply to it.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Then I think I had better have it this afternoon.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: May I make another appeal to the Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party. The mover of the motion is quite ready to proceed with the motion but, in deference to the wishes of this side of the House he is prepared to agree to postpone the motion till Monday. I regret that the approach of the mover should have been received in a somewhat narrow spirit by the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party and I suggest that the generosity of the Opposition should be accepted and the discussion postponed till Monday.

Mr. President: The matter should be taken in a spirit of give and take.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: It was not taken in a narrow sense: it was taken in the correct sense.

Mr. President: As I feel the pulse of the House, I may be permitted to take the onus of postponing the discussion on myself. If, Honourable Member are not prepared to agree, I would admit the motion, and would fix the discussion of the motion for Monday at 4 p.m.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Instead of Monday let the motion be taken up after the Finance Bill is finished.

Mr. President: The essence of urgency will then be taken out of it.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Sir, may I crave your indulgence to use the microphone over there. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will not mind being hoist with his own microphone, if I take the liberty of borrowing it!

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery.

Mr. M. R. Masani: It is rather an inconvenient form of flattery on the part of my throat!

The Finance Bill which is before us and the policies which underlie it remind me of an old Chinese proverb: "If you are planning for one year, plant grain; if you are planning for ten years, plant trees; and if you are planning for a hundred years, plant men". I think my Honourable friend the Finance Member had this choice before him in framing the taxation proposals that he has presented to this House. He stated in his opening speech that fiscal policy is one of the means to achieve national policy and the choice before him in giving effect to that axiom was to consider for what range of

period he should plan in this budget. My quarrel with his proposals, Sir, is that he has conceived the period wrongly. In my opinion this budget should have been an attempt to lay down the lines of transition from war to peace economy. In other words, it should have been a short range approach. What I think the Finance Member has done is to make a rather long range approach, in other words, instead of planting grain or corn, he has planted trees which will take many many years to grow, and he has done it at a time when the needs of the case demanded the stuff of life, something on which the people could live.

What, Sir, is the situation with which the Honourable the Finance Member and this House are faced? We have, on the one hand, a terrific diminution in governmental expenditure. I think the figures roughly are a decrease of 150 crores of rupees in Indian war expenditure and of 450 crores of rupees in British war expenditure in this country. This terrific decrease of 600 crores of rupees of public expenditure is bound to have its repercussions on the quantum of employment in this country. Employment in our country will vary with the expenditure incurred within our borders. It will vary in the same way with the amount of public expenditure, and unemployment will vary conversely. It has been estimated that, apart from a million and a half people who will be demobilised from the armed services, the total number of people who will be thrown out of employment as a result of the contraction of public expenditure will be anything between 3 and 5 million men, not counting their dependents.

Now, how, Sir, do the budget proposals meet this situation? It is sought partly to meet this crisis, this threat of mass unemployment, by expenditure on capital projects and Central Government grants to Provinces to the tune of 120 crores as against a fall of 600 crores. Even this 120 crores is problematic, because many of the schemes on which this amount is to be devoted are far from ripe for putting into operation and I do not think my Honourable friend will disagree with me if I say that they are not likely in the twelve months to come to absorb more than Rs. 100 crores. That leaves a net expenditure of Rs. 500 crores uncovered, and we have to face the consequences, if these proposals go through, of meeting the terrific shock to our economic fabric which this net drop of Rs. 500 crores will mean. Assuming that our average national *per capita* income is, in terms of the depreciated rupee, twice what it was at the beginning of this war, that is about Rs. 120, instead of Rs. 65 per annum, it would mean the total income of no less than 1/10th of our entire population. Forty million people earning Rs. 120 per year would be able to absorb that expenditure. The amount of unemployment, therefore, that we shall face as a result of these changes will be to the tune of 1/10th of our entire national income.

This is the prospect, and the proposals of my Honourable friend seek to meet this grim prospect in three ways. First, through the construction of factories and houses; secondly, by the expansion of large scale industries, and thirdly, though ameliorative schemes put into operation in the provinces. So far as building operations are concerned, they will account for only 25 crores. So far as industrial expansion is concerned, my Honourable friend has given many incentives to industry to undertake the burden. He has completely removed the Excess Profits Tax. He has reduced the import duties on machinery and on raw materials needed by industry. He has held out the assistance of an Industrial Finance Corporation. These are no doubt valuable contributions, and they are valuable over a long term of years. But, Sir, I make bold to say, without being excessively pessimistic, that they will have very little bearing on the immediate situation so far as the next year or two are concerned. The appeal to the profit motive is all very well, but it is not enough. It is not enough in the absence of certain other ingredients. The incentive of profit which the Honourable Member has held out to industry, however welcome it might be, is not going to operate immediately, for the simple reason that machinery is available neither in this country nor from

[Mr. M. R. Masani.]

abroad at this stage. In the absence of equipment into which to convert those resources, industry will not and cannot respond, with all the will in the world, to the offer which my Honourable Friend has made.

Secondly, the absorptive capacity of our country is itself low in terms of machinery and plant, as stated by the Honourable Member himself, and these facts are going to render fairly useless the concessions which my Honourable Friend has made to large-scale industry in this country. What it will do will be to add to the reserves of these industries, no doubt to bear fruit in future. It will bring very little added production or absorption of unemployment which is going to be caused in the next year or two. Therefore, the only hope lies in the ameliorative schemes of public spending which the Provinces might undertake.

I would like to indicate here what I think is the nature of the schemes which are called for by the present situation. I suggest, Sir, that the first criterion which should be borne in mind by the Central and Provincial Governments is that of providing for the urgent necessities of the people—food and clothing and other necessary wants. The second criterion should be that the labour and materials needed for these industries should be locally available. We should not have to wait for the import of specialised equipment or machinery. In other words, it is to the development of cottage industries that the largest measure of attention needs to be turned. It is notorious that only through the development of hand-loom weaving can the cloth shortage be met. But handloom weaving is not of much use unless there is yarn available, and that can only come if hand-spinning is proportionately encouraged. That is why hand-loom weaving and hand-spinning should be in the fore-front of the programme in the coming year. There are other industries which can also meet the basic needs of the people. This is an unprecedented opportunity when a big campaign can be launched throughout the country for the development of handicrafts and small industries. There is a vacuum to be filled up owing to the cessation to a large extent of production and imports. That vacuum, for some time to come, can only be filled up if our cottage industries are revived and a terrific incentive given to them in the coming months. That will also provide fuller employment and give the small man in this country his proper place in the fight against poverty, destitution and hunger.

If I am asked how this ambitious programme of a mass revival of cottage industries throughout the country can be financed, I would answer that there is no lack of funds. There was no need for my Honourable Friend, if he agrees with that sentiment, to have reduced taxation at all or to the extent that he has done. The reduction of income-tax, beneficial as it may be to the middle classes, has an aspect which is anti-national. That aspect is that the money that is left in the pockets of the urban middle classes today is likely to go to the purchase of imported products.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): And to black markets.

Mr. M. R. Masani: In other words I suggest that the relief in income-tax is going to act as a subsidy on imports from the United Kingdom and other countries. I would like the Honourable Member, if that is not sound, to deny it.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It is rubbish.

Mr. M. R. Masani: If it is rubbish, I will repeat it and I would ask the Honourable Member to deny it by argument and not by expletives.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You support your statement by arguments.

Mr. M. R. Masani: I support this argument by saying that the increased purchasing power in the hands of the middle classes in the cities will to a large extent go towards the purchase of consumers' goods which it is intended to

import into this country. I want that that extra purchasing power to go to the purchase of hand-made products coming from our rural industries. This is a clear-cut ideological difference and it is no good denying a proposition which has to be faced and either accepted or controverted and given up. I suggest that, if instead of abolishing the Excess Profits Tax altogether, it had been reduced to 50 or 60 per cent, as in the United Kingdom, the cause of social justice would have been better served by what remained being devoted to making for cheaper public utilities and freer social services. This country needs medical relief. It needs education. It needs cheaper public utilities of every kind, particularly transport and communications. And those are the public services for which I am afraid this Budget has not done very much.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: All the money they can spend—every penny of it.

Mr. M. R. Masani: That, Sir, is an offer which would have been better made if definite allocations had been made for the coming months. Take for example the case of the Posts and Telegraphs. I believe there is a profit of Rs. 11 crores accruing from this Department. I am glad that the whole of it will not go into General Revenues this year, but only 75 per cent. Even that, I think, is unwarranted. If this huge profit is there, it should be converted into relief for those who use that service, through a cheaper post-card and other ways of sending the money back to their pockets, which would be very much more democratic, very much more a measure of social justice, than to take it into the General Revenues.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): It would increase the deficit.

Mr. M. R. Masani: Sir, I am not concerned with that at the moment. The relief in direct taxation and the complete abolition of the E.P.T. was not justified. I am arguing on the basis of a smaller reduction of direct taxation, which would have left the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government with larger funds. I am suggesting that a part of these could have been given to certain positive purposes. I was mentioning the Posts and Telegraphs. The practice of making big profits out of the service compares badly with, shall we say, the position in the United States of America.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Or the United Kingdom.

Mr. M. R. Masani: In the United Kingdom it is more complicated. It makes profits on postage and subsidised telegrams. But so far as the United States are concerned, they subsidise their postal services to the extent of Rs. 6 crores per year. We draw Rs. 7 or 8 crores out of our postal services this year; the United States spends Rs. 4 crores in postal services for the benefit of the small man who uses the posts and the telegraphs. The result is that while the American citizen uses his posts and telegraphs freely, in this country they are beyond the reach of large numbers of people. The United States have a population only a fourth of our own and yet we find that the United States have a yearly turnover of 29,000 million letters. We have a yearly turnover of 1,575 million letters. The United States use 218 million telegrams in a year. We use 28 million telegrams—with a population four times that of the United States!

Therefore, Sir, my concrete suggestion to the Honourable Member would be even now to consider, either by altering the taxation proposals or by leaving if he thinks fit, a larger uncovered deficit, subsidies to the Provinces so that those who cannot find the purchasing power to buy their ration of food may find it possible to do so. I suggest that an offer be made to the Provinces—not a vague offer but a concrete offer with an allocation of so many crores of rupees—that to any Province which puts its hand into its pocket and helps those sections of its population who have not got the purchasing power at present to buy their three-fourths pound ration, the Central Government will make a *pro rata* grant. I suggest that this is in the spirit of the statement made by the Finance Member in his opening speech, and that if that concrete offer is

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made, it will encourage the Provincial governments to go in for food subsidies for the production and distribution of food; and it will make it possible for public opinion in the Provinces to force their hands and to put pressure on the Provincial Governments and say: "Here is a grant made by the Central Government which we can draw upon if you from your Provincial revenues find a corresponding amount to put in for the purpose of food subsidies."

That, Sir, is the way I see these finance proposals. I do feel that, without intending it, my Honourable Friend the Finance Member has not carried out those axioms of social justice and equitable distribution to which he referred in his opening statement.

I think the relief to industry, welcome as it may be, is not going to and cannot, play the part which is expected of it in the near future and that if the Honourable Member had planted grain instead of planting trees, the sufferings of the people of this country in the coming twelve months would have been mitigated to a much larger extent.

That brings me to an entirely different aspect of the budget before us—I refer to the defence estimates. The defence estimates this year—I speak subject to correction in case my arithmetic has taken me astray—account for 80 per cent of the revenues derived from taxation, roughly 80 per cent of the tax revenue. This compares very unfavourably with the average of 50 or 55 per cent that the defence services used to take away from our productive profession of any other people, whether the German or the Japanese people. We budget—it is a peace time budget, a budget on which we are embarking at a time when the United Nations Organisation is supposed to guarantee us peace and security for many many generations to come. In terms of the poverty of our people, I suggest it is an insufferable burden, and it is a burden which is thoroughly unproductive: it does not give any return to the people of this country—it is a purely precautionary measure. There is one particular item of that expenditure which I think is repugnant to the feelings of the people of this country—I refer to the provision of financing the Indian occupation troops in Japan. I cannot too strongly protest against that measure. The people of this country do not want any lot or part in the humiliation or repression of any other people, whether the German or the Japanese people. We have no quarrel with them. Now that their war lords have been overthrown, we want those peoples to be left free to build up their own life without let or hindrance from Indian or other troops parading in the streets of Tokyo. The policy of thus stirring up hatred for our country is one which is bad for our country and for the future of international relationships.

Early in the general debate on the budget certain references were made to menaces which exist on certain parts of our frontiers. The Deputy Leader of my party referred to these and asked for the means with which such a menace can be met, and the Honourable the War Secretary confirmed those dangers. I would like in a few minutes to amplify and supplement what was said on that point. I think it is overlooked that purely military defence is useless against the kind of menace and the kind of danger that might possibly threaten the Indian frontiers. It cannot be overlooked that totalitarian states wage ideological warfare: their real power lies not so much in armed force as in the power of certain ideas that are brought into play as an aid to their foreign policy. If today a certain power on our northwest frontier, if today Russia, follows the old policy of expansion, it does not do so with the obsolete weapons of the Czar. It does so with new ideas and through the exploitation of certain very genuine emotions and sentiments; and no amount of militarisation, no extra guns or aircraft, can guard this country against such a menace if the political basis of the State in this country, if the psychology of the people

of this country is not right. Today it does not need any stating that the entire country is seething with unrest. People have seen the British Government in full retreat on the international field. You sacrificed one ally in Poland; you have almost sacrificed another friend in Iran; and people are very doubtful whether you will stand by Turkey when the turn of that country comes. That being the position, a mood of defeatism arises, and a happy breeding ground for totalitarian ideas is to be found in this country. Only this morning it was, I think, that I read an excerpt from the *New Times* in Moscow which, referring to "Feasting in the midst of plague" in India, blames the British "colonisers" for the food crisis in India, according to Moscow Radio:

"Despite the crisis", says the paper "the British authorities arranged a victory festival in Delhi. The Indian public are more incensed by the festivities for the reason that the strange theory is being advanced again that the Indian people are themselves to blame for their disturbances."

The *New Times* quoted the British publicist, Wickham Steed, as saying that the population of India has a tendency to grow faster than its means of subsistence. It added:

"The Indian people will continue to adhere to the opinion that after all it would be better to be masters in their own country, which possesses abundant resources and enriches colonisers who keep its economy at a low level of development for their own selfish ends."

Now, it cannot be denied that this is also the view that a very large and overwhelming majority of the people in this country hold; and there is a danger that such honest sentiments may be fomented for the militarist ends of other countries. In other words, the situation in India today is, as an earlier speaker put it, an invitation or a temptation to aggress.

There are two ways in which this danger and the need for our defence can be met. One way was expounded by Mr. Winston Churchill the other day. He referred to the desirability and the need for a union of English speaking peoples or races to maintain the peace of the world, to act as the world's policeman. The Americans and the British between them were to be the law-abiding forces who would keep the "lesser breeds without the law" in check and make them behave themselves. I suggest that that is a policy that will not do. We have had evidence now that distinguished scientists are to be found in the United Kingdom and in Canada who, without any financial reward, are prepared to betray the secrets of their country to a foreign power. Why have they done it?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Quislings.

Mr. M. R. Masani: They are not quislings—they are misguided intellectuals.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I know them.

Mr. M. R. Masani: I do not know them and I have no sympathy with them; but I do not think they are quislings. They are eminent scientists who, through misunderstanding of what the Soviet Union stands for, prefer loyalty to that country to loyalty to their own. If that is the position among these ruling races, these free countries of England and Canada, one can imagine what the average reaction in this country would be. I have no hesitation in saying that illusions about the progressive and socialist character of the Russian Government are immensely wide-spread in this country; and to further the illusion and to spread it, you have an organised 'Fifth Column' functioning freely and openly in this country . . .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Encouraged by this Government!

Mr. M. R. Masani: Encouraged by this Government and perhaps subsidised by this Government in the past years. That is the position; and if Mr. Churchill, or any Honourable members here who may feel like him, believe that, while remaining a subject community, this country can be mobilised in a war for the defence of the British empire against any enemy, however

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pernicious or heinous he may be, then I say with all respect that they are living in a fool's paradise. Even the United States of America will not support them in such a policy. I shall quote from an American paper which says:

"Mr. Churchill proposes an alliance, half-slave and half-free, with the British Empire representing slavery."

And it goes on to say—

"The United States is confronted today by a terrible dilemma. Are we to join with Britain in another crusade knowing the selfish ends for which Britain wages these wars? Or are we to allow Russian tyranny to spread unchecked, with all menace to free institutions everywhere that Russia today presents?"

That, Sir, is the dilemma of a free and independent country like America. India's dilemma, I am afraid, will be easier to solve, and therefore I would suggest that this Government will have to devise an alternative policy to that laid down by Mr. Winston Churchill.

That alternative policy would be not to accept another war as inevitable, but to remove the causes of a future war, to remove the incitements to an alliance with totalitarianism, to stop India and other subject countries of the East from being a happy breeding ground for totalitarian ideas. That way, in other words, is to liquidate your Empire. That is the only way in which you can prevent World War III from being put on the agenda in the next few years. That alternative solution has been indicated more than once recently by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who has referred to the part that a free India could play in a congeries of free Asiatic powers. If the colonies in Asia were liberated along with India, then it will be possible for peace loving countries like China and India to rally the smaller countries of the East to such effect that you can then hope to fight totalitarian menace without having to wage a world war for the purpose. You would so isolate this militarist state that it could not burst out, surrounded as it would be by happy and free, liberty-loving peoples.

But, Sir, that is not the policy that we find operating here. It is true that the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Ernest Bevin, has been trying to carry out a courageous foreign policy in so far as the Western countries are concerned, but he has his Achilles' heel. He tries to rally the democrats in France, Holland, Belgium and the countries of Europe, but we do not find democrats being rallied either in Indonesia or in this country. Hongkong is being held against the rights of the Chinese people. The people in Indonesia, far from being supported and rallied to democracy, are being thwarted in the maintenance of their freedom, and in India you have democratic socialists like Jai Prakash Narain and Ram Manohar Lohia not only not being released, but the infliction of physical indignities on them not being remedied and not being investigated with any seriousness. I do not mind saying that after the British Parliamentary Delegation visited Jai Prakash Narain and Dr. Lohia in Agra prison, I had a talk with a member of the Delegation and he told me that he had the highest regard for these prisoners. They had expressed their good will for the British Labour Government and they wanted the experiment in Democratic Socialism to succeed both in England and in the world as a whole. These representatives of the British Labour Party in Parliament, after seeing these two people, came to the conclusion that if they had been socialists in this country they would have behaved exactly as Jai Prakash Narain and Lohia had done. And yet, Sir, the paradox exists that under a social democratic government which rallies socialists and democrats throughout the Western part of this globe, in this country and in Asia generally the application of that policy is not even being attempted.

It is an axiom, Sir, that if you want to go to equity, you must go with clean hands. The trouble with British foreign policy is that it cannot face

Russia with clean hands. When they talk about Poland, India is brought up. When they talk about Iran, Indonesia can be thrown in their face. I shall be told that the Cabinet Mission is coming out precisely to put those matters right, and that I am banging against an open door. I am glad that this Mission consists of socialists. I am glad that in the announcement which was made by Lord Pethick Lawrence, a reference was made to the desirability of something being done in India in the interest not only of India and of Britain but of world peace, and I hope that the professions that have been made will be translated into practice.

If I may end by giving an analogy from the last century, Britain has today lost its material supremacy and its military predominance. I would invite the British Socialist and Labour Government to try to reassert that supremacy in the moral sphere. That is the only way in which a democratic

3 P.M. Britain can have an important part to play in the world of the future. It was a British Foreign Secretary in the last century, Canning, I think it was, who said he had "called a new world into existence to redress the balance of the old." I would suggest to the British Labour Government, before it is too late, to bring in a new world—the world of a free India and a free Asia—to redress the balance that they have lost in the West.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Planning and Development): I wish to make a few observations about the Planning and Development Department. During these days of oratorical festival, I had hoped to escape the need for making a speech but my Honourable friend Mr. Yusuf Abdoola Haroon approached me as the Assembly was closing the other day and said he was going to attack the Planning and Development Department and had various very cogent things to say and that I should be in my seat. As a good servant of this House, I was in my seat when the Honourable Member spoke and took copious notes; but Sir, although the Honourable Member has the face of a cherub he has the perceptions of a tank and like the tank he blundered from one inaccuracy into another as I shall presently hope to show in regard to the working of my Department.

His first criticism was about the panels, about the 26 or 29 panels constituted to make plans for the different industries. He said that in their constitution there was no approach made to organisations or industries interested. That is a completely inaccurate statement, call it, a terminological inexactitude if you like. Every panel has been constituted after a good deal of consultation by Sir Ardeshir Dalal who himself has an unrivalled knowledge of Indian industries. They were appointed by him. You have got to look only to the constitution of any of these panels to see that they are composed of men who at some sacrifice to their ordinary avocations attended them and have done a very good job of work. I thought it was no good just saying that they had done a good job of work. I thought I should try and get the facts about one of the more important panels, facts about its constitution and its work and I have got them here. I will tell the House about the Steel panel which is one of the more important panels. The steel panel is composed of the following five people: Sir Pdamji Ginwala of Scob, Sir J. J. Gandhi of Tatas, Mr. Bashir, Representative of the Re-rollers, Mr. Hain of Braithwaites and Mr. Frank Parr, late Steel Commissioner of the Government of India. During the period April to September last, the following action was taken by this panel. Questionnaires were issued to all the primary and secondary producers in the country, to all Provincial Governments and States, 140 re-rolling mills in the country, 52 European and Indian Chambers of Commerce, all the refractory manufacturers, and structural engineering firms, wagon building firms, shipbuilding and ship repairing firms, to all Central Government Departments who had post war schemes in which iron and steel could be used. Some of the re-rolling mills in Bombay and Calcutta were visited, the Mysore Iron and Steel Works in South India, and the representatives of the Government of Madras were examined regarding their post war plans. Since the return of the two Members from abroad, the panel has held

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23 meetings, visited the works of the Tata Iron and Steel company, the Mysore Iron and Steel works and others too numerous for me to mention. On 20th February, this year, it met representatives of provincial and Indian State Governments and their industries committees and discussed the provisional recommendation of the panel. During this month, it is proposed to hold further meetings before finalising the report which it is expected will be submitted to the Government before the end of this month.

What I have said about Steel applies for most of the other panels so that I do not think that the Planning and Development Department can be accused either of not having constituted these panels or of working them without the assistance of those best suited to advise. The speaker who followed him, my Honourable friend, the gallant and learned Lieut.-Colonel Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad lamented the preponderance of business interests and deplored the absence of any regard for the consumer. Apart from the fact that that again is not correct, it shows the complete absence of co-ordination in the policy in this matter which has been put forward in behalf of the Muslim League party.

Now, Sir, as an example of the interest displayed by the Government of India with regard to consumers' interests, I would draw attention to the communique issued when we passed orders on the cement industry. It was thought that one way of protecting the consumers against excessive prices was to prevent a monopoly developing in the industry and several licenses have therefore been deliberately given to interests other than A.C.C. and Dalmia. I do not think I need labour this point any longer, of course, except to say this that if we, in India, want industrialisation, the consumer like any other citizen will have to pay for it. You cannot industrialise a country without the taxpayer to some extent paying for such industrialisation.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Question.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: You do not know.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): You have other methods.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Look at Australia. All I wish to say is that there should be a mean drawn between how far you should protect the consumer and how far you should assist industry.

The second point which my Honourable friend raised was that they are not fully informed of the activities of the Planning and Development Department. I cannot help that. We have issued any amount of communiques and Press Notes and they have all been appearing in newspapers. I do not know whether the Honourable Member reads them. Any number of documents emanate from my Department and copies of the same are all placed in the library of the House. For example, last year, Sir Ardeshir Dalal issued a statement of Government industrial policy. Most of the queries which the Honourable Member raised are answered in this book. This is in the library of the House. I really cannot help it if Honourable Members make allegations without first ascertaining facts.

The next point of objection which he raised was about the location of industries. He said that the location of industries had been decided upon without reference to provinces. Now, Sir, that again is a complete terminological inexactitude. If Honourable Members had read this pamphlet, "Statement of Government Industrial Policy" which was issued before the panels began to work, they would have seen in Paragraph 15 the following statement:

"The Government of India proposes without delay to enter into discussions with Provinces and with the Indian States in the light of the policy stated above and are confident that it will be possible to evolve a machinery which will enable an agreed policy to be implemented in practice in a spirit of friendly co-operation on the part of all parties concerned."

That policy is being followed at the present moment in the industries in respect of which orders have been passed about the creation of additional

capacity, so that, I do not know really why the Honourable Member made that particular statement.

Then, Sir, another statement which he made was that these decisions were taken without deciding whether the location would be suitable at these centres. This is altogether absurd. I may tell the Honourable Member that there have been three industries in which matters have come to a point when orders could be passed; of these one is cement. Does my Honourable friend really think that we have given permission for the erection of additional factories without making enquiries as to what are the most suitable places for their location. I can assure you, Sir, that that is not the case.

The other one is cotton textile. There the Government were advised by the representatives of the industry. Is it likely that they would put up a plant for the location of so many thousand spindles here and so many spindles there without taking into consideration coal, water supply and other facilities. I do not want to take up much of the time of the House, and without going into details, I can assure my Honourable friend that if at any time, he wishes to have information as to the reasons for the location of this or that cement factory, or this or that cotton textile mill, I shall be very happy to provide him with such information.

I have omitted one point. He wanted that the reports of panels should be placed in the library of the House. As soon as we have done with them, I certainly do so, though judging from the lack of knowledge of the activities of the Department, I do not think that mere putting copies of panel reports in the library of the House will increase the knowledge of the Honourable Member to any great extent.

Mr. K. O. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, If I may interrupt the Honourable Member, is it a fact that at least in one case a panel has not met although it was appointed more than a year ago, and the Chairmanship is practically going a-begging still?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Yes, Sir; it is the panel on paints and oils.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: Is the Honourable Member aware that in this House we asked his predecessor to give us these publications and let us know what was going on in these various planning committees and so on, and it was refused?

An Honourable Member: Because we would not understand them.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I did not say the Honourable Members do not understand them; all that I say is that they do not read them. My Honourable friend Mr. Neogy has spotted a weak chink in my armour; but he knows perfectly well the reasons why the prospective Chairman of the Paints and Oils panel has not taken charge of his work. I do not think this is a proper place to discuss the reasons for that.

My Honourable friend from the deserts of Sind said that a businessman should be allowed "to proceed normally" and there should be no interruption in the free play of his wishes. I think that Honourable gentlemen opposite know what happened to the country before controls were started when businessmen were allowed to act normally. I do not think that there would be any large body of support in this House in favour of the view that when the public fisc is to be charged with the expenses of increased industrialisation the State should have no hand in regulating and restraining the normality of business methods. But the policy of Government in this matter as regards control was again stated by my predecessor Sir Ardeshir Dalal in paragraph 14 of this document whose perusal I would commend to the House.

"In a planned economy" (and I imagine the country needs a planned economy) "it is impossible to do without controls. Government consider that such controls should be the very minimum required. They propose that apart from licensing, controls should be undertaken to achieve the following objects"—

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And I should like to read the first of these objects which I think will commend itself to the House.

"To secure a balanced investment in industry agriculture and the social services. It will be necessary after the war" (this was written while the war was on) "to ensure that the available capital resources are utilised on a balanced plan of agricultural, industrial and other development and that inside the field of industrial development a balance is kept between manufacture of capital and consumer goods. Agricultural development will be undertaken wholly under the auspices of the State. That is because the bulk of the holders of land are poor and cannot themselves finance, at any rate initially, improvements such as contour bunding and irrigation by lift pumps. In many cases it will be possible to recover the cost ultimately," etc.

I need not go through all the objects. So that it is no use my Honourable friend urging that the businessman should be allowed to proceed normally; because if this country wants a planned economy there must be control in the interests of the very consumer for whom Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad spoke with such eloquence the other day.

Then, Sir, he fired off another charge that there was no co-ordination between the Planning and Development Department and other Departments of the Government of India; that in fact the Planning and Development Department did not see the plans of the other Departments who acted as they thought fit. I am afraid that again it is completely and utterly incorrect. The appointment of Sir Ardeshir Dalal marked a change of policy on the part of the Government of India.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Did his resignation also mark another change of policy?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I am coming to that and I will explain. Before his appointment and the constitution of this Department it was felt that reconstruction (as it was then called) could best be carried out by each of the executive departments of State, whether it was War Transport or Posts and Air or anything else. And those Departments got going with their plans. Then it was felt, in view of the general interest shown in the country in favour of having some coordinated plan of development, that that could best be achieved by having at the centre a minister who would draw the threads together and present Government from time to time with the different sections of the plan. And that is what Sir Ardeshir Dalal set himself to do. Ever since his appointment no plan of a Government Department has been sanctioned without it having been first discussed with the Planning and Development Department and later by a Committee of the Executive Council which was at one time called the Reconstruction Committee of Council and which is now called the Co-ordination Committee of Council, of which the Planning and Development Member is the Vice-President and on which on most occasions His Excellency the Viceroy himself presides. So there is no question of lack of co-ordination in so far as the different units of the Government of India are concerned. But then my Honourable friend might have said, "What about the provincial plans, their five-year plans?" The fact is that every Province has submitted its provincial five-year plan covering the whole gamut of provincial activity,—agriculture, health, irrigation, and all the numerous activities,—to the Central Government in the Planning and Development Department. Some of the Provinces have finalised their plans, with others the plans are still provisional. The intention of Government, as I think I announced in answer to a query the other day, is that before many weeks have passed they would consider the amount of money which should be granted to the Provinces for the specific purposes which the Central Government approve in their several five-year plans; and in doing that to allot, according to our judgment, priorities as between the different objectives,—health, agriculture, irrigation works, and so on.

One of my Honourable friends opposite pleaded for particular emphasis being given to rural uplift. Of course there is no question that if these plans materialise,—as I hope with the aid of money which the Centre is going to

give them they will materialise—the principal beneficiary will be the rural population because the greater portion of our population is in the villages and not in the towns. So that there again—to come back to my point—in so far as the provinces are concerned there is no lack of co-ordination as between the Centre and them.

I will just come to a point raised by Dr. Sir Zia Uddin before dealing with Sir Ardeshir Dalal's resignation. What Dr. Sir Zia Uddin said was that Government in their planning have only seen to the profits which an industrialist would get, that means to say that we were interested only in those industries which are likely to yield good dividends. In this connection I would like to read out again from the same document what the Government's view is:

"Government attach particular importance to the development of those industries which constitute the foundation of modern industrial life, such as the iron and steel industry, the heavy engineering industries, the machine tool industry, the heavy chemical industry, and so on. But while the development of these industries must take high priority, it must form part of a balanced plan in which due place is given to consumption goods industries."

And in the same report a list of twenty industries, which Government call 'basic', has been given which we consider important and should be established in this country. If private capital is not available for the establishment of such industries, Government have expressed their intention that they will come in with state assistance. I have only to recall to the House the answer I gave to a question the other day in which I announced the coming of a Mission from the United Kingdom to advise us in the matter of the establishment of an aircraft industry in this country. I do not think that there is any reason for the charge that we have only gone in our planning for the safe and profit-making industries and not for what is necessary for the country as a whole.

Sir, the question of Sir Ardeshir Dalal's resignation has been repeatedly mentioned in this House in order to make every one's flesh creep, and also connected with it has been the resignation of Dr. Vakil, and it has been implied that the reasons for both the resignations were not dissimilar. That, Sir, again is entirely incorrect. Sir Ardeshir Dalal, with whom I was associated almost from the very day that he joined office here, resigned for personal reasons. There were no other reasons, but personal reasons.

An Honourable Member: What were those personal reasons?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Now I ask you, you have yourself seen the statement of what was done under his charge by the Department, you have yourself seen the statement which he issued to the press and to which wide publicity was given. It was a remarkable achievement for the eighteen months that he was in charge of the Department. Do you feel that a man who had struggled, as he did, for 18 months and was bringing what he had done to fruition, was likely to throw that away and not see the fruits of his work. That is not psychologically correct. There were no other reasons but reasons which he himself gave which were personal. Dr. Vakil resigned for completely dissimilar reasons and if you wish for further information, you will get a chance when I reply to a question in the House on his resignation. I do not think I need say very much more.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan): What about Dr. Vakil's statement?

Mr. President: Order, order. Honourable Member's time need not be taken up now by other matters.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: If you will permit me two or three minutes more, I would like to end up on a note of appeal. About twenty-five years ago when I was still a very young man I happened to attend a function in honour of the late Lord Sinha. At that function a great friend of India, Mr. Montague, said, "I look forward to the day when Indians shall walk the highways of their own land conscious that they are the masters of its destinies". Sir,

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we are on the eve of being able to do that after twenty-five years. Now, I ask, Sir, whether the sort of statements made, wild statements, statements which are not based on facts,—whether such statements should be made by legislators who will soon be members of a sovereign legislation? I think not, Sir.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal: European): Mr. President, Sir. I do not know whether my Honourable friend Mr. Masani after listening to the Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari feels any better as a Socialist, but the affect it has on me is to make me all the more firm believer in the virtues of private enterprise.

The subject of controls was dealt with by the Honourable the Finance Member in his speech introducing the Budget and I will, with your permission, quote one or two lines of what he then said:

"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."

I will confine what I have to say about Government controls to their impact upon trade, commerce and industry. When Sir Akbar Hydari just now was talking about controls for the purposes of developing irrigation works and bunding and so on, I can assure him that we have no dispute on that matter. I am certain that you cannot build a *bund* without some form of control, and we do not need to be intellectually convinced of that. Many of us, who watched the operations of Government during the war years, have come reluctantly but definitely to the conclusion that certain vested interests seems to have grown up in the last five or six years in the maintenance of controls. It is not a mere coincidence, but this vested interest appears to have developed along with the growth of a new war time bureaucracy, which is the inevitable result of vastly swollen departments of Government which have come into being since 1939. Many of those departments, all of them, I presume, were in greater or less degree necessary and it is not my desire to belittle the achievements of the temporary civil servant whose services were necessary for the successful prosecution of the war—indeed for a brief and unhappy period I was one myself—but I do feel that the emphasis today should be on the restoration of peace conditions and not on the perpetuation of wartime liabilities. I am not going to suggest that the only way to get rid of controls would be to sack the controllers, but it is an idea that Government might bear in mind as a last resort. In this matter of controls, I fear the new bureaucracy is displaying the usual excessive zeal of the convert, and that the glorious army of controllers, which is largely composed of the new bureaucracy, has come to believe in controls for their own sake. It is one of things which I think must justly be said for another generation of civil servants, of whom the Finance Member and the Member for Planning and Development are distinguished representatives, that their faith in such devices of Government as controls is tempered, shall we say, by experience and by failure. Now it is good news to learn from the Finance Member that 150 controls have disappeared; but it would have been more satisfactory if we could have been told that it was 150 out of a total of so many hundreds. It is rather like telling a man going into business that he can have ten *per cent.* of the profits when you know perfectly well the profit is nothing and that ten *per cent.* will still amount to nothing. 150 controls out of how many hundreds or thousands?

and **Mr. P. J. Griffiths**: Countless!

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: 150 millions!

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Perhaps he will enlighten us when he comes to reply to the debate. If it is 150 out of 150 millions, we shall have to press this matter even more strongly.

Now, Sir, it is not merely that our controls and temporary bureaucrats, like mother-in-laws have become stock jokes. But more seriously the plain fact is that during the last six years the whole situation and method of Government in this country has been altered by the accretion of hundreds of controls upon hundreds of controls. In the next few weeks an attempt is going to be made to devise a new constitution for India in supersession of the 1919 Act, and what I believe is called the 1935 Act as amended by Schedule IX. We on these benches, I believe everybody in this House, wish these attempts the greatest and the speediest possible measure of success. But in point of fact, neither of the Acts, neither 1919 or 1935, today, as a result of this elaborate network of Government by executive action, is recognisable in its original form. Anybody who thinks that some future step is going to have reference to 1939, if taken now, is really sadly mistaken. It is not so. The 1946 constitution of India is government by edict over a very large field of our activities, and I am quite certain that whatever the limitations of the 1919 and 1935 Acts, that was not the intention of their framers. They have in fact changed the whole face of the administration of the country in a way which was never contemplated either by the people who gave or the people who accepted those constitutions. Well, Sir, having railed in this fashion against control, let me say frankly that nobody in these benches believes in an undiluted regime of *laissez faire* in which everything is going to be free for all. But I want to suggest quite seriously to Government that in whatever way their constitutional future may develop, in whatever way they choose now to set the economic course of the country, they should undertake a re-examination of the whole of their policy of controls in the light of the new and urgent economic tasks and the social ambitions of the peace. We would like to see this and we regard it with as much approval as we approve of the Finance Member's proposals for a taxation enquiry committee, or quite as much as we approve of his proposals for an examination of the wages structure. We believe that an overhaul and an examination, and a rigorous and ruthless inspection of the system of 50 million controls is quite as urgent as any of these things. It is quite as imperative that it should be undertaken with as little delay as possible. The whole underlying tone of the Finance Member's budget emphasises the great importance which he attaches on the setting of economic and industrial forces in motion, which will counterbalance the deflationary factors that are emerging with the end of the war; and on that matter I find myself, for different reasons may be, in entire agreement with the very fluent exposition of that aspect of the subject which was given by Mr. Masani a few minutes ago. I think the Finance Member's own budget proposals do keep this objective steadily in mind. But I suggest, Sir, that the time has come when the economic departments of Government, not merely the Finance Department, should investigate their control policy along two main lines which I will delineate. I do not, nor do any of my colleagues, advocate the indiscriminate abolition of controls, for the continuation of some of them is indisputably necessary in the circumstances in which the country finds itself today. Nobody for a single moment would suggest that the controls affecting the procurement and distribution of food could be removed. But I do suggest most sincerely that the economic departments of Government should ask themselves two leading questions, the first of which I would say is this: How far are existing controls standing between a manufacturer and an access to his raw materials. And secondly: How far are existing controls standing between a manufacturer and his markets? A few weeks ago a proprietor of a medium sized concern—in fact a small Indian manufacturer in Calcutta—came to see me, and I would ask the House to remember that speaking on behalf of the Congress Party, Mr. Masani attached considerable importance to the encouragement of small and cottage industries. This manufacturer came to see me, and pointed out that during the war he had been able, with war orders to employ 2,500 semi-skilled Indian

[Mr. G. W. Tyson.]

workmen. At the moment when he came to see me, he had been obliged to discharge his labour force down to the figure of 300. He assured me, and I have no reason to disbelieve him, that he had sufficient orders to go on at the old tempo for at least twelve or fifteen months. And he also assured me that there was the necessary raw materials in India and available for him to carry on his work at the highest possible capacity. But for four months he had been arguing with Controllers in Calcutta and in Delhi to obtain certain essential raw materials. Since I came here at the beginning of this session his position has improved, and he has since told me that he was employing 900 men. I suggest quite seriously to the Finance Member that that is an example of the forces which, if properly treated, can be made to play their part in the conditions he is seeking to create against the deflationary effect of the sudden withdrawal of Indian and Allied military expenditure in this country. I suggest two main lines of enquiry. He should see how far the controls are standing between the manufacturer and what he wants, the raw materials, in order to produce the finished goods: and secondly, he should see how far their controls are standing between them and the market which the manufacturers want to reach. I believe that if the Government pursue these two main lines of enquiry I am sure that they will find that many departmental edicts and regulations are far from serving any real purpose and are merely stultifying the country's changeover from a war to peace-time economy and standing in the way of the broad objects which, on the whole, this peace time budget seeks to achieve. All Governments, I think even the Government of India, must realise that however well intentioned their plans may be, they are still (in spite of Sir Akbar Hydari's communiques, brochures, leaflets and what not, to which he referred this afternoon) very far from clear to trade and industry, whom the Finance Member is calling upon to make a big, if not the chief contribution to the solution of the economic difficulties which lie ahead of him.

My colleague, Mr. Morris, made a brief reference yesterday to the subject of capital control and that, Sir, is the only control which I will refer to by name individually in the few more moments that I intend to speak, and in doing so I should like to say how very efficiently and expeditiously the work of the control has been carried out by that bureaucrat, that civil servant of the old school, I mean Sir Alan Llyod.

The Government's attitude, I suggest, towards investment policy is vague and indeterminate and, I say without offence, is typical of their approach to many sectors of the economic field. When he introduced his budget the Honourable the Finance Member said:

"Another matter which is under the consideration of my Department is that of the planning of investment, both public and private.....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."

These are pleasant words, but what trade and industry really want to know is how soon and on what lines the investment policy is finally to be shaped. I can assure the Honourable the Finance Member, if any assurance from me is necessary, that there is plenty of money waiting for investment in worthwhile projects. It does not seem to me that there is the slightest use in appealing to industry in this country to play its part in building a new Heaven and a new Earth for the Planning Department and then hamstringing industry with unnecessary controls deriving from half-backed, socialist aspirations and theory. The time has come for a clear declaration of intentions in the financial and economic field for the present and for the future, which will dispose of the doubts and the hesitations which five years of control and 18 months of postwar planning have engendered in the minds of both professional advocates of industry like myself and of the public at large.

Sir, I support the Finance Member's motion.

Sri E. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan Rura'): Sir, when I look at the copy of the Demands for Grants which has been supplied I am mystified. I was a member of a Provincial Assembly where we used to get these demands for grants with detailed information in books of foolscap size but here I find of the many demands for grants the major portion is occupied by the item Other Charges. We do not know what those Other Charges are. I shall refer to some of the items under Demand No. 15, which relates to the Department of Information and Broadcasting which has become so very famous due to my friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.

There are two items under this grant to which I would particularly draw the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member. Under sub-heading E. 'Other Charges' come to Rs. 7,14,800 and the total demand under that item is Rs. 14,10,500. And then under 'G' the total demand is Rs. 33,45,000 of which 'Other Charges' come to Rs. 23,22,900. Then there are three heads—'Demand No. 59, Miscellaneous Departments', 'Demand No. 66, Miscellaneous' and 'Demand No. 67, Miscellaneous Adjustments between Central and Provincial Governments'. We do not know what these are. I would like to have more detailed information from the Finance Member when he presents these demands for grant later or he could amplify them in his reply.

This Finance Bill is prepared in such a way that it mystifies us all. Clause 5 is as follows:

"Continuation of, and enhancement of, additional duties of customs imposed by section 6, Act XII of 1942—The additional duties of customs on certain goods chargeable with a duty of customs under the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934) or under the said Schedule read with any notification of the Central Government for the time being in force, imposed up to the 31st day of March 1943 by section 6 of the Indian Finance Act, 1942, and continued, subject to certain modifications, up to the 31st day of March 1946, by section 4 of the Indian Finance Act, 1945, as amended by section 4 of this Act, shall continue to be levied and collected as provided in the said section 6 up to the 31st day of March 1947 subject to the aforesaid modifications and to the further modifications contained in sub-section (2)."

All this is bewildering. I do not know what is meant by all this. If we want to understand it, we will have to refer to a number of previous Acts and other references. But that is not sufficient. We have to recast those sections, leave blanks to be filled later and then find out what it means. Would it not be better to simplify this matter and say straightaway what it means, how much he is going to cut down under the head year after year? Copies are not readily available in the library when we go there. There are only one or two copies at a time and those are taken away by some of the Members and some of them return and some do not. They are not available to us for reference. How are we to know what all this means? Clause 7 states "In the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act (1944) in Item No. 4 for the word "fifteen" the word "twelve" shall be substituted". I searched in vain in the 1944 Excise and Salt Act for this reference. My friend told me that it referred to the Finance Act of 1944 which was passed a little earlier and then I was able to find out the reference from it and give an amendment.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)]. It is in this way, Sir, that these budgets are prepared by this Government and thrown on us to be read in a day or two and we are asked to criticize those budget proposals.

Coming to the Budget proposals, Sir, I would have liked, though he said that he was not in a position to reduce the tax and give relief to the poor, if he had made a reduction or abolition of the Salt Tax. Salt is used by the whole of the population. There is nobody who does not use salt. So also betelnuts. Instead of having an excise duty on betelnuts I would have liked if he had reduced or abolished the excise duty on betelnuts. The rural people may go without one meal, but they would never go without betelnuts. The Honourable Member said that he is reducing the kerosene duty by 9 pies per gallon. What does it amount to? A gallon is six bottles. The relief is 1½

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pies per bottle. What is supplied in the rural parts is really half a bottle for six months or even one year to each person in the village.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If the relief means so little, I am quite prepared to put it back.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: We are supposed to live in some taluk headquarters. We get one bottle per month. What is the relief given under this? I want to bring to the notice of my Honourable friend that it is no relief at all.

In passing I would like to make a reference about the Dollar Pool. The way it came into existence, I believe, has not been properly explained. On account of the war the Dollar Pool came into existence to aid Britain to purchase all that she wanted from others by converting all the sterling currency into dollar currency. All the sterling currency countries are asked to join the Dollar Pool. Some conditions seem to have been imposed—that is how I understand it—which prevented other countries from drawing from that Pool. I have heard of a story concerning two persons. One said to the other “You bring rice, I get chaff. Let us mix the two together and we will divide what is available there”. It is just like that. Britain brought chaff, which means nothing, and others were asked to get rice, and it was divided. In fact it was not even divided. It was taken away for her use and if others wanted to make use of that Fund, they were to fulfil certain conditions. We have been given 20 million dollars some years back. You have not been able to utilise that because of the conditions with which it has been given. And we are told now “You cannot claim the whole of it but only a portion”. We do not know what portion has been drawn and what portion has been contributed by Great Britain to that Pool. I do not know whether—to use the Honourable the Finance Member's own words—“India will have to look at this Dollar Pool and other balances which are held by foreign countries . . . by casting a longing and lingering look behind”. I do not know whether India will have to cast a longing and lingering look behind to get, or never to get, at these Pools and resources

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That phrase refers to the Excess Profits Tax and not to the Dollar Pool at all.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: I know that the reference was to the Excess Profits Tax. But I use your language that India will have “to cast longing and lingering looks” to get her share. I think the

Honourable Member has understood me. I am quoting his own words.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: But out of context.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded District and Chettor: Non-Mohammadan Rural): The phraseology is so good that he is using it for some other purpose.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: The Finance Member, I think, is not without ideas. He has very good ideas. But either he has no mind to put his ideas into execution or has not been permitted to do so. He says that he has a lot of plans for giving relief to the rural parts. The schemes will improve roads, minor irrigation, anti-erosion measures, agricultural and forest development and public health measures such as anti-malarial measures, water supply and drainage schemes—all these are useful measures which will help the rural masses of the country, the entire population of the country. But what provision has he made for them?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: May I just explain? Rs. 50 crores of this Budget is for these very purposes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: He is coming to that. He says it is inadequate.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: About Rs. 600 crores of money was being circulated in this country and is now being withdrawn and is not to be spent in

the coming years. What is this 50 crore? It is a drop in the ocean. Who will benefit by it? If you refer to the income-tax statistics you will find that the people who pay tax under property are only a lakh and fifty-nine thousand and odd. That is the number of people who pay property tax and my Honourable friend proposes to give relief to those and to a few who have sufficient money at their command and who could benefit by investing that money properly. There is money and the Government is going to raise loans to the extent of Rs. 300 crores. I ask why not the Finance Member spend that money on schemes which would rehabilitate the villages, which would raise the standard of the masses in the villages and not of the income-tax payer and the people of the town. I would suggest to him that he gives more money for rural development and cottage industries.

Then, Sir, I would turn to the Honourable Member sitting right behind him. We have addressed a number of questions in this House and have made representations about the position of the ryots and the price that is given to the producer. What is the result? He comes with a readily typed answer and says “This has been considered by the Department and the Provincial officials. The Provincial Commissioner says that this cannot be revised.” He says it will be to the disadvantage of the producer, the Government and the consumer. Has he any logic behind him? Has he any evidence or reason to give? He has been repeating his answer day after day. I think a machine would have done it better because there has been no variation in his answer. He says that the result of inquiries made have not convinced him of the desirability of revising the prices. We do not ask for an enhanced price—we want only a remunerative price. At the risk of repeating the same thing, I shall give him facts and figures.

According to the latest reports, the outturn from an acre of land today is about 12 maunds of paddy or 9 mds. of rice. What is the cost of cultivation? I can say that from personal knowledge. I will read it out item by item and I crave the indulgence of the House.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Seed bed preparation	2	0	0
Seeds	5	6	0
Preparation of land,	10	0	0
Removing seedlings, and transplantation	6	0	0
Manure (4½ bags at Rs. 9-4-0 a bag) at controlled rates	41	10	0
(though we are not able to get at these controlled rates)			
(Irrigation charges if it is dry land comes to about 35 to 40 rupees)			
Harvesting charges	10	0	0
Land revenue	Rs. 7 to Rs. 10		

The total comes to over Rs. 84. The average yield is 12 maunds and the price got is Rs. 5 per maund. The selling price is fixed at Rs. 5-8 but in our province they take away 8 annas for commission, for gunnies, for stitching charges, for conveyance charges; so that at the most we get Rs. 60 per acre for paddy and Rs. 15 for hay or straw. Thus the loss is about Rs. 8 per acre. I do not know if my Honourable friend has got any figures to dispute this statement. We have worked out our figures and our opinion is that he has not been given any figures.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member's time is up.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: I am coming to an end. I will quote from ‘The Hindu’, where the Director of Agriculture Madras has stated as follows:

“Experiments had shown that a ton of groundnut oil cake put on the soil would yield an equal amount of paddy.”

In other words, if you put one ton of oilcake, it would yield one ton of paddy. The cost of one ton of paddy is Rs. 135, and the cost of one ton of oilcake is

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Rs. 129. Add to this the other charges and the remuneration. And when I ask my Honourable friend to give something more by way of price or subsidy he refuses. When I ask for more cereals to the man working there on the field he says that "We are not able to give him anything. We have to divide or distribute what he has." That man has no money. May I ask if my Honourable friends over there will divide their bank balances so as to distribute the money among those people who have not got any money? Then what right have these people to take away from him what he has produced by toiling in the sun and in the rain? Here are our friends sitting in winter with heaters in front of them, and in summer with the fans going above: they do not know what sun is, or what cold is, or what summer or winter is.

Again, what is it we are given? People who are accustomed to eat rice are given millets and wheat of the worst sort, which create all sorts of digestive diseases. If I give my friend opposite a little ragi or maize from my province, would he be able to take it? Does he know how to prepare it or how to digest it? I see my friend nodding his head: he will not be able to do it. What is the meaning, then, of making these people eat wheat, when they do not know how to prepare it or how to eat it or to digest these things?

Mr. Deputy President: Will the Honourable Member now conclude his remarks?

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Two minute more, Sir, with your indulgence.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member has already exceeded by five minutes.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Then he says that the consumers' interests have to be looked to. I do not dispute that the consumers interests have to be looked to; but every man—the retailer—who is supplied with paddy worth Rs. 65 has made a profit of 20 to 25 rupees. I asked about this several times but the Honourable Member does not seem to pay any heed to it; he has not paid the least attention to it. I say, why not this Government subsidise the crop? Take it from the producer by paying a higher price, bear the expenses departmentally, and give it to the consumer at the same rates. They have done it in other provinces; they have done it by subsidy to Bengal when food grains were deteriorating owing to bad storage for one year. They paid a subsidy to them; and now they have offered to pay a subsidy for sinking wells. The offer will cost several crores; and what is the offer? It is only on paper; they want them to sink wells at a time when it is not possible to sink wells; the time is so short; you cannot get bricks, you cannot get men. If all these crores which they now propose to waste on these items are given for raising the price of food grains, I think sufficient food grains will be raised in this land itself, without having to go to any foreign land and begging America as Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and Sir Ramamurthi from my province are doing.

One or two suggestions about the Agricultural Department. The Agricultural Department has advertised

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member must conclude.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Only one minute more, Sir. This Department is supplying seeds which do not germinate. It has been advertised a lot: they have started a Grow More Food campaign; one man is placed in charge of this supply of seeds and manure and he has to go round the taluk; these men are the demonstrators they have to go and advise people and also to store seeds. For the past two years it is my experience that seeds purchased from this Department have never germinated. With these observations, I oppose the Finance Bill.

Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar (Gujrat and Deccan Sardars and Inamdars: Landholders): Sir, this is the first budget of the Central Government that I have

been privileged to attend but I must confess that I have not fully understood the mysteries of the figures or the intricacies of sums running into crores and the technique of the Budget.

Honourable Members: More loudly, please.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member can come to the front bench and speak.

Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: However I take into account the fact that the Honourable Finance Member had to frame his budget, the first budget of its kind, when the war is over, and when this is what may be called the transition period; and I think we should give him due credit for having framed this budget under these rather not very normal circumstances. However, if you think of the items under taxation, one fails to see any relief in the taxation which is indirect and which on the average an ordinary person has to pay during the daily role of his life. Added to that I find he has to pay now an increased duty on tobacco and betel-nut

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No; not tobacco at all.

Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: I am sorry, not tobacco; but betel-nut. It can hardly be said that tobacco and betel-nut can be called luxuries in the poor man's daily life. The relief that is given under kerosene and petrol cannot be fully taken advantage of so long as those commodities are not available in plenty and they are under control. Now, I come to the next item—the biggest in figures, namely the Defence Budget. I find that the defence budget figures are not very low, though the war is over. Perhaps as the war has abruptly come to an end, I feel, that the Honourable the Finance Member cannot easily, adjust and lower the army budget to a figure which we would all wish for. However though the figure is very heavy, the test, will lie in the relief to be given, that we hope to realise, in the interests, of the demobilised soldiers and officers. I feel this demobilisation will be a matter of great importance in which both the Government and the people should interest themselves more. As it is, we are in a delicate position. We do not know what the Reorganisation Defence Committee's report is. That is more or less a departmental report and so we cannot know what the size of the standing army hereafter will be. However even in a self-governing India, defence will have to be maintained at a high standard of efficiency. Taking into consideration the key position of India even under self-government, we cannot ignore the defence services and these men have to be kept at a very efficient standard even though it may cost more. In this connection I would suggest this absorption into defence services of the Emergency Commission Officers as well as the V. C. Os. and other ranks, who are now threatened with the prospect of demobilisation. I believe that a country of the size of India can easily absorb all these men. They have shown great valour and have added to the name and fame of our country on the battlefronts. They are men who have got unique experience. They have seen different parts of the world. They should be considered an asset of the country and we should put them to the best use we can, instead of throwing them away on demobilisation. I do not know what the schemes of the Government are but I expect that it is their duty to take care and provide for their settling in life well. Imagine the condition, if such a large number of people having valuable asset and experience have to be thrown out instead of their being made available out of use to the Government or the people. I am sure that will be a tragedy that we will be sorry for and wish to avoid. In this connection I would like to draw attention to an article by Sir D. Devadoss about 'the colonisation of demobilised soldiers' that has appeared in the February issue of the Journal of the Diwan Chand Political Information Bureau. I think Government can take a leaf out of it and if they themselves cannot run any such organisation by which they can look after the demobilised soldiers they should allow such organisations as the Ramakrishna Mission to do that work and give them liberal subsidy. Any way

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am interested in seeing that the demobilised soldiers and the officers are absorbed as far as possible in the permanent Indian defence services and if not, in the alternative, they should be better looked after and put in a position where they will be of good service to the country.

I think in all these matters His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief can establish a convention and take the Defence Consultative Committee more into his confidence and let them have a say in the policy regarding the permanent strength of the Indian Defence Services. I read in today's papers about some schemes he has in view, given out in the course of his interview given to the Press. Though all that is good, there is still much to be done. Though we have full faith in the good intentions of H. E. the Commander-in-Chief, I feel that the progress of Indianisation is not all that we would wish for and I would wish that there should be a big drive at Indianisation of the key positions in the defence services. I am sure Indians will justify their appointments in these Positions.

From the Defence I will turn to the subject of post war planning. We have heard so much of post-war planning. The reports of the different committees are far too many for one to remember. I however take interest in matters which are in the interest of the rural development, as compared with urban development. I feel that so far more attention has been given to matters relating to urban life, but I believe that if urban and rural life were brought nearer each other in the matter of development, it would be in the best interests of India. So far as the post-war planning is concerned, I would like to satisfy myself as to how far they improve the conditions of life in rural India. In this connection I happened to read in today's *Hindustan Times* what the Honourable the Member for Agriculture said in the other House. He said that for the task of providing seeds, manure and water even for the already irrigated lands a great deal of leadership and drive was needed. He further said that such leadership has so far not been forthcoming as men of light and learning were deserting the villages and settling down in towns. Now, that is a complaint which I would like to make to him and I would suggest that he should find a solution for the same rather than join us in this complaint. He is in a position to give effect to these post-war plans which will be in the better interests of rural India as compared with urban India. I would like him to attend to the needs of the agriculturists and such other problems as will improve his lot and will improve the countryside. If you take the agriculturists' average needs, they are in the direction of cattle, seed, manure, implements, marketing facilities; and all these post-war plans, when they are brought into effect should be subjected to the test under these heads one could say that these plans are successful only if they succeed in improving the condition of the agriculturists in rural India and thus bring it nearer to the urban India and remove the disparity which we now unhappily see so much.

I should like the new ideas about post-war plans to be fitted into in harmony with India's past heritage and traditions. I do not think that everything entirely Western or modern should be tried in India as an experiment. We should not ignore the good points in the old traditions. It is only a happy mixture of the two that will be in the best interest of our countryside.

There are so many other points which I cannot deal with in the course of the short time at my disposal, but we should have to concentrate on crop planning and fixation of minimum prices for agricultural commodities. Without that and without improving the whole agricultural programme, I do not think we can escape the famine and the food scarcity which unhappily we have at our doors. Whatever may be the measures that we adopt in the matter of meeting the food scarcity now, I am afraid they may not be in time or sufficient to fight the famine that is staring us in the face. In this connection I would to pay a tribute to

the services of the Indian delegation headed by the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar. It will be a sad commentary if they fail in their efforts especially when the war record of India was being appreciated so much by all till now.

Now, in the matter of food scarcity, the two points which we have to concentrate on are procurement and distribution. When one thinks of procurement, we have to consider what will satisfy our agriculturists before one goes to him and asks for his grain. After all the agriculturist, unless he is a contented man, cannot be persuaded to give willingly what is with him. It is very difficult to bring these modern ideas of rationing and all that to the doors of an agriculturist or to convince him. First you will have to see that he is satisfied as to his daily wants so far as his family, his crops and cattle are concerned and then only you can induce him to part with the surplus. In that case we have to consider what his necessities are, and how to improve his lot and then only one can hope to persuade him to sell to Government what is surplus in kind with him. Then as regards distribution, though with the best of intentions and scientific record available for use, yet in practice, there are many loopholes which make one discontented. It is here that you expect special care especially when one has to see that nothing is wasted. We must make full use of whatever is available to us. On the other hand there are so many different and funny experiences one comes across in matters of distribution. For instance, as was said by my Honourable friend who spoke before me, distribution does not show that there is any plan or that there is any consideration as to the conditions of the masses for whom the distribution is meant. Sometimes it often happens that wrong grain is supplied to a particular tract, when they can, without much trouble give that tract what is their suitable food. Then, in the matter of preservation also, I do not think that science has been utilised to the required standard. We come across many cases where the grain, that was procured and stored, has been spoiled and wasted because nobody was careful enough to put scientific knowledge into practice and to preserve the grain. Then, one often comes across cases where prices vary just on the score that cartage or transport through a particular tract cost more money. I do not think that basic prices vary very much. But all this difference is explained on the ground that transport arrangements were not easy or there was an emergency and so the cost was added over and above the fixed prices. I think all these matters can be easily rectified with more care, consideration and proper planning. After all in the first few years, one could say that this was a new problem to India, but now after one or two years experience, I do not think the officials of the Government should allow complaints to grow in these matters which they can easily attend to and correct. I am very glad the Army is fully co-operating in these matters. I find that in places which are now military stations the army transport vehicles go about here and there so often. Now they can very easily undertake the transport of food stuffs and thus help in lowering the transport costs considerably. Similarly if the army can practice a little more economy in the matter of their daily rations and also give us relief, if they are self sufficient, in matters of vegetables and other provisions, I think that will also be such a great help. It was rather encouraging to read that the military department are fully co-operating with us. I trust that whatever experience we get in the course of meeting this present food crisis will be made use of in making some permanent arrangements and laying down policies in the best interests of the agriculturists and we should then no more have to face such famine conditions. Sir, I have done.

MR. P. K. SALVE (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, at this far end of the day, I have got to explain my views on this budget. By this time, I believe that the Honourable the Finance Member has been able to discover the two wrong economic principles which have been followed in making up budget so far, even including the present one. That has been the policy of the British Government for many decades and I must say with regret that the Honourable the Finance Member has not been able to get rid of it. That wrong policy first of all is what I call the blood-sucking economic policy, the policy of

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tiger, as it is called. Sir, under the Government Industrial survey of C. P. and Berar the average income of the villager is about one rupee per month. From the tax gathered from such persons in rural areas we are paying thousands and thousands to Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches, sitting on nice cushions like Sir Lancelots and Sir Bedeveres and all those different knights of old in all their glory. As against that, I can only point my finger at the poor villager whose salary is one rupee a month, that is the average. It is possible that there are several people who get below this average. People who do not get one square meal a day. Out of the blood of these poor people, out of their monies, these big salaries are given. Now, Sir, that has been the blood-sucking economy. I shall be able to show from this budget that that economy has been persisted in and the blood of India is being sucked through these budgets.

Now, Sir, I remember a story, a very old story. At this time of day, perhaps with the sufferance of the House, I may tell that story. There was a Nawab who became fond of shooting, and he wanted to shoot a tiger. Accidentally there was a tiger that began to visit his village and he was destroying the cattle of the village, so that the Nawab Sahib was told that that was a good opportunity of killing the tiger. But the Nawab Sahib did not know tiger shooting before. Therefore the people who looked after him put the Nawab Sahib inside a thatched hut and made holes in it to shoot at the tiger. An old Gond who was a *shikari* was put as his companion. He was also put inside the thatched hut and the hut was closed on all sides. A goat was tied as the prey for the tiger. What happened was that the tiger came and jumped on the goat. Then the Gond said, 'Nawab Sahib, there is the tiger, shoot it'. The Nawab Sahib instead of shooting at the tiger jumped on the Gond and asked him where is the tiger and the Gond shouted, there is the tiger, there is the tiger, but the tiger was not shot by the Nawab Sahib. That is what is happening in this country. The moral of the story is this: that the poor Indian taxpayer is being caught by the neck and you ride on him and you ask him, where is the tiger. There is the tiger all round, but you do not want to shoot it. You do not want to take steps to take the blood of the tiger, because you have allowed the tiger to take the blood of the poor goat. That is the policy of the economics you have been pursuing all these years. The poor taxpayer has been paying all these years and out of that you are paying thousands and thousands of rupees to these officers. Can you do it? Is it not savagery? Is it not brutal to expect the poor to pay taxes and you go on sucking their blood, only to pay high salaries to these officers? That is one principle of economics which I beg to lay before the House.

There is another, and that is very subtle. That is what is called predatory economics, the economics of the monkey. Predatory economics is very subtle and you cannot easily detect it. When you are not aware of it, when you are taking your meal and taking a nap a monkey comes into your garden and sees the fine oranges and the beautiful apples; he looks at them and he starts devastating the garden. He starts eating them and he starts harvesting where he sowed not. That is the principle of predatory economics and that is what has been practised in this country. I know a certain authentic story of what happened in our Balaghat district regarding the discovery of certain manganese mines there. There was a geological survey set on foot by the Government of India and the members of this survey were Europeans. They came as experts and they said they came to serve the country. They went on camels and elephants into the thick jungles of Balaghat and found that there were rich deposits of manganese ore in that forest. After having found that they went to England and there they gave their report to the people before the Government of India had any report. A company was at once formed in England, formed to carry away our raw material, the manganese ore, from this country to a foreign land. before any one in India knew about it and before any wealthy Indian could put his money into it. There a company was formed and even Government granted mining concessions to that company without anybody in India knowing it. They

take away our raw materials and call it private enterprise. I should like to know whether this is not predatory economics, the economics of the monkey who takes away your oranges where he has no right to do so. This is predatory economics,—taking away our raw cotton, our raw iron and our raw manganese without allowing us to make the finished article on the spot. When that is the economics which has been introduced in this country these budgets are of no value to us. My submission is that in order to have a satisfactory budget in this country the person who makes the budget should be in practical touch with the people; he should know their real needs and requirements, and then only can a proper budget be framed.

Now, Sir, I call this budget an orthodox traditional budget. It is an orthodox traditional budget in the sense that you consider the revenue that you will get and you estimate your expenditure according to your revenue. At the present day this sort of budget is worthless and should never be made. If you make a budget merely for meeting the cost of the administration, that is not going to help us today. The budget that will help us will be one which shows what money you can lay out for the people, what you can lay out on industries, what you can give the people for helping their industries and commerce. That is more important than expenditure on the administration. This annual balancing of the budget from year to year—revenue against expenditure and expenditure against revenue—is out of date. You will have to take into consideration a long-range programme and a short-range programme, or a programme that will cover the entire life of the people. The entire life of the people has got to be considered. Today in every Indian family there are graduates and M.A.'s. and LL.B.'s., and every parent today is nervous as to what is going to happen to them. I ask the Treasury Benches if they have made any scheme by which these people are going to be employed in future. Sir, I will read a passage from this American magazine 'FORTUNE' which says, about returned soldiers that their future lies in the future of United States Economy. It says:

"It is estimated that there will be about four million unemployed in the winter of 1945-46. But, if most economists are right, next spring or next autumn or next year (mark the word 'next'), will see the United States industry whirling through a paradise (or in the way of purgatory), of automobiles, refrigerators, pre-fabricated houses and perambulators. There will be plenty of jobs, wages will be high, taxes will be lower, displaced war workers will settle down to work and so will discharged soldiers, sailors and marines."

That is what they are expecting in America. Can this budget claim to put us on a par with America or anywhere near about it? Those Americans are speaking of paradise and purgatory. We have had hell all this time and the hell will probably continue. We are still without jobs. I should like to draw the attention of the House to one very important feature and that is, the return of those people who are coming back from the army, officers and men. I find that the budget cannot cope with that. These men are, according to calculations, about nine million. From the army we shall have 2 million, from the auxiliary services about 5.5 million, industries 1 million and administrative services .5 million, i.e., 9 million in all. These nine million breadwinners with about three or four dependents each will constitute 36 million people, which is about a fourth of the population of India. When these people return what schemes have Government got for them? What will happen without a scheme is that people holding jobs in services will be replaced by returned servicemen and that will lead to more and more unemployment. So far as the budget is concerned, I said that it was orthodox and traditional, I say that it is timid. There is no breadth of vision, there is no courage in making it. I will remind the House that the Bombay Planning Committee made plans for industrialising the country and estimated an expenditure of 1,400 crores of rupees in order to get double the income that is obtained today. And the Radical Democratic Party put down the figure at 1,600 crores. My submission is that today in India 50 crores or even a hundred crores are no use at all. You have got to be brave; you have got to be courageous. I want you to borrow money, borrow in order that the people may be benefited. The one theme that you should have in making a

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budget is this: welfare of the people; uplift of the people. That is the ideal; that is the goal which you should have before you. That we don't find in this Budget. Are the people going to be raised from their misery, and from their bad health? No. It is no use saying that we have reduced the Excess Profits Tax; it is no use saying that we have made certain allowances for building and that will enable people to get work. This is visionary. They should take up housing scheme; they should feed the millions of people of India; they should clothe them; they should house them. It is a stupendous work, and I do not know how this Budget is going to do all that.

If I may be permitted to say, this Budget has not taken into account the higher plane from which a budget has got to be looked at. It must be looked at from the highest spiritual plane. There may be an animal plane; there may be a human plane, but there is a spiritual plane from which you have got to look at the budget. That spiritual plane is the development of the people, the progress of the people, the uplift of the people from their low conditions, from their misery, and if it costs money, and even if it costs you blood, give it. But let your work be such that the people may be lifted from their miserable condition. This budget is not going to do it. I remember the story of David in the cave of Adullam. David was fighting the Philistines and was very thirsty and he longed for water of the well of Bethlehem. Perhaps my Christian friends know the story well. He was at war with the Philistines who had camped between him and Bethlehem and he wanted water very badly. Three men of valour broke through the enemy camp risking their lives and brought him water. David took that pot of water, but did not drink it. He poured it out and said 'May God forbid it me that I should do this. Shall I drink the blood of those men that have put their lives in jeopardy to bring this?' Now, Sir, looking at it from the animal plane this pot of water is a pot of water and nothing else. We have a higher plane from which we can look at it and from that plane we will consider it an excellent thing to quench thirst by such water. But from the spiritual eye it is no longer two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen but it is red human blood. My submission is that the British Government in India has put the lives of many people—poor villagers and masses of this country—in jeopardy, and they are taking their blood to quench their imperial thirst. If we look at it as so much blood from the spiritual plane, then my submission is that this Budget should have been prepared on absolutely different basis. This Budget should have been more for the rural areas,—more supplies of medicines, doctors, nurses; they should have provided more facilities for training medical students. If you go through the Bhole Committee Report, we find that there is much to be done and nothing has been done.

Finally, I say that the Budget is very unsatisfactory. It has not satisfied us and we are today in the same hopeless and miserable condition as we were before the war or during the war.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I never wanted to speak so early or speak at all, but I do not want this discussion to be cut short.

Sir, I shall generally review the situation in the world, and how a financing programme here should be chalked out. First of all, it is very easy to discuss the Finance Bill as it stands, and condemn the Finance Member for having brought a Bill of this kind. The world situation has to be taken into account.

Sir, I am not feeling quite well and though I am anxious to speak I shall not speak.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I point out, Sir, that the Honourable Member is a very senior Member of the House and he might be allowed to speak on Monday.

Mr. Deputy President: That will be decided on Monday; it cannot be decided today.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Dealing with the Budget the first point that a man from the countryside would like to see in it is whether the Budget has been so made as to suit his needs. I want to examine this Budget not from the point of view of industrialists, not even from the point of view of the cultivator, not even from the point of view of the trader, but I want to look at the Budget from the point of view of the poorest in the land—a member of the landless depressed class. Now, Sir, the first thing that I am going to bring to your notice in this Budget is that the poorest in the land—a member of the depressed class—stands in the same position in which he stood, say, thirty years ago. I was in this House from 1927-30, and then I put some questions to the Members in charge about their position, and after sixteen years when I come to the House again I find that a member of the depressed class stands exactly in the same position as he stood then.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): What about Dr. Ambedkar?

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I have nothing to say about Dr. Ambedkar or anybody else. Why should Dr. Ambedkar be brought in. You have as much right to speak on their behalf as Dr. Ambedkar, or anybody else.

Now, Sir, I beg you to consider this budget from his standpoint. A member of the depressed class has no right to acquire land. In Delhi Province—in the Capital of India—if a member of the depressed class wanted to buy land, he cannot do so under the laws enacted by this Government. I want to know whether there is a law like this in any part of the world that the poorest man in the land cannot buy land? The poorest man in the country has no right to buy land. If they want to erect a *pacca* house, they have no right to do so.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Where?

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: In Delhi, in Bombay, in this blessed country India! According to the provisions of the Land Alienation Act a member of the Depressed Class is not able to buy land of any agriculturist. If you go to any village—there are seven lakhs of villages—you will find the position of the *chamar* is that he cannot buy land. He cannot erect a *pucca* house. If you go to any of the houses belonging to these *chamars* and *bhangis* you will find no furniture in them. Their houses are *kutchas*. There is one small room and many people living in it. If you will enquire about other necessary matters you will come by such information about him that you will feel that he is not living a life which is expected to be lived by any citizen in India. Now, Sir, if you want to know his yearly income, then you will be pleased to find, as has been just pointed out by my friends, that in some places he is getting one rupee a month. But even judging from what is the average income of an Indian, you will see that the average means that the men at the bottom get much less than what the average is. If Rs. 60/65 is the average income of the Indian, it is quite clear that men at the bottom are getting less than Rs. 5 a month. Now I want to ask my friends, if anybody can live on Rs. 5 a month when the rates of grain etc. are so dear as they are? Sir, I have got much experience of the famine conditions as I come from a district in the Punjab where famine is prevalent every fourth or fifth year. I have seen people living on two pice or three pice a day. Will it be believed by any Honourable Member in this House that an Indian can live on two or three pice a day? But this is a fact. I have seen persons getting two annas and three pies as wages and eight or nine people dependent on him living on that two annas and three pies. This is the spectacle which any person in this House would shudder at but this spectacle is true. It is a true picture of the rural life of that part of the Punjab from which I come. Now, Sir, we have been hearing in this House of large plans of spending Rs. 900 crores. For whose advantage? These big plans of industry, agriculture and all that, for whose benefit? The man in the village street of whom the Finance Member spoke in his budget does not know of them and will not be able to avail himself of them. The Finance Member was eloquent on reducing the tax...

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kerosene. May I inform him that out of the seven lakhs of villages in India, at least four lakhs of them do not have any light at all at night. If the Honourable Member has seen any village, and if he has not seen any, I can take him to any village, where at night no kerosene at all is used not because they are not fond of light, but because they are too poor to pay for it. For whose benefit is this reduction of duty on kerosene? A bottle of kerosene oil is not obtainable in cities even and not even available to students and lawyers. Now the Honourable the Finance Member says that this is the consolation in his Budget for a poor man. I would submit, that speaking truly speaking on matters of fact, this is not even an eye-wash. Nobody can be deceived by it. If you say to a villager that the duty on kerosene is reduced, he will laugh and say, 'What has the Finance Member done? He is quite blind to the conditions obtaining in the country.'

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member may continue on Monday. The House stands adjourned till Eleven O'clock on Monday.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 25th March, 1946.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Monday, 25th 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

STOPPING OF SALE OF RAILWAY TICKETS FOR CERTAIN STATIONS

1187. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

- If it is a fact that Provincial Governments have been issuing orders stopping the sale of tickets to particular stations for particular periods of time;
- the law under which they acted, and if the Railway Administration was bound to obey those orders;
- if Booking Clerks did not refuse tickets even when such orders were not in force saying that there were such orders; and
- if Government propose to ask all Railway Administrations to hang up notices outside their Booking Offices showing the dates on which the issue of tickets to particular stations was stopped?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. Provincial Governments have issued Prohibitory Orders disallowing travel by rail of pilgrims to certain important *melas* and fairs. These orders do not restrict travel by rail of any person who is not a pilgrim and is proceeding on his normal affairs.

(b) Prohibitory Orders are issued under the powers conferred on Provincial Governments under Clause (a), Section (1) of Rule 85-B of the Defence of India Rules, and Railway Administrations are bound to obey these orders.

(c) I understand that no such cases have come to the notice of Railway Administrations.

(d) I am informed that majority of railways already follow this practice and other railways will be asked to do the same.

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, may I know how he expects booking clerks and other railway officials to distinguish a pilgrim from a non-pilgrim when one asks for a ticket at the railway station?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is not easy but in certain circumstances to ensure people travelling it is possible for them to get an authority from a district magistrate.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member sure that there was no hanky-panky in this business?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One cannot be sure of that but the railway authorities do their best to see that justice is done.

Shri Sri Prakasa: The railway authorities did not do their best in such matters and they did stop *bona fide* passengers and very often facilitated pilgrims to travel. I am surprised that the Honourable Member is not aware of such cases.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If any definite evidence is produced I shall be very glad to take action.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not strange that when a complaint of this kind is made the Honourable Member and his colleagues come out and ask for specific complaints and when there are complaints against us without any specific instances being adduced, we are shut up in one day?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is not at all strange. Obviously the Railway Administration cannot take action on general complaints but if specific complaints are made they will certainly look into them.

Shri Sri Prakasa: At what stage will these specific complaints be made? Will it be before or after the train has left?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Either.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly tell me if there is any moral or legal objection to the railway administration following the suggestion contained in part (d) of the question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already said that the majority of railways already follow this practice and other railways will be asked to do the same.

Shri Sri Prakasa: May I know whether the Honourable Member is aware that at none of the booking offices which I have dealt with—and I have dealt with quite a lot of them—have I seen any such notice; and tickets have been refused even to me.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Perhaps that particular railway has not followed the practice.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly enquire whether on the E. I. and O. T. railway stations,—the two railways that honour my town by serving it—this practice is being followed and if any notice was hung at the Benares Cantonment Railway station, for example?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: All railways have been asked to do it. I will however endeavour to see that they pay particular attention to the stations which my Honourable friend habitually uses.

ENHANCED MILEAGE FOR BREAKING JOURNEY ON RAILWAYS

1188. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if it is a fact that no break of journey is now permitted on Railways till at least 250 miles have actually been travelled, while formerly passengers could break journey if they held tickets for 100 miles and over, for one day every 100 miles even before travelling the first 100 miles; and

(b) if Government propose to ask the Railway Administrations to re-introduce the old system?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) No. The facility granted for breaking journey is a concession which is not allowed in many other countries. Consideration at one time was given to cancelling this concession altogether but it was later decided to retain it with an increased distance limit to reduce the opportunity for fraud. It is not considered that the revised rulings will cause any serious hardship to the travelling public.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly explain why is it now that he insists on a person travelling 250 miles before he can break his journey, even if he holds a ticket for more than 250 miles.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The reason for the alteration, which has been made after considerable discussion, was that large scale misuse of the privilege was reported by certain police authorities.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: How is it that the Honourable Member discovered this mistake after 80 years' experience?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It was introduced in 1887

Shri Sri Prakasa: 1856!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think the answer is that large scale misuse was reported by certain police authorities.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What does the Honourable Member mean by "large scale misuse"? Does he mean that a man gets down at a station and goes to some other station than the station mentioned in the ticket and makes use of the ticket for the purpose?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I mean that a large number of people were misusing the privilege.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How can they misuse it? A ticket is valid from a particular station to another station. A passenger can get down at an intermediate station after a certain stage of his journey. How can he possibly misuse the ticket?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One of the rules in connection with breaking of journeys is that the ticket is supposed to be endorsed at the station where the journey is broken. There are practical difficulties in securing this endorsement in all cases and that was one of the reasons why it was not possible to see that it was not misused.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does it mean that passengers have complained that these railway officers were not prepared to endorse their tickets and therefore they wanted this privilege being withdrawn?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. A passenger who wishes to misuse his ticket does not complain.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member assured that there are no misuse whatsoever now?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The misuse is likely to be less under the new rules.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that ordinarily no endorsement is made when a passenger breaks his journey and he is allowed to go out of the exit on showing his long journey ticket?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is exactly the reason why it has been introduced.

Shri Sri Prakasa: But does not the same process exist even now?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The misuse was during the war. Now that the war is over why cannot the Honourable Member revert to the old system?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. President: Next question.

LOWERING OF RATES FOR POST CARDS, LETTERS AND TELEGRAMS

1189. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) if Government propose to lower the rates for post cards, letters and telegrams in the near future; if so, when; and if not, why not; and

(b) the income of the Department during the financial year 1944-45, and the expected income during the financial year 1945-46?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) So far as postal rates are concerned, I would refer the Honourable Member to the Finance Bill now under discussion in this House. Government do not propose to reduce the rates for telegrams at present as the traffic is already heavy and the existing channels cannot handle more traffic with speed and efficiency.

(b) The actual income of the P. & T. Department during 1944-45 was 29 crores 38 lakhs and 48 thousand. The revised estimated income during 1945-46 is 32 crores 84 lakhs.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to part (a) of the question, does he mean that because the traffic is heavy he cannot reduce the charges on telegrams? On the contrary that should be the reason why he should reduce the charges?

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the enormous profits made by my Honourable friend, will he not reconsider his decision regarding the reduction of the rates of telegrams and also in view of the fact that ordinary telegrams nowadays travel at the same rate as postcards, will he not reconsider his decision?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The reason I gave for not reducing the rates for telegrams for the present was that the traffic is already heavy and any increase in traffic would increase the delay about which my friend has complained.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will not the increased income enable the Honourable Member to cope with the increased traffic?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is not merely a question of staff at either end but is necessary to provide extra channels and when the various channels taken by the military authorities have been released, we may be in a position to handle more traffic much better. We are more anxious to give a proper telegraph service than merely reducing the rate, thus increasing the traffic and thereby increasing also the dissatisfaction on the part of the public.

Seth Govind Das: What about the postcards and letters?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have referred to the Finance Bill in my reply: there are various amendments coming, and I will deal with the matter when the amendments are moved.

PUBLICATION OF LIST OF POST OFFICES IN EVERY POSTAL DISTRICT

1190. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

- if Government publish any book containing a list of post offices in every postal district;
- if the same is not on sale; and
- if they will consider the desirability of putting this also on sale for public convenience?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) There is no such territorial unit as a "postal district". The P. & T. Guide includes a section containing the names of every post office in India. Against the name of every post office, the revenue district in which it is situated and the Head Post Office in whose jurisdiction it comes are indicated.

- The P. & T. Guide is on sale.
- Does not arise.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member really look into the publications of his Department? If he did, I am sure he will find a publication that gives the names of the post offices, district-wise; and this particular book is not on sale. I have seen this myself; will the Honourable Member put that book on sale also, like the Post Office Guide he refers to?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: This is not the first time that the Honourable Member has asked this question, and I have replied to it. There is such a book: it is not meant for public use: it is used by the post offices for sorting. The book gives a list of account head offices whose jurisdiction extends over more than one revenue district sometimes and sometimes they include various Indian states; and therefore the object which the Honourable Member has in view, namely, to get a list which will give the names of all post offices in a revenue district would not be gained. That particular publication is intended to facilitate the sorting of articles by post offices and by the railway mail sorting office.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member kindly put that section of the book he refers to on sale, which gives the names of the post offices arranged according to postal districts? If he will permit me, I will explain. There is a post office in the district of Jaunpur called Bazar Arsia; the men who live there always call it Arsia Bazar. I searched the postal guide for the name, when my letters sent there miscarried; but could find no Arsia Bazar. Then I consulted the postmaster of this Council House, he found out the name for me as Bazar Arsia and then my letters addressed to the new name, were duly delivered. All the other letters got lost. I want that particular publication to be on sale, so that we may not get confused between Arsia Bazar and Bazar Arsia.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am quite prepared to consider the matter. At present I am afraid the shortage of paper and the difficulty of printing may delay the making of this book available, but we have no objection to make it available provided the public understand that it is not by revenue districts.

RUNNING OF CERTAIN IMPORTANT TRAINS ON O. T. RAILWAY

1191. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if the more important trains between Barauni and Sonapore on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway, run via Samastipur and Muzaffarpur and not by the main line;

(b) if there is no special rush between Barauni and Sonapore by these trains; and

(c) if Government propose to suggest to the Administration concerned either to put on extra carriages between these two stations or take these trains by the main line and provide new trains for the loop?

Will the Honourable Member permit me to correct a small mistake in the question? In part (b) of the question occur the words: "no special rush". The word 'no' should not be there. It is not a mistake of the office, but a mistake which occurred in my typed question itself. The word 'no' is an obvious mistake.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I understand from the current time-table that this is so.

(b) Government have no detailed information about the conditions prevailing locally.

(c) This is a matter to be represented to the Railway Administration through the Local Advisory Committee. I am, however, bringing this question and my reply to the notice of the General Manager, O. T. Railway.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that even if the Honourable Member has no information, I have information from my personal experience, and my representation to the General Manager received no response at all, not even an acknowledgement of my letter, will the Honourable Member kindly see to it that this section is properly provided for?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes; I will refer the matter to the General Manager and I will draw the attention of the General Manager to the misprint in the Honourable Member's question.

FARES ON AIR ROUTES CHARGED BY CIVIL COMPANIES

1192. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the air routes in India which are being operated now by civil companies and the names of the civil companies;

(b) whether he will lay on the table a statement of the fares on these routes;

(c) whether these fares are controlled by Government; and

(d) how these fares are calculated?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply given by me in this House to parts (a), (b) and (c) of starred question No. 123, put by Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanjal, on the 8th February, 1946.

(b) I lay on the table a statement giving the information asked for.

(c) Yes.

(d) The passenger fares have been fixed at a rate between three and four annas per passenger mile.

The following are the fares charged by the various Companies

Company	From	To	Fare
			Rs.
Tata Air Lines	Karachi	Ahmedabad	95
	Karachi	Bombay	155
	Karachi	Hyderabad	230
	Karachi	Madras	300
	Karachi	Colombo	390
	Ahmedabad	Bombay	60
	Ahmedabad	Hyderabad	145
	Ahmedabad	Madras	215
	Ahmedabad	Colombo	310
	Bombay	Hyderabad	85
	Bombay	Madras	155
	Bombay	Colombo	250
	Hyderabad	Madras	70
	Hyderabad	Colombo	165
	Madras	Colombo	105
	Bombay	Delhi	150
	Ahmedabad	Delhi	100
Indian National Airways	Delhi	Lahore	60
	Delhi	Chaklala	95
	Delhi	Peshawar	115
	Lahore	Chaklala	35
	Lahore	Peshawar	60
	Chaklala	Peshawar	25
	Delhi	Jodhpur	70
	Delhi	Karachi	150
	Jodhpur	Karachi	90
	Delhi	Calcutta	150
	Delhi	Allahabad	75
	Delhi	Cawnpore	60
	Cawnpore	Calcutta	125
	Cawnpore	Allahabad	30
	Allahabad	Calcutta	100

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member, in view of the war being over and the fares having been brought down in America, whether he will consider bringing down the fares in India also for civil aviation?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The matter will be considered by the licensing board. These are only temporary arrangements made until the licensing board fixes the rates.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to part (c), may I ask who settles these fares, the Government or the licensing board?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The licensing board.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Has the Licensing board come into existence?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Not yet; they will be coming into existence.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then what is the present position? Who controls these rates? Has the Government no voice at all in settling these fares at present?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes; these rates have now been fixed by the Government in consultation with the operators.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Will the Honourable Member consider reducing these fares to first class fares or at least to air conditioned first class fares?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I will take note of that.

PLAN FOR POST-WAR AVIATION

1193. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any plan for post-war aviation; if so, why these plans have not been circulated to the Members of this House; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating to start two companies for operation on international air routes; if so, when these companies will come into force?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative; copies of all the plans have been placed in the Library of the House.

(b) The Government of India's plans for the operation of air services from India to countries abroad, envisage the setting up of two corporations for this purpose. These plans are however still under examination and it will be some time before any decisions are taken.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to these two corporations, which are contemplated, do the Government of India, according to their plans, contemplate to have a dominating voice in their management and also share capital?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have not got the book here, but the plans as at present contemplated include Government taking a share, but not a dominating share.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know whether the private companies in existence in India at present will not be allowed to operate on these external air routes?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It will be a new company altogether.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I want to know whether the existing companies will not be allowed to operate on these external air routes?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I find it difficult to give a reply to that. All I can say is that the plans, as at present framed, contemplate the formation of a new company in which various people can take shares; Government can take a certain share, and shipping companies and various other transport companies and the public can all take shares. It is not the intention to give the operation to any one of the existing companies; it will be a new company altogether.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I submit that my question is that the existing companies were making plans for working external air routes and will they be allowed to operate these external air routes or not? I want an answer—yes or no.

An Honourable Member: Both.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The matter will be for the licensing board to decide. I am afraid I cannot give an answer.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I take it from the Honourable Member that for the present the Government does not contemplate any licenses to any of these private companies to operate on these air routes?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No; not until the licensing board has been formed.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Am I to understand that the British Overseas Airways will have a monopoly of these air routes to India from the United Kingdom?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No; certainly not. We are going to have an agreement with the British Government for operating only on the basis that India will have an equal right to operate from India to the United Kingdom.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member cannot explain the problem as a whole in answer to a question, will he make a statement about the policy of the Government so that we may visualise what the Government propose to do?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Certainly; I hope to do so today.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the licensing board carry out the assurances given by Government on the floor of this House, or will they overlook it as usual?

(No answer was given.)

CONSULTATION OF LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY re CIVIL AVIATION POLICY AND PROGRAMME

1194. *Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) whether, in view of the importance of civil aviation, Government are prepared to place before this Honourable House the policy and programme which is being adopted for this country;

(b) whether Government propose to consult this House before launching or committing themselves to any scheme of civil aviation and take the verdict of this House; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Government of the United Kingdom gave an opportunity to the House of Parliament with regard to the civil aviation programme and policy; if so, why the Government of India have delayed in bringing this matter before the House?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). Copies of the plans of the Government of India for the development of Civil Aviation in India have been placed in the Library of the House. I lay on the table a copy of the Press Communique, dated the 24th May, 1945, which states the general policy of Government in this matter. The rules relating to the licensing of air transport have been laid on the table of the House and the plans and policy of Government have been presented to the Standing Finance Committee and the Standing Advisory Committee and discussed by them. The Honourable Member is also aware that the matter was discussed in this House on the Budget grant.

(c) Two White Papers on Civil Aviation were prepared by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in U. K. and presented to Parliament. As regards the second part of the question, the Honourable Member is referred to my reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question.

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

POST-WAR PLAN FOR CIVIL AVIATION

DEVELOPMENT THROUGH PRIVATE ENTERPRISE

Government to take financial interest in selected cases: Establishment of Air Transport Licensing Board.

In November, 1944, the Government of India published the Second Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council on Reconstruction Planning. The general policy of Government regarding civil aviation and the plans prepared for a system of trunk air services in India were indicated in the Report. The services planned provide for the operation of daily air services on a series of trunk routes radiating from the air ports

of entry and exit at the Karachi and Calcutta, supplemented by routes radiating from the Capital at Delhi and from Bombay and Madras. The total mileage of the air routes planned exceeds 11,000 and the air services will be operated with aircraft of from 12 to 20 passenger capacity and will carry both mails and freight in addition. This broad plan, which had been accepted by the Policy Committee on Posts and Aviation, has now been approved by Government. It should be understood that this is a plan for the initial post-war period only and it is not the intention that there should be no further planning for either external air services or for additional internal air services. In fact, planning for the external air services of India is now in hand. Government are also confident that stimulated by the existence of internal trunk air services, there will undoubtedly come into existence, as a result of local or private initiative, a considerable number of feeder air services to serviceable needs.

Plans have also been prepared and approved for the construction of the necessary aerodromes and connected buildings and for the organisation of the air routes. Plans are under preparation—and it is hoped to a complete them soon—for the necessary work organisation the telecommunications organisation, the headquarters organisation and the training institutions necessary to implement their air transport plan.

The Report of the Reconstruction Committee of Council referred to above stated that no decision had been taken as to the agency by which the air services of India will be established and operated. This question had been referred to the Policy Committee on which Provincial Governments, Indian States and prominent Commercial Bodies were represented and its views were obtained. In the Budget Session of the Assembly, Government were pressed to announce their decision of this important issue. After careful consideration of all aspects of the question, Government have now arrived at a decision, and they consider it desirable to announce this decision in order to clear up any uncertainty in the public mind so that plans of development by private enterprise may not be impeded.

The Policy of the Government of India is generally to promote the development and operation of air transport services, internal and external, by a limited number of sound and reliable private commercial organisations with their own capital and operated under normal commercial principles. In selected cases, Government will take a financial interest, but not a controlling interest, in the Companies operating the air services and appoint a Director on the Board. This policy does not, however, rule out the operation, by the State itself, of any air transport service or services in particular cases and such operation may be by the Central Government, a Provincial Government or the Government of an Indian State.

The operation of all air transport services will be subject to licences granted by a Licensing Board constituted under the authority of Government, and without such a licence no air transport service can be operated. Legal powers for this purpose have already been taken by Government by an amendment of the Indian Aircraft Act and it is hoped shortly to publish the Licensing Rules framed under the powers conferred by the Act. The object of Licensing is to ensure the safety and reliability of services, to eliminate uneconomic competition, to prevent the exploitation of the public, to conserve and utilise the national resources and effort for the optimum benefit of the country and to promote the development and expansion of air services on right lines and in the right direction. In fact, the object is to secure Order in the Air. All licensed operating Companies will be placed under an obligation to admit, in any of their training schemes, members of all communities and the admission of such trainees will, subject to suitable candidates being available, be in accordance with the prescribed communal proportions. Operating Companies may be granted State assistance in specific cases, but such assistance will be entirely at the discretion of Government and on conditions to be laid down in each case. A complete scheme for this purpose will be drawn up in due course but it will be based on a system of target operating costs (which will not include a return on capital invested) and target revenue designed to regard the efficient operator who reduces costs and increases revenue by commercial enterprise and development of traffic.

The Government of India have entered into discussion with the Indian States in the light of the policy stated above and are confident that it will be possible to secure an agreement which will enable the policy to be implemented in practice in a spirit of friendly co-operation so as to secure a rapid and orderly development of air transport services—internal and external—for the benefit of India and its people as a whole.

POSTS AND AIR DEPARTMENT:

New Delhi, May 24, 1945.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is the Honourable Member aware that in the House of Commons a day was allotted for the discussion of aviation and the verdict of the House was obtained as regards the policy of Aviation? In view of the importance of the subject, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of obtaining the verdict of the House regarding the future policy of aviation?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I hope to deal with this matter this morning on the debate on the Finance Bill.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: I want that a separate day should be allotted for the discussion of aviation and the opinion of Members of the House should be sought regarding the future aviation plans and policy of the Government. We do not want to hear the Honourable Member's views. We want to place our views before Government for their guidance.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think Honourable Members had an opportunity on the cut motion on the Budget when dealing with the Civil Aviation Department and in connection with the Finance Bill. I am not in a position to say whether a separate day can be allotted.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is Government prepared to allot a day for the discussion of this very important subject? Is Government prepared to wait until the discussion has taken place on the floor of the House, before committing this country to a new policy?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am not in a position to answer that question at all.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of not rushing with their plans for the establishment of these corporations and licencing board before they give an opportunity to this House as well as to the committee on Civil Aviation to discuss this matter with Government in full?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think, Sir, the House has had an opportunity.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: In reply to a question by Diwan Chaman Lall, the Honourable Member said that he was not in a position to answer that question. Part (b) of my question specifically asks whether Government propose to consult this House before launching or committing themselves to any scheme of civil aviation. Why is he not in a position to answer that?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The matter has been placed before the House. The licencing rules have been placed before the House for more than 30 days.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I should like to put a very simple question to the Honourable Member. He has now sensed the feeling of the House. Both the Congress and the League desire that a separate day should be allotted for discussing the whole question. After all the question of civil aviation is a very big problem as far as this country is concerned. The future development of civil aviation is a very big problem and I do not see why the Honourable Member is not prepared to say 'Yes, I shall ask for a separate day and the House will have the fullest opportunity of discussing the whole question.' I do not see any difficulty about it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: In that connection I understand—I am not very well informed of the details—that it was placed before a committee of this House and discussed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Not the question of Corporation.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I was under the impression that they had agreed to the general policy. I was also under the impression that there have been discussions on this subject on the cut motion. The difficulty is that we are at the end of the Session now, we have a very heavy programme of Legislation before the House, and it will be extremely difficult to allot a day. It would have been easier if this matter had been brought up at an earlier stage.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Where is the difficulty? It is only one more day added to the time table. On the present programme it appears that the House will continue to work till the 12th April. Why cannot we have another day?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think it is likely that the Legislative programme will extend beyond the 12th already. We shall have to give consideration to the matter. I appreciate the feelings of the parties but I should like to assure the House that the Legislative programme is extremely heavy. If we could get through that programme of Legislation quickly, then we would certainly give careful consideration to this subject.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Although the programme is heavy, this question is a very important one.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I quite appreciate that. I was pointing out the difficulty at this late stage of the Session.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is my Honourable friend going to consider this matter and let the House know what decision Government have arrived at?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already explained that the programme of Legislation is very heavy. It is not all before the House yet. When we see what progress is made in the Legislation, we shall be able to say whether time will be found to squeeze in this item.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: This matter was placed before the Standing Committee for Posts and Air. While I was speaking on the cut motion regarding the policy of Government, the Honourable Secretary gave an assurance on the floor of the House that the minutes of the Standing Committee will be prepared and circulated to the Members of the House. This has not been done. What we have received is a printed copy in a nutshell putting in those paragraphs which suit the Government. The minutes do not give the full proceedings of the Standing Committee. We demand from the Government that the entire proceedings should be printed and circulated so that the House may know what is the view of the non-official members of the Standing Committee. I request you, Sir, to demand from the Honourable Member an explanation as to why he failed to print the entire proceedings of the Standing Committee. Why is this nutshell only circulated? This is not a case of paper economy.

Mr. President: The matter is now drifting into another province. Next question.

PAYMENT TO COOLIES FOR HANDLING OF PARCELS AT HOWRAH STATION

1195. **Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 15,000 per month is paid for the coolies for the handling of parcels at the Howrah Station and that this entire amount is kept by the contractor without paying a pie to the coolies? If so, why?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: A sum of Rs. 1,150 per month (not Rs. 15,000 per month as stated in the question) is being paid by the East Indian Railway to the Cooly Contractor at Howrah Station for handling of parcels at Howrah Station. I expect to receive shortly a copy of the actual agreement and will lay on the table a reply to the second portion of the question as soon as my information is complete.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that these porters have to work for the railways free at all stations and very often they leave the luggage of *bona fide* passengers in order to work for the railways themselves?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. That is not my information.

Shri Sri Prakasa: That is my information and experience.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: At Howrah station, I understand that the arrangement is that unloading and loading of brake vans, luggage vans and parcel vans is done by the coolies between the trains and while they are not paid for that, they are exempted from paying any licence fee which is sometimes imposed by the railways, but I have not got full information. I shall look into the agreement. This matter has been raised in this House on several occasions before. I propose to look into the whole question and try to get greater uniformity in the procedure of the railways.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that the contractors do not pay anything at all to the porters and pocket the entire amount themselves, as repeatedly mentioned on the floor of the House? This is only a small portion of the contractors' income. There are so many other sources of income that it is worth while for any Member of the Assembly, including Government Members, to become coolie contractors at Howrah.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will Government consider the advisability of introducing the system prevalent on the railways of other countries, of paying the porters themselves?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I will look into the whole question. It has been looked into on numerous occasions in the past. It has not been found to be the best system for the conditions in India but as I have said, I shall look into the whole question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that the measures which the Honourable Member's colleagues, the Labour Member is supposed to take in order to check vagaries of contractors will apply to this particular matter also?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That question should be addressed to the Labour Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the Honourable Member himself has said that he wanted to devote some attention to this particular matter and that he has not been able to do so, will he now take an early occasion to study this matter personally and carefully and see that these grievances are redressed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have already answered that question.

CLARIFICATION OF RULES FOR DEMOTING RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

1196. *Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether all promotion on the North Western Railway are generally made in an officiating capacity;

(b) whether it is a fact that when an employee is desired to be punished by reduction to a lower grade, he is given no opportunity for explanation under Rule 1712 of the Establishment Code;

(c) the provision in the Establishment Code under which discrimination is made between confirmed and officiating employees, when it is proposed to reduce a man to the lower grade as a disciplinary measure; and

(d) whether Government propose to clarify the Rules to permit a chance of explanation under Rule 1712 to all employees who are to be reduced to lower grades; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Since vacancies of a permanent nature in higher posts are few and far between while temporary or officiating vacancies are of frequent occurrence, it follows that promotion to a higher post is almost invariably made, in the first instance, in an officiating capacity.

(b) No, but if he is only officiating and his reversion is not being ordered as a penalty for a specific offence, no explanation is called for.

(c) There is no discrimination where the reduction is to the lower grade as a disciplinary measure. Reversion as the outcome of adverse reports on work and fitness for confirmation, does not constitute reduction as a disciplinary measure.

(d) No clarification of the rules is considered necessary as they already provide for an explanation being called for in a case of reduction as a disciplinary measure.

EXPENDITURE FOR ENFORCING CONTROL ORDERS OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

1197. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the number of staff employed at the Centre for enforcing Control Orders issued by Government, and the expenses for enforcing those Orders, for the years 1939 to 1945 separately for each year?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: During the war as many as 84 Control Orders were issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department and by the Supply Department of the Central Government alone. The collection of the information desired by the Honourable Member would involve an outlay of labour, time and expense out of proportion to the results to be achieved. Government have no information as to the extent and cost of Control Orders issued by Provincial Governments. If there is any particular Control in the Department of Industries and Supplies on which the Honourable Member would like to have this information, I shall examine the possibility of collecting it.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that crores of money are spent on these controls and when compared to that expenditure incurred on controls, the labour, time and expense involved in the collection of this information would be worth having and in view of this, will the Honourable Member collect the information asked for in the question?

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Is the Honourable Member aware that as recently as Friday last the Honourable the Finance Member gave as his opinion that there were more than one million controls in force at the moment?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I have no knowledge of how the Honourable the Finance Member reaches his calculation.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: As the figure involved is a very large one and as it affects the taxpayers to their detriment, and as the number of controls are very large, will he reconsider his decision regarding the outlay of labour, time and expense and collect this information as it will be worth having?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Not all controls are wholtime controls. Quite a number were done by people who were also doing something else. To arrive at the figure of expense would probably involve an estimate of the amount and value of the proportion of time devoted in different degrees by different people running these controls. Controls were meant in order to control something, because it would help for control to be done.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of appointing controller to enumerate these controls?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: If the Honourable Member is serious, we are prepared to consider it.

Shri Mohan Lal Sakseena: How much does the cloth control cost?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I want notice.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why should the Government grudge the expenses involved in collecting this information? Do they suspect it would be against their interest?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Honourable Member collect these figures and give us later on?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I cannot really promise that. As I explained in answer to the question, it would be really a big job. If the Honourable Member would put down a question as regards some particular control in which he is interested, then I would see what we can do to meet his wishes.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What do Government spend in controlling the length of the skirts of ladies in Delhi?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: So far as I know, nothing.

SCHEME FOR NEW LINE FROM TANDO MOHAMMAD KHAN TO BADLIN ON N. W. RAILWAY

1198. *Seth Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that the North Western Railway have sanctioned a Railway line from Tando Mohammad Khan to Badlin via Bulri, Jhok, Bathoro, Sujawal and Jati? If not, is any such scheme under consideration?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No. The North Western Railway are carrying out the survey of a Railway line from Tando Mohammed Khan to Moghalbin.

WITHDRAWAL OF CONTROLS OF LUXURY GOODS

1199. *Seth Sukhdev: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether there is at present any price or distribution control on the sale of luxury goods, e.g., silk, art silk, etc., and the particulars thereof, if any,

(b) if the reply to (a) is in the affirmative, the reasons for the continuation of these controls; and

(c) in view of the fact that these articles are consumed by a small portion of society, viz., the richer classes, whether Government will consider the advisability of withdrawing these controls?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The price and distribution of silk and art silk goods are controlled. If the Honourable Member wishes, I shall give him copies of the relevant notifications, which came out last summer in the *Gazette of India*.

(b) Government do not think that silk goods in general can be called 'luxury' articles. Many types of silk and artificial silk goods are used by the middle classes; for example, for sarees and sari borders. Government's reason for continuing the controls is their desire to ensure that such supplies as there are will be made available to the consuming public at reasonable prices.

(c) Government have under consideration the withdrawal of control over silk.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is the Honourable Member aware of general complaints that silks are not available and the reason is that they are controlled?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: It is correct to say that this particular control has been subject to a good deal of criticism in the sense that this commodity seems to be peculiarly susceptible to disappearing and that is why I have answered that the Government have under consideration the withdrawal of control over silk.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it not a fact that when these things are controlled they become the monopoly of only a privileged few to enjoy them and purchase them from the black market?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: It is the object of control not to have any article scarce. Before control comes in, it is only the privileged people who can pay the price and purchase it.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that as soon as anything is controlled, it goes out of the market?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is the Honourable Member aware that many mills which deal in artificial silks have closed down because of want of raw materials and that is why there is black market in these goods?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think the first step in the whole process is scarcity which the Honourable Member himself recognises. It is the actual shortage of a material which is greatly in demand that brings about these unfortunate consequences, and the object of these controls is to remove these unfortunate consequences at least to some extent.

IMPORT OF SULPHURIC ACID AND CAUSTIC SODA MANUFACTURING PLANTS FROM U. S. A.

1200. ***Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) how many sulphuric acid and caustic soda, manufacturing plants were imported into India after 1941 from the U. S. A. under lease lend;

(b) the names of the concerns to whom these plants were supplied, and the basis, thereof;

(c) at what price these plants were supplied to the concern;

(d) whether any individuals or representative bodies of chemical manufacturers in the country were consulted with regard to the distribution of these plants; if not, why not;

(e) if it is a fact that these plants have been supplied to concerns other than those already in the chemical industry; if so, why;

(f) if it is a fact that Government have distributed some of these plants to some textile mills and starch factories and other factories not in the trade;

(g) if so, whether Government are aware that textile mills and starch factories possessing these up-to-date plants will be in a better competitive position *vis-a-vis* those in the same industries, and that these factories will compete unfairly with the already established chemical factories, textile mills, starch factories and others *per se*; and

(h) whether Government propose to take steps to protect the interests of the concerns referred to in (g) above who are thus placed in an inferior competitive position due to the discriminating treatment to which they are subjected and how?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) No plants were imported under Lease/Lend. Four Sulphuric Acid Plants have been imported by Government for industry from U.S.A. on cash purchase. Negotiations are still going on about three Caustic Soda/Chlorine Plants which are to be imported through commercial channels.

(b) The plants have been allotted to the following concerns:

Sulphuric Acid Plants.—(1) M/S Bararee Coke Co. Ltd., Kasunda (Behar), (2) M/S H. Mumtaz & Co. Calcutta, (3) M/S Delhi Cloth & General Mills Ltd., Delhi, (4) M/S Anil Starch Products Ltd., Ahmedabad.

Caustic Soda Plants.—(1) M/S Delhi Cloth & General Mills Ltd. Delhi, (2) M/S H. Mumtaz & Co. Calcutta, (3) M/S Ahmedabad Manufacturing and Calico Printing Works, Ahmedabad.

The following factors were taken into consideration in making the allotment of these plants:

(1) The plants should be located where there is a shortage.

(2) The firm to which a plant is allocated should have experience in the production of chemicals.

(3) The firm should be a user of these chemicals, so that it can survive difficult times after the war.

(4) The firm should be financially strong enough to be able: (i) to invest the amount required for the purchase of the plants, and (ii) to invest after the war, because competition will necessitate additions to make the production of these chemicals an economic proposition.

(5) In view of the shortage of Muslim-owned chemical plants, at least one plant should be allotted to a Muslim concern.

(c) The F. A. S. price of the Sulphuric Acid plants is \$47,020 each. The ultimate price to the allottees has not yet been determined.

As to caustic soda/chlorine plants, the prices are still being negotiated, but the approximate F.A.S. price is estimated at \$400,000 each.

(d) Yes, Sir. The allotment was made by the Government of India, Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, which appointed an inter-departmental committee. The committee was guided by the considerations stated in reply to part (b) of this question. The need for consulting non-official individuals did not arise.

(e) The allottees, except M/S Anil Starch Products Ltd. and Ahmedabad Manufacturing and Calico Printing Co. Ltd., are all producers of chemicals. The two concerns just named are big consumers of chemicals.

(f) Yes, Sir. The allottees of two plants also possess textile mills, while one has a starch factory. These allottees are manufacturers or large consumers of these chemicals.

(g) and (h). The considerations in allotting these plants have been stated in replies to (b), (e) and (f) of the question. Government do not agree that there will be unfair competition, nor is it their policy to protect vested interests to the exclusion of new enterprises.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: The Honourable Member mentioned Messrs. Anil Starch Products Ltd., Ahmedabad, as one of the allottees of sulphuric acid

plants. Is he aware that there is a sulphuric acid manufacturing company near about Ahmedabad and it was not consulted although the factory was there?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: As I have said, individual firms were not consulted. The allocation was done by an inter-departmental committee, taking into consideration the general principles I have given at some length.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is the Honourable Member aware that a sulphuric acid plant can produce about five tons a day and Anil Starch Products, Ltd., can consume only five tons per year? Is that what is called consumption?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: My answer did not suggest a complete consumption, as it were, of the product. It was merely that the takers should be consumers of these products, not necessarily that they should be in a position to take the entire production.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a small difference between five tons a day and five tons a year?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: As stated, it is a large difference, but I would like to go into these figures a bit more.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Does the Honourable Member not feel that the other starch factories will be affected by unfair competition by allotting this plant to the starch factory?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I do not think so. We have dealt with that in the answer to the question already.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Are bye-products in the manufacture of caustic soda utilised in the manufacture of sulphuric acid and *vice-versa*? If not, why are these plants given to the same firms in some cases?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That point about consumption of bye-products of caustic soda is a very important one, and that was one of the reasons that guided the allocation of these particular plants, namely, that they should be in an area where the product and the bye-products can be consumed.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: If there is going to be any unfair competition what action do Government propose to take?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The Honourable Member is assuming unfair competition; we do not.

AGREEMENT WITH JODHPUR STATE FOR MANAGEMENT OF JODHPUR RAILWAY

1201. ***Sri A. Karunakara Menon:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the nature of agreement with the Jodhpur State for management of the British portion of the Jodhpur Railway;

(b) when, and how the agreement can be terminated or reviewed; and

(c) whether Government intend to work themselves the British portion of the Jodhpur Railway; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the brief particulars of the agreement as given on pages 120-121 of the History of Indian Railways as corrected up to 31st March, 1941, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

(b) The agreement, subject to any modifications that may be mutually agreed to, can be terminated by the giving of not less than twelve calendar months previous notice by either party.

(c) No. The arrangement whereby this small section of metre gauge line is worked as part of the Jodhpur system, is both economical and convenient from the operational point of view.

LOCAL ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR CLASS I RAILWAYS IN INDIA

1202. ***Sri A. Karunakara Menon:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) which Class I Railways in India have no Local Advisory Committees; and

(b) whether the Railway Board have issued any instructions to such Railways to have Advisory Committees; if so, with what result; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Jodhpur State Railway and the Bikaner State Railway.

(b) A copy of the constitution proposed for formation of Local Advisory Committees on the State-owned Railways was sent in 1922 to the then Joint Jodhpur-Bikaner Railway for information. The Jodhpur Railway Administration do not consider that there is any justification for formation of such a Committee on that Railway. As regards the Bikaner State Railway, I understand the matter is at present under the consideration of His Highness' Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How is it that while all other railways have found it necessary as well as advisable to have their own advisory councils, this railway alone has been allowed the luxury of not having this advisory council?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a matter for the State administration to decide.

ALLEGED CORRUPTION OF RAILWAY STATION MASTER OF HODAL, G. I. P. RAILWAY

1203. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member kindly state if Government are aware that the general public of the Hodal town (a Railway Station on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway) including a large number of shopkeepers, have preferred a complaint about the corruption of Railway Station Master of Hodal stating that high Railway officials have extorted about three lakhs of rupees by way of bribery through the said Station Master and that entries relating to the payment of bribery exist in the books of the shopkeepers?

(b) Has any inquiry been held into the conduct of the said Station Master? If not, do Government propose to consider the desirability of holding an independent inquiry into the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government have received a representation from the merchants served by Hodal Town Railway Station and the matter is under investigation.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: With regard to the last paragraph of part (a) will the Honourable Member refer the matter to Khan Bahadur Qurban Ali to whom such cases are referred and who has been appointed by the Government of India?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. I understand that the matter has been referred to that branch.

CONSTRUCTION OF A RAILWAY LINE FROM QADIAN TO PATTI OR KASUR *via* BEAS IN PUNJAB

1204. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 18 of the 8th February, 1945, will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if post-war plans for the extension of Railways in the Punjab have since been finalised by the North Western Railway authorities or the Railway Board? If so, is it proposed to construct a Railway Line from Qadian to Patti or Kasur *via* Beas? If so when would it be constructed?

(b) Does he propose to consider the desirability of providing Railway facilities between Beas and Kasur or Patti? If not, what are the reasons?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The answer to the 1st part of the question is in the affirmative. No line from Qadian to Patti or Kasur is included at present in the list approved for investigation.

(b) The desirability has been considered in consultation with the Provincial Government and it has been decided not to include this project in the approved list at present.

RATIO OF SIKHS TO TOTAL APPOINTMENTS IN RAILWAY BOARD

1205. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the total number of each of the temporary, officiating and permanent appointments made in the grade of Assistants, Clerks and Stenographers in the Railway Board since January, 1944, and how many Sikhs were appointed in each category?

(b) Has the number of appointments of Sikhs in each category been according to their due share and representation? If so, how?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Appointments to non-gazetted vacancies in the Board's office are not made by direct recruitment only but also by transfer from Railway Offices. Communal considerations do not enter into the matter of transfers. Further the Sikh community is not entitled to any separate reservation but shares in the reservation of 8.8 per cent for 'Other minority communities' which include Anglo Indians, Sikhs, Indian Christians and Parsis. I lay on the table of the House a statement showing the number of vacancies filled by direct recruitment during 1944 which shows that the recruitment of Sikhs in the office was satisfactory. A similar statement for 1945 is not yet ready. I may, however, add that the number of posts held by the members of the Sikh community on date is, Assistants—ten Clerks—eleven and Stenographers—three—which gives percentages of 4.9, 4.5 and 5 respectively of the total number of posts of each category.

Statement showing the number of vacancies filled by direct recruitment in the Railway Department (Railway Board) during the period 1st January, 1944, to 31st December, 1944.

Name of Service, etc.	Europeans		Hindus			Minority communities recognised for the purpose of communal representations										Total			
			Hindus other than Depressed classes		Depressed classes	Muslims		Domiciled Europeans & Anglo-Indians		Sikhs		Indian Christians		Parsis			Other Communities		
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.		%		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
PERMANENT																			
MINISTERIAL STAFF																			
1. Noting Assistant class I.																			
2. Noting Assistant class II.																			
3. Routine clerks.																			
4. Stenographers.																			
TEMPORARY.																			
1. Noting Assistants class I.	29	72.5	...	...	7	17.5	1	2.5	1	2.5	2	5.0	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
2. Noting Assistants class II.	2	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
3. Routine clerks.	87	62.6	8	5.7	37	26.6	...	...	5	3.6	2	1.5	...	...	...	...	...	...	139
4. Stenographers.	15	60	1	4	5	20	1	4	1	4	2	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	25
Total	133	64.6	9	4.4	49	23.7	2	1	7	3.4	6	2.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	206
Grand total (Ministerial staff).	133	64.6	9	4.4	49	23.7	2	1	7	3.4	6	2.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	206

TEMPORARY

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that the quota of Muslims in these branches is much below the 25 per cent. quota reserved for Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: If the Honourable Member will put down a question, I will answer it.

Mr. President: It does not arise out of this.

INSPECTION OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES BY NON-OFFICIALS TO GET TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL

†1206. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have surveyed and reviewed, the war-time activities and post-war programme of Ordnance Factories in all their aspects;

(b) whether they have appointed any Special Committee for the purpose; if so, whether any non-officials, including representatives of engineering and ancillary industries, were associated with such an enquiry;

(c) whether Government propose to give necessary facilities for Indian industrialists and manufacturers to visit and inspect such Ordnance Factories with a view to obtaining available technical equipment and personnel from these factories, for the development of Indian industries; and

(d) whether it is a fact that these factories will revert to the War Department and Master General of Ordnance after the 1st April, 1946, and that they would be open after that period for inspection or visit by Indian industrialists interested in their output or technical processes for adaptation and use for civil purposes?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes.

(b) The review was undertaken by a Departmental Committee, and no non-official was appointed to it as it is not usual to include non-officials in Departmental Committees.

(c) Yes; as soon as it is clear which factories can be released.

(d) Some Ordnance Factories will revert to War Department from the 1st April, 1947, and that Department will as far as possible have no objection to the visit of the interested industrialists to the Factories.

ROAD ROLLERS INDENTED FROM U. S. A.

†1207. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the total demand for road rollers in India according to Government's estimates;

(b) whether it is a fact that they have placed orders for about 1,000 road rollers from the United Kingdom; and

(c) whether Government have invited tenders within the country for only twenty-four road rollers (twelve steam and twelve diesel); if so, the reasons for the wide difference between the number of the units to be imported and those to be ordered within the country?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) 2,500 road rollers are urgently required for delivery before the middle of 1948.

(b) The D. G., I. S. D., London, was asked to place orders for 891 road rollers but so far he has only been able to place orders for 250.

(c) Yes Sir. Road rollers are not at present manufactured in India. This order was an experimental one intended to encourage those who have some facilities to go into production.

India's immediate requirements of road rollers cannot be met except by import.

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

VISIT OF ROAD ROLLER MISSION TO INDIA.

†1208. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether a Road Roller Mission has arrived in India and been touring about the country? If so, what is its composition and purpose?

(b) Has the Mission submitted its Report to Government? If so, what are the recommendations of this Mission?

(c) Will the Report of the Mission be published and placed on the table of this House? Do Government intend to consult Indian Industrialists and manufacturers in regard to this Report and discuss with them the whole question of manufacture of Road Rollers within the country at an early date?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir. The following were the members:

(1) Mr. George Bryden *Leader.*

(2) Mr. Edward Burgess *Member.*

(3) Mr. C. J. Ritchie *Member.*

(4) Mr. E. R. Howlett *Member.*

The Mission was asked to advise Government on the capacity available in the Ordnance Factories for the manufacture of Road Rollers or components as well as for their assembly.

(b) Yes, Sir. Its recommendations are that while the steam boiler and the diesel oil engine part of the Road Rollers must be imported the rest of the components can be manufactured partly in the Ordnance Factories and partly in the other Engineering concerns, and then assembled in India.

(c) Government do not consider that any useful purpose will be served by such publication. They are already consulting Indian industrialists and manufacturers.

ROAD ROLLERS AVAILABLE FROM MILITARY AUTHORITIES AND U. S. A. SURPLUS PROPERTY DISPOSAL BOARD.

†1209. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state the total number of Road Rollers made available from (i) the military authorities, and (ii) the United States of America Surplus Property Disposal Board?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Our own military authorities have not yet declared any surplus to us. The take-over from Americans is at present in progress and I am sorry I cannot say exactly how many road rollers will be forthcoming from that source. So far as I can see at present however about 50 of all types may become available.

SUPPLY OF WAGONS FOR LOADING OF TIMBER FROM JHELM.

1210. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport kindly state if it is a fact that the North Western Railway Administration has placed restrictions on the loading of timber from Jhelum and that no wagons have been supplied for the last two months to the merchants for the transport of timber?

(b) Is it a fact that huge stocks of timber worth more than a crore have accumulated at Jhelum?

(c) Are Government aware that the non-supply of Wagons has resulted in a great loss to the merchants and inconvenience and uneasiness to the general public?

(d) When do Government propose to relax these restrictions and give a free supply of wagons to the merchants of Jhelum?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No restrictions have been placed on the loading of timber at Jhelum. Between the 21st January, 1946, and the 19th March, 1946, 442 wagons were loaded with timber at Jhelum.

(b) Large stocks of timber are normally held in the timber yards at Jhelum. Government has no information concerning their present quantity and value.

(c) and (d). It is reported that on the 19th March, 1946, 139 wagon-loads of timber were awaiting despatch at Jhelum. As many wagons as possible are being supplied for the loading of timber at Jhelum consistently with the

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

responsibility of Government for seeing that priority is given to the movement of more essential commodities.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Is my Honourable friend absolutely well aware of this fact that no restrictions were placed?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is so.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Will my Honourable friend make a further enquiry and find out whether the information supplied to him is correct?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will, Sir. But it would help if the Honourable Member would state what he knows about this affair.

Diwan Chaman Lal: There was a restriction during that period.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will certainly look into that.

RELIEF AGAINST BRASS AND COPPER CONTROL ORDER, 1945

1211. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Brass and Copper Control Order, 1945, was promulgated after the termination of the War? If so, what were the reasons therefor?

(b) Is he aware of the difficulties which the small manufacturers of hand made utensils are experiencing? If so, what action if any, does he propose to take to give relief to them?

(c) Did he receive a copy of the Resolutions passed by the Conference of the All-India Metal Merchants held in Delhi on the 5th and 6th January, 1946? If so, what action, if any, has been taken thereon?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir, but it was issued in supersession of the Brass Utensils (Control) Order, 1944, previously in force. Under the revised Control Order, Government, have also fixed ceiling prices of Brass and Copper sheets, Ingots and Scrap. This was done to combat black marketing in raw material. The ceilings were fixed in consultation with the industry.

(b) The root difficulty is the metal being in very short supply. Every effort is being made to arrange for larger supplies from abroad and to increase releases to the manufacturers of utensils.

(c) Yes, Sir. The main tenor of those resolutions was that the control should be abolished. Government do not consider that the removal of the control at present would either increase supply which as I remarked in the answer to (b) is the root of the difficulty, or lead to more even distribution.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that the Supply Member had promised a conference between himself and the industry, could the Honourable Member give us an idea of the result of that conference?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Yes, Sir. It was held on the 21st and a variety of people were present, and the question whether supplies could be made direct to workers who had formed themselves into co-operative societies was the main subject of that conference. Most unfortunately the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the Province from which most of the literature as it were had come was not able to be present, but we have wired to him asking him the actual number of workers in these societies, and on certain other points, such as, for example, whether the societies would restrict sale only to members of the societies. You can see the relevance of that point—I hope I am not making a speech, Sir. There was an effort made there to get to some agreement between people who hitherto handled the imports and these associations, but without success, and the intention is that after we have got the replies from the Registrars of Co-operative Societies we will consider actually fixing an allocation ourselves.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Why has monopoly been given to only fourteen or fifteen persons throughout the country in the matter of importing brass sheets from outside?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: These were the people who had long been in this business, and were competent to handle its distribution.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the present system works better than the *status quo ante*?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think it is undoubtedly the case that there are several features about these things that are not satisfactory. It is certainly not satisfactory. In this particular material we are still quite a long way from normal peace time conditions, and that is the root of the difficulty. It is a very difficult thing and I quite agree with the Honourable Member that it is rather unsatisfactory business altogether, but we are struggling to make it a little more satisfactory.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: What precaution has the Honourable Member taken to see that the normal trade channels are not disturbed?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The channels we have used were precisely chosen to represent the normal trade channels.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: In view of the fact that utensils are not available in the bazar at controlled prices, will the Honourable Member see that the control is removed so that utensils may be obtained at least?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Although there is no food available!

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think you can take it that from one point of view we will be very glad to get rid of these controls because they give headaches to many more people than manufacturers, but I do not think I can answer off hand in that way. As I have said, it is particularly difficult and it is one in which a lot of interests are involved, some of them of quite recent origin. It is really a matter to some extent of this industry being in a process of quite rapid development and the problem which is really before us is to tune this process in with this Control which we have to keep going because of scarcity.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member remove the monopoly and see how it works? That is the whole trouble.

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I do not think there is any question of monopoly.

ALLOCATION OF CLOTH ON POPULATION BASIS AND CREATION OF RESERVE AND NOMINATED DEALERS.

1212. ***Shri Mohan Lal Saksena:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if he is aware that in the allocation of cloth to a particular locality on population basis no regard is paid to the proportion between its rural and urban population with the result that at places where the urban population far exceeds the rural population shortage is felt about fine cloth, while coarse cloth is found in abundance, and *vice versa*? Do Government propose to remedy this defect by allocation of fine and coarse cloth according to the proportion of rural and urban population of the locality?

(b) Are Government aware that the cloth trade has been more adversely affected by the creation of a new class of dealers known as Reserve and Nominated dealers?

(c) Are Government aware that this new class of dealers has practically monopolised the trade and the old dealers are starving practically?

(d) Did Government receive any representation of the consumers or traders to the effects that they don't want cheap mill retail shops in their locality? If so, will Government place it on the table of the House? If not, what objection have Government got in allowing new shops being opened by the Mills wherever necessary?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The responsibility of the Central Government is to see that each Province gets its proper quota of fine and coarse cloth. The Central Government leaves to Provincial Governments full discretion as to how they should distribute their fine and coarse cloth within their own territory.

(b) The Honourable Member is I take it referring to the appointment by Provincial Governments of agents to buy the monthly provincial quota of cloth from mill centres. The Central Government leaves the selection of such agents to the discretion of Provincial Governments. Clearly Provincial Governments can only nominate a limited number.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No such representation has been received by the Central Government. As regards the last sentence of this part of the question, I invite the Honourable Member's attention to parts (b) and (c) of the Honourable Mr. Waugh's reply to his Question No. 458, asked on the 22nd February, 1946.

LARGE STOCK OF CLOTH BALES LYING UNBOOKED WITH MILLS

1213. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware that large stocks of cloth bales are lying unbooked for months together with the mills to the inconvenience of the mills, cloth merchants and the general public?

(b) What harm do Government anticipate in placing cloth in higher class in respect of priority than is assigned to it at present?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) No, Sir.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to the Honourable Mr. Waugh's reply to part (a) of Question No. 457, asked on the 22nd February, 1946. Cloth is classified above normal civil and military traffic, though below traffic of greater urgency, but it can be moved to Class II when circumstances demand it. To move it to a higher class even in normal circumstances would hold up more pressing movements and defeat the purpose of the priority list.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any expeditious steps being taken to rush cloth in the famine stricken areas of Madras Presidency?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That very point is being examined.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How long will it take to examine the question?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think as a result of suggestions made by the Honourable Member.

Mr. President: The question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

EXPORT AND SHORTAGE OF FINE CLOTH

1214. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that under rationalisation scheme the Mills were obliged to increase their production by ten per cent by a reduction in picks or adoption of coarser counts?

(b) Does this reduction in picks or adoption of coarser counts not mean a deterioration in the qualities of the cloth produced?

(c) Is it not a fact that this will lead to a greater import of finer cloths?

(d) If Government think that there is a shortage of cloth production specially of the fine quality in India, why are they encouraging export of cloth to foreign countries?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The aim of the rationalisation scheme was an increase in production of about ten per cent by means of a reduction in picks and a restriction in the number of counts a mill is permitted to produce. It is not strictly correct that mills were obliged to adopt coarser counts.

(b) Yes, Sir, to some extent.

(c) No, Sir. The Government of India sent a telegram in October last to the Secretary of State for India informing him of these restrictions and asking that His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom should permit export to India of only such fine varieties of cloth as would not in any case, even if there were no restrictions, have been manufactured in India.

(d) It is hardly correct to say that Government encourages export of cloth. The quantity of cloth that Government is allowing to be exported this year is about 1/15th of India's total cloth production. Export of cloth of 48's counts and above is prohibited, and that of 36's to 47's is severely restricted. Many factors enter into the present trading position and shortages have a way of reacting on each other. Up to a point therefore cloth like food may have to be looked at on a global basis. The answer to the second query in this part of the question is therefore in the negative.

EXPORT OF MILL CLOTH.

1215. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies give the yardage figures of Mill cloth exported to foreign countries from India in 1944 and 1945?

(b) What was India's total production of Mill cloth in yardage prior to War and in 1944 and 1945? How much cloth India used to import prior to War? What was the yardage of Government purchases prior to War and in 1945 as well?

(c) How are Government now intending to meet the acute shortage of cloth in the country.

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The total quantities of cloth, mill-made and handloom, exported to foreign countries from India in 1944 and 1945 were 484 and 464 million yards respectively. Separate statistics regarding the exports of mill-made cloth are not available.

(b) The total production of mill cloth in India in pre-war years was on an average about 4,000 million yards; during 1944 and 1945 it was 4,815 and 4,654 million yards respectively. Pre-war imports of cloth averaged 667 million yards. Figures of Government purchases in pre-war years are not available. In 1945 Government bought 575 million yards for Defence purposes.

(c) Last year the quota for exports was 300 million yards in each half year. This year the quota for the current six months has been cut down to 250 million yards, and in the second six months of this year it will probably be cut down still further. Again, the Defence quota for 1946 is 250 million yards as against the offtake of 575 million yards in 1945. But Government appreciate that the only satisfactory remedy for the cloth shortage is to increase production in India. Government's plan for expansion involves the import of about three million spindles. I am bound to say however that it will probably be a couple of years or so before the import of new machinery begins to increase production.

INCONVENIENCE TO PASSENGERS AT BOOKING OFFICE, AMBALA CITY.

1216. *Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased so state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Booking Office at the Ambala City Railway Station is notified as open all the twenty-four hours every day;

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints that in practice the said Booking Office opens only a few minutes before the arrival of a train and the consequent rush of passengers to the Booking Office window is a source of great inconvenience to the passengers, especially women, children, and weak persons;

(c) whether it is a fact that grievances of the travelling public mentioned in (b) above were brought to the notice of the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi and the District Traffic Superintendent, Saharanpur, by the Secretary District Bar Association, Ambala, by letters, dated the 2nd November, 1945, 3rd January, 1946, and 29th January, 1946, on which no action was taken; and

(d) considering that Ambala City is the head quarters of the district where all the courts, civil, criminal, and revenue, except that of the Commissioner are located and is also a large commercial centre to which people from far and near travel by rail, what action has been or is proposed to be taken to remove the grievances of the travelling public above referred to?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The only complaint that has been received was from the Secretary, Bar Association, Ambala City, who complained that the Booking Office was not kept open for twenty-four hours, but opened only immediately before the arrival of the train. Enquiries were made and it was found that the allegations made in the complaint were not correct. Tickets are issued promptly and expeditiously throughout the twenty-four hours.

(d) This does not arise.

CONFISCATION OF MR. UTTAM CHAND'S PROPERTY BY AFGHAN GOVERNMENT FOR SHELTERING SGT. SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

1217. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Government of Afghanistan in or about 1943 confiscated and sold by auction the properties of one Mr. Uttam Chand, trader in Kabul, who was supposed to have sheltered Sgt. Subhas Chandra Bose;

(b) whether Government are aware that the said Uttam Chand was arrested and deported into India by the Afghan Government;

(c) whether Government are aware that the said Uttam Chand complained to the Government of India about the action of the Afghan Government;

(d) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government of India to get back the properties of the said Uttam Chand or their just value from the Afghan Government, and with what result; and

(e) what action, if any, has been taken by the Government of India to get the said Uttam Chand re-established in Kabul or to get him reparations for the loss of his trade?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) and (b). Uttam Chand was arrested and deported from Afghanistan in May/June 1942. The Government of India understand that before his departure his property in Kabul was locked and sealed in his presence by the Afghan authorities. Later certain persons nominated by Uttam Chand as his agents in Kabul for the disposal of his property declined to act for him, and the Afghan Government accordingly sold it by auction. The sale proceeds, after deducting certain amounts due by Uttam Chand to the Afghan Government were credited to Uttam Chand's account in the Bank of Afghanistan in Kabul.

(c) and (d). Uttam Chand was provided with detailed statement of account relating to the sale of his property. He raised objections in respect of certain items. These were passed on to the Afghan Government for consideration through His Majesty's Legation in Kabul and a reply from the Afghan Government is still awaited.

(e) None.

REPRESENTATION FROM PRESIDENT, METAL MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, C. P. AND BERAR.

1218. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if he has received any representation from the President, Metal Manufacturers' Association, Central Provinces and Berar, dated the March 1st, 1946?

(b) What action, if any, has he taken thereon?

(c) Is it not the policy of the Government of India to assist the Metal Manufacturers by supplying them with raw materials directly instead of through middlemen?

(d) If not, why have not steps been taken to supply the Manufacturers Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar with their require-

(e) Are Government aware of the great set back which the work of these Co-operative Societies has suffered because of the non-supply of raw materials?

(f) Is it also a fact that representation in this connection was made by the Director, Co-operative Societies, Central Provinces as well? If so, what action was taken thereon?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Thakur Piare Lal Singh the signatory of the representation in question was informed with reference to another communication on the subject that the Government's decision in the matter would be communicated to him after discussions with the representatives of the Bombay Metal Exchange and the Co-operative Societies which are now proceeding.

(c) and (d). Government's policy has been not to interfere with normal trade channels and practices except to the extent necessary to protect other interests. During pre-war days metal manufacturers obtained their raw material through numerous middlemen, and so long as these middlemen do not abuse their position Government cannot in fairness cut them out. In view however of complaints made by the various Co-operative Societies of C. P. and Berar, the question of making direct allotments to them is engaging the serious attention of Government.

(e) Government have received representations to this effect and are examining the question in detail. All the Societies came into existence only very recently, and therefore cannot be said to have been deprived of any advantages they had previously.

(f) Yes, Sir. The matter was referred to the Metal Exchange Association who are the distributing agents for that area but as they raised objections to the direct allotment of metal to the Co-operative Societies, Government decided to discuss the question before changing the prevailing system of distribution. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies was told of this. He has not been able to attend the recent discussions and this has involved some delay.

SPECIAL PAY FOR DEPUTATIONISTS TRANSFERRED TO RAILWAY BOARD

1219. *Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that junior clerks transferred to the office of the Railway Board from Railways as temporary Assistants are drawing Rs. 50/- each per month as special or deputation allowance over and above their pay and dearness allowance?

(b) Is the deputation allowance referred to in (a) above being paid to the staff transferred to the War Transport, Home and Finance Departments of the Government of India?

(c) If the reply to (b) above be in the negative, what is the reason for paying that allowance to the staff transferred to the Railway Board's office, and why cannot that staff be fixed in the Railway Board's scales of pay?

(d) Is it a fact that the Railway Board have distributed their permanent staff into Noting and Routine segments in accordance with the orders of the Home Department?

(e) Is it a fact that although the permanent staff borne on the Noting segment were awaiting promotions, junior clerks transferred from Railways were provided as temporary Assistants in the Railway Board's office? If so, why?

(f) Is it a fact that the staff brought on deputation to the Railway Board's office will be sent back to their parent offices where they hold liens, at the time of retrenchment whenever it takes place? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Since 24th September, 1942, staff transferred from Railways to the Railway Board's office have been paid either the pay fixed, under the normal rules, in the Board's office scales, or the Railway scales of pay for which they are eligible from time to time plus special pay of Rs. 30 for staff recruited from offices in Delhi and Rs. 50 for staff recruited from offices other than Delhi, whichever is higher.

(b) The reply is in the negative so far as the Finance and Home Departments are concerned. The War Transport Department have granted rates of pay according to the merits of each case.

(c) In order to avoid as far as possible a serious diminution in efficiency, it was essential to obtain trained staff in large numbers from the Railways and fixation in the Railway Board's scales of pay did not offer the requisite incentive for staff to volunteer for transfer.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes, in a few cases where the permanent staff could not either be spared for administrative reasons or were not suitable for the new work having had no previous experience of it.

(f) Yes, but it is possible that some suitable men may be absorbed in any increased establishment which the Railway Board have to maintain in the post war period.

UNAUTHORISED USE OF SALOONS BY RAILWAY OFFICIALS ON O. T. RAILWAY.

1220. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that one Mr. Watson, Loco. Officer at Izatnagar, in the Oudh Tirhut Railway placed his Saloon at the disposal of one Mr. F. Barker an officer of the Bengal and Assam Railway for his private journey from Bareilly to Lucknow?

(b) Is it a fact that the said officer had neither a Pass nor tickets for the journey from Bareilly to Lucknow?

(c) Is it a fact that on the matter being detected, the General Manager of the Bengal and Assam Railway, who is an European, requested the General Manager of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway to issue a special pass, just to save him, and that the latter complied with the request?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Barker had a pass for his journey from Bareilly to Howrah via Lucknow, but this was available over the E. I. Railway route.

(c) On his return to Calcutta Mr. Barker immediately reported to the General Manager, B. A. Railway that he had travelled between Bareilly and Lucknow by the O. T. Railway route instead of by the E. I. Railway route authorised on his pass. The General Manager, B. A. Railway, communicated the fact to the General Manager, O. T. Railway, who issued a pass to cover the journey made by Mr. Barker on the O. T. Railway.

CING OF AN INDIAN AS MANAGER, O. T. RAILWAY, IN LEAVE VACANCY.

1221. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether it is a fact that the General Manager of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway is going on long leave. If so, who is going to be sent as a General Manager in his place?

(b) Does he propose to consider the question of an Indian being put as a General Manager on the said Railway? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The General Manager is proceeding on six months' leave from some time in April. As regards the second part, the appointment of his successor is still under consideration.

(b) Government cannot undertake to make selections for such appointments on the basis of race or community.

DISCUSSION AT U. N. O. ASSEMBLY OF ANTI-INDIAN LEGISLATION BY SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT.

1222. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state whether the Indian Delegation to the U.N.O. brought to the notice of the U.N.O. Assembly or the Security Council by a special memorandum or informal discussions, the threat of discriminatory legislation held out by the South African Government against the Indians? If not, why not, especially in view of the adjournment motion passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 4th February, 1946, taking a very serious view of the threatened discriminatory anti-Indian legislation introduced into the South African Parliament?

Mr. H. Weightman: This question will be answered by the Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department.

DEFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION OF TEXTILE VARIETIES

1223. *Choudhury Md. Abid Hussain: (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 683, dated the 5th March, 1946, will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, fixes the different varieties and quantities of each variety of goods granted to each whole-saler nominated by the Provincial Government?

(b) Is he aware that the Purchase Authority granted by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, is presented to Distribution Committees established at different centres of manufacture, whose work is to register the varieties and quantities of different goods?

(c) Is it a fact that the Commission Agent of the provincial buyer has to purchase the varieties according to the specification of the Distribution Committee?

(d) Is it a fact that if the provincial buyer finds something unsuitable and does not want to purchase it he will have to forego that much of allotment, thus reducing the quantity of goods coming over to the province at the time for purchase of goods allotted is very short?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The Textile Commissioner merely fixes the percentages of cloth for each Province in three broad categories, namely, superfine at 4.4 per cent fine at 10 per cent and coarse at 85.6 per cent.

(b) There are Committees only at Bombay and Ahmedabad.

(c) No, Sir; a provincial buyer has the option of buying any varieties of cloth so long as the quantities fall within the percentages mentioned in reply to part (a) of the question.

(d) No, Sir.

REPATRIATION OF INDIANS FROM SIAM AND SHANGHAI

1224. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has received representations from Indians resident in Siam, Shanghai and other eastern countries desiring to come back to India; and

(b) if Government are making any arrangements to repatriate them?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) The Government are aware that many Indians resident in Far Eastern countries are anxious to return to India.

(b) I would refer the Honourable Member to paragraph 2 of the reply given by me on the 8th February, 1946, to question No. 133.

DETENTION OF MR. NANAK CHAND BY CHINESE AT SHANGHAI

1225. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware that Mr. Nanak Chand was arrested by the Chinese at Shanghai on or about December 3, 1945, and that he is being kept in detention without trial; and

(b) if Government know the reasons for such detention; and if any steps are being taken to get him released and brought back to India?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Yes.

(b) According to the Government of India's information Mr. Nanak Chand was arrested on a charge of alleged collaboration with the enemy and is detained in the Shanghai Jail, pending investigation of the charges against him. A report is cited from the Indian Attache at Shanghai who has already represented to the local Chinese authorities the need either to release him or to bring him to trial without delay.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

OVERCROWDING IN TRAINS ON BAREILLY-ALIGARH LINE.

154. **Sjt. Seth Damodar Swaroop:** (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware:

(i) that on the Bareilly-Aligarh line of the East Indian Railway only two trains are run—morning and evening;

(ii) that only one Inter Class compartment is attached in these trains; and

(iii) that because of lack of necessary travelling facilities in the Third Class more passengers travel now a days in the Inter Class than before and that the Inter Class compartment in these trains is crowded to suffocation every day?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to see that at least two more Inter Class compartments are attached to these trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) Yes.

(ii) No. The normal inter class accommodation provided on these trains is two compartments of which one is reserved for ladies.

(iii) The increase in inter Class travel is due to a variety of factors, such as improved purchasing power, and not necessarily to the lack of adequate facilities in the third class. The statement that the inter class compartments on these trains are crowded to suffocation every day is not borne out by the annual census taken by the Railway Administration, which showed that on an average the occupation was 97 per cent. of the marked seating capacity.

(b) No, as an increase in inter class accommodation would have to be met by a corresponding decrease in the third class accommodation, much to the detriment of third class passengers. The Railway Administration, however, propose to introduce an additional train each way on this section in the near future, and it is hoped that this measure will provide the needed relief.

REDUCTION IN STAFF DUE TO WITHDRAWAL OF CONTROLS

155. **Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state with reference to his remarks in the Budget speech regarding the withdrawal of 150 controls:

(a) the number of staff employed in connection with (i) controls that are withdrawn, and (ii) controls that are still in force from 1939 onwards, year by year;

(b) the total expenditure incurred on account of—(i) controls that are withdrawn, and (ii) controls that are still in force from 1939 onwards, year by year; and

(c) (i) the number of staff discharged so far, and (ii) the reduction in total expenditure owing to withdrawal of the said controls?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) to (c). The Honourable Member is referred to my reply to starred question No. 1197 answered to-day.

THE INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1922.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic as may be referred to it during the financial year 1946-47."

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN INDIA 2849

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, eight members to serve on the Standing Committee for Roads which will be constituted to advise the Governor General in Council in the administration of the Central Road Fund and such other questions relating to roads and road traffic as may be referred to it during the financial year 1946-47."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO ALL-INDIA COUNCIL FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the further consideration of the motion of Sir John Sargent, namely:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, two persons from among their own numbers to be members of the All-India Council for Technical Education constituted by the Government of India."

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I move:

"That in the original motion for the word 'two' the word 'five' be substituted."

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in the original motion for the word 'two' the word 'five' be substituted."

Sir John Sargent (Secretary, Education Department): On a previous occasion when this amendment was moved I expressed the willingness of Government to accept it but you, Sir, pointed out that in view of the fact that the official notification authorising the constitution of this body provided for two members to be elected by this House, it would not be in order for the House to appoint five unless and until the notification had been amended and I undertook to provide for the necessary amendment of the notification. This has now been done and the constitution provides for the election of five members of this House on the All-India Council and we are also prepared to accept the amendment.

Mr. President: So I shall put the amendment to the House. The question is:

"That in the original motion for the word 'two' the word 'five' be substituted."

The motion was adopted:

Mr. President: I shall now put to the House the motion as amended: The question is:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the All-India Council for Technical Education constituted by the Government of India."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CENTRAL ADVISORY BOARD OF EDUCATION IN INDIA

Sir John Sargent: (Secretary, Education Department): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

I may say here that here also, in anticipation of the wishes of the House that the previous representation of two might be increased to five, we have amended the official constitution of this body.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the members of this Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as may be approved by the Honourable the President, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Central Advisory Board of Education in India, with effect from the date of election."

The motion was adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE ADVISORY BOARD OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Sir John Sargent (Secretary, Education Department): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India constituted by the Government of India."

The same amendment has been made in the constitution of this body as in the previous case with which I have just dealt.

The President: The question is:

"That the members of the Assembly do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Honourable the President may direct, five persons from among their own numbers to be members of the Advisory Board of Archaeology in India constituted by the Government of India."

The motion was adopted.

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

	Date for nomination	Date for election
1. Standing Committee for Roads	27th March	1st April
2. All-India Council for Technical Education.	27th March	1st April
3. Central Advisory Board of Education in India.	28th March	2nd April
4. Advisory Board of Archaeology of India.	28th March	2nd April

The nominations for all the four Committees will be received in the Notice Office upto 12 Noon on the dates mentioned for the purpose. The elections, which will be conducted in accordance with the Regulations for the 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.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO STANDING COMMITTEE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

Mr. President: I have also to inform the Assembly that the following ten non-official members have been elected to serve on the Standing Committee for the External Affairs Department for the unexpired portion of the financial year 1945-1946 and the financial year 1946-47:—

(1) Khan Bahadur Sharbat Khan, (2) Colonel Kumar Shri Himmatsinhji, (3) Mr. P. J. Griffiths, (4) Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, (5) Khan Abdul Ghani Khan, (6) Seth Sukhdev, (7) Mr. M. Asaf Ali, (8) Prof. N. G. Ranga, (9) Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, and (10) Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi.

THE INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President: We shall now proceed with the consideration of the Finance Bill.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): I was considering the effect of the reduction of duty on kerosene, from the point of view of the poor man of this country. This is the only positive advantage which the Finance Member has spoken of in his Finance Bill which according

to him will benefit the poor man. Now, Sir, in regard to ~~the kerosene~~, I submitted that kerosene was not being used to a very great extent by the poor classes of this country. If you will kindly see the extent of benefit to be conferred you will certainly agree with me. Now a gallon consists of six bottles and the reduction of price may be to the extent of nine pies per gallon. One bottle per month is the amount of supply which is allowed to a family in urban towns. As regards the rural areas, I do not think that one bottle per every six months even is supplied to a family. Therefore it follows that this advantage is of a very illusory nature and is almost airy in conception and reality. There is no other advantage which this Finance Bill seeks to confer on the poor man and an advantage of a negative kind has been proposed by the Finance Member. He says that "there are two other things which I am doing for the poor man, one negative and one positive. As to the first I do not think that any of my proposals will add to the cost of his essential purchases." I doubt it very much, Sir, if the essential purchases of the poor man will remain unaffected by the proposals in the budget. Thus, Sir, so far as these positive and negative advantages are concerned, there is nothing which can give solace to the poor man. So far as the direct taxes are concerned, the Finance Member has admitted that he is unable to decrease any of the taxes, for the simple reason that according to his estimate there is no direct taxation so far as the poor man is concerned, but this is not correct.

Now, Sir, if you will consider the necessities of the poor man you will come to the conclusion that he is in a very sorry plight. His necessities are water, food, salt, cloth, house and his cattle. I will take up all these things in the order in which I have stated.

First of all, let us consider the question of his water supply. The poor man who lives in the villages generally takes his water not from a pucca well but from a pond, which is usually insanitary. If you will see the Health Report of the Bhore Committee you will observe that many diseases result on account of the use of this pond water. In many places the poor man has to bring drinking water from places four or five *koses* away. The whole day is taken in the process of bringing a pitcher of drinking water. Besides the water is quite brackish and unfit for human consumption and cattle and human beings die on account of the water being unhealthy.

As regards food, a study of the same report which I have already referred to would show that the food supply of the poor people is quite unhealthy and insufficient. At the same time, generally speaking, it may be taken as correct that the poor man takes nothing but cereals. He does not get any milk, nor fruits, vegetables, meat or eggs as in other countries. His sole diet is cereals and salt. If you consider the milk consumption in India the average consumption is 6.6 oz., whereas in other countries, in England for example, the consumption is about seven times as much.

As regards cereals I have to submit for your consideration one aspect of the case which to my mind is the most important, which should be considered by the House. Usually the poor man requires two pounds per day. It is now proposed to cut down his ration to a much smaller quantity. I wonder how the poor man will subsist if his ration is cut down so much. It is easy for a man to fast for a day, or a week or even a month but if the daily ration is cut down to the extent of 50 per cent. for a long period the result will be that these poor people, who cannot generally resist disease nor enjoy good health, will be further weakened and the physical deterioration that will set in will be a source of great anxiety to the State and the people at large. At the same time I cannot view with equanimity the measures taken for the purpose of procurement in the Punjab. I feel that if the procurement is continued in the way in which it has been stated in this House and people are not allowed to keep their rations on the basis of 2 lbs. a day even, the result will be riots. If these poor people consumed anything else also and the ration was proportionately cut down I could understand the justification but to cut down the

[Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava]

ration of people who eat nothing but cereals would be tyranny indeed. I submit for the consideration of the Government that this is a very serious matter and Government should see that the poor man's supply of food is not curtailed to the extent proposed.

The other necessity of the poor man is his salt. In regard to this I am extremely sorry to find that the Finance Member has not taken a realistic view. In his opinion if the salt tax is removed no great benefit will be conferred on the people. He considers it to be more a question of sentiment than a question which really affects the poor man. As a matter of fact I think that this Government is unable to appreciate to the full extent the poor man's feeling in regard to the salt tax. This question has exercised the minds of publicists from Dadhabhoy Naoroji to Mahatma Gandhi. They have all pleaded for the abolition of the salt tax. I do not agree with the Finance Member when he says that the future Finance Member will also keep this tax. I think the first thing that he will do will be to give relief to the poor man by abolishing the salt tax. In this connection I would refer you, Sir, to the letter which Mahatma Gandhi wrote to Lord Irwin at the time of the salt satyagraha: He said:

"Even the salt he must use to live is so taxed as to make the burden fall heaviest on him, if only because of the heartless impartiality of its incidence. The tax shows itself still more burdensome on the poor man when it is remembered that salt is the one thing he must eat more than the rich man, both individually and collectively."

Further on in another letter he said:

"I regard this tax to be the most iniquitous of all from the poor man's standpoint. As the independence movement is essential for the poorest in the land, the beginning will be made with this evil. The wonder is that we have submitted to the cruel monopoly for so long."

I do not want to take more of the time of the House regarding the salt tax, because it is likely when the clauses are being considered we may have much to say upon it.

Now I come to the poor man's cloth. The only clothes a poor man uses are one kamri and one dhoty and I do not think he gets them cheaper now than before, nor is he likely to get them cheaper either this year or in the future.

As regards housing, the Honourable the Finance Member has said that the building programme will be proceeded with and that it would give employment to the poor people. He has gone further and sought to give relief to the tax-payer by exempting the income from new houses from tax in the two coming years. I feel that the advantages sought to be conferred are quite illusory. There is no cement, no timber, no girders, and no bricks available. The value of bricks is about seven times their pre-war price. The other materials are also not available. Unless and until the Finance Member makes all these materials available in the country there can be no housing programme possible.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): There are 30 crores of bricks for sale in Delhi.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Can these Delhi bricks be transported to the rural areas? Are there any pucca houses in the rural areas? If there is cement or brick in Delhi how will it help the other parts of India? If you want to give a concession make it real. It is quite easy to give the concession orally but unless the necessary building material is made available in all parts of the country. Such concession is of no practical value.

There is one particular complaint of the poor people which I want to bring to the notice of the House and that is about *Begar*. This *begar* system, or compulsory work without payment is a feature of which every government or government should be ashamed. *Begar* is still taken in the rural

areas. There is a section in the Penal Code, relating to it, *vis.*, section 372, but no case has ever been chalaaned under this section. Petty village officials, a *patwari*, *Thanedar*, *Lambardar* or other officials, whenever they go to the villages, take compulsory labour from poor people. This practice is still going on and steps should be taken to stop this practice.

As time is very short, I shall now deal with what can be done for the poor man in regard to both direct as well as indirect taxation. The first point I would suggest is that the disability be taken away from members of depressed classes and they may be included in the category of members of the agricultural classes so that they may be able to purchase land from agriculturists and other people. The second point I would urge is that they should be allowed to erect houses—pucca houses—and dig wells when these people consider the same to be feasible. At present the poor people cannot dig a well for their water because they cannot find the land. There again, Sir, *begar* should be stopped. In my humble opinion, as a sort of relief in direct taxation, the land revenue of all lands less than five *beghas* should not be charged from the poor people at all. This is the sort of relief that can be given. And then, salt tax should be abolished. Cheap shops for grain should be opened at least in famine days. The poor man, landless labourer or tenant at mill is both a producer and a consumer—a purchasing consumer. When he produces grain, he has to part with them, because he is not economically strong enough, at rates which are not profitable to him. And when he has to buy his food in the market he has to pay a good price. Relief should be brought to him by provision of cheap grain shops for at least the period of famine.

As regards industrialisation I would prefer that the factories should be so arranged and that we get factories on the lines of the Japanese system so that the poor man, when he is free, from agricultural pursuits, may be able to go and find employment there. I would submit that the fees for grazing his cattle should not be charged. These are small things which can be done by the Government to relieve the poor man if they have got imagination and sympathy.

As regards services and education, for them, the House fully knows that he is the most illiterate among the classes living in India. Many questions are asked about Muslims, Sikhs and other persons, but nobody takes care to see that the members of the depressed classes are given their due share of services. So far as these classes are concerned I would submit that they should be given the first preference and priority and for at least five years all the posts which can be held by these poor people should be given to them ignoring the claims of all other communities. Unless and until these people come up to the proper standard, *swaraj* will have no meaning in India. When I visualize that the expenditure of Rs. 600 crores will be contracted in the coming year and famine days are in prospect, I do feel that the future is very gloomy for the poor people. In fact, when I look to the proposed industrialisation of the country which is expected to bring relief to the poor man, I am reminded of the Persian proverb which says:

"The Tyrag Az Iraq Awards Showed"
"Mar Guzeeda Murda Dawad"

That is, by the time the antidote is brought from Iraq, the snake-bitten person may die. By the time that you get industrialisation the poor man shall die. How is this industrialisation to take place. We are told by the Honourable the Finance Member that the machines are not available and the technical skill is not available, and so it will take a very long time. I would only submit that so far as the poor man is concerned, efforts should be made to relieve him in the manner I have indicated as soon as possible.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): There are only three points which have emerged out of the discussions to which I have to reply: the first about our salt policy, the second about shipping and the third about hide and skin.

[Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque.]

Now, Sir, as regards salt, it has been suggested—in fact I was a bit worried as to whether the speaker who was referring to it really meant or not that not only Port Said but also Aden salt should be altogether prohibited. I was not quite clear what he meant. But I should make this position known to the House that the Aden manufacturers are all Indian manufacturers. They are not manufacturers who have come from other parts of the world but they are men who have gone there from India.

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Not all, but only partly.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Mostly. Very little of outside men are there. This Aden salt for many many years had the main market in Bengal. They were very hard hit during the war. In fact, if there was any one who was most hard hit in that part during the war, it was the Aden manufacturers and the Aden workers.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): They made a lot of money.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not know. And I do not know whether I should not include some one else also within such category. I should say that they were very hard hit, and owing to difficult shipping position they had practically no supply of ships. We have therefore allotted four ships to Aden. That is so far as Aden is concerned. So far as the Port Said salt position was concerned, the situation developed in a manner which was utterly beyond our control. I think my friends sometimes completely forget past history. If they remember even an iota of historical facts they will remember that there was a terrible salt famine in Bengal in 1942 and 1943, and in a very large part round about. At that time we were desperately trying to get salt from anywhere—Port Said, Aden, and West Coast. Sir, unfortunately due to circumstances over which we had no control whatsoever, shipping was not available to the extent that it could otherwise be available to get salt from either Aden or from the West Coast. At the same time a very large number of military ships were available—it was necessary that they should have some ballast—and they were prepared to take any quantity of Port Said salt as ballast for their ships. Having regard to the salt famine in Bengal and round about, we thought it absolutely essential that that salt should be filled in as ballast in those ships. That is why these ships had the salt brought from Port Said which relieved the salt situation in India.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province: General): Why was no attempt made to get salt from the Frontier Province?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: It would have been possible if the Frontier had some rivers which could carry salt to Bengal. But unfortunately the transport position is such that I cannot knock my head against the hard-hearted Frontier gentleman who just now spoke.

Sir, throughout 1945, the policy of the Government of Bengal, as also of the Food Department of the Government of India, was that at any cost there should be no recurrence of another salt famine. At that time nobody could see as to when the Japanese war would end, and by every report it was understood that the shipping position would be more and more difficult in later months of the year. Much against our own wish the Government of Bengal suggested very emphatically and strongly that they should build up a stock of salt. Not only did they do that. They suggested that so long as salt was available, any quantity should be brought to Bengal from Port Said if salt was available there and if ships could be found which would take salt as their ballast. In fact it was due to their suggestion, much against our own personal wish in the matter, that 85,000 tons of salt came from Port Said in the first half, and another 85,000 tons in the second half of 1945. That was an

insurance against future difficulties in Bengal. Every insurance does not work in the way it is intended. As events turned out, the position was that the war with Japan was over. Having done all we could, we came to the other extreme. Bengal had got so much salt by that time that they were not prepared to take any more salt. That was the circumstance that was facing us in 1946. And the House will know that we have for the time being—at least for the next six months—stopped altogether any salt coming from Port Said to India. We have at present nine ships, some of which will touch Aden and we have allowed four ships to Aden for the next six months and five ships to West Coast ports. That is the exact reason why we have allotted the ships as between Aden and the West Coast. We are quite anxious to develop West Coast; but I should like members to remember that in this matter of salt it is a question of personal wish or liking. There are people in certain areas of India who would like to consume a certain type and we cannot stop them, because we do not export or prevent people from bringing it; we have to give permission for the time being. So far as the West Coast is concerned, I can quite understand that they have expanded rapidly during the war and they can now serve a large part of India; and in giving these five ships, their case was carefully considered and I can assure Honourable Members of this House that the claims of the West Coast ports for salt transport from West Coast to other ports in India are being very carefully looked into; but the immediate arrangement is only a temporary make-shift arrangement and a short term policy and the whole question will have to be reviewed as soon as the Bengal position eases itself, and it is possible to get more salt into Bengal . . .

M. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will five ships suffice? Why not increase ships for 17 West Coast Salt Works and reduce out of 4 ships allotted for Aden?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We have to consider not merely the bringing of the salt, but also ships which might be available to touch these ports. I hope my friend will also remember that the West Coast has the rest of India to supply—in fact my friend's own district in Bombay, and Madras coast and the Frontier province—you cannot possibly expect that all ships which will go to Bengal must all be given to the West Coast or Aden; but in any case I am quite prepared to have the matter considered, subject to the fact that whether I will be here or somebody else is a matter over which I have no control for the time being.

As regards the shipping position, it is this: we have been for some time trying our best to make it known to H.M.G. that in so far as India is concerned we should get first preference in any shipping acquisition from the United Kingdom; and we have been successful to the extent that we have been assured that in the matter of new shipping India will have first preference. We have succeeded there. And in so far as shipping from the United States is concerned, the position is not quite clear to us. First of all, the United States legislation about ships which will be sold by the United States to non-United States bodies is not yet quite clear. Some companies have tried their best to getting shipping from the United States and Canada and they found that it will be ultimately better for them from the point of view of financial stability and other matters to get ships from the United Kingdom rather than from the United States. Having regard to this position, we cannot proceed further in the matter. As regards the question of future policy, we have appointed a committee some time before; and I may say this policy committee was presided over by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Iyer and the members of the committee were Mr. Neogy, Mr. Master, Sir Halim Ghuznavi and Mr. Radcliffe; and that committee a few weeks ago has sent a preliminary report of their recommendations. We are considering the matter; but I think it will be realised that the future of shipping is ultimately dependant upon the extent

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to which India can get a share of the world's trade of the future. It is no use developing and having ships, unless you are able to get a certain amount of freight and goods and passenger traffic, which is now taken by other ships of the world; and that question of adjustment is a matter which has yet to be settled before the shipping policy can be further developed. In any case I can assure Honourable Members that we have taken every possible step to ensure the interests of India, and we have made our views clear to H.M.G. Our representatives in trade and other representatives who have gone there are carefully watching the situation. We will take the earliest opportunity which will be offered to us.

As regards hides and skins, references were made to it. I can only say generally that having regard to the economic sanctions which will be imposed against South Africa very soon, and against the import of wattle bark, and also having regard to the world situation today, we are quite prepared to allow free export of hides and skins as soon as possible, and then to watch the situation for a few months as to what extent it may or may not really affect the position in India. We do not want to lose control over it. If we find that at any stage the Indian tanners are not able to get enough material within the country, we will have to step in and intervene, because while we are quite anxious that the interests of hides and skins merchants should not suffer, at the same time Indian development of manufacturing in this country should not also suffer. Our impression is that having regard to the new factor that has come in, namely, the likely stoppage of the import of wattle bark, the volume of hide and skin will possibly be much more than India can absorb for the time being; that is our estimate for the present.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Raw hides and skins trade should not be destroyed.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: In any case I have supplied an argument which was not supplied by my friends the other day; we have decided to take our courage in both hands, and allow this thing to go abroad, subject to this over-riding factor that if at any stage we find that the Indian manufacturer is in any way hard hit by the export of a quantity which should not be exported or that he is not having enough materials for his manufacture, we must step in.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: But something else may happen in the meantime!

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: No one can say what may happen from time to time; but we have to guard against any eventuality; whether that eventuality is to be faced by me or by yourself, I do not know. But I think I will be guilty ultimately if I did not take all steps with a view to guarantee against that.

That is all I have got to say and I hope Honourable Members will realise that we are trying to do all we can in the matter of salt and of hides and skins.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir. I do not want to repeat what has been stated already by a number of speakers here. I shall simply mention one or two things as I wish to give my support on these vital questions, to which I shall make a reference.

As far as Excess Profits Tax is concerned, I would support Honourable members who have spoken already, that it should not have been abolished but should have existed this year, because the circumstances prevalent in the country are such that it was not quite wise to abolish this tax. As long as we find that people are benefiting by the excessive prices which are prevailing in the country, on account of the war, and are making abnormal profits, which they would not have done otherwise, it is only right that they should be taxed. I have been a believer always in one principle, and I want to press it again,

as I did in the past, that there should be a minimum income which should not be taxed at all

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-official): May I ask one question? When the Honourable Member said that those who made profits in the war should be made to pay, does he include those owners of land who have made great profits due to the war?

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: If the Honourable Member comes in that category, I think he should be made to pay. There should be a minimum, which the Government has put down now at Rs. 1,500; formerly the exemption was up to Rs. 2,000. Now Rs. 2,000 pre-war are equal to about Rs. 8,000 at least of the present day. People who used to get the work done for Rs. 2,000 cannot get the same work done for less than Rs. 8,000 now because prices have gone up four times but the Honourable Member has come down from Rs. 2,000 to 1,500 and this lowering of scale for exemption in the case of people with unearned income is very hard. I do not agree that there should be any distinction between earned and unearned income if it goes up to a certain limit which can give bare living conditions. If a man is getting Rs. 2,000 now, this means he is getting really Rs. 500 of the pre-war time. A man who is earning a pension or a widow who has been left some property and who depends upon that income to educate the children should not be taxed. They come under the category of unearned income. At the same time I am a believer in this—that people should not be allowed to accumulate lot of wealth, earn and keep to themselves beyond a certain limit. There should be prescribed a limit for the people to retain that money. If a limit whatever it may be, it may be the salary of an Executive Councillor or it may be something more—I do not mind it if you put it at a lakh of rupees—whatever it is, beyond it nobody should be allowed to keep to himself the amount of income to accumulate. That money must go to the State. I do not want to take his capital away either in his life time or when he dies. He leaves it to the children and each will be entitled to the maximum income. One man enjoys huge profits and accumulates wealth. He stops many other people from making profits or going into business because he wants to crush the small workers by his wealth, by ousting them in his own manner and I think that the State must get all the money which a man earns beyond that limit. This will be conducive to very healthy conditions in this country and it will distribute the wealth properly and the people who are very poor will not suffer on account of the excessively wealthy people hoarding wealth. They should be given some relief in preference to those who can afford to pay.

I do not want to touch on questions relating to kerosene oil and betel nuts because they have been dealt with and I hope that the Honourable Member has learnt by now that there is a general desire against these two things, first of all against any taxation on betel nuts. He knows very well that the duty on kerosene should be substantially reduced in order to provide the poor people with more and cheap oil.

Unfortunately I do not find here any gentleman concerned with the Education Department. I had given due notice to the Government that I am going to refer to that Department but if the Honourable member only wants to read my speech and not take any note and not reply, I do not mind. But I must bring to the notice of the House the step-motherly treatment which the Aligarh University is receiving. I am the elected representative of the University in this House and I want to speak on their behalf and on behalf of my constituents. Being a member of the Executive Council and of the Court of the University, I can speak with authority and knowledge as a member of those bodies. The treatment which the Government has always meted out to the Aligarh Muslim University has been step-motherly. This huge file in my hand which is circulated to me had been sent to the Government. This involved lot of labour and has given good information on which the Government could act. The Muslim University is not a university meant for one

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community only, in spite of its name. It is open to all communities and students of non-Muslim communities get the same facilities as the Muslim community students. There is no distinction made and no preference is given to a Muslim student as such. A Hindu or a Christian can come in and have the same advantages as a Muslim student. The University depends entirely on the Government grant and the subscriptions which they can get from private people to meet the needs of education. I find that the Delhi University, of the Court of which I have also the honour to be a member, gets much better treatment from the Government, while the Aligarh University is ignored. I know there is a powerful gentleman who is the Vice-Chancellor of the Delhi University and he can get whatever he wants. Though the Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh University is no less powerful, he is less powerful so far as the Government is concerned. He cannot get what he wants. The Delhi University has got power, because of the two John brothers who carried the Delhi University Bill debate in this House. Unfortunately one of them has left the House and has gone. They ignored all the feelings of the Muslims and the divisions took place on every clause. They sent the Muslim League Party to the Lobby at least a hundred times on one small Bill. We were only 12 or 14 people fighting against great odds and those people who were fighting on the side of the Delhi University Bill were afterwards convinced that they were fighting for the wrong side. That treatment is still kept up so far as the Aligarh University is concerned. It is a matter of disgrace that no Muslim student of U.P. got any admission into any of the Medical colleges. If he goes to Lahore, they say, 'you are not a Punjabi', if he goes to Lucknow, the rules are made in such a way that out of 40 applicants in a year, only one has been admitted. This opened the eyes of the Muslim public and they collected 60 lakhs for opening a Medical College.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-official): I may inform my Honourable friend that so far as the Agra University is concerned, they are welcome.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: But actually how many have been admitted? I can tell my Honourable friend that the rules are so interpreted that practically no Muslim student gets admission. He ought to be ashamed of that.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: We are only administering the rules framed by U.P. Government.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: What does that mean? Government means the Vice-Chancellor and that is the Honourable Member himself. I can say that no Muslim boy can easily be admitted into the Agra College. Students are rejected on the most flimsy grounds. My Honourable friend advocated the other day that students should be admitted on merits. I know how this question or merit is manipulated. What he considers merits may be otherwise from my point of view.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: May I point out that admission to the Agra Medical College is not in my hands and admission is regulated by communal quota determined by the U. P. Government and not by the Vice-Chancellor.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: The Honourable Member may be all right and may be sympathetic as far as he is concerned. I can inform the House that I recommended brilliant students—B.Sc., and M.Sc.—for admission to Lucknow Medical College and none was admitted. I fought for them without any results. During the last six or seven years only three or four students were admitted into the Lucknow Medical College, though the college is maintained from taxes paid by the public. The doors of the college are closed against Muslims, the rules are made in such a way that Muslims do not get admission and the Education Department sits tight over this. No notice is given of our grievances. Even when we come for grants, after collecting our

own subscriptions to educate our young boys, even then the Government shuts the door on us. That is my grievance against the Education Department against their unsympathetic attitude towards boys from Aligarh. I take strong exception to the treatment given to our boys. We drew up a five year plan and put it before the Government, but no reply was received. I challenge any Member of the Government whether he has read all the materials placed in this file about the Aligarh University scheme. I am glad to see my Honourable friend Sir John Sargent coming to the House. This is the way in which we are treated and yet the Government want our support for the Finance Bill. Is that the proper way of seeking our help? They must be careful, they must show proper treatment towards us. We are honest people, if you respect us, we will respect you not once, but three times. On the other hand, if you slight us once, we will slight you thrice. That is how I look at it. I want to know that out of this five year's programme how much money has been sanctioned to the University? The teachers are getting ridiculous salary. It is a disgrace to find highly educated people, with doctorate qualification of European Universities, getting only a salary of Rs. 125. How can any one live on Rs. 125 a month. The Government have taken no notice of the high prices, four or five times in the whole country. Even to the menial servants, the Government is paying twice or thrice of what they used to get and in the case of these teachers, they cannot have even one full meal a day on their present salary. The Education Department ought to be ashamed of their indifference in these matters. The Education Department should wake up and discharge their responsibilities in educating the people of this country. Education must be the first and primary concern of the Government of India. If proper education is not given to the people, the result will be complete ignorance in the country. We will have illiterate people, as they are now. I hope the Honourable Member concerned will take notice of this and will give proper facilities and proper grants to Universities. There are only three Universities which are the concern of the Central Government—the Benares University, the Aligarh University and the Delhi University. These are the three Universities which are dependent on the Government of India for grants. They are not the concern of the Local Governments. In Aligarh University we get boys from the whole of India and also from abroad. It is the duty of the Government to see that the Aligarh University is equipped properly so that it can impart education in all branches, technical etc. There is no use of turning out graduates or undergraduates who are fit only to be employed as clerks in the Government of India. The University must produce efficient technicians. Where is the technical college which can take up this work? I have no time to go into details. The Honourable Member must visit the University. The other day the Labour Member said that on account of lack of education, they closed the doors, they closed the technical classes in the Aligarh University. I wrote a letter to the Honourable Member in charge of the Labour Department to keep the classes open, but he refused. This is the way in which we are treated and then the Government gets up and asks our co-operation without giving us any response. But where is the response?

The response does not come from the Government side.

Before I conclude, I wish to refer to rationing in Delhi and other areas. I have got a newspaper cutting sent to me by the people in Delhi. This shows the hopeless condition in which rationing is conducted here. I think those of us, Members of the Legislative Assembly who come to Delhi ought to be allowed to bring our own rations from the Provinces. And we should receive no rations in Delhi. This shows that 27,000 bags of rice were condemned as unfit for human consumption because they had been allowed to rot and later by some hook or crook methods they were repurchased and mixed up with good rice and given as our rations. No wonder if diseases break out. If this goes on in Delhi at least we who come from outside should be allowed to bring our own rations. I do not know how far it is true—I cannot vouch for the truth of this—but it has appeared in the press; and if

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it is wrong the Deputy Commissioner and Chief Commissioner can take notice of it, and if it is right they must rectify it and see that things which are unfit for human consumption are not offered as rations. These back-door methods must not exist.

Sir, I will not take any more time, though I have still some other points to make, and I will conclude.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we have opposed the motion that the Finance Bill be taken into consideration. Before I come to the main reasons which have prompted us to do so, I should like to point out briefly what the general masses of people in this country would have liked to see in the budget that has been presented to us. Besides that, the budget fails to tackle the crying needs of this country. Then, finally come the other considerations—political considerations—which preclude us from taking any other course but to refuse to take this Bill into consideration. The items in the budget which we would have liked to see abolished or modified are many. There is the salt tax, there are the postal rates, there are the duties on kerosene, on tobacco, on betelnuts, on bullion and on silver, and there is the income-tax in the lower stages, where the Finance Member who is laughing, does not seem to have remembered the fact that the price-index in the country has gone up by three hundred per cent, and that still the lower limit up to which he leaves the poor people's income untaxed has remained practically the same. But, Sir, all these points have been covered by my other Honourable friends. Much, therefore, though I should have liked to go into each one of them I shall content myself with the fact that they have already been touched upon and that our viewpoint on them has been brought before the House.

Sir, the other feature, namely, the omissions in the budget are even more important. The very crying needs of the country have not been provided for. Practically every sphere of our national life needed careful fostering and help. Nothing has been done there. Let us take them one by one.

First we will take education. Education has its own importance in the life of any people. After nearly two hundred years of British rule in India, the percentage of literacy according to the Sargent report is not more than 14.6. Possibly, that is a liberal figure; but even taking it as correct, is it not a matter of shame for any Government responsible for the administration of any country that there should be 86 per cent, of its population which should not be able to read even the elementary alphabets? But, I take the fact that it is so, and then I ask why the Finance Member has not considered this matter of sufficient importance to make a provision in his budget to fight this curse of illiteracy. I do not find any provision about this. Then there are the other sections of Education. There is basic education, there is primary education, there is secondary education, there are high schools, there are intermediate colleges, there are the universities and then above all there is Research. What provision have you made for all these? In England—I again take the figure from the Sargent report—the expenditure for education per head of the population, before the war was Rs. 35-2-0; in India it appears to be not more than two and a half annas per head taking an average of all the provinces also.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is the Honourable Member talking of the Government of India or the Provincial Governments?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I am glad my friend the Honourable the gallant Knight has raised that question. We know that education as such is a subject for the provinces to deal with. But we also know that there is an Education Department here at the centre and there is large-scale planning and development, and that the scheme of education propounded by the Advisory Board of Education and put forward by the Government of India is part and parcel of this reconstruction scheme. We also know that there is nothing in the Act of 1935 or in the Act of 1919 to preclude the Government of India from making

such provision as they think fit in their budget for education over and above what the provinces may do. The provinces, Sir, may be doing what they ought to do, or they may not be doing what they ought to do. Today we are here to discuss and to consider what the Government of India propose to do in this Budget. Therefore, to come back to the point which I was dealing with notwithstanding our present ridiculously low figure of about 2½ annas, per capita expenditure over education practically no provision has been made in this Budget for any one of these important stages of education.

Sir, the Sargent Report has mentioned the expenditure which will be involved in working its scheme. It has put down ten crores annual expenditure as the figure which is likely to be reached after five years, and after forty years, if I am not mistaken, it has put down the figure of 812 crores as the annual expenditure. Has the Honourable the Finance Member able to make provision for even a humble beginning in that direction?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir. Read the Budget.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I should be very happy to be corrected, instructed, and helped. But I have read the provisions that have been made there, and I shall soon come to them, or at any rate to some of them and we shall then see if that is what can satisfy the needs of the people.

Then, Sir, there is Research. Higher Research is the foundation for progress and advance. No country can develop or make any progress in any direction without the aid of higher research. We have a small Board of Industrial and Scientific Research which is doing good work, but even that has a very limited scope and then higher pure research, research in the realm of pure science which would lift the standard of education in the country, is nowhere to be found.

Sir, it is true that the Budget makes a provision of 2½ lakhs of rupees for opening a separate college for scheduled castes in Bombay. I am amazed at that provision. I do not know why it should have been made. Not one of us in this country, not one among the Hindus, would be found unwilling to provide not only the two-and-a-half lakhs but much more for the purpose of providing the utmost facility to our scheduled caste brothers and sisters for receiving the very best and highest education possible. The Hindus have during the last two decades done whatever was possible and desirable, and should have liked to do even much more and will continue to do much more for the amelioration, and for the uplift of that submerged section of their community, but, Sir, I ask is this provision of 2½ lakhs made to sow another seed of poison in the body politic of this country.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): A separate college for scheduled castes.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Who does not know the unfortunate day when the command performance of the Agha Khan deputation asked for separate electorates? I am not in the least desirous of hurting anybody's feelings, but, Sir, on account of that pernicious seed having been sown two brothers, who had lived in this country in amity and good-will for centuries, have been made to fly at each other's throat and the wind which was then sown has resulted in a whirlwind. Sir, is it sought to create another similar division in the body politic of this country? Have those 2½ lakhs been provided for this purpose? I hope, Sir, that the Government will not be misled. The depressed classes have realized and appreciated what the Congress and the Hindus have been doing for them. Look at the last elections. A challenge was thrown by my Honourable friend, the depressed class Member of the Viceroys' Executive Council, saying that in the elections they would win every seat. Have they been able to do so?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: What about the primary elections?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Primary elections also have their own story to tell. If you will take the total number of seats in which those primary elections were held, and if you will work out the percentage. . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Give me the figures.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I have not got them here, but I shall be very glad to go into them with the Honourable the Finance Member.

Mr. President: Order, order. The point may be pursued after Lunch. But before the House adjourns, the Honourable the Law Member will present his report.

THE TRANSFER OF PROPERTY AND SUCCESSION (AMENDMENT) (BILL)

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, I present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, the Hindu Disposition of Property Act, 1916, and the Indian Succession Act, 1925.

Mr. President: The House will now adjourn till 2-30 P.M.

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.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President: I may remind Honourable Members that we are having an adjournment motion to-day at 4 o'clock, unless it is withdrawn. But I do not know about it. There are a large number of speakers to be put through. So will Honourable Members curtail their remarks as much as possible?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Sir, resuming where I was before we adjourned, I hope, Sir, the Government will see the mischief that is sure to arise as a result of the cutting up of Hindu society into smaller parcels. I hope the provision which has been made for a separate college at Bombay for our Scheduled Caste brethren will not be persisted in and that, instead, not only that amount of Rs. 2½ lakhs but much more will be set apart and utilised for the purpose of helping men and women from that community to have the benefits of the highest and the best education possible in the country.

Sir, what you have said just now regarding the shortness of the time at our disposal, I beg to submit, is rather a difficult thing, because, I understood that during discussion on the Finance Bill people always had the opportunity to speak and to express their viewpoints without any restriction and in as full a manner as they thought necessary; but, Sir, having said that much, I will submit to the remarks that you have been pleased to make. I will therefore only just touch in passing some of the other points which I wish to raise.

I will start with food. It is a terrible problem which is staring this country in the face. The Government have cried themselves hoarse during the past few months in making the world believe that we are now on the brink of extinction. But, Sir, I ask, what does this budget do in that connection? Why did not they make it an item of priority No. 1 and provide for the funds to subsidize the sale of foodgrains in this country at a lower price, so that the poor man may be able somehow to keep body and soul together. Sir, I have not the time here to go into detailed figures. I have a recollection that the great and noble erudite Servant of India, Pandit Hriday Nath Kunzru, mentioned the figure last year that at least 40 per cent. of the people of this country were unable to purchase foodgrains for themselves at the prices which the Government had fixed. I say, Sir, it is an unpardonable omission that nothing has been done in that direction. I should have liked to go deeper into this food question and to show how by their own action and lethargy and incompetence this Government has created more panic in this matter than there

should have been and has made a mess of this food problem, and how a National Government could still tackle this problem successfully and well. But, Sir, as there is no time I shall leave it at what I have said and shall move on to other things, after just referring to one point in that connection. We have read in the newspapers that foodgrains which will be sent to India will mean a further cut down in the rations in Germany and Japan. I want to put it down on record on behalf of the people of this country, Sir, that we do not wish to make the people of any other country starve for us. We should like to have imports, but only from surplus areas. We should like to increase our foodgrain production. We should like to do all that may be possible. But we would not like it at all that Germany or Japan or any other country in the world should be made to starve and their diet, which is already a semi-starvation diet, should be reduced further in order that we may have the needed extra foodgrains. I shall leave it there.

The next point that I wish to refer to, Sir, is public health. We have read only this morning in the papers of the stupendous scheme which England is putting through its Parliament for maintaining the health of the people in England. Nobody, it is said, will have to pay for a doctor or treatment there unless he wants to. We know what the financial condition of England today is and yet if England can do so and can contemplate an expenditure of staggering figures, why should not the Finance Member, in spite of the very valuable report which the Bhore Committee has submitted, make a start in that direction. I shall again leave the matter there.

I shall next come to social security. I have got here before me the Beveridge Plan as it has been enforced in England. At what a staggering cost they are providing social security to their people, as is said, "from the cradle to the grave". Fifty-four per cent. of the cost of that scheme at present, and eventually sixty-five per cent. of it, are going to be met out of public revenues. I know we cannot afford to have anything like that here at the moment, but cannot we make some move in that direction, Sir? But I must pass on.

My esteemed and Honourable elder friend, Mr. Neogy, has already, in his own inimitable way, referred to the various economic and monetary and financial problems which deeply affect us. If I had the time I too should have liked to go into some of them. There is, Sir, the 1/8 rupee ratio which you know, was forced upon this country in the teeth of almost the unanimous opposition of every elected member of this Assembly but which is still continued. We have, Sir, the new unnecessary decimal currency bill which has been introduced in this House sometime ago. There are the questions of the setting up of industries and of planning and development. I should have liked to go into all that. But there is no time. I shall therefore, Sir, content myself by saying that we are in a most difficult position, sitting here as representatives of the country, to decide as to what to think of this budget which has been praised so much. There is, Sir, the Broadcasting Department, which in spite of the huge cut of 98 lakhs which has been made by this House has still a vast sum voted for it. Sir, that Department is jeopardising the entire cultural well being of this country. I wish to refer to the policy of Hindustani which the All-India Radio has been following, and I speak, Sir, not only on behalf of those who are devotees of Hindi, but if you will permit me, Sir, on behalf of those of my brethren also who are devotees of Urdu. My submission is, Sir, that the All-India Radio is ruining, is cutting at the root both of Hindi and Urdu literature and language in this country. This Hindustani which they are now putting forward is neither one nor the other, and so far as Hindi, Sir, is concerned, it is the most outrageous thing conceivable. I have here before me a circular which that Department issued and which my Honourable friend, Pandit Balkrishna Sharma read during the course of his presidential address to the Hindi Sahitya Sammelan in Delhi the other day. It was a circular letter of the Director General of Broadcasting to all Station Directors Memorandum PZ 1/43 from Controller of Broadcasting

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to S. D., All-India Radio, Delhi, Lahore, Lucknow, Peshawar and Calcutta. It reads:

"In Hindustani announcements from your station 'Majlis' and not 'Sabha' should be used for transmission.

There was a discussion with Honourable Member yesterday and it was decided as follows:

For Isthmus use 'Khaqna' and 'Abnai' in place of 'Jalghati' and 'Thalghati'."

It says that for 'welcome' 'Istaqbal' should be used and 'swagat' should be discontinued. It orders that the words 'Gyan', 'Vidyarthi', 'Deshbakt', 'Arthik' should be replaced by 'Ilm', 'Talib-ilm', 'Muhabbe-Watan', 'Iqtsadi' and bans the use of the words, 'Asha', 'Adar', and 'Krodh', and so on and so forth. I have not the time to read the whole of it but that clearly indicates the policy which the All-India Radio has been following, and which has been condemned by every single person, who values Hindi and wishes it well. As I said, it is not a question of Urdu versus Hindi. I want that Urdu should be developed to the fullest extent possible. I shall gladly vote for everything which may be needed to see Urdu literature, which is such a fine literature, in which we have such fine poets and scholars, developed more and more, as it has developed during the past. But, similarly, we want Hindi to develop on its own line and not be ruined by this sort of admixture Hindustani, which is nothing except high flown Arabicised Urdu. I am prepared that there should be a fixed time every day for the broadcasts in Urdu and separate fixed time everyday for the broadcasts in Hindi, so that neither of the two languages may have any complaint and neither of them may suffer in purity. It is essential for the cultural well-being of our people. Then there is the spiritual aspect of the peoples' life which is being ruined. I wish I had time to go into that but I cannot do so.

Sir, these are the various aspects of the budget which do not encourage us to vote for the Finance Bill. Sir, it has not been my intention to rake up the past of British rule in India: I am concerned with the present. The question may be asked by the Finance Member if all this has to be done, how is the expenditure to be met? My reply is very simple. India has never felt that she could afford the huge military expenditure which she has had to face in the past and which she is facing now. We can very materially cut down that expenditure and meet the expenses required for these nation-building activities. I am not saying that we should have no army, though I cannot but say that the only hope for the future of this world lies in its following the teachings of that greatest of modern teachers, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi—his sublime and infallible doctrine of non-violence, for solving its troubles. But while we believe in that non-violence we are prepared to agree that we have to have a machinery for the defence of the country. Assuming that, I still ask, where is the need of our having to spend this proportionately much higher cost of expenditure over British units, over British troops in India? I have not the time to go into the figures but Government members have given us the proportionately excessive sums we have to spend over these British units as compared with what we may have to spend on Indian units. That will be one source of saving.

May I know, Sir, how much time I have now?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has taken already 29 minutes and he has one more minute.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: I shall crave your indulgence for two or three more minutes.

Mr. President: I do not mind if the time is debited to the account of his party.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: When we have done that, there is yet another way. We are about 400 millions in this country. Taking the need of our defence forces even at the present war time level which I believe is about 2½ millions; what is 2½ millions to 400 millions. It is only about half a per cent.

I submit that if there was a national government in the country with the slightest hold over the people, one single appeal by the Government would bring to our army centres 2½ million men within the space of 24 hours. That should be sufficient to meet any emergency. We therefore need not maintain an army at this strength. Further, we should also have a reserve national militia. We can give military training to our boys in colleges during a certain stage of their life and keep them as a reserve second line of defence to be called up when needed. That could very substantially reduce the number of our standing army. We can do all that and meet the expenditure on nation building activities. And if there were still any need, we can always raise loans for such useful purposes. Has not England, battered and pauperised by the war, gone about borrowing here and there and every where to meet the national needs?

These are the needs which should have been thought of in framing the budget. But as I said, Sir, the question of merits or demerits is not very relevant. Even if we leave all this aside, there is the supervening political consideration, the greatest of all considerations, which leaves to an honourable man no course but to say that he cannot possibly vote for this bill being taken into consideration.

The Honourable the Finance Member, Sir Archibald Rowlands has undoubtedly, I am happy to say, made a new approach in presenting his budget to the House. I am happy to say that the responsive reply he made to the general discussion on the budget on the first two days was a new and welcome experience for this country. I do wish to give him my need of praise which is due to him; but that cannot change the course of duty that is clear for us. The budget has been prepared by a Government over which we have no control. An outside body foisted upon us has made this budget. We have no means of knowing its detailed provisions. We have no means of knowing how the expenditure is to be made in detail and we do not know as to how it will affect the country in the long run. The budget may be good or bad but we have had no hand in its making. How can we take the moral responsibility of voting for it. Sir, we cannot vote for a Finance Bill so long as we have not the control over the framing of it. We are the representatives of the people who pay the taxes and provide the revenues and yet we are debarred from knowing how the money will be expended. In these circumstances we cannot have any other course but to say that we reject the motion for the consideration of this Bill.

We have, Sir, our pledge of Independence. If I had the time I would read it before this House. We take that pledge on the 26th January year after year. So long as that pledge stands, so long as we are not independent, so long as we have not got in this country a Government of the people of this country we cannot vote for the Finance Bill.

Sir, we are aware of the changed circumstances which exist today. We are aware that next door sits the British Cabinet Mission which has come to settle up with India. We are very happy about it and on behalf of the people of this country we wish to extend our welcome to them and wish them Godspeed in their work. We pray to God to vouchsafe to them and to us all the wisdom and the sagacity, the humility and the earnestness, the far sight and the determination to successfully conclude the final and unreserved transference of the governance of India to the people of this country. Subject, Sir, to that overall condition of independence, we shall be quite willing to go to the utmost length possible to see that a peaceful and happy solution, unanimous and acceptable to all sections, is reached round the table. But unless that happens, and unless independence, complete national independence, is established in this country, there is no other course for us but to refuse to vote for a Finance Bill which an alien and unwanted Government has presented before us.

Sir, I have done. Twenty-two years ago, on the 17th of March 1924, standing in this very House and representing that very constituency which I have the honour to represent here today, my revered father Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya for the first time, moved the rejection of the Finance Bill which was then brought before it. He did it, Sir, in utter political disillusionment and disgust. Since then we have gone on doing it year after year. We

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have gone on following that course. It is a tragedy that though twenty-two years have gone and though the fiercest war known to history has come and gone and millions of lives have been lost, as it was said, for liberty and democracy, that I, his son, should still stand here today to make that same old cry in the wilderness that we should still reject this year's Finance Bill. I hope, Sir, those British Ministers sitting next door today, who are in charge of things will look to this now. England has had the reputation of doing things too late. We are sitting on the brink of a precipice. A time-bomb more powerful than probably all the atom bombs combined, seems to have been set going. The sands of time are running out. It is probably already too late. We are face to face with a terrible catastrophe in the shape of a world-wide rising in the East. I hope and pray, Sir, that those three top Cabinet Ministers of England who are here will yet be guided by the Divine Providence to rise equal to the occasion, to place India in that position of complete national sovereignty and independence from where she alone can remove the fuse in that time bomb, and by throwing it into the seas, can still save the world and lead it to peace and tranquillity, to mutual goodwill and international co-operation. Sir, I oppose the motion that the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of His Majesty's Government in India should be taken into consideration.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department): During the course of the debate on the Finance Bill, references have been made to the Posts and Telegraphs Department and the Civil Aviation Department. My friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad has referred to the policy relating to air transport services. I am sorry I was not in the House when he spoke but I have had the advantage of obtaining a transcript of his speech dealing with this matter. My friend, Mr. Masani, referred to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, and Mr. Nauman advocated the reduction of the post card rates. As regards the questions relating to the Posts and Telegraphs Department, I hope to have an opportunity of dealing with the matter during the consideration stage of the Bill in connection with the amendments that are to be moved. In the limited time available to me, therefore, I will confine my remarks to the question of policy regarding air transport services.

This matter was also raised during the course of the debate on the Cut Motion moved by my friend, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal. Owing to want of time I was then unable fully to deal with the matter on the occasion.

Before the war, India had generally followed the policy of developing air transport services by private enterprise. This development was, however, only to a limited extent. It is unnecessary to go deeply into the question as to why the development was slow and limited. The principal reason was the inadequacy of the funds available for the development of civil aviation in India, and like some other countries, India did not adopt the policy of heavy subsidisation of air services. What little progress had been made by the time war broke out, was held up due to the conditions created by the war, which resulted in difficulty in procuring transport aircraft and spares for existing aircraft. All manpower and all resources had to be devoted to the war effort. When Government undertook the preparation of plans for the postwar development of civil aviation in India, the question as to the agency to be adopted for the operation of the services was examined with great attention and in great detail. The first question was whether Government should assume sole responsibility for and a complete monopoly of all air services. This after consideration, was rejected as being an impossible position to take, since it would mean that no individual could fly even in his own plane piloted by himself for his own purposes. The question was then considered whether the operation of air transport services, that is to say, services operated for the purpose of effecting public transport of passengers and of goods and of mails should be the monopoly of the State, leaving private flying for business or pleasure to be operated by private persons. The plan prepared by the Department examined two possible methods of operation (1) State operation, and (2) operation by private

enterprise. State operation could be by a Department of Government subject to normal financial and other controls or by a Department of Government invested with autonomous powers of financial and other control, or by a statutory autonomous monopoly corporation with capital and other finance provided from public funds or partially or wholly by the issue of interest bearing stock guaranteed by the State. If operation was to be by private enterprise, there were two alternatives (1) by a single monopolistic commercial organisation with its own capital operating under normal commercial principles of risk of loss and prospect of profit, or (2) by a limited number of companies duly licensed in this behalf. There are certain advantages as well as disadvantages in having a State monopolistic organisation as well as in operation by either a monopolistic private enterprise or by a number of private enterprises. Views have been urged that complete nationalisation means serfdom; that nationalisation means bureaucracy and bureaucracy means stagnation. I do not wish, however, to deal with this matter on an academic or theoretical basis. In our postwar plan, we detailed the different possible systems of agency for air transport and placed the matter before the Policy Committee. This Committee consisted of representatives of Departments of the Central Government, representatives of all Provincial Governments, representatives of Indian States, and a number of prominent non-officials representing persons interested in air transport. This Committee was generally of opinion that air transport services in India should be developed by private enterprise. Government themselves in arriving at a conclusion on this matter applied the following test "What method would promote the most rapid and orderly development of civil aviation in India in the conditions envisaged at the end of the war". Government as well as public opinion was anxious to see that India developed her air transport services as rapidly as possible in order to promote industrial, commercial and social development within the country, to enable India to take her proper place in international aviation and to build up a second line of reserve for India's air force. The test applied, therefore, was, as I have said, what would promote the most rapid and orderly development of air transport services in India.

If the State was to undertake the operation of all air transport services in India and to prohibit the operation of such services by any private enterprise, Government would have to undertake a very great task indeed for which considerable money and manpower would be needed. It was felt that in the event of State monopoly, the rate of development would be slowed down due to limitation of capital and recurring expenditure, and development would be subject to the fluctuating conditions of Government Finance. There would be many departments with plans for development clamouring for funds, and as air service is still regarded in some quarters as a luxury service, it was likely that civil aviation would receive a low position in the order of priority for provision of funds. Air transport is still a comparatively new service. It is developing and changing very fast. Flexibility in management and imagination in development are essential. It was not quite certain that State ownership and management would provide such flexibility and such imagination.

3 P. M. Financial and other controls are liable to be either too strict and thus prevent development, or too loose and thus promote extravagance. In a newly developing service, only the best staff must be employed and the inefficient and semi-efficient should be ruthlessly expelled. This is not always possible under State management with its strict rules for fixation of wages and conditions of employment. Government were aware that private enterprise was ready and indeed anxious to come forward with men and all the money needed and to take reasonable risks. With private enterprise, development can proceed simultaneously all over India, whereas under a monopolistic State management, services would have to be arranged in order of priority for development. India, as I have said before, had not developed civil aviation before the war and her air force had only developed during the war. It did not have therefore the necessary trained and experienced personnel and it would have had to borrow considerable personnel from outside. This would be

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much more difficult under a monopolistic State management than under private management. At the same time, Government recognised that there might be cases where for the development of essential services State ownership and management was the only possible method. There may also be cases in which it may be necessary for Government to take a financial interest in a private enterprise either with a view to assist that enterprise or with a view to control from within the enterprise. After considering all aspects, the policy which Government adopted was announced in May 1945. This policy was as follows:—

"The policy of the Government of India is generally to promote the development and operation of air transport services, internal and external, by a limited number of sound and reliable private commercial organisations with their own capital and operated under normal commercial principles. In selected cases, Government will take a financial interest, but not a controlling interest, in the companies operating the air services and appoint a director on the board. This policy does not, however, rule out the operation by the State itself of any air transport service or services in particular cases and such operation may be by the Central Government, a Provincial Government or the Government of an Indian State."

Government were aware that a different policy had been adopted in the United Kingdom and in Canada, but they felt that the conditions in India were such that such a policy would not be suitable and would not achieve the object which they had in view, namely, the rapid development of civil aviation in India.

The decision of Government to promote the development of air transport by private enterprise does not mean that it would be unrestricted and unregulated. Government felt that control was far more important than ownership or management, the control being in the public and in the national interests. With a view to securing such power, Government brought in a Bill in the February session of the Assembly in 1944. Under this Bill, the Governor General in Council was given power to make rules "for the regulation of air transport services and the prohibition of the use of aircraft in such services except under the authority and in accordance with a licence authorising the establishment of services." This Bill was passed by both Houses of the Legislature and became law in March 1944. Rules have accordingly been made for the establishment of a Licensing Board. Its powers and functions have been defined and the conditions under which licences will be granted have been detailed. These rules were first published with a view to obtain public criticism, were modified as a result of criticisms received, and were finally published on the 23rd January 1946. They were laid on the table of both Houses in accordance with section 5(3) of the Indian Aircraft Act and have remained for the statutory period of one month. The object of licensing is to ensure the safety and reliability of service, to eliminate uneconomic competition, to prevent exploitation of the public, to conserve and utilise the national resources and effort for the optimum benefit of the country and to promote the development and expansion of air services on orderly lines. I need not go into the details of the rules, but I would point out that the licence which is issued will provide, among others, for the following matters, namely, the places at which an aircraft may or shall land for traffic or other purposes, the conditions (weather) in which the service may be operated, the aircraft to be used, the observance of a schedule of air services approved from time to time by the Board and the maximum and minimum fares and freight rates to be charged to passengers and consignors of goods and mails. I would like to make clear here that the licence to be given would not be for an unlimited period. The rules provide that the licence shall be valid for such period not exceeding ten years as may be fixed by the Board. It is clear therefore that there is no fear of creating an unlimited vested interest. Sir, I think it is open for me to contend that when this House passed the Bill which gave power to the Governor General in Council to make rules for the regulation of air transport services and the prohibition of the use of aircraft in such services except under the authority and in accordance with a licence authorising the

establishment of the service, the House accepted in principle the operation of services by private enterprise. If all air transport services were to be operated by the State as a monopoly, there is no need for any Licensing Board, because Government do not need to grant licenses to themselves. But I do not stand on this ground. Government's contention is that the method they have adopted is the one to promote rapid and orderly development of civil aviation in India and that a State monopoly at the present time would slow down the development and probably lead to stagnation. I do not say that this should be the policy for ever. Conditions may change, but Government's contention is that this is the best policy in the existing conditions. In this connection the House will be interested if I were to read the following quotation of views relating to control of industry:

"For this purpose it will be necessary to plan and co-ordinate social advance in all its many fields, to prevent the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of individuals and groups, to prevent vested interests inimical to society from growing, and to have social control of the mineral resources, means of transport and the principal methods of production and distribution in land, industry and in other departments of national activity, so that free India may develop into a co-operative commonwealth."

The State must, therefore, own or control key and basic industries and services, mineral resources, railways, waterways, shipping and other means of public transport."

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Nominated Non-Official): Where is this quotation from?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: This is from the election manifesto issued by the Congress, and Government's policy does not seem to be in any way contrary to the policy advocated in the above quotation. As I have said before, Government feel in this matter that control is more important than either ownership or management, so long as that control is exercised in the public interest, leaving at the same time free scope for initiative and progress to private enterprise. We anticipate that private enterprise in India will show real enterprise and we feel that this policy would be in the best interests of the country. My friend, Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, has referred to the case of the railways. He apparently feels that the railways under State ownership and management are more progressive and more attentive to public needs than under company management. If one were to believe half of what is said in this House in connection with the debate on the railway budget or in connection with questions asked, this would hardly appear to be the case. I do not, however, wish to go into that matter. I cannot say what the policy of future governments may be. I believe my friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad will agree with me that the policy which Government have now adopted is the best under the present conditions and in the conditions which we can anticipate in the near future and if it is so, Government are content, without going into the further question as to whether if at all or when air transport services in India should be completely nationalised.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): In the few minutes at my disposal, I propose to make a plea on behalf of the smaller minorities in India, more particularly on behalf of the Anglo Indian community in view of the momentous discussions which are now going on. There may be a tendency at a time like this, when the two main protagonists, the two huge communities in India, to occupy and to monopolise completely the political arena. And I would appeal to them and to those responsible for conducting the discussions not completely to overlook the rights of the smaller minorities in India.

Speaking for my small but important community, let me make it very clear that we heartily endorse the sentiments expressed by Pandit Malaviya. We hope, more than that we pray, that these discussions will result in India being given her rightful place among the comity of free and great nations. We, the smaller minorities, do not seek privileges or preferential treatment but we do say that we should have certain specific rights and that it would be conducive to the health and happiness and above all to the progress of the body politic in India to satisfy, as far as is reasonable, the small but important sections in India.

Sir, on previous occasions I have given to the House briefly something about the history of my community. The time at my disposal now is too

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short to indulge in detail although it is a history which has not been, for very definite reasons, either chronicled or publicised: it is a history of which any very large community could be justly proud. But there has been and there continues to be, unfortunately, in certain sections of the peoples of India certain misunderstanding of the position and history of my community. It is felt in certain sections that we are a community which has been given privileges and preferential treatment but to those who know our history this is entirely different from the truth. It is not known—and I say this in no spirit of rancour or bitterness—that perhaps my community has been discriminated against more than any other community in India. Since the time in 1808 when Lord Valencia reported to the East India Company that the increasing wealth and number of Anglo Indians constituted a menace to British supremacy in India and that they must be crushed, the community has been exposed to a chilling round of the most bitter disabilities. We have not received privileges. We have received a few crumbs but certainly no preferential treatment. It is we who in the past have conferred certain definite privileges on the administration. In spite of our comparative smallness in number, we have in periods of crisis maintained the stability of this administration. But for our services we have never received even partial recognition and certainly no gratitude. And it is against this continuing policy of discrimination that I wish to make an emphatic protest. It is not so definite or obvious as in the days of Valencia but it is as real if more insidious today.

For instance, my community is today, a community half a million strong. But if you look at the official census figures of 1941, you will see that we have been listed there as 140,422. What is the reason for this official estimate of a community which at a conservative estimate is half a million strong? It is the result of a deliberate official policy of emasculating my community. In 1931, 15 years ago, the Census Commissioner said that the Anglo-Indians were at least 200,000 strong. 15 years since then, suddenly, a community which was accepted by him as being a virile and particularly fertile community has instead of increasing been reduced by 30 to 40 per cent. (An Honourable Member: Go in for early marriages). The truth is that Anglo Indians are being encouraged deliberately to practise renegadism. Anglo Indians are being encouraged to return themselves on the European electoral rolls. I have no quarrel with my European friends at all. I wish them well and I do hope that they will play a great part in the future of India. But I wish to point out that this renegadism has resulted in swelling the numbers of Europeans and bringing them inflated representation in the different provincial legislatures. I have an equal grievance against the European Association. They deliberately encourage people whom they do know not to be Europeans to join the European Association. It is their avowed policy.

Mr. O. P. Lawson (Bengal European): Will the Honourable Member quote chapter and verse in support of his statement and prove that it is true?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I will give you one instance. I will refer to the Punjab. According to the official census figure of 1941 there were at least 6,700 Anglo Indians of whom about 5,000 are adult literates and should be on the electoral rolls. Instead of this, you find 503. And of this number 800 appear also on the European electoral rolls.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: Who did it?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: You did it. You encouraged people during the war.

An Honourable Member: Address the Chair.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I was addressing the European Group, through you, Sir. The administration has encouraged this deliberately, I am sorry to say, during the war. I protested over and over again to the military authorities that their recruiting officers deliberately encouraged and even compelled Anglo-Indians to register themselves as Europeans. I cited case after case. When

a boy would go to a recruiting officer and say 'I am an Anglo-Indian' the recruiting officer would say 'Go back. Think over it and come back tomorrow and enrol yourself as a European'. He went back and the next day he was recruited as a European. I say you have deliberately emasculated the community. You do it in order to inflate your electoral rolls in order to get inflated representation in the legislature.

Mr. O. P. Lawson: That is nonsense.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: It is absolutely true. You have done it over and over again and it is part of your official policy. There is no use of trying to resist my arguments by saying that this is nonsense. I can quote chapter and verse in support of my statement.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam European): On a point of information.....

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am not giving way. At the beginning of the war, they had these differential scales. Europeans were given certain scales. Indian King's Commissioned Officers were given a different scale. The European K. C. O. got a different and higher scale. What was the result? Because of these differential emoluments, Anglo Indians were encouraged to make false declarations. I gave not one but scores of instances to the military authorities. One brother because he was not prepared to deny his parentage in his community got the scales of the Indian K. C. O. The other the renegade, the cheat and the liar, because he made a false declaration, was getting the higher scales of the European K. C. O. This is all part of your policy, an insidious policy of preventing a person who has the courage of his conviction, from achieving a position commensurate with his ability and thereby encouraging renegadism in my community. I can give the House scores of instances where men have been Members of Executive Council, Governors of Provinces, most famous military Commanders, who were all Anglo Indians, but they would not have been allowed to reach those positions if they called themselves Anglo Indians. They were made and encouraged to call themselves Europeans.

An Honourable Member: Define the term 'Anglo Indian'?

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am glad this question has been put to me. Even the highest official does not know the definition. The Government of India Act of 1935 has defined this term. My Honourable friends of the European Group are under a misapprehension as regards the connotation of this term, Anglo Indian. A person of European descent whose parents are habitual residents in India is an Anglo Indian. If I may give an example, my Honourable European friends sitting there on the Front Benches, according to this definition, if their parents are habitual residents in India, they may claim to be of the purest European descent tracing their ancestry from the remotest Kings of England, but if their parents are habitual residents in India and they are born in this country, then they are Anglo Indians.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Don't point at me. I am a Welshman.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am not pointing at anybody. If the parents are habitual residents of this country and you are born here, then you are an Anglo Indian, whether you like it or not. My Honourable friends of the European Group want me to quote chapter and verse. In all the Government official communiques and in all Government records, they deliberately encourage people to call themselves domiciled Europeans. There are not more than 200 domiciled Europeans in the whole of India. Yet look at the official figures. What did they do during the war? We, Anglo Indians are a small community, we are proud of the part played by our community during the last war. We won V. C.'s. But the recipients were all classified as Europeans. In this war too, you denied the Anglo Indian community the credit of our achievements. In this small community, you have drawn a division. You have lumped the so called Domiciled European and the European together. I maintain that 99 per cent of the Europeans born in India and in the armed forces are Anglo Indian. Yet the Government has tried to filch the credit from us. I am sorry to have

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to address the European Group in this way, but they are morally responsible for it. They aid the Government in the continuance of this policy. They have done an irreparable injury to our community, they have fostered renegadism in this country. Why do you use this term 'Domiciled European'. The other day, one of my Honourable friends on the other side put a question as to how many Indians and how many Europeans were there in a particular Department, and the Honourable Member in charge of the Department deliberately said, there are so many Indians, so many Anglo Indians and so many Europeans. I say an Anglo Indian is an Indian by nationality. But the Government maintain this artificial division between us and other communities in India. Further why do you also continue this term 'domiciled European'? It is a misnomer. If a Pole goes and settles down in America, does he call himself a domiciled Pole? No, he becomes an American. Similarly when a European settles down in India, he must become an Indian, why does he call himself a Domiciled European?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has dealt with this point at sufficient length. He will take up other points, because his time is being taken up only by this point.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: This is the most important point and that is why I have taken up so much of the time. I do wish to be allowed some more time if necessary to elaborate this point. As I was saying, Sir, why should people from my community be asked to classify themselves as 'Domiciled Europeans'. I admit that we have had renegades in the past. Thank God owing to the policy pursued by my predecessor in office and myself, ninety nine per cent. of my community today are proud to call themselves Indians. But as a result of this official policy pursued by the Government and by the European Group, you tempt some of the Anglo Indians to become renegades. Why do you continue to use this term 'Domiciled European'?

There is another aspect which I should like to point out to the members of the European Group. A domiciled European is not a native of India. Yet you encourage an Anglo Indian to return himself as Domiciled European and thereby deliberately encourage him to commit economic *hara kiri*. Because it is very likely and probable that an Indian Government will exclude Domiciled Europeans from employment in this country, as they are not natives of India. You deliberately encourage the people of my community to call themselves Domiciled Europeans without making them realise the implications of such a step.

An Honourable Member: No, no.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: You have deliberately done it over and over again.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's time is over.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I wish to be given ten minutes more, Sir.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will have to finish in five minutes.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: There was this renegade complex in the past. I do not apologise for it. There were these reasons. We have through our schools contributed vitally to the national assets of this country. I hope this will be appreciated by all sections of people in this country. We have given to India through our schools a system of education which other schools have nothing to offer by way of comparison. But I have been a bitter critic of the psychology of these schools till now. The European has hitherto controlled the education in these schools. My community has been made to look away from India. But, thank God, we are slowly bringing back these schools into the control of Anglo Indians. I hope, Sir, my Honourable friends of the European Group do not feel aggrieved at what I have said. It is entirely the result of their own policy, that you have so few friends in India, who will tell you the truth. I say to the European, in all sincerity, that we, the Anglo Indian community after all, are able to understand the European better than any other community in India. We understand also the people of India better than

any European could ever hope to do. It is very difficult for me to make a European appreciate this point. It is because the European has sealed himself off in a highly insulated social system that he is unable to get to understand the real feeling and emotions of Indians. A European may serve in this country for 30 years or 35 years, he may give the best years of his life, he may have put in selfless service to the cause of Indians in this country, yet I say that 99 per cent. of the Europeans in this country, after having put a long and even brilliant career of service, fail completely to understand the people of this country. There is this psychological view. You do not understand the peoples of this country. If you had willed it, you could have allowed us to fill that void. If we talk to a European about the bitterness of India in the matter of racial discrimination, he simply does not understand this. There is this bitterness in the country against the Europeans. We, Anglo Indians, feel it as much as any other community in India. This growing bitterness on account of racial discrimination, you do not understand. The reason is not far to seek. A Britisher in his own country, is perhaps the finest European in the world. But what happens to him the moment he crosses the Suez canal? I don't know. I feel that the main causes of bitterness in this country are social causes. Yes, this country has a natural right to govern her own destinies. But the causes for this misunderstanding are bitterness, which no one deplures more than I do. These causes are mainly social. The Europeans have no social contacts with the people of this country. The European women, unfortunately, have done a criminal disservice to their own people in England.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's time is over.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: May I have five minutes more?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member already had five minutes.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I am coming to the most important point, and desire to have five minutes more.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will realise that the time limit for speeches was fixed by agreement among all parties and I cannot allot more time to any Honourable Member to the prejudice of other Groups in the House. He has already taken more than 20 minutes.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: May I have five minutes more? I represent an important community.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member must conclude now.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: I would make a final appeal to the European Group not to regard what I have said in a spirit of resentment, because I do believe that if only the Europeans would offer the hand of friendship to the other peoples in this country, in return the peoples of India will extend to Europeans real friendliness. If I may be allowed to clarify this position . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has already sufficiently clarified the position. The Honourable Member will please resume his seat.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: If I may conclude with one sentence.

Mr. President: No.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I find myself in a peculiarly difficult position. This budget is a transition budget and so is the gentleman who has put it before the House. He will, he says, be leaving us very soon; and therefore the homily preached by the Honourable Member who led the discussion on the Finance Bill about the old order and the new order loses significance. We have sanctioned all the grants with minor alterations here and there; and now when the same Honourable Member is coming to us for ways and means and to find money to implement those grants we seem to be in a fighting mood and we tell him that we shall not give him the money or power to collect the money to carry out the order we have

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given him. Sir, the Treasury Bench today may be filled soon by people other than those who are occupying them and I am therefore disturbed again in my mind, particularly when I notice that the Grand Remonstrance we have been making all these days is almost a waste of time. Sir, I have got strange support from a strange quarter. The President of the Indian National Congress, speaking of course of food only, has said that:

"The Working Committee firmly believes that until a National Government comes into power no effective work can be done with regard to food"; and I want to add, almost all the items of our discussion to that. We are now in transition ourselves and whatever the three ministers do, it is in the atmosphere that when the time comes for the implementation of the grants we have sanctioned it will be we who will spend the money. If that is the idea I do not understand how and on what logical ground we can possibly decide to turn down the Finance Bill.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): How did the Honourable Member's party decide it last year?

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, you will take note of the seconds lost in this.

My answer is this—and I have been in politics perhaps as long as any Member on my right—that if you have done it for ten or twenty years you need not do it this year out of all the years in our political history.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Consistency is the virtue of fools.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Consistency in foolishness may not lead us to the goal we have before us. Consistency in service to the country, consistency in making the Finance Member do things that we want will perhaps be useful to us. To see people getting up and talking irresponsibly here has made my heart sink. We do not realise what we are talking and I feel that hardy annuals which an earlier generation placed before the country are of no use today. The most awkward example was the one placed before the House by the Honourable Member who would not employ tractors in agriculture because a tractor did not give dung and urine. Can we go down to any lower depths of illogicality, of running away miles from common sense than that utterance, coming from a quarter which claims to speak in the name of Indian nationalism? If nothing else would convince me of not accepting such nationalism that tractor is enough to keep me back

Sir, the few remarks that I propose to make will be addressed not to the Finance Member who is sitting on that bench today; the few remarks I am going to make will be intended for his successor, because I expect that whosoever sits there will look to the interests of India. The past is finished; we know that the interests of those who governed our country were not our interests. But in this transitional period we cannot get things by pressing an electric button. We will have to go through a bit of medium pace because in order to bring down things to our mode and our standards we shall need some time. India even today in this twentieth century and a half is in a primitive condition. Backward countries have gone ahead but our rulers did not go beyond the seaports of India into the hinterland. They just talked of imports and exports and of their dividends. They did not care for our country, and therefore we have been left behind in the race of progress. Sir, I will give you only one instance. Egypt today is looking to its area and also the desert part of it one of the richest countries of the world. Sind is situated identically in the same position as Egypt; a big mighty river with two green belts on both sides. But Sind is poor and Egypt is rich, because our rulers in the past never thought of Sind. I hope the new Member will understand that situation. My view is that we have to create a new concept in our national economy. Let us forget the past and think of the future. As a Muslim I do not believe in the division of society on an economic basis.

God did not create human beings all equal physically or mentally. We have heard the cheap claptrap of principles that are supposed to emanate from Moscow, and there seems to be a mentality that India can progress only along the lines laid down by Moscow. I do not believe it, because you will realise that the Moscow of Stalin is different from the Moscow of Lenin; and by and by I am hoping that the terror of the Presidium will go and the poor people in Russia will be able to progress according to their own ideals. Sir, the Budget making the rich richer and the poor poorer does not give us a balanced view of the actual situation, for the simple reason that I am one of those unfortunate beings that does not borrow his ideals from overseas. We need the labourer and we also need the capitalist; one without the other would cease to exist. Our country will perhaps be laid on the road to progress when the present Finance Member vacates his seat, and thus for a number of years—I cannot tell you how many—we will have to go through a process of transformation. It will be wrong if my Indian colleagues in this House do not begin to think seriously about it: to talk of nationalization, to chop the head of private enterprise, and then to talk at all times of the peasant and the worker as against the landlord and the capitalist will not suit conditions as we shall inherit them. We shall need the Landlord and Capitalist as well as the Peasant and the Labourer if we wish to establish an economy in this country that will put us back on the plane where the East-India Company found us. We have got to do that; otherwise this cheap claptrap of imported political theories and ideals will lead us nowhere. In fact we shall perhaps have done permanent injury to our country if we do not mend our way of looking at things.

The successor of the present Member will realize that the distribution of industry in this country is not right or correct. The only explanation that I can give to it is that our English rulers thought only of the sea port towns and of carrying away our goods. The redistribution of industries in this country will have to be in accordance with the raw produce wherever found and coal and electricity or other means of working modern machinery to create a balanced scheme of industrialization. To leave a large section of our people just to work in the fields and starve will not be the correct economy of the future, and therefore whosoever from amongst the Members to my right occupies that seat, will have to see to it that there is no maldistribution of industries. We, Sir, in the Muslim Federation passed a Resolution to this effect months ago. I am sorry the mentality of the present Secretariat of the Government of India is rather dull and refuses to accept things suggested to it in all sincerity. We said:

"That the Federation is of the opinion that in any scheme of industrialization and reconstruction in India, the fixation of industries and the distribution of State-Aid should be made on a basis which contributes to the raising of the living standards in all parts of the country and finds work for people everywhere."

That has not been done, and I hope the new Finance Member

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that the textile industry has already been stopped by Government from expanding in Bombay.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: There is cotton elsewhere also. Bombay and Ahmedabad need not run away with everything. Nagpur and Indore have shown that cotton can be worked by the people of those areas as well as Bombay and Ahmedabad, but these octopuses of Bombay and Ahmedabad will not let other parts of India advance industrially for the simple reason that their percentage of dividends may go down, but I want my countrymen wherever they be to get their cloth cheaper.

Sir, in this connection, may I also point out that in these days of financial difficulties even where the Muslims have tried to float companies, that great Department in the Government of India which sanctions the flotation of companies has been particularly indifferent and unjust to us, and I would, therefore, ask his successor, as and when he comes into office, to let us also be industrialized, let us also raise our standard of living, and let us also share the prosperity that, I hope, will come when the British octopus has left us.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): By all means.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I have heard that before—'by all means'—but my experience in life, Sir, has been that nationalism as I have seen it for forty years is '*meetha meetha mera, aur khatta khatta tera*'. Coming as I do from Bengal I understood that the nationalism of the Congress variety meant 'service of the majority'. Mr. President, Sir, if you will give me half an hour I will tell you in your private Chamber how nationalism gloated over the deaths of Muslims in Bengal because their number in the next census would be lower, and the majority would be converted into a minority.

Some Honourable Members: No, no.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, I defy any questioner from any quarter on that because when I quote gentlemen giving their names they will perhaps blow up or blow me up. Therefore, what I want is that as and when we decide to go ahead let us now realize that life should be different under nationalism than under foreign domination.

Sir, they have been talking even in the Muslim quarters about taxation. I hope the Honourable Member's successor will establish a department and catch hold of people who have indulged in Taxation Evasion. I cannot understand how millionaires cropped up like mushrooms in this country when they had to pay 98½ per cent. in all the series and grades of taxation. Sir, I hope the new Finance Member will put his hands into the pockets of these people who have run away with our money. If he does that I think he will get anything from four to five hundred crores to be spent for our advancement and our prosperity. He will at least be able to distribute his largesse taken from these marauders who indulged in anti-social activities and he will distribute his largesse, I hope, with equity and in a general way. We have got to think of taxation in the higher rungs of our social strata as also in the lower. The poor man also must pay his pie where the rich man must pay his ten rupees. Friends who have been talking in terms of the language of thirty years ago, do not realise that India has a coastline of 3,000 miles and India has to arrange for the safety of a country in which 400 million people live. Unless I am proved to be wrong, and I hope I shall be, I hope it is not the intention of Indian Nationalism to ask the British Navy to take care of our coast and to ask the British Tommy with his bayonet to keep law and order in the country, so that nationalism makes money and rich nationalism manufactures politicians, professors, barristers, industrialists and millionaires. Let us think in terms of a taxation spread over all sections of the community because it will be for the benefit of all.

There is just one more point, Mr. President which should also be taken note of by the new Finance Minister, and that is, that the British in their own interests have not thought of creating an Internal Market of the 400 million people in this country. America has about 130,000,000 people. Its economy is self-sufficient. I would ask the new Finance Minister to create possibilities and opportunities in this country so that we may also be self-sufficient. I should not like my colleagues in this House to look at this budget piece-meal. Let us look at all the items we have sanctioned. It will then be realized that it will be harmful at the present time to indulge in old theatricalities because the time for theatricalities has passed.

Talking of the Navy, I hope, Sir, the new Finance Minister and his colleagues will see to it that the decision taken by the naval authorities of today of importing almost 450 British naval officers and selecting only 60 out of our boys here, will not create an Indian Navy as we should like to have it. I hope my information is proved to be incorrect because if these extra boys are not wanted in the British Navy and they are passed on to us, our boys will never reach the higher rungs of naval officialdom in their life time and we shall never be able to have the Navy as we want it.

Sir, may I also suggest that, whoever is in charge of the Food Department, and as and when the change comes

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural). As, when and if!

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: that greater attention will be put to the technical and scientific aspect of our food problem. I am not entirely convinced of this famine stunt we have been witnessing. India is accustomed to famines, floods, and calamities of a thousand and one type. Perhaps Madras today is suffering. Perhaps Bombay today is suffering. But the propagandist method in which they are shouting makes me a bit suspicious. They did not do so when humanity was suffering in Bengal. We were then asked to create a psychology of satisfaction and courage and fight that of panic. We were then asked to tell people not to shout and that the Government would do this, that and the other and that everything was all right. Why all these delegations to New York and London and here there and everywhere? Let us have these scientists tell us that there are enough vitamins in edible goods other than rice, wheat, bajra and jawar. Sir, if a programme of dietetics is prepared, I feel certain that we shall be able to feed our people without going with the beggar's bowl all over the shop and paying through our noses for the little that we may get.

Sir, I must finish very soon. Key industries should be nationalised. Middle industries should have capitalism as well as State-Aid and Private Enterprise must be allowed to go ahead until we in our wisdom nationalise everything in this country.

There are just two points on which I should like to draw the attention of the Honourable Member or Secretary in charge of Education. Sir, they have prepared a scale of salaries for the teaching staffs of Universities aided by the Government of India. Every University has been thought of but they will not add one more pie to my University, I mean the University of Aligarh. In fact, because of the Intermediate College having been removed, the grant has also gone with it. Our teachers, professors and lecturers there, also need higher salaries, and they also find it difficult in these days to feed their children. I hope, and I am addressing this to the present Finance Minister, because by a stroke of the pen he can give us as many lakhs as he is going to give crores in other departments.

Only one point, Sir, and I would not have brought it in had reference not been made to it in several speeches, and that is the question of Urdu. I am so happy to realize and feel that nationalism is at least prepared to admit that Urdu is the *lingua franca* of India, the only national language of this sub-continent. There is no other language that can stand in line with it. I call Urdu, the *lingua indica*, of Asia. I have spoken Urdu with Arabs in Port Said. I have spoken Urdu naturally in Aden, and Urdu will carry one through in Hong Kong and Shanghai also. He will not starve and his thirst will be quenched if he says "Pani lao". Artificial languages cannot be created overnight. I know the Zionists in Jerusalem have not succeeded. In public streets they think they are talking Hebrew but in their own houses they talk Yiddish or German. If the Government of India and the would-be Education Minister ever think of encouraging any language in India, it must be Urdu, perhaps written in two script.

Sir, I have done.

Shri Sri Prakasa: We are undone!

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I congratulate the present Finance Member for the courage he has shown, for the new ground he has broken and I as an Indian nationalist am grateful to him.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Nationalist!

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Yes, a Muslim alone can be a nationalist in the true sense of the word. A rigid system of castes has been the bane of our country and it will keep it in slavery for 3,000 years hence as it has done for 3,000 years in the past.

I have done, Sir.

Mr. President: We will now take up the adjournment motion.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

MALADMINISTRATION OF DELHI POLICE DEPARTMENT RESULTING IN A STRIKE BY A LARGE NUMBER OF POLICEMEN

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Mr. President, I move:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The situation as I find today has certainly undergone a change but not a fundamental change yet. The hunger strike continues and news has come through that a similar strike is proceeding in the U. P. somewhere

An Honourable Member: Mirzapur.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: And news has also come through that the Bombay Government have taken precaution against similar strikes by attending to the grievances of the police in Bombay.

I think I owe an apology to the House for taking up their time in discussing the subject today but my only excuse is that, as I said the other day, the Delhi strike is only a symptom: the disease is much deeper. The issues involved in a strike of this nature are deeper than the symptom. You have got to consider those issues rather than look at it merely as a strike and the conditions under which it took place. But before I come to the disease itself I would just like to narrate as briefly as possible some relevant facts.

The immediate cause of this particular strike was a complaint about the bad quality of food: I cannot imagine a strike taking place in the police lines and spreading to every police station both in the city and also in the rural areas unless some other grievances had been felt by a large number of policemen, both officers and the rank and file, for sometime. Further investigation has led me to believe that these grievances have been in existence for a long time. Many of the grievances have been in existence for a long time but on this particular occasion perhaps the whole trouble would have died down if the Reserve Inspector Harrison, had not mishandled the situation as he did. Immediately after the complaint had been preferred about bad food, instead of taking notice of the grievance and redressing it, he caused the spokesmen of the complainants to be mishandled, to be manhandled, to be beaten and his whole attitude was most insulting and rude. He was not the only one. The Senior Superintendent of Police, Mr. Robinson, also came on the scene and I am told, on as good authority as I can possibly rely upon, that his attitude and behaviour towards these people was equally objectionable. He even went the length of actually assaulting one of the spokesmen and I believe that all the three who were arrested on the occasion are now in the Red Fort, one of them having sustained serious injuries.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): No.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: One Chandrabhan or some other did receive certain injuries on the head and he bled. I have heard it from an eye-witness who saw a pool of blood in the lorry in which this person was taken away. I should like Sir John Thorne to verify these facts before he contradicts me.

This is only as I said a symptom. I do not wish to take the time of the House by recapitulating the events which followed this strike. They were very fully reported in the press. Every one knows what happened. The only disturbing factor about the whole thing is that even today a large number of policemen are still refusing rations and they are believed to be on hunger strike, although according to the Home Member's report only a very small percentage

were refusing food and the others have begun to take their food. On no occasion have they refused to perform their duties.

I may also perhaps mention some of their grievances. Among their longstanding grievances the first is inadequacy of pay in the case of the foot constables, particularly, hard duties, trying conditions of service, bad ration and insulting treatment by the Senior Superintendent of Police against whom grievances have been nursed even by subordinates of the higher grade, discriminatory high salaries of the European sergeants, who are called upon to perform duties similar to those which are generally allotted to foot constables or perhaps at best to head constables (and these European sergeants are drawing salaries beginning from Rs. 200 to 300, leave alone the poor foot constable even a sub-inspector cannot rise up to Rs. 300, he begins with 80 and ends with Rs. 180).

I do not wish to deal with their grievances any more. It would appear an irony of fate that we who have been complaining against the corruption of and oppression by this Department should be prepared today to discuss their grievances in this House but that only proves that we are not dead to that sense of responsibility which recognises the legitimacy of any grievance anywhere, whether it be in any service or elsewhere. But, Sir, at the same time I should like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that when I use the expression 'maladministration' of the Department I have in mind the history of the last 50 years. During the last 50 years particularly, if not longer, the police force has been associated in the public mind as an instrument of oppression and corruption of the worst kind and for a very good reason too, because the foreign rulers of this land have always relied upon this particular instrument for using it against patriots, and progressive political movements, in suppressing them, and persecuting them, and in tracking down people who have held political views of a progressive nature. The result is that in the public mind the police has come to be associated as the worst instrument of oppression and, as I say, corruption, because it is through the police that corruption can be checked but if the police itself is corrupt, who is going to check corruption? None. They themselves are corrupt and naturally police corruption breeds corruption elsewhere unchecked. During the last 25 years generally and during the last 5 years particularly a very great change has come over the country psychologically and otherwise. I maintain that even the police has not remained unmoved. Even they have begun to realise that they have been called upon time and again to perform the most disagreeable of duties, duties traitorous to the country and naturally a conflict has arisen in their minds—a conflict between conscience and duty. On the one hand they have got to perform certain duties, and on the other they have got the feeling in their heart of hearts that these are not the duties that they should be called upon to perform. Their true duty should be to track anti-social offenders and not to track down patriots and politicians—not to chase them and persecute them. This has created a certain feeling in their minds and these two factors, combined with economic conditions, have brought about the situation which has manifested itself in the strike which took place in Delhi. That being so, I find that now we have laid our finger on the right spot. Now we know where the disease is. The disease is not purely, economic. It is something deeper. The seat of the disease is somewhere deeper in the—I shall not call it body politic—body secretariat, if you like, of the Government of India. And that disease has to be rooted out. It must be rooted out. Unless it is rooted out I see nothing but the most serious of consequences resulting from the attitude which has been persisted in by those who are administering the Police Department. In Delhi particularly, for instance, I invite your attention to the happenings, the tragic happenings, of the 7th of March. What was it that happened on that day? Here I have got in my possession the 'Situation Report' and if you just look at it, if I had only the time to read it, it would convince everyone that the head of the police in Delhi was totally oblivious of the serious situation which did actually arise.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: What report is this?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Situation Report by the Senior Superintendent of Police. I have got a copy of it. It is strange that these things fall into my hands.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I congratulate the Honourable Member on that!

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: If you look at the instructions that were issued for the disposition of the police force on the 7th, you will be amazed to find that not even a handful of police out of three thousand were detailed for the city. Just a few policemen were left. All the others were shunted off to various other places. That definitely and positively proves that the Department is maladministered and, that they take no notice of the actual conditions. They are oblivious of the feelings of the people. They have been oblivious of the needs of the situation. They are oblivious—totally oblivious—of the great change that has come over the country and, therefore, they continue to administer this Department in a manner which goes against the very grain of India's nationalism. That is the disease. Unless they change their whole attitude, these troubles will multiply, and I am perfectly certain that once these troubles multiply they will overwhelm the country and the chaos that will ensue will be uncontrollable.

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

“That the Assembly do now adjourn”

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official): I rise to support the adjournment motion which has been moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali. For the last few days there is the strike of the policemen going on in this city. On the first day the Honourable the Home Member gave us some idea as to the reasons for the strike, and one of the reasons which he stated was that the superior officer gave a slap in the face of a subordinate. I am absolutely confident, Sir, that the Honourable the Home Member himself does not believe that a thing like that could result in the present trouble which is going on in the police forces. The reason for this trouble is certainly much deeper than that. The trouble that we find in the police forces is a symptom of a deep-rooted disease which we find in all the forces in the country today. This is one of the reasons why, when an officer slapped a subordinate, that immediately resulted in the strike. There is no doubt that the police in this country is very poorly paid. In spite of the figures given to us by the Honourable Home Member, nobody could be convinced that the pay which the policemen in this country are receiving is anything sufficient to meet the ordinary human demands of life. Coupled with that, as I told you, our country today is living on the verge of a volcano, and the slightest thing is enough to burst the whole bubble.

I also take this opportunity to warn my friends on the opposition benches because I hold them equally responsible for the disturbances which are created in the country today,—as a result of the irresponsible talk of ‘revolution’ and the irresponsible talks of ‘Do or die’. Our youngmen of the country, men in the Army, the Navy, the Police, and the air force, take our national leaders on their own words. (Interruptions.) It will not help if one person against so many people is simply bombarded with questions while speaking. I am not a person to be unnerved because of these disturbances. You will have your time to reply to me but let me put forward my own views because I am more interested in the safety and peace of the country.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): As a nominated member.

Miss Maniben Kara: But you have come on a franchise where only three per cent. of the population has returned you to this House.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. The Honourable Lady should address the Chair.

Miss Maniben Kara: I will warn my friends on the opposition benches that our young men, men in the Army, the Navy and the Police, take them at their word of “Do or die”. As nobody wants to die without doing anything they certainly want to do something. You disown them in the name of non-violence if they act resulting in violence. If you really mean business, the country is ready, the Army is ready, the Navy is ready, the Air Force is ready, the railway-men are ready, the Posts and Telegraphs workers are ready. Are you ready to lead them for the revolution? When they act, you preach non-violence.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): And the women are ready.

Miss Maniben Kara: The point is that you are only waiting for the transference of power. I am not advocating my views on violence as this is not the occasion to advocate my own views on the subject. (An Honourable Member: Whose views are you advocating?) I ask you to do the job, and we shall be with you. On one side you talk of non-violence and on the other side you call them big heroes, at times, you denounce and say that this was not the act which you ever wanted them to do. Once you disown them, and then you exploit them for your own political purposes. I would, therefore, say, that such fanaticism in revolt is motivated not for the betterment of the economic conditions of the people, but simply because it is based on racial hatred. It is a shame and disgrace to this country, that the safety of a white man is not guaranteed on the streets. It is a shame and a disgrace to this country, that people cannot go about without fear of attack because they happen to have a white skin. Such a thing is the result of the racial hatred preached by the opposite benches. I would therefore say that the only thing which can bring safety and security and peace and happiness in this country is the economic solution of that problem and the economic solution cannot be brought about unless there is a Government of the people by the people and for the people.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I support the adjournment motion which my deputy leader has so ably moved. But before I enter into what I propose to say on the floor of the House, I would dispose in my own way of the Honourable lady speaker who represents the constituency of the grace of His Majesty's Governor General in Council.....

An Honourable Member: Are we discussing that?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: My considered reply to her emotional outburst is that whatever she may think of the do or die spirit, whatever she may think of the professions of members who are led by the nationalist leaders of this country, our attitude is clear, that when we find that even the policemen can stand up for their rights, even the dark-skinned policemen can stand up and claim their rights against their white-skinned masters, we feel that the do and die spirit has demonstrated and vindicated itself.

But before we express ourselves on that point, I propose to expose the guilt of the Government in this matter by reading out before the House, with your permission, copies of a few press telegrams which were proposed to be sent by a foreign newspaper correspondent and which were withheld by the Government in their unwisdom. Sir on the 22nd March, at about 11 or 12 in the morning, one Mr. Marcuse sent a telegram to a French newsagency in London and there it was stated:

“Strike provoked yesterday morning by incident between Anglo-Indian inspector and Indian policeman and which at the start had only the character of a protest has taken since a new aspect. Strikers have made known their demands and announce they will continue hungerstrike until they obtain satisfaction. Policemen ask their salary be increased from 44 rupees monthly to 80, better food, eight hours day work. These demands have taken the form of ultimatum giving authorities six days delay after which ‘more serious measures’ will be taken by strikers bringing to light misery of Indian policemen in Delhi which caused strong emotion among the population.”

[Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal]

This is what I want to underline:

"Salary of policemen including all indemnities amounts to 44 rupees, that is approximately half the salary of servant employed in foreign or Indian home. Each policeman receives ridiculous increase of one rupee every three years, one rupee every three years. Food consists almost exclusively of *chapatis* and *dal*. Following these revelations interpellations are expected at the next Central Assembly. Marcuse."

On this the order of the Government is:

"Your press telegram to press French Indep. London stopped as objectionable."

Then another telegram was sent by the same correspondent to the following effect:

"Manifestation starting 1330 old Delhi included about five hundred policemen and was rapidly increased by several thousands sympathisers. Demonstrators going towards Vice-regal House were intercepted in Chandni Chowk by armed detachments of Gurkhas. After usual warning demonstrators adopted threatening attitude and soldiers used tear-gas bombs thus forcing the first ranks to withdraw in disorder. Order was rapidly restored but all shops closed in the Old City and it is reported strike spread to neighbouring localities. Particular importance of police strike is stressed and this is important coming during period of political tension already marked by numerous incidents and on eve of British Cabinet Mission. Marcuse."

This also was again withheld on the ground of being objectionable. May I ask the Honourable Home Member what is the objectionable character in these telegrams? Is it his case that if this appeared in the foreign press the police would catch the contagion, the discontent there and violence would ensue there? The reason is very clear. The Government knows in their heart of hearts that their attitude and treatment of the Indian police is so indecent and shameful that even though their tyranny in India is well-known they would not like the foreign people to know how they are kept and maintained and how they are treated. Apart from this, may I ask the Honourable Home Member—this comes in incidentally—the policy of this Government in regard to press censorship? We understood, or we were made to understand some time back, that press censorship was withdrawn, although we know that under the Posts and Telegraphs Act, a rusty piece of legislation, the Government has the power to withhold these messages on the ground of policy. We claim from this side of the House to know why that piece of legislation has been applied in cases of this description and what is the policy in that matter.

Coming to the question of strikes, as my deputy leader has stressed, this is not a disease in itself. It is the symptom of an earlier disease and the Government ought to set itself thinking. It is not a revolt from outside; it is a revolt practically from within their own chamber. Why is this so? In the first place it is due to the racial discrimination which is there. My friend, Mr. Anthony is not here; he has put his own interpretation of Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans. There is a distinction, an holy distinction between the whites and the browns in the matter of the police services. Both are expected to do the same job; the Indians do their work no less conscientiously than the Britishers in the lines, if not more. But they refuse now to accept lying down the discrimination by way of salary, the discrimination in food, the discrimination in uniform and the discrimination in treatment from their overlords. So long they have accepted this discrimination because the inner urge of the moral right to revolt was not there. But now with the arrival of the I. N. A. spirit things have changed. The Indian feels that he is an Indian, whatever may be his occupation; and he feels that he must have his right recognised as an Indian, whether it be in the police, or in the navy or in other Departments of the Government.

Then, my deputy leader has referred to the deep discontent and what is that discontent? That discontent arises out of the growth and expansion of political feeling all over the country. These policemen are after all human beings: they have been used as tools or weapons of British imperialism; they have been used so long for crushing the nationalistic aspirations of the country; they have been so used against own happiness, against their own better feelings; but now, since the urge has been pervading all over the country, nemesis has set in. These people, under the very administration of this special superintendent of police.

Mr. Robinson, in 1942 were used as tools for crushing the 1942 movement here. They lent themselves but they did so as a matter of duty, not as a matter of happiness. Then only the other day restrictions were imposed upon processions and meetings and the Indian police had to be used for enforcing these restrictive orders. They did it as a matter of duty so far as service is concerned but they did it not as a matter of happiness and they did it grudgingly. Only the other day when the victory celebrations were being carried on, unnecessarily for no fault of anybody, certain people were arrested only to keep up the prestige of the *jabardast* Government. These police people were made tools and pawns in the hands of the executive persons. There is something like even a worm turning. These people as Indians have a right to make their existence felt as Indians and to have their rights recognised as Indians first and Indians last. Therefore all over this same question appears, namely, are the Government going to treat these things as isolated specimens of trouble here and there or are they going to approach this question as different expressions under different contexts of the one spirit, namely, the spirit of revolt against foreign domination. That is the only approach and without that approach there can be no satisfactory solution of this trouble. The solution is very clear. In the first place the racial discrimination must be removed in this as in every other sphere. This is the voice of India, expressing itself through these policemen. They are sons of the country and their rights must be recognised as sons of the country. They must be recognised in a way that they are made to feel that they are going to protect their own people. After all we have passed through dark days and travails. We are at a time when the spirit of recovery is coming. The Cabinet Mission is here trying to set things right but this Government will not do this properly and well. They must remember that they owe a duty to themselves. They must lay the foundation of the new era that is coming and they must make their contribution to it. They must recognise the rights of the people forthwith. Otherwise the writing on the walls quite clear, the writing which has been made by the I. N. A. spirit. That writing is—he who sows the wind must reap the whirlwind and that is why we say today 'Quit India'.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and suburbs, Muhammadan Urban): Mr. Deputy President. I think adjournment motions of this type in the House have become, I cannot find a better word than our good Indian word, *ajiran*. We Indians have now to begin thinking in terms of not critics or agitators but administrators of the India of tomorrow. That being my viewpoint, I feel that we have done enough to create trouble. Unfortunately the spirit of the administrator being absent, any stick that could be found is being used to belabour the Government with. Those who think in terms of building a nation and administering its affairs should take it for granted that the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Police shall not be touched and if this attitude of mine is not developed, then the India that we shall inherit will be an India which shall be Hell. If we wish to avoid that Hell, I hope sense will dawn in the minds to my right, because this kind of adjournment motion will lead to difficulties which we may not be able to control. To raise the *jinn* is easy but to put him back into the bottle and seal it up will be beyond our power, because to develop our power of governing this land will take time. The speeches delivered so far have a definite political tinge. I know I shall be accused as a renegade from nationalism when I declare that all these grievances and all this tall talk of our soldiers and sailors and policemen and airmen feeling their present life irksome because of racial distinctions, because of differences in salaries and so on is secondary. The main point is that we have to take care of—I shall again use another Urdu word—the *Bi Jamalos*—who are taking advantage of this situation. They should be laid low. Otherwise the India that we shall get will not remain under our control. I will place through you before the House certain conditions and circumstances in the troubles in Calcutta. The students made a demonstration in Wellington Park and from there they wanted to march along certain routes of Calcutta. There was great

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi.]

trouble and I feel that the police there did exceed the powers given to it; but that is not the point I wish to place before you. Those poor students were made the means by politicians of bringing trouble into the city. Lorries were burnt and fires were started and what troubled me most was that at a meeting at which Hindus and Muslims and others sat together in order to recommend to the citizens of Calcutta that it would be wiser now to bring back peace into the city, the suggestion was thrown out. The students said they had nothing to do with the burning of the lorries. The Congress people had published their manifesto saying that they had nothing to do with it being believers in *ahimsa paramo dharma* and thus they clarified their position. The Hindu Mahasabha people said they were not there while the Muslims were not in the picture at all. I, and a colleague of mine, who were present said, we were not in the picture from beginning to end. Then Sir, who the devil it was that was creating all the trouble in Calcutta. It should have been the duty of the citizens of Calcutta to recommend to the Government as well as the citizens to take steps to find the real culprits out. That was not done. The joint manifesto that we wanted to publish was never signed. The only instruction given to me and my colleague was that if "you feel as we feel, then republish the Congress manifesto with your signatures". We were told that representatives of the Congress declined to put their signatures to a document along with those of members of any other political organization. Mr. Deputy President, Sir, if I could get hold of the *Bi Jamalo* of Calcutta, I would have twisted her neck. I appreciate that times are hard, I appreciate that the policeman too has a right to live. I have never had confidence in the principles of British administration in this country. I have spent almost the whole of my life time in attacking it. But, Sir, I would most earnestly appeal to the Honourable the Home Member to realise that if there are grievances, and I am sure there are, he will have an inquiry made not by superior police officers but by independent people and then try to meet the difficulties which the poor police people in Delhi and other places are faced with. Such a committee of inquiry should examine the grievances. I know financially it may not be possible for him or even possible for this House to decide and give to the Government of India sufficient money to increase the salaries of all the strikers in the country wherever they may be not only of Police, but of the Royal Indian Navy, the Army, the Air Force and various other Departments of administration of the Government. But, Sir, I hope that this tendency to make use of those sections of our people who are supposed to defend us who are supposed to keep law and order will be eliminated from the political arena of our constitutional movement in the country. We are good enough to fight among ourselves and to fight the present rulers of the country, but to disturb the British administration as it happens to be by making use of these forces of law and order and defence is creating a situation which we may not be able to control when we get into power. For that reason, I feel inclined to request the Honourable Mover of this Motion that having related to the Honourable the Home Member all the grievances of the police force of Delhi, he will see his way to withdraw the Motion, and that in future before any such motions are brought forward, he will go and talk to the Member for the moment in charge of the Department and settle affairs in an amicable and private manner. We have had enough of advertisements, we have had enough of propaganda. Our propaganda has succeeded. The Secretary of State, the President of the Board of Trade and the First Lord of the Admiralty are here to give us what we think we are going to get. I do not know what will be the result. But then at this time, when Hindu and Muslim leaders should devote their attention to bigger problems of the nation, this tinkering with minor problems of the salary of policemen in the enclave of Delhi, whether they get good food or not—is not discharging our national duty properly. Sir, as an old student of Aligarh, let me inform the House that the only grievance we had against the management of the College, as it was in my days, was the continuous and living grievance against food, and the food was always good. It is not the policeman,

it is not the Royal Indian Navy or the Army man, it is not the boys in Karachi that are getting bad food. I have eaten rice in Calcutta which I would not have given to my dog in normal days. Therefore, the shouts of these boys in the absence of anything more sensible than food to talk about, need not be given a hearing, need not be made the subject of adjournment motions. I ask them in the name of the India of tomorrow that when the Secretary of State for India and his colleagues are among us—and every one of us wants to meet them and stand in a queue as they did when the former Lord Privy Seal came to this country, because every one wanted to appear in the newspapers as one who had shaken the Lord Privy Seal by the hand. This time it is more serious and I hope that these petty police affairs will be settled by the Leader of the Opposition and the Honourable the Home Member privately, amicably and to the satisfaction of the men who had struck. Let us give them better food, let us give them as many things as they want, provided our finances permit.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Sir, with some part of the speech made by the Honourable Member who spoke last, I do not always find myself wholly in agreement, with him, but certainly with some part of his speech this afternoon, I do find myself completely in agreement, that part of it which deplores and discourages the exploitation for political purposes of discontent and disorder in the services, whether they are armed forces of the Crown or the police or any other. To that I would apply a word, which is much used in India, the word statesmanlike, and I should like to think that his advice will be followed. Now, Sir, I am afraid I must inflict some facts on the House, and those facts do not agree with the facts given by my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party. I do not propose to take up his statements or by one, but I would ask the House, where his statements and mine conflict, to remember that in this House on Friday he made the following statements and suggestions. He said on Friday that the military were in possession of all the main streets of the city; he said that the whole city was without police; and he suggested—I do not say he stated it as a fact but he obliquely suggested—that there had been shooting. He said that the strike had spread to rural areas.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, on a point of personal explanation, I never suggested that any shooting had taken place. On the contrary, I made it perfectly clear that there had been gas shots and no shooting whatever.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I have just refreshed my recollection of the speech and I ask him to refer to it and to see whether in fact he made it perfectly clear that there had been no shooting. I deny that he did so.

Well, Sir, he has made some other statements today which are equally void of foundation. But, as I say, I shall not take these one by one; my time is limited. I shall give the House certain facts relating to the causes of this police trouble. My Honourable friend's theory is that this situation was created in Delhi by the maladministration of the police department. Well, Sir, whatever the causes of the trouble, I do not myself believe that maladministration of the police department is one of them. However, here are the facts and the House can judge. The trouble started, as so many troubles in life do, from very trivial incidents. On last Wednesday morning a party of police was sent in the ordinary course of duty to take treasure from the Reserve Bank in Chandni Chowk to New Delhi. They delivered the goods and they waited in New Delhi for a lorry to take them back. Apparently there had been an understanding that a lorry should bring them back to the lines. But that lorry did not turn up. They waited for an hour or two and then set off marching back to the lines. I should not have thought it a very laborious march. However, it evidently caused a certain amount of peevishness among them. On the way there was an altercation between a constable and a head constable because the constable was marching in a slovenly fashion. Some hot words passed and when they got back to the lines the head constable reported the constable to the inspector. I do not think any one can take exception to that. The inspector did not take a serious view of the matter. He called in the

• [Sir John Thorne.]

constable, who admitted that there had been an altercation, though his explanation of it was rather different from the head constable's, and the inspector said, "Well, I am not going to do anything about this. I am not going to put this on record or make an official punishment but"—pointing out the constable he said—"you give him a slap on the back". That may or may not be excusable but at any rate. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Was not Harrison the Reserve Inspector?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am not prepared to mention names to the House. It was the Reserve Inspector.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab; Non-Muhammadan): Why not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Because these gentlemen are not here to defend themselves.

Diwan Chaman Lall: How does it affect the situation? If my Honourable friend uses the designation but does not give the name how does it affect him?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: If it does not affect the position I may be allowed to follow my own line in the matter. Either it makes a difference or it does not.

Diwan Chaman Lall: We want facts.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The inspector told the head constable to give him a slap on the back. I understand it is a sort of informal punishment; no record is made and there is nothing against the man on permanent record; but it is conveyed to him that he has done wrong and he must not do it again.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Does my Honourable friend approve of this punishment?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I do not; but I said that there is something to be said for it if you are not going to make a serious matter of every trivial incident. While that affair was going on; and, so far as I can make out, that had nothing whatever to do with the subsequent disturbances—the constable who was slapped made no grievance of it at all, and it was merely a coincidence that at that moment about a dozen constables who had been on this duty in Delhi came along to the office where this was going on and in a rather disorderly way started making a noise. The inspector sent out word to them to stop making that noise, but still the noise went on. He came out and told them to stop. He wanted names but they refused to give the names and they started to make themselves rather objectionable. Then—it is rather a long story—but there were seeds of trouble in their attitude and the inspector and the Deputy Superintendent took a serious view of the matter. Not a word was said at this stage of any grievances about pay, bad food or anything else except that the lorry had not been sent to New Delhi to fetch them back. That was the pretext of their going to the office and making a complaint. Well, Sir, they were told that night after their meals to be ready for standing guard. I do not quite understand that term, but I take it to mean that they were put on some extra duty to which, if there had been no trouble, they would not have been deputed. They said they were not willing to do that. However, nothing happened that night, but during the night posters were put up in various parts—anonymous posters—alleging various grievances; and it was quite clear that during the night the trouble boiled up and in the morning there were the incidents which have already been described in this House and which I do not propose to repeat.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): Were they printed posters?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, they were scrawled on paper; they were not printed. I give these facts because of what has been said about the grievances. My Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali, said that the Reserve inspector had manhandled and actually beaten the man, which he did not do. He

said that the grievance stated to him was about bad food; it was not. Mr. Asaf Ali said the grievances have been in existence for a long time. I am coming to that.

Now, Sir, the grievances that have been stated in the course of the inquiry held since these troubles are,—the quality of food, insufficiency of pay, the men's inability to get cloth or sufficient quantity of cloth from the police shop and some difficulty about getting the leave which may be sanctioned to them. The inquiry into their grievances is going on and I trust that we shall get to the bottom of it. But the point I am now making is that there had been no presentation of these grievances, either formally or informally, before this trivial incident caused the disturbance in the line. I am not saying that out of my head or merely on the report of senior officers of the police. I have seen statements recorded from the constables who were concerned at the first stage, and it is to my mind clear that if they had gone with these grievances to the inspector's office they would all agree on that version, which they did not; and a number of them show that all that they went to see the inspector about was because they did not get the lorry to bring them back from New Delhi. Well, Sir, there is a machinery for ascertaining the grievances of policemen, and I may say that the present Senior Superintendent of Police has done his best to amplify and enlarge the opportunities which the men have to represent their grievances. A few months ago he started a district Mess Committee. Now one of the grievances is about the bad quality of food. That Committee has a Secretary who is I understand a Head Constable and it is his business to visit all the messes during the month and to hear complaints about the quantity and quality of food. There have been no serious complaints. There is always of course bound to be some complaint from time to time; there has never yet been a mess where people are not really to complain about something; but there has been no serious complaint for about a year. The Senior Superintendent of Police discusses at the weekly meetings of Gazetted Officers all matters

5 P.M. which might affect the morale and discipline of the Police. He attends the meetings of this District Mess Committee. In addition he holds monthly and quarterly meetings of the Sports and Mutual Benefit Committee, and that is a body which includes lower subordinates, and there again there is every opportunity for people to raise complaints about their conditions of service and there have been no substantial complaints about the conditions of service of the Police in recent times. So I deny that these grievances are longstanding, that the Administration has been deaf to them, and that for that reason the Administration of the Police can properly be described as maladministration.

I have very little more to say. It is a defect of the adjournment motion procedure of bringing grievances to notice in this House that one has so little to say as regards the actual facts. What I have said has mostly been said already, and I do not want to go into that again, but those are the facts and these are the grievances. My Honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition suggests that the trouble is still going on. He said that hunger strike continues and a large number of people are still refusing their food. . . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: That is my information.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My information differs from his. I believe there are a few men—two stations have been mentioned—who are not on hunger strike but who are refusing to take Government rations. The trouble is practically over for the time being. Whether it is over for good depends on various things. This is a time when unrest, unease, discontent are rife. They are based on various causes: economic—the economic causes are obvious—political causes are I think also obvious. I am not going to indulge in any recrimination today—the lady at my back has made a few pretty severe thrusts in the direction of my friends opposite; but I would remind the House that there are people about in this country today whose business it is to exploit disorder and discontent and especially any form of discontent among

[Sir John Thorne.]

the servants of Government, whether they are in the Armed forces or in the civilian services, and it is our business, it is the business of the Administration I admit, I claim it is the business of the Administration, it is the business of this House, and it is the business of the public, to see that the efforts of those people to use for their own advantage the discontents which are inevitably drifting about in the air after a war, it is the business of all of us to see that their efforts are not encouraged, or furthered in any way by anything that may be said or done or decided in this House.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sir, it is no pleasure to have to take part in a debate of this character. But, Mr. Deputy President, in view of what is coming very soon indeed and everybody knows what is coming. . . .

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Nobody knows what is coming.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Some sort of change of Government will have to take place.

An Honourable Member: For good or for worse?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: If my Honourable friends opposite are not here combined with my friends on my right, whoever it is somebody will have to take the place of my friends on the Treasury Benches. That is inevitable. In view of that fact, a debate of this character, may I most respectfully point out, is a dangerous thing. Days are gone when there were no immediate prospects of a change of Government. Perhaps a debate of this sort, however inadvisable it may have been then is not of the same complexion as it is today. In those days of agitation—and I have also sometimes taken part in agitation—I know that exaggeration is a part of that agitation—perhaps I have been guilty of exaggeration myself; perhaps deliberate sometimes, but most often I hope unconsciously—but exaggeration is a dangerous thing in a matter of this kind. The Honourable the Home Member had of course to remind us of what we were informed when we last discussed this matter. We were definitely told that information had been received that Old Delhi was in the hands of the military, that there were no policemen on the roads. I was inclined to believe that story, as I sat on these benches. It came with such authority and verily I believed it to be true, and I know that my Honourable friend opposite also believed it to be true. And why was it so? Because those rumours were deliberately spread so that my Honourable friends may be misled and in their turn may mislead others.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: If I may just be allowed a moment. Whatever I said that day in the House everybody knows. I was receiving my information from elsewhere and whatever information I imparted to the House came to me in writing from one of the most reliable journalists that I know of. He is somewhere up there.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Very unreliable.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: He said that he was an eye witness to the whole affairs. What am I to do?

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have entire confidence in the *bona fides* of my Honourable friend and because he said it with that confidence, we were misled. He was misled. We were all misled. But that shows the danger of exaggeration in matters of this kind. These dangerous stories are spread all over.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Even the Home Member had no information!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: No. What I want to draw the attention of my Honourable friend to, Mr. Deputy President, is that if these rumours were spread with such eagerness and such success, there must have been a body of men and women about the city who were desirous of spreading these exaggerated rumours.

Now this leads us to suspect that there is somebody of men and women who are out to make mischief. That a body of men who have been a credit to this country, who have been a credit to us all, a body of men who had remained steadfast through bad times and through good times in a manner which has not been only a credit to themselves but to all of us, to tamper with men of this kind is a most dangerous thing.

Now, one of my Honourable friends said that they were made to do duties treacherous to the country. Now, in view of the change that is going to take place, may I remind my Honourable friends that this body of loyal men will be as loyal to them as they have been to their present masters. They may be called upon to do such duties. Human nature being what it is, they may have to do similar treacherous duties in the future. It is dangerous, Mr. Deputy President, to say that some of the duties they perform are treacherous. Such expressions may rebound on ourselves in years to come.

Now, Sir, telegrams were read out to us which had been stopped. We were told that a French correspondent sent them. I presume he intended to send them to Europe and some power or some act, which still remains in the hands of Government, stopped those telegrams going. From what I could make out of these telegrams, they appear to me to be a little bit of exaggeration.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: A good deal of exaggeration!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Whoever that French correspondent may be, may I remind my Honourable friends that when they will be in power there will be many French, Belgium and German and Japanese correspondents in this country who will be ready to send telegrams to their own countries about the actions of my Honourable friends when they are in Government as prejudicial to them as these telegrams were prejudicial to the Honourable Members sitting on the Treasury Benches.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: A Nationalist Government will not be ashamed of the truth.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sit down I hope that then my Honourable friends will use the powers that they will possess. . . .

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: There will be no occasion then.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: . . . to suppress such dangerous foreign correspondents and they will do so with the conscientious belief that they will be serving the best interests of their country. (Interruptions). Sir, the world is upset. The whole world has received a shock.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Not at all!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: My dear old friend, Mr. Prakasa has not received a shock. He was kept in safety, safe from shocks. But we out here received such shocks as we pray to God we may never receive again. The world has received tremendous shocks and through those shocks it is possible that men and women have come into existence in all parts of the world.

Shri Sri Prakasa: By shocks!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: And such dangerous people from foreign parts will come to India and will require curbing and will require control, and I trust, and I am sure that when my friends get the power they will use that control and use those powers as I have seen the Congress Government in my own province use with great success.

Shri Sri Prakasa: You will then move motions of adjournment!

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I have nothing further to say except that I do trust that my Honourable friend will not press this motion to a division. No good will be done and he has had his discussion. Perhaps this discussion was unfortunately forced upon him. I wish it had been cut short on the last day we discussed it and it had never been admitted. Unfortunately the discussion has taken place. I would appeal to the Leader of the Opposition and to my

[Sir Cowasjee Jehangir.]

Honourable friend, his Deputy, to cut short the discussion now, to withdraw this motion and let us not go to the vote. Let us not encourage this sort of thing, not for the sake of Government but for our own sake, for the sake of my friends opposite. Let us not encourage indiscipline among the forces on whom we have to rely for the safety of this country.

Diwan Chaman Lall: This debate on this motion, I submit has been very cleverly side-tracked by the last two speakers. I find the spectacle on the floor of this House when an adjournment motion has been tabled that instead of my Honourable friend (who is not here) and my very old friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, censuring the Government for their misdeeds, actually applying their minds to censure the Opposition. An extraordinary situation! *(The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Hear, hear.)* I am glad my Honourable friend says hear, hear. They will not say hear, hear when I start dealing with their incompetence which has brought about this state of affairs. I reject the plea made by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir that the House should not divide on this question. There is a just grievance. There is a very serious fault committed by the administration which is represented by my Honourable friend over there, and we as the representatives of the people have every right and justification in censuring my friends over what they have not done. Any man, any intelligent man, let me qualify that expression, who heard my Honourable friend, the Home Member's speech, would have been aghast. For what does his speech imply? It implies this that in regard to the grievances of these men there was not a word of information available to the immediate authorities and to the final authority, my Honourable friend over there. What does his speech mean? That suddenly without any justification, without rhyme or reason, this trouble originated in the City of Delhi and is likely to spread to other parts. Does he really want this House and this country to believe that what he says is really correct and if it is correct does he not realize that it is the incompetence of the immediate officers and the incompetence of my Honourable friend's Department that did not enable him to possess the information when he should have possessed? Does he know and has he said one single word about it—does he know that the average pay of a constable is Rs. 45 per month? All told. I want my friend Sir Cowasjee Jehangir to understand the position, that all kinds of allowances included come to Rs. 45 a month. *(Interruption.)* Amongst the new recruits, Mr. Deputy President, there are graduates, matriculates and educated people and all found their pay comes to Rs. 45 a month. All found includes their food, does it include the rent for the family and food for their families? My Honourable friend representing the rich European community seems to be aghast at this, that anybody should at all

Mr. C. P. Lawson (Bengal: European): You said, all told, not all found.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend will agree with me that this is a ghastly state of affairs that you should allow men, who are in charge of the safety of this Province, to allow them to be sweated in this fashion and my Honourable friend, the Home Member, did not say one word of sympathy in regard to this matter. He did not inform this House that this was a grievance and a very just grievance. Did he want this House to tell him the import of this grievance? Did he want this House to tell the immediate officers who are in charge of the police stations in Delhi the import of this particular grievance? It was time that they themselves of their own accord remedied this grievance. This is not the only grievance. There is a large number of other grievances—touring allowance, extra hours of duty—and one of their main grievances is that officers should be made to behave themselves properly. My Honourable friend very lightly touched upon this fanciful method of punishment, namely an irresponsible officer ordering a head constable to punish an ordinary constable by slapping him. It is an extraordinary proposition. Not until I interrupted my Honourable friend and asked

him whether he justified it, did he say that he did not justify it? What is the mentality of my Honourable friends opposite? What has happened to them that they are regardless of and indifferent to all these serious grievances?

My Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, wants us to say no more about this subject. Why not? Is it not necessary to bring this subject home to the Government if my Honourable friend wants his property to be safe from the hands of those who would rob him of it, if there were nobody to guard it? Does he not want his house guarded? Does he not want that those who are in charge of his safety should be decently dealt with and properly treated and if he does want them to be properly treated, why is he against this adjournment motion?

Much has been made, Mr. Deputy President, of the importing of politics into this matter. Much has been said about it by my Honourable friend. When Mr. Siddiqui was speaking he uttered a sentence. When he said "Sense will dawn upon the Honourable Members of the Opposition", immediately and quickly my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House should "Hear, hear". But sense has dawned on this side of the House and that is why we have brought forward this adjournment motion. Is sense going to dawn on that side of the House? Since sense will never dawn on that side of the House, it is necessary to expose public grievances as the representatives of the people and bring those grievances to the notice of the Honourable Members opposite. This is the only method that we have open to us. Let it be understood carefully, since insinuations and innuendos have been the order of the day in the speeches made on the floor of the House from that side of the House, that no one here on this side of the House is in favour of tampering with the discipline of the police force. Nobody is for tampering with the discipline of the police force. But a time does come when these people are unable to put up with the grievances that have gone on accumulating, because of the incompetence and inefficiency of Honourable Members opposite. When that time comes it is necessary to ventilate those grievances. We would not be doing our duty as representatives of the people if we did not ventilate those grievances on the floor of the House.

My Honourable friend is making enquiries into these grievances. What sort of enquiry is it going to be? There will be a magistrate, one of his own men. There will be a higher police official, again one of his own men. If he really wants to put an end to this trouble, it is necessary for him to have a judicial enquiry into this matter. Only a judicial enquiry will be able to give a just and proper verdict and put the police force on the proper lines, so that trouble of this nature may be avoided. It is not we who have created this trouble. It is my Honourable friends opposite and their incompetence which has brought about this trouble and it is time therefore that a proper enquiry were made into the allegations, into the grievances, into the conditions of service of these men, regarding whom, let me say this, there is not much love lost between the Congress and the Police. My Honourable friend knows perfectly well that we look at this question from an entirely impartial point of view in spite of the fact that we, each one of us sitting on these benches, has suffered indignities and humiliations at the hands of the police.

Much has been said on the floor of the House about the police force and the India of the future. You want a contented police force. It is not a question of traitorous police in the sense in which my Honourable friend used the word. When the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party was speaking about the police force, who have misbehaved in the past in a traitorous manner, what implied was this. In the interests of the country they did not act but they acted at the behest of my Honourable friends over there but never in their past history have they acted in the interests of the country. That is what my Honourable Friend meant. In the future there will be no such accusation, if there is going to be a national government. They will be part and parcel of the

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

national government. The national government's policy will be a policy meant for the development of the nation and the police will be part and parcel of it. There will then be no question of behaving in a traitorous manner to their country. But at the present moment it is necessary to place on record that we on the Opposition Benches here stand for the just and proper treatment of the police force and the eradication of all their grievances not only in Delhi but throughout the Provinces. I am glad to say that the Bombay Government has taken a step, a logical step, a necessary step. Is my Honourable friend over there going to wake up from his lotus sleep and take the necessary steps in the interests of the police force?

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab: Muhammadan): Mr. Deputy President, I had really no intention of participating in this debate, which, to my mind, should have been brought to a very speedy close but for the fact that various considerations not implied in the adjournment motion have crept into the debate. My Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, has said that really the issue has been side-tracked and matters which were irrelevant to the adjournment motion moved by Mr. Asaf Ali have been given prominence and the real issue has been ignored. It appears to be his opinion that the real issue is that the police have some grievances, that they have had those grievances for a very long time and have at long last found an opportunity of ventilating those grievances by means of organising a sort of hunger strike and creating a situation which we have complained about in the course of this debate. But to my mind, Sir, the facts on which the adjournment motion is based are few and meagre. Comparing the two versions given by the two sides to the debate, I mean to say the version which was originally given by Mr. Asaf Ali and which has been amplified today, and the version which has been given by the Honourable the Home Member, it appears that the trouble was really created by the incident of no lorry having been sent to fetch back the Police from the Reserve Bank, some altercation between the Head Constable and a Constable, the subsequent report to the Reserve Inspector, and the Reserve Inspector's action trying to hush up the matter in a practical way without giving a formal shape to the complaint of the Head Constable and inflicting a formal punishment on the Constable who appeared to have behaved cheekily to the Head Constable. It appears, Sir, that if these were the only facts which led to what happened in Delhi on that day, we cannot be justified in inferring from these facts that this is the result of long-standing grievances of the Police as regards their pay and the low standard of living at which they were being compelled to live and all that. In fact when I think of the expression used by Dewan Chaman Lall that the discussion has been side-tracked, it appears that really my Honourable friends on my right have thought of the grievances of the Police rather late in the day. They were tabling all kinds of token cut motions about many reforms in the administration which they wanted, and economy cut motions to prove the shortcomings of the administration and thereby urging refusal of the demands for certain grants and all that but there appears to be no reason why, if the grievances of the Police were so real and so genuine, not cut motion on that point was moved by any member of the Congress Party.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Because of the shortness of time.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: We take the view that either the Congress Party did not know at all what the grievances were or they did not attach any importance to them.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is true that we have come to know about the grievances only now.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: I think the scale of pay for the policemen is well-known to everyone in this House. The allowances which they get are

quite well-known. Their grievances, if the only basis of these grievances was the smallness of their pay and the pettiness of their allowances, the arrangements made for their mess and all that, if these were the only things on which their grievances are based and the situation has developed, I think these were well-known matters. It is too late for my friend, Mr. Asaf Ali to say that they did not know these things. Everybody in this House knew all these things quite well. It appears really that the true point of view to urge in this debate, and the policy to be adopted in this House, is that which has been so eloquently pointed out by my Honourable friend, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir. We must not encourage insubordination in the ranks of the Police or the Army by moving adjournment motions to censure the Government whenever there is some quarrel or disturbance.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: On a point of personal explanation, Sir. I strongly repudiate the suggestion that I moved this motion to encourage indiscipline anywhere.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: I must at once disclaim any intention on my own part to suggest that my Honourable friend, Mr. Asaf Ali, or his Party had the intention of encouraging insubordination. I say it has the effect of encouraging insubordination, and this sort of spirit of insubordination, if we breed it by moving and passing adjournment motions in this House at the present stage of our political development, is going to act as a boomerang against ourselves in the future political advancement of this country. Surely, whatever form of government may succeed the present government, we shall have a Police, we shall have an Army, we shall have certain services. And, as has been very well pointed out in the course of this debate, the scales of pay cannot be enhanced and the prospects of Government servants, cannot be improved very much without burdening the country with more taxation, without securing more income in order to pay these enhanced expenses. So, this question will arise in the future as well, and the administration of the future will be face to face with the necessity of dealing with such matters in future, so that, if strikes, hunger-strikes and all these things go on and are indirectly encouraged by ourselves by moving and passing adjournment motions, I think we shall be acting against the interests of the country as regards its future administration. I would therefore rather repeat the suggestion which has already been made, that my Honourable friend the mover may consider the advisability of withdrawing the adjournment motion and allowing things to rest where they are.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

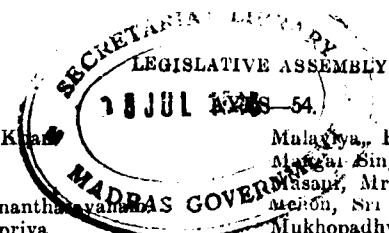
The motion was adopted.

Before I put the question I wish to inform the House that it has been suggested here that an agreement has been reached between all the parties that the question hour for the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 26th March will be dispensed with and the question put down for oral replies on the 26th March, will be transferred to the 27th March when they will be answered orally. Questions originally put down for oral answers for the 27th March will be treated as unstarred questions for that day and their answers together with the answers to the unstarred questions for the 27th March, will be printed in the official report of the Legislative Assembly Debates of that date. I suppose this agreement has been reached between the different parties and different sections of the House. This will stand as an agreed thing. There will be no oral questions on the 26th.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the Assembly do now adjourn."

The Assembly divided.



[25TH MAR. 1946]

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan
Adityan, Sri S. T.
Asar Ali, Mr. M.
Ayengar, Sri M. Ananthan
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Bose Shri Sarat Chandra.
Chaman Lal, Diwan.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Choudhury, Sreejot Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
Gangaraju, Sri V.
Gaur Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.
Govind Das, Seth.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hiray, Sjt. B. S.
Jagannathdas, Sri.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. R.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Karmarkar, Shri D. P.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dharendra Kanta.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.

Malayya, Pandit Govind.
Mangai Singh, Sardar.
Masani, Mr. M. R.
Mason, Sri A. Karunakara.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Neogi, 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.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Sukhdev Seth.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Annu.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.

NOES—54.

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
Ayers, Mr. C. W.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.
Greenfield, Mr. H.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.
Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Mason, Mr. P.
Mohammad Amir Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Raja.

Morris, Mr. R. C.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Sargent, Sir John.
Sen, Mr. B. R.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Solanki, Dr. P. G.
Spence, Sir George.
Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Turner, Mr. A. C.
Waugh, The Honourable Mr. A. A.
Weightman, Mr. H.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

Mr. Deputy President: The result of the voting is:

Ayes 54.

Noes 54.

The Chair must vote for the *Status quo*. The Noes have it.

The motion was negatived.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, the 26th March, 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 26th 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.

†1226.* — 1280.*

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

ELECTORAL ROLLS FOR JAMSHEDPUR, UNORGANISED LABOUR CONSTITUENCY.

156. Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that over 1,800 qualified workers of the Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited, were debarred from exercising their right of vote in the Jamshedpur Unorganised Labour Constituency on the ground that father's names of the workers concerned were not given;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to avoid such mistakes being committed by the employers who are required under the rules to prepare the rolls; and

(c) whether Government propose to entrust the work of the preparation of the rolls to Government Officers as in other constituencies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a), (b) and (c). This is a matter entirely for the Province, but I have ascertained from the Provincial Government that the following are the facts of the case.

Under clause (d), sub-rule (1) of rule 7 of the Bihar Legislative Assembly Electoral (Preparation, Revision and Publication of Electoral Rolls) Rules, 1936, the electoral roll for a Labour Constituency must contain the name of the father of every elector who is not an unmarried woman or a widow or a European or Anglo-Indian. The preparation of the electoral roll was the duty not of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, but of the Registration Officer. The Company, however, offered their co-operation, and supplied the names of the workers with their fathers' names in all but 1883 cases out of a total of 40,000. In these 1883 cases, in which the fathers' names were apparently not available with the Company, the persons concerned and their party leaders had an opportunity to put in their claims after the electoral roll was published in draft, but they failed to take advantage of it.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

HONOURABLE DR. N. B. KHARE'S APPEAL TO GOVERNMENT TO RAISE THE SOUTH AFRICAN INDIAN QUESTION BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE U. N. O.

Mr. President: I have received notice of an adjournment motion which runs as follows:

"That the business of the Assembly be adjourned for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, Dr. Khare's desperate appeal (need me have the word 'desperate'—I will omit it) that the Government of India should raise the South African Indian question before the Security Council of the United Nations Organisation."

I should like to know something about the urgency of this matter.

†These questions were transferred to be answered orally on the 27th March, 1946.—

Ed of D.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces: Landholders): Sir, before I make my speech on the motion, if it is admitted, I will give the House my reasons why I tabled this motion. The anti-Indian Tenure Bill which condemns three lakhs of Indians to perpetual segregation and slavery was taken up for second reading yesterday in South Africa. The Security Council has also met at New York yesterday. General Smuts is going ahead with the Bill even after the Indian Government's three months' notice for the termination of Trade Agreement with South Africa. Mr. Sohrab Rustumji, the Leader of the South African Indian Delegation has declared that the notice for the termination of Trade Agreement will not help; for, South Africa will import with a vengeance what all she wants during these three months. The Viceroy has expressed his inability to recall the High Commissioner. General Smuts has refused to negotiate with the Indian Government at a Round Table Conference, as recommended by his own Broom Commission. Though India and South Africa are both members of the United Nations Organisation, South Africa refuses to India the right of negotiation, which is the basis of the United Nations Charter. England fought the Boer War in South Africa to safeguard her nationals against the Dutch. The imposition of Economic Sanctions, recall of the High Commissioner, negotiations at a Round Table Conference, being thus out of the question, the only course left is to raise the matter before the Security Council as suggested by Indians in South Africa. . . .

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is giving reasons on merits. I want to know how the matter is urgent.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: It is urgent in this way that the Security Council is now in session and the Honourable Dr. Khare, a Member of the Executive Council, himself feels that the only way in which the South African question can be brought up is that one of the representatives of the Government of India in America should bring it up before the Security Council. This question can be taken up by the United Nations Organisation. The sanctions which the Government of India have imposed against South Africa are not sufficient. They have not gone far enough. Hence the position is that the Security Council can deal with this question. There are two articles in the Charter—Articles 84 and 35—under which this matter can be brought up for their consideration. The matter is very urgent because in South Africa itself, Indians are agitating over it. Last evening there was a statement made by a South African Indian leader saying that they were appealing to Marshal Stalin to bring this up. Now that we have a representative in America, it is our duty to get the Government of India take up this question at once. If they do not do so, then I shall go on with my adjournment motion and give details later on.

Mr. President: May I know what the Government Member has to say about this?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee (Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department): As you have been pleased to ask, Sir, what exactly is the urgency of the matter, the very statement on which this motion is based would show, Government have been considering this matter. Not only that. That it is described to have this matter placed before the U. N. O. has been suggested in the Press and also on the platform more than once, during the last two or three months. The very South African Indian Delegation whose statement the Honourable Member quoted made a statement to that effect sometime ago. I therefore do not see how this matter is urgent, particularly when I am able to tell the House that Government has been considering for some time this question, that is to say, whether this matter should be placed before the U. N. O. Unless my Honourable friend has any hope of obtaining an *ad interim* injunction from the Security Council against the South African Government, and I do not think there is any such prospect, I would submit that this matter, though undoubtedly of great public importance is not appropriate for being the subject matter of an adjournment motion.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: non-Muhammadan Rural): May I point out, Sir, that when the Honourable Dr. Khare himself, a Member of the Executive Council, makes an appeal like that, it seems clear

that the Government are not doing everything. Usually they are a happy family. One Member does not say very much against what the whole Cabinet does. But when Dr. Khare himself gets up and makes an appeal, I think there is something wrong somewhere and the House should impress upon the Government that it has not done its duty.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, on the question of urgency, I should like to submit this. The United Nations Organisation Security Council is meeting. It may be that India is not a Member of the Security Council. It is permissible for India to say that this particular question should be brought to the notice of the Security Council and be discussed there. I can quote the analogy of the Soviet-Persia dispute. As soon as it was known that this dispute was going to be brought before U. N. O., Russia has offered to withdraw her troops from Iran within six to eight weeks. What does that mean? That a discussion in the Security Council is likely to have very great effect even on a great power like Russia. Certainly the urgency arises this way. The South African Parliament is discussing today this particular Bill. General Smuts is anxious to carry it through. If this question is raised in the Security Council, it is possible that the South African Parliament as well as that Government might reconsider their position *vis-a-vis* the rest of the world and that is why we are still anxious that this question of public interest should be brought before this House. If the Honourable Secretary for the Commonwealth Relations Department has said that he would put it before the Government of India in its External Affairs Department and see to it that the External Affairs Department instructs the Delegation in America to see that the Security Council takes up this particular matter, if he had pleaded that was there should be some reason for our not pressing this particular matter before the House. It is however a matter of urgency. We are prepared to wait if the Government assure this House that they will take definite action on this matter.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have already made it clear that the Government have been seriously considering this matter and they will take a decision very soon.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the External Affairs Department? It is not as if they are working in compartments. It is primarily the business of the External Affairs Department to instruct their Delegation at U. N. O. to bring this particular matter to the notice of the Security Council. I have already given notice of a question to the External Affairs Department. I want to force the hands of the External Affairs Department, as well as the Government of India as a whole to do what we all desire they should do, that is bring this matter before the Security Council as well as U. N. O.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: On his own admission it is clear that he has been hearing all this for the last two or three months. That is sufficient proof that they have been neglecting their work.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Sir, the Honourable Secretary of the Department has explained the Government's position. I could have understood the motion of the Honourable Member if he had complained that Government were not seized of the importance of this question; but the very motion itself shows that Government is seized of the importance of the question, and I suggest therefore that it is not of urgent public importance for an adjournment motion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: But are you going to bring it to the notice of the Security Council?

Mr. President: I think it will not be out of place if I were to say what I feel about this. Of course so far as South African Indians are concerned the question is of very great importance and it has been said that the Government of India are considering this question. But if any agitation of this question before the Security Council is likely to achieve for the South African Indians some advantage, the matter is both important and urgent in the sense

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that a decision is to be arrived at before the Security Council session ends, and that decision has to be in the affirmative that the question will be placed before the Security Council. Mere consideration may go on for some time; the Security Council session may end and then the matter will merely be left just where it is today. From that point of view I am inclined to look to the motion as a matter of public importance. It is not a question of agitating the South African issue which has been discussed in this House. It is accepted on all hands that it is an important question and that Government are doing whatever is possible for them so far as South Africa is concerned. But this is a question of trying to bring some pressure on the South African Government through the Security Council. And if the pressure cannot be brought in time, then the very object of the motion will be frustrated. I think it is intended to strengthen the hands of the Government of India in making a representation before the Security Council. That is how I am looking at the motion. It is not meant to condemn Government or to censure them for not taking such action as they ought to. I should like to hear Government with reference to this aspect.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Sir, there are one or two aspects of the matter which I think I should place before you. In the first place it is not quite clear whether the Security Council is the proper authority for entertaining such a matter. The U. N. O. is not going to be wound up in the near future. It may be that closer examination of the matter will show that this is a subject which should be placed before the Assembly of the U. N. O. If I may say so, the mere fact that the Security Council is in session now does not make it imperative on us to put it before them immediately. Government should have some time to examine the matter and to decide in what form exactly and in what circumstances this question should be placed before the U. N. O. That is what I have to say on this point.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: It will be too late.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I do not think it will be too late. If eventually the U. N. O. do hold that this is a matter within their competence and if they do decide to intervene in this matter, the mere fact that the legislation is going on or will have been passed would not, I believe, affect the interests of Indians.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Sir, I have the Charter here and I will read just two paragraphs.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have not disputed that.

Mr. President: We need not go into a discussion on the merits of the question. Are not Government in a position to say that they will expedite the matter?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Undoubtedly, Sir. I think I have made it quite clear that we are considering this matter and we will take a decision as soon as possible.

Mr. President: The anxiety seems to be that the case, even if put before the U. N. O., may not be thrown out on the ground of delay because India or the Government of India made no representation or were too late in making a representation. That seems to be the point of urgency to my mind.

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Government also are most interested in avoiding any such consequences of delay, and I can give the assurance that a decision will be taken as soon as possible.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: If the motion is admitted for discussion at 4 p.m. and Government before that time gives a definite understanding that the matter will be taken up, I may not press it.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has assured the House that the Government of India will take up the question very soon, and that ought to be sufficient.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: The assurance is unsatisfactory.

Mr. President: In view of what Government have said I do not think I should admit this motion.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL—Contd.

Mr. President: Before we proceed to the consideration of the Finance Bill I have to invite the attention of Honourable Members to the understanding between the parties, the relevant part of the understanding being that if the consideration motion is not finished before 5 p. m. today the closure may be moved tomorrow (Wednesday the 27th) at the commencement of the legislative business for tomorrow. I have therefore to request speakers representing all sections of the House to be as short as possible so that they may not be disappointed if a closure motion is moved tomorrow and carried. No person need feel any sense of disappointment that he or she lost an opportunity to address the House.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Madras City: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Sir, the Honourable Finance Member has given us a budget which is called a peace budget and also a victory budget. I do not know whether it is a victory time budget anyway; some people have been calling it a victory budget. I do not say he himself said that. I feel that it is going to give relief chiefly to the rich man—the capitalist and then to the middle class man. I also feel that the Finance Member has not taken into consideration the masses of India, the poor people of India. After all, India has more poor than rich. I feel that the whole budget shows that his—I mean, the Finance Member's—chief aim was to give relief to the capitalists who do not require relief just now and the middle-class men who may be helped to a certain extent by this budget. The immediate problem with which this country is faced today is the stupendous unemployment due to demobilisation. How are we going to cope with that? Is there enough money to cope with that? And what will this unemployment bring about? We are today facing a great food problem in this country; we are almost on the brink of another famine, and this time it will not be famine in one province of India only but may affect several Provinces in this country. And with this employment what is going to happen? We will have diseases, we will have epidemics all over the country. How are we going to face it and where is the money to come from? Let us take the question of health as it is. The Bhore Committee has given us a very exhaustive report and they certainly have made excellent suggestions. But, to my mind, these reports and suggestions and schemes do not give relief to the people at the present time. How long will it take to put that scheme through, and when will people get any relief from the results of those schemes? According to it at the present moment 1/5th of the population in India are victims of malaria and two million people die every year of malaria. About as many die of cholera, small-pox, and plague; and tuberculosis also is a deadly disease so common in this country. Now, with regard to women and children: 160 out of every thousand children under one year age die in this country, and two lakhs of women die every year of child birth, and even more awful than that is that four million women are disabled from this very natural course of child birth. How are we going to cope with all this? I think that the Bhore Report gave us all—even those of us who know the sufferings and the helplessness of Indian people—a great shock. I often notice that when we ask for money for health and for education there is no money given to us. When we want money for war purposes, even for celebrating Victory day several months after the war is over, there is plenty of money, but when we want money to be spent for the health of the people of India, when we want to give relief to the suffering masses of India, there is no money for that.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Plenty.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: We have one nurse to every 43,000 people in India. Why have we not trained nurses? You may say that we have conser-

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vative ideas about not taking up nursing, that you have taken everything into consideration, and it is not possible to do things overnight. I know that, but it is not overnight. I am speaking of two hundred years of British rule in this country. What have they done about all these things? With regard to nursing, they have made the qualifications so high that those women who have not passed certain examinations could not take up nursing; they were not allowed to take up that course without having certain degrees. We have always had women in this country who are called *dais*. They have had no education, but they could have been trained as midwives. That was not done on a large scale. It is true that private enterprise took up that question of training *dais* and they trained them, but they were not allowed to get diplomas because they had not passed matriculation and other examinations. That was one of the reasons why *dai* training did not go on. I feel that the health of the people has been neglected because we have had a foreign rule in this country. They did not care for our people; they are absolutely indifferent whether we people live or die, and worse than that is that we are a disease-ridden people, we are a degenerate people; because our health has been so bad, we have no stamina, and we die in thousands and lakhs when any epidemic comes into this country.

With regard to education, we have a very excellent scheme now which has been put forward by the Committee that is known as Sargent Committee. But even that is going to take forty years or more before it can be put through. Why have the Government been sleeping all these years? Why did they not put forward such schemes before? All the education that has been given in this country has been given by private enterprise. That is not right. It is the duty of the State to give education to the people. We all know that the idea of education that is given to us in this country was only to produce clerks to work in these offices. Without our clerks, without the stenographers, without the secretaries that they have trained, they could not have run the Government of this country for so long. So the education that was given was only to produce a few literate people; and look at our literacy. Is there any part in the world where literacy is so appallingly low? We have only twelve per cent. of the people of this country who are literate, and I think that is a shocking state of things. What are they going to do now? Are they now going to put through this scheme? No. It is going to take forty or fifty years before anything really substantial is achieved as a result of this Report.

Sir John Sargent himself says at the opening of that report:

"The White Paper containing proposals for the post-war expansion of the British System of education which was laid before Parliament not long ago begins with these words:

"Upon the education of the people of this country the fate of this country depends."

And if, Sir, this is true of Britain, how much more true it is of India where most of the people are illiterate. How are we going to carry on Government if people are kept illiterate and with bad health? These are the two fundamental things they should have thought about earlier. I know they are all telling us now 'we are going to quit India, and you can carry on as you like'. But what kind of India are they quitting. They have not made us fit. They do not want to make us fit so that they may go on saying 'you are not ready yet to run the Government of this country; when you are ready we will give you freedom and we will give you independence. How can a country which is so full of uneducated people, where poverty and ill-health is so terrible, be allowed to carry on'. Is it because they want to say when they go 'look at the way you are carrying on the Government; we ruled you very well'. The Honourable the Finance Member has been telling us that he is going away, and this is his last Budget, but surely the Finance Member should have left India.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Years ago certainly.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: I know he is very friendly and he is very nice, and we have all kindly thoughts for him, but we don't think his last Budget is good enough, not good enough for the masses of this country.

With regard to education, look at the pay that the poor teacher gets. How do we expect that the teachers will teach our children well if they themselves are getting only starvation pay? Do we expect them to teach our children well and to make good citizens of our children when they themselves are not in a position mentally or physically to carry on such work? Surely some other countries have done much better than this. They have five year and ten year plans, and they have carried through their plans. But here in 1946 they are giving us plans for education and health which will take years and years before anything can be put through. I was reading Dr. Matthai's suggestions for facing unemployment crisis that we are going to have in this country. He has given some excellent suggestions in this connection, and with your permission Sir, I would just like to read two or three suggestions that he has made. He says:

"The immediate problem before India today was not so much of raising the standard of living, as that of making sure as to how the people lived at all."

Dr. Matthai suggested the following remedies:

1. Increasing the production of foodgrains, by measures such as small irrigation projects and the provision of manure to cultivators.
2. Supplementing the production of cereals by root-crops like potatoes and turnips, as these took less space to grow and were as nutritious as cereals.
3. Stimulating the production of hand-spun yarn, since shortage of yarn had hampered the production of handloom cloth.
4. A country-wide campaign for the revival and expansion of cottage industries, as this would help to fill the large vacuum now existing in respect of consumer goods."

And there is one other thing that the Finance Member in his Budget has neglected to mention: the Seven lakh villages in this country of ours. What has he done with regard to the villagers? Most of India's population live in villages and what has he done with regard to cottage industries and other village industries? And surely, if spinning and weaving and also growing of food are encouraged and are subsidized by the Government, there will be less shortage of cloth and food. Clothes are something that we all need, and food is what we all need too.

Unless village industries and all the cottage industries that we have had for centuries in this country are revived where they are dead, and encouraged where they are going on, it will not be possible for the villagers to survive. Therefore I feel that the Finance Member should have remembered the villages of India.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: So, I have!

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: I know the Honourable Member will say that these are matters for the Provincial Governments and not for the Central Government. But the Central Government gives suggestions and they have to give money to provinces for certain purposes; and I say that it is the Central Government who should help and give a lead to the Provincial Governments so that they can carry on this work, and that it is not enough to say that it is a provincial matter and it has nothing to do with the Centre. I want the Finance Member to remember that the villages also are matters in which the Central Government should interest themselves. The problem that is now facing us is so great that I am afraid that this Budget is not going to do any good. He has given relief to the capitalists of India by abolishing the Excess Profits Tax. Why has he not at least cut down a certain percentage and not completely abolished it as he has done? Is it because he wants to keep up a friendly relationship with our capitalists so that Britain will have a good market in India? Even in England they have not completely cut down the Excess Profits Tax. Why should it be cut down here when we need money so badly and when it brought so much revenue to the Government? He has not helped the poor man who grows a few beetle-nut trees in his compound and lives by

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that, because he has an excise duty on beetle-nuts and salt which the poor man uses. Surely he cannot get so much money from that so that he can carry on the improvement of this country! He should have kept on the Excess Profits Tax for some time longer.

I have done, Sir, but I do feel that the Finance Member has not done justice to the poor people of India who need help so badly, and I feel that we cannot support his Budget.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): In the few remarks that I am going to offer on the Finance Bill, I will not deal with high finance or high politics. That I think other Honourable Members can do better. I will confine my remarks to one or two points connected with the War Department. More than one year ago the War Department appointed a committee called the Army Reorganization Committee, but the War Department refused to take this House into confidence and they refused to appoint any public man on that committee. After the last war when a similar committee was appointed there were two or three public men and their report was made public and was debated by this House. A lengthy resolution was passed by this House but this time the Honourable the War Secretary says that that enquiry is purely a service enquiry and that the report is purely meant for departmental use. Sir, I protest against this attitude of the War Department. That committee dealt with very important subjects like the future organization of the Army, whether every man should be forced to join the army or not, whether the Indian element should form part of the army, and so forth. In spite of that the War Department have neither cared to share the recommendations of that committee with the public nor have they come forward with the proposal to appoint another committee which will consider the question of the reorganization of the army, how big an army, we should have, and how it should be financed, retained and equipped. All these important subjects are treated

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): How it should be manned also—by Indians or Europeans!

Sardar Mangal Singh: These are all important subjects. I expect the War Secretary to get up and make a full statement as to what they propose to do in this matter. We do not know the number of officers they want for the future army. The other day there was a question in this House and the War Secretary did not answer that question. He simply said the matter is under examination. That sort of reply will not do. We want to know definitely what the Government of India proposes to do in this matter and how it proposes to do it; how many officers they want and how many Indian Officers they have got now: out of this how many Indian Officers they are demobilising and how many Indian Officers they are keeping in the permanent army. These are very important and vital matters. His Majesty's Government have clearly announced that they are now prepared to give complete independence to this country. I for myself cannot conceive an independent country without a first-class army to defend its independence. If they are going to give us independence and keep the control of the army in their hands, I think that that independence will not do. It will not satisfy the public opinion in this country. On that point I want the War Secretary to make a full and a frank statement as to the intention of His Majesty's Government. His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has gone back to England. Obviously these matters will be considered there. I protest against this method of enquiry. Now the war is over. It is time that the Government of India should come forward before this House and appoint a public committee to go into the matter. I hope that the War Secretary will deal with this matter when he gets up and makes a reply.

There is another point which I would like to remind the War Secretary about, that in the organisation of the Indian Army there is such a class of Officers as the V. C. O's. It is true, a similar class of officers is not to be found anywhere in the world except in the Indian Army. Due to their past

traditions and past usages this class of Indian officers have secured a special place and consideration in the organisation of the Indian Army. I know His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief appointed a Committee last year. That committee went into this question. They went round examining witnesses but up to this time neither this House nor the public knows anything as to what has been done in this matter; whether the V. C. O's are going to be retained in the Army or whether that order will be abolished. I make this remark because I feel that if you abolish the V. C. O's from the Indian section of the Army, the efficiency and the discipline of the Army will seriously suffer. An ordinary illiterate villager joins the army because he feels that one day he can become an Indian Commissioned Officer, and if you remove this stimulus, if you remove that much hope of his promotion, I can safely say—I am fairly in touch with those people who join the army—that no efficient soldier will come to the Indian Army.

I therefore beg of the War Department to keep on that order so that the Indian Army will continue to attract good soldiers, who will be the backbone of the Army as they hitherto have been.

There is much disaffection amongst the military people about the method and the manner in which the War Department is proceeding with the demobilisation plans. Several officers who are on the waiting list have met me and complained that Indians are being axed while European officers are being accommodated hither and thither. I learn that in the Air Force—I would be glad if I am wrong—800 Indian officers and other ranks are being axed while a large number of British officers are being retained. If that is so, the first man to be turned out of the army in India should be the Britisher. If we are to have a completely Indian army, then in the process of demobilisation Indian officers should not be touched.

Before the war the general complaint of the War Department used to be that they were not getting sufficient and suitable material to Indianise the officer cadre. Now the material is there. The war has created that material. Bright young Indians came forward during the war and they got commissions. They are there with the army. Why are you turning them out, if you are really serious in your desire to Indianise the officer ranks of the Indian army?

Sir, it is difficult with this meagre data before us to speak at any length about the Indianisation of the army. We do not know what the size of the army will be. We do not know how many officers the Government of India contemplate to retain in the army and therefore it is difficult to tell the Government that these officers should be found from the material which they have got in the shape of the Indian Emergency Commissioned officers.

I am glad that the War Department have decided to open a training academy in India on the lines of the West Point in U. S. A. I hope that this scheme would be expedited but I would like to submit that in order to suit the convenience of the whole country there should be two similar academies—one situated in the South and the other in the North. For geographical and climatic reasons I would submit that one of them can be located at Poona and the other at Dehra Dun—and both academies should be on an equal footing. In this matter if the Government cares to have the cooperation of the public I think it would be coming forth.

Before I sit down I wish to remind the Finance Member that when he spoke the other day he very pathetically said that it was his last speech and asked the House to deal with the Finance Bill on its merits and not reject it on other considerations. Situated as we are we cannot forget the other considerations while sitting in this House. I have been in this House for the last 12 years. We have been coming to this House and taking decisions. I do not remember that there is another Parliamentary House in the world whose decisions are so flagrantly and consistently disregarded by the Government as is done in this House. We the elected members who represent the people here cannot set our seal of approval on the doings, on the blunders of com-

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missions and omissions of this Government during the last year. A vote on the Finance Bill has been treated in this House as a vote of confidence and looking at it from that point of view I hope and trust that the Honourable the Finance Member himself feels in his heart of hearts that he has not got sufficient claims on this House to come forward and ask for a vote of confidence from this House. The Government of which he is distinguished member has been behaving during the past years in such a way that if this House had been a full-fledged Parliament, that Government would have been turned out in the first month. They are there because of the vagaries of the constitution. I therefore submit that the vote on this Finance Bill is a vote of confidence and we will be failing in our duty if we do not reject this Finance Bill in order to demonstrate that this Government does not possess the confidence of the elected members of this House.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That will be for next year: not for last year.

Sardar Mangal Singh: We will deal with the next year when the next year comes. I would appeal to every elected member of the House to look at this question from that point of view. We owe it to our people. What is the position now? We have read in history books in our childhood that in this country rivers used to flow with milk and honey. But what is the position today? Delegations are going to America and another might go to Russia with a beggar's bowl for food. This is the position to which this Government has been reduced in this country. Millions are on the brink of starvation and death. Is that the merit on which you claim our vote of confidence? I hope that this House will, as we have been doing during the past few years, reject this Finance Bill and tell the people as well as the three ministers of His Majesty's Government who are here that the people of India have no confidence in this Government.

Sir, I oppose the consideration of the Finance Bill.

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I do not usually have any cause to complain of lack of criticism of my Department but there had been so few references to my Department in the course of the debate on the Finance Bill that I was beginning to fear that I was losing my unpopularity.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You are still unpopular.

Mr. P. Mason: Until my friend, Sardar Mangal Singh, restored the balance to some extent.

Sardar Mangal Singh: You should thank me for that.

Mr. P. Mason: There are, however, a certain number of points that have been made, with which I should like to deal one by one and there is one very big point which, I think, is at the back of many people's mind, to which I should like to refer.

I should like first to speak on my friend, Mr. Jaffer's statement the other day about welfare for Indian troops. He pointed out quite rightly that there are arrangements for the education of the children of British troops in cantonments and for the medical welfare of their families and that there are not similar arrangements for the children of Indian troops. That sounds very bad and I am not altogether happy about it. But I would like to explain the reason for it, which, in itself, is quite a good reason. The reason, of course, is that the British troops come from overseas. Their children will be going back there and they want the sort of education which they will have when they go back to England. It is no good their receiving some education here and when go back being unable to pass the Senior Cambridge examination. Supposing for instance they have learnt Bengali instead of French, they would not be able to sit for the examinations when they go back to England. In the same manner, there would be no arrangements, unless we made them.

for the medical treatment of their families. There are, of course, in every cantonment schools for the Indian children of the cantonment, and hospitals for the women and children. But there are no special schools and special hospitals for the children of soldiers. I said the other day that I thought the Defence Services were considerably ahead of the rest of India in several matters—and I have no doubt that we are ahead in medical attention and to some extent, I think, in education; and I would like the child of every soldier to get that additional medical attention and that additional education. But we have got to consider rather carefully whether it is right for us to go ahead of the civil population in these matters and we have got to weigh our pennies rather carefully and consider whether it is just that the funds provided for the defence of the country should be spent on raising the educational standard or whether they should be spent on buying machine guns. I am rather inclined to think that the real answer is that in every cantonment, and I hope eventually in every village throughout the country, the standard of medical attention and education should be raised until it reaches the level which we have in the Army rather than that we should raise it separately for the children of soldiers. We do, of course, spend a good deal of money on certain schools. There are three up till this year. We are starting two new ones and hope to start a sixth, rather a third new one, in the following year, of the King George's Royal Indian Military Schools, which will altogether contain nearly 1,500 boys. They are really designed to educate the sons of soldiers so that they can eventually have a good chance of getting commissions. We are spending Rs. 15 lakhs on that every year.

Now, Sir, my friend, Mr. Masani, spoke with his usual ability and eloquence, and he made two points which concern my Department with one of which I thoroughly agree and with the other of which I did not altogether agree. I usually agree with much of what he says almost as warmly as I admire the way he says it. With regard to Japan, however, I could not altogether agree with him. He said that he did not think that we ought to send an Expeditionary Force to Japan because India had no wish to humiliate another country. I am sure it is not a matter of humiliation of another country. It is a matter of learning by experience and of taking steps to prevent the repetition of the misery and bloodshed of the last war. After the war of 1914-18 we occupied a small part of Germany, but not for very long, we permitted the Germans to keep an army in the rest of the country—an army of 100,000 strong for their internal purposes. That army was used by the Germans as a training-ground, in which to keep a cadre of trained officers and N. C. O's so that, when they were ready to expand further, they had a 100,000 trained leaders ready to form the basis of their expansion. And I do not think anyone who has studied the philosophy of Germany and of Japan, which I think is in its essence the same, namely in the worship of force and of the State, will doubt that if the Japanese countries had been left unoccupied they would have done the same thing. It follows therefore that, if we are not going to permit the Japanese to have an army, we must provide some force to occupy the country. I do not quite know whether Mr. Masani meant that no one should go to Japan, or whether he meant that he would prefer to leave the task to American, British, Australian and New Zealand troops, and have Indian troops kept out. It seems to me that, if you agree that it is a right thing that the country should be occupied, it is also a right thing that an army which took part in defeating the country should also take part in that occupation. The other day on the same subject I roused the wrath, as I so often do, of my friend Professor Ranga, by anticipating a criticism from my friends opposite. Perhaps in this I went too far. But I can certainly say, I think with complete certainty, that the Indian Army would have felt slighted had we left this work to be done by other people leaving those who did so much to defeat the Japanese.

The second thing pointed out by Mr. Masani is one with which I agree. He said, I think, to put it shortly and crudely, that it is no use having lots

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of cannon and machine guns and tanks if you have not got the spirit to fight. I might, in agreeing with him, illustrate his point by referring to the case of the Italians in the last war. I might also add the corollary which we have learnt from the Greeks in the last war, that it is that there is no use having plenty of spirit if you have nothing to fight with. And I agree with him when he said that he hoped that British statesmanship would call in the balance of the new world in Asia to restore the balance of the old world in Europe. That seemed to me a neat way of describing exactly what the Cabinet Mission, who arrived here on Sunday, have come to do.

Some criticism which came from Mr. Karmarkar is on a subject which is a very unhappy one. He spoke of the firing in Bombay and he said that it was not, as I had said, that the firing was directed at ring leaders. He thought that troops had deliberately fired at women and children. He spoke of some incident in which troops fired at some women in front of some shops. He did not give the date on which this happened or the time, or the name of the shop or any other detail. If he could do any of these things I shall be glad to enquire into this. But my information still is that firing was, in accordance with the instructions, aimed at ring leaders, but I must say that some other people did get hurt. That is inevitable because, for one thing, of the power of modern weapons. The modern rifle-bullet will go straight through eight people if they are standing in a line. And if a bullet is deflected by a hard object, as I am sure my friend Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan will tell us because he knows all about bullets, what is known as a ricochet takes place, that is, the bullet flies away at an angle. People do get hurt in street firing by ricochets. That is one of the reasons why we deplore street firing so much, and why I have never met any officer who did not hate the thought of having to use his troops in this way. My information however is that the people killed by the firing in Bombay were: men 199, women five and children below fifteen years of age 24. I quite agree that that is deplorable. But I think those figures do indicate that the object was to fire at ring leaders.

I would now like to deal with the points raised by Sardar Mangal Singh. The reorganization committee—I think it is rather a pity we called it a committee—was raised a year ago. It was really a body of staff officers who were told by the Commander in Chief to make inquiries regarding certain matters and make reports to him. It was so very much a personal matter, a matter of staff study within the Department, that we have not even supplied copies of the report to other Departments of the Government of India. It was simply a staff study as a basis for further examination into which

12 NOON undoubtedly a political level will have to be imported; and after further consideration has been given to the report of that committee, it will certainly be necessary, I think, to refer the matter to some kind of non-official body which can bring in the political and governmental level. But I would like to explain that the whole of this subject is immensely complicated,—the number of officers, the number of V. C. O's, the number of reserves, the total army and its postwar strength, the strength to which it can expand in war, and the time which it will take to expand in war are all closely connected; you cannot study one without the other; and it is an immensely complicated and technical problem. Sardar Mangal Singh complained that we had not made a clear and frank statement of what the size of the army would be after the war. Well, I should love to do so if I knew myself, but I do not and we shall not know until we finish this very complicated and difficult examination.

With regard to V. C. O's, I do agree with him as to the magnificent work they have done in the past. The only thing is whether as he says you want a young man coming into the army from a village to have the prospect of promotion to V. C. O. or whether you want him to have the prospect of promotion direct to a full commission; and although the question is not yet settled, I do think that he will be just as glad to come in if he has the prospect of

promotion to a full commission; and if everything possible is done to give him that full commission.

Two war memorial colleges were suggested—one in the south and one in the north. There I must definitely disagree with him. It seems to me that what is wanted in this country and in all countries is unity, and that the more people before they come into the army mix together, from whatever part of India they come, and whatever their caste or class or creed or province may be, the better it is going to be; and if you have a southern college and a northern college, it seems to me you would have a definite split when the men get together later on in their units and that would be a great pity. . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Hear, hear.

Mr. P. Mason: Thank you. Now, I would like to come to the really important thing which is, I think, on everybody's mind. It was raised specifically by Chaudhury Abid Hussain and it was also referred to by Sardar Mangal Singh. Chaudhury Abid Hussain suggested that Indians should get their share in the higher posts in the defence. I entirely agree and I think that has been in the minds of many people not only in this debate but in many of the questions that have been put to me recently. It is a commonplace to say that in making a big change you can proceed either by evolution or by revolution. And it is also, I think, known to every one that my friends opposite are inclined to the view that revolution is the preferable method, and that we over here are inclined to the view that evolution is better. We have certainly proceeded in making our plans on the idea that the change over would be a gradual one and that it would be based on what had happened in the past; and I think, provided you accept that point of view,—though I know my friends do not entirely—it seems to me that in this matter of promoting the Indian officers we have nothing to reproach ourselves with. I was looking at the Indian Army List on this subject and I looked up all the senior of the Indian officers who came in from Sandhurst in that first batch immediately after the last war. Several of them are now acting as Brigadiers. I looked through the thirty names in the list immediately senior to them, those thirty being all British, and I see among these thirty also one or two Brigadiers, one or two acting Colonels, the majority acting Lt.-Colonels, and one acting Major General, thirty places above the senior of the Indian officers who are acting as a Brigadier. In other words. . .

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Where is this acting Major General?

Mr. P. Mason: Thirty places above the senior Indian officer. As I was saying that batch is now getting into the grade when they are getting higher appointments. You may ask: "Why not take the seniormost man and make him Commander in Chief straightaway?" That I think would be, from the point of view on which we have been proceeding, a revolutionary rather than an evolutionary proceeding. He would have fifteen years more service before him, and I do not think any one is capable of maintaining the heavy responsibility of a Commander in Chief for fifteen years without becoming a little stale and rather tired and rather lacking in fresh ideas. Otherwise, he would have to go out before he had reached the age at which he would normally retire. Further he would have shot up above many more people senior to him, and furthermore I think that probably for a post such as that of Commander in Chief, a man of 50 with an additional ten years of responsibility and knowledge of what it means to exercise command and authority is probably, all things considered, a good deal better than a man of 40. So that, I think we have really nothing to reproach ourselves with on this ground. . .

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does that not mean that India is not to be free for another fifteen years, because no country can be really free unless it has its own army commanded by its own Commander in Chief?

Mr. P. Mason: That will be for the future government to decide, but I think myself that a country which has a Commander in Chief who is responsible to it and answers to its own Government, is surely quite free, whatever his colour may be.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: He may be a quisling.

Mr. P. Mason: I think this question of officers is really the keynote of the whole problem; and I know that sometimes a charge of racial discrimination is thrown in our teeth on this subject. I said once before that during the many years which I have served under the present Commander in Chief I have known many occasions on which he took very active steps to prevent discrimination; and thinking it over the other day, I could recall many occasions on which when he has been looking for some one for a particular job, he has said "Well, for that job we must have an Indian." I cannot recall any occasion on which I heard him say that "for this particular job we must find an Englishman."

It is often said, and I am not sure with what exact meaning, that other countries have proceeded to build up armies at very high speed, and they have been successful. What are those other countries? Germany is sometimes quoted. But Germany after two hundred years of a military tradition which I do not think any other country in the world has equalled.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And Russia.

Mr. P. Mason: I am coming to Russia—Germany had under arms some eight million men. After the last war as I said just now, she was forced to reduce her army to 1,00,000 picked men. Every one of these one hundred thousand was a picked man and a leader and was kept in training for leadership; so that he kept in touch with the other men who had served before, and when the time came for expansion the army could expand rapidly, which she did in ten years.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about Cromwell and Washington?

Mr. P. Mason: But no one can say it was not on the basis of an officer cadre with a long tradition and experience behind it. Russia again is sometimes quoted; but she had an army of, I think speaking from memory, something of the nature of twelve million under arms in 1914-18. She reconstituted that army entirely, she changed the whole basis of it. But she had got an officer cadre and tradition to build upon. The only country I can think of, which could be said really to have started to build up an army at very short notice in modern times—I am not going as far back as Cromwell—is Italy, that unfortunate and wretched country which endeavoured to stab France in the back in the summer of 1940. Well, the House may remember that when that happened, I think it was Mr. Churchill who remarked to the Germans that in the last war, that is to say, the war of 1914-18, the Italians had been more of a nuisance than a help to us because we were called upon to provide them with officers in order to help them to run their army at all, and he thought that it would probably be the same for the Germans in this war and that in fact proved to be the case. A small number of British and Indian troops mopped up the Italians over the whole of North Africa and over the whole of Abyssinia and Eritrea, not because of any lack of courage in the Italian soldier—everyone who fought against him says that the Italian soldier himself had often great courage—but on account of lack of trained and good officers. Now, I am not trying to suggest—I should not dream of doing so—that Indian officers are not—some of them—just as good as British officers and that they are not going to be a magnificent corps of officers. They are, I am quite sure. But I do want to speak frankly, and as I have said before, with no intention of hurting any one's feelings—because it is sometimes forgotten—and sometimes in this House I think our debate lack reality because things have not been put sufficiently frankly—I do want to say that this Indian army of which we are all so proud—and I welcome the statements which I have heard from the other side of the House, referring to 'our' army and speaking of it with pride—I do want to recall that that army has been built up over 200 years. It has gone on steadily improving and it has improved since the last war and during the present war and; it was based originally on a relationship which I think is without parallel in the history of

the world and which I think was a good relationship—although it is now going and quite rightly—the relationship between the British officer and the Indian soldier. I have known Indian soldiers speak to me with obvious and sincere emotion and affection of their British officers. There have been many cases of Indian soldiers saving the lives of their British officers in the field of battle. I have also known cases of British officers saving the lives of Indian soldiers and I have known British officers, who would ordinarily have been thought to be men of the most stolid and unemotional nature, speak with deep emotion and even with tears in their eyes of the affection they felt for their Indian soldiers. Now, Sir, that relationship, I think, was a good one. It is now yielding to two other relationships. The British officer will become increasingly an adviser and a technical adviser rather than a commander and he has in this war had to take over a new and a much more difficult relationship in working side by side with the Indian officer. We constantly hear of unhappinesses that have arisen in that relationship but we do not hear quite so often of the very fine friendships which have arisen particularly on the field of battle. The troubles arise when people come back and sit at home in peace but the friendships arise in battle and I do hope that we will all try to remember that that friendship does exist and that there is something to be said for building on the past and bearing in mind the help which British officers have given and that we shall not try to build up the new Indian army entirely at one stroke. I think if we remember that, it will bring a feeling of reality into our discussion of these problems.

Mr. Mohammad M. Killekar (Bombay Northern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the time allotted to the speakers is very little and still every speaker would like to speak in detail touching all the subjects but seeing, that the time is very short I would like to refer only to one important subject—a subject of very great public importance—regarding the cattle wealth of India and milk production in India. If you look to the statistics, the milch cattle in India are somewhere about 219 millions. It is about one third of the total milch cattle population of the world and the production of milk out of that one third total population is only 12 per cent. of the total milk production of the world. Comparing with other countries, you will see that in Germany there are 25 million milch cattle, while the production of milk in that country is equal to that of India. The total production in India comes to somewhere about 6,200 lakhs of maunds. Out of that products like butter, ghee, khova, etc. are manufactured and only one fourth of that production remains for use for drinking purposes. The state of affairs is so bad that the cattle wealth and the production is decreasing year by year in India. The per capita consumption between the year 1935 and 1940 has gone down by twelve per cent. You will find that the conditions are deteriorating every year and the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, I am afraid, are not taking any precautions. Besides that there are various kinds of diseases prevalent among cattle which are most dangerous and which the Government must take into immediate consideration. I would refer to one kind of disease which is more prevalent in the Bombay Presidency and that is called rinderpest. That disease is taking a toll of the lives of cattle every year and it particularly attacks those cattle which are newly brought to Bombay from up country. Another disease which is prevalent at present is the foot and mouth disease. There is no remedy which can check this disease but certain steps are taken with no effect. I should like the Government of India to go into details and make some researches to find out some remedies for this particular disease. Sir, recently the Government of India invited certain experts from England and reports have been prepared by these experts. A committee also was appointed to go through the details and find out the causes of such diseases and suggest ways and means to improve milk industry. Dr. Pepperall, the Milk Marketing Adviser to the Government of India was invited from England and he went through the question in detail. He has suggested various remedies in respect of improving the cattle wealth and increasing the production of milk in India. In his report, he has suggested that the present

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cattle population, if properly fed, should be capable of providing the whole of India with a large supply of milk on the basis of one lb. for each nursing mother and child and 8 oz., per adults. Similarly the milk Sub-committee has reported in the same manner. But I am afraid the Government of India have not taken any steps to solve this problem. The Milk Committee which was appointed by the Government of India last year also referred to this as one of the main recommendations:

"In the opinion of the committee insufficient supply of cattle feeds is one of the serious handicaps in increasing the production of milk."

Further on they say:

"Although there is shortage of cattle feeds taking the country as a whole, there are substantial quantities available in certain areas but due to the difficulties of transporting them, they are not utilised as economically as they ought to be."

From these expert opinions and their recommendations, we find that cattle feed is available in certain quarters, but owing to difficulties in transport, they are not being brought to places where they are required. Sufficient quantity and good quality cattle feed is not available where it is needed. Sir, I am sorry to state that the Government of India in spite of the recommendations of the milk committee and in spite of the opinion of the expert imported from England, have been carrying on exports of cattle feeds from India to outside places. In his report, Dr. Pepperall from England has recommended in clear terms that "India can no longer afford to sell her fertility and milk producing concentrates; they are required for the urgent task of feeding Indian cattle. A total ban on the export overseas of oilseeds or cattle cakes derived from Indian grown seeds should be imposed and kept rigidly in force".

This is the recommendation made by Dr. Pepperall in April 1945. We are now in March 1946 and I am sorry to say that still export of oilseeds is in progress. Only recently a long telegram was received by some of the Honourable Members of this House from the Grain Merchants Association, Bombay, protesting against the export of groundnuts from India to other countries. When foreign experts themselves recommend not to export such things but to keep them for use in India where they are necessary, I am sorry the Government of India are not taking any precautions against the depletion of such concentrates and the export of such foods from India.

Sir, referring to the price of milk, Dr. Pepperall said:

"No sounder way can be evolved than fixation of the producers price for milk on the basis of the cost of efficient milk production plus a reasonable margin of profit."

Several other suggestions are made by him to fix the price of milk at the place where it is produced as well as at the place where it is sold. The Government of India and the Provincial Governments are not taking steps in this direction. They are trying to bring down the price of milk by indirect methods. They are trying to import condensed milk and dump them into the country at places where milk is not available. Particularly in Bombay, we find that milk is short supplied and sufficient quantity is not available. The Government are trying to import skimmed milk powder and after diluting it with water, they are trying to introduce it in the market and thus trying to reduce the price of milk by indirect methods. This is not the proper way, it will do more harm than good, to the industry. Instead of trying to reduce the price of milk in such a way, the best way for the Government of India and the Provincial Governments would be to subsidise milk industry as it is done in other places. In Great Britain during the period 1932 to 1940, in eight years, a subsidy of 40 crores was granted to milk industry. During 1932-38 the cattle industry was subsidised with £18,594,584. Similarly the milk subsidy was £5,696,561. On drink more milk propaganda they spent about £60,000. Altogether they spent nearly 40 crores during 1932 to 1940. In India, except in the Bombay presidency, I do not think anywhere else Government gave any subsidy for this sort of scheme. The Government of Bombay has introduced the subsi-

dised milk scheme under which all the children under the age of six years are benefited. The Government of Bombay is supplying them pure milk at half price and they are supplying genuine milk. I must say that the traders in milk have assisted the Government of Bombay to a very great extent, and it is due to these people that the Government of Bombay have succeeded so much. I hope Bombay Government will realise this and will try to assist the traders also wherever it is possible.

Sir, before closing my speech I should like to say a few words on the matter of education.

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member proposes to go to another point he has hardly any time left; that is the unfortunate part of it.

Mr. Mohammad M. Killedar: I will take only one minute. I will only point out that the way in which educational matters are handled in Ajmer-Merwara is very regrettable. There the officers appointed are meted out preferential treatment and the Muslims are not given any chance to come and compete for these educational posts. The best way to appoint these officers would be to appoint them on the advice of the Public Services Commission who will appoint the best and most suitable men. Sir, I have done.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Food Member): Sir, if I rise to intervene in this debate it is only because I find that some Honourable Members have referred to the question of food in the course of the discussion and I feel that perhaps they would like me to clarify some of the points. I shall first of all tell the House what has been the result up to date of the negotiations which we have been carrying on at Washington for the import of foodgrains. The up-to-date position is that there are indications that the likely allocations to India for the first half of 1946 will be 1.4 million tons of wheat and maize and 150,000 tons of rice, making a total of 1.55 million tons. I should like to stress that these are the allocations which we are likely to get; it does not follow from that that all that stuff will reach India during that period. As the House is aware, we asked for an import of 4.27 million tons during the whole of 1946; the figure of 2.27 represents the quantity which was already promised to us to arrive before the end of April. This quantity would have seen the country through 1946 but, as I say, the indications are that in the first half of 1946 we shall not get more than 1½ million tons roughly. The allocations represent about 64 per cent. of our demand. As I stated in another place, talks are still going on and no firm allocations have yet been made which one can depend on. It is therefore premature to say what we are going to get. Still the House ought to realise the difficulties of the problem. We have done our best; our delegates have fought the battle very well indeed, and if we do not get more than what is indicated it will be due to no fault of theirs.

Then I should also like to stress that mere allocations mean nothing; we must have arrivals in this country. It is only then that food can go into consumption, and although we are ready with our transport plans in this country we do not yet know whether the transport from the other side would be as rapid.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Have Government got any estimate about prices also?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I am afraid not. Now, Sir, whatever may be said, the fact that the delegation has succeeded in getting a fairly substantial quantity of foodgrains from the Washington Food Board—which they would not have got if they had not got the entire question reopened and re-examined—justifies our sending that delegation.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Will that amount be enough for the country?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No. I have said that 64 per cent. of our demands has been met. I do not want to hold out a rosy pic-

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ture; we are in for difficult times but I should like to tell the House what measures we have adopted in this country internally to meet the situation.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: Indian Commerce): Was any approach made to Russia and Argentina as I suggested here?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We cannot approach Russia direct but have to go through His Majesty's Government. That we have done.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan (East Central Punjab: Muhammadan): Has the danger of famine been removed?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, I am not saying that at all. But at the same time when these foodgrains come into our hands we should be much better off to fight the famine than we were before we received the promise.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Are we to understand that the deputation from India was not allowed by the British Government to go to the U.S.S.R.?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: There was no question of the delegation going to the U.S.S.R. The delegation went only to the U.K. and the U.S.A. to argue before the Combined Food Board at Washington.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Will the Government of India consider the question of sending another delegation to the U.S.S.R. under the leadership of the Honourable Member?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I will consider the suggestion whether it is necessary to send a delegation to the U. S. S. R. We are in communication with His Majesty's Government on that matter.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): May I know if it is not a fact that the leader of the delegation, who has now gone to Europe and America, did appeal openly to Russia for help in regard to food and no reply was given by Russia?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I believe that appeal was made to the U. N. O. I am not aware whether he got a reply, or not.

An Honourable Member: Ask him.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The leader will soon be back and then we shall know better.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it not a fact that that statement appeared in the press, namely that an appeal was made and no reply was received?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not carry everything that appears in the press in my head. (Interruption.)

Mr. President: Order, order. Let the Honourable Member proceed with his speech.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: In dealing with the food situation in this country, Sir, references have been made by Honourable Members. The most notable speech was that of Mr. Lawson of the European Group. I see he is here.

Shri Sri Prakasa: He is always there!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: He accused us of lack of proper appreciation of the seriousness of the food situation. He said that the only gestures which the Government had made were not linked to reality; that the matter was being tackled departmentally, not by Government as a whole; and that there was a lack of vigorous measures as for instance the control of black-marketing.

I am sure, Sir, that the House realizes that Government are putting their best into this matter. They have done all that is possible. If Mr. Lawson will allow his attention to stray beyond the dining table and the vista, he will observe

that many things have happened during the last three months since the gravity of the famine has become known. The most important development of all has been the realism with which the leaders of all political parties—Congress, Muslim League, and everybody else—have come forward to assist in the solution of the food problem. The House must have noticed the very useful article by Mahatma Gandhi in his paper *Harijan*; the House must have also seen the most valuable statement of Mr. Jinnah; and also the Congress Resolution on food. This development of course is due very largely to the statesmanship which the public leaders have shown on a matter of this kind. But the very fact that everybody is supporting us over food shows that we have advanced a great deal since January last. The gratitude of the country is due to all these public leaders and also to His Excellency the Viceroy, if I may say so,

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Not to the Government.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: who, through his sincerity and high purpose and by his personal approach to the leaders, has been largely responsible for bringing this result about. In the creation of the changed attitude, Provincial Governments, as also the Department of Food, have played their part. There was a time when in the United Provinces there was a great deal of agitation against the measures of the Government in connection with food. Today I find that Pandit Gobind Ballabh Pant, who is to be the Premier of the United Provinces in a very few days I hope, said that the psychological aspect of the food situation—scarcity—must be taken into consideration. He stressed the point that procurement has to be carried on if the cities are not to starve. I know some of my friends over there have got different ideas about procurement. I had the privilege of meeting some of them yesterday and talked matters over with them. I would be very glad to carry out their suggestions provided they realized that the primary responsibility for procurement is that of the Provincial Governments. I am not averse to any of the suggestions made so long as they can assure me that we shall get enough food to keep the cities going, and those areas going which do not grow enough.

Sri V. Gangaraju (East Godavari and West Godavari *cum* Kistna: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about the villages? Who guarantees for them?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Now that we are going to have a popular Government in every Province within a few days, I am prepared to forward to the Provinces all the suggestions made in that regard. Then I shall go by what they say very largely.

We do claim that it was we who cried 'wolf' in this instance.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): But too late.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: We raised the first alarm and I am very glad that we did so, because we have rallied the country round us.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan (North-West Frontier Province: General): What about the adjournment motion?

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You let the wolf in!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Other steps which we have taken since January last have been given out in the course of the food debate which took place a short while ago, and I do not wish to cover the entire ground, but I would like to remind the Honourable Members of some of them at least. The House knows full well what frantic efforts we have made to secure imports. We have done our best. If we have failed it is no fault of ours. We could not have done any more.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Does the Honourable Member know that large stocks of cereals are held underground by unscrupulous dealers? Has the Government done anything to find out those stocks?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is the next point and that is the mobilization of internal resources. A good deal of progress has been made in Provinces like the United Provinces, the Punjab, Bihar and Sind in the system of procurement, in the extension of rationing and in the enforcement of the food control orders. There may be stocks lying somewhere underground, but I can tell the House that we have stressed the paramount necessity of enforcing the food control orders. If my friends can give me a single instance like that, I will not fail to get down to it at once.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: There are certain individuals in the

Mr. President: Order, order. Let him proceed.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: The next thing is the extension of rationing. We have already about 53 millions of people under rationing. We hope very soon we shall have a much larger number. Smaller towns are being rationed and I believe in Bombay all towns of 10,000 have now been rationed. The Punjab is extending its rationing system. The Punjab had not seen the necessity of the introduction of rationing in their territory, but now they see that they must make a sacrifice for those who are likely to starve.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Can you ration the population?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Whatever may be said, one of the major actions which the Food Department has taken and over which it has secured the unanimity of the Provinces, and I should say the public, is the cut in rations.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It could not be helped.

Shri Sri Prakasa: He has gone so thin himself in consequence.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That is a very important factor because if we did not do that, perhaps we might have gone on for the next two months or so and after that there would have been starvation on a huge scale. I am very glad that this action on the part of the Food Department has now been generally accepted. To achieve this object we had established personal contact with the various Governments and States. We flew officers to many of the Governments and we have, I believe, now been able to convince them of the necessity of the step that we suggested.

Sreejuti Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): I think the Honourable Member wants light!

Mr. President: He is quite all right.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Another important thing which I feel we have been able to achieve is to maintain the price level. In spite of the scare that was raised, prices have not wobbled a great deal. There was a tendency in the beginning for prices to soar up but since then prices have steadily come down.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: In the United Provinces the price is Rs. 18 per maund. That is the Honourable Member's own province.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: That may be in some particular shop.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: All over India.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I do not know. But on the whole my report is that prices have not wobbled a great deal. That is a tribute to the Provinces who have been able to maintain the prices.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What about the cost of distribution.

Mr. President: Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Now the claim that the Government of India deals with food on a purely departmental basis, each Secretary sitting down and passing orders is, I submit, entirely wrong.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: No.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: It shows an ignorance of what is being done actually. We have repeatedly given out what we are doing.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Just passing orders!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: But perhaps some Honourable Members have not paid attention to what we have said. I want to tell the House that once a week all matters concerning food go to the Executive Council. There is a weekly summary.

Mr. P. K. Salve (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Is the Honourable Member growing more files?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: No, Sir. I do not grow anything—neither food nor files. (Interruptions.)

Mr. President: Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Once a week the Executive Council discusses food. Just below the Executive Council there is the Food Committee of Council which is programmed to meet once a week. That Committee too is presided over by His Excellency the Viceroy. I am the Vice-President of it and on that Committee we have various Members of Council who are likely to be interested in food, e.g., the Commander-in-Chief, the War Transport Member, the Finance Member, and so on.

Shri Sri Prakasa: They are all interested in food!

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: This Committee discusses things at a fairly high level. We have an inter-departmental committee, which meets once a week. This committee consists of the Secretaries of the Food, War, War Transport, Agriculture, Health, Finance, Political and Information Departments.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about Transport?

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: Yes, I have said Transport, and they come to far-reaching decisions. Things are decided there. I could give examples of the decisions taken but time won't permit. The steps we have taken to control the black markets were given out by the Honourable Mr. B. R. Sen in the speech which he made before the House last February. I need not go into them. Sir, last, but not least, we have succeeded in enlisting the full co-operation of the States. We had a conference of the Indian States. We had a conference with their Rulers and they have agreed to accept every detail of our policy and to carry it out in the interests of India as a whole.

Now, Sir, I submit this is not a mean achievement. I do not know what more can be done in the existing circumstances. We are trying, we are open to any suggestions, any ideas, that may come from any section of the House or from any member of the public.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Send more food to Chota Nagpur.

Mr. President: Order, order.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: I submit it is a little unfair to accuse the Food Department of lack of proper appreciation of the gravity of the situation. We are very conscious of it and we are doing our best. I do not think I have anything more to say except to thank the House for the general support they have given us.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, may I put one question? What is the Government doing in order to assure the growers a remunerative price? You refer the House again and again only to the Bengal Report.

The Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava: As I told my friend yesterday when he met me in conference, I have asked him to give me a note on his suggestions and I have undertaken to forward it to the Madras

[Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava]

Government as soon as the Ministry is formed. I must consult them and I shall abide by their views in the matter very largely.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Are the present Advisers no good?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Sir, I must apologise for inflicting myself on the House once again. I assure you no one could hate making a speech more than I do. But as I said before I am the only representative of a whole Province. They have not got a Muslim League Member and they have not got an unattached member and I would be failing in my duty both to you and my people if I did not bring to your notice some of the hardships and problems of the people of my Province.

Do not for a minute imagine that they are light things, because I talk on them lightly. You will have to take your frontiers seriously if you mean to have a safe free India. When you live in a community of robbers, the most important part of your house is not the drawing room but the boundary wall. It should be high and strong. We are living in a world that is ambitious and unscrupulous, that has an unquenchable thirst for possession and a strong stomach for blood—a world that is all claws and scales and hunger and appetite. In such a world the most important part of the country is not the capital but the frontier.

Now take a look at the four boundary walls that surround this national home of ours. On the north we have China torn and worn out, staggering and bleeding. You shake your head in sorrow and sympathy but you know that she cannot jump over the wall and break into your house.

An Honourable Member: Why not?

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: She cannot. If you turn south you see our long exposed coast line in the tender care of a handful of discontented sailors and an armful smart young WRENS. It does make one shudder but one feels that we do need protection there but not just now. We need not worry about danger from that side just yet.

Those little African and Asiatic Kingdoms and Colonies and republics and protectorates and trusts and what not are too small and poor to be a source of any anxiety to India.

On the East you have the same hotch-potch—Java, Malaya, Indonesia, Burma, Siam, Assam and what not.

Now turn to your West wall. Don't you see something to feel worried about. All along the wall you have the Tribal Belt, the most uncontrollable, the most inflammable and explosive substance in Asia. Here lives a free lancer, a soldier of fortune. The tribesman is not bound to you by anything. Economically, socially and morally you have no claims on his love, friendship and fidelity. You have never tried to know him. You have never bothered to help him. Beyond the tribes is the anaemic monarchy of Afghanistan which always looks with longing at the Karachi port. I thought my Honourable friend Mr. Yusuf Haroon would be interested in what I am saying.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I represent him here.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Afghanistan thinks that the Port of Karachi with the Indus river will make a better boundary line than the present boundary. But if wishes were horses every beggar would ride. We may have conveniently ignored Afghanistan a year ago but we cannot today, because we cannot ignore what is beyond Afghanistan—Russia.

Sir, being a Pathan I do not know the gentle arts rigmorale, camouflage and beating around the bush. So I will say plainly what I think about Russia.

Russia is strong, Russia is arrogant, Russia is full of wind and glory and Russia is going to expand until it bursts. She may call it defence, she may call it security, I do not care what. Russia has a message for the world and

plenty of tanks to convince the world of its truth. The Russian message is for the stomach, a promise to empty stomachs of fullness and plenty. Poverty is Russia's fifth column and India is very poor. Russia has come out of the war with a fanatic faith in her message and unshakable confidence in her power. Fanatics do not understand little things like boundaries, tradition and history and customs and rights. Otherwise they could not be fanatics. Russia is the aggressor today definitely. We would not like England to walk out just in time for Russia to walk in.

I have nothing much against the Russian message. I only object to it because it is Russian and not Indian. I would hate to have a mixture of frenzy and vodka mashed with Marx and Lenin pushed down my throat because Brother Stalin likes and thrives on it. I want India to develop her own destiny and if she works out a communistic solution I would be the first one to embrace it, because it will be India's solution, my solution—a cure suggested by my own history and instinct and experience for my growth. Nothing foreign is good, least of all ideas.

I also object to Brother Stalin's methods of defence. Imperialism is as damnable in the name of the poor man as it is in the name of a King. The only thing in which Stalin is different from Peter the Great are the mustachios. Today he feels Azerbaijan and the Dardenelles are essential for the defence of Russia; tomorrow he may feel the same way about Lahore and the Bay of Bengal. What then? It will be goodbye to Pakistan and "Long live Moscow". If you do not want that to happen, if you want India to grow in its own way, to work up for the realisation of its own dreams, you must bring the whole of India into a closely knit crackless mass. There should be no loose joints and no weak parts; otherwise there would be no resistance. You have to have mass volume bound together with a common will and a common hope to resist.

The Frontier Area which is your most vital part today is the most loosely attached also. The Pathan has no social, cultural or racial links with the rest of India. Strangely enough our only link is the rule of the Englishman. He brings you from Bombay and me from Peshawar to put up this Punch and Judy show. When he goes the bond will go. Why should I come then? That is the question.

Today the Englishman is sitting hard on you and also sitting hard on me. We are like prisoners in the same cage. We are working together because we both want to get out. We are straining, struggling, pulling and pushing together, making a common effort towards a common end. But once the cage is broken the justification for the common effort is gone: you go to your home and I go to mine. Why should we ever see one another again unless we have some common interest or profit, or better still common ideals and common hopes. That is the only basis of unity. That is the strongest chain for binding people. The six million and more Pathans—by the way, our beloved rulers do not even know the real number of their adoring Pathan subjects even to this day in spite of their ruling over us for 100 years and more, most of our population is estimated and you know what these gentlemen's estimates are—so I will say six million approximately, it might be more, because the tribes always give their number less as they are afraid of the evil eye of the British and now they have to come out with their true number because if they gave a less number they will get less cloth—So these six million Pathans are not only willing but anxious to have common hopes and ideals with the rest of India. But the question is: Is India willing to accept them? If you could do without us then I would not worry you. But if you cannot, then you must revise your whole estimate of the N.-W. F. P. I do not mean financial estimate; I mean moral estimate. You will have to convince us that you look upon us as a most vital and important part of India. You must help us come to your level economically, educationally and spiritually. The illiterate Pathan could not have a sustaining friendship with the learned pundit. I could not—even on my best waziri horse—keep pace with your aeroplane. An undeveloped Frontier Province in an industrialized India will not be a part of

[Khan Abdul Ghani Khan]

India but a victim of India. We would be shoved farther apart rather than brought closer together. The exploiter and exploited never love one another. If you want us to be one with you you must make us one with you—in education, development and prosperity.

Ours is the most illiterate province. We want schools, colleges, a University, technical education, lady doctors, teachers, hospitals.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Why lady doctors in particular?

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: Because the Pathan woman observes purdah. We have no industries although there is scope for hundreds of them. Our mountains are full of minerals but they cannot be dug out with bare hands. We are far behind everywhere and in everything, because we cannot afford to keep pace with you. We have had a great past and even now some beautiful traditions, but you cannot eat a great past and you cannot wear beautiful traditions. In short, Sir, if you want to protect your left boundary wall, the side that is the most exposed and the most threatened, you will have to make an effort to make us a real part of India. These half-hearted subsidies and subventions won't do. So far, all this money for the schemes is divided as so much per head. Now, there is a lot of difference in a Madras head and a Pathan head. The Madras head is educated, trained and advanced to a degree. The Pathan head is ignorant, undeveloped and backward. How could you treat them the same? You must take our peculiarities into consideration and give us special concession in the forthcoming schemes of development. Let the money be allotted according to necessity rather than numbers, so that at the end we will have a uniform, healthy and progressive India.

About the subvention that you give us yearly I have a proposal to make. A sum was mentioned by our Deputy Leader, Mr. Asaf Ali, a few days ago. Suppose instead of giving us a crore of rupees every year—for goodness knows how long—you give us a loan of twenty crores of rupees and discontinue the subvention. We shall pay it back in twenty years. We will have developed some industries on our side. I would take the responsibility of convincing my Province to accept the deal, if you would agree that it is the cheapest way out of it because you do not know for how long you will have to pay us. Twenty crores is nothing for India. In the India of tomorrow if you mean to do all these things that you talk about, twenty crores is a flea bite.

You must help us build ourselves. You must lend us money, help us earn and teach us how to spend. The Pathans are your first line of defence. Every help to the Frontier of India is a help towards the defence of India. A hospital or school built in the Frontier Province or the Tribal Territory will do more to defend India than a battleship or a bomber. Forget the old picture of the Pathan painted into your minds by the genius and effort of the Political Department. The job of the Political Department was to divide and break up, to scatter and to weaken. That is the natural and logical behaviour of any efficient foreign ruler. Otherwise he cannot rule. It is our job to unite, to strengthen, to build and defend our India. Therefore we must forget all those destructive images. We on our part will forget that the Government of India used us only as a training ground for its troops. The Commander-in-Chief, the Viceroy, and the dear, sweet, loving, gentle Christian, Winston Churchill, have all had their first taste of blood and glory and murder in the N.-W. F. P. Anyway we will forget all that. You were never given a chance to help us and we were never given a chance to make friends with you. It is because I feel that we might get an opportunity to create our own world very soon that I have said these few words which the Honourable the Finance Member will flick away with the charming complement and a friendly smile, as having nothing to do with the Finance Bill.

Here I might be allowed to tell you a financial incident. A big Khan from the Tribal Territory called on a very rich Khan of Hati. The Khan of Hati who was the richest in the Province wanted to talk of nothing else but money. He

turned to the poor but famous tribal Khan and enquired "How much money have you got?" The Tribal Khan got furious and said, "What? Ask me how many battles I have fought in, how many forts I have broken into, how many horses and rifles and younger soldiers I have? Do you think I am a shop-keeping bania that you ask me about money?" As I am a descendant of one of those I have no hesitation in admitting that I do not know anything about finance. But I think I know what is the most important part of a Finance Bill. It is the spirit of it, the path of its will and the goal that it intends to achieve. It does not really matter how you worship. The really important thing is what you worship. Looked at from this background that I have attempted to picture the Finance Bill appears to be the same sour old spinster with her face lifted and a little cleverly applied makeup by the Finance Member. I have much to say. But in view of the shortness of time I shall say only this. My Honourable friends, a period of test is upon us. You have told the country big things. You have painted before them a picture of a free, strong, powerful and prosperous India which the bad, cruel Englishman would not let you build. Now the Englishman is threatening to become invisible. The leaders must justify the effort and sacrifice at the end of the journey. You will have to give an account to your followers, of every drop of blood, every minute of torture. You must justify your principles. Only a technical freedom will not do. It might do for the man who has everything but it won't do for the millions who will have nothing but freedom. Freedom is a different thing to different people. To the hungry, food is freedom. To the poor, money is freedom. To the tortured, comfort is freedom. When you talk of freedom to the hungry, he naturally thinks that you are talking of food. When you talk of freedom to the poor man, he thinks that you are talking of comforts. And now when he hears that you have got your precious freedom for which you took his blood and his life, he will want his share, his bread, his comfort. You will have to give him not only bread and comfort but conviction and hope, if India is to live. You cannot fail. If you do, neither you nor India will live to lament the failure. The steps that I have suggested are a small effort in the right direction. They will convince a small but important section of your followers that you have not been telling them the lie all these years.

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.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces: Landholders):

At long last, Sir, I have got an opportunity to say just a few words. I assure you I shall not take more than a few minutes.

Much water has already flown on the Finance Bill; nevertheless we from this side of the House must register our dissent and say that this Finance Bill does not travel sufficiently far in favour of the poor and as such I must vote against the Bill. No provision has been made to subsidise food. In the last famine in Bengal, deaths were caused owing to two reasons: firstly, the lack of food, and secondly because the purchasing power of the poor man was at a low ebb; and it still remains the same. When prices are put down in general, they must also be put further down for the poor man: they must be prices at which a poor man can afford to purchase food at a certain rate and a well-to-do man can purchase that food at a higher rate. As such there must be some way of coming to the assistance of the poor man. You have subsidised nefarious anti-Indian propaganda in the name of war. You had M. N. Roy and you still have Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai at it. Sir G. S. Bajpai gets a fat sum and so on and so forth. Why cannot you subsidise the food of the poor man?

Thanks to my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar by his cut in Broadcasting, we have saved to the extent of Rs. 93 lakhs. I hope and trust the Finance Member will utilise this amount towards relieving the poor man by reducing

the rate on postcards, matches or salt. I would like to make a suggestion to abolish the Publications Division altogether and thus we can have a further sum of money for the relief of the poor. This Information Department has done intense anti-Indian propaganda towards Indian nationalism. In season and out of season, its one work has been to give India a bad name and to say that the Indian politicians have been doing all sorts of dirty work and so on. This Information Department does not need any consideration. It should be done away with by one stroke of the pen.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal, the Planning Member, found it impossible to get on with this bureaucracy: he was by far the only member who wanted to do a lot in the reshaping of things. His economic adviser said in a press statement that the atmosphere for economic planning of the right type did not exist because the outlook of the bureaucracy has not changed.

Sir, India is suffering at international conferences and she is not given a vote for the simple reason that if India is given a vote, England will make use of it. Russia and China and such other countries do not like India getting a vote because England will make use of it and not because India does not deserve it. So, if India gets freedom she will have an independent vote and she can utilise that vote according to her own wishes.

In the meanwhile I would suggest that Sir G. S. Bajpai should restrain himself. Instead of interesting himself in better things for instance, like our brethren in South Africa where he really could do a lot of good to his own people who are in imminent danger these days, Sir G. S. Bajpai is far more interested in trying Japanese War criminals. I shall read a few lines from the *Hindu* of the 28th February which says:

"Sir G. S. Bajpai took the initiative in moving a resolution for trying the Japanese War Criminals."

Now, I ask, what have we got to do with Japanese war criminals? We as a free country would like to have good relations with Japan. (*An Honourable Member*: Certainly.) We had nothing to do with the war; we have nothing to do with her war criminals. Why should Sir G. S. Bajpai, who is supposed to be our Agent and Ambassador and what not, go out of his way to suggest that the Japanese should be tried lock, stock and barrel? That is not his job. In my opinion this House would do well if it registered its dissent and asked the Government of India to withdraw him immediately. Instead of doing a service, he is doing an absolute disservice to his country . . .

Mr. President: The time limit may be remembered by the Honourable Member.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Quite so, Sir. I happen to be an unattached member and so I dare say you will kindly allow me some more time.

Then there is this Estate Duty Bill or if you prefer to call it, the death duty Bill. I do not know what to say about it—whether it is Sir Archibald Rowlands' parting kick or parting kiss—I do not know which—but I can tell you it will reduce every middle class family to poverty and it takes away the charm in looking forward to leaving something for ones children. It is said that this duty has been levied in England. Granted there are many things which an Englishman does and which we do not do or like here. In my humble opinion, when such a taxation is contemplated, would it not be better and right to leave that matter entirely to the future Government? This was first proposed in 1925 and surely there was no need to take it up again now. May be that some Honourable Member might have suggested it, but that does not mean that the Finance Member should have agreed to it and brought it up now.

In addition to this, there is to be taxation on agricultural lands. It will reduce the unfortunate land lord, if you like to call him that, to absolute poverty, and it will reduce the middle class man as well,—let alone the rich. In that connection, on the last occasion when I got a chance to speak I wanted

to say something about the schools and colleges to which zemindars and talukdars and princes were being sent. In my humble opinion the Government should do away with all such schools like the zemindars' schools and talukdars' schools and princes' colleges. In these colleges they teach us how to bend before an Englishman and they teach us to be snobbish and to look down upon our neighbour. Although I am an old student of the Mayo College, Ajmer and I call it my old institution, yet I think it is high time that the princes' and talukdars' and zemindars' schools and colleges are done away with . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member's time limit is now up.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Quite so, Sir. But since you have given me a chance, I must say a few words more. I very rarely get a chance . . .

Mr. President: The Honourable Member will bring his remarks to a close within a minute.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Sir, in 1932, when the salt tax was being discussed—I have got to end, Sir, if you insist, and so I am finishing—Mr. Churchill first uttered the word "Quit India." He said it long before we said it. Now, I will just read to your one little passage—it will be interesting.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: He is the salt of the earth.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Mr. Churchill in 1932, quoted by Mr. Edward Thompson in his book "The Reconstruction of India", said: here is what Mr. Churchill said:

"Far rather would I see every Englishman quit the country, every soldier, every civil servant embark at Bombay, than that we should remain clutching on to the control of foreign relations and begging for trading facilities, while all the time we were the mere cloak of dishonour and oppression."

This was said 14 years ago and we are a bit late in saying it now and as Mr. Churchill, their own leader, has said so, I also join and wish them God-speed in their departure.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I rise to oppose the motion and ask the House to throw out the Bill at this very stage. I am not doing it by way of a theatrical gesture as was pointed out by Mr. Siddiqi but for very good reasons and as I shall presently show they are not purely political.

To begin with, I may tell the Honourable the Finance Member that I have not been able to persuade myself to congratulate him for his rather clever performance, I call it deliberately clever because he did succeed in creating a favourable impression here and outside and in winning applause and bouquets for his new approach and honest effort. Sir, his charming personality and eloquent speech, particularly the introductory remarks did the trick. His almost pathetic statement that this was his first and last speech, his frank recognition of the existing state of deplorable conditions in India, so unusual in his predecessors and his earnest appeal to the leaders on this side of the House to take over responsibility had the desired effect and I am sure that Honourable Members on scrutinising the budget proposals must have felt greatly disillusioned and must have realised that the war against poverty and its allies, hunger, starvation, ill health, illiteracy, unemployment and under-nourishment had as much reality as the mango plant produced by the magician.

Now, coming to his first observation, that this was his first and last speech and the national government was going to be installed in a few weeks time. While reading the budget proposals in the light of this observation I was reminded of a very interesting and instructive story. Once upon a time the rains failed over a considerable area just as they have failed this year and there were conferences and consultations and it was decided to organise and hold a sacrifice, a *Yag*. The high priest while going to the sacrifice asked his young son, Rama, about five or six years old to accompany him and Rama before joining his father began to look for an umbrella. His father was astonished, rather annoyed at the delay and he asked him why he was wanting to bring an umbrella and the boy retorted and said—are not we holding the sacrifice for bringing down

rains. Shall we not have rain? Therefore we should have umbrellas. Sir, that boy Rama had greater logic and faith than the high priest and, shall I say, than our financial high priest, Sir Archibald Rowlands. I ask myself whether the budget to be framed by a national government will be of the same shape and structure as that presented by the Honourable the Finance Member. Will the salaries and allowances of the Honourable Members of the Government remain as high as at present and will the disparity between the salary of the lowest functionary in the Department and the highest officer still continue to remain as 1 to 400 as against 1 to 50 in one or two countries, which is the maximum. Then, Sir, again I ask myself whether the budget will be framed in the manner in which it has been framed now only to benefit a few at the cost of millions or to make the rich richer and to make the poor poorer, as is the characteristic of the present budget. Did the Honourable the Finance Member ask himself why his pathetic statement is not being believed by people outside, notwithstanding the speech of the Premier reinforced by the appeals from political leaders to have patience? Young India is sceptic about the Cabinet Mission and the reason is not far to seek. Is he not aware that many a time promises have been made and explained away? Promises made in the time of stress and strain were broken later on. Is he not aware of the English proverb—once bit, twice shy? In the case of India, it is not a case of being bitten once, twice or thrice. It is a question of having been constantly bled and even bled white, since the days of Warren Hastings and Clive to the days of Sir Jeremy Raisman and Sir Archibald Rowlands. I may tell the Honourable Member that the frame of mind in which young India finds itself is very well summed up in an Urdu couplet:

Uchak le shāhim to gham nahin hai qafas to kambakht toot jāi
Balā se kazzāq ā ke looten yeh pāebānon ki loot jāi

'I won't be sorry if I am pounced upon by an eagle but this wretched cage should be broken'. I won't mind if I am plundered by the robbers. I want that this looting by our protectors and guardians should end. That is the frame of mind in which young India has been driven. Therefore, I want the Honourable the Finance Member to bear that in his mind and we cannot accept the motion placed before us, so long as the existing conditions prevail.

Coming to another observation of his, namely his reference to our external and internal foes, so far as India is concerned our external foe imperialism still remains unliquidated and this imperialism has given birth to Nazism and Fascism. Not only that, it is imperialism which has been responsible for all the wars during the last 200 or 300 years in world's history. So long as imperialism remains, India will have to fight this external foe. As regards the internal foes which he referred to, they are but, the offspring of this external foe, that is British imperialism. Our poverty, our starvation, our ill health, our under-nourishment and unemployment, they have all been bred during the last 200 years of British rule in India and they have permanently entrenched themselves in the seven lakhs of villages of India. I should like the Honourable the Finance Member to tell me what provision he has made in his budget to attack these citadels of poverty, ill-health and squalor.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will tell you in my reply.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes, you will tell me in your reply. But I have to tell you something. I want to tell him that so far as this side of the House is concerned, nobody is more anxious to banish poverty from this land than we, on these benches. We belong to an organisation which has worked from its very inception for the amelioration of the masses. From Dadabhai Naoroji and Romesh Chandra Datt to Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru—the one particular concern of every leader and worker of the Congress has been to ameliorate the condition of the masses. I do not want to develop this point further. I want to tell him one thing more. Before the advent of the British rule in India, India was regarded as the richest country in the world. Is it not a fact that the fabulous riches of the country have attracted the forefathers of my Honourable friend to this land.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Not of the masses. Read history.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Now, it cannot be denied that India has become the poorest country.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: That is why they are leaving India now.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What I want to submit before the House is this. This budget is going to be worked by a national government or it is not going to be worked by a national government. If it is going to be worked by a national government, then it will have to be radically changed or altered beyond recognition. Therefore, we, on this side of the House, we the elected representatives of the people should not set our seal of approval on the proposals which the Honourable the Finance Member has brought before us. Let us see what he has done for these seven lakhs of villages. How do they fare in his budget? We find the tentacles of my Honourable friend, as the tax gatherer reaching the remotest hamlet. It is not possible to have a single morsel of food or even a pinch of snuff, nor even to have the slightest warmth of light without contributing to the coffers of my Honourable friend. Whether ill or well, whether employed or unemployed, he cannot but contribute to the tax gathering authorities.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Now, they are going to tax the dead man also.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: On the other hand what do we find? We find that the hand of my Honourable friend as the ministering angel does not stretch beyond the limits of cities and even in cities, it does not reach beyond the high strata of society. This budget does not give relief to more than seven lakhs of persons, while seven lakhs of villages and the poor in the city go uncared for and unreleived. There is the question of feeding these people, there is the question of clothing these people. There is the question of housing them. I may inform the House that my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga has been pleading for a remunerative price for the producer. Even today the Honourable the Food Member said he would consider any suggestion that may be placed before him by Prof. Ranga and then he will pass it on to the Government of Madras. It was a great concession, as if Prof. Ranga could not write to the Premier direct and that he would require the good offices of the Honourable Food Member. I was reading the other day "*Free Press of India*" or Bombay and I find an article which gives the high cost of distribution. Three instances are given. First the instance of wheat. The cost of wheat in Bombay is Rs. 14-4-0 per Bengal maund, while the Chicago price is Rs. 8-8-0, the price quoted in Canada is Rs. 7 per Bengal maund and the cost of freight could not be more than Rs. 2 per maund. Again there is question of the dal—*arhar dal*—that is quoted at Rs. 9-8-0 a maund, while it is selling at Rs. 21-5-0 per maund. Why this difference of Rs. 11-13-0. The railway freight and the loading charges could not be more than Rs. 1-6-0 per maund. What about rice which is being had from the district of Thana. The consumers have to pay Rs. 48 per bag of 32 *pailis* and the private distributors have to pay Rs. 45-7-0, while the Government acquires it at Rs. 28-6-0 per bag of 32 *pailis*. Why this difference? Then, you will see that the producer is getting even much less than the rates at which it is being acquired. There are other intermediaries. My Honourable friend Prof. Ranga has been urging on the Government since the opening of this session and even today the Honourable the Food Member had the temerity to say, in reply to Prof. Ranga's suggestion that he has done as best as he could. I say this is the way in which Honourable Members on the other side are behaving. The Leader of the House has paid them compliments. True as collaborators of an alien Government they are supposed to have done their best. But so far as India is concerned, they have done their worst. India will never forgive them for their acts. So much about food. Then what about clothing. We know that weavers are going idle. They have no yarn to weave, there are people who are naked without clothing. There are cloth dealers, but they have no cloth to sell. Here is a Government which says they cannot do anything to relieve them. They cannot import machinery from abroad, and therefore they cannot increase the number of spindles. The

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

weavers therefore cannot do any work. My submission is that any Government would have utilised the present opportunity for building up new industries in the country and also placing the old ones on a firm footing. This was not done by the Government. This is my charge against them. While in other countries, new industries have sprung up with Government assistance. Even in England, notwithstanding the war, by having food control, not only were people provided with necessary food, even during war time, the stature of Englishman has increased by half an inch.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: By serving in the army.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: At our cost.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: So far as India is concerned, our raw products were taken away by the Government. Raw products are our very life blood and they were allowed to be taken away abroad. What did we get in return? Nothing but paper currency here and credits abroad which credits are not going to be honoured at the time when we need them most.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Demonitise them.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Then, Sir, I am very particular about cottage industries. I have told you that these cottage industries were systematically destroyed by British imperialism in the interests of British trade and industry. The handloom industry, the spinning wheel and all other cottage industries were destroyed. This period of six years was a golden opportunity for re-organising these industries, but nothing has been done, with the result that people are starving today and have no employment and no clothes. These points have been suggested from these benches ever since 1935 when we first came to this House. It was the late Mr. Satyamurti, the Deputy Leader of my party who asked that every village in this country should be given an

assistance of Rs. 1,000, and that programme should be carried on 3 P.M. for at least five years. It was again suggested from these benches—I believe by Pundit Govind Ballabh Pant—that we should not be carried away by these orthodox consideration for framing budgets; we must raise a loan of 100 crores and finance these cottage industries and other industries. But nothing was done. With regard to cottage industries I put a question to find out how many persons in India are engaged in these industries and I was told that the information was not available.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Have you got it?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Yes; 55 million out of 400 million earn their living out of handicrafts. I want to know what they have done in this budget for handicrafts. You say you cannot get machinery from outside and if we do not get our sterling balances we will not suffer any great harm. On the other hand my information is that machinery is available in America. There are friends who have got letters to the effect that machinery can be had but because they have no dollars they cannot import the machinery. So if the British Government are not in a position to pay our sterling debts was it not the duty of the Finance Member to have raised a loan in America as other countries have done? Even the U.S.S.R. has gone to America to raise a loan; why was not a similar application made to the U.S.A. on behalf of India for raising a loan? At present we require these capital goods and that is only possible if we can have these sterling balances.

Then, Sir, there is so much talk about planning. What is being done for these cottage industries? There are so many panels set up in the Planning Department, but there is no panel for cottage industries. The National Planning Committee under the chairmanship of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was the first to initiate the work of planning in India covering all sectors of our national activities. The war and political developments interrupted the Committee's work. Subsequently the so-called Bombay Plan was prepared and published by a few industrialists. Towards the middle of 1944 the Department of Planning and Development was created with the blessings of Professor A. V. Hill, and Sir Ardeshir Dalal who was one of the signatories to the Bombay

plan became the Member. The Department was inaugurated with a bang and boosted sky-high. Many amorphous talks in vague generalities of planning followed. When Sir Ardeshir Dalal resigned the public were greatly disillusioned. Even the Department was not effectively planned, leave alone the question of actual planning. Professor C. N. Vakil's statement exposed the planning farce. He said:

"The planning machinery was fundamentally wrong in conception and defective in execution. Most of the planning was done outside the Department of Planning and Development than within it; the Department was supposed to co-ordinate plans made by others besides making industrial plans, but it did not have the necessary power and authority either to direct planning by other governmental agencies or to co-ordinate planned activities effectively. This resulted in a bewildering multiplicity of so-called plans without a uniform policy of common purpose."

Sir, I will not take any more time over this Planning Department. I have only to say that the most significant aspect of the present industrial planning is that panels have been formed to plan development but no panel for the cottage industries has been set up which can solve many of our economic losses, if we would only promote spinning and weaving, etc., on a nation-wide scale.

My Honourable friend Mr. Siddiqi said that because we have passed the demands it does not lie in our mouth to reject the Finance Bill. Sir, I do not agree with that view. As a matter of fact, the manner in which these demands are brought before us and the way they are discussed is a sufficient justification for our throwing it out at the consideration stage. We have passed all the 86 demands in four days, and it was all done in 15 hours; which means that for each demand we got not more than 10 minutes. So it is a fact that these demands could not be considered and scrutinised properly, and therefore that fact should not deter us from rejecting the Finance Bill. As a matter of fact it was through a clerical error that the demand for external publicity was not included in our cut motion. What happened was that my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar asked the party office to include some items in the cut which would come to 1 crore and 15 lakhs. But the office clerk calculated these heads and put down 93 lakhs and left the rest. As a matter of fact, the External Publicity Affair deserved the axe more than anything else.

Sir, I will refer to a pamphlet called "*India Tells The World*" which is a confidential document and meant for official use only. There it is said:

"The Kuomintang and Congress have much in common. They are both a kind of quasi-totalitarianism,—a kind of oriental fascism. Both have as their rallying cry opposition to a real or hypothetical enemy. The enemy of the Kuomintang was formerly western imperialism, but it is now the Japanese. Both tend to hold their leaders above reproach with the result that in both countries there are reactionary and dictatorial plans which appeal to the privileged few and to the masses for quite different reasons."

Sir, I will conclude by quoting my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League party who said last year while opposing the Finance Bill:

"Mr. President, the policy of the Muslim League with regard to the Finance Bill has been consistently uniform since 1941. We have always opposed the measure on the ground that so long as we have no real share in the power and authority of the Government, we cannot take the responsibility of placing funds at their disposal to be spent in any way that they may like. Some people seem to be under the impression that the Muslim League has changed its policy with regard to this matter only since the presence of the Congress party in this House. It is not so. The number of votes or the result of division is not the consideration with the Muslim League. If we believe in a principle we stand by it irrespective of the fact whether the votes are a dozen or whether they are one hundred."

If there were good reasons for throwing out the Bill last year there are greater reasons for it this year. There was an appeal made by my Honourable friend last year that the Finance Member should take the party leaders into confidence; that was not done. This year while the Finance Member expects that these leaders will take office he did not have the courtesy to consult them. It means that the appeal made by my Honourable friend last year has not been heeded. Sir, I oppose the Bill.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (Labour Member): Mr. President, I must at the outset thank you for the opportunity that you have given me to intervene in the discussion on the Finance Bill. Sir, I say so because the points on which I propose to dwell are not points which refer to the Labour Department of which I am in charge. In fact, so far as the discussions on the Finance Bill have gone, I am glad to say that no serious comment has been made against that Department. But I rise because I feel that my Honourable friend, Pandit Govind Malaviya, yesterday in speaking on the Finance Bill made certain observations with regard to the project of a college for the scheduled castes. Sir, ordinarily that matter I should have left in the hands of the representative of the Education Department to deal with because that project was examined by them and the Finance Department sanctioned it. All the part that I have played was to initiate the measure. But, Sir, the reason why I have thought it necessary not to leave the defence of that project in the hands of the representative of the Education Department is because I find that in presenting the case against that project I think my Honourable friend sought to give it a political colour. It is because of this that I have risen today to reply to the comments that he made.

My Honourable friend started by saying that he was amazed at the project, and when I read his speech I found that the amazement which he felt was based upon his understanding that this was nothing but the introduction of a sectarian spirit in the educational field. Sir, there is a proverb, and a very well known proverb, that a man who lives in glass houses should not throw stones. I wonder whether my Honourable friend, Pandit Malaviya, recognizes this fact. I am far more than amazed—I am astonished—that Mr. Malaviya should have risen up in his seat to preach nationalism to me or to any Member of this House. It is not a new thing to anybody that, so far as his personal habits are concerned, I think it is true to say that he will not even take water not only from an ordinary Hindu but I know he will not take water even from a Brahmin of another caste.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He does equal justice!

Shri Sri Prakasa: Even Brahmins can be stupid!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: His ideals, if I may say so, are the ideals of a rat who believes that in order to keep his personal purity he must live in a hole by himself without any contact with any human being. And I should have thought that a man who believes in that kind of a thing should certainly think twice before talking against sectarianism or preaching nationalism to the people of this country. I should have thought that he ought to have known that he was or he is a great deal concerned with an institution which we all know as the Benares Hindu University. If it is not a sectarian institution, I would like to know what is a sectarian institution. Sir, I know and I can say that this University is not even a Hindu university; it is a University which is managed by the members of a single community—I shall not particularize it—and is managed in the interest of that particular community. I would like to ask my Honourable friend whether it is not a fact that on the staff of the Benares Hindu University there are hardly any non-Brahmins.

An Honourable Member: There are.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I would like to ask him whether there is not a standing resolution of the Benares Hindu University Court passed in 1916 whereby a non-Brahmin, no matter how well he is educated in Hindu dharma (in Hindu Law) is not entitled to function as a Professor of Hindu Religion. I would like to ask him whether he has forgotten that only a few months ago a Kayastha girl had to go on fast because she was refused admission in the Benares Hindu University in the Faculty of Theology. If that is not sectarianism, I would like to ask what it is.

As I was reading the proceedings of the debate yesterday, I found my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, uttering an exclamation, which is recorded by the Official Reporter, on a separate college for the Scheduled Castes. I wonder whether he is aware of what has recently happened in that town of Salem. He probably is forgetful of it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not know.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Or he is so much preoccupied with politics that he did not know what his own community members are doing. I like him to peruse the papers of the 'Hindu' of Madras, not of some past year but of the 12th of this month. He will find that Salem Brahmans met in a solemn conclave for the purpose of establishing a Brahman Sangh, for the purpose of protecting the interests of Brahmans, for the purpose of starting a college for Brahmans, for the purpose of starting industries for Brahmans. And who was the President of that Conference? The great man Sachivotama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayer.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Your erstwhile colleague.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I do not know. When everybody in this country while talking of nationalism is practising sectarianism...

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am sorry for both.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: ... for Members to come here and to tell a struggling community like that of the Scheduled Castes, who for the first time in their life have become conscious of their disabilities and are trying to found educational institutions in which they will be able to get higher education that they are acting in a sectarian spirit to my judgment is nothing short of impudence. I would like to tell this House that it is complete misnomer to say that this is a Scheduled Caste college. It is a college which like any other college is open to every community. There is no bar to any body.

Pandit Govind Malaviya (Allahabad and Jhansi Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What is stated in the Budget?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Budget was before you for full one month, and you ought to have put a short notice question to ask for full details before you got up to oppose it. Now, as I said this is an institution which is open to every community. The college is not only open to all but the staff selected is also cosmopolitan. There are Hindus, there are Brahmans, there are non-Brahmins, there are Parsis, there are Christians, there are Muslims on the staff. And I like to tell the House that when the affiliation application came before the University of Bombay they had not the slightest hesitation to granting affiliation. In fact it was admitted that there was never such a project placed before the University of Bombay during all these years so well thought out. And if I may say so, this is the first instance in the whole history of the Bombay University where permission has been given to start a full-fledged college at the start. This is because, the organisation, the staff and the arrangements have been so good. The College therefore is in no sense a Scheduled Caste College. The only thing which the College will do so far as the Scheduled Castes are concerned is to give them preferential treatment in the matter of admissions and freeships and reservation in the hostel. I like to tell the House why the establishment of this college became necessary. Honourable Members are probably not aware that the Bombay Province at present is suffering from a terrible congestion of the student population. My Honourable friend, sitting opposite, Mr. Gadgil, will know that during last year nineteen new colleges were allowed to be opened by the Bombay University. That shows how difficult it is for boys to get admission. The Scheduled Castes boys suffered the most from this congestion because the Scheduled Caste boys after passing their matriculation were not able to get their admission in the different colleges. I therefore represented the matter to the Government of India that there should be an institution whose primary function should be to give preferential treatment to these boys. There is nothing else in this project which may be called sectarian or which may be called communal.

[Dr. B. R. Ambedkar]

Now, Sir, there was another matter which my Honourable friend introduced, and I am at a loss to understand why he introduced it. He introduced politics and he said that so far as the elections were concerned, I was a wash-out. I do not know what he wanted to convey. But I believe what he wanted to do was to give a hint that I should not have been listed to by the Government of India, or some such thing, which I do not know.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Don't you?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Well, Sir, from what has happened in the elections it may be said that I am now a withered plant. But I like to tell my Honourable friends opposite that I am not dead at the roots. Not at all. My Honourable friend talked about the results of the election. He said that the Scheduled Caste seats were won by the Congress. Yes, they were. But what I like to ask my Honourable friend is, does he care to examine the ways and means by which this victory was obtained by the Congress?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We are ready!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I would like to tell my friend of the ways and means that were adopted.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The usual accusation!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is not the usual accusation. It is a matter of proof which can be put to the test.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do not tread on doubtful ground!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend ought to know that in many places the Untouchable voters have not been allowed to go even to the polls. I am referring to a case in the Satara District, which ought to be familiar to many Members of this House because in that district there was in existence what is called a parallel government. The Schedule Caste voters from 961 villages were taken to the village Katcheri by the Hindu villagers. They were asked whether they were prepared to vote for the Congress candidate. When they refused, they were asked to sit in the Katcheri and a watch and ward was kept around them. They were not allowed to move. I can give many cases.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Yes? please do!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Even the candidates of the Scheduled Caste opposed to the Congress were assaulted. Take a nearer case like that of Agra which has happened only recently. Fifty houses of the Untouchables were burnt on the day of election. Some twenty houses were looted in the absence of the voters who had been to the polls. In Cawnpore seven persons were murdered.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Who looted?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Hindus. Those are the ways and means by which these elections have been won. (Interruptions). I would like to tell my Honourable friend that the test whether the Congress has won these seats, or whether the Scheduled Castes Federation, which I represent, has won these seats, is to be decided not by the final elections. It would be stupid to do so. In a final election where the Untouchables sometimes form a microscopic minority of 5 per cent. as against a majority of 95 per cent. Hindus, it would be idiotic for any man to think that the final election was any test as to who represented whom. The real test is the test of the primary election. For the primary election is an election through a separate electorate of the Scheduled Castes. What has happened in the primary elections? Let me give my friends opposite some idea of the results of the primary elections. In the Punjab there were three constituencies in which a primary election took place. In Bombay there were also three constituencies in which primary elections were held.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Out of how many?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Let me finish.

Mr. President: Let him proceed.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: In the Central Provinces there were four. In the Madras Presidency ten, in the United Provinces two. (Interruption). If my Honourable friend wants to know the fact, he ought to know that a primary election is not compulsory. Unless five people stand there cannot be a primary election and no Scheduled Caste wants a primary election because it involves a lot of expense and we have no black market money to finance it. (Interruptions). In all there have been 22 primary elections. They were all contested by the Congress. I want to tell the House that out of the 22 primary elections, 19 have been won by the Scheduled Castes Federation.

Diwan Chaman Lall: How many in the Punjab?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Wait a minute. In the Bombay Presidency—I cannot give the whole lot of figures because my time is short . . .

Pandit Govind Malaviya: It may go against you!

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: In the Bombay City there were two constituencies in which the primary election was fought. One was the Byculla constituency. The Scheduled Castes Federation candidate got 11,334 votes and the Congress candidate got 2,096 votes. In the Suburban Constituency of Bombay City the Scheduled Castes Federation candidate got 12,899 votes and the Congress candidates got only 2,088. In the Central Provinces—I again take two constituencies for illustration . . .

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The black market did not prevail.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: In the Nagpur constituency the Scheduled Castes Federation got 1,933 votes and the Congress candidate got 270. In Bhandara District the Federation candidate got 3,187 and the Congress candidate, including others who were independent, got altogether 976. In the Agra constituency in the United Provinces the Scheduled Castes Federation candidate got 2,248 while the Congress and others put together got only 840. In the Punjab, Ludhiana—Ferozepur Constituency, I am taking one as an illustration—the Scheduled Castes Federation got 1,900 votes and the Congress got only 500.

Diwan Chaman Lall: There was no Scheduled Caste candidate in the Punjab.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Will my friend let me go on. I know more about these matters than I think he does.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend knows there was not one single candidate.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The Scheduled Castes Federation who . . .

Diwan Chaman Lall: It is a tissue of lies.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend will withdraw it. Sir, I seek the protection of the Chair.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I challenge my friend to deny the fact that there was not a single candidate of his Federation put up in the Punjab.

Mr. President: Order, order. It is no use introducing heat in the debate when the Honourable Member is giving the facts. The point was raised and the reply was invited and whatever he has to say must be heard patiently. I am not concerned with the question as to whether what he said is a fact or not but no Honourable Member of the House is entitled to or can say that what the other Honourable Member was saying was "a tissue of lies".

Diwan Chaman Lall: I withdraw it, Sir, and substitute for it "a tissue of terminological inexactitudes".

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will give one constituency from Madras, viz., Amalapuram. The Federation candidate got 10,540 votes and the Congress candidate 2,683. That is the result of the primary election and I say that if anybody wants to apply an honest test, that test ought to be the test of the primary election. I want to tell my Honourable friends opposite that if what they have done in this election is of any value, it has to my mind substantiated and proved the case which I have been fighting for, that the electoral system is a humbug and that the Scheduled Castes must have separate electorates.

My Honourable friend, Pandit Malaviya, tried to make out another point. He said that the Hindu community has been taking interest in the Scheduled Castes and that they could subscribe a great deal of money for the moral and material advancement of the Scheduled Castes. Sir, I do not know

Pandit Govind Malaviya: On a point of order, Sir: May I know from you that if an Honourable Member of this House goes on misrepresenting and misquoting and stating utterly wrong facts about any other Member, who has already spoken and who is not likely to get a chance to reply to or expose those misstatements and terminological inexactitudes, may I know from you what is the way open to the other member to meet that situation?

Mr. President: The question is hypothetical and I do not think I need take the trouble of replying to it. But statement of facts is one thing and version is another and the Honourable Member need not confound versions with facts.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Sir, I was dealing with the point which my Honourable friend made in the course of his speech that the Hindu community was taking a great deal of interest in the welfare and the material and moral advancement of the Scheduled Castes. All that I would like to say is that if one were to judge by what happens within the four corners of this House, I think it would be very difficult for any honest man to subscribe to the statement that my Honourable friend has made.

I have been, it is true, a member of this House for a very short time but I have been a very regular reader of the proceedings of this House and there is nothing about this House which I have not read, which is worth reading. And, Sir, having regard to the past, I think it is correct to say that it is very seldom that any member of the Opposition has ever asked any question of any member of the Government sitting here with regard to the many atrocities, tyrannies and oppression that have been practised upon the Scheduled Castes in every village from day to day. I have not seen it in the proceedings. I have never seen any Honourable Member moving a resolution

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You would say that it is a Provincial subject.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: that certain things might be done for the uplift of the community. There was one occasion which I remember, in which Honourable Members opposite made a bold bid in order to abolish untouchability. I believe it was in the year 1932 or 1934, I forget exactly which

An Honourable Member: 1933.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: when a Bill was brought in for temple entry. And what a hullabaloo was made when the Viceroy refused to give his sanction. Men went on fasts and threatened to commit suicide if permission was not given to introduce the Bill. And when permission was given what happened? What happened was that these gentlemen threw away the Bill. They disowned it. They left Mr. Ranga Iyer with the baby in his hand. He abused them roundly for having betrayed him. There were only two occasions I remember when the question

An Honourable Member: You have not read the debates.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have read every thing about what happened in this House. I find only two occasions when this House discussed the question of the Scheduled Castes. One was in the year 1916 when Mr. Maneckji Dadabhoy, now the President of the other House, moved a resolution asking the Government to appoint a committee to investigate into the grievances of the Scheduled Castes and if my Honourable friend opposite who started this debate were to brouse into the proceedings of that debate, he will find that it was his father who turned out to be the most vehement opponent of that resolution. The other occasion was in 1927, that was when the late Lord Birkenhead happened to refer to the Scheduled Castes as a minority to be protected under the constitution. My friends opposite are very fond of me only when I try to make a political issue of my existence. If I ask for separate electorates, if I ask for reservation in the services, if I ask for an educational grant, then they know that I exist. Otherwise I am dead to them

An Honourable Member: Nothing.

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: and all social and political rights are denied to me because they say that I am a Hindu. If fraternity is to involve this cost, then I say that I am their cousin and not their brother.

The other thing that I would like to say is this and I would like to say it very positively. I want to tell my Hindu friends that I shall not live on their charity. I do not want their charity. I am a citizen of this country. I am entitled to claim from the Government Treasury whatever rights and benefit every other community is claiming for itself. I do not want charity; charity, the object of which is to enslave and demoralise me and my community. The Scheduled Castes want to stand on their rights and I take this opportunity to tell the House that if their claims are met with opposition, they will not hesitate to shed their blood in order to get their rights.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: May I, Sir, have two minutes just to give a personal explanation regarding the personal aspersions which have been made against me by the Honourable Member who has just resumed his seat? I shall just need two minutes.

Mr. President: What is the personal aspersion?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: Everybody has heard it. Like the man who has a bad case the Honourable Member has done very little except abusing us.

Mr. President: But what is the personal aspersion?

Pandit Govind Malaviya: The personal aspersion is as to what I would do and what I would not do in my personal habits and life and therefore that I am not in a position to speak on nationalism or take a straightforward attitude about things.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is arguing. What is the personal aspersion? He can deny that aspersion. He may say that he is not doing those things in personal life and the matter ends.

Pandit Govind Malaviya: May I have a couple of minutes to say that? The Honourable Member said a number of things about myself and about the Benares Hindu University which are absolutely baseless and wrong. I need not repeat that they are terminological inexactitudes. I would simply say they are utterly unworthy, baseless and wrong. We have not been trained, and we have not got the habit of unnecessarily making personal attacks.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has taken two minutes and the personal explanation is given.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): Mr. President, as I rise to speak on the Finance Bill and as I remember that in these discussions we are concerned not merely with the dull technicalities of finance but with the whole field of administration and with every aspect of public policy, my thoughts necessarily travel to a distant country and a remote period. I remember how in my own country, when the knights from the shires and the burghers from the boroughs were first summoned to grant supplies to the king, they laid down one inflexible principle, the principle that redress of grievances must precede grant of supplies. In that principle lay the germ not only of the liberties of England but of those very considerable liberties which we in this country are already enjoying and the very full liberty which India is about to attain. We in this House, and still more those who will follow us in the first sovereign legislature or legislatures of this country, will be in a very real sense the spiritual and the spiritual heirs of those sturdy Englishmen who first hammered out the functions of the parliamentary system of government. This practice of making the Finance Bill an opportunity for consideration of administrative problems seems to me to be particularly appropriate today when we stand at the parting of ways. We stand at the close of an epoch of administration, and it is equally appropriate that we should seek to review the past on the one hand, and on the other try to face up to these problems which will be the first to confront the new government of this country. I want to deal in particular this afternoon with two problems with which, it seems to me, the new government will have to grapple without delay.

The first of these problems is the problem of eradicating corruption. When I speak of eradicating corruption I am not merely thinking of some temporary measures to deal with the evil which is now so rampant. I am thinking of something deeper than that. I am thinking of building up the social sense and of strengthening the administration in such a way that the kind of orgy of corruption which we see throughout the country today will become impossible. I am not suggesting that corruption is new or that corruption is a commodity of which India has a monopoly. As long as greed and dishonesty are found amongst human beings, corruption will show its ugly head from time to time throughout the world; but as a rule, and in most countries, corruption is, and to some extent must be, checked by restraints of various kinds. There are external restraints, restraints imposed by the law, and internal restraints, restraints imposed by conscience and by public opinion. But from time to time, in one part of the world or another, those restraints seem to be relaxed and corruption then flares up in a most virulent form. At such times special remedies have to be applied to deal with it. Today we are in this country at a stage where corruption has reached unparalleled heights. One of the first things that we have to do, and one of the first things which the new government will have to do, will be to find out how to deal with corruption. Let us first get quite clear in our minds what we mean by corruption. I am not thinking of petty tipping, of the fact, for instance, that every time an official receives a visit some chappassi has to be paid Rs. 2. I am not thinking of that. Heaven knows, I took it seriously enough in my youth and tried hard enough to stamp it, but I always failed. I realize now that that is not the kind of corruption that really matters. That is not the kind of corruption that shakes the foundations of society, that destroys public morale. The kind of corruption which is destroying the body politic and which we have to root out, is the kind of corruption that is taking place today in one or two ways which I will illustrate just now. Look round anywhere in this country. What do you find? You will find men who were never dealers in cloth getting licences as cloth dealers, because they have paid money, men who have no storage capacity obtaining storage licences for grain—It is happening not in one province but in every province. You will find officials in police stations levying a species of Dane geld month by month from black-marketeers and profiteers for granting immunity to those offenders.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are high officials also guilty?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Of course include high officials. This is the kind of corruption which has to be stamped out if freedom, if self-government, is to mean anything to this country. We do not want to live in a country which is only nominally self-governed, on which only self-government will be in name only because the real government will be in the hands of the black-marketeers and the profiteers. Surely, the stamping out of corruption must be one of the very first tasks to which the new government will have to address itself. I speak with some feeling on this matter because for about a year I was concerned with this task in one province not very long ago. I admit that in spite of the utmost vigilance on my part and in spite of many days devoted to this problem, I failed. I knew to a very great extent who the culprits were, but for reasons which I will tell you presently I failed to catch them. I want to examine briefly what are the causes of corruption and consider equally briefly today what we can do about it. Some of the causes are obvious. The war with its two-fold effect of increase in expenditure and, at the same time, a necessary relaxation of treasury control, was necessarily a cause. That was followed by that dilution of the civil service, which had the same effect on the civil service as dilution has in any profession. In normal times the higher ranks of the civil services are filled by tried men of proved integrity. When war comes, the governmental organisation has to be expanded tenfold or twentyfold. Temporary Government servants have to be taken in. Unknown, untried men have to be put in positions of responsibility and they have before them the great temptation arising from the fact that they are in their jobs only for a short time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Don't blame them alone.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I am not trying to allot the blame. I am much more concerned with discovering the truth than with allotting the blame.

I come next to the second contributory cause, namely the very large number of controls which became necessary because of the shortages. If there is one thing which is true in this country it is that for every control you introduce there goes along with it a body of corruption. My friend, Mr. Tyson, spoke the other day of the glorious army of controllers. Everyone of them has with him a large section of camp followers who live by battenning on the public. Where you have controls there you will have, and you do have, corruption. What can we do about all this? It seems to me that there are two or three things which we can do. The first is of course the speedy restoration of strict treasury control. There can be no doubt, and I am sure the Honourable the Finance Member will agree with me, that strict treasury control is the foundation of the integrity of public service. We do press that that control should be restored as speedily as possible.

The second remedy would seem to me to be the speediest possible contraction of the bureaucratic machine. It cannot be done all at once, but just as fast as it can be done let us get rid of all these extra temporary people; let us get back to the permanent frame work of the civil service.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Associate the public with them at every stage.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Of course; that should apply to every act of Government.

Then the third thing we can do is, as speedily as possible, to get rid of these various controls. They cannot go all at once: you cannot get rid for example of all rationing controls; there are many controls that have to continue; but let there be a systematic examination of all existing controls with a view to finding out which must be kept and which can go; and as for every control that can go, let it go as fast as possible, because we in this House know that controls in practice mean corruption.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Particularly self-control.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: That, I hope, some day my Congress party friends will cultivate. Having taken these preliminary steps, there remains still something of a somewhat different character, which has to be done if we are to deal with

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beginning to emerge from his work. Why should there not be a Rowlands Committee here, a committee to examine searchingly in all aspects the administrative mechanics? When the Honourable Finance Member hands over his heavy and unpleasant charge to his successor, why should he not stay on special duty and do the examination himself? But if he is not willing to do that—and I mean this suggestion in all seriousness—do let us have some first class brain, assisted by other first class brains, getting down to this business of finding out what can be done to improve the administrative machine

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We shall certainly find these first class brains in India.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Of course you can. I really cannot understand why my friend Professor Ranga is so frightened of a simple thing like that, that he has to tell me on the floor of the House that there are first class brains in India. (Interruptions.)

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If I may interrupt my Honourable friend, is it a first class brain, not another first class brain?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: That was merely a slip on my part. I meant another first class brain.

I must pass on from this point; but there are other aspects of the mechanism which seem to require examination. I believe that when the committee gets down to brass tacks they will find—though I know my friends will not believe it—they will find that in the highest grades of the civil services—secretaries, deputy secretaries, joint secretaries and the like—the ranks are far too thinly manned. I say that from some personal experience. In many Departments of the Government of India today, there are not enough responsible officers to do the job. I won't enter into details because that is a matter which the Committee I am suggesting will have to go into.

[At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair, which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

Then there is another question germane to this—are we building up our services on the right pattern. Take, for example, my own late service, the Indian Civil Service. I am not now thinking of political or racial issues but I am thinking of the technical and administrative aspect of the matter. How should we build up the pattern of service that is required? The essence of the I. C. S. is the man who joins as an youngster and is trained as a general administrator. His main job for some years is in a district and then he is switched, more or less by accident, to one department or another to deal with whatever particular section of Government happens to fall to his lot. That was all right in the old days when administration was fairly simple, when any man with a good brain and general experience could tackle the problems of almost any department but it has ceased to be all right now that the work to be done is infinitely complicated and requires specialised knowledge. I am inclined to think that the time has come when, at any rate for most posts, we should get away from any kind of general administrative cadre and should have cadres of specialists or cadres of men, who like the Civil Service, in Britain enter a department as youngsters and spend their lives in it. Here again these are questions with regard to which I cannot dogmatize, but they are questions that I want to see examined by the committee I have in mind. I would like that committee also to consider the question as to whether an open competitive examination is really the right way of recruiting civil servants or not. I personally have always doubted it. I do not believe there is any necessary co-relation between ability to do the differential calculus or to write a piece of Sanskrit verse and administrative ability. I think it is the experience, both here and in the U. K. Civil Service, that what you tend to get in the civil service is plenty of brains but a lack of personality and dynamic qualities and it may well be that the system of recruitment under which we operate at present is a contributory cause

of that state of affairs. These are some of the many points which it seems to me ought to be examined at a very early opportunity by some committee of the kind that I have described and I do hope that Government will find it possible to consider this suggestion, and if they agree with it, to implement it at a very early date.

There is one branch of the administration to which I must turn briefly and that is publicity and I must say that I myself was infinitely distressed at the cut which this House effected the other day in some of the most valuable parts of the Government's publicity machine, I felt that when this House decided to dispense with the Indian films of information, it was cutting off its nose to spite its face. I would like to tell the House something about the origin of that organisation. I can speak from personal knowledge because I was one of those concerned with its inception. It was built up originally with the idea of being of assistance in spreading knowledge of facts about the war but before it had been in existence very long, we realised that it had very much wider possibilities than that. Just at that time when we were beginning to think of using the films as a means of prestige publicity for India, there came to the helm of the Information and Broadcasting Department that grand old man, Sir Akbar Hydari, the father of the present Member and day in and day out Sir Akbar began to press on me the fact that even more important than war publicity was prestige publicity for India. He was never tired of saying to me—that we must get these films developed on right lines, as a means of showing to the world what India really is. We began to try to do this. At first we failed because our technique was not good enough. As time went on we learnt to improve our technique and we developed an effective means of showing the rest of the world what India is like. A few weeks ago I happened to be at home in my own country and I saw some of these films being shown to British audiences. In particular I saw one of them being shown to an audience of British workmen and one of those men, after having seen the film called 'Our Heritage' came to me afterwards and said "I did not know that India was like that. I thought it was all jungle and tigers. Now I see that it is a place of great beauty and civilisation. That man then turned the tables on me and asked this question. "If India is a country of that kind, so great and so civilised, why cannot it govern itself?" That is the kind of effect which our prestige publicity films produce when they are shown abroad. I do entreat my friends of the Congress Party to think again about this matter, to see whether they can devise some means by which this most creative and valuable vehicle of publicity can be replaced and then to discuss with Government what scheme can be devised to allow, even now, the effects of that cut to be negated. If my friends of the Congress Party are willing to do that, I am sure—though I have no authority for saying this—that Government will go a long way to meet them and devise some formula by which it can be done. (An Honourable Member: "This is all counter propaganda"). I ran these films for two years.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You were the head of it. You did not do it freely.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: My friend Mr. Ranga has a great gift for misunderstanding and misinterpreting. He tells me that I did not do it freely. What would he say if when I was working with the Information and Broadcasting Department I paid no attention to the Member if I had gone on my own policy irrespective of his wishes? In fact it was a co-operative effort, an effort which was inspired by the vision of that grand old man Sir Akbar Hydari. I am anxious that some way should be found for restoring this instrument which can be made to serve as a powerful means of enhancing the prestige of India. (An Honourable Member: "It was all abused".)

So far I have been talking of subjects about which I have some special knowledge. I now turn to a matter with regard to which, in comparison with my Indian friends I am as ignorant and innocent as a new born baby. I mean that tortuous and sometimes unhappy subject of Indian politics. I may remind the House that the Group of which I am the leader has consistently given its

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support to the proposals for complete self-government for India since their inception and I may remind this House of a declaration which I made many years ago, speaking from a seat further back on these benches. I said that if any Government either in this country or at Home resiled from the promise contained in the Cripps Offer, that is the promise that India should have her own Government framed by herself if any Government here or at home went back from that promise I would join the Opposition or, if I were allowed to, I would lead it. I did not make that statement lightly. Nor did I make it in the fear that circumstances would arise which would force me into that strange political conjunction which I had described. I made it because I was confident that the British people were inflexibly determined to see this country governing itself. I have been twice home since then and what I have seen and heard there has only confirmed my belief that the people of Britain are determined once and for all that this country is to govern itself further confirmation of this has been afforded by the statements that have been made here yesterday, and a few days before in London, with regard to the British Cabinet Delegation. We in this Group stand completely behind the intentions and purposes of that delegation. In our view that attainment, without delay of complete self-government by this country is essential to peace and progress and to all we hold dear. Our position in this country will be that of traders working in collaboration with our Indian business colleagues and we believe and we know that we shall be welcomed. We are not prepared to be expropriated. I shall not discuss that in detail today. I just state it as a fact—and we know that responsible leaders of political opinion do not wish that such expropriation should take place. What you want is, what we want is, and what every sensible man wants today, is not so much dissociation, but increasingly close association; everything that can be done to draw our two countries closer together is urgently required at this moment. After all taking a rational view, getting away from the temporary excitement of political discussions, there is nothing in the past relations between our two countries which ought to make it difficult for us to draw together in ever closer association. I know that in the heat of political debate, bitter and acrimonious things are said, but I am equally confident that when this transition stage is over, when my Honourable friends on those Benches have the destinies of this country in their hands, I am confident that they will look back and recognise that on the whole, with some exceptions, Britain's record in this country is one of just and humane government. I cannot stop to prove this thesis. I state it as a fact. I, for my part, am satisfied after a not inconsiderable study of history, that never in the history of a foreign rule, has any foreign ruler governed a country with such justice and with such humanity. I am not arguing the question as to whether one country ever ought to govern another—in 1946 there is no room for two opinions about that. Because we are of the same opinion as other Honourable Members here, we lend our full support to the speedy transfer of power from Britain to India.

Finally, I would like to end by pleading that the utmost possible effort should be made to strengthen and maintain good will between our two countries during the forthcoming weeks. Those Cabinet Ministers who have come here to wrestle with problem of framing a new constitution, have before them a task of complexity, delicacy and incredible difficulty. Whether they can succeed in that task or not depends not primarily on them but on us. To a great extent it depends on how far we can maintain a calm and dispassionate atmosphere and how far we can refrain from saying things which will cause tempers to rise and judgment to be warped. As far as we, in this Group are concerned, we will do everything in our power to facilitate a settlement. If there is any way in which we can help, we will do so. Above all, we shall refrain from giving provocation by thought, word or deed in any way. I do appeal to my Honourable friends on all sides of the House, and to my friends of the Press to try to observe the same restraint. Let no word be said to mar the harmony in which these discussions must take place. If we can make

a self denying ordinance, if we can remember not to say all the pretty, clever things we think of—and nobody enjoys saying such things more than I do—if we can remember not to say those things, but to hold them back because there is one thing that matters now, that is the maintenance of that calm atmosphere in which these negotiations can succeed—if we can do that; we shall make a not unworthy contribution to the solution of this great problem, we shall be going some way towards ensuring that drawing closer together of India and Great Britain which is so essential to the needs of both.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, the Finance Bill has been under fire for the last six days. Some of the Honourable Members have looked at it from the financial point of view, while others have discussed it from a political angle. I propose to deal with this not so much from the financial aspect as from the political aspect. Sir, the Muslim League party in the past has opposed the consideration motion since 1941 whenever it came up before the House. On those occasions, it was my privilege to explain the attitude of the Muslim League Party with regard to the motion which was then before the House. Sir, in the past sometimes when the Muslim League party was alone and was carrying on the burden of the Opposition in this House, we did not succeed in throwing out the Finance Bill because of the number of votes. On other occasions, when the Congress Party sometimes officially and sometimes, unofficially decided to attend, we were able to throw out this motion. Sir, as I explained on those occasions, the attitude which we had taken up was that as on account of the exigencies of war, expenditure was mounting up by leaps and bounds and as the Government were not mindful of the opinions and of the advice which were given either inside this House or outside with regard to expenditure, and as in spite of the fact that the Muslim League had from the very beginning of the war realised the importance and the necessity of Indians being in charge of the affairs of the country, and as in spite of the helpful attitude, in spite of the co-operative attitude of the Muslim League, the Government had refused the hand of co-operation, we felt that we could not take the responsibility of putting any burden on our people. Therefore, we opposed the Finance Bill. If we had no voice in the expenditure which as I have just stated was mounting up every day by leaps and bounds, especially with regard to defence, then we felt that it was the responsibility of the Government, and they must take the full responsibility for any burden which they wanted to put on the taxpayer. But Mr. Deputy President, since then the war has come to an end. I think it will be recognised that the present budget is not a war budget in the sense in which the late budgets used to be. As a matter of fact, after hearing the debate for six days, I do not think it would be a wrong conclusion to draw from the speeches that have been made on the merits of the budget that the budget which has been presented by the Honourable the Finance Member is not really so bad as some Honourable Members have tried to say while not feeling so. Therefore, this time the Muslim League party has decided to see, if it is possible, by means of bringing gentle pressure on the Government, to reduce the burden of the masses. Sir, every Honourable Member of this House has described this budget as a rich man's budget and yet, I am sorry to note that the Congress Party have decided to throw it out at the consideration stage knowing full well that the effect will be that it will be certified as a rich man's budget. Therefore what we feel is that we should try and see if it is possible to reduce the burden of taxation, specially on those articles which affect the poorer masses. Sir, I do not want to make a secret of it but I have had talks with the Finance Member and I gathered from him—as a matter of fact, if I mistake not, he himself made an offer while speaking on the budget—that he would be willing to make certain reductions which would take the load off the back of the poorer classes to a certain extent. There are articles like kerosene, betel-nuts, matches and postcards etc. on which a reduction of taxation would certainly benefit the poorer classes. I hope the Finance Member when he gets up to reply to this debate will be good enough to indicate what the proposals of Gov-

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ernment are with regard to reduction of taxation, on what articles and to what extent. I hope he will also tell the House what would be the effect of the concessions which would be made in the case of reduction of the various taxes. I attach importance to the acceptance of this principle of reduction of tax on certain articles by Government because in the present situation, even if this House made any reduction on any particular article the Finance Member could go and get it certified. Therefore it is not so much what we can do when we come to the consideration of the clauses—if we reach that stage—but what Government are prepared to accept in the way of reduction of duties on certain articles. Sir, I stated that in the past we had another grievance apart from the expenditure mounting up, and that was that Government were not prepared to associate with authority and power the non-officials of this country. It might be asked—and I think one of the Honourable Members of the Congress party did refer to it—why it is that this time the Muslim League has decided not to support the motion for rejection of the consideration of the Finance Bill in spite of the fact that the Executive Council today has practically the same personnel as it had last year. My reply to that is that the war is over. I am no longer thinking in terms of the Executive Council. I feel that now what we have to tackle is not the reconstruction, reconstitution and recomposition of the Executive Council but the transfer of real power from the hands of the British into the hands of Indians. And therefore the composition, the personnel, the complexion of the Executive Council does not interest me any longer. I want that now we must tackle the real question and the real issue of the freedom of India. We must tackle the real issue whether it is to be one united India or whether it is to be a divided India. Therefore, Sir, I do not mind if the present Executive Council continues for another three month or six months or whatever it may be. As a matter of fact it should be the desire, the ambition and the effort of every Indian in this country to scrap the present constitution as soon as possible and not think in terms of co-operating or holding power under the present constitution.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: We are opposing the budget under the present constitution.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend Mr. Saksena says that they are opposing the budget under the present constitution. That is perfectly true; but does it mean that we should not make an effort to do away with the present constitution? Does it mean that because we are under a particular constitution today therefore we should go on associating ourselves with the machinery under that constitution to prolong its existence? Sir, my Honourable friend is sitting here under the present constitution; so if he objects to considering the budget on its merits I think his place should not be inside this House but somewhere else. Sir, I wish to make it clear that the Muslim League,—and when I refer to the Muslim League I mean the Muslims of India because there is not the slightest doubt now that the Muslim League today speaks for the Mussulmans of India (*Voices of "Question"*)—Sir, I cannot give sight to those who are blind or hearing to those who are deaf. If after seeing the results of the elections my Honourable friends to my right still question my statement that the Muslim League today represents the Mussulmans of India, all I can say is that I am sorry for them.

An Honourable Member: What about the Frontier elections?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: That is the skeleton in the cupboard.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend is talking of skeletons in the cupboard; I see so many skeletons here on my right.

I was saying that the Muslim League is as anxious for the freedom of the country as anybody else, either in this House or outside. Sir, the Mussulmans desire the freedom of India more than the community whose representatives are sitting on my right, because if any community or nationality has

suffered most under foreign rule it is the Mussulmans of India. They have lost everything whereas the other community has gained everything. Therefore, Sir, what I am saying is that there is no difference of opinion as far as the question of India's independence is concerned; the difference is as to who is going to exercise that power which India will get under the charter of freedom. That really is the issue which is before the country. Mr. Deputy President, it is evident that India is not a nation. It is a land of nationalities and if anybody, if anyone of the Honourable Members sitting on my right have any doubt about it, I would request them to read the speech which Mr. Ghani, a member of their Party made this morning. That speech is nothing but a justification of the stand which the Muslim League has been taking.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: You have misunderstood him.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I have not misunderstood him. In your wishful thinking you have put an interpretation on that which does not exist. I entirely agree with Mr. Ghani. It is a fact that it is only the force of British bayonets that is keeping so many nationalities throughout the country together and that is why we from various parts of India are sitting in this House. Mr. Ghani was perfectly right when he said that it is only the force of British bayonets which is keeping him from the North West Frontier and Mr. Gadgil from Bombay together in this place.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: If you allow me to give a personal explanation. I said we are a different people. We have no common bond either with the Indian Muslims or Indian Christians or Hindus, because we have no cultural bond. I did not put the emphasis on religion. The Muslim League has got the emphasis on religion. My emphasis was on economics, poverty and all such things.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I am very glad that my Honourable friend has explained himself. So apart from religion, we have all these other differences! Sir, what I was saying is this: that it is not going to help India if we are only going to think in terms of what we want India to be. India, as I have stated just now, Mr. Deputy President, is a land of nationalities and unless you have a constitution, until you have a constitution which will create a stake in the country for every nationality, you cannot have freedom of people and you can never defend India against foreign aggression unless you have the different nationalities enjoying, not only freedom, but enjoying the right to rule in this land. Therefore I suggest to the Congress Party, not only in this House, but outside, that if they really desire the freedom of India, if their object is that freedom should not mean domination of one community over everybody else, if their object is that freedom should mean freedom for the Hindus, Muslims and others, then they should look at this problem not from the narrow point of view but they should look at this problem from the practical point of view.

Mr. Deputy President, the conditions in this country are different from what they exist in other countries of the world and therefore the remedies which we have to find, which we have to apply, must also be different. I would request the Congress to give up this wishful thinking of desiring the British to by-pass the Muslim League or by-pass the Scheduled Castes or by-pass somebody else. Give up that idea. You will never achieve freedom any you will be responsible for the subjugation of all the nationalities in this country. Give up that idea. Instead of thinking in those terms, let us think in terms of co-operation. Let us think in terms of what it is that we can do to bring about a unity amongst the various nationalities and devise a scheme which would secure freedom for every nationality in the land. Mr. Deputy President, the British Mission has come to India. They have come with the intention, and according to their statement, with the determination of trying to find a solution of the Indian problem. According to their declarations, it is the wish and the desire of the British people to hand over power to India. Sir, the Congress have lost so many opportunities in the past. I remember what was offered to the Congress and the Muslim League in 1939 by Lord Linlithgow and it was rejected by the Congress at that time because they wanted that the British should make a declaration that India shall be independent, as if by means of declarations you can achieve independence. What was offered in 1939

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rejected by the Congress then, was accepted by the Congress in Simla. Does it not show

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: When?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: In Simla when we had the Simla Conference.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: A different thing altogether.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: It was nothing of the kind. As a matter of fact, Lord Linlithgow had offered to the two leaders—and the Honourable Member can go and refresh his memory—that if the Congress and the Muslim League can come to some arrangement in the Provinces he was willing to go as far as it was possible to meet them in the Centre. We never reached that stage of examining the details of his proposals because they were rejected offhand by the Congress, saying that these are minor matters. We want a declaration of the independence of India said the Congress Leaders. Now, Sir, I would say that if the Congress had accepted in 1939 what they were willing to accept in Simla, this country would have made a great advance towards achieving its goal. Let me tell them that in 1939 the things were different to what they are in 1946. But unfortunately my friends rely more on words, phrases and resolutions than on actions. We missed opportunities in the past. Let us not miss this opportunity. Let us recognise the right of each other. Let us give up this idea of wanting to dominate over everybody else.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Who has got that idea?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: As long as Congress thinks in terms of being rulers in this country and dominating over the Muslims and others, India shall never get freedom. India can only get freedom when these two major communities, nationalities, nations—whatever you like to call them—Hindus and Mussalmans, when they can feel that both of them are rulers in this land and one is not under the domination of the other.

Mr. P. K. Salve (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): What about all the other communities?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, it is unfortunate that the Congress has not really made any effort in the past, during the last few years, to try and find a solution. They have been thinking of plans whereby they could stifle the voice of Muslim India. What happened in these elections?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is a matter of opinion.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend's opinion, I know, are not his own.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am afraid I cannot agree. My opinion is entirely my own anywhere and everywhere.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Here, hear! Look at these elections. The whole object, the whole policy of the Congress during the last few years has been to disrupt the Mussalmans, to destroy the unity that the Mussalmans of India have achieved by hard struggle during the last few years.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Sir, if I may be allowed just a moment

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, I cannot allow. I am very sorry. Is it a point of explanation?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, Sir. It has not been the policy of the Congress to disrupt. Its policy has always been entirely to unite the communities.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: My Honourable friend says that it has not been the policy of the Congress. I only wish their actions and professions went side by side. What has been the policy of the Congress during the last elections? Have you not tried to disrupt the Mussalmans of India?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: No, Sir.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Have you not tried your worst to break up the unity that has come amongst the Mussalmans of India. There is the black market money which you have acquired and which your patrons supplied you with and which you have used freely against the Muslim League.

(At this stage an Honourable Member crossed the floor of the House.)

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order, the Honourable Member cannot cross the floor of the House like this.

(continued interruptions)

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I wish Honourable Members would have a little patience. We could also interrupt their leader when he rose to speak. We could also not allow him to speak

Diwan Chaman Lall: What does the Honourable Member mean by this threat?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: When my Honourable friends were speaking we listened most attentively.

Diwan Chaman Lall: We are also listening to you very attentively.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: The Leader of the Honourable Member's party is going to speak after me. It is not that I am the last speaker from this side. Sir, I was saying

Diwan Chaman Lall: The Honourable Member held out a threat.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I did not hold out any threats. I am sorry if my Honourable friend understood that it was a threat. It was not uttered as a threat but as a reciprocal compliment.

I was saying what has the Congress done really to create friendliness in the country? Take these elections. Is it not a fact that in the recent elections the Congress machinery has been used against the Muslim League? I could understand and I would give every credit to the Congress Party, if they put up Muslim candidates on the Congress ticket

An Honourable Member: We did put up.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: And every one of them got defeated barring one. I could understand that, because it is the right of a party to put up its members as candidates in elections and support them. But what they have done is that in most of the Provinces they had not had the courage to put up a single Muslim on the Congress ticket. In others they have succeeded in securing one here or one there. But what have they done? They have financed, used their money to create disintegration amongst the Mussalmans and corruption amongst them. And this, I think, Mr. Deputy President, is a very sorrowful tale for any responsible decent party to do. We have scrupulously kept ourselves out of the Hindu elections.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What else can you do?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: It is not difficult to put up a candidate by giving Rs. 250, in which case every one of you would have been opposed.

An Honourable Member: He would have lost his deposit.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: The Honourable Member asks what else could we do. That is true: I agree with him. We could not do any indecent thing. That is perfectly true. But all that I am saying is that these are the conditions that are existing today when the British Mission has arrived in India. The bitterness in the country today is greater than what it has ever been and therefore I do appeal to the Congress and to all others and say to them "Do not let us think now in terms of trying to down each other. Do not let us think now in terms of wanting the British to by-pass the Muslim League or by-pass the Congress. Let us think in terms of taking the fullest advantage of the offer which the British people have made to India. Let us take their word for it and let us try and see if we cannot achieve real freedom for every nationality in the land." I appeal to the Congress. Let us agree to divide the country and unite to achieve freedom for us all.

Sir, there are occasions in the history of a nation, in the history of a country, when we have to do things which we do not very much like and

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this is one of those occasions in regard to which the Congress should take stock of the situation in the country. They should once for all know that it is not possible to get freedom for India unless the Hindus and Muslims unite on a certain proposition

An Honourable Member: On Pakistan?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, if my friend knows what division of India means, he should know that it means nothing else but Pakistan. Unite to achieve freedom: divide to remain united.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: What a joke!

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I am glad my Honourable friend says "What a joke". I am indeed glad that he thinks that it is a joke that we can unite. Sir, I repeat again that as far as the Mussalmans are concerned we have decided, we are convinced that if India is to be free, if India is to achieve freedom at the earliest opportunity it can only be done by dividing India into Pakistan and Hindustan. We are convinced that there is no other way of achieving India's freedom. I would make an appeal to the Congress that now is the opportunity. Let us make another effort to see if we cannot achieve freedom. I see nothing, Mr. Deputy President, but division and misery in a United India, and I see unity and prosperity in a divided India.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadian Urban): Mr. Deputy President, immediately after the Honourable the Finance Member delivered his Budget speech I was asked as to what my impressions were. What I said on that occasion was: "It is a skilful budget and its approach to India's problems is somewhat different from that in previous budgets. But looking at it from the point of view of the poor, there is nothing very much in it to be enthusiastic about. On the expenditure side, civil and military expenditure continue to be extravagant. These are my first impressions". A closer study of the Honourable the Finance Member's speech and his financial proposals has confirmed my first impressions. I shall proceed to make a rapid survey of the financial proposals and an equally, rapid criticism. But before I do so, I desire to say a few words with reference to the observations of my Honourable friend, the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party in this House. In the course of his speech he said that the Congress wished to by-pass the Muslim League. Let me tell him with all the sincerity and all the emphasis I can command that the Congress is not out to by-pass anybody in this country, whether Muslim or Sikh or Buddhist or Jain or Christian. The Congress has endeavoured in the past, and is still endeavouring, to bring about unity, an indissoluble unity, among the different communities inhabiting this vast land of ours—unity which will be proof against the machinations of the Western imperialist powers and, may I add, which will be proof against the designs of people who are out to subjugate and dominate India in their own interest. My Honourable friend further said that the Congress wished to dominate the Muslims. I am inclined to think that in his heart of hearts he believes that the Congress is not out to dominate anybody or disrupt any community.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: No, I don't. I believe what I said.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Then he laid down the rather paradoxical proposition, 'Divide to unite'. Sir, here in India we have unity in the midst of diversity; but this paradoxical proposition 'Divide to unite' I have never been able to understand. I will not refer in greater detail to the observations of my Honourable friend; but, before I conclude dealing with his observations, I may tell him that, if he is willing to extend the hand of real and friendly co-operation in order that India may have a constitution, a national and independent constitution of her own we on this side of the House will grasp it with alacrity and enthusiasm. What we want—and I believe all Indians want, whether

they be Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Parsees or Jains—is unity of India under a free and independent constitution. If his co-operation extends to enabling us to have a national and independent constitution under which we shall be free and independent citizens, the Party which I have the honour and the right to represent in this House will certainly not be found lacking in extending its hand of co-operation to members on my left.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Accept Pakistan. The hand of co-operation is there.

Suri Sarat Chandra Bose: I have not the time, nor have I the inclination, to devote any portion of my speech this afternoon to Pakistan. I have expressed my views repeatedly on this subject without any reservation; and I do not think any useful purpose will be served by bringing in a discussion of Pakistan into the debate on the financial proposals.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: But the hand of friendship is there.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I may tell my Honourable friend that that subject I am prepared to discuss with him day in and day out in order that he may have an opportunity of convincing me that I am wrong, or that I may have an opportunity of convincing him that he is wrong.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I cannot convince those who refuse to be convinced.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Nor can I.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Then join with us in proclaiming a loud Pakistan.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Coming to the financial proposals, I have said already that, looking at it from the point of view of the poor, there is nothing very much in it to be enthusiastic about. What is it that the Honourable the Finance Member has said in his Budget speech regarding the poor? He has said: "Some of the Honourable Members opposite will be wondering whether I propose to do anything for the poor man". He did leave us wondering as to whether he was going to do anything for the poor man; and to our wonder we found that these were what he was prepared to do for the poor man! Firstly, duty on salt; secondly, duty on matches; thirdly, duty on tobacco; fourthly, duty on betel-nut; and fifthly, preservation of the inland postage rates as before. I do not know whether in his talks with my Honourable friend, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, secret or otherwise, he was prepared to recant and cut out a portion of the duty on salt, or a portion of the duty on matches, or a portion of the duty on tobacco or betel-nut, or to reduce the inland postage rates. Well, I am not in the Honourable the Finance Member's confidence and I do not know what he was prepared to do. I can only proceed by the written word. By 'written word' I mean his Budget speech and his financial proposals. Proceeding by the written word, I have no doubt, Sir, that his financial proposals, such as they are, cannot call for acceptance from this side of the House. There is one matter to which I wish to refer in connection with the poor man and that is the cottage industry. I have not the time to dilate on the subject. But may I remind the Honourable the Finance Member that cottage industries in our country are the industries of the poor? What has he done to encourage and promote cottage industries? There is scarcity of cloth, but hand-loom weaving has not been encouraged. There is scarcity of paper, but manufacture of hand-made paper has not been encouraged at all.

Then I come to what the Honourable the Finance Member describes as the man of moderate means—what we generally describe as the middle-class man. He says: "Now, I turn to greet the ordinary direct tax-payer", whom he later on refers to as the man of moderate means. What is the relief he has given to the man of moderate means? Very little indeed. Is the Honourable the Finance Member not aware that the value of an income of Rs. 2,000 a year today is nothing more than the value of Rs. 500 before the war, that the value

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of an income of Rs. 3,500 a year today is nothing more than Rs. 700 or Rs. 900 before the war? What is the relief he has given to the man of moderate means? I believe I am not guilty of exaggeration of any sort or kind if I say that the only relief the Honourable the Finance Member has given to any class of human beings is to the capitalist and the industrialist, people who did not need immediate relief. The abolition of the Excess Profits Tax was not really called for this year; if it had been carried on for another year or two, the Honourable the Finance Member would have been in possession of funds to devote to nation-building Departments. Similarly, the relief to industrialists, meagre though it is, is not such as is calculated to benefit the poor at all. I wish I had the time to explain all that I have in mind with regard to the abolition of the Excess Profits Tax and the small relief given to the industrialists; but, unfortunately, I am racing against time at the moment and I must resist the temptation of going into those matters.

Then, I would come to civil expenditure. I have already said that civil expenditure continues to be extravagant. In fact, it has been mounting year by year, and the main reason why it has been mounting up is the taking in of more and more British personnel. Our civil expenditure,—if I were to go into the figures I can satisfy the House—can be reduced appreciably if we had only Indian personnel, and we have every right today to have only Indian personnel. But, of course, I know that that cannot suit the British imperialist; that cannot suit the system which was described about two decades ago by a Secretary of State for India—I mean the late Edwin Samuel Montagu—as a system “which is wooden, which is inelastic, which is ante-diluvian”. Sir, that system exists today. That system has been responsible for all the outrages and atrocities that have been committed during the last four decades in the name of law and order, including those that were committed in the year 1942 and in the succeeding years. That system has been responsible for vast Draconian enactments in this country, beginning with the year 1908 and ending with the year 1945, and has introduced and is still continuing a reign of terror in this country. Acceptance of the financial proposals and along with it the Bill for civil expenditure means acquiescence in that system. We on this side of the House refuse to acquiesce in such a system.

Then, coming to military expenditure, no doubt there has been a great drop in the military expenditure. But that is not really due to my friends opposite; it is due to the end of the war. But, here again, may I ask the Honourable the Finance Member how much of this expenditure is due to maintaining foreign personnel in this country in the Army, Navy and Air Force? I would like to have an answer to this question when the Honourable the Finance Member rises to reply. How much of these Rs. 244 crores goes to paying British personnel in the Army, Navy and Air Force? That is a pertinent question to ask

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I can give the answer straight away: it is Rs. 20 crores.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I take the Finance Member at his word. We can therefore reduce the estimates by Rs. 20 crores immediately. I have taken—and my Party has taken—a very definite stand in this matter. We do not need any outside help today in defending our country. We would spurn it: We know we have the human material necessary to defend ourselves; and, as for the equipment necessary, we are confident that we can have it within a short time.

Now, take the Air arm of the defence services. At present there are about 1,600 Indian officers. I understand—and the Honourable the Finance Member will correct me if I am wrong—that 700 out of these 1,600 officers in the R. I. A. F. are going to be demobilised. My Honourable friend Mr. Asaf Ali says, ‘Much more’. But even taking the figure of demobilisation at 700 Indian

officers, in whose interest are they going to be demobilised? In the interest of the British personnel which is sought to be maintained and perpetuated in this country. Demobilisation of Indian officers in the Air Force becomes necessary only because Britishers are being retained; and I may add that at the Air Headquarters India unit, Britishers are today holding all the key positions, and Indian officers are not being given any responsible job at all, though most of them shared the burdens of the last war and gained valuable experience in Europe, in Burma, in Malaya, in China and elsewhere. When we come to the Army, the same state of affairs exists. When we come to the Navy, we find the same state of affairs. And when I hear the talk about the coming change of power, I feel surprise that far from replacing British personnel by Indian personnel, attempt is being made to maintain and perpetuate the British personnel in this country in all the services—civil and defence. In the civil services, recruitment to the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service is going on. In the defence services, whether it is the Army or Navy or Air Force, maintenance and perpetuation of British personnel is going on. The truth of the matter is that my Honourable friends opposite do not yet dare to remove the army of occupation from India; and that is the reason why, in spite of the end of the war, the defence expenditure has not been cut down to the extent to which it ought to be cut down. When I consider the civil expenditure and the defence expenditure for the year 1946-47 I recall to mind the words of that great French savant, Monsieur Romain Rolland. His words were: “The British leopard has dug its claws into the sides of India so thoroughly that it can no longer either withdraw them or live cut off from its prey”.

What I find in civil and military expenditure leads me to think and to say quite publicly that they are calculated to help the British leopard to dig its claws deeper and deeper into the sides of India. The Honourable the War Secretary in the course of his speech this morning asked us whether we wanted evolution or revolution. I am glad he put that question to us. I shall reply to him straightaway. We have heard and we have been hearing this word ‘evolution’ ever since British imperialist domination began in this country. It has been thoroughly sickening to us on this side of the House. The whole world is going through a revolution and at a tremendous pace. There is no reason why we Indians should not reject evolution for revolution and thereby speed up the progress of our country. We do want to create a revolution in the minds of Indians. We do want to create a revolution in their ways and methods. And I shall tell the War Secretary that we are distinctly in favour of a silent, non-violent revolution which will in no time enable India to come into her own.

Now, Sir, it is the usual thing in the course of a speech on the financial proposals to talk about planning and development. I have searched in vain the Honourable the Finance Member’s speech on the budget and his financial proposals for any real schemes for planning and development. Just consider that there has been a drop this year of about Rs. 400 to 500 crores in military expenditure. Now, what is the contribution to planning and development? A total of 50 crores! Money in hundreds and thousands of crores could be found all these years in the United Kingdom and also in India for war expenditure; but when it comes to planning and development, all that the Finance Member promises to us is a sum of Rs. 50 crores, a mere pittance as compared with the vast amount that India needs for planning and development. Here again, I say I do not, and this side of the House does not, take the Government of India’s schemes for planning and development seriously. As far as this side of the House is concerned, nationalisation is the key-note and should be the key-note of economic development in India. It is the key-note of all economic developments in the West except possibly America. But the slogan of nationalisation is an unknown slogan so far as members opposite are concerned. The Bank of England may be nationalised, a bank with a hoary past and great traditions, but the Reserve Bank of India cannot be nationalised, because so long as British imperialist domination continues in this country, it cannot

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possibly be nationalised. Coal mines can be nationalised in England but in India they cannot be nationalised, because British imperialist domination does not want to tread on the corns of European industrialists and capitalists in this country. I have already said, and I desire to repeat, that nationalisation should be the ke-note of all economic development in this country; and as long as that is not accepted, all these so-called schemes of planning and development will vanish into thin air. They will not benefit the masses in the least. They will create a number of capitalists and a number of industrialists, whether white or brown, but they will not touch the real problem, the problem of poverty in this country.

As regards the policy of my Party, I desire to quote the words of the election manifesto on the strength of which our Party came into this Assembly. The relevant words of that manifesto were these:

"It will be necessary to plan and co-ordinate social advance in all its many fields, to prevent the concentration of wealth and power in the hands of individuals and groups, to prevent vested interests inimical to society from growing, and to have social control of the mineral resources, means of transport and the principal methods of production and distribution in land, industry and in other departments of national activity, so that free India may develop into a co-operative commonwealth. The State must, therefore, own or control key and basic industries and services, mineral resources, railways, waterways, shipping and other means of public transport. Currency and exchange, banking and insurance, must be regulated in the national interest."

That is our policy and that is the policy to which we shall adhere to the last. I am reminded in this connection of the speech that Sir Gurunath Bewoor delivered yesterday. When I heard his speech I felt I was living in the early 19th century. He was at some pains to impress upon us that private enterprise was much more efficient than State enterprise. I was wondering whether he had forgotten that during the last war private enterprise was practically stopped in all the countries of Europe and the State took them over for the benefit of the people. May I ask him: Was it for the sake of inefficiency that the State did so? The old policy of *laissez-faire*, which is still the policy of the Government of India, will not do. That old policy still inspires all their plans and schemes for planning and development. That is an exploded policy. We subscribe to the policy of nationalisation and if we come to our own, as I hope we shall very shortly, we shall introduce the policy of nationalisation into every sphere of economic activity in India.

Sir, I have not the time to devote myself to the speech of the Honourable Dr. Ambedkar or to the speech of the Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava. I have already made my suggestions on the food problem. I remember the Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad Srivastava saying that he welcomed my suggestions. There were six concrete suggestions which I made. I looked in vain for anything that might show that those concrete suggestions, which had been welcomed on the 30th January last, had been put into action in any shape or form, partially or otherwise.

Sir, I shall not devote more time to planning and development. I shall sum up the Government of India's policy in the words of one of the greatest men of modern times, I mean George Bernard Shaw. George Bernard Shaw in his book, "Everybody's Political what's what", has said:

"Nowadays the capitalist cry is 'nationalise what you like, municipalise all you can, turn the courts of justice into courts martial and your parliaments and corporations into Boards of Directors with your most popular mob orators in the Chair, provided the rent, the interest and the profits come to us as before and the proletariat gets nothing but its keep.'"

That is the policy of the Government of India today. George Bernard Shaw proceeds:

"The great corruption of socialism threatens us at present. It calls itself Fascism in Italy, National Socialism (Nazi for short) in Germany, New Deal in the United States and is clever enough to remain nameless in England."

I do not know whether I should add the words, "is equally clever to remain nameless in India too."

Bernard Shaw goes on:

"But everywhere it means the same thing: socialist production and unsocialist distribution."

Let me say, Sir, in one word that what we want in India today is socialist production and socialist distribution. It is on that principle that our plans and our schemes for planning and development must be made. What we have in view and what the whole country should have in view is not merely socialist production, but socialist distribution as well. We do not want to make the rich richer; we do not want to create more capitalists in India; we do not want to create greater industrialists in India; we want to look to the masses of our people and we can only do so by our plans of socialist production and socialist distribution.

Sir, I have no desire to go at length into the so called schemes for planning and development. I wish I had the time to do so. I believe I can resist the temptation today, because in the near future, I shall have time to examine these schemes for planning and development in greater detail. I think I have said enough to show that this side of the House cannot acquiesce in the financial proposals which the Honourable the Finance Member has placed before us. Whether it is a matter of giving relief to the poor, or whether it is civil expenditure or military expenditure or planning and development, nowhere do we find any intention whatever to benefit the masses of our people.

Sir, it is not for nothing that we have waged a long warfare against British imperialist rule. That warfare we have carried on for the last sixty years, and that warfare we are still carrying on. That warfare we have carried on against British imperialist rule, its crimes, its vices, its enormous, almost overpowering, corruption. I have had appeals addressed to me that we should not reject the financial proposals because the British Cabinet Mission is here. I do not know what the presence of the British Cabinet Mission has got to do with the consideration of the financial proposals.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Nothing at all.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I am glad the Honourable the Finance Member said 'nothing at all'. The Honourable the Finance Member has asked us to consider his financial proposals on their merits.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Only for once.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I have ventured to examine them on their merits. The motion for the rejection of the Finance Bill, which was moved from this side of the House, was moved on a consideration of its merits. Sir, friends and allies of last year may desert us today.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Because you have declared war on them.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: They may be impressed by small offers of reduction of one anna here or two annas there; but, our course is clear, our road is straight. That is the course which my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party appreciated so much last year on the 26th March. Sir, this is what he said then:

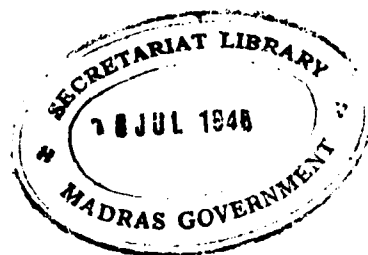
"Mr. President, the policy of the Muslim League with regard to the Finance Bill has been consistently uniform since 1941. We have always opposed the measure on the ground that so long as we have no real share in the power and authority of the Government, we cannot take the responsibility of placing funds at their disposal to be spent in any way that they may like. Some people seem to be under the impression that the Muslim League has changed its policy with regard to this matter only since the presence of the Congress Party in this House. It is not so."

I hope the Muslim League has not changed its policy in this matter this year because of the presence of the Congress Party in this House. As I have said, friends and allies from the year 1941 and onwards may desert us . . .

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: You were not here then. You have come after we have won the battle.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: I have examined the Finance Bill within the short time at my disposal. I say with the utmost emphasis I can command that it is not a Bill which can call for acceptance from this side of the House. We are not troubled, as I said just now, we are not concerned with any offer of reduction of an anna here, or two annas there or three annas elsewhere. The whole of the Finance Bill is to be considered and considered in the light of the tests which I have already applied; and applying those tests, I say, that the Finance Bill does not merit consideration by this House. Sir, I move for rejection of the Finance Bill by the House.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 27th March 1946.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 27th 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:

Rao Bahadur Sir Vangal Thiruvankata Krishnama Acharya Avargal, K.C.I.E., M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REFUND OF PASSAGE MONEY TO HAJ PILGRIMS AND OPENING OF CALCUTTA PORT FOR EMBARKATION

†1226. ***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is intended to open the Calcutta port for Haj embarkation of Haj pilgrims this year, if not, why not;

(b) whether the limitation imposed on the number of Haj pilgrims from India during the war is proposed to be removed from this year; and

(c) whether all intending pilgrims from British India, who deposited money but failed to secure passage, have got back their deposit moneys; and if not what the number of persons is to whom the deposit money has not yet been returned and what the total amount yet to be refunded is?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) Subject to any unforeseen and insurmountable development, Government's provisional intention is to have one sailing from the Calcutta port this year.

(b) There used to be only ten pilgrim ships before the war out of which three were lost during the war. The maximum carrying capacity of the remaining seven ships is about 17,000 if they make two trips each. If the law requiring 18 square feet of accommodation per passenger is brought into force this year, this maximum capacity would be reduced to about 15,000. Government's provisional decision, therefore, is to arrange for about 15,000 Haj pilgrims this year. As the rush of pilgrims is likely to far exceed this number, Government's provisional decision is to continue the practice of allotting quotas to each Province and of registering and allotting passages to these quotas on the basis of priority of applications.

(c) Refunds for 1945 are still due only to 295 pilgrims. The total amount yet to be refunded is Rs. 30,810-14-0.

NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO APPLIED FOR HAJ PASSAGE

†1227. ***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state separately:

(a) the number of persons who applied for passage for Haj pilgrimage from each of British Indian Provinces last year;

(b) the number of persons who succeeded in securing passage from each Province; and

(c) how many of the above in each Province were females?

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

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) to (c). A statement giving the information is placed on the table of the House.

Statement

Name of the Province	Number of applications received.	Number of successful applicants	Number of successful applicants (Female)
Madras	403	154	25
Bombay	803	788	278
Bengal	4,815	1,601	97
United Provinces	1,282	1,072	352
Punjab	2,559	2,110	748
Bihar	163	134	41
Central Provinces	33	25	10
Assam	1,825	339	34
N. W. F. P.	432	301	44
Sind	1,024	950	268
Baluchistan	199	145	16
Orissa	1	0	0
Delhi	610	253	88
Ajmer-Merwara	36	11	5

NUMBER OF MUSLIM SCHOLARS FOR STUDIES IN AMERICA AND EUROPE

†1228. ***Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon:** Will the Education Secretary please state:

(a) how many Muslim students applied for scholarships for advanced studies in America and Europe last year, and how many were selected; and

(b) how many of those selected have already been sent abroad, and how many are still waiting in India for want of a passage?

Sir John Sargent: (a) 1268 muslim students applied for Overseas Scholarships awarded by the Government of India in 1945. Out of these 90 were selected.

(b) 48 of the selected muslim scholars have so far proceeded abroad. Passages have yet to be secured for 42.

LARGE MARGIN OF RICE PROFITS POKETED BY HOARDERS IN CALCUTTA AND MADRAS

1229. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the price of rice in Bengal (Faridpur) has shot up from Rs. 12/8/- to Rs. 25/- per maund, (*Hindustan Times*, dated the 26th February, 1946) and that in Royalaseema in Madras Presidency it had shot up in December-January from Rs. 10/- to Rs. 30/- per maund;

(b) whether it is a fact that peasants receive less than Rs. 10/- per maund in Madras and Rs. 12/- in Bengal; and

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

(c) what Government are doing to prevent the middlemen and hoarders from pocketing the margin of Rs. 10/- to Rs. 20/- per maund of rice?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) There was a rise in rice prices in Faridpur (Bengal) but not to the extent mentioned by the Honourable Member. In Royalaseema (Madras) there has been no abnormal increase in rice prices.

(b) The controlled rates provide a price of less than Rs. 10 in Madras and Rs. 12 in Bengal.

(c) In areas where prices have risen, the Bengal Government are releasing Government stocks at controlled rates in order to bring down prices. In Madras, whenever prices of any foodgrains rise beyond the normal level Government requisitions the holders' stocks at prices fixed by them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the source of the Honourable Member's information? I brought to the notice of Government some time ago a press statement in which it was stated that the price in Royalaseema (Madras) had gone up even to Rs. 50. The Honourable Member said he was going to make inquiries and now he says that there was no abnormal rise in the price of rice in Royalaseema.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have got reports from the Madras Government giving the retail prices. These figures do not show that there has been any abnormal rise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How far have they risen according to the Honourable Member's figures?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I will give the figures:

Bellary district	November, 1945	11.14
	December, 1945	10.98
	January, 1946	10.93
	February, 1946	10.86
Anantpur district	November, 1945	10.48
	December, 1945	10.62
	January, 1946	10.50
	February, 1946	10.34

I have got figures for three other districts.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I can only tell my Honourable friend that his figures are all unreliable.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member will please put his question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to part (c) my Honourable friend said that they try to requisition surplus stocks in order to keep down the prices. But what are Government trying to do to keep down the middlemen's profits in Royalaseema where there are no surpluses at all and where rice has to be imported from other places?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not sure that I have followed the question. If the contention of the Honourable Member is that where the market prices are above the controlled rates the profit is taken only by the middlemen, that is not supported by our experience. When there is a rise above the controlled rates not only the middlemen and traders but also the producers partake of the profit.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There are no producers. I may tell the Honourable Member that so far as producers in Royalaseema are concerned they are not able to take part in such rise at all; it is only the middlemen. Therefore what

special steps are Government taking to prevent this profiteering by middlemen in Royalaseema?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have replied to that in part (c).

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The reply does not cover the question at all. In view of the fact that in Royalaseema there are no surpluses now available at the producers' homes, what steps do they take in order to keep down the prices to the controlled rates in that particular area?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have said that in Royalaseema there has not been any abnormal rise in prices. I have given figures and I have also said that where there is a rise above the controlled rates the method followed by the Provincial Government is to requisition stocks with the holders.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Wherefrom does the Honourable Member get these figures?

Mr. B. R. Sen: From the Madras Government, Sir.

DISGUISED EXPORT OF RICE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

1230. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the statement issued by Mr. Khemka of the Marwari Chamber of Commerce, contradicting Mr. B. R. Sen's explanation in the *Hindustan Times*, saying that excluding exports to Colombo, as much as 67,797 tons of rice was exported to foreign countries in May-October 1945; if so the Government's answer to this charge;

(b) whether similar disguised exports of rice still going on if so, in what quantities; and

(c) whether any exports of rice to Ceylon are still being permitted?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given to Sri Satya Narayan Sinha's question No. 891, on the 12th March, 1946.

(b) and (c). No exports of rice from India are permitted.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it a fact that Indian troops, whose existence in about ten different countries was mentioned the other day, are being fed from rice exported from this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Indian troops used to be fed from India before, but with effect from the 1st March no export of rice from this country for Indian troops is being permitted.

DAMAGE TO STOCKS OF RICE, WHEAT AND ATTA IN SUBSIDIZED GRANARIES.

1231. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) in how many state or subsidized granaries Government's stocks of rice and wheat or atta are being kept;

(b) since the last budget session, in what quantities such stocks were held;

(c) how much of those stocks were damaged; and

(d) what special steps are taken to prevent such damage?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Statements giving the required information in respect of the Central Government's stocks are laid on the table of the House.

(c) No damage has been reported.

(d) Steps taken are (i) maintenance of the godowns and stocks in hygienic conditions, (ii) regular inspection and classification of stocks according to the keeping quality of grain, and arranging turn-over on this basis.

Statement

(a)	Delhi	35 godowns.
	Ajmer	24 "
	Bombay	8 "
	Calcutta	24 "
	Karachi	4 covered godowns and uncovered accommodation at Port Trust stacking sites giving a total accommodation for 200,000 tons.

(b) (in tons)

Stocks on	Calcutta		Bombay	Karachi		Delhi		Ajmer
	Wheat including wheat Products	Rice	Wheat including wheat Products	Wheat including wheat Products	Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat and rice total of 12 months
1-3-45	..	...	..	61,918	7,716	...	...	...
1-4-45	6,996	...	..	60,801	9,227	5,363	3,018	...
1-5-45	8,734	...	..	39,382	9,134	6,308	2,803	...
1-6-45	12,161	...	..	23,659	11,946	6,758	2,553	...
1-7-45	3,703	...	..	25,303	19,603	13,770	2,401	...
1-8-45	15,994	...	..	16,446	20,908	11,402	2,180	...
1-9-45	23,908	...	..	10,225	12,187	18,675	2,461	...
1-10-45	34,089	...	..	7,493	8,187	19,747	2,214	...
1-11-45	30,984	...	..	9,313	6,629	19,432	1,343	...
1-12-45	24,399	...	...	13,170	2,945	15,134	1,459	...
1-1-46	26,152	...	14,783	24,340	2,923	12,447	1,537	...
1-2-46	28,452	...	3,919	7,370	2,739	10,196	1,917	...
1-3-46	23,223	*29,400	7,584	13,965	2,739	8,981	2,308	14,660

* Burma rice received during the period December to February.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does the answer cover the stocks held in subsidised granaries also?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not follow what is meant by subsidised granaries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Honourable Member followed part (a) of the question?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have given figures in respect of the Central Government stocks. Those are the only figures that I can give at present.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Do the Central Government maintain any check on the granaries in the provinces, and have the Central Government any information about them and the stocks that are destroyed there?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We get information from time to time.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Government give subsidies for the establishment of those granaries and also to those granaries belonging to the Provincial Governments and co-operative societies?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not quite follow what the Honourable Member means by granaries. I have, however, given him the figures regarding stocks held by

the Central Government. The Provincial Governments also hold stocks as part of their distribution scheme.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With regard to those stocks held by Provincial Governments is it a fact that the Central Government does give subsidies?

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

Diwan Ohaman Lal: May I ask whether Government have considered the possibility of launching out a scheme for providing grain elevators throughout the country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That question has been under investigation for sometime. There are difficulties but those difficulties are being investigated. We have examined this question as part of the postwar development.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are Government satisfied with the information they have received from the Provinces regarding the condition of the granaries; granaries mean the places where grains are stored?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Conditions are not quite satisfactory everywhere but we are doing our very best to improve the conditions.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that damaged grains are sold as cattle food to ordinary shop keepers who in their turn sell them in the market for human consumption?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We have received such reports from time to time in the past.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government considering the advisability of giving subsidies to Provincial Governments in order to enable them to establish either those elevators or ordinary granaries?

Mr. B. R. Sen: As regards elevators, as I said, we have been examining the question and a lot of information has to be gathered. It will take some time before we come to any decision but that is a part of our post-war scheme.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: With regard to the Honourable Member's reply to the supplementary question of my Honourable friend Mr. Sri Prakasa, may I know if the Honourable Member has received any report from the Government of Bombay to the effect that in one granary at Dharwar 2000 bags of paddy were found missing and that on investigation it was found that one rat was responsible for it?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have not received any such report.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government considering the advisability of giving subsidies for the establishment of granaries by Provincial Governments?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This is a matter primarily for the Provincial Governments. Where the Provincial Governments have any such scheme we will try and help as far as possible, but we have had no requests for assistance in this matter up to now.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What steps do Government take when information of the sort envisaged in the question of my Honourable friend Mr. Chaudhuri reaches them.

Mr. B. R. Sen: We take all possible steps to prevent the recurrence of such things.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Does Government get any reports about foodgrains procured at their instance by others being damaged?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There have been instances of grains being damaged both in the hands of Government agents and in the hands of Government. This is only natural.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Did they receive any report from the Madras Government that about 40,000 bags of cholam were damaged in the Coimbatore district recently?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have had no such information.

RESUMPTION OF TRADE WITH CONTINENTAL COUNTRIES.

1232. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that trade is resumed with continental countries; if so, with which of them;

(b) whether this trade is subject to any such pre-war controls such as licensing, quotas and barter arrangements;

(c) the most important commodities for export from us and import from them;

(d) since when this trade has been resumed with each of them;

(e) whether trade negotiations are carried on and agreements reached with any of them; if not, when they will begin; and

(f) whether our trade commissioners have been sent again to them?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (d). A statement showing the names of Continental Countries with which, and the dates from which, the resumption of private trade has been allowed is laid on the table.

(b) Imports from countries with which resumption of trade has been permitted are subject to the licensing procedure. 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. The procedure to be followed in regard to exports to these countries is under the consideration of the Government of India, but individual applications are at present being dealt with on merits.

(c) A statement showing the principal commodities exported to and imported from Continental countries is laid on the table.

(e) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. As regards the second part, an international trade Conference has been convened and is expected to meet in the coming autumn.

(f) The countries with which trade has been resumed are at present under the jurisdiction of the Indian Trade Commissioner, London. Arrangements are, however, being made for posting Trade Commissioners at suitable places in Europe as soon as local conditions permit of such appointments.

Statement showing the names of Continental countries with which and the dates from which resumption of private trade has been allowed

Country	Dates from which resumption of trade has been permitted
1. France	7th May 1945
2. Belgium	7th May 1945
3. Luxemburg	14th September 1945
4. Holland	19th October 1945
5. Greece	19th October 1945
6. Italy	3rd November 1945
7. Finland	3rd November 1945
8. Denmark	3rd November 1945
9. Normay	25th December 1945
10. Czechoslovakia	25th December 1945
11. Yugoslavia	6th February 1946

Statement showing principal commodities exported to and imported from Continental countries.

EXPORTS.

Oilseeds, raw jute, raw and waste cotton, raw hides and skins, oil cakes, jute manufactures, grain, pulse and flour, raw hemp, manganese ore, coir manufactures, mica and coffee.

IMPORTS

Machinery and millwork, coal tar dyes, paper and paste board, iron and steel manufactures, metals other than iron and steel instruments, apparatus and appliances, hardware excluding cutlery and agricultural implements, unset pearls and precious stones, vehicles, drugs and medicines, chemicals and chemical preparations, woollen manufactures, artificial silk manufactures, liquors, glass and glass-ware, cotton manufactures, clocks, watches and parts, provisions and oilman's stores, manure, rubber manufactures, tea chests and stationery excluding paper.

N.B.—Following is a list of some of the more important articles which are available and have been selected for import from the countries mentioned against them:—

France—Wines, brandy, synthetic stones, briar pipes, art. silk fabrics, dyes, drugs and medicines, domestic hardware, gold and silver thread, and textile machinery.

Belgium—Firearms, dyestuffs, sheet and plate glass, hardware, electric lamps, and lithopons.

Holland—Chemicals, beer, dyestuffs, electric lamps, Radios and parts, lithopone, starch, dextrine and farina.

Norway—Paper and pasteboards, machinery, hardware, ball bearings and potassium chloride, art. silk yarn, wines, drugs and medicines and textile machinery.

Finland—Insulate building boards.

Luxemburg and Greece—There are so far no requirements from these countries.

Denmark—Cement making machinery, Dairy equipment, and beer.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that certain quantities of machineries are available at cheaper prices on the Continent and representations to this effect have been made to this Government, may I know what steps are being taken in order to give hard currency for all such imports?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: There were probably one or two cases where very limited quantities were available. Whenever it has been brought to our notice we have done our best to help the importers. If any specific case is brought to my notice I shall certainly look into that question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I inform my Honourable friend that certain equipment which was available at £22,000 in Sweden was available at £30,000, not as good, in the United Kingdom and that permission was refused and if that was on currency grounds, what steps are Government going to take in order to make hard currency available and save the money of this country?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I have taken steps to get things such as cement manufacturing machinery and dairy equipment from Denmark, certain kinds of articles from Norway and also certain machinery from other parts of Europe. But I cannot answer off hand with reference to any particular country or particular item. If a specific case is brought to my notice, I shall do my best to help the importers.

Seth Govind Das: Do Government propose to export cloth to foreign countries with a view to getting foodstuffs from those countries?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I do not think any such bargaining spirit is involved in the export of cloth, particularly because the countries to which our cloth is going can hardly give us any machinery.

Seth Govind Das: I am not talking about machinery. I want to know whether cloth is exported to those countries from where we can expect foodstuffs in return.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am prepared to accept anything from any country, from where we can get anything that is needed by India.

Seth Govind Das: Has it not been said again and again in this House that Government were exporting our cloth so that we might get foodstuffs from other countries?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think my Honourable friend is under a misapprehension as to the actual food position of this country. Food imports to this country have to be done through a Combined Food Board, which consists of several other countries as well and they make plans about their food exports to other countries. We on our part are doing our best and it is really with a view to help that situation that we have to adjust and accommodate ourselves with reference to our cloth export.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that most of the Continental countries require raw materials and other things from India but are not in a position to give the currency required for the payment of such raw materials which they take from India, will Government now consider actively the question of negotiation of barter deals with some of them for machinery and equipment which are so badly wanted by India?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I shall certainly have that question looked into, as to what extent in the year 1946 it is possible to enter into barter transactions.

FOOD RATIONS IN URBAN AND RURAL AREAS.

1233. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that rations of food allotted to people in rural areas are smaller than those allotted to the urban people;

(b) in what provinces and districts such distinctions are being made, and why;

(c) in what way the rations differ; and

(d) the latest quota of ration allotted to the people in rural and urban areas?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) to (c). The answer is in the negative except in certain areas where there are what are called "Provisioning" schemes in operation.

(d) Generally the scale of cereal ration is 12 ozs. per adult per day except in the case of defined heavy manual workers who are allowed a supplementary ration of 4 ozs.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: Is it a fact that in those places where Government have introduced informal rationing, they do not guarantee the supply?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is correct.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Is it a fact that a very nominal quantity of sugar is allowed in village centres on the ground that the villagers should be satisfied with molasses?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is also correct.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In how many and in what rural areas has informal rationing been introduced?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Many districts in the Madras Presidency are covered by informal rationing. In the course of the next few months the whole province will be covered. The whole of Bombay Presidency is covered by informal rationing and parts of Hyderabad and Mysore.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that according to all these orders, the rural people are to be satisfied with rations which are smaller than the rations allotted today to the urban people?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The question which I was asked is whether the scale of ration in the rural areas is the same as in the urban areas. My reply is in the affirmative. But in the informal rationed areas it depends upon the supplies available. If at any time supplies are inadequate, the shortage is equally distributed among all the card holders.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What exactly is the difference between areas that are informally rationed and those that are formally rationed? Is it a fact that in the informal rationed rural areas, the peasants are not allowed to keep stocks that they themselves have produced?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is not correct. But I may explain here that while in informal rationed areas the ration card holders get according to the supply available, they can supplement that by going to the open market, unlike in urban areas where they are fully rationed

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Othettiar: Where is the local market when he is supposed to procure everything.

Mr. President: When they are supposed to procure.

Mr. B. R. Sen: In these areas we do not procure every bit of grain.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Othettiar: The procurement is difficult in these areas because of your not guaranteeing the supplies after taking away their grain.

Mr. B. R. Sen: Supplies come not only from the local areas but also from other areas. If at any time Government have not enough supplies to give full rations, then it is open to the cardholders to buy in the open market.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

VEGETABLE GHEE PLANTS IN INDIA

†1234. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga:** With reference to his answer to starred question No. 590, dated the 28th February, 1946, regarding the number of vegetable ghee plants in India, will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) which Provincial Governments have complained at the manner in which capitalist enterprisers hailing from outside their respective Provinces were encouraged to float Companies for starting Vanaspati factories;

(b) what action was taken to meet their objections and to encourage local enterprise; and

(c) whether any instructions are being given to these concerns to colour their Vanaspati in such a way as to distinguish it from natural ghee?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The Government of Madras objected to an import licence granted to one party and to the issue of capital on 'long range' to another.

(b) As the import licence was issued on the terms of the Press Note of 23rd December, 1944, of the Commerce Department, the Government of Madras did not press its objection. In the other case, the Government of Madras was informed that the provisions regarding capital issue should not be used to regulate the development of industry, which was capable of independent legislation by the Provincial Government. Seven local firms selected by the Government of Madras have been assisted by the Food Department in obtaining import licences and controlled materials.

(c) No. Addition of sesame oil as latent colour will be made compulsory on all Vanaspati produced as soon as the technical details of the test, now under active examination, are finalised.

ESTIMATED RICE PRODUCTION IN INDIA AND INTERNATIONAL FOOD BOARD ALLOCATION.

1235. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Food Secretary please state the estimated rice production in India for the current year?

(b) Is the United States Board of Agriculture's estimate of India's production correct, namely 25,000,000 tons—an increase of 1,116,000 tons?

(c) Is it a fact that the International Food Board rice allocation for India for the first quarter of 1946 had been closed and that Board's Officials are

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted the quota.

reported to have said that it was not likely that they would be opened "unless an emergency of far greater dimensions than that reported exists"?

(d) Is it a fact that the rice allocation for India for 1946 is not over ten per cent of India's pre-war rice import?

(e) Is it a fact that India is specifically requiring rice and that the situation is considered almost desperate by Government?

(f) What are the Indian rice allocations for the second quarter of 1946?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The present estimate is about 25 million tons.

(b) The position has been fully explained in a press note on the subject a copy of which is placed on the table of the House.

(c) I have seen a report to that effect.

(d) and (f). The allocations for the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th quarters of 1946 have not yet been decided.

(e) Yes, India needs more rice than wheat.

UNOFFICIAL NOTE

No. F. 47/1/46-D.P.S.

INDIA'S RICE PRODUCTION

"The estimates of rice production in India attributed to the U. S. Department of Agriculture which have recently appeared in the Press are likely to give a completely erroneous picture of the situation and are based on a misunderstanding", stated a representative of the Food Department on his attention being drawn to the figure of 25,890,000 tons which was stated to be India's production of rice in 1945-46 and above the pre-war figure by about 1,116,000 tons. It was not known how these figures had been arrived at, but possibly the production in 1945-46 had been compared with that of a single pre-war year 1938-39, when India's rice production was extremely low. As compared to the average pre-war production which was about 26,500,000 tons the figure for 1945-46 actually shows a decline of about 1,500,000 tons. In addition it was pointed out that according to the Famine Inquiry Commission, Bengal's pre-war figures were under estimates, and if this was taken into account the average pre-war production would be higher and the deficiency would be even greater. After taking into account the damage caused by the cyclone in Madras, India's rice crop in 1945-46 is estimated to be between 1,500,000 and 2,000,000 tons less than the average of the immediate pre-war years.

It is emphasised that in making comparisons of pre-war and present production, due consideration must be given to the absence of carryovers from previous harvests. Formerly India could rely on substantial reserves and large imports of Burma rice to carry her through lean years.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: With reference to (c), has India's Food Delegation brought home to the notice of the Combined Food Board in Washington that there exists in India an emergency of this nature?

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

REASON FOR INDIAN SHORTAGE OF FOOD

1236. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Has the Food Secretary seen a report of a statement by a prominent member of the United States Department of Agriculture which said that the main reasons for the Indian shortage of food were (i) increased Indian population, (ii) increased buying power of the Indian public, (iii) rice hoarding by both consumers and merchants in India, and (iv) the action of the British authorities in setting a price for the Burmese rice that Burmese merchants consider low?

(b) Has the Honourable Member any other reasons for the Indian food shortage?

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

(b) None in addition to what has already been said on behalf of Government in course of this Food Debate and in reply to questions and adjournment motions bearing on these points during this session in the House.

AMENDMENT IN THE RENT CONTROL ORDERS IN DELHI

1239. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prior to January, 1944, the Rent Control Orders in Delhi permitted a landlord to get a tenant ejected if the house was required for his own use;

(b) whether it is a fact that the above mentioned orders were amended in January, 1944, and the revised orders precluded landlords residing in Delhi from ejecting tenants even if the houses were required for their own use; if so, the reasons for the amendment;

(c) whether their attention has been drawn to a letter from a house-owner in the *Hindustan Times* of the 22nd December, 1945;

(d) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of restoring to landlords the right to eject a tenant in case they required their houses for their own use; and

(e) if it is a fact that house situation has become easier than before in Delhi and that Government have consequently decided to demolish temporary Government buildings constructed during the war?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Yes; a landlord could get a tenant ejected, under the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939, only when the Rent Controller was satisfied that the house was reasonably and in good faith required by the landlord.

(b) Yes; the expressions 'reasonably and in good faith' occurring in the Old Clause of the New Delhi House Rent Control Order 1939 gave unscrupulous landlords an opportunity of forcing tenants to pay more than the controlled rents. It was also found necessary to debar landlords from evicting tenants of long standing, (whose presence in Delhi was essential), especially when the landlords were already residing in Delhi. Consequently clause 11-A of the New Delhi House Rent Control Order, 1939, was enacted.

(c) Yes.

(d) No. Not till the housing position in Delhi improves.

(e) The answer to the first half of the question is in the negative.

Government propose to demolish buildings only when are no longer required for any essential purpose, or where it is considered essential in the interests of the housing position itself that temporary structures should be replaced by permanent buildings.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I enquire whether Government will look into this question: when a tenant rents out to a sub-tenant, even then do Government propose to leave the tenant secure in the possession of his house, even when the tenant is profiteering?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I shall consider that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We are not interested in the demolishing of these temporary Government buildings. Are these house owners or the Government themselves interested in their demolition?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I did not follow the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Part (e) of the question says, "If it is a fact that the house situation has become easier than before in Delhi and that Government have consequently decided to demolish temporary Government buildings constructed during the war?"

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I did not say that Government has decided. I said that the Government will not demolish temporary buildings unless it is found that they are not required for essential purposes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government considering the advisability of renting out these buildings to the local public who are in need of housing accommodation as soon as their official use is over?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: If they are not essential for the purposes of Government and if the public is prepared to take them on hire, Government will be pleased to consider that.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: How long is this Rent Control Ordinance of June 1944 going to remain in force?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: My Honourable friend knows that it will last as long as the emergency lasts.

Mr. President: Next question.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Sir, with your permission, I would answer question No. 1240,* which has been passed over already, 1255 and 1263 together. They more or less deal with the same point. If I answer them together it will save the time of the House.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can do so.

NUMBER AND QUALIFICATIONS OF TRADE COMMISSIONERS

1240. ***Mr. Ali Asghar Khan:** (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state as to how many Trade Commissioners have so far been appointed?

(b) How many of them are Muslims?

(c) Why has no attention been paid to the Muslim quota in making these appointments?

(d) What are the qualifications of the Hindus appointed to these post?

(e) Is it a fact that no Muslim is available with these qualifications?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: There are at present eight Trade Commissioners functioning abroad of whom seven are Indians and one British. Two of them are Muslims. Two have been drawn from the public and six from regular Government service. A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

The qualifications of candidates are considered at the time of their appointment.

The number of pensioners among the Trade Commissioners is one. India has no consular representatives abroad. The Indian Government Trade Commissioners at New York, Toronto and Buenos Aires are under the administrative control of the High Commissioner for India in London. His Majesty's Government have absolutely no connection with or control over Indian Trade Commissioners. As regards the point raised in part (c) of question No. 1263, Government do not agree that Trade Commissioners drawn from Government services have not proved a success. They propose to continue to recruit Trade Commissioners and Trade Agents from both Government services and non-official ranks, the case of each individual being considered on its merits, with due regard to the interests of the public service.

Statement

Name	Qualifications, Experience, etc.
1. Kirpalani, Santdas Khushiram, C. I. F. (Indian Government Trade Commissioner, New York)	B. A. He entered the Indian Civil Service in 1922 and served in various capacities under the Punjab Government till April 1941 when he was appointed as Joint Secretary to the Government of India, (then) Supply Department. In May, 1944, he was appointed as Indian Government Trade Commissioner, New York.

*This question has however, been printed serially in these Debates.—Ed. of D

Sbri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to (a) (i) of the question, may I know if Government are taking any steps in order to control the increase of Indian population and are they giving any advice on the subject to persons concerned in accordance with the recommendations of the Bhoré Committee?

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Apart from the mismanagement of the famine situation!

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

INDIA'S MAXIMUM GRAIN ALLOTMENT FROM COMBINED FOOD BOARD

1237. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Food Secretary please place on the table a full report of the statement made in Washington on the 15th February by a high official of the Food Department of the United States of America who declared that "India's chances of securing the maximum grain allotment from the Combined Food would be greatly heightened if Indian political factions gave some evidence that they are cooperating to meet the crisis", and that he "greatly deplored the Indian Congress Party's action in dissociating itself from the Srivastava Mission which will profoundly weaken the Mission's effectiveness here in Washington"?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Government have no information on the subject except what has appeared in the press. A copy of the press report is placed on the table of the House.

BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1. Name of paper—*Statesman*.
2. Published at—New Delhi.
3. Dated—18th February 1946.

DISSOCIATION BY CONGRESS DEPLORED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—An American food official today told the United Press of America that India's chances of securing the maximum grain allotment from the Combined Food Board would be heightened if Indian Political factions gave evidence that they are co-operating to meet the crisis. The informant emphasized that food allotment towards India would in no way depend upon or would be connected in any way with political settlement, since it was purely an affair between India and Britain.

However, the official said, the consensus of the United States authorities is that the acuteness of India's food situation should find political differences laid aside temporarily in a combined Anglo-Indian effort to stave off famine, adding that otherwise it might have a "bad psychological effect" on the Food Board members.

One official particularly deplored the Congress Party's reported action in dissociating itself from the Srivastava Mission asserting that this might weaken the mission's effectiveness here. He hoped that following the Viceroy's talks with Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Jinnah, an expression of unity on the efforts to meet the food crisis might be forthcoming.—*U. P. of America*.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member whether the Governor General is going to carry on his original plan of appointing a committee of four to consider the serious situation in India, irrespective of the fact that the Congress has refused to co-operate with the Viceroy on this subject?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have no more information than the Honourable Member has.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I have no information. I want to know whether the Governor General is

Mr. President: The Honourable Member is referring to what His Excellency the Viceroy is going to do. The Honourable Member for Government is not responsible for that.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The Honourable Member is unaware of any development in this country?

Mr. President: He is not responsible.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The questions are intended to be put to the Government and the Honourable Secretary represents the Honourable Member. Because the Member in charge of this Department happens to be a Member of the Council of State, the Honourable the Secretary represents the Honourable Member in charge. Is the Honourable the Secretary or the Honourable Member in charge unaware of the situation?

Mr. President: What situation?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Whether His Excellency the Viceroy proposes to form a Committee of four

Mr. President: That is just the point of difference which the Honourable Member seems not to have caught. He is asking about the intentions of His Excellency the Viceroy, which is not the concern, of the Honourable Member replying or even if it is the concern, the Honourable Member replying is not responsible for what the intentions of His Excellency the Viceroy are.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: After all the intentions of His Excellency the Viceroy are the intentions of the Governor General.

Mr. President: Not necessarily. He has replied that he has no further information. He has stated so. That means that he has no information so far as the Governor General in Council is concerned.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Does that mean that the Honourable Member does not enjoy the confidence of the Governor General?

Mr. President: That does not arise. Next question.

FUTURE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA THROUGH A SINGLE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

1238. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) if Government are aware of the warning issued by the leader of the Muslim League to the British Government in recent weeks, in connection with the portion of His Excellency the Viceroy's recent speech in this Assembly, where His Excellency said that the British Government would in the near future try to decide the future constitution of India through a single Constituent Assembly;

(b) if the Government are aware of the warning that the ten crore Muslims "would resist to death any such attempt" on the part of His Majesty's Government and "would fight to the last man"; and

(c) if Government are aware that certain members of the Parliamentary Delegation who visited India gave the assurance to the Congress leaders that His Majesty's Government has finally resolved to proceed in the manner outlined by His Excellency the Viceroy in his recent speech?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). I have seen in the Press statements to this general effect.

(c) No.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: With reference to part (b) of the question, what does the Honourable Member who put the question mean by "would fight to the last man"? Does he mean a violent or a non-violent fight?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Violent, of course, not non-violent. Sir, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

Mr. President: Next question.

Name	Qualifications, Experience, etc.
2. Ahuja, Mulk Raj. (Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Toronto)	A Graduate of the Punjab University, he was making his mark in business, when at the age of 34, he was selected by the Federal Public Service Commission for the post of Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Milan in 1931. He worked for four years as Officer on Special Duty in the offices of the Director of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta and the High Commissioner for India, London before taking up his appointment in Milan in 1935. He left Milan at the outbreak of war with Italy in 1940 and was appointed Deputy Indian Trade Commissioner, London. While in London he also officiated as Indian Trade Commissioner, London for some time. In 1941, he was selected for the post of Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Toronto.
3. Saksena, Ramji Ram. (Indian Government Trade Commissioner, Sydney)	M. A., LL. B. Belongs to Imperial Customs Service, which he joined in 1930. He held various posts of responsibility in U. P., Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi till 1934 when he was appointed as First Secretary to the Central Board of Revenue and ex-officio Under Secretary in the Finance Department, Government of India. In 1936, he was appointed as First Secretary, C. B. R. and ex-officio Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Finance Department (Central Revenues). Was selected for the post of Indian Trade Commissioner, Japan in 1937 and received necessary training in the office of the Director of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta. He had held the post of I. T. C., Japan for over 3 years, when he was appointed to his present appointment in 1941.

Seth Govind Das: With respect to the reply of the Honourable Member that only two out of eight Trade Commissioners are from public men and the rest are from Government servants, may I know if any effort was made to get these posts filled only by public men and not by Government officials?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: As my friend is fully aware, quite a large number of men are engaged in the black market, but those who are not so engaged and on whom we can draw, will not go abroad at the present time.

Seth Govind Das: Was any effort made in this respect?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Yes. I have been trying my best to draft men from non-official sources not only for these posts but for quite a number of other posts but I am up against a stone wall. I cannot get the men from non-official sources.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who controls the Trade Commissioner—the Honourable Member himself or the High Commissioner in London?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: There is administrative control first by the High Commissioner and then by the Commerce Department here.

DEFENCE OF INDIANS IN MALAYA AND BURMA BY HINDU AND MUSLIM LAWYERS.

1241. ***Mr. Ali Asghar Khan:** (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state how many lawyers have been deputed to defend Indians in Malaya and Burma?

(b) How many of them are Hindus? Why no Muslim has been selected for this job?

Mr. B. M. Banerjee: (a) Five lawyers have been sent to Malaya but none to Burma.

(b) Four are Hindus. The non-selection of any Muslim is not intentional. There were no special reasons for insisting on including Muslims in the panel of lawyers. Our Representative in Malaya has, however, been asked to consider the appointment of a local Indian Muslim lawyer, if necessary.

ABOLITION OF BRICKS CONTROL ORDER IN DELHI

1242. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to the news item in the *Hindustan Times* of the 3rd March, 1946, regarding revised brick prices;

(b) if he is aware of the statement in the budget speech of the Honourable the Finance Member regarding the immediate necessity of putting up buildings as rapidly as possible for housing accommodation and the necessity of releasing all controlled materials in this regard;

(c) why the sale of bricks is still controlled, and why it is necessary that so long after the cessation of hostilities permits should be taken for purchase of bricks in Delhi; and

(d) if he proposes to consider the desirability of abolishing all controls in his Department before the end of this financial year, that is, 1st April, 1946, in view of the urgent necessity for additional house accommodation for the vastly increased population of Delhi and New Delhi, if not, why not?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) and (d). Continuance of price control and distribution control was considered necessary in order to ensure that the price of bricks was maintained at a reasonable level and that the disposal of the bricks from the Government and private stocks was carried out in an orderly manner. The entire subject is, however, now under further consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is not the Honourable Member responsible for the building of houses and all these things in the centrally administered areas, and if so, will he try to apply the same consideration to the other towns in the centrally administered areas also?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I shall bear in mind what has been said by my Honourable friend.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that all control orders have been abolished in Bombay, will Government inquire why they could not be abolished all over India, and why particularly in the centrally administered areas the Honourable Member should not now abolish them?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I shall make inquiries.

STOPPAGE OF EXPORTS OF FOODGRAINS AND OIL SEEDS

1243. ***Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai:** (a) Will the Food Secretary please state in view of the policy enunciated by Government and the opinion expressed by this House at the time of the Food Debate to stop exports of all foodgrains and oil seeds, what immediate steps Government are taking in the matter?

(b) Is it a fact that the British Ministry of Supply are making purchases in India of foodgrains and oil seeds including groundnuts, pulses and condiments and the same are being shipped out even now?

(c) Is it a fact that the British Ministry of Supply are asking for supplies of Indian foodgrains and oil seeds including groundnuts and pulses? If so, when was the last request made, and what answer have Government given?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) All exports of cereals are banned except for small quantities required for provisioning ships sailing from Indian ports and for certain stations on the passenger air line routes.

Export of groundnuts has been totally suspended pending a re-examination of the position and that of rape and mustard seeds stopped. As regards linseed an export quota is being fixed in consultation with provinces as India is surplus in this seed. Gingelly seed is also allowed to be exported upto 1941-42 level as we have a surplus to spare.

(b) The Honourable Member refers, presumably, to the British Ministry of Food. It is not a fact that the Ministry are making any purchases in India of foodgrains or pulses. They have purchased some groundnuts and rapeseed against the quotas originally allotted to them but the exports of these unshipped quotas have also been stopped.

Export of condiments was decontrolled with effect from 3rd November, 1945, as the supply position was expected to be easier with the reduction in the requirements of the Defence Services and as these are important articles of commerce, export of which would not materially affect the food situation. The Government of India have no information whether the Ministry of Food are making any purchases of condiments in India.

(c) No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will Government give an assurance to this House that the export of groundnuts, which has been suspended, as my Honourable friend says, will not be resumed till after October next, when we shall have been through the most acute famine situation?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We shall take the Honourable Member's suggestion into account.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am not happy with the word 'suspended', because I know that the British Ministry of Food is actively collecting groundnuts all over India even today while we are talking, and that causes apprehension, and I am asking the Government to give us a categorical assurance that at all events until the most acute period of famine is over, whatever the result of that re-examination may be, no groundnuts will be permitted to be exported from this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not in a position to give any such assurance at this stage; there are many factors which will have to be taken into account.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I then know whether while people are going to die in this famine the Government will consider any other factors and permit the export of groundnuts? Why is my Honourable friend not in a position to tell us that Government will definitely consider the famine situation which is the only factor to be considered?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is certainly the overriding factor, but even taking that factor into account, it may not be necessary to stop export of groundnuts altogether.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that the British Supply Mission is putting pressure on the Indian Government to remove this suspension?

Mr. B. R. Sen: No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are being taken by Government to see that merchants and middlemen do not unduly depress the prices of groundnut, now that all exports are stopped?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That question does not arise out of this.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It does.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that there are huge quantities of groundnuts and oilseeds lying in Hyderabad State and other States in India, and if so will he consider the desirability of obtaining these from the States into British India by way of requisitioning or something like that?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes, Sir. The quantities not exported will be consumed in India, not necessarily only in the producing States.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Does the suspension of the export of groundnuts cover the Indian States as well as British India also?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is the Honourable Member aware of the newspaper report that the U. K. is alleging that we are using the suspension of groundnut export as a lever for getting more food?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have seen a newspaper report to that effect.

SAFEGUARDS FOR INDIAN PLYWOOD INDUSTRY

1244. ***Mr. K. C. Neogy:** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) the effect that the importation of tea chests and plywood panels, as at present allowed, is likely to have on the indigenous plywood industry which has developed during the war;

(b) the Government's policy in allowing the imports of tea chests, etc., if the Indian Industry is in a position to meet the country's demand; and

(c) what safeguards Government propose to afford to the Indian Plywood industry, if it be prejudiced by the present import policy?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). Government have no reasons to believe that the controlled importation of tea chests and plywood for tea chests for the time being affects adversely the interests of the indigenous plywood industry. Import licences are issued to the extent necessary to meet the essential demands of the tea industry after taking into consideration the productive capacity of the Indian plywood industry.

(c) Licences for import are issued for six monthly requirements at a time and this procedure enables Government to watch the growth of the Indian plywood industry and to adjust requirements of imports from abroad. I may add that it has been reported to us that the quality of the indigenous plywood is not yet satisfactory and that an application submitted by the industry asking for protection is under consideration.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: Is the Honourable Member in a position to give us an idea of the present productive capacity of this industry and the approximate annual demand within the country?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: No; I have looked into it but I am afraid I will not be able to say just now the actual quantity.

Mr. K. C. Neogy: When did the question of quality come first to be considered by Government? Was it during the pendency of the war or after the war was over when import facilities were available?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: Well, Sir, in the circumstances of the war there were many things which could not be taken into consideration. But as soon as the situation improved, the question of quality came up very much to the forefront, because it was insistently reported to us even throughout the war that a very considerable quantity of tea was damaged in transit even within India, and also outside India owing to the nature of the boxes in which the tea was packed. So, naturally, if a substantial quantity of tea is damaged even inside this country owing to certain types of boxes, and if the industry therefore requires that a certain quantity should be imported, we have to agree to it; but as we have said we are carefully watching the situation.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Does that mean that the present factories of plywood are unable to meet the requirements of India?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I think I have answered that question quite fully.

RATIO OF SIKHS TO TOTAL APPOINTMENTS IN LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

1245. ***Sardar Mangal Singh:** (a) Will the Honourable the Law Member please state the number of each of the temporary, officiating and permanent appointments made in the Assistant's and Clerk's Grades of the Legislative Department since January 1944, and how many of them were actually filled by the Sikhs in each category?

(b) Is any Sikh actually employed on the Staff of the Department? If so, what is the number? If none, why?

(c) To which Province did each of the candidate appointed in each grade belong?

(d) Will he please consider the desirability of appointing Sikhs in each grade of the Department?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) and (c). A statement giving the required information is laid on the table. Two officiating clerks' appointments were filled by Sikhs.

(b) There are no Sikhs now actually serving in the Department because (1) two Sikhs, Amrik Singh and Darshan Singh, who hold permanent clerks' posts in the Department, are both on deputation to higher posts in other Departments, (2) the two Sikhs referred to in the reply to part (a) (Bhagat Singh and Harjinder Singh Bhalla) subsequently resigned their appointments, (3) the only Sikh candidate nominated on the occasion of a vacancy due to be filled from other minorities refused the appointment offered to him on the ground that he was not prepared to serve in Simla where the vacancy occurred.

(d) There has been, and will be, no discrimination against Sikhs.

STATEMENT

Grade	Nature of appointment	Total number of appointments made	Number of appointments filled by Sikhs	Provinces to which candidates appointed belong
1. Assistants	Temporary	Nil	Nil	Nil
	Officiating	7	Nil	Punjab 4; N.W.F.P. 1; Bengal 2.
	Permanent	1	Nil	Madras 1.
2. Clerks.	Temporary	5	Nil	Punjab 3; U.P. 1; Bengal 1.
	Officiating	18	2	Punjab 11; Delhi 1; U. P. 3; Bengal 2; Indian States 1.
	Permanent	Nil	Nil	Nil

INTRODUCTION OF EGGLESS DAYS IN DELHI HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS

1246. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Food Secretary kindly state:

(a) if Government are aware that the requirements of big hotels and restaurants in Delhi where a large number of European officers usually mess constitute a first charge on the supplies of eggs; if so the reasons for it;

(b) if Government are aware that for some months during the winter egg supplies in Delhi have been, generally speaking, very unsatisfactory; and

(c) whether Government have considered the question of introducing eggless days every week; if not, why not?

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

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) This is not necessary as the supply position has improved.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are we to take it seriously that Bhargavas have now taken to egg-eating?

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I am only asking for my friend.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FAMINE ENQUIRY COMMISSION AND APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED MILITARY OFFICER AS SPECIAL COMMISSIONER

1247. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Food Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a retired military officer has recently been appointed as special Commissioner to examine the recommendations of the Famine Enquiry Commission; if so, his qualifications for the post with special reference to his study of systems of agriculture, food production, diet and eating habits of the Indians and their general economic life; and

(b) his pay and emoluments and the reasons why this officer was selected when better qualified Indians both officials and non-officials were available?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Lt. General Sir Clarence A. Bird who has been appointed to this post retired as Master General of Ordnance in India. After his retirement he worked as Regional Food Commissioner, North Western Region for about 16 months during which period he had opportunities of studying food and agricultural problems of the country.

(b) His pay is Rs. 4,000 per month inclusive of pension. He was the most suitable person available for this post.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask my Honourable friend whether there was no Indian available for this job?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The most suitable man was selected.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Do I take it that my Honourable friend is serious in stating that this was the most suitable man for this job out of four hundred million people in this country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I did not make the selection from 400 million people; but at the time he was the most suitable man for the job.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask who made the selection?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Government of India.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I want to know who the officer is who made the selection?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I can give you no more information.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I take it that my Honourable friend has no more information on this subject? Is it because he refuses to give us the exact information?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The appointment is made by the Government of India. I think that is the information that I can give.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Which particular Department?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Department of Food.

Diwan Chaman Lall: That is to say, the Honourable Member in charge?

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask if this post was advertised and if not, why not?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It was not considered necessary to advertise this post.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know what are his qualifications?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have replied to that when answering part (a) of the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What were his special qualifications before he was appointed Regional Food Controller?

Mr. B. R. Sen: His special qualification was his high administrative ability.

Diwan Chaman Lall: If the post was not advertised, how is it that the Government came to the conclusion that he was the most suitable man available?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Because he had retired as the Master General of Ordnance. He was a man of high administrative ability and he was available at the time and he was selected.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My point is very simple. If the post was not advertised, how did the Honourable Member in charge come to the conclusion that he was the only suitable man available?

Mr. B. R. Sen: In war time, we had had to fill important posts at short notice. We could not lose time in advertising or writing to the Public Service Commission or by any other channel. Therefore if we found any particular officer suitable for any particular appointment, we selected him. In this case we found Gen. Bird eminently suitable for the post.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is it not a fact that there was considerable discontent throughout the country at the appointment of an Englishman as Regional Food Commissioner and if that were so why did Government not take the next step? May I know?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not aware of any such feeling throughout the country.

PUBLICATION OF "NUTRITION" AND ITS COST TO FOOD DEPARTMENT

1248. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Food Secretary kindly state:

(a) if it is a fact that the publication 'Nutrition' is being edited by an Englishman in the English language;

(b) if he has seen the comments of the Indian press regarding this publication including those of the *Amrit Bazar Patrika*, *Hindustan Standard*, *Tribune*, *India Express* and *Free Press Journal* to the effect that the publication can serve no useful purpose;

(c) the special qualification of the officer editing the publication in respect of nutrition, Indian dietetics and eating habits and even publicity; and

(d) the cost involved to the Department?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The Officer has been taken from the Ministry of Food in London and possesses considerable experience of food distribution and publicity. He is assisted by Indian officers who are duly qualified and are familiar with Indian conditions. He is also helped by a Panel of Readers who are Indians.

(d) Rs. 30,000 per year.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact that this is a useful publication, will Government take steps to have this magazine translated in the Indian languages also and distributed?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This has already been considered and the Provincial Governments have been asked to translate this into the Provincial languages.

DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF INDIVIDUAL OWNERSHIP

1249. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of money received by the Delhi Improvement Trust since its formation up to the 28th February, 1946, by the sale of Nazul and Trust lands both freehold and leasehold;

(b) the minimum and maximum price per square yard received before, during and after the war;

(c) the method of disposal of land followed by the trust;

(d) whether it is a fact that the land is sold to the highest bidder by tender or auction irrespective of the fact that the person purchasing it requires it for his *bona fide* residential purposes or only to build for realising rent or for profiteering; and

(e) what the Trust has done so far to encourage individual ownership of houses?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Approximately 118 lakhs.

		Rs.	As.	P.
(b) Prewar period	Minimum	3	0	0
	Maximum	40	7	0
War period	Minimum	4	0	0
	Maximum	120	0	0
Post war period	Minimum	10	0	0
	Maximum	67	0	0

(c) Auction, tenders and offers.

(d) Yes, but the use to which the land can be put is always specified in the covenants relating to each plot.

(e) Certain schemes for organising Co-operative Building Societies for the purpose are under consideration by the Trust and the Chief Commissioner.

AMOUNT REALIZED AND SPENT BY DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST SINCE ITS FORMATION
†1250. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the financial resources of the Delhi Improvement Trust and a statement of money realised and spent by it up to the end of February 1946, since its formation;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Trust was burdened with an initial loan of about Rs. 35 lakhs on anti-malaria and sewage disposal works with which as such it had nothing to do; and

(c) whether it is a fact that it has done practically nothing to remove the congestion of the city and carry out other improvements?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) The financial resources of the Trust are:

- Sale proceeds of land,
- Ground rent, and
- Loans and grants-in-aid from Government.

A statement giving the information available at present is laid on the table.

(b) The Trust was made responsible for financing certain anti-malaria and sewage disposal works at a total cost of 51 lakhs. To enable the Trust to meet this expenditure the Government gave a grant of 20 lakhs and a loan of 51 lakhs.

(c) No.

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner having exhausted his quota.

Statement showing the income and expenditure of the Trust from its inception up to the 31st January, 1946

Income	Rs.
(1) Ordinary revenue	33,22,202
(2) Revenue from works and schemes	1,22,07,134
(3) Grants-in-aid	22,19,243
(4) Loans	91,77,000
(5) Subsidy from Government for rehousing	1,28,300
(6) Miscellaneous	36,644
	2,70,90,523
Expenditure	
(1) Administration charges	15,17,488
(2) Works and schemes	96,53,298
(3) Miscellaneous	2,13,199
(4) Payment to Government Pre-Trust Nazul Revenue	16,76,210
(5) Repayment of loan	34,86,500
(6) Interest on loan	17,16,760
(7) Anti-malaria works	11,55,027
(8) Sewage Disposal works	40,09,759
(9) Equated instalments on rehousing loan	1,36,272
	2,35,64,513

Figures for February 1946 are not readily available.

FULFILMENT OF AIMS OF DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST

†1251. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that on February 26th, 1937, before the Delhi Improvement Trust was formed Mr. (now Sir) E. M. Jenkins, the then Chief Commissioner designate of Delhi had given solemn promises to the citizens of Delhi in an informal meeting of the Delhi Municipality that the removal of the city's congestion and its improvement would be the first concern of the Trust and that every effort would be made by the Trust to enlist the co-operation of private owners of land with a view to secure speedy and orderly growth of the city and whether they will lay a copy of the said statement made by him on the table of the House;

(b) what steps have been taken by the Trust so far to secure the co-operation of the public or private owners of land for the development of land belonging to them and falling in the various development schemes of the Trust on modern lines and minimum cost;

(c) whether Government's attention has been drawn in this connection to a letter published on page 2 in the *National Call* dated the 24th December, 1945, and the complaints of the public contained therein; and

(d) what steps Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House when received.

(b) The general policy of the Trust has been to acquire land from private owners and develop it on modern lines at the minimum cost. Applications from individual owners for abandonment of acquisition of their properties have received by the Trust in certain cases and have been decided under the provisions of the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1912, as extended to the Province of Delhi.

(c) Yes.

(d) The Trust has a large programme of works involving an expenditure of 132 lakhs in the next financial year and the programme will be pushed through as expeditiously as possible.

UNPOPULARITY OF DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST DUE TO LAW OF COMPENSATION

†1252. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the activities of the Delhi Improvement Trust are very unpopular on account of the law of compensation which has been made applicable to acquire lands for Trust schemes; and

(b) whether Government are aware that this law is unfair and unjust to owners of private lands and differs in one important respect with the law of acquisition which is applicable to the Calcutta Improvement Trust to the detriment of private owners; if so, whether Government propose to suitably amend it at an early date; if not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) No.

(b) No. The law applicable to the acquisition of private lands for Trust Schemes is the same as in the United Provinces Town Improvement Act, 1919, and is in substance similar to the provisions of the Calcutta Improvement Act, 1911. The Government see no reason to amend the existing law.

COMPENSATION TO OWNERS OF LANDS OWING TO NON-EXECUTION OF DELHI IMPROVEMENT TRUST SCHEMES

†1253. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the Trust schemes which were notified by the Delhi Improvement Trust under section 4 of the Land Acquisition Act long ago are still pending and that the owners of private lands falling in such schemes have suffered a good deal on account of the delay on the part of the Trust in executing the schemes; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the question of paying compensation to such owners for the losses incurred by them?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) It is a fact that a number of schemes could not be proceeded with owing to difficulties arising out of war conditions. The reply to the second part of the question is in the negative.

(b) Does not arise.

DEVELOPMENT OF PRIVATE LANDS IN DELHI ON MODERN LINES

†1254. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state whether, in view of Government policy regarding building houses as laid down in the Finance Member's budget speech, he has issued or proposes to issue any instructions to the Delhi Improvement Trust to follow a policy of securing speedy development on modern lines of private lands falling in its various Town Expansion and Improvement Schemes, by releasing the same on reasonable terms and conditions? If not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: The Delhi Improvement Trust has provided for an expenditure of Rs. 1,32,00,000 in the Budget for the year 1946-47 and the schemes contemplated will be put into operation as early as possible.

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner having exhausted his quota

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having exhausted his quota.

COMPOSITION OF TRADE COMMISSIONERS AND CONSULS FOR INDIA

†1255. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

(a) the number of Indian Trade Commissioners functioning in different countries of the world today, Indians and Europeans, separately;

(b) the number of Trade Commissioners, who are drawn from the public as against those taken in from regular Government services;

(c) the number of pensioners among the Trade Commissioners and in other Consular Services for India in different countries of the world; and

(d) whether these officers are ever directed by the High Commissioner for India or by His Majesty's Government in their routine or special duties?

APPLICATION FOR IMPORT LICENCE OF DUPLEX SPEED ROTARY FROM U. S. A.
BY Janmabhoomi.

1256. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether it is a fact that in October, 1945, an application from the Janmabhoomi Group of Newspapers of Bombay, requesting for an import licence for a Duplex Speed Rotary from Battle Creek, United States of America, was received by Government?

(b) Did the Janmabhoomi supply in November 1945, to Government a comparative statement for the same type, size, etc., of the Rotary, showing that, while the United Kingdom manufacturers quoted for the same type, size, etc., of Rotary Rs. 4,09,000/- the United States of America manufacturers quoted Rs. 2,57,000/-?

(c) Did the Janmabhoomi quote a United Kingdom letter saying that the United Kingdom prices were not final and that they were likely to be higher?

(d) Is it a fact that the Janmabhoomi further showed that, while the United States of America machine has a capacity of forty thousand copies per hour, the United Kingdom Rotary has only fifteen thousand per hour, and that the United States of America machine has further more helpful devices than the United Kingdom machine?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: With your permission, Sir, I would answer Questions 1256 and 1257 together.

No. 1256. (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes. A statement on these lines was received by the Chief Controller of Imports from Janmabhoomi office in December 1945.

(c) Yes.

(d) They wrote a letter to this effect on the 7th February.

No. 1257. (a) The Janmabhoomi Office addressed a letter to the effect to the Chief Controller of Imports on the 7th February, 1946.

(b) and (c). On their furnishing the relevant particulars an import licence was issued on the 11th March, 1946. The exchange control copy of the licence issued carries with it the necessary sanction for dollar expenditure. It is not a fact that a licence was refused to them at any stage.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do I understand that a licence has been issued to these people now to get the machinery from America and to save 1½ lakhs of rupees by doing so?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: The exchange control carries with it sanction for dollar expenditure. That means that we can get it from the dollar countries.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1240.

APPLICATION FOR IMPORT LICENCE OF DUPLEX SPEED ROTARY FROM U. S. A.
BY Janmabhoomi.

†1257. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if: it is a fact that the Janmabhoomi informed Government on their inquiry in January 1946, that while the United States of America manufacturers gave hopes to supply the Duplex Speed Rotary machine at the end of this year, the United Kingdom manufacturers could not give hopes earlier than two years?

(b) If the information contained in the above is correct, why is it that the necessary licence and dollar permit have been refused to them, in spite of the fact that prices are rising every month?

(c) Do Government propose to grant quickly the necessary import licence and dollar permit, so that their order may not be cancelled and they may not have to pay enhanced prices?

REQUISITIONED HOUSES IN KAROL BAGH, DELHI

†1258. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that the undermentioned houses in Karol Bagh, Delhi which were requisitioned by Government for allotment to Government servants, have been lying vacant or unoccupied for a period varying from one to six months?

(1) 15-A/39	First Floor I.
(2) 15-A/9	Ground Floor I.
(3) Do.	Do. II.
(4) 6/73	First Floor II.
(5) 6/73	Ground Floor I.
(6) 24-25	First Floor
(7) No. 19	Birla Flat.
(8) 53/7	Ground Floor I.
(9) 15-A/2-3-4	Ground Floor I.
(10) Birla Building	Ground Floor II.
(11) Do.	Ground Floor I.
(12) 6/75-76	First Floor VI.
(13) 642	B. D.
(14) 25310	M. C.
(15) 15-A/39	Ground Floor II.
(16) 15-A/39	Ground Floor I.
(17) 6/75-76	First Floor V.
(18) Ganesh Bhawan	...
(19) 6/64	Ground Floor.

(b) Is it also a fact that most of such houses were successively allotted, but refused by various allottees, mostly because of lack of proper living conditions and privacy?

† For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1256.

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

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A statement showing the position of the requisitioned houses in question is placed on the table of the House.
(b) Some of these houses proved unpopular and were refused when offered and were thus lying vacant for some time as shown in the statement laid on the table of the House.

Statement showing the position of the leased houses in question

S. No.	Name of the house	Date from which lying vacant	Remarks
1	15-A/39-F. F. I.	26th June 1945	It was offered to officials on 26th June 1945, 15th August 1945, 12th November 1945, 21st November 1945 and 31st January 1946 but was refused successively by all. It has been released from 8th March 1946
2	15-A/9 G. F. I.	14th January 1946	The allotment made to the previous allottee was cancelled from 14th January 1946. It was re-allotted on 28th January 1946 and accepted on 7th February 1946
3	15-A/9 G. F. II.	15th November 1945	The house was a re-allotted to officials on 20th November 1945, 21st December 1945, 28th January 1946 and 16th February 1946 but was refused by all in turn. It has been re-allotted from 14th March 1946
4	6/73 F. F. II	September 1945	The house was offered to different officials on 4th October 1945, 26th October 1945 and 4th December 1945 but was refused by all. It was finally accepted on 3rd January 1946
5	6/73 G. F. I.	5th February 1946	The allottee was declared ineligible from getting Government accommodation and he vacated the house on 5th February 1946. It was re-allotted on 22nd February 1946
6	24/26 (should be 22/6)	November 1945	The house was offered to different officials on 19th July 1945, 28th July 1945, 19th October 1945, 26th November 1945, 21st December 1945 and 28th January 1946 but was refused by each allottee. It was finally accepted on 16th February 1946 and has been occupied by the allottee
7	No. 19 Birla Flat	January 1946	Reserved for casual visitors
8	53/75 G. F. I.	23rd December 1945	Surrendered by the previous allottee on 23rd December 1945. It was re-allotted on 28th December 1945 and accepted on 3rd January 1946
9	15-A/2,3,4 G. F. I.	December 1945	It was offered on 30th January 1946 and 16th February 1946 but was refused. It has been re-allotted from 14th March 1946
10	Birla Flat G. F. II. (Represents Birla Flat No. 11)	31st January 1946	The house stands allotted to an Officer who is in occupation of flat No. 22 by mutual exchange. He has been asked to shift to his flat
11	Birla Flat G. F. I. (Represents Birla Flat No. 7)	31st January 1946	This flat was occupied by mutual exchange by the allottee of Hutment No. 164. He has been asked to vacate the Hutment and to go to his flat
12	6/75-76 F. F. VI.	20th January 1946	The house was vacated by the previous allottee on 20th January 1946 due to resignation. It has been re-allotted from 4th March 1946

No.	Name of the house	Date from which lying vacant	Remarks
13	B. D./642	January 1946	Vacated by the previous allottee in January 1946. It has been recommended for release
14	25310-M. C. (should be 2531 M. C.)	18th August 1945	This house was offered to officials on 26th June 1945, 15th August 1945, 13th September 1945, 19th October 1945, 26th November 1945 and 21st December 1945, but was refused by all in turn. It has been released from 15th March 1946.
15	15-A/39 G. F. II.	3rd July 1945	Both these sets proved unpopular and were refused when offered. These sets were released from 8th March 1946.
16	15-A/39 G. F. I.	9th August 1944	
17	Ganesh Bhawan (should be Ramesh Bhawan)	28th February 1946	Fell vacant due to the allottee being declared ineligible for Government accommodation. The house has been re-allotted from 4th March 1946.
18	6/64	28th February 1946	The house has been allotted elsewhere from 4th March 1946.

REQUISITIONED HOUSES IN KAROL BAGH, DELHI

†1259. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if Government are aware that in most cases where the requisitioned houses in Karol Bagh, Delhi, were accepted by the allottees, they were sub-let by the respective allottees, on black-market rents to the general public who were driven to pay high rents on account of grave shortage of living accommodation in Delhi?

(b) Are Government also aware that this practice of sub-letting is so prevalent that on an enquiry by the Estate Office, three flats out of four in house No. 6/73 in Karol Bagh, were found to be sub-let?

(c) Is it a fact that most of the unoccupied houses in Karol Bagh are being utilized by the local staff of the Central Public Works Department for their private ends?

(d) In view of these facts, do Government propose to consider the advisability of terminating the lease of the houses referred to in part (a) of the preceding question to save them from black-market transactions and misuse and making them available to the needy general public among whom many are Government employees on the waiting list for Government accommodation?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No.

(b) It is a fact that two flats out of the four in house No. 6/73 Karol Bagh were found to have been sub-let, but it does not follow from this one case, that sub-letting is widely prevalent.

(c) No.

(d) Government have already de-requisitioned a few houses in the Karol Bagh area, and have always under their examination the de-requisitioning of houses not required by them or which they are unable to utilize.

RECOMMENDATION FOR AMENDMENT OF PROVINCIAL INSOLVENCY ACT

1260. ***Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** Will the Honourable the Law Member be pleased to state:

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the case reported in I. L. R. 1943 Madras 83 (Full Bench) and the recent judgment of Justice Somayya in (S. A. 2273 of 1944 decided on the 5th November, 1945) the purport of which was reported on page 5 in the *Hindu*, dated the 19th November, 1945;

(b) whether Government are aware that numerous titles to property are founded upon the interpretation of section 28, Provincial Insolvency Act, as given by the Madras High Court in 49 Madras 849 Full Bench, which interpretation has now been upset by the recent Full Bench of the same High Court in 1943; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Judges have recommended legislation to amend the provisions of the Provincial Insolvency Act so as to bring it in conformity with the provisions of the corresponding section in the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act; if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) Yes.

(b) The judgments referred to in Part A show that such cases exist, but I am not aware whether they are numerous.

(c) Yes; the recommendation reached the Government of India in September 1942, and was reserved for consideration after the termination of the War. The matter will be taken up as soon as Government are free from the pre-occupations of the current Session of the Legislature.

NON-REPRESENTATION OF MADRAS ON TRADE MISSIONS

1261. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have received a representation from the Southern India Chamber of Commerce drawing their attention to the conspicuous absence of representation of Madras in the various Trade Missions sent out from India and characterising it as "invidious discrimination"; and

(b) whether the Government of India will consider the desirability of giving proper representation to Madras and other industrially backward provinces in such Trade Missions;

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) I have not been able to trace any representation on the subject.

(b) Government will bear in mind the suggestion regarding proper representation of industrially backward provinces on such Trade Missions. I might add that trade missions deal with highly technical matters connected with trade and commerce, and as such, we have to draft men who are fully acquainted with the subject.

TRANSPORT FACILITIES TO CONGRESS MEDICAL MISSION TO MALAYA

+1262. *Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news published that arrangements have been completed for the despatch of the Congress Medical Mission for Malaya and that it is only awaiting transport facilities;

(b) whether Government would take steps for granting immediate transport facilities; and

(c) whether, in view of the great humanitarian services proposed to be rendered by the Mission, the Government of India would consider the advisability of granting free transport facilities to the Mission?

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

(b) Yes.

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

(c) The Government of India have already undertaken very substantial expenditure on legal assistance for defence of arrested Indians, on general relief to the Indian community and on equipping and sending a medical party of their own. They, therefore, regret that they are unable to undertake this commitment, particularly as they are giving the Congress Medical Mission all such facilities as they can on the understanding that this Mission would supplement medical relief in Malaya at their own cost. The Congress Medical Mission has not also expressed any desire for being provided with free transport facilities.

TRADE COMMISSIONERS AND TRADE AGENTS FOR INDIA

+1263. *Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) the names of, and the places in which, the Indian Trade Commissioners and Trade Agents are stationed;

(b) whether Government are aware that in order to rehabilitate our post-war economy, many more Trade Commissioners have to be appointed; and

(c) whether Government are aware that Trade Commissioners appointed from the rank and file of the Government services have not proved a success and whether they propose to recruit Trade Commissioners and Trade Agents mainly from the Indian non-official public with requisite qualifications?

FORMATION OF GRAIN PANCHAYATS AND GRAIN BANK IN VILLAGES

+1264. *Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a suggestion for the formation of grain panchayats and grain Banks in villages; and

(b) whether, in view of corruption and difficulties experienced by the Government officials in the present system of distribution, Government will take a lead in formulating a scheme for the starting and maintenance of a chain of such village grain panchayats and grain Banks?

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

(b) The Government of India have already brought to the notice of Provincial and State Governments the desirability of promoting village grain Banks and entrusting to the Co-operative Organisation the marketing of agricultural produce.

STRIKE IN INDIAN SCHOOL OF MINES

1265. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether there has been a strike in the Indian School of Mines?

(b) Has the strike ended?

(c) Is it a fact that recently a deputation of the students waited upon the Honourable Member?

(d) Is it a fact that the graduates of the Indian School of Mines are not permitted by the Coal Mines Regulations to hold any responsible position in coal mines?

(e) Will Government consider the advisability of amending the Coal Mines' Regulation so as to make the diploma of the Indian School of Mines equivalent?

[†]For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1240.

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

to the Second Class Mine Manager's Certificate of competency subject to the holder obtaining practical experience in coal mines for a further period of one year? If not, why not?

(f) What steps do Government propose to take to remedy the grievances of the students?

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

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Yes. The certificate or diploma holders of the Indian School of Mines must secure a Second Class or First Class Colliery manager's certificate before they can be appointed to a responsible position in a coal mine.

(e) and (f). The matter is under consideration. Government are considering the extent to which the regulations under the Mines Act can be altered to give some weightage under those Regulations to the Diploma of the School of Mines, but they do not consider that it is possible to treat that diploma as a substitute for the Second Class mine manager's certificate granted under those regulations.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When Government are responsible for both certificates as well as diploma, what is it that prevents the Government of India to see that diploma holders are given training which will be considered equivalent to the training or efficiency which certificate holders are expected to possess?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have discovered in my examination of the subject that there are certain anomalies and I am taking steps to rectify them.

TRACTORS PURCHASED FROM ABROAD

1266. ***Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state how many tractors have been ordered from abroad, and with whom the orders have been placed?

(b) How many have been received so far, and when is the balance expected to be received?

(c) Have the tractors so far received got all the accessories to put them on work?

(d) How many tractors have been actually taken to places where they are required?

(e) Of the total number of tractors ordered, what is the number allotted to each area or Province?

(f) Of the tractors, how many are of British manufacture and how many of American manufacture? What is the price of each tractor and the capacity of each?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Since 1943, 531 Tractors have been ordered from the United States of America through the India Supply Mission, Washington, of which 82 were under lease-lend.

(b) 112 have been received so far and the promised ex-factory delivery of the remaining is spread over the period April-December, 1946.

(c) No, Sir, heavy ploughs are required for most of these tractors but only 25 of them have been received so far.

(d) 75 have already been taken and 33 most of which arrived recently are in the course of being taken to the areas where they are required. The remaining four are in stock to meet emergencies.

(e) A statement is laid on the table.

(f) All these tractors are of American manufacture. A statement is laid on the table showing their prices and capacity.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Statement showing Allocation of 531 Tractors ordered since January 1943, referred to in part (e) of the reply

2983

Allottee	Number of Tractors
Bombay	151
United Provinces	145
Bengal	50
Sind	41
Bihar	30
Punjab	17
Madras	8
N. W. F. Province	3
Assam	13
Baluchistan	6
I. A. R. I.	2
Central Tractor Station	4
Army Authorities (Q. M. G.)	4
Rampur	11
Hyderabad	15
Baroda	6
Mysore	22
Travancore	2
Bundi State	1
Total	531

Statement showing the prices capacities of tractors referred to in part (d) of the reply

No. of Tractors	Type of Tractors	Horse power	Price per tractor in dollars
10	Wheel type WD-9	30	1770
18	Crawler Class II	65 to 84	4900
35	Crawler Class III	50 to 64	4000
49	Crawler Class IV	35 to 49	2725

Seta Govind Das: Are these tractors run by crude oil or kerosene oil?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: All these tractors are worked by diesel oil.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Have the Government undertaken to purchase the accessories for the tractors from U. K.?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: So far as heavy ploughs are concerned, which are the main accessories required, the position is that 189 of these have been purchased from U.S.A. and 133 from U. K.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: I am referring to heavy ploughs which are the accessories to the tractors. Is U.S.A. able to supply accessories?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: Neither England nor America is able to supply accessories, before September to December 1946.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the good of importing these tractors, if we are not able to have accessories with which alone the tractors can be made use of in this country?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We are trying our best to get the ploughs with the tractors, but if we wait till we get the ploughs before ordering for tractors, we may be landed in the position where we have ploughs but no tractors.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: How much time is considered necessary to get accessories from U. K.?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We are not getting any single tractor from U. K. Every one of the tractors has been ordered from U. S. A.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: I am talking of accessories.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: As regards accessories, we are trying to obtain as many of them as we can from both countries combined.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Until we get these ploughs these tractors would be of no use at all.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government have not made any efforts to produce the accessories in the ordnance factories?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The matter has been taken up and steps are being taken to produce these heavy ploughs in India, and negotiations are going on with a firm. We are hoping that they will be able to start the manufacture before the close of the year.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why not the ordnance factories produce these accessories?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The question of entrusting this work to the ordnance factories is also being examined in consultation with the authorities concerned.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that accessories are not merely ploughs, but there are other accessories like cutting machines, threshing machines and all other machines which can be prepared in ordnance factories?

Mr. President: The question relates only to ploughs.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Are the machineries which are proposed to be imported complete and ready to be put on land?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: There are several tractors which are already being worked by the Bombay Government as there are ploughs with them. Certain other tractors are also being worked in connection with digging of tanks.

TRACTORS PURCHASED FROM ABROAD.

1267. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that an official of the Government of India has been sent to England to place orders for tractors?

(b) Is it a fact that the tractors so far purchased are without accessories?

(c) Do Government propose to undertake the manufacture of accessories for the tractors in India?

(d) Will Government be pleased to enquire the possibility of getting suitable machinery for use on paddy-growing areas from Australia?

(e) Considering the present food scarcity, will Government be pleased to arrange for priority of transport for securing the machinery as quickly as possible before the monsoon?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) An officer was sent to Canada, the United States of America and the United Kingdom to contact manufacturers and expedite deliveries of orders for Tractors and Tractor-drawn implements placed in those countries. He has already returned to India.

(b) No, Sir. The implements required for these tractors have also been ordered but the delivery of these implements has lagged behind the tractors on account of difficulties of manufacture. It is hoped to obtain 75 ploughs from the United States of America in the period April to September, another 114 from the United States of America between September and December and the remaining 133 from the United Kingdom also in the period September to December 1946.

(c) Active steps are being taken to encourage a private firm to take up such manufacture at an early date.

(d) The suggestion is being examined but such information as is available at present shows that tractors are not suitable for the cultivation of rice in the way in which it is usually carried on in India.

(e) The difficulty in obtaining the machinery is not due to transport but to the extremely limited supplies available for export from the manufacturing countries.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

UNITED STATES ARMY CHAPEL, NEW DELHI.

1268. *Sri S. T. Adityan: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether it is a fact that the United States Army Chapel, New Delhi, is proposed to be converted for secular purposes?

(b) What are the names of applicants who have offered to purchase this Chapel?

(c) Are Government aware that it would wound the religious susceptibilities of a large section of Christians if a Church is converted for any other use except religious worship in a Christian form?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The matter is under consideration.

(b) The Government have not received any offer for the purchase of this Chapel.

(c) It is understood that the Chapel has not been consecrated and its use for purpose other than religious worship in a Christian form should not therefore wound the religious susceptibilities of a large section of Christians.

FOOD RATION PER HEAD IN ENGLAND

1269. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the food ration given per head in England in terms of calories; and
(b) the food ration given per head in India in terms of calories?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) 790 calories daily per adult made up of meat 2.3/7 oz., bacon 3/7 oz., fats 1.1/7 oz., sugar 1.1/7 oz., cheese 3/7 oz., and jam 4/7 oz.
(b) 1,330 calories daily made up of cereal 12 ozs. and sugar 1.1/7 oz.

TRACTORS PURCHASED FROM ABROAD

1270. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tractors for which orders were placed with the British firms in 1945-46; and

(b) the number of tractors delivered during 1945-46 out of the tractors so ordered?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The only orders placed by Government are for six market garden tractors of 3 to 10 H.P. Another 125 tractors of the latter type and one Fordson Major tractor of 28 H.P. have been ordered by the trade and private individuals.

(b) The six market garden tractors have recently been received. No information is available in respect of those ordered by non-Government agencies.

MEDICAL MEN DEPUTED BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS FOR FIELD SERVICE DURING THE WAR.

1271. *Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah: Will the Health Secretary please state whether it is a fact that all Medical men deputed by Provincial Governments for Field Service during the war will be given special increments without distinction and irrespective of the area in which they were required to serve by the exigencies of military service? If not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Most Provincial Governments have decided to allow officers of the provincial medical services deputed for military duty to count the period spent on "active service" or "field service" as double the period for the purposes of increment of pay. The necessity for defining the term "field" or "active" service for this purpose is being brought to the notice of Provincial Governments.

PURCHASE OF NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES AS CONDITION PRECEDENT FOR ISSUE OF PERMITS FOR SUGAR, KEROSENE AND RICE.

1272. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state whether Government are aware that complaints have been made in the Press and to the Provincial Government of Madras that Revenue officers in South Canara have made it a condition precedent for the issue of permits for sugar, kerosene and rice that National Savings Certificates should be purchased?

(b) Have Government enquired into these allegations? If so, with what results?

(c) Is it a fact that notices were served on ryots who did not purchase National Savings Certificates to appear before the Revenue Divisional Officers? If so, why?

Mr. B. R. Sen: An inquiry has been made from the Madras Government and the information will be laid on the table of the House when received.

TAKING AWAY OF PADDY FROM AGRICULTURISTS REQUIRED FOR THEIR OWN USE

1273. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state whether the rice-growers (who also grow Betelnuts) were disallowed in South Canara from retaining their own paddy for distribution among (or the use of) the permanent agricultural labourers serving under them? If so, why?

(b) Is it the policy of Government to take away the grains required by the producers for legitimate purposes as mentioned in (a) above?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Rice growers in South Kanara district, who also grow betelnuts, are allowed to retain their own paddy for the use of the labourers employed by them for betelnut cultivation provided that they open grains shops for their employees.

UNCULTIVATED PADDY FIELDS IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS

1274. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state the extent of uncultivated paddy fields and other cultivable lands in (i) North Canara, (ii) South Canara, (iii) Coorg and (iv) Malabar District? Have steps been taken to use them for "Grow More Food" purposes? If so, what are the measures taken?

(b) What is the extent of the paddy fields left uncultivated among the lands requisitioned for military purposes in South Canara?

(c) Have Government taken steps to get them cultivated either directly or indirectly? If not, why not?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a), (b) and (c). The information required by the Honourable Member is being collected and will be supplied as soon as it is received.

COMPENSATION FOR LOSSES OF INDIANS IN FAR EAST

1275. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state what steps Government have taken in order to deal with claims of Indians, who came to India from the Far East on account of war conditions, leaving assets behind them and whose claims are registered with Government for eventual settlement after the war?

(b) What has happened to the assets with the Custodian of Enemy Property, and what was the amount of these assets?

(c) What is the position with regard to reparations from Japan?

(d) What other assets could be legitimately utilised towards the fulfilment of these claims, and in what manner is it intended to deal with them?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The claims of Indians who came to India from the Far East on account of war conditions are of four categories, *viz.*, those against (i) Japan, (ii) Siam, (iii) Allied territories formerly under enemy occupation, and (iv) Empire countries under similar occupation.

The claims against Japan will be settled in terms of any Agreement that may be reached at the Japanese Reparations Conference. The claims against Siam will be settled in accordance with the provisions of Article 3, read with Article 23, of the Agreement terminating the state of war between the Governments of the United Kingdom and India, on the one hand, and the Government of Siam on the other. The claims against Allied territories are to be settled in terms of the debt settlement agreements which will be concluded with the countries concerned. Lastly, so far as claims in the Empire countries are concerned, the question of setting up the necessary machinery for verifying, assessing and meeting the claims in the territory concerned is understood to be engaging the active consideration of His Majesty's Government.

(b) The enemy assets are vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property. The value of Japanese assets so vested amounts to Rs. 3,05,17,500.

(c) The question of Japanese Reparations is now at the discussion stage.

(d) The enemy assets which are vested in the Custodian may be available for the settlement of the claims but no decision has yet been reached as to the manner in which such assets will be dealt with.

THORIUM AND URANIUM DEPOSITS IN INDIA

1276. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether there are, and if so, to what extent, Thorium and Uranium deposits anywhere in India? What steps are being taken to exploit the existing resources?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No deposit of economic value has yet been found.

The mineral monazite (one of the Thorium bearing minerals) does occur along the Southern coast line of India notably on the Travancore coast.

IMPORT AND SHORTAGE OF FOODGRAINS

1277. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the details of shortage of foodgrains expected during the current year in India; and

(b) the quantities likely to be imported from abroad during the current year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) We have estimated our total deficit in 1946 at 6 million tons and placed a minimum demand for a little over 4 million tons before the Combined Food Board.

(b) Definite allocations have not yet been made.

USE OF D.D.T. FOR ANTI-MALARIAL MEASURES

1278. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state: (a) whether any steps are being taken to make available to Municipalities and civilians generally quantities of D. D. T. at cheap rates,

(b) Whether the R. A. F. and R. I. A. F. crafts are being utilised for spraying towns with D. D. T. as an anti-malarial measure; and

(c) whether facilities for such spraying will be made available throughout India?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) Supplies of D.D.T. were obtained from the United Kingdom sometime back and have been allotted to the Provincial Governments for distribution. An obstacle to the production of D.D.T. in India at a low cost is the high price of the raw materials required for its manufacture, namely, alcohol, benzene, chlorine and sulphuric acid. The Industries and Supplies Department are exploring the possibility of securing a reduction in the prices of these materials.

(b) and (c). No. In towns D.D.T. has to be sprayed on the surfaces inside buildings and spraying from the air would not be effective.

IMPORT OF TYPEWRITERS

1279. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state how many typewriting machines have been imported in India since the 1st of April, 1940?

(b) How many of these have been released for the civil population and in which Provinces, and by what test?

(c) Is it a fact that there is a great shortage in India of these machines and that business firms are put to very great inconvenience?

(d) What steps have Government taken in order to increase the availability of these machines?

(e) Did this constitute one of the articles about which the Hydari Mission negotiated?

(f) What is the general position about the availability of typewriting machines, and what is the forecast of Government during the next twelve months?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) About 76,000 up to December 1945,

(b) From April 1940 to October 1943—information not available.

From October 1943 to the end of 1945—about 2950.

The test by which releases were made was one of essentiality. These releases were made to commercial and industrial concerns, public utilities, educational institutions, professional people and businessmen and preference was given to war industries or agencies engaged in work connected with the war effort.

(c) Yes, there has been a great shortage of typewriters in India.

(d) Since the end of the war, typewriters for public use are being imported through commercial channels as in pre-war days. Government have impressed upon the various importing firms the desirability of importing typewriters in as large a number as possible. The firms have been invited to come up for Government assistance, if necessary, after ascertaining the supplying capacity of their principals in America. Import licences for large quantities of typewriters

have been issued. For the period July to December 1945 alone, licences for import from U.S.A. were issued for 11,717 typewriters. The acute shortage of typewriters in India was also brought to the notice of the American authorities in August last and they were requested to accord high priority to the releases of at least 15,000 typewriters for shipment to India by the end of June 1946.

(e) No.

(f) Only 4,400 typewriters (excluding Hermes "Baby" typewriters from Switzerland which are unsuitable for regular office work) were imported into this country during the six months from September 1945 to February 1946 against India's minimum yearly requirements of 15,500 machines. The present position is, therefore, unsatisfactory but some improvement is expected during the next twelve months.

TRADE BETWEEN INDIA, CHINA AND JAPAN

1280. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce member please state what Mission has been sent to China?

(b) Who are the members of the Mission, and what is the Mission expected to achieve?

(c) Is a similar Mission being projected to be sent to Japan?

(d) Has any representation been received by Government towards this purpose?

(e) What steps are being taken in order to resume trade between India and (i) China, and (ii) Japan?

(f) Has any suggestion towards this end been received by the Government of India either from His Majesty's Government or from the South East Asia Command or from General MacArthur or from Chinese authorities?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) and (b). A Trade Mission consisting of Mr. K. K. Chettur, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Commerce Department and three representatives of commercial interests, namely Mr. Tulsidas Kilachand, Mr. Mohd. Sulaiman Mitha and Mr. G. B. Kotak, has been sent to China, primarily to endeavour in facilitating export to China of Indian goods, particularly surpluses of raw cotton and tobacco and to discover means of re-establishing Sino-Indian trade on a suitable and expanding basis.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) (i) The Report of the Trade Mission to China is awaited.

(e) (ii) and (f). The matter is under correspondence with His Majesty's Government and the desire of the Government of India to resume trade with Japan at the earliest possible date has been brought to the notice of the United States Government also. The question of setting up machinery for handling imports into and exports from Japan is at present under discussion and will shortly be taken up in the Far Eastern Commission, on which India is represented.

Meanwhile Mr. Bharat Ram has been deputed to act as India's Observer on the Textile Mission to Japan, sponsored by the United States, and is expected to report on Japanese requirements of raw cotton from India.

WELFARE OF FAMILIES OF INDIAN TROOPS

1281. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether any arrangement has been made for the welfare of the families of the Indian troops?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what is the nature of this arrangement, how much money has been spent, and how many families have been relieved and in which province?

(c) How much money from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund has been made available for this purpose, to whom was it made available, and how many families have been relieved?

(d) What is the nature of the relief given, i.e., is the relief provided in cash or in kind, and what is the agency through which this is achieved?

(e) What is the corresponding amount spent on the welfare and amenities of the families of the British troops in India?

(f) Is it not a fact that the corresponding number of the Indian troops is very much larger?

(g) What exactly is the number of the Indian troops' families as compared with the British troops' families?

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

(b) I lay a statement on the table of the House.

(c) The information regarding the money drawn during 1945 from H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund has been appended to the statement. As this money was merged in the amounts received from other sources, and the whole spent on relief measures, it is not possible to say how many families benefited exclusively from the money drawn from this source.

(d) Relief from the various benevolent funds controlled by the Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen's Board organisation is awarded only in cash in the form of temporary pensions tenable for two years subject to their renewal on the expiry of this period. A lump sum grant is also made for the marriage of a daughter, opening of a shop, etc. Relief money is disbursed to the beneficiaries through the District/State Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards or, where no Boards exist, through the Civil Authorities concerned.

Relief given by the Board is intended only for the benefit of Indian Ex-servicemen and their dependants and not for the benefit of serving Indian troops and their families. I lay another statement on the table of the House, showing details of some of the other important welfare measures undertaken by the Government for the benefit of families of Service and Ex-servicemen.

(e) No Government funds have been specifically allotted for or expended on the welfare and amenities of British Troops' families in India. Such few Troops as live in India, enjoy a share of the amenities and entertainment provided for the B.O.R.

During the past twelve months, however, approximately Rs. 2,13,800 have been expended on the pay, food, accommodation and passages for Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen's Families Association Welfare Workers in India. These lady workers are employed in helping in various ways the British Other Ranks' families resident in India. Their functions are akin to the Sailors, Soldiers, and Airmen's Board Organisation and Civil Liaison Organisation, who help Indian families of Indian troops. They are mainly employed in advising B.O.Rs. with families in U.K. on domestic problems. Nothing is spent by the Government of India on the families of British troops in the U.K.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) A special census would have to be undertaken to ascertain the exact number of Indian Troops who are married. On 1st January 1946, however, it was estimated that the number of married soldiers of the Indian Army was 900,000. Among the British soldiers serving in India, 50,616 are understood to have wives or families, the majority of whom are not living in India.

Statement in respect of part (b) question

Two organisations have been set up for the care and welfare of the families of Indian servicemen and ex-servicemen. They are known as:

(1) The Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board.

(2) The Civil Liaison Officer Organisation.

2. The Sailors', Soldiers', and Airmen's Board.—The Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board is a civil organisation, the working unit of which is the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board established at the headquarters of a district. The Deputy Commissioner/Collector is the President of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board. Other members include a number of officials and non-officials and representatives of ex-servicemen, nominated by the Deputy Commissioner/Collector. Each Board has a paid Secretary, usually an ex-V. C. O. and a small staff to attend to routine work.

3. The function of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board is to watch over the welfare of ex-servicemen and their families and the interests of service personnel absent from their homes. Their specific duties include obtaining and circulating information regarding educational concessions available for servicemen's children, ascertaining the whereabouts of serving sailors', soldiers' and airmen, procuring legal advice in cases against absent servicemen, assisting the settlement of dispute out of court, adding, ex-servicemen in securing medals, pensions, arrears of pay, investigating cases of delay or occasional non-payment of family allotment money orders, keeping a watch on the adequacy of the number of pension paying branch post offices, representing any inadequacy or deficiency in these to the appropriate authorities and investigating cases in need of assistance or relief. Each Board has a team of welfare workers who are usually ex-N.C.Os. or ex-V.C.Os. who are employed in investigating complaints in villages and other similar duties as directed by the Secretary of the Board. There are at present altogether 172 Districts, Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards in British India, as opposed to 85 at the beginning of the war. A statement showing their location is attached.

4. At Provincial headquarters (except in Sind), there is a Provincial Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board whose duty is to co-ordinate, superintend and direct the work of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards in its jurisdiction. At the headquarters of the Government of India, New Delhi, there is the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board under the *ex-officio* chairmanship of H. E. the War Member. Other members are: H. E. the Governor of the Punjab, (*ex-officio*), 2 members of H. E. the Viceroy's Executive Council nominated by H. E. the Viceroy, the Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, the Air Officer Commanding, India, the Adjutant General-in-India, the Welfare General in India, the Political Adviser to Crown Representative, the War Secretary, the Financial Adviser, Military Finance, and Begum Shah Nawaz. The Secretary of the Central Board is an Under Secretary in the War Department. The Central Board co-ordinates the work of the Provincial and District Boards. The Central Government give a grant-in-aid to the Central Board every year for financing the organisation of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards. For the year 1945-46, a little over Rs. 8 lakhs was received from the Central Government for this purpose. The Central Board is responsible to the Central Government for seeing that the organisation fulfils the purpose for which it was created.

5. In addition to what has been said above, Indian States have their own Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards. In view of the fact that large numbers of men have been recruited from Indian State for the State Forces as well as for the Indian Army the Government of India have agreed to contribute half of the expenditure involved in maintaining the State Boards.

6. The Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board controls certain benevolent funds for the alleviation of distress amongst ex-servicemen and their families. Certain Provinces have also started their own benevolent funds. Applications for relief from these funds are made through the D.S.S. and A.B. or Civil Liaison Officer organisation.

7. The Civil Liaison Officer Organisation.—Parallel to the Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board Organisation is the Civil Liaison Officer Organisation which functions as a part of the military machine. It has been set up to cope with the special conditions created by the war. The functions of this Organisation are:

(a) to form a link between the civil and military authorities at all levels.

(b) to enable the military authorities directly to watch over the interests of the enlisted classes.

(c) to assist civil authorities in their D. S. S. A. B. work.

(d) to assist all ranks in bringing their legitimate wants and difficulties to the notice of the appropriate civil authority and to assist the latter in providing the solution.

Apart from this, the officers of this organisation advise, assist and to some extent, supervise the work of D. S. S. A. Bs.

8. There are 5 Chief Civil Liaison Officers in India. Their designations and areas are as follows :

Designation	Area.
C. C. L. O. Northern Area.	Punjab. N. W. F. P. Sind and Baluchistan. Kashmir. Punjab States. North West Frontier States. Baluchistan States.
C. C. L. O., Bombay and C. P. Area.	Bombay Presidency. Central Provinces. Berar. Hyderabad State. Deccan States. Some Eastern States.
C. C. L. O. Madras Area.	Madras Presidency. Mysore. Madras States.
C. C. L. O., U. P. and Eastern India.	U. P. Bihar. Orissa. Bengal. Assam. Certain Eastern and Central India States.
C. C. L. O., Rajputana & Central India.	Ajmer Merwara. Rajputana States. Western India States. Certain Central India States.

Each C. C. L. O. has under him a group of C. L. Os. and each C. L. O. a group of A. C. L. Os.

The total sanctioned establishment of officers is 76 of which 51 are touring officers and the remainder staff officers. The touring officers are almost constantly on tour attending to functions assigned to them, which consist of maintaining

(a) close contact with Provincial Governments and all Civil Officials and a liaison between them and their corresponding military authorities.

(b) close contact with Civil Departments and institutions such as Posts and Telegraphs, Education, Police, PSSABS, and DSSABS.

The estimated cost of the Civil Liaison Officer Organisation establishment is approximately Rs. 15,45,732.

9. Incorporated in the C. L. O. Organisation is the Fauji Sevadarni scheme which operates in all the C. C. L. O. areas except in Rajputana and Central India, where it was found to be impracticable. The scheme provides for an organisation of women welfare workers to function at the following levels.

Sevadarni—village level.

Head Sevadarni—tehsil level.

Inspectress—D. S. A. A. B. level.

Lady A. C. L. O.—to supervise and co-ordinate the scheme in her area.

This scheme was introduced for the benefit of female relatives of servicemen, of whom those observing *parda* are not able to interview male welfare workers. Fauji Sevadarnis are employed to contact these women, to advise and assist them and to provide a channel for giving vent to their grievances. The total cost of the Sevadarni scheme is Rs. 2,40,000 which sum does not include the salaries of 5 Lady A. C. L. Os. who get Rs. 300 p. m. each.

Statements showing the money spent by the ISSAB during the year 1945 from the various benevolent funds controlled by them and the number of families relieved therefrom, and the Provinces and States to which these families belong are attached.

Statement in respect of part (d) of question

Women's Institutes.—Six Training Centres were opened in 1943, as an experimental measure, with the object of giving wives of Indian soldiers living in unit lines, instructions in teaching knitting, sewing, cooking, hygiene, and other domestic occupations. In view of the success achieved by these experimental institutes, the scheme was extended in 1944 to include another 14 Training Centres at places where suitable buildings were available for the purpose. There are at present 21 centres with 23 institutes. The total cost of maintaining these institutes comes to Rs. 92,641 (initial expenditure) and Rs. 73,150 (recurring expenditure per annum) the whole of which is paid by the Government of India.

Indian Forces' Families Maternity and Child Welfare.—Maternity and Child Welfare Centres are established in most Indian units with family quarters in their lines.

These Centres attend to the minor ailments of the wives and children of V.C.Os. and other ranks living in unit lines and also to maternity cases. In addition, talks are given on elementary hygiene and care of children.

The cost of these Centres is met by private funds raised by units. There is also a central fund called "The Indian Forces' Families Maternity and Child Welfare Fund" controlled by a Committee at G. H. Q. (I.) Delhi, which makes allotment twice a year to assist Maternity and Child Welfare Centres who cannot raise sufficient funds to maintain themselves. The total assets of the Central Fund are Rs. 1,08,000 of which Rs. 88,000 come from private sources and Rs. 20,000 from the Defence Services Budget. For the financial year 1945-46 an additional grant of Rs. 30,000 was made from the Defence Services Budget to meet the increase in demands from Child Welfare Centres.

Reunions.—The Government of India have sanctioned expenditure up to Rs. 60,000 per annum on reunions of Indian servicemen, pensioners and their relatives. These reunions are held under arrangements made by the local military authorities and the Civil Liaison Officer Organisation. At these gatherings sports are held and tea and sweets are distributed.

ACQUISITION OF LAND IN BOMBAY FOR NAVAL TRAINING CENTRE

1982. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Is the War Secretary aware of the fact that the villages of Madh, Yerangal, Aksa and Marve, which are situated in the most salubrious part of Bombay (Salsette), are sought to be acquired by the military authorities?

(b) Have Government received representations from the Bombay Town Planning Committee and other public organisations, and have they seen protests in the press, in the matter of the proposed acquisition?

(c) Do Government propose to give an assurance to this House that they have no intention to acquire these lands, which provide an open beach for the citizens of Bombay and the very large suburban population?

(d) Have Government considered the question of locating the proposed Naval Training Centre a little further up the coast so as to keep the cadets away from the main city?

(e) Have Government already given back the lands, which they had requisitioned in these parts? If not, when do they propose to give the lands back?

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

(c) On receiving the representations referred to in (b) above Government of India in association with the Government of Bombay ordered an enquiry into the possibility of locating the Combined Operations Training Centres elsewhere, and a report is awaited. The views of the people of Bombay will be given full consideration in reaching a decision.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) I would refer the Honourable Member to the reply given to part (d) of Mr. C. P. Lawson's starred question No. 49, on the 7th of February, 1946.

PAUCITY OF APPLICANTS FOR PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN THE ARMY AND NAVY.

1283. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to an article which appeared in the weekly *Blitz* of Bombay, dated the 24th November, 1945, entitled "Indianisation my foot"? If so, what steps does he intend to take to allay public fears regarding complete Indianisation of the Army?

(b) Is it a fact that even amongst the eligible Indian officers, only five per cent. have applied for permanent commissions, and are Government aware of the reasons as to why other officers have not volunteered?

(c) Could Indianisation of the Army and Navy have been accelerated by staggering the age groups rather than by the present system of taking officers only up to a particular age, *viz.*, thirty?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir. Attention is invited to the press communique, dated the 22nd October, 1945, which lays down the policy for the Indianisation of the Army in India, which is that except for 40 officers in the R.I.N., no permanent commissions will in future be given to any but statutory Indians. Since this communique was issued, special short training courses for Regular Commissions in the Indian Army have been instituted pending the establishment of the War Memorial Academy. One thousand regular commissions in the Indian Army are being offered to Emergency Commissioned Indian Officers, and 66 in the R.I.N.

(b) No Sir. Up to the end of January 1946, 2,494 EIOOs had applied for regular commissions in the Indian Army and 577 in the R.I.N. These figures represent 64 per cent. and 46 per cent. respectively of the total number who are eligible. Applications continue to be received at a satisfactory rate.

(c) This suggestion would lead to a block in promotion and would not be in the interests of the Army or of the officers themselves.

RECRUITMENT IN R. I. N. AND R. I. A. F.

1284. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Is it a fact that the War Secretary is recruiting only sixty-six Indians from amongst nearly two thousand Indian Reserve Officers and that he intends to import 400 British officers from the Royal Navy? If so, why are Indian officers being demobilised and in their place British officers brought in?

(b) Are Government aware that promises of a strong Navy have been made by the Flag Officer Commanding R.I.N. from time to time, if so, what steps do Government propose to take to implement those promises, and how do they propose to widen the Indian personnel in such Navy?

(c) Do Government consider that ten squadrons of R.I.A.F. are sufficient for the defence of India? If not, what steps do Government intend taking to build up a powerful Air Force?

(d) Has the Cariappa Committee reported on the size of the Navy and the R.I.A.F.?

(e) What were the estimates which Government were following in this matter before the Cariappa Committee was appointed?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) No Sir. The future size of the Royal Indian Navy is still under consideration by the Government. Until a decision has been reached, which it is hoped will be in the near future, it is necessary to be conservative with regard to the number of permanent commissions offered.

For this reason the Government have limited the initial number to 66 permanent commissions for Indian officers and 40 for British officers.

When the future size of R.I.N. is determined, it is proposed that all further permanent commissions will be offered to Indian Officers.

At present it appears that the number of officers required may well exceed the number of Indian Reserve Officer Candidates found suitable by the selection Board. In these circumstances the Government propose to obtain a limited number of British Naval Officers by secondment for short periods (possibly three years). These officers will of course, be replaced by Indian officers as soon as possible. The Government consider this policy preferable to that of accepting unsuitable candidates who would lower the standard of efficiency and block the prospects of young Indian officers for a generation to come. The number of officers, who may be seconded, will be very much less than 400.

(b) The Government of India are already negotiating for the purchase from H.M.G. of three medium sized cruisers, particulars of which have appeared in the press. These ships, which will be of the same class, will form the basis of a powerful and balanced Naval force. The policy for complete Nationalisation of the R.I.N. as soon as practicable, has already been announced.

(c) No Sir. Government, when in June 1945, they officially announced their intention to maintain after the war with Japan the Royal Indian Air Force 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, made it clear that this was only an initial minimum strength which will be expanded as rapidly as conditions permit and as personnel becomes available.

(d) The Re-organisation Committee (India) did not make recommendations regarding the size of the R.I.N. as this did not come within their terms of reference. They proceeded on the assumption that until the aircrew position improved, ten squadrons would be the strength of the R.I.A.F.

(e) Estimates were being prepared for the Government by the services, and are now under consideration, with the advice of their Financial Advisers.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MR. HAROLD V. COES, CONSULTING ENGINEER AND HIS REPORT ON POST WAR RECONSTRUCTION.

1285. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one Mr. Harold V. Coes was invited by the Government of India as a Consulting Engineer and that he is preparing his report about the postwar reconstruction for submitting it to Government;

(b) for what qualifications this gentleman was recruited as a Consulting Engineer, and whether there was no equally qualified person in this country; and

(c) whether Government will make the report of Mr. Coes public without any undue delay?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) and first part of (b). Yes; to assist the Industrial Plant and Machinery (Heavy) Panel which has been set up for examining the possibility of manufacturing Textile, Sugar, Paper, Mining, Cement, Chemical and other machinery in India. Mr. Coes is a senior representative of Messrs Ford, Bacon and Davis, a leading American Firm of Consulting Engineers, who have had previous experience of work of this type.

Second part of (b). No.

(c) Mr. Coes has just completed his work and his report is awaited. The question of publishing it will be considered when it is received.

RECRUITMENT OF EUROPEANS TO I. C. S. AND I. P. S.

1286. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme for the recruitment of Europeans to the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police has been evolved some time ago;

(b) whether Government propose to defer such scheme till new Government comes into existence at the Centre;

(c) whether Government are aware that under this scheme, the standards for admission, for the Europeans to the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police Service are vague and elastic; and

(d) whether Government are aware that under this scheme, a candidate need not even pass any examination provided he can satisfy certain psychological tests?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) to (d). The recruitment regulations and the terms and conditions of service applicable to war reserved vacancies in the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police are contained in the pamphlet "Civil Appointments in India and Burma", a copy of which is in the Library. The method of selection combines a preliminary test by a selection board followed by a final interview by, in the case of Indian candidates, the Federal Public Service Commission and, in the case of European candidates by an interview board constituted by the Secretary of State in London.

I have already explained, during the debate on the adjournment motion, the reasons why the Secretary of State decided to fill those vacancies which were left unfilled during the war in pursuance of the undertaking given to men who joined the Defence Services.

DUMPING*OF FOREIGN EXPERTS IN INDIA

1287. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Is the Honourable the Home Member aware that there is intense public dislike in the country for the dumping of foreign experts in this country?

(b) Have Government any proposal for the rapid elimination and stoppage of the existing as well as the incoming flow of foreign experts?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I have heard and read some expressions of opinion on the subject.

(b) Foreign nationals, i.e., persons who are not British subjects, can be appointed to civil posts under the Crown in India only in a temporary capacity in accordance with the provisions of S. 262 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

Experts, whether British or otherwise, are recruited outside India only when qualified and suitable persons are not available in India. Save in the exceptional case of posts excluded from the purview of the Federal Public Service Commission, the normal procedure is for all posts to be advertised in India by the Commission. If the Commission fail to secure a suitable candidate in this way, recourse is had to recruitment in England, through the High Commissioner for India, or in the U.S.A. through the Indian Agent General in the U.S.A. or elsewhere through the Government of India's Agent. In the case of a highly technical post for which there seem good grounds for believing that no suitably qualified candidates are available in India, the post may, with the concurrence of the Commission, be advertised simultaneously in India and abroad.

HUNGER STRIKE IN R.I.A.F.

1288. *Seth Govind Das: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether the news that some hundreds of R.I.A.F. men have taken to hunger strike as a result of the insulting behaviour of a Camp Commander is correct;

(b) whether it is a fact that, while the British personnel are allowed to be in civilian dress off duty, the Indians are not;

(c) the reasons for this differential and discriminatory treatment;

(d) whether they propose to impress on the British Military officials the necessity of being civil and polite to the Indian officers and other Indian personnel; and

(e) what steps they propose to take to prevent the happening of such incidents in future?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). No, Sir.

(c), (d) and (e). Do not arise, but I would like to explain that the actual facts are as stated in my reply to starred question No. 320, answered on the 18th February, 1946.

EXPENDITURE ON PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

1289. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Member for Planning and Development please state what has been the expenditure incurred on the Planning and Development Department since it was instituted up to the last date, for which figures are available, under different heads, such as (i) administration and travelling expenses incurred by the Honourable Member and staff, (ii) travelling expenses and other charges incurred in connection with the meetings of Policy Committees and Panels, and (iii) all other expenditure?

(b) Did any grant to the National Planning Committee ever appear in the budget of the Planning Development Department since it was established?

(c) Did the Planning Department at any stage render any assistance to the deliberations carried on by the National Planning Committee under the presidency of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru?

(d) Has there been any correspondence between the Planning and Development Department and the Honorary Secretary of the National Planning Committee, Prof. K. T. Shah? If so, on what subject?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) A statement of expenditure under three different heads is laid on the table.

(b) No.

(c) Yes. In October, 1945, the National Planning Committee approached the P. and D. Department for the supply of information and statistical data such as the 1941 Census Report, production figures, distribution figures, trade, finance, labour and transport statistics. Such material as was available was sent to the National Planning Committee. P. and D. Department also sent Prof. C. N. Vakil, Economist, as their representative to the National Planning Committee's meeting held on the 8th November, 1945.

(d) Yes, there has been correspondence between the P. and D. Department and the Secretary, National Planning Committee, on the following subjects:

(i) for the supply of available information to the Committee;

(ii) for the grant of about Rs. 25,000 to the Committee by the Government of India.

Statement of expenditure incurred on the Planning and Development Department since it was instituted up to the last available date for which figures are available, under different heads.

(a)

(i) Administration and travelling expenses incurred by—

	Rs.
(I) H. M.	1,02,173
(II) Officers and Staff	10,87,043

Total 11,89,216

(ii) Travelling and other charges incurred in connection with the meetings of Policy Committees and Panels 54,711

(iii) All other expenditure 1,56,767

OFFICIAL HELP TO THE NATIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE.

1290. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Did the National Planning Committee approach the Honourable Member for Planning and Development at any time with a request for (i) financial help, (ii) appointment of a representative on the Planning Committee, and (iii) permission to Government officers to work on sub-committees appointed by the National Planning Committee?

(b) If so, what was the response from him, and what were the arrangements, if any, made in effect under each of the above heads?

(c) With reference to the letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, dated the 24th July, 1939, addressed to the Chairman, National Planning Committee, will Government make clear the reason for their refusal to give a representative to serve as a member of the Committee and for their offer instead of a deputation of the Economic Adviser to Government to attend meetings?

(d) What was implied by the words, "Any views expressed by Dr. Gregory would be his personal views"?

(e) Is it a fact that Government refused to permit some high officials, who were requested to work on the sub-committees of the National Planning Committee, to work?

(f) Were any publications of Government sent to the National Planning Committee from 1939 to 1945?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) (i) Yes. (ii) Yes. (iii) No.

(b) Regarding (i) the National Planning Committee asked for a grant of Rs. 25,000 from the Government of India, and the Honourable Member advised the Secretary, National Planning Committee, to approach the Finance Department direct and to send him a copy of their letter. He promised to see what he could do in the matter.

(ii) Prof. C. N. Vakil, Economist, represented the P. and D. Department at the National Planning Committee's meeting held on the 8th November, 1945.

(iii) Does not arise.

(c) The reasons for Government's inability to nominate a representative to be a member of the National Planning Committee and the offer instead to depute the Economic Adviser to the Government of India to attend its meetings were made clear to the chairman of the Committee in para. 2 of the letter referred to.

(d) In para. 2 of the letter referred to, the Government of India made it clear that though they felt unable to nominate a representative, i.e., an officer who would give expression to the views of the Government, they were prepared to depute Dr. Gregory to assist in the deliberations of the National Planning Committee. Accordingly, the views that might be expressed by Dr. Gregory would be his personal views and would not commit Government.

(e) Yes. In para. 3 of the letter, the Government explained that they would find it difficult to spare the services of these officers.

(f) Yes. A list of publications sent to the National Planning Committee by the P. and D. Department during 1945, is laid on the table. Only one publication is known to have been sent to the National Planning Committee by the Commerce Department in 1939, before the Committee ceased to function.

Name of Publications.

1. First Report on the progress of Reconstruction Planning.
2. Second Report on Reconstruction Planning.
3. Post-War Educational Development in India.
4. Post-War Development of Indian Fisheries by Bains Prashad.
5. Post-War Forest Policy for India by Sir Herbert Howard.
6. Technological possibilities of Agricultural Development in India by W. Barns.
7. Scientific Research in India by Prof. A. V. Hill.
8. Memo. of the Development of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India.
9. Memo. on Indians Trade Policy in the Post-War Period.
10. Memo. on Indian Monetary Policy in the Post-War Period.
11. The location of Industry in India.
12. Information for students desiring to proceed overseas for advanced studies.
13. Statement of Government's Industrial Policy.
14. Report on Post-War Road Development in India.
15. Record of the first meeting of General Policy Committee.
16. Record of the second meeting of General Policy Committee.
17. Record of the third meeting of General Policy Committee.
18. Record of the first meeting of Policy Committee No. 1 on Resettlement and Re-employment.
19. Record of the first meeting of Policy Committee No. 3A on Transport.
20. Record of the first meeting of Policy Committee No. 3B on Posts and Aviation.
21. Record of the second meeting of Policy Committee No. 3C (Public Works and Electric Power).
22. Record of the third meeting of Policy Committee No. 4 (Trade and Industry Policy).
23. Record of the first meeting of Policy Committee No. 4B on Industries.
24. Record of the first meeting of Policy Committee No. 4C on Shipping.
25. Record of the second meeting of Policy Committee No. 5 on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
26. Report of the Technical Sub-Committee to the subject Committee on Transport on the future of road transport and road rail relations
27. India Needs.
28. India can offer.
29. India's Raw Materials.
30. The Indian Cotton Mill Industry.
31. The Jute Industry in India.
32. The Story of Indian Coffee.
33. The Sugar Industry in India.
34. Indian Glass Industry.
35. Paper making in India.
36. Lac in India.
37. Indian Hides and Skins.
38. The Mineral Resources of India.
39. Report on 'Metallurgical and Engineering Industries, by Dr. P. J. Thomas.
40. Report on the 'Development of Industries for War Supplies' by Dr. P. J. Thomas.
41. Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India, 1938.
42. Reports by the Railway Board on Indian Railways, Volume II.
43. Budget Speech for 1945-46.
44. Explanatory Memorandum and Budget for 1945-46.
45. Report on the Crop Cutting Survey on wheat in Punjab 1943-44.
46. Progress Report on scheme for Crop Cutting Survey on Paddy in Tanjore Distt., Madras, 1944-45.
47. Progress Report on Scheme for Crop Cutting Survey on Paddy in Kolaba District, Bombay, 1944-45.
48. Progress report on Scheme for Crop Cutting Survey on Paddy in Raipur District, C. P. and Berar, 1944-45.
49. The Research Organisation in England.

WITHDRAWAL BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA OF EXCHANGE FACILITIES ENJOYED BY INDIAN BANKS.

1291. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Finance Member been drawn to the recent action of the Reserve Bank of India which has resulted in withdrawing the facilities enjoyed by Indian banks hitherto of doing exchange work through an Exchange Bank and recovering some part of the charges?

(b) Was this action taken at the instance of the British banks, and is it a fact that the party most concerned amongst others is the National City Bank of New York from the United States of America?

(c) Have Government or the Reserve Bank received any representation on this subject?

(d) Is there any public object served in making the restriction above-mentioned? If so, what is it?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) The Reserve Bank have taken no such action.

(b), (c) and (d). In view of the answer to part (a), these do not arise.

SEPERATE PANEL FOR COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

1292. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether a separate panel for cottage Industries has been formed, as per the promise made by his predecessor, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, in the first meeting of the Standing Committee for Planning? if not, why not;

(b) if it is formed, what its personnel is;

(c) whether Government have scrutinised Provincial plans for the development and protection of cottage industries; if so, whether any effort is made at the centre to prepare an all-India plan or plans for Cottage industries, or whether any officer or panel is at work on it; and

(d) whether Government have any scheme at all to protect cottage industries from the competition of Indian and foreign Mill industries?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) No. What Sir Ardeshir Dalal actually said was that "he was considering the appointment of a Panel or a Special Officer to investigate the whole position of the Cottage Industry in India". After careful consideration, he came to the conclusion that no panel was necessary, because Provincial Governments had already been asked to set up special sub-committees of their Industries Committees to make recommendations regarding the development of cottage industries, and if any panel were set up at the Centre, it would have cut across the work of these sub-committees. In order, however, to assist the Provincial Governments in this important work and, in particular, to ensure that the All-India aspects of the problem were subjected to careful examination, it was decided that the Economic Adviser should make a survey. I lay on the table of the House a copy of a letter issued to Provincial Governments on the subject.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) First part.—I lay on the table of the House a list of plans for the development of cottage industries included in provincial five year plans. These are under examination.

Second part.—This is covered by my reply to clause (a).

(d) Government will consider this on receipt of recommendations from Provincial Governments and after examining the Economic Adviser's report.

No. P-8 (44)/45.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

IMPERIAL SECRETARIAT, NORTH BLOCK,

New Delhi, the 14th May 1945.

From

T. M. S. Mani, Esq., I.C.S., Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

To

All Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners.

SUBJECT:—Development of Cottage and Small-scale Industries.

SIR,

I am directed to refer to this Department's letter No. 59/R.C., dated the 22nd September 1944, in which it was suggested that the Provincial Government may appoint Special Committees to review the position of cottage and small-scale industries with particular reference to their types, capacity, location, markets, availability of raw materials, etc., and to state that the Government of India attach the utmost importance to the development of cottage and small-scale industries as an essential and integral part of industrial expansion. They consider that, in addition to the surveys to be made by Provincial Governments, and to supplement such surveys, they themselves should also examine the position of these industries from the point of view of All-India Policy. The work has been entrusted to the Economic Adviser to the Government of India who, after a preliminary study, will approach Directors of Industries and the Provincial Industries Committees for the necessary data. Members of the office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India may also visit important centres and collect information. The results of his labours and those of the Province could then be pooled and a co-ordinated plan evolved.

2. I am to say that the Government of India trust that Provincial Governments will make the co-operation of their Directors of Industries and the Provincial Industries Committees available to the Economic Adviser, to the Government of India and the officers working under him and to request that instructions be issued to the officers concerned and the Committees to assist the Economic Adviser and his office in this important task.

I have the honour to be

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) T. M. S. MANI,

Joint Secretary to the Government of India.

Copies to:—

(i) Political Department for necessary action about States.

(ii) Economic Adviser.

(iii) Industrial Adviser.

(iv) Education, Health and Lands Department.

(v) Industries and Civil Supplies Department.

(vi) Commerce Department.

Schemes of Provincial Governments for the Development of Cottage Industries

Serial No.	Name of Province.	Scheme No.	Description of Scheme.	Expenditure (Cost in thousands of Rs.)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Madras	40	(1) Coir goods manufacture (2) Leather goods manufacture. (3) Pile carpet and woolen goods. (4) Ceramics (5) Metal ware, cutlery and small types of agricultural implements, etc. (6) Mat weaving and basket making (7) Wood work. (8) Cigars and cheroots (9) Glass bangles and beads. (10) Distillation of essential oils and soap manufacture, and etc.	3,8,23	To be developed on Cooperative basis Assistance of Govt. required for obtaining materials Machinery or technical personnel and of Central Government for obtaining Tools and Chemicals.
		41	Handloom Industry		
		108	Central Research Institute for Cottage Industries		
2	Bombay	108	To organise peripatetic parties on the existing lines in Cotton weaving, wool weaving, tanning etc.	9,03	To develop the Cottage Industries of the Province as well as improve the economic condition of Cotton workers.
3	Bihar	131	Establishment of Cottage Industries—Institutes		To impart training in Hand spinning weaving etc. Production and marketing of Handloom articles.
		132	Marketing of Handloom products.		
		68	Development of weavers Coop. societies and marketing of their products.	24,21	Central Government's help may be required for import of machineries. To improve the quality of woollen and cotton goods by the Handloom.
		134	Establishment of three wool-weaving Demonstration factories and Cotton weaving Factories.		
		135			

Schemes of Provincial Governments for the Development of Cottage Industries.

Serial No.	Name of Province.	Scheme No.	Description of Scheme	Expenditure (Cost in thousands of Rs.)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
4	U. P.	68	Loans for small scale workers for equipment	19,80	To provide loans to help small scale and cottage industries in general Assistance of Central Govt. may be required for machinery. To prescribe standards of quality for textile leather etc. produced in the Cottage Industries.
		69	Inspection Depots		
5	C. P. & Berar	151	Development of the Central Weaver's Coop. Society and its affiliated weavers Primary Societies.	10,85	To develop the handloom Weaving Industry
		152	Development of Balaghat District Growers Associations.		
		153	Development of Malkapur Taluk Growers Associations		
		154	Amraoti Taluk Agricultural Association Development.		
		155	Development of Cooperative activities in aboriginal areas.		
6	Punjab	213	Cotton Spinning and Weaving to put up a spinners unit consisting of 15,000 spindles.	81,39	To give assistance to cottage worker A complete spinning unit will be imported from abroad. To set up a collecting, dyeing, finishing and distributing station at the important Handloom weaving Centres. To set up two spinneries one for worsted yarns other for woollen yarns. To provide facilities for designing, finishing and marketing and propose to establish Central Agency fed by five branches.
		214	Establishment of an Industrial Colony for Power Loom Weavers.		
		215	Encouragement of Cotton Handloom Industry.		
		216	Wool Spinning and Weaving.		
		217	Silk and Art Silk Weaving.		

Serial No.	Name of Province.	Scheme No.	Description of Scheme	Expenditure (Cost in thousands of Rs.)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
		218	Sericulture Industry.		To establish grainage station and two Mulberry farms.
		219	Tanning and Leather goods Industry.		To improve the quality propose to set up five leather dying and finishing stations and leather goods and marketing station.
		220	Cutlery and Surgical Instrument Industry.		Propose to set up two technical and marketing centres and Metallurgist and marketing officer to be appointed.
		221	Sports Goods Industry.		To put up two demonstration Kilns.
		222	Pottery Industry.		Saw Mill and Wood Works to be set up.
		223	Wood Working Industry		
7	Sind	1	Cottage and small scale Industries like Handloom, Potteries Lacquerware, Tanning, Sericulture Bee Keeping, Fibre, Dying and Printing of Wool Spinning Weaving.	10.91	Propose to organise fairs and exhibitions to popularise Cottage industry wares and also to market these wares through Sales Depots or Emporia.
8	Assam	3	Cottage Industries and Factories.	7.10	Establishment of two cottage Industries Institutes and factories for handloom weaving, dyeing, calico printing, manufacture of washing soaps, electroplating, hosiery, leather goods, lacquir work, raten work, cutlery and agricultural implements. Assistance of Central Govt. required in obtaining machinery.

Serial No.	Name of Province.	Scheme No.	Description of Scheme	Expenditure (Cost in thousands of Rs.)	Remarks.
1	2	3	4	5	6
9	Bengal	111 76	Handloom Industry Reorganization of Sericultural development work in Villages.	96.26	To be developed on Cooperative basis 1500 weavers societies 30 unions and 63 Sale depots Installation of one Spinning Mill, one dyeing factory and four signing and calendering machines. Expansion of Mulberry cultivation grainage work for supplying cellular seeds to rearers and to provide protection equipment to rearers against fly posts etc. Assistance of Central Govt. required in obtaining special equipment and appliances.
10	Orissa	35 123 128	Improvement of the Angul Weaving School and Phulbani Industrial School. Conversion of the present Textile Marketing Organization into a provincial Handloom weavers' cooperative society. Supervision of weaver's Cooperative Society.	29.55	To give a course of weaving instructions. For coordinating production of handloom textiles through primary weavers cooperative societies and for organising their marketing. To ameliorate the economic conditions of the Handloom weavers.

APPELLATIONS OF MESSRS. GANDHI AND JINNAH, IN NEWS BROADCASTS BY ALL INDIA RADIO.

1293. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state if he is aware of the fact that in the news bulletins broadcast by the All-India Radio, Mr. Gandhi is always mentioned with the title of 'Mahatma' given to him by the Hindus, while Mr. Jinnah is not called with the appellation of honour, Qaid-e-Azam, given to him by the Muslim India?

(b) Does the Honourable Member propose to give an assurance that the word 'Qaid-e-Azam' will, in future, be used in the News bulletins? If not, will he apply the same rule with regard to Mr. Gandhi?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Mr. Gandhi is always referred to as Mr. Gandhi in English news bulletins. In Indian languages he is referred to as Mahatma Gandhi or Gandhiji in accordance with ordinary local usage.

(b) It is the practice of All India Radio not to use political titles. The title Quaid-e-Azam by itself falls under this definition, and so far as I am aware it is not common practice to speak of Quaid-e-Azam Jinnah. That being so Government do not propose to change their present procedure.

PROMINENCE IN ALL-INDIA NEWSREELS TO CONGRESSMEN'S MEETINGS WITH M. P. DELEGATION.

1294. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable Member for Information and Arts been drawn to the report in the *Dawn* of the 18th February, 1946, and a leader in the same paper at a subsequent date about the newsreels prepared by his Department?

(b) Is it a fact that in a news-reel showing the activities of the M.P. Delegation produced by the Department of Information and Arts, the meeting of the Delegation with Dr. Khan Sahib, a Congress Leader, a Congress public meeting addressed by Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and a close up of the tricolour flag of the Congress were shown with much prominence while the meetings with important League Leaders including Qaid-e-Azam were completely ignored?

(c) Has the Honourable Member enquired into the causes which lead to this kind of discrimination? What steps has he taken to prevent its recurrence, and what action has he taken against those responsible for this?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to question No. 954, given on the 13th March.

NIGHT FLYING OF AEROPLANES OVER DELHI.

1295. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

- (a) if it is a fact that aeroplanes fly late at nights over Delhi;
- (b) if these do not make a lot of noise disturbing sleeping residents;
- (c) the purpose for which these fly about; and
- (d) if he proposes to take steps to prohibit such night-flying?

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

(b) No representation has been received from residents.

(c) For various purposes, Sir; such as training, transport, or arrivals and departures, and recently in connexion with Victory Week.

(d) Certainly not, Sir. The Honourable Member will find he gradually becomes accustomed to the conditions of modern life.

PUBLICATION OF NEW INCOME-TAX MANUAL.

1296. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

- (a) when the Income-tax Manual was last published;
- (b) when he expects next to publish an up-to-date Income-tax Manual; and
- (c) if he proposes to expedite its publication?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a), (b) and (c). The 9th edition of the Income-tax Manual corrected up to 31st December, 1945, has been just published and is available on sale to the public with the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi, and other authorised sellers of Government of India Publications.

BAN ON ENTRY OF RAJA MAHENDRA PRATAP IN INDIA

1297. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state;

- (a) if the ban against the entry in India of Raja Mahendra Pratap still exists;
- (b) if so, the reason for maintaining the ban;
- (c) if Raja Mahendra Pratap has ever expressed his desire to return to India; and
- (d) if Government will consider the desirability of lifting the ban?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) The authorities in Japan have been informed that he is not wanted in India.

- (b) Since he renounced his British Indian nationality, the Government of India are under no obligation to afford his entry to his country.
- (c) The Government of India have received no such request from him.
- (d) This will be considered if and when he applies for permission to return.

RESIGATIONS OF PROF. C. L. VAKIL AND SIR ARDESHIR DALAL FROM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT.

1298. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

- (a) if he has seen the statement issued by Prof. C. L. Vakil on his resignation from this Department;
- (b) what Government have to say to his charges that the permanent civil servants and others in this and other Departments have been non-co-operating and obstructing the development of useful essential and expeditious plans for real planning; and
- (c) if it is for the same reasons that Sir Ardeshir Dalal has resigned?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) *First part.*—While Prof. Vakil did not allege non-co-operation on the part of officials he did imply that his expert economic advice was not taken.

Second part.—I am sorry that Prof. Vakil has seen fit to make a unilateral statement to the Press. There are generally two sides to a question; and as I believe that the interests of Planning and Development in India would be best served by the avoidance of personal controversies I would request my Honourable friend not to press me further in regard to the reasons for his reasons therefor.

(c) Sir Ardeshir Dalal in the statement he issued on leaving office explained that he resigned for personal reasons.

PROVISION OF BROADCASTING STATIONS FOR PROVINCES AND GROUPS OF STATES

1299. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state:

- (a) whether every Province of India has been provided with a Broadcasting Station;
- (b) whether the need of every group of the Indian States has been satisfied with the provision of Broadcasting Stations in India and what are the Provinces or groups of States that are not given stations within their borders with reasons therefore; and
- (c) the percentage of financial expenditure allotted for each Province for purpose of broadcasting and the basis on which such expenses are fixed?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) No.

(b) No, Sir. It is not the responsibility of the Government of India to look after the needs of the Indian States in matters of Broadcasting. The

Provinces which do not have Broadcasting Stations are: Bihar, Sind, Orissa, Central Provinces and Berar and Assam. The location of Broadcasting Stations was decided before the war with reference to linguistic factors, density of population and the possibility of providing programmes.

(c) Expenditure is not allotted on a provincial basis; the second part of the question does not arise.

CARTOON SECTION STAFF OF INFORMATION FILMS OF INDIA

1300. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state:

(a) what, if any, are the animated cartoon pictures produced by the Information Films of India;

(b) how many cartoonists are working in the Information Films of India, and how many of them are Indians and how many non-Indians;

(c) whether the chief or chiefs of the Cartoon Section of the Information Films of India, are non-Indians; and

(d) the salary received by such chiefs?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) No cartoon films have been completed so far by the Cartoon Film Unit of the Information Films of India. Two cartoon films, however, are nearing completion as also an animated sequence for inclusion in a film on the Railways.

(b) There are six cartoonists. They are designated Animators. Four of them are Indians and two non-Indians.

(c) The Chief of the Unit is a non-Indian.

(d) Rs. 1,250.

PROVINCIAL PLANS FOR POST-WAR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

1301. *Mr. Anand Mohan Poddar: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) the names of Provinces which have drafted plans for the post-war industrial development;

(b) the relationship between the Central Provincial Governments in regard to these provincial plans; and

(c) whether any scheme has been drawn by the Central Government in regard to the plans formulated by Provincial Governments?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Schemes for industrial development have been included by all Provincial Governments in their draft five year plans.

(b) and (c). The schemes of which I will gladly lay a list on the table of the House, if the Honourable Member so desires, are largely training schemes and demonstration schemes for cottage industries. These will be examined at the Centre and points of difference settled in agreement with Provinces.

ABOLITION OF EUROPEAN MUSIC FROM INDIAN BROADCASTING STATIONS

1302. *Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware of the fact that a considerable percentage of programmes such as music, lectures, etc., is meant solely for the benefit of Europeans;

(b) whether, in view of the small proportion of the European population in the country, they propose to abolish European music from the Indian Broadcasting Stations; and

(c) whether Government propose to make available Radio Stations to the various Indian parties for broadcasting their legitimate political creed as is done in other countries?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) A certain percentage of All-India Radio's programmes consists of Western Music and English Talks, but these are not meant solely for the benefit of Europeans. A considerable number of Indians also listen to them.

(b) Does not arise

(c) No.

REDUCTION OF TAX ON BETELNUTS

1303. *Mr. Ananda Mohan Poddar: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India are aware that the present tax on betelnuts is a great burden and a source of irritation to the poorer sections of the country; especially agriculturists and people of the rural parts;

(b) whether they are aware that betelnuts is an article of necessity for the poor people of this country; and

(c) whether, in view of the assurance given by him that he would try his best to reduce taxation on the poor people, the Government of India would see their way to abolish the duties on betelnuts?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: (a) to (c). While not accepting all the implications of the question, I am giving the whole matter my earnest consideration.

ARMY HELP IN FIGHTING FAMINE.

1304. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the War Secretary please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a letter in the *Hindu* of the 9th March, 1946, regarding the threat of famine in parts of India;

(b) if Government have considered the advisability of using the sappers and miners in the military service to dig wells and lay approach roads to the main roads, as suggested in that letter;

(c) if Government will also consider the desirability of posting Army doctors to possible famine areas to assist the doctors who may already be on the spot; and

(d) what steps, if any, the army is taking to assist, in fighting famine within India?

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

(b) At the present time all available Units are employed on civil development works.

(c) and (d). Provincial Medical Service Officers who joined the Army for the period of the emergency are now being released as quickly as possible. In general, where the resources of the Civil authorities are inadequate, they may call on local Military Commanders to assist them. Orders have been issued to the Military authorities to render all possible assistance in such cases. Should this assistance be inadequate, local Commanders may call for further assistance from the next higher Military authorities. I have question on this subject down for answer next Monday in answer to which I shall explain in detail the steps which are being taken by the Military authorities to assist in fighting famine in India.

SALARIES AND QUALIFICATIONS OF INDIAN AND BRITISH ARMAMENT ARTIFICERS.

1305. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that the starting salary of an Indian Armament Artificer (I. E. M. E.) is Rs. 70/- on enrolment and Rs. 140/- on successful completion of training after twenty-eight months?

(b) Is it a fact that a British Armament Artificer gets Rs. 300 to start with?

(c) Is it a fact that the minimum qualification prescribed for an Indian Armament Artificer is Intermediate with Science subjects?

(d) Is it a fact that, in practice, many double graduates and M. A.s., have been recruited for the posts of Indian Armament Artificers?

(e) Is it a fact that the British Armament Artificer's qualifications fall much below the standard set for the Indians?

(f) Will Government consider the advisability of equalising the salary of the Indian Artificers with that of the British Artificers? If not, why not?

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

(b) No, Sir. A British Armament Artificer receives a starting salary of Rs. 265/- p.m.

(c) The minimum educational qualification for an Indian Armament Artificer enrolled direct from civilian status is matriculation in English, Mathematics and Elementary Science with practical Engineering Training.

(d) Candidates with the qualifications indicated may have offered themselves for enrolment as Indian Armament Artificers, but without detailed investigation involving much work and trouble it is not possible to confirm or contradict this statement.

(e) No, Sir. The qualifications for Indian and British Armament artificers are of equivalent standard.

(f) No, Sir, because as has been often explained pay must be related to the general wage level of the country of origin.

CONVERSION OF ALL INDIA RADIO INTO A CORPORATION

1306. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mr. C. Barns, Director of News, All-India Radio, has proceeded to England?

(b) What is the purpose of his visit?

(c) How long will his deputation to England last?

(d) Has it any thing to do with the proposal to convert the All-India Radio into a Corporation on the lines of the B.B.C., and will Government kindly make a statement on the subject?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Barns has gone to United Kingdom to study the B. B. C.'s methods of production and scheduling of news and foreign broadcasts.

(c) About a month.

(d) No. The second part of the question does not arise.

SUPPLY OF GUN-POWDER AND CARTRIDGES, ETC., TO LICENCE-HOLDERS

1307. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Honourable Home Member be pleased to state whether Government are aware that on account of non-availability of gun-powder, cartridges and percussion caps licence-holders and agriculturists are put to great loss resulting from damage of produce by wild beasts; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to get supplies of the articles and make them available to the agriculturists?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I am prepared to believe that this is so.

(b) I assume that supplies are returning to normal; but I shall be glad to consider any steps that may be suggested for hastening that process, or any measures that can be commended to Provincial Governments for more effective check of the depredations of wild animals.

STRENGTH OF INDIAN AND NON-INDIAN OFFICERS IN GENERAL HEADQUARTERS.

1308. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the sanctioned strength of officers, separately, for each rank (Captains, Majors, Lieutenant-Colonels and Colonels) in the General Headquarters, for each Branch separately (such as Signals, Ordnance, Engineering Medical, Quartermaster, Adjutant General, Supply, etc.) as on the 1st of March, 1946;

(b) the respective number of Indians and non-Indians in the said ranks in the General Headquarters, separately, rank by rank and Branch by Branch;

(c) whether and, if so, why the percentage of Indian officers in the said ranks is greater in those Branches which require special qualifications such as Engineering and Medicine than in the Branches which require no special qualification for recruitment except general education; and

(d) whether it is not a fact that Indian officers have been appointed only where there was no qualified non-Indian available?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). I lay two statements on the table.

(c) The percentage of Indian officers is not greater in the Branches mentioned.

(d) Certainly not, Sir.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a)

Sanctioned strength of officers as on 1st March 1946 in G. H. Q. in the ranks shown

	Captains	Majors	Lt. Colonels	Colonels
G. S. Branch	243	172	69	24
D. P. R.	55	10	4	3
W. G. Branch	56	49	22	7
A. G.'s Branch	131	106	73	22
Q. M. G.'s Branch	93	93	55	21
M. G. O. Branch	146	89	49	18
E.-in-C's Branch	94	55	23	9
Medical Dte.	5	21	18	9
M. S. Branch	10	10	4	1

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (b)

Indians and Non-Indians officers in G. H. Q. on 1st January 1946 in the ranks shown

	Captains		Majors		Lt. Colonels		Colonels	
	Indians	Non-Indians	Indians	Non-Indians	Indians	Non-Indians	Indians	Non-Indians
G. S. Branch .	9	146	11	126	1	59	3	21
P. R. Dte. .	27	17	7	3	3	1	2	1
W. G. Branch .	7	49	6	41	3	19	1	6
A. G.'s Branch .	18	106	13	89	4	68	.	21
Q. M. G.'s Branch	8	66	4	69	1	53	...	21
M. G. O. Branch	7	113	2	84	...	44	1	16
E.-in-C.'s Branch	1	77	1	37	...	13	...	7
Medical Dte. .	1	3	1	17	1	16	...	7
M. S. Branch .	...	19	...	10	1	3	...	1

EFFICIENCY OF MADRAS REGIMENTS IN INDIAN ARMY.

1309. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) how many regiments of Madras there were during the war period;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Madras element in the Indian Army was found to be particularly valuable in artillery, anti-aircraft batteries, signalling, I.E.M.E., and I.A.O.C.; and

(c) how many Madras regiments are proposed to be retained as part of the standing Army?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I place on the table of the House a statement showing the number of Madras units in the Indian Army on the 1st October, 1945.

(b) Madras have done well in all the various arms of the Indian Army in which they have been employed.

(c) The matter is still under consideration.

APPENDIX 'A'

Madras Units in the Army on 1st October 1945

Arty.	Field Btys.	16	} 17,500
	Medium Btys.	3	
	Heavy AA Btys.	28	
	Light AA Btys.	27	
R.I.E.	Army Troops Coys.	1	} 37,000
	Brigade Coys.	1	
	Electrical and Mec. Coys.	2	
	Engineer Bns.	8	
	Field Coys.	33	

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
APPENDIX 'A'—contd.

	Field Park Coys.	10	
	Field Sqdns.	2	
	Mech. Equipt. Coys.	1	
	Quarrying Coys.	3	
	Workshop and Park Coys.	1	
	Forrestry Coy.	1	
	Small Units	21	
ISC.	Div. Sigs.	5	} 10,000
INF.	Sig. Secs.	193	
	Active Bns	5	
	Garrison Bns.	4	} 8,000
	Trg. Unit	1	
RIASC.	MT. 86 GT. Coys.		} 83,500
	4 MA. Sections		
	6 Tpt. Pls.		
	AT. 2,000 IORs.		
	Suprs. 10,600 IORs.		
IEME.	Misc. Units		} 22,300
IAOC.	Do.		
IPC.	14 Coys.		} 11,000
			56,000
			2,45,300 Approx.

Note.—The above figures are only approximate. They cover only the arms/corps stated and do NOT include the Madras element employed in miscellaneous establishments and base installations.

The total shown does not therefore represent the total number of Madras sepoy serving in the Army on 1st October 1945.

REFORMATION OF W. A. C. (I) BINY ANOTHER NAME.

1310. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the W.A.C.(I) will be re-formed in another name?

Mr. P. Mason: I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my answers to the supplementary questions which purported to arise from question No. 775, of the 8th March, 1946. The question of the reconstitution of a Women's Corps will be one for the decision of the future Government.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL FINANCE BY RESERVE BANK OF INDIA.

1311. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state the steps the Reserve Bank of India has taken to develop its Branch of Agricultural Finance?

(b) Are Government aware that the said Branch of the Reserve Bank only issues bulletins from time to time in English which never reach the agricul-

(c) Has the Reserve Bank advanced any money to Co-operative Credit Banks in order to enable them to advance money to the agriculturists at a comparatively low rate of interest? If so, how much amount is so advanced?

Mr. B. C. A. Cook: (a) In the course of a reply to a question, it is not possible to explain fully the steps taken by the Reserve Bank to develop its Agricultural Credit Department and I, therefore, lay a statement on the table, giving details of the activities undertaken by the Reserve Bank in this connection.

(b) As explained under part (a) the activities of the Department are not confined to the issue of bulletins. If my Honourable friend has read any of the bulletins he will see that they are intended *inter alia* for the guidance of Provincial Governments and co-operative departments and it has, therefore, been necessary to arrange, for their issue in English. Every encouragement, however, has been given to the translation of these bulletins into local languages in order to disseminate the ideas they convey.

(c) Yes, Sir. The total sum advanced since the inception of the Bank is Rs. 75,96,000.

Statement

The statutory functions of the Agricultural Credit Department are (i) to maintain an expert staff to study all questions of agricultural credit and be available for consultation by the Central Government, Provincial Governments, the Government of Burma and other banking organisations, and (ii) to co-ordinate the operations of the Bank in connection with Agricultural Credit and its relations with provincial co-operative banks and any other banks or organisations engaged in the business of agricultural credit.

As regards (i), the Bank has taken steps to equip the Department with the necessary staff whose services have been increasingly availed of by the Central Government, Provincial Governments and co-operative and other banking organizations for consultation on matters relating to agricultural credit such as the rehabilitation of the co-operative movement, reconstruction of co-operative banks on banking and business lines, relief of agricultural indebtedness, control of moneylending, etc., etc. Recently the Bank has created another Section, namely the Division of Rural Economics for undertaking research on various problems of agricultural economics with special reference to their bearing on agricultural credit.

Regarding (ii), the Department has been trying from its very start to establish closer relationship with the various agencies catering to the credit needs of the agriculturist in order to make finance available to him at cheap rates. In order to appreciate the result of these efforts, it will be well to note the limitations imposed by the Reserve Bank of India Act in regard to the financial assistance that the Bank can render to agriculture. In the first place, it cannot make advances to agriculturists direct and can extend accommodation only through scheduled banks or the Provincial Co-operative Banks. Secondly, it is not authorised to supply the long-term needs of agriculture and the kinds of agricultural bills which it may discount are limited to those drawn for seasonal agricultural operations or the marketing of crops. Lastly, the maximum period for which it can make advances is limited to nine months so that it is authorised to lend only for short periods.

Subject to the above limitations the Bank has been anxious since its establishment that the largest possible use should be made of the provisions in the Reserve Bank of India Act to finance agriculture. The first important effort in this direction was a scheme which was formulated in January 1938 for providing finance for marketing of agricultural produce through the agency of the money-lender. It was realized that the co-operative movement had touched only a very small percentage of the population and that the money-lender was still the largest supplier of agricultural finance. It was, therefore, thought that if agricultural finance was to be made available to the agriculturists on a substantial scale, the possibility of utilising the agency of the money-lenders should be explored. Under this scheme, the Bank offered to rediscount at concession rates, through the scheduled banks, the bills of approved money-lenders drawn for making advances to agriculturists against the security of produce on the condition that the benefit of the low rates was passed on to agriculturists. Among the difficulties pointed out by the scheduled banks in adopting the scheme, the important ones were:

(i) The smaller agriculturist did not usually borrow against the security of his produce. He required finance more for crop production than for its marketing. He obtained generally it by keeping a running account with a money-lender and would not, therefore, agree to commit himself to bills expressed payable on a fixed date.

(ii) The scheduled banks were not in a position to gauge the money-lender's credit readily, nor would it be possible for them to dictate the rate of interest which the latter should charge to the cultivators against produce bills.

(iii) First class bills were at present discounted at very fine rates owing to keen competition and there would be, therefore, little scope for scheduled banks to rediscount such bills with the Reserve Bank.

(iv) The debt relief measures passed during the period of depression had introduced an element of uncertainty into the sphere of agricultural credit. The scheme was therefore not proceeded with.

Efforts were simultaneously made to utilise the co-operative movements for the supply of agricultural finance and a circular was issued in May 1938, laying down the procedure to be followed by co-operative banks in obtaining such finance from the Reserve Bank. Only one provincial bank, however, borrowed from the Bank under this scheme.

In order, however, to induce provincial co-operative banks to make greater use of the finance available from the Reserve Bank, it prepared a scheme in 1942 under which it offered to grant accommodation for the marketing of crops at a concession rate (i.e., at 1 per cent. below the Bank Rate) on the condition that the benefit of the low rate was passed on to the ultimate borrower. The Bank expected that the co-operative movement would utilise the concession on a large scale and thus provide finance to agriculturists at cheap rates. Its expectations were not, however, realised, and only one provincial bank made use of the facility. It may be added that the Reserve Bank charged the provincial bank interest at the rate of 2 per cent. (i.e., 1 per cent. below the Bank Rate) for the accommodation. The provincial bank passed on this finance to a central co-operative bank at 2½ per cent. and the latter to a sale society at 3½ per cent. and the money reached the ultimate borrower at 5 per cent.

As the Bank was anxious that the provisions of the Act should be utilised to the fullest extent by the co-operative movement for financing agriculturists at cheap rates, it decided in November 1944 to extend the scheme of rebate to cover bills and promissory notes drawn for the purpose of financing seasonal agricultural operations also. Recently in the case of a provincial co-operative bank it has increased the rate of rebate from 1 per cent. to 1½ per cent., i.e., the borrowing co-operative bank is charged interest at 1½ per cent. only.

In order that the commercial banks and through them the Reserve Bank may be able to play greater part in financing agriculture than they have done so far, the Department has drafted a bill for establishing licensed warehouses and making their receipts negotiable instruments, and has circulated it to the Provincial Governments and important Indian States for its adoption. One Provincial Government, namely that of the North-West Frontier Province, has already introduced in its Legislature a bill to provide for the establishment of warehousing companies on these lines. Promotes supported by receipts issued by such companies would be discountable with the Reserve Bank of India.

EXEMPTION OF EXCHANGE BANKS FROM DEPOSITS IN RESERVE BANK OF INDIA

1312. *Mr. P. B. Gole: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Exchange Banks are exempted from the rule of depositing in the Reserve Bank of India a certain percentage of deposits against time and call money deposits prescribed for the Indian Scheduled Banks? If so, what is the reason for such exemption? If not what is the percentage prescribed for Exchange Banks?

(b) Why is any difference made between Exchange Bank and the Indian Scheduled Banks in respect of such deposits?

Mr. B. C. Cook: (a) All scheduled banks, whether exchange banks or others, are required under section 42(1) of the Reserve Bank of India Act to deposit a percentage of their cash reserves with the Reserve Bank of India.

(b) Does not arise.

ARRESTS BY DELHI POLICE FOR VICTORY CELEBRATIONS DISTURBANCES

1313. *Diwan Chaman Lal: (a) Will Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the house of one Tufan of Mohalla Dassan, Delhi, was visited by the Police on the 9th March, 1946, with orders to arrest the said Tufan and his brother?

(b) Are Government aware that Tufan had been prosecuted in connection with the 1942 disturbances?

(c) Are Government aware that Tufan had died on the 1st February, 1946?

(d) Are Government aware that the Police in Delhi made indiscriminate arrests in connection with the disturbances arising out of the Victory Celebrations, and utilised the old lists of Congress workers who had been arrested in 1942 for this purpose?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) I do not know; I am informed that he is not now a resident of Delhi.

(d) No.

ARREST OF MIR MUSHTAQ AHMAD IN CONNECTION WITH VICTORY CELEBRATIONS

DISTURBANCES AT DELHI

1314. *Diwan Chaman Lall: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that Mir Mushtaq Ahmad, a member of the Delhi Provincial Congress Committee was, during the course of the day, in connection with the disturbances arising out of Victory Celebrations, risking his life in attempting to pacify the people in Delhi and that he was in company with other Congress Leaders and was also for some time in company with the City Magistrate?

(b) Is it a fact that he was, without any warrant being shown to him, arrested and taken to the police station?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). I understand that the case against Mir Mushtaq Ahmad is *sub judice*. I cannot therefore make any statement about it.

AWARD BY SPECIAL ARBITRATION COURT *re* COMPENSATION FOR BETELNUT GARDENS IN SOUTH KANARA

1315. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state how many cases with respect to the acquisition of lands for military purposes in South Canara were referred to the Special Arbitration Court appointed by the Government?

(b) What was the total amount of annual recurring compensation originally fixed by Government?

(c) What was the total amount finally awarded by the Court?

(d) Are Government aware that the Special Arbitration court had observed that the basis and mode of assessment of compensation by the Revenue Officers in respect of betelnut gardens was wrong and would increase the annual recurring compensation in respect of all the cases before it where the betelnut gardens were involved?

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, with your permission I shall reply to question Nos. 1315 to 1317 together.

The information is not readily available. I have called for it from the Provincial Government and shall lay it on the table in due course.

COMPENSATION FOR ACQUIRED LANDS IN SOUTH KANARA

†1316. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state how many ryots accepted the compensation fixed by Government by executing agreement with Government as required by them (the Government)?

(b) Are Government aware that the Collector of South Canara refused to pay any portion of the compensation (fixed by Government) to the ryots who filed objections before the Arbitrator though the rules framed in 1943 allowed such payment?

(c) Are Government aware that several ryots were compelled to accept the amount offered by Government, as they had no means to maintain themselves in case they went to court decided the account?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1315.

(d) Have Government received representation that the compensations granted by the Government in such cases should be reviewed according to the principles laid down by the Arbitration court?

— ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES ON DE-REQUISITIONED PROPERTIES

†1317. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state the procedure adopted by Government to assess damages on properties when they are de-requisitioned?

(b) Is it a fact Revenue officers are asked to assess damages in such cases?

(c) Will Government be pleased to appoint an Arbitration Officer of judicial experience to assess damages in such cases?

FORFEITURES UNDER PENSION REGULATIONS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1318. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please refer to the answers to starred question Nos. 641 of the 21st November, 1944, and 521 of the 26th February, 1946, and state:

(a) Whether, under the authority of Pension Regulations "forfeitures" in excess of the specified quantum in Section 43 of the Indian Army Act Clauses (g), h (i), (iii) and h (v), and in addition to the specified single punishment of "dismissal" "by order", of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, have been and are being inflicted in the case of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, who on completion of the "term of their original enlistment" of fifteen years are re-engaged during National Emergency for a period "Duration of war";

(b) Whether to the prejudice of Section 47 of the Indian Army Act "Combination of punishments" specified in clause (d) along with any one or more punishments specified in clauses (g) and (h) of Section 43 has been and is being inflicted by authority other than the Court Martial; and

(c) If the reply to (a) be in the negative, whether he will please refer to War Department letter No. 5479/A.G. 15(a), dated the 7th September, 1943, Register No. 11366/A.W./5 for an instance of the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers dealt with as in (a) above?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) As already explained in reply to Mr. Sami Vencatachalam Chetty's starred question No. 641, of 21st November, 1944, when a person is dismissed, claim to pension is automatically forfeited.

(b) No, Sir. If details can be given of any case in which it is alleged that a combined punishment as contemplated by Sections 43 and 47 of the Indian Army Act has been imposed by an authority other than a Court Martial the matter will be investigated.

(c) I have seen the letter in question, and it is in order.

FORFEITURES UNDER PENSION REGULATIONS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1319. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the War Secretary been drawn to the fact that reference has not been had and is not being had to the provisions: "Any sum authorised by this Act to be deducted from the pay and allowance of any person may, without prejudice to any other mode of recovering the same, be deducted from any public money other than a pension" of the Indian Army Act, and money due or to become due on account of a pension granted, continued or customarily payable for the duration of full life a grantee or of his family for long Military service or in consideration of disability or death sustained on "active services", has been escheated, retained, reduced or refused at the discretion of a non-judicial body to the prejudice of sec-

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 1315.

tion 11 of the pensions' Act, Section 300 (2) of the Government of India Act 1935 and Note (15) to section 44 Army Act?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will he be pleased to refer to the case dealt with in the Controller of Military Accounts (P), Lahore, Pension Circular No. 446, Part III of 1945, and state whether he proposes to revise the decision contained therein and allow compensation for all the losses so long sustained?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) I regret I am unable to understand the Honourable Member's question. I have on many occasions during this Session explained that no statutory authority is required in support of the Pension Rules, and, in so far as his references to certain Acts are concerned, I would particularly invite his attention to my reply to his starred question No. 518, and to part (b) of question No. 520, answered on the 26th February, last.

(b) I was not aware of the case alluded to by the Honourable Member, but I am having enquiries made and I shall inform the Honourable Member of the result in due course.

FORFEITURES UNDER PENSION REGULATIONS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1320. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if he is aware that the specified punishment: "forfeiture in the case of a person sentenced to cashiering or dismissal from the service of all arrears of pay and allowances and other public money due to him at the time of such cashiering or dismissal" in clause (h) (iii) of Section 43, Indian Army Act, has been inflicted by a body other than Court Martial:

(i) in the case of "Officers" to the prejudice of Clauses (g) and (d) of Section 43;

(ii) in the case of "Officers" and "persons" alike enlarging the scope of the forfeiture of "public money" to cover "pension" money to become due after the date of "dismissal" on account of "Military reward", "Jangi Inam" or "Special War reward" customarily payable for life; and

(iii) in the case of "Officers" not dismissed by a sentence of a Court Martial but dismissed "by order" of His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will he please refer to letter No. Dis/16334 2/94, dated the 6th November, 1945, of the 19th Hyderabad Regimental Centre, Agra, and state whether he proposes to revise the orders contained therein and also to compensate for all the losses hitherto sustained?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is drawn to my reply to Starred Question No. 659, of the 4th March, 1946, in which I pointed out that 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.

FORFEITURES UNDER PENSION REGULATIONS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1321. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the War Secretary please refer to the answer to starred question No. 791, dated the 7th March, 1945, declaring that "The subject of Military pensions 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 and can, therefore, be granted or withheld at pleasure" and state whether the "pleasure" withhold a death or disability pension, "Military Reward", "Special War Reward", "Jangi Inam", "Victoria Cross Allowance", "Military Cross Allowance" etc., which His Excellency the Governor-General of India has granted or which are chargeable, in part or in full to His Majesty's is exercised by any officer in the Department without reference to His Majesty's Exchequer?

Mr. P. Mason: No Sir. Disability and family pensions are withheld under the orders of the Governor General in Council. The other awards referred to can be withheld only under the orders of the authority which sanctions them.

FORFEITURES UNDER PENSION REGULATIONS OF VICEROY'S COMMISSIONED OFFICERS

1322. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if he is aware that in sentencing Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Indian other ranks on "active service" to imprisonment and to such less imprisonment as is mentioned in the Indian Army Act, reference has not been had to the mandatory provision: "Shall, on conviction by Court Martial, be punished with imprisonment, or with such less imprisonment as is in this Act mentioned" and the word "or" occurring in the mandatory provision in Section 31, Indian Army Act has been read as "and" and the singular word "punishment" occurring therein has been read in the plural as "punishments" so as to make the combination of "imprisonment" with any number of "less imprisonments" mentioned in the Act to be a legal combination?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, will he please refer to War Department letter No. 59813/5/P.S./3 (b) 11, dated the 12th September, 1944, Register No. 10436-A/W/6, as an instance and state if he proposes to set aside the sentence, refund the arrears of pay and allowance retained and restore the service forfeited?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) No Sir. The particular portion of Section 31 of the Indian Army Act to which the Honourable Member refers does not prohibit the award of an additional punishment as permissible under Section 47 of the Indian Army Act.

(b) No Sir.

PERIOD OF STAY OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER IN ONE CANTONMENT

1323. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the War Secretary kindly state how long an Executive Officer is normally allowed to stay in one Cantonment?

Mr. P. Mason: There is no hard and fast rule, but subject to the needs of the service an Executive Officer is normally allowed to stay in one Cantonment for three or four years.

RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIM O. O. C.'S IN I. A. O. C.

1324. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the War Secretary please state the number of temporary Civil Ordnance Officers?

(b) What is the number of Muslims recruited as O.O.C.?

(c) Is the cadre going to be a permanent feature of the I. A. O. C. organization?

(d) Do Government propose to reserve 33 per cent. of the post-war strength for Muslims?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) 929.

(b) The number of Muslims recruited directly as Civil Ordnance Officers and the number promoted from I. A. O. C. clerks is 21.

(c) This question has not yet been decided.

(d) The usual 25 per cent reservation will be adhered to as far as possible.

SELECTION FOR I. C. S. FROM QUALIFIED MUSLIMS IN ARMY

1325. *Khan Bahadur Hafiz M. Ghazanfarulla: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state the number of Muslims who qualified for the Indian Civil Service in 1942 and 1943, but did not get the appointment?

(b) How many of such candidates secured Commission?

(c) How many of them are in the Army as Non-Commissioned Officers?

(d) In making selections for the Indian Civil Service from amongst the war service candidates, do Government propose to give preference to those who have already qualified at the open competition examination for the Indian Civil Service?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) In 1942, 24 Muslims reached the qualifying mark and two Muslims were appointed. In 1943, 14 Muslims qualified and three were appointed.

(b) and (c). This information is not readily available and will take some time to collect.

(d) I presume that the performance of a candidate in a previous Indian Civil Service Examination will receive due consideration during the course of selection for these war reserved vacancies; but no absolute preference to candidates who qualified in such examinations can be given.

INDIANISATION OF THE R. I. N.

1326. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that a large number of officers in the Royal Indian Navy are about to be or are being discharged and that 600 Voluntary Reserve officers of the Royal Indian Navy are being transferred to the Royal Indian Navy? If so, is this a step towards the Indianisation of the R.I.N.?

Mr. P. Mason: I would refer the Honourable Member to my replies to starred questions 1164 and 1165, asked by Seth Yusuf Abdoolu Haroon, on March 22nd, in which I explained the whole policy regarding the officering of the Royal Indian Navy.

FUTURE EXTENSION OF R. I. N. AND PRESENT TYPE AND TONNAGE OF SHIPS

1327. *Diwan Chaman Lall: (a) Will the War Secretary please state whether it is a fact that Government intend to obtain crafts in the near future for the purpose of extending the R.I.N. so that it should take its rightful place among the navies of the world?

(b) What is the type, number and the tonnage of the ships that form the R.I.N. today?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir. The question of three cruisers has previously been referred to in my answers to questions 793 and 948, on the 8th and 13th of March. In addition, two Frigates were obtained during the period of hostilities, and are now being transferred to the RIN from RN after being made suitable for tropical waters.

(b) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement

- (1) 6 Sloops—Average tonnage 1,370 tons.
- (2) 2 Corvettes—Average tonnage 980 tons.
- (3) 3 Frigates—Average tonnage 1,415 tons.
- (4) 17 Fleet Minesweepers—Average tonnage 625 tons.
- (5) 6 Basset Trawlers—Average tonnage 545 tons.
- (6) 1 Old Sloop—Tonnage 1,190 tons.
- (7) 1 Survey Ship—Tonnage 1,172 tons.
- (8) 6 Motor Minesweepers—Average tonnage 225 tons.
- (9) 1 Fairmile 'B' Type Motor Launch—Tonnage 90 tons.
- (10) 20 Harbour Defence Motor Launches—Average tonnage 50 tons.
- (11) 6 Landing Craft Tank.
- (12) 22 Landing Craft Mechanised.

(13) 40 Landing Craft Assault.

(14) 22 Landing Craft Personnel (Large).

In addition, the following crafts are for disposal or return to Trade:

- (1) 2 Corvettes to be returned to the Royal Navy.
- (2) 12 Basset Trawlers to be disposed of and utilized for fishing.
- (3) 2 Old Sloops to be disposed of. Average tonnage 1,470 tons.
- (4) 1 Coastal Forces Base Ship for return to Trade. Tonnage 450.
- (5) 3 Ex-Persian Gunboats to be returned to Persian Government.
- (6) 1 Ex-Persian Gunboat to be disposed of.
- (7) 1 Landing Ship (Infantry) (Large) to be returned to owners. Tonnage 11,000 tons.
- (8) 18 Fairmile 'B' Type Motor Launches for disposal.
- (9) 7 Harbour Defence Motor Launches for disposal.
- (10) 9 Auxiliary ships to be returned to Trade. Average tonnage 937 tons.

GRIEVANCES OF THE R. I. A. F. PERSONNEL

1328. *Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the War Secretary please state in detail the grievances brought to the notice of Government by the R.I.A.F. personnel who have been recently on strike, and whether it is a fact that one of the grievances relates to discriminatory treatment in the matter of allowances, pay and travelling privileges?

Mr. P. Mason: The main grievances related to pay and allowances, war gratuity, rail travel, accommodation, rations, leave, working hours, welfare, promotion, postings, hospitals, and release and resettlement.

One of the grievances related to alleged discriminatory treatment in the matter of allowances, pay and travelling privileges. As I have explained before the rates of pay, allowances, and travelling privileges of the fighting services of various countries are based on the cost of living and other factors in those countries. For this reason the American airman gets higher pay than the British airman, who in his turn, gets higher rates than the Indian airman. To attempt to equate these rates of pay would affect the whole economic structure of the country and create demands in every Branch of Government service which would be impossible to meet.

REPORT ON ROAD ROLLERS

1329. *Mr. K. O. Neogy: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state whether there is a special panel or sub-panel of the Planning Department in connection with Road Rollers? Has this panel met? If so, has it submitted any report be available to the public and the commercial bodies?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: *First part.*—Yes; a sub-panel under the Industrial Plant and Machinery Panel has been constituted.

Second part.—No; it will meet as soon as the factual data which is being collected is complete.

Third part.—Yes.

RELEASE OF SRI JAI PARKASH NARAIN AND RAM MANOHAR LOHIA

1330. *Sgt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Home Member been drawn to a news item in the Press that the Government of India had advised the Government of the United Provinces to release Sri Jai Parkash Narain and Ram Manohar Lohia and that the latter refused to take the responsibility of their release?

(b) In case the above news item is true, are the Government of India guided by the decisions of the Provincial Governments even in the matter of release of the Security Prisoners of the Central Government?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I have seen an article some what on these lines.

(b) As I have more than once explained, the decision is for the Central Government, after such consultation as is proper with Provincial Governments.

WORKING HOURS IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA SECRETARIAT OFFICES

1331. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if it is a fact that originally the working hours in the Government of India Secretariat offices were from 10-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m.?

(b) Is it a fact that due to emergency on account of the war the working hours of the offices were extended from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.?

(c) Does any emergency even now exist for not reverting to the old working hours which existed in the pre-war days? If so, what?

(d) Is it a fact that after once having reduced the working hours of the offices, they have again increased the working hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.?

(e) Are Government aware that for the sake of certain highly placed officers, the whole of the Secretariat staff who do not and cannot afford to go home for lunch from the office, is being forced to put in an extra hour in the offices?

(f) Does he propose to consider the desirability of reverting to the pre-war office hours in the Secretariat? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) to (d) and (f). The office hours observed before the 8th December, 1941, were 10-30 a.m. to 4-30 p.m. on week days other than Saturdays. Thereafter they underwent a number of changes and with effect from the 10th May, 1943 were 10-30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on week days other than Saturdays. These hours were observed till 15th October, 1945, when the office hours were reduced to 6½ hours a day. Government again went into the question recently and came to the conclusion that longer hours than those observed before the war were necessary in the interests of administration and that a 7-hour day was reasonable. The office hours were accordingly changed from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Government do not consider it proper to revert again to the previous hours.

(e) No.

CANCELLATION OF FIRE ARMS IN DELHI

1332. *Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the news in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 15th March, 1946, under the caption "300 Fire arm licences cancelled in Delhi"?

(b) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner of Delhi has cancelled the licences of about 300 persons under the Indian Arms Act?

(c) Why was it considered necessary to do so?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes;

(b) Licences cancelled numbered 174.

(c) Licences concerned had purchased either no cartridges or less than 50 cartridges during the last five years and it accordingly appeared that they no longer needed their weapons.

DIFFERENCE IN SUGAR RATION OF CIVIL POPULATION AND DEFENCE SERVICES

1333. *Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Will the War Secretary kindly state:

(a) The general scale of Sugar ration per head per annum (i) in towns of India and (ii) for rural population;

(b) The average consumption of Sugar per capita per annum by (i) British troops and (ii) Indian troops according to which the indent of the Quarter Master General in India was accepted by the Food Department this year and the last year;

(c) The reasons for the difference, if any, specially in case of such members of the Defence Services who are occupied in sedentary occupations; and

(d) Whether Government propose to reduce the sugar rations of defence services in at least non-operational areas, in view of the general shortage of sugar in the country? If not, why not?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) (i) In the principal rationed towns the sugar ration is 26 lbs. a person a year but in some places it is slightly higher or lower depending on the supplies available.

(ii) There is no sugar rationing in rural areas as such.

(b) The yearly issues of sugar a head to the Defence Services during 1945 and 1946 are:

	1945		1946	
British troops	79 lbs	13 ozs	62 lbs	10 ozs
Indian troops	51 lbs	5 ozs	45 lbs	10 ozs

(c) It is not possible to differentiate between troops in sedentary employment and on other duties owing to frequent transfers from one to the other. The physical strength and energy capacity of all troops must therefore be maintained at a high level. For this reason it is necessary they should all receive an adequate sugar ration.

(d) The sugar ration for troops has already been reduced because of the end of hostilities and the general food shortage in the country.

CUSTODY OF MEMBERS OF AZAD HIND GOVERNMENT

1334. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) If it is a fact that over three hundred persons who were connected with the Azad Hind organization, including Sardar Ishar Singh, Mr. Parmanand, Mr. Karim Ghani and others who had been members of the Azad Hind Government, were brought away from Bangkok in January, 1946;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. M. S. Aney, representative of the Government of India, who was present at the time of their embarkation, assured them that they would be taken direct to India;

(c) whether it is a fact that these persons were forcibly landed at Singapore and are kept in custody in various jails there; and

(d) what steps Government are taking to bring them to India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes.

(b) Mr. Aney was present but I have no information of any assurance given by him.

(c) and (d). They were landed at Singapore but not forcibly. Most of them have since been repatriated but as they landed in India only a few days ago, there has been no time to verify each case individually. I am making enquiries about Messrs. Ishwar Singh, Parmanand and Karim Ghani and shall furnish the information later when received.

DETENTION OF CERTAIN INDIANS IN CHANGHI JAIL AT SINGAPORE

1335. *Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if Messrs. Anand Mohan Sahai, D. M. Khan, J.A. Thivy and others are confined in the Changhi Jail at Singapore;

(b) the reasons for their detention and the conditions under which they are kept so confined; and

(c) if Government are intending to bring them back to India?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) to (c). I understand that Mr. D. M. Khan has already left for India. I am making enquiries about the others and shall furnish the information when received.

**COLLECTIONS FOR "SOLDIERS AMENITIES FUND" IN SOUTH CANARA
BY REVENUE OFFICERS**

1336. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state whether Government are aware that collections for the "Soldier's Amenities Fund" were made in south Canara by Revenue officers?

(b) What was the amount collected in Pullur Taluk (South Canara) for the Soldier's Amenities Fund in the year 1945?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). The Government of India have no knowledge of a "Soldier's Amenities Fund". If the question refers to the Governor of Madras War Purposes Fund, it should be addressed to the Government of Madras.

**RETURN OF ALL INDIA VILLAGE INDUSTRIES RESEARCH, POONA, TAKEN OVER BY
GOVERNMENT UNDER D. I. R.**

1337. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that the All-India Village Industries Research Centre at Poona run by Mr. K. B. Joshi; under the direction of Mr. Vaikuntha Mehta, Managing Director of Provincial Cooperative Bank, was taken over by Government under the Defence of India Rules in 1942 and have not returned it to them ever since;

(b) if they had made drastic changes in the very fundamentals of the work of the Centre, abandoned all research work and have now decided to dismantle it;

(c) if it is a fact that the All-India Village Industries Research Centre at Poona in his article "Vandalism", published in the *Gramodyoga Patrika* of October 1945, Wardha;

(d) why Government have not proposed to hand over the buildings and machinery to the former management; and

(e) whether Government have not proposed to consider the advisability of handing it over to the A.I.V.I.A. management at least now?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) to (e). I have seen the article. It refers to action taken by the Government of Bombay, and not by the Government of India.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**PUNISHMENTS TO CERTAIN MILITARY MEN RETURNING TO INDIA AFTER FALL OF
MALAYA AND BURMA**

157. Seth Govind Das: Will the War Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many military men returning to India from Burma, Malaya, etc., after their fall, under most miserable conditions have been arrested, court-martialled and sentenced to long terms of imprisonments for "failure to report themselves to the military authorities" or for being "absent without leave";

(b) whether they are also aware that most of these came to India under great difficulties in a mentally and physically exhausted condition;

(c) how and under what charges they were arrested, court martialled and sentenced;

(d) in what and how many cases the Commander-in-Chief exercised his right to remit wholly or partially the sentences awarded by court martials; and

(e) whether Government propose to advise the military authorities to consider their cases now in view of the changed circumstances and their *unintentional* "absence without leave" or failure to report themselves in time and remit the rest of the sentence?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) and (b). No Sir. If particulars of any individual cases can be furnished they will be examined.

(c), (d), and (e). Do not arise.

**PREPARATION OF RETRENCHMENT LIST IN G.H.Q. ON BASIS OF ANNUAL REPORT
OF 1944**

158. Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if the retrenchment of clerks in the General Headquarters has been based on the marks in the annual report given to them for the year 1944? If so, will he please consider the desirability of basing the retrenchment policy on the average of marks gained by a person during the whole period of his service and not on a particular year?

(b) Is it a fact that in carrying out the retrenchment policy no marks at all are allotted for educational qualifications?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Partly, Sir, but length of service is also taken into consideration.

The desirability of basing the marks allotted for ability on annual reports during the whole of an individual's service was discussed at length by a meeting at which all classes of the clerical staff (including temporary clerks) of all Branches of G.H.Q. were represented, but was rejected. The decision to base marks on the 1944 report only was accepted. Only in isolated cases would the award of average marks be beneficial.

(b) This question was also considered at the meeting referred to in (a) above, and it was accepted that an individual's educational qualifications, if correctly used by him, should be reflected in his clerical ability for which he is awarded marks on a graduated scale.

ARREST OF S. AJIT SINGH

159. Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that S. Ajit Singh (of 1907 fame) was arrested in Germany or elsewhere in Europe;

(b) if it is a fact that he was taken to England with other I.N.A. prisoners for interrogation;

(c) whether Government intend to try S. Ajit Singh by a court martial or in any other court; if so, what facilities they propose to give him for his defence; and

(d) if it is a fact that S. Ajit Singh has been brought to India; if so, in what jail he is confined at present?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) Yes; in Italy.

(b), (c) and (d). No.

EXTENSIONS TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS AFTER AGE OF SUPERANNUATION

160. Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member please state if his Department has issued any orders prohibiting the grant of extension of service to Government servants after the age of superannuation and to those who are re-employed? If so, in order to see whether these

orders are being followed by the Departments of the Government of India including the Central Public Works Department, will he please state the instances in which the extensions were granted by each Department of the Government of India since the issue of these orders, and the extraordinary reasons for not following the Government orders?

(b) What are the reasons for issuing these orders if they are not to be strictly followed by the Government in the respective Departments?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the replies given by me on the 21st February and the 8th March, to starred Question Nos. 414 and 791.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

DISCHARGE OF MR. S. C. GOHO

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Has the attention of the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations been drawn to a *Reuter's* message published in 12 Noon newspapers that Mr. S. C. Goho has been discharged?

(b) Is he able to confirm this news?

(c) Will he take necessary action to bring about the discharge of the remaining persons charged with collaboration?

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

(b) and (c). Although we have not had official confirmation of the fact that orders discharging Mr. Goho have been actually passed, it appears from a report received from our representative in Malaya that the British Military Administration, Malaya, have now adopted the Government of India's policy of not proceeding against persons for pure collaboration. All proceedings now pending against persons for pure collaboration, including the proceedings against Mr. Goho, will thus now be withdrawn. It appears that the press report about Mr. Goho's discharge is probably correct.

Seth Govind Das: Have the Government of India recommended to the Malayan Government so far that all the cases based on collaboration should be withdrawn?

Mr. President: That has already been replied to.

Seth Govind Das: I want to know whether the Government of India have recommended to the Malayan Government that all cases of collaboration should be withdrawn.

Mr. President: Did not the Honourable Member say that they will all be withdrawn?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, Sir.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it the Government of India's position that all collaboration was pure?

(No reply.)

Sri S. T. Adityan: Are there any cases pending in which there was anything more than collaboration alleged?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many people are thus charged?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have not got the exact number with me now.

Seth Govind Das: What are Government going to do with respect to these cases?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I have replied to that question more than once in the past.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, this debate seems to have conformed to the pattern of past debates on the Finance Bill. In order to prepare myself for this my first commitment to the arena of debate on the Finance Bill, I naturally took the precaution of looking up the reports on previous Bills, which struck me as being unnecessarily long, largely irrelevant and almost completely unreal. The debate on this occasion has also been largely irrelevant to the Finance Bill itself and, I submit almost completely unreal. I fully understand the air of unreality which has surrounded debates on this Bill in the past, and that the whole debate has been obsessed by politics. I also think I can appreciate the obsession by politics that has characterised most of the debates,—not only that on the Finance Bill but on other matters as well,—in recent years.

I remember discussing this question with one of my colleagues on the Public Accounts Committee. I asked him why it was that he and some of his colleagues found it so difficult to judge any question on its merits but reverted always to political considerations; and I remember being very much struck by his reply. I do not recollect perfectly whether it was Pundit Maitra—whose absence, I personally think, has lessened the value of these debates—or my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga; I think it was Prof. Ranga. He said:

"You do not understand; if you are inside a cage it does not matter how you are treated; all you want is to get hold of the key."

And that, I believe, does summarise the position.

I think the debate this year has, as I have said, been more completely unreal than any previous debate. I could not help feeling sympathy for most of my Honourable friends on the opposite benches. They, like me,—the old hands at any rate had looked up their previous speeches, they refurbished them and brought them up to date; and those who were new hands had borrowed some of the oratorical gems of some of the giants of the past like the late Mr. Satyamurti and Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. But alas, when they came to the budget discussions they found that the march of time had produced an atmosphere in which mere oratorical flowers would wither and die,—indeed had withered and died. If I may change the metaphor, they reminded me of a body of men behind a battering ram which was brought forward once again to assault that door made of English oak, which had so resisted them in the past. The result was inevitable. If you rush at an obstacle which gives way easily—as this particular door has done on this occasion, all that happens is that you lose your balance; you fall head over the apex—as we say politely—and you all fall down. In the confusion thus created the budget proposals were at first not too unfavourably received. Indeed, some of my Honourable friends on the opposite benches showed a disposition to approach them on their economic merits. But the rumour that this may happen reached Bombay; peremptory orders were received that nothing of the sort was to happen. Now, Sir, I would be the last to claim that the present constitution or this Assembly is a model of democratic institutions. I also submit that it is not democratic to have a system whereby members of a legislature can claim proudly for themselves that they are elected representatives of the people, but are not to be allowed to determine themselves the issues which arise in the House itself, but have to submit them to an extraneous body who have not been elected by, nor are responsible to, the electorate. That is not in my judgment democracy; that is putting the 'mock' into democracy. It is pure fascism, pure Nazism. So far as the opposite benches are concerned, the Opposition has been again entirely political. In view of the imminent political changes they found it almost impossible to make the charges ring true. I will give three examples of the length to which my friends and critics on the other side have been driven in trying to find economic grounds for rejecting the Finance Bill.

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I will first take Mr. Masani, one of the leading debaters of the other side. He said that he was pretty sure that the reasons why I had reduced the income-tax in relation to men of moderate means was deliberately determined by the fact that they would be able to buy more British goods imported from abroad.

Mr. M. R. Masani (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Will the Honourable Member yield for a moment? If he will look up the record he will find that I said nothing of the kind. I said that would be the effect of the proposals and not that it was the intention.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: If he did not say so, it was implied.

Mr. M. R. Masani: You are imagining things.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): You said that it was "bloody".

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I did not. I said it was "rubbish." If you like I will say "bloody rubbish."

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are British goods rubbish?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It was alleged that the real purpose of the visit of the President of the Board of Trade to Delhi at the present moment was to see that I carry out his orders to reduce the income-tax so that more should be spent on British goods.

Mr. M. R. Masani: I did not know that he was here!

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You knew he was coming when you made the speech. I did not know what Lord Pethick-Lawrence was going to do except that the responsibilities of the 1935 Act would be left to me to carry out on his behalf. As for Mr. A. V. Alexander, unless his presence was to inform me that he was First Lord of the Admiralty and that there was such a thing as the British Navy which would blow me to smithereens if I did not toe the line.

Mr. Karmarkar, in reply to an interjection of mine and not a prepared statement, attributed the over population of this country to the British connection. Well, Sir,

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Will the Honourable Member yield for a moment, because the Honourable Member has misunderstood me. I was reading from a summary of the report by Mr. Pepperall and amongst other things he mentioned as one of the possible causes of the deterioration in cattle the increase in population in India. My principal contention was not that the British connection was responsible for the increase in population. It was only what Mr. Pepperall mentioned in his report that the increase of the population is also one of the causes amongst others, like semi-starvation, of deterioration of cattle that I referred to.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I was referring to the human population and not the cow population.

The Honourable the Leader of the Opposition was driven into what appeared to me to be a logical contradiction in his eagerness to find reasons for condemning, on economic grounds, the Finance Bill. He twitted me with the fact that I had brought forward no proposals for nationalising the Reserve Bank of India whereas the British Government had done so. Well, I submit with respect that the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition cannot have it both ways. He cannot represent that we on these benches do nothing else but carry out orders from Whitehall and, at the same time, that we defy them. I have no doubt that the Reserve Bank will be nationalised in the near future. I thought the real reason why it was not nationalised in the first instance was that the Legislature was not prepared to commit to the sole charge of an irresponsible Executive an institution which plays such an important part in the economic life of India.

Well, Sir, these are the kind of arguments which, I submit, demonstrate conclusively that the case presented against this Finance Bill is purely hollow.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Question.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Granted. I ask, Sir, could political moonbeams shine more brightly or political prejudice and perversity proceed further than this? I cannot hope to cover all the speeches. I must concentrate on some of the most important points raised.

I will begin with my Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall, who, at the beginning of his speech, startled me. I thought for a moment that he was going to deal with the Finance Bill purely on financial and economic grounds. But I was rapidly disillusioned and disappointed. With the help of his distinguished un-official financial adviser, for whom I have considerable admiration myself, he did indeed produce some economic arguments, but they were negatived soon afterwards by flights of fancy into the political and statistical fields. It was not very difficult for me to distinguish between those parts of the speech that had been suggested by his distinguished economic adviser and those which he had written himself.

There were two main charges which he brought against me. The first was that I had left my successor an impossible task by leaving him with an uncovered revenue gap of Rs. 44 crores. It would have been Rs. 70 crores if I had not appropriated—I am sure he would regard the word misappropriated as more appropriate—certain sums from the war risks insurance funds, and this gap would, therefore, have increased to Rs. 144 crores next year—I mean the year after the coming year,—as the result of the abolition of the Excess Profits Tax. If my friend would like a nicely balanced budget and if he succeeds me and would like to consult me, I could show him how he can balance next year's budget! There are other ways of robbing. But I refrained from doing so to give my successor a chance. Defence expenditure, which at the moment stands at Rs. 244 crores, ought to show a drop of some Rs. 140 crores. He featured in his speech the action of the Government in abolishing the Excess Profits Tax. Well, I dealt with the question of the Excess Profits Tax at some length in my reply to the general debate on the budget and I want to make two further points. Firstly, the United Kingdom, by keeping the Excess Profits Tax, on too long after the end of the last war, lost £100 millions and I do not think they are going to repeat that mistake. He went on to say that while I had done something to buttress the financial structure for my successor by incorporating the surcharges into the basic rates, I had failed to take other obvious measures which would have produced the same results. He twitted me, for example, that I had deliberately refrained from introducing the Estates Duties Bill which had been on the stocks for some time. With that willingness to oblige that my friend recognises in me, I produced the Bill within two days, I suspect embarrassment and discomfiture to at least one of his colleagues.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): Not at all.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am glad to note it, Sir.

He went on to suggest that the Estates Duties Bill would produce Rs. 800 crores a year. That is certainly a flight of fancy. The best estimate we can make is that the Bill will in its initial application, produce about Rs. 10 crores. All taxes when they are introduced start off at a low level and progressively produce more and more. But until India becomes much more wealthy than it is at present, I cannot see it producing anything like Rs. 800 crores, particularly if agricultural land is not included.

He then went on to suggest that I ought to nationalise the match industry and the tobacco industry. I have not been very long in my present job and there are several other things I have to attend to besides dealing with the business of the Assembly, but, quite apart from that my own study of the history of match and tobacco monopolies in other countries does not suggest to

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me that it would be an improvement, either in the quality of the matches or the tobacco, or produce more revenue than the present system. This is a matter which ought to be considered in greater detail and I have no doubt that my successor will take it up. But to suggest that by doing so he could increase the revenue in the case of matches by Rs. 26 crores a year and in the case of tobacco by Rs. 75 crores a year, is another flight of fancy put forward merely to find some grounds to attack the Finance Bill.

He also suggested that, if the Income-tax Department had been more efficient, it could have raised during this war an additional Rs. 700 crores. Well, no one will deny that the Income-tax Department is beaten, and beaten badly, by certain anti-social rich elements in the country, who deliberately set out, not merely to avoid but also to evade, taxation. I would remind my Honourable friend opposite that he refused last year to co-operate with the Government in giving them additional powers which would have made these evasions more difficult. However that may be, I would accept that a great deal of tax evasion has been going on and the Income-tax Department has been progressively strengthened to fight that, and, with a little more support, I think in a year or two it will be in a good position to take on even the worst tax-evader. In any case, to suggest an increase of Rs. 700 crores is, I think, an exaggeration by at least 90 per cent.

The second charge (and there seems to be some point in this, if I may say so) against me and the Finance Department was in relation to the extent, or lack of extent of the provision which I had made to replace the economic activity which had been engendered during the war by the very high defence expenditure. He represented (and it was a view which was shared by other Members as well, one of them being Mr. Masani) that the result will be widespread and wholesale unemployment.

Let us examine the position, Sir. He said that there will be a drop of nearly Rs. 600 crores in defence expenditure next year. In so far as it relates to defence expenditure, we all rejoice in it. But last year's budget and the previous year's budget included an inflationary gap of some Rs. 250 crores. If we get rid of this Rs. 250 crores, we are left with approximately Rs. 350 crores. That 350 crore gap ought to be filled. But, taking into account the grants which the Centre is making to the Provinces and the Provinces' own expenditure which comes to about Rs. 144 crore, we are left with a gap of about Rs. 200 crores which has to be filled. The Military authorities have been consistently spending over Rs. 100 crores a year on buildings, and, now that military building has entirely ceased, the materials and the labour will be available for being diverted to civil building purposes. But even if we do not achieve a Rs. 100 crores target, and reach let us say about Rs. 75 crores, we are still left with a total gap of Rs. 125 crores. I would expect that, if industry is as efficient as it claims to be, it could at least do something to fill in the vacuum. But even if they do not, the position, while admittedly unsatisfactory, will not be wholly disastrous.

The most general charge brought against the Finance Bill (and it is not confined to one section of the House only, even some of the nominated members joined in the charge) was that this is a rich man's budget. The charge fell under two headings. First of all, if I had omitted to tax the rich I had done practically nothing to the poor except reduce by one pice the price per bottle of kerosene, and secondly, that, on the expenditure side I had done nothing to improve the lot of the poor man. As for the first point, I dealt with it at some length in my reply to the General Budget. I made it plain that in my judgment, the best interests of the average poor man were served by the rapid industrialisation of India, by improving the economic activity and the national income. I would only add four other things. As a proof that the first charge is not a genuine one I would point to the fact that amongst my bitterest

critics are the representatives of the Ahmedabad millowners and the Land-holders of the United Provinces. If it had been a richman's budget, they would not have attacked it with such ferocity. Secondly, as I said in the Budget Debate, I have introduced the Estates Duties Bill, which is obviously aimed at the rich. Thirdly, that I have ignored the fact that there is all the difference in the world between the taxation of industry and the taxation of the shareholders. The amount of tax a shareholder pays is what he draws from the industry, and, if he is a rich shareholder, he will draw and pay a pretty good sum. The moderately prosperous man will pay under my proposals, more than half his income to the State and, if he is really rich, he would pay practically 95 per cent. I do not call that being very tender for the rich. Fourthly, the percentages of direct and indirect taxation in 1938-39 were 23 and 77 per cent respectively. That is, in 1938-39 the income-tax-payer contributed 23 per cent, of the total revenue of the country and the indirect taxpayer, who comprises by and large the average man and the poor man, contributed no less than 77 per cent. In my budget, the direct tax-payer will contribute 55 per cent, as against 23 per cent, before the war and the indirect tax-payer will contribute only 45 per cent, as against 77 per cent, before the war.

Now as to the second point, that on the expenditure side there are no schemes for the benefit of the ordinary man, practically the whole of the Rs. 50 crores advanced to the Provinces by the Centre are in respect of schemes which will serve the economic and social well-being of the average man. Added to this the Provinces themselves will spend, next year Rs. 30 crores on similar schemes. Again, a very large percentage of the Rs. 58 crores to be spent directly by the Centre on such schemes will benefit the average poor man. I claim, Sir, never in the history of India has anything like so much money been provided in a single year for the ordinary people, whom my friends opposite are pleased to call the masses.

Amongst my most formidable opponents on this point were two members of what, in ruder and cruder days, an adviser to a ruler described as "the monstrous regiment of women," and whom we, in these more courteous and softer days, refer to as the Honourable Lady Members. I am thinking, of course, of the Viceroy of the Radical Democratic Party who sits behind me and whose speech I enjoyed as obviously she did herself and indeed the rest of the House, and Mrs. Swaminathan, whose passionate advocacy of the poor man and the poor woman I entirely share. But having regard to the well-known amenability of the gentler sex to male persuasion, I hope that what I have said will induce them both to go into the lobby with the Government. In any event, before making up their minds perhaps they will wait to hear what I have to say in my speech about my suggestions in fulfilment of the promise I made in the reply to the budget debate, that I would consider whether I could make any remissions in the indirect taxation field.

Before I come to that, I must refer to certain other points of importance that have been raised: though I do not claim that I shall cover them all and I shall be accused of selecting those points which it is easiest to answer and avoiding those which it is most difficult to avoid! If that be the case, it will prove that in the very short time that I have been in the House I have come to possess some little political technique.

My friend Diwan Chaman Lal referred to the urgent necessity of coming to a settlement of the sterling balances. There I entirely agree with him. He also raised the point that, in any settlement, the British assets in India should not be excluded; and I can say that, as far as I am concerned, nothing will be excluded: in any case I am not certain that I shall be here, as I have said.

My friend, Mr. Neogy, raised again the question of the financial settlement. He had nothing very much new to say, and I have very little new to say in reply. The one point which has worried him, I know, and others in this

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House, was whether this financial settlement—the code of accounting procedure which carries out the principles underlying the sharing of the expenditure between the two governments—has been carried out in fairness to India; and he reiterated the demand for a special committee of this House to investigate the matter. I do not think Government has anything to hide at all; but as an alternative to appointing a special committee, I would suggest that the best course would be that the Public Accounts Committee, who after all are a great deal concerned with the expenditure, might be empowered and authorised to spend, say a whole week, on the subject before or during the next session. If I were here I would accept that proposal, and I do not think that the House would find it in any way less effective. But while suspicion is there, I think it would be a good idea if, in fact, the matter were closely investigated.

Next I come to the sole representative of that picturesque town or province of the North West Frontier—Mr. Ghani Khan. I refer to him for two reasons: first of all, he made, if I may so, one or two very useful suggestions, which I will come to in a minute; but his speech came at the right moment, to refresh a flagging House—in fact he kept us about two minutes after the normal period of adjournment. I was very interested and struck by his statement that he would not defend 3,000 miles of coastline with a handful of discontented sailors and an armful of charming WRENS. I entirely agree with him. But in the more serious part of his speech, he entered a plea for more money to spend on the development of the North-West Frontier. Speaking for myself, if a proper scheme is put up, I would regard it as money well spent if my friend could persuade the men who are men in that part of the world, to convert themselves to normal pastimes and from violent to non-violent pastimes. I would like to parody what a great poet once said—Great things happen when men and mountains meet—I would like to add Great things happen when men and money and mountains meet!

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad raised again his triple King Charles' head.—he wanted to get rid of the stock exchange, he wanted to get rid of the bullion exchanges and he wanted to get rid of the commodity markets. Now, I am very conscious myself that there are many things in all these three institutions that need attending to; and had it been my lot to stay in office, I would have hoped to have persuaded this House to help me in that process. But my successor will find that some work has been done in that direction, and he will have no difficulty in persuading the House to take what I regard as the action that should be taken. But to abolish the stock exchange, and abolish the bullion exchange and abolish the commodity markets is, I think, going a little too far even for the Vice-Chancellor of Aligarh University.

Then he was very exercised about the bullion tax which had been introduced in this year's financial proposals. The sole object of that bullion tax is not to make money for the State—though if there is any money going, I do not see why the State should not share in the process—but to prevent unhealthy speculation, to save from heavy losses the less skilful operators; and in other words, to produce an orderly reduction of the price level of bullion once imports are resumed, to the world level, to suit the conditions of supply both by exports and the internal supply.

Then, my friend Mr. Jaffer, amongst other things, sought renewal of a plea which has often been made on behalf of the Muslims of this country, that the interest on saving bank deposits of Muslim depositors should be handed over to the Muslim ministers to be used in the interests of Muslims. The difficulty which has been brought up against such a proposal in the past is this: that Government has no authority itself to pay over the interest into somebody else's hands, unless that somebody else gives Government a specific authority. Now, a difficulty exists only to be got over, and I am prepared to discuss with him a scheme for a trust to be established, to which Government will hand over this

accumulated interest, on condition that the trustees would undertake to indemnify Government against any individual claims for interest that may be raised by the depositors. That seems to me to be a sensible way out.

My friend, Mr. Tyson, who is difficult to control himself, and therefore does not like control, put a question to me: he said that I had proclaimed with pride in my budget speech that we had removed some 150 controls: he said quite rightly that that does not mean very much unless he knew what percentage that 150 bears to the whole number of controls. I do not know whether he will be surprised, disappointed or relieved to know that there are only 130 controls left.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal: European): Relieved.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am relieved at his relief. I assure him that no one wants to keep on controls, least of all anyhow the secretariat, where the necessity for them no longer exists. I entirely agree with what Mr. Griffiths said yesterday that these controls are a fruitful source of corruption. But while things are in short supply and while there is this black marketing still going on (although I admit that sometimes control creates a black market), it is impossible to withdraw them all. But the process of withdrawal is proceeding weekly and I hope the time is not far distant when they will be reduced to a handful. But I myself don't think you can get rid of controls in planned economy. I do not believe, for example, that it is wise immediately to withdraw the capital issue control but I would accept this, however, that the main function of the capital issue control is now altered. It was established primarily as an anti-inflationary device. I think that the necessity for it in that respect is much less potent and urgent than it used to be. On the other hand, I do think that India, which has now got unlimited capital resources, although they are much greater than people used to think, should not be free to alter the basis of capital issues and to use those resources on schemes which are purely speculative and money making. I think the resources should be canalized into those channels which will enure to the economic and social advantage of the country. At the same time Government is not entitled, I think, to withhold consent to the capital issues merely because it is not ready with its plans in respect of a particular industry. A revision of the control is, however, justifiable and is now proceeding.

I think Mr. Morris, together with Mr. Tyson, gave expression to some anxiety about the functions of the Investment Board. The function of the Investment Board is really more or less what I indicated about the capital issue control. The leader of the European Group made a long, interesting and, for him, a strangely non-violent speech. He dealt with the necessity of eradicating corruption in the public life of this country and I entirely agree with him. In fact the proposals he made bear a strange resemblance to the recommendations made by a committee on the administration of Bengal of which I had the honour to be the Chairman. He also pleaded for an improvement in the administrative machine. I think there is no doubt at all that, now that the emphasis of Government is moving away from police raj and revenue raj to social services, which are the chief concern of Governments in progressive countries, the time has come to overhaul the Government machinery from top to bottom. As a matter of fact some work has already been done in that direction in the last 12 months. An officer has been appointed on special duty for examining the distribution of duties as between the different Government Departments and a central piece of co-ordinating machinery which in my judgment is now badly needed, has been set up. I do not think it is perfect and there is a great deal more work to do. Its administration is not merely a question of organisation but methods as well. I think we have done the lay out and I agree that the procedure of Government requires a thorough overhaul.

Now, Sir, I come to the end of my speech. I am now going to deal with the promise that I made at the end of my reply to the budget debate when I claimed that my budget proposals were in the interests, not of the rich, but of

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the common man. I admitted that they were psychologically defective in that the man in the street, and particularly the man in the village street, could not see the inwardness of them; and I therefore undertook to see whether some further remission of indirect taxation could not be made in the direct interests of the common man without causing too heavy damage to the revenue. I would like to emphasize that what I have got to say is in no way the result, as has been suggested, of a pact between Nawabzada Liaquat Ali and myself. It is quite true that he discussed the matter with me. I told him what I had in mind if the Finance Bill proceeded to the clause stage, but what I told him I have also told members of the Congress Party in the lobby. The Muslim League, if I may say so, adopted a statesman like attitude to the proposals. I do not say that they were satisfied with them but I think that, when they heard that they were more or less along the lines suggested to me, they said they would approve of them.

The first thing I want to say has two points—first not to damage the revenue too much, and, secondly, to ensure that the remission goes direct to the beneficiary and is not intercepted by the middleman or the exploiter. Now, the first thing I shall deal with is the post card. Now, whatever else may be attributed to me when I leave India soon, I hope I shall at least get credit for having, at long last, reintroduced the half anna post card. That will cost about Rs. 167 lakhs, allowing for a certain amount of diversion of letters to the cheaper post card. Now, I have not introduced an amendment to the Finance Bill to provide for that for two reasons. First of all, it is not necessary for it to be done by legislation and secondly the cheaper post card cannot be introduced for technical reasons until the press have provided a sufficient quantity of them. This, I expect, will not happen until the 1st of July but there it is. If the House chooses to accept it, there is the acceptance by Government of the half anna post card.

The next thing is that I was oppressed by the fact that possibly the reduction of the kerosene duty by nine pies was not enough. I did a little arithmetic and I found that it worked to a lower percentage than the reduction in the petrol duty. What I propose to do is to double that reduction of nine pies to 1½ annas. That, I think, will at least be passed on direct to the poor man who uses kerosene and there is no possibility of its being exploited *en route*. That will cost me 141 lakhs.

Another inflammable subject is matches. That also enters largely into the domestic use of the poorer people of this country. Well, what I am aiming at is a satisfactory box of matches at a cost of half an anna. It is not possible to do that immediately. We recognise the difficulties of the manufacturers in India. They have not had all the materials and they are lacking in some essential parts but I anticipate no difficulty in arranging that they will, in the not distant future, put on the market a satisfactory box of matches at a cost of half an anna. That will probably cost me Rs. 1½ crores.

I have now told you the remissions that Government propose to accept. The next thing that I will deal with is the betel nut. Now, there has been a strong plea for the total abolition of the excise duty on betel nut. I am afraid I do not accept that. I believe it is a very suitable article for an excise, and this country will require more and more revenue, although as time goes on, I hope to see an even greater movement in the direction of making the direct taxpayer pay more and the indirect taxpayer pay less. Nevertheless

I P. M. I do not think any country circumstanced as India is, can afford to neglect any source of revenue so long as it is not oppressive and too regressive.

My intention was, of course, that the duty on betel nut should be passed on to the consumer. Nobody can be positive as to what is going to happen to tax when you impose it. You can make a pretty good guess. The probabilities are that it is largely determined by the supply and demand of a particular commodity, but as was anticipated with the betel nut, the excise duty was to be

passed on to the consumer. In spite of that, it was intercepted by the middleman (and, in fact, there has been such a shifting and it has not been borne entirely by the producer). Now, I think the answer to that is not to abolish the betel nut tax at all, but to improve the bargaining position of the producer *vis-a-vis* the middleman. I had proposed in my budget speech to allot Rs. three lakhs a year to that end. I propose to increase that by Rs. 2 lakhs. I believe myself that when that is done, the producer will get a fair price. But there is a difference in view between myself and Prof. Ranga on this point and, partly as suggested by him and partly as a challenge to him to see who is right, I propose experimentally to reduce the duty by half an anna and make a corresponding reduction in the customs duty. That will cost me Rs. 55 lakhs, plus another five lakhs for better marketing and better production. Lastly the conversion of the *ad valorem* duty into a specific duty on cinema films, resulted in there being too high an increase on the average unexposed film. I propose to reduce the six pies that was included in the Finance Bill to three pies and that would cost me Rs. 24 lakhs as compared with what I anticipated.

The other two things which I have to consider are salt and tobacco. I have said that some glamour might attach to my name by introducing a cheap post card, as against that, it would be nothing to the glamour I would achieve by abolishing the salt duty as my last act as a Financier. But I would regard that as an act of pure irresponsibility, as I am handing over to my successor. It brings in Rs. eight to nine crores a year and its abolition would probably be never be passed on to the consumer who buys his salt in small quantities. It will be intercepted by other people. In any event it is open to my successor, if he feels strongly about it, to abolish it himself. But I would regard it as irresponsible myself to abolish it and deprive him of a revenue or put him in the position of having to take an unpopular act and levying it again. I would make this suggestion to my successor; I believe the revenues of Government controlled salt can be increased by better arrangements made for marketing which would produce nearly as much as the present tax produces. That would, however, take some time to work out and that may be a solution which I commend for the consideration of my successor or successors.

The other one is tobacco. Tobacco all over the world is a very useful source of revenue. It is eminently a commodity suitable for taxation. It is a continually expanding source of revenue, but it has a depressing effect if you push it beyond a point. It is true that tobacco can stand quite a lot of tax and it is one of our main single sources of revenue, which has been in operation for three years, and it is now producing Rs. 20 crores a year. I do not think it ought to be reduced and I do not think there is any truth in the statement that the tax is meant to crush the industry. Here I should like to pay a very high tribute to the work of the Excise Department in relation to this excise, which they have developed with skill and, if I may say so, with great sympathy in relation both to the producer and to the consumer. I know there are still some administrative difficulties, particularly in relation to the small producer and I am sure Mr. Greenfield would always be willing to meet any difficulties under that head.

Sir, I come to the end of my speech. I would like to end by recalling the statement once made by that great English statesman and politician, Edmund Burke. He said, "to tax and to please, any more than to love and be wise, is not given to men". I do not claim therefore that my taxation proposals will please all. All that I claim for them is that they are honest, that they have not been dictated either by Whitehall or by my alleged love for the rich, and that they are proposals which have been made according to the best of my judgment which will ensure to the best advantage of India in the present circumstances.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 31st day of April 1946, be taken into consideration."

The Assembly divided:

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
 Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
 Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee, Raja Sir Saiyid.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
 Ayers, Mr. C. W.
 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.
 Ghazanfarulla Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.
 Greenfield, Mr. H.
 Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
 Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
 Havendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar.
 Hinmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
 Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
 Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.
 Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
 Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.
 Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.
 Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
 Jinnah, Mr. M. A.
 Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
 Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
 Krishnama Acharya, Rao Bahadur Sir V. T.

Lawson, Mr. C. P.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
 Mason, Mr. P.
 Mehr Shah, Nawab Sir Syed Muhammad.
 Mohammad Amir Ahmad Khan Bahadur Raja.
 Morris, Mr. R. C.
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
 Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
 Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
 Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
 Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
 Sargent, Sir John.
 Sen, Mr. H. R.
 Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
 Sheehy, Sir John.
 Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
 Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
 Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
 Solanki, Dr. P. G.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Suhrawardy, Sir Hassan.
 Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
 Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
 Turner, Mr. A. C.
 Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
 Weightman, Mr. H.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Yeatts, Mr. M. W. M.
 Yusuf Abdoola Haroon Seth.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—59.

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.
 Adityan, Sri S. T.
 Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
 Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
 Banerjee, Sree Satya Priya.
 Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.
 Chaman Lall, Diwan.
 Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
 Choudhuri, Sreejot Rohini Kumar.
 Daga, Seth Sheodasa.
 Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
 Dani, Mr. G. B.
 Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
 Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
 Gangaraju, Sri V.
 Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
 Gole, Mr. P. B.
 Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Hans Raj, Raisada.
 Hiray, Sjt. B. S.
 Jagannathdas, Sri.
 Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
 Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Karmarkar, Shri D. P.
 Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
 Lahiri Choudhury, Sreejot Dharendra Kanta.
 Madandhari Singh, Mr.
 Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
 Malaviya, Pandit Govind.

Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 Manu Subedar, Mr.
 Masani, Mr. M. R.
 Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
 Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
 Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
 Narayanapurthi, Sri N.
 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.
 Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
 Sri Prakasa, Shri.
 Sukhdev, Seth.
 Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader.
 Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
 Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
 Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: Before the House proceeds to consider the Finance Bill clause by clause, I have to inform Honourable Members that as only a limited number of copies of the Consolidated List of Amendments to the Finance Bill has been printed, they should preserve the copies of the Consolidated List which have been placed on their tables to-day and bring them for use in the Chamber during the progress of the Finance Bill.

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. President: We will now take the Finance Bill for consideration clause by clause. But before we take it up, I might again state to Honourable Members the terms of the agreement, so that the discussion on the clauses may be regulated accordingly, namely—

"All stages of the Finance Bill will be completed by 5 p.m. on Thursday, 28th, i.e. tomorrow, and all questions then outstanding in regard to the Finance Bill will be put to the vote of the Assembly without any further discussion."

So the members have time from now up to 5 p.m. to-morrow.

Mr. President: Clause 2.

There are, I find, amendments to Clause 2. Amendments Nos. 1 and 2 seem to be out of order as they are in the negative of the original proposition. The Honourable Members may oppose the clause.

Then there are other amendments. Are they going to be moved?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadian): No.

Mr. President: Then there are no amendments to clause 2. I find, however, that there is one in the name of Mr. Abdulla Haroon. But he is not present.

Clause 2 then is before the House.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadian): Sir I oppose clause 2 of the Bill. As far as the question of salt duty is concerned, the question has been mooted in this House times out of number. Since a very long time the Indians have maintained that this is one of the worst duties which this Government has imposed. Now, Sir, no argument or no speech is necessary to submit for your consideration that salt is one of the first essentials of life. Next to water and air, I think salt is the third article which can be regarded as one of the prime necessities of life. Salt is considered so necessary the world over that the expression "salt of life" has got a special meaning attached to it, and so far as the Indian language is concerned the phrase "Namak haram" has a very special meaning. Any person who eats the salt of India should, we expect, be true and faithful to India. By saying all this, I do not imply in the least that those who are out for imposing the duty are "Namak harams". I on the contrary maintain that if they conscientiously believe that the salt duty is good, they are as faithful to India as those who maintain otherwise. But I cannot conceal from you the sense of shame and humiliation which I as an Indian feel when I find that in India something like Rs. 66,90,000 worth of salt was imported in the year 1939-1940. Even before that in 1937-38 and the preceding years, something to the tune of Rs. 50 lakhs worth of salt was imported in India. India is a country in which salt is plentiful. It has a coastline of 5,000 miles. There are mountains of salt, mines of salt, lakes of salt, and salt is to be found as plentiful nay much more plentiful than in any other part of the world. Now, if as the English proverb goes—Coals are to be taken to Newcastle—people would laugh at any person doing so and it is our misfortune that we cannot laugh at the Government.

(At this stage Mr. P. K. Salve entered the Chamber.)

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member should not cross.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I think the Government have not done their duty by allowing import of salt into this country. Any National Government worth the name should have been expected to see that India was self-supporting and that India should have exported salt to any extent. Now, Sir, it so happens that in India the Government have taken upon themselves the manufacture of salt and nobody else can manufacture it.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No. It is wrong.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I want to understand the implication of the word "no". Isn't it a fact that every person has to buy salt of this Government? The Government takes a duty and every person who wants to manufacture will be prosecuted if he does so.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Provided he takes out a license.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: This has only to be stated to be condemned. The most reprehensible part that the Government has played in the business of salt is such that the coming generations will curse the Government for it. When we remember that salt is the parent substance to many industries it follows that no industry is possible in this country unless and until salt is allowed to be manufactured freely. If you kindly see the list of articles which depend upon salt as the parent substance, you will be astonished that in this year, 1946, the manufacture of salt has been prohibited by law by the Government. I refer you to page 192 of the "Monograph on Common salt". It says:

"The use of salt in modern industries is equally, and perhaps more important. It would not be exaggeration to say that salt is absolutely indispensable to industrial advance and at least one of the effective ways of modernising a country is to assure to it a cheap and plentiful supply of salt. This is so, because modern industrial science is in essence applied chemistry, and chemicals are, in the main, salt. For, 'from salt as the parent substance, there spring the huge industries which are concerned with the manufacture of sodium sulphate, Hydrochloric acid, Sodium Carbonate, Caustic Soda, Chlorine, Hydrogen, etc.' These, in their turn, support the super-structure that enables every modern convenience for a civilised life to be provided. Out of these 'spring industries concerned with the manufacture of soap, glass, glycerine, dynamite and other nitroglycerine explosives, bleaching powder chlorates, etc.' These products, in their turn, form the raw materials of great trades, which ramify one into another in a way which is difficult for the non-technical reader to realise. The lay mind will indeed find it difficult, for instance, to trace the connection between salt and house building. And yet a shortage of salt would result in the crippling of the building trade, because window glass would not be obtainable in commercial quantities, sodium sulphate and sodium carbonate derived from salt, not being available. A shortage of salt would again lead to a shortage of coal, for glycerine would cease to be produced and explosives would not be available. The textile and paper-making industries would also suffer because chemicals for bleaching and sizing and cheap soap for scouring—all derived from salt as the basis—would cease to be obtainable in large requisite quantities. And eventually, these trades would react on the other trades in such a way altogether difficult to foresee."

We have just heard the speech of the Honourable the Finance Member and he has stated that rapid industrialisation of the country is necessary if poverty is to be abolished from the country. That being the basis of the theme of the Honourable the Finance Member, may I ask him if he has considered the question of salt

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It would save further debate if I explained that salt used for industrial purposes is entitled to a remission of duty.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Does my Honourable friend not see the difference between the free manufacture of salt and the refund of the duty on salt. Only 15 firms in India have obtained a refund on salt and that too for a very small quantity. What are your laws for the refund of the duty? First of all you want Rs. 100 to be paid for inspection. Secondly you insist that accounts should be kept in prescribed forms and registers. (*The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands:* Certainly.) You want wagon loads to be taken from

the depots. To say that refund is possible is to ignore all the difficulties that are placed in the way of the ordinary man. I will deal with this later on in my speech.

What I was submitting was that there can be no industrialisation of any country in which free manufacture of salt is not allowed. Before 1823 in England there was a salt tax. Why did you take it away? If any person wishes to go through this book "A Monograph on Common Salt" he will realise what were the grounds why the duty on salt was abolished in England. It is not only in England that such a duty was abolished. It was similarly abolished in Japan: it was abolished in Italy for reasons which are given in this book. I do not want to go over all those reasons but with your permission, Sir, I would just read out two quotations. As regards Japan:

"This happened a hundred years ago, and if a more recent example is desired to convince the sceptic as to the value of cheap salt unencumbered by duties, there is the case of Japan which may well be cited. There are many points in which we could well have followed in her footsteps are this, and the treatment of salt is just one of them. Though a monopoly was instituted in 1905 for financial consideration and it yielded in 1917-18 a net profit of 10 million Yen, the idea of realising profit in the salt monopoly was done away with from the view point of Social policies, just a year later in 1919. And though salt is ordinarily sold at no more than cost price, that intended for use in industry, agriculture, mining and fishery of some kind receives a special treatment and is sold at a specially reduced price."

"In Italy, too, where a profit-making monopoly system of manufacture and sale by Government is in operation by S. 18 and 19 of the salt laws of 15th June, 1865, special indulgence is granted to a group of activities. The list of these includes salt for agricultural manure, for live stock, for the manufacture of ice, and icecream, for the incubation of silk worms, for preparation of sparkling wines and host of manufacturing industries to which the Council of State is empowered to add by a Royal decree."

I submit that so far as industrialisation of India is concerned salt is a first necessity. With your permission I will just take up two of the industries where salt is necessary. First of all I would take hides. Sir, the Honourable the Finance Member has claimed that refunds are allowed and therefore the person who wants salt for industrial purposes can take it freely from the depots. I would refer to the recommendations of the Government of India Committee on the marketing of hides. Only big merchants can get salt. The ordinary man does not get it and the recommendation is made that the Salt Department should take steps to see that cheap salt is supplied to the *chamars* and others who produce hides.

On page 71 we find:

"As the salt should be applied to the hide as soon as it is flayed, it is important that the facilities of obtaining cheap salt should be extended to the small producers—*chamars*—and others who handle a few hides at a time."

Then again on page 73 we find:

"Throughout the world, salt is the most important agent for preserving the hides and tanners prefer this cure to any other. It is readily washed away in the process of tanning and green hides thus preserved turn out leather of good grain and quality. Therefore any further measures that the Salt Department could initiate to make denatured or bitter salt, available cheaply and readily both to the small and large processors, would go a long way in improving the quality of Indian hides."

As regards the difficulty of getting this salt you will find on page 72:

"Denatured salt could be had from any of the authorised dealers or direct from salt warehouses. But delivery from the above places is generally given in wagon loads and the salt has to be removed in distinctive red colour bags which also bear certain distinguishing marks. The present price at works is 9 annas per maund nett. For the use of denatured salt the applicant has not to pay the previous fee of Rs. 100 per annum but the accounts, etc., for its use are to be kept in the same manner. The user has, however, still to obtain the licence for its issue from the works or the dealer and has also to give an assurance that he shall not render the denatured salt edible by any process."

So you will find as a matter of fact that on pages 219 and 220 the Committee has reported that steps should be taken to see that the poor man gets the salt freely and the small primary producer is ordinarily unable to use Salt for

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curing hides. Supposing the Government manufactured salt and made arrangements for its supply at a very low cost, may I submit for the consideration of the Government that that even would not cure the trouble, because unless and until every chamar who cures the hides at his house gets a free and cheap supply of salt, he will not be able to take advantage of it.

So far as the poor people are concerned, people like weavers and chamars, it is impossible for this Government to supply such salt to them as may be available to them whenever they like. The present value of salt is almost prohibitive. Now 1/9 is the duty and -/4/3 is the usual price. A person buys it from the bania in the town or the village and gets it at about 1/13/- and the bania also charges some profit on it and sells it at about Rs. 2. The Government who have monopolised the manufacture of this article—their cost of production is also very high. According to the estimates made by certain people interested in the manufacture, the cost of production is about 4 annas, whereas salt can be manufactured much cheaper—at say two annas. If salt cannot be had at cheap rates, the other trades also cannot prosper and produce cheap articles.

Leaving aside this question of hides, I come to another industry of India, the fish industry. In the fish industry, you require a good amount of salt; but salt can be had only at 18 annas a maund for fish curing. This is the price after the refund. This is too high a price. The fish industry of India has not been fully developed because the Government have not provided a free supply or cheap supply of salt. These are two matters in which the question of the poor man's salt is concerned.

There are a good many other industries also: there is the salt petre industry of India; in that industry during the first great war every village earned a thousand rupees or more; in my district by giving contracts to salt petre manufacturers, but after the war was over the source of revenue was dried up.

Now, Sir, other salts besides Common Salt worth about 150 lakhs of rupees are imported from England, and because England stands to benefit by this import business the Government are not willing to have free manufacture of salt in this country.

Leaving aside the industrial uses for which there is ample justification for the removal of this salt duty as well as the removal of the provisions about manufacture, if we look at the question from the point of view of human beings and cattle, so far as food is concerned, we shall come to the conclusion that the salt duty is thoroughly unjustified. As regards human beings, the *per capita* consumption in India differs in each province, but all the same the consumption is very low, as compared with the consumption in other countries. For instance, in England the consumption is much more—it is 40 lbs. per year, whereas in India, in certain parts, it is about 8 lbs. a year—in other parts it is 10 lbs., but it has been calculated that at least 12 lbs. per year should be the amount of consumption of salt so that people may enjoy ordinary health. That being so, we require something like 480 lakhs of maunds of salt for the people of this country. It so happens that this salt duty has a chequered history, and publicists in India have always attacked this duty from the point of view of the poor man. It is usually said that this is not such a duty as tells very heavily upon the poor man; the Government have usually trotted out this argument. This argument has been replied to by the revered grand old man of India, Dadabhai Naoroji, by Gopal Krishna Gokhale of revered memory and by many other publicists. I do not want to read out you further quotations, because I do not think I should take up much of the time of the House on a matter like this; but there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that no public man in India can ever for a moment think that the Government is justified in keeping up this duty, to say the least.

This salt is not only used for food purposes—it is also used for medicines, and for many other purposes too numerous to be mentioned; and it so happens that as soon as the duty is reduced there is a greater consumption, which goes to show that the people are under-nourished in the matter of salt. People do not use the amount of salt they ought to and that they would wish to because of this duty. India is too poor to pay the present high price of Salt.

Now, when you consider the average income of an Indian you will come to the conclusion that the incidence of tax even as it is, is fairly high; and the poor man does feel as a matter of fact that his first necessity of life is being taxed. We have heard too much in this House from the side of the Government as well as from the representatives of the people that the poor man's interest should be safeguarded. I beg to know from the Honourable Members of the Government, in what way are they safeguarding the interests of the poor man. This is the first and most important point—the chamar wants it, the weaver wants it, every person in the whole of India wants it. The Honourable Finance Member has said that he will be guilty of irresponsibility if he removes this duty; and further that he does not want a glamour to be attached to his name. I quite appreciate that, but may I humbly submit for his consideration that as a matter of fact he has failed to appreciate the real difficulty of the poor masses of this country. Every poor man wants that this salt tax should be taken away, and I should therefore think that this Government will never understand the implications of this duty; and as I submitted before the first act of the first national Finance Member would be to take away this duty.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): He will probably double it!

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Let us wait and see.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: He will have to.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: With your permission, Sir, leaving aside the great publicists of India, I will just call your attention to the statements and opinions of Lord Dufferin, of the Honourable Mr. Massey, Finance Member, of Mr. Plowden and Mr. Cassells, member of the Government of India, in which they have stated that this is a very iniquitous duty and should be taken away all at once.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): But this is 1946.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: In the year 1946 salt has not ceased to be salt and has not ceased to be one of the necessities of life. I do not want to read long extracts from their speeches—I leave it to the Honourable Members to read them if they like.

I now come to the next question, the question of the effect of this duty on cattle. So far as men are concerned, many of them are inarticulate, many of them are mute, but they can speak through their representatives in this House. But the cattle are absolutely mute, and I humbly submit for the consideration of the Honourable Finance Member that the cattle of India do not get sufficient salt and consequently the milk production is affected. Their constitutions are affected; salt is as necessary for the cattle of India as for the men of India. What I am submitting is not a mere propaganda stunt, as might be said by some who do not appreciate it I would therefore refer you to some authorities on the point to fortify my conclusions that the cattle of India do not get sufficient salt, and they do require sufficient salt.

First, before coming to the medical authorities I will quote the testimony of some Englishmen. You will be pleased to see at page 187 of this monograph where it is stated that the Board of Customs, Salt and Opium said:

“In short, all the speculations we have seen respecting the consumption of salt in India, are applicable not to Bengal, but to a country 5 centuries in advance of any part of these provinces. The poorer the bullock of Bengal, the more he stands in need of salt, and I have not a moment's doubt in my own mind, but that the want of salt is one of the causes, which makes the horned cattle, sheep and horses of Bengal, by far the smallest and puniest and the

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worst conditioned which I have ever met in any part of India whatever. The Board of Customs will have it that salt will not be given to cattle in Bengal, as it is in England. The system, of which they are the most strenuous advocates, makes it nearly impossible that any should be given at all, and it need not surprise any one who reflects upon these simple facts that the price of salt in Calcutta is perhaps not much less than 20 times as much as it is in Liverpool and the value of the Indian cattle, which would consume the salt by more than the same proportion less valuable. The heavy tax on Salt in Bengal is a prohibitive upon all improvement."

Mr. President: Loud consultations between Honourable Members are affecting the already poor audibility of the Chamber.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I will further call your attention to another quotation at page 131: there it is said—

"Further questioned upon the effect of the levy, Lawrence asserted his strong conviction that it does hurt the consumption very considerably. I am persuaded that it does, and not only does it limit the consumption very much as regards human beings, but I think it limits the consumption very much as regards cattle and I believe myself that a great deal of the loss of cattle from the Murairi in India has arisen from want of salt I have a very strong opinion on the subject; I know that every gentleman in India who looks after his horses, or his cows or his sheep, if he has them, takes care to give them salt. We all give salt to our horses in England, and I think it is just as necessary, perhaps more necessary, in a hot climate than in this country; at any rate, I think it of great importance that salt should be moderately cheap."

Now, Sir, I beg to call your attention to another book written by my friend Chaudhuri Mukhtar Singh who was once a member of this Assembly. He has given quotations from many articles my Americans and Englishmen. They are too many to be quoted by me in this House but he has established beyond doubt that the cattle in India need greater amount of salt than is supplied to

them today. According to the writer, we require some thing like 4
3 P.M. crores 73 lakhs of maunds of salt for the cattle of India on the basis of calculations made by the doctors of European countries. Now, at present we are only having about something like 5 crores and 20 lakhs salt told. (An Honourable Member: What is the census of cattle here?) It is 21 crores and 50 lakhs. So that, we shall require about 4 crores and 73 lakhs of maunds for the cattle of India. As regards the cattle which give milk it is absolutely necessary that they should be given salt and for that alone a great amount of salt is required. I therefore submit that the salt that is being produced in this country is much less than what is required for the normal consumption of cattle and human beings and for purposes of trade. We require at least 3 crores for industries and other requirements and we require, as I have already submitted, 4 crores and 80 lakhs for human beings, 4 crores 73 lakhs for cattle. That comes to about 12.5 crores and we are only producing 5 crores. It therefore is clear that so far as salt is concerned we are not getting all that we require, although nature has endowed this country with plenty of salt. If you see the other uses to which salt is put in connection with agriculture, manure, preservation of hay, fruits and other things and killing of germs etc., and various other purposes, you will come to the conclusion that free manufacture of salt is absolutely necessary in the interests of India and it is not being supplied at a cheap rate. In the villages we used to see many big pieces of salt being placed which were being licked by the animals and they are all missing now. In regard to salt, it appears that India is not being supplied with the salt which it requires and in the case of a necessity like this, it is not necessary to say that steps should be taken to see that India is self-sufficient in this matter and that it gets the salt it wants. This can only be done by allowing the free manufacture of salt. Before the advent of British rule, there was no part

of the country in which salt was not manufactured freely. In the Hissar and Gurgaon Districts and other places in the Punjab there are still traces of buildings and big utensils which were used for the manufacture of salt and all those who were engaged in it have to undergo unemployment. If free manufacture of salt is allowed, people will get more employment.

I shall not be doing justice to salt if I leave one important subject untouched. In 1930, Mahatma Gandhi started the salt satyagraha. I quoted an extract from his speech when I last spoke on the Budget. Mahatma Gandhi has pointed out that this is the most iniquitous duty and since Mahatma Gandhi selected salt for satyagraha it is quite clear that he had in mind the interests of the poor people of this land. Therefore if we look to the interests of the poor man, this is one of the duties which should justifiably be abolished. If we look to the interest of the poor man, we must abolish this duty. This is all I have to say.

Shri Sri Prakasa: It is said that the great Emperor Akbar once called upon the greater Birbal, who in his court held the joint office held hereby the Finance Member and myself, to produce four articles. One was something that could be of all colours; one, something that would be all tastes, one an unfaithful wretch, and the other a faithful person. For the thing of all colours, he produced water; for the article of all tastes he produced salt, for the faithful person he produced a dog, saying that the dog would be absolutely attached if one gives him only half piece of a bread a day; and for the faithless wretch . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: He produced the Finance Member!

Shri Sri Prakasa: he produced the Emperor's son-in-law, saying that even if he had half the kingdom he would not be satisfied. So far as the dog and the son-in-law are concerned, we may leave them to their fate, but so far as salt is concerned, I think it is time that we took the matter up. This morning the Honourable the Finance Member said that he was moving his Finance Bill for the first time; and did not add that it was for the last time also as he had been saying before. Therefore we may hope that we shall have to tackle with him next year also. Personally I prefer to tackle with others than being tackled with myself.

He said he would be guilty of irresponsibility if he abolished the salt tax. Personally I think he is guilty of irresponsibility in not abolishing it. The salt tax is in the nature of poll tax; and it should go. The Honourable Member and many others of his way of thinking and of his way of speaking, have referred to the law of averages, saying that the incidence of taxation is really very low when the incidence of this tax is distributed over 40 crores of persons. The law of averages is a dangerous law. It is said of a mathematician—it was not Dr. Sir Zia Uddin—that he worked out the average depth of a river as four feet and as the person concerned who was as high as myself, namely, 5 feet 8 inches, he could cross with safety. When he got to 10 feet of water, he got drowned. Not that I would have got myself drowned, because I know how to swim. But this law of averages is exceedingly vicious in a country like ours which is so poor. Even a few paise matter much, and if my Honourable friend would only examine the budget of our poor people, he will find that the consumption of salt has gone down because the price is so high that they are not getting enough salt for their health and comfort. The poor folk in the villages only eat their bread with a little pinch of salt in the middle of the day as they rest from their labours. Now even that pinch of salt has been reduced because of the high price.

Sir, my Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava was bold enough to say that he was representative of cattle in this House; but I cannot pretend to be exactly their representative because no cow has yet voted for me, still as a lover of animals. I can say that cattle do require salt. In my boyhood days, I used to see blocks of salt being placed at street corners in my own home town of Benares which is famous for its wandering bulls, for cattle to lick. Now, I do not see a single block anywhere; and it is a pathetic site to find cattle

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wandering about licking old stone walls which give out some sort of salt exudation. It is a cruel monopoly that the Government has maintained in the manufacture of salt, and the money that the Government are making out of this monopoly is exceedingly tainted and vicious. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will see that the claim put forward by us is exceedingly just and proper; and that he will accede to it and abolish the tax altogether. I do not pretend that if he did so he would go down in history with glory, because history is a very treacherous mistress and it forgets everybody; but those who will witness this phenomenon of the Finance Member abolishing this tax, will certainly bless him. I do hope that after the very lucid and full and learned statement that my Honourable friend Mr. Bhargava has made in this House, every part of this House will be convinced that it is high time that this salt tax was abolished. This is the most important part of the daily diet of the rich and the poor alike and when it is almost the only thing by which the poor man seasons his food, it is time that he got what he really deserved.

The Finance Member will no doubt know that the English housewife is very proud of the 'magic pinch of salt' to which she refers when anybody praises any particular dish that she has prepared. It is the magic pinch of salt that makes our food delicious and as the great Birbal said on the occasion I have referred, even the finest and best cooked food if it lacks that pinch of salt becomes tasteless, insipid and useless. Even Europeans, who do not use as many condiments as we do, would realise the value of the salt in their food: and if they do realise it how much more they realise how useful it is for us who use as many more condiments. They should also realise what a great necessity it is for us, especially our poor men; and I hope they would readily accede to the desire of this side of the House that this salt tax should go.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I want to oppose this clause and I do not want to make a long speech. The Honourable the Finance Member while he spoke this morning said that in granting relief in the matter of indirect taxation, two things were to be kept in mind, one was that the relief should be given to the poorer classes and the second was that relief should be given in such a manner as to reach the consumer. I accept these two points and I want to tell him that post cards are not used by every one, nor films are seen, nor betel nuts used, nor kerosene or matches used by every one. The only articles that every individual requires is salt, not only human beings but even cattle need it. Not only living beings, but even the dead require salt. It is required for industrial purposes, it is required for manure. There is no necessity to dilate on this aspect of the question. The only thing that the Honourable the Finance Member may object to is the financial result, if this clause is omitted. Now, Sir, the financial implications of the concessions which he promised this morning come to about 5 crores, 38 lakhs. If salt duty is entirely abolished then the loss to revenue will be 9 crores 30 lakhs. If you deduct the cost of collection which is one crore 50 lakhs, then the net loss will be 7 crores 80 lakhs. Altogether there will be a loss of 13 crores 18 lakhs to revenue as a result of these concessions. Now, Sir, it is not as if he is afraid of a deficit budget. He says in his budget speech: "we are thus left before making an adjustment resulting from taxation proposals with a prospective revenue deficit of 48 crores 71 lakhs compared with 154 crores 29 lakhs in the original and 144 crores 45 lakhs in the revised budget for 1944-45". If the salt duty is abolished altogether, the resulting deficit will be 61 crores 89 lakhs. It does not matter. When he is prepared to budget for a deficit of 48 crores and odd, I do not think he will fight shy to budget for a deficit of 61 crores 89 lakhs. Now Sir, one might say, why total abolition, why not reduction. To this my argument is, if there is reduction the general experience is that whatever relief is granted goes substantially to the pocket of the middlemen and it does not fully reach the consumer. Therefore, Sir, the line of having the salt duty entirely aboli-

shed, is in the highest interest of the consumer. I therefore submit that this is something on which the financial conscience of the Finance Member should have no scruples. If he is prepared to budget for a deficit of 48 crores, he can as well budget for 61 crores deficit. I therefore submit that he need not wait for his successor and he should go in for the abolition of this duty. He does not want any glamour but we are prepared to give him. Let him accept it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I do not wish to say much on this excepting answering one or two points raised by the Honourable the Finance Member. He said that the future Finance Member would even be ready to double this salt tax. I wish to tell him that if the future Finance Minister were to have any sense of responsibility at all about him, he would first of all try to abolish this salt duty. This paltry sum of nine crores which is expected to be revenue from this salt duty can be easily dispensed with. I hope to do so with my friend's co-operation.

I wish to remind my Honourable friend as well as the Finance Member that in spite of various forebodings offered by his predecessors here as well as in the Province the Congress ministries made bold to take the first steps to introduce prohibition in this country. Very many people said that it would never be possible for the provincial ministries to do that.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, on a point of fact, did not at least one Government make an exception in favour of Europeans and lunatics?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With Europeans we wanted to be a little soft because they would begin to cry out so loudly that their friends in England would again come down here in the name of safeguards and use their Governors to make it troublesome for us. Therefore they were classed with lunatics and others who necessarily must drink and drink so badly that they made a nuisance of themselves with their smells. Anyhow there was a risk of our Provincial Governments losing more than 25 crores of rupees. We were prepared to take that risk because we considered that to be an immoral income derived by the State. Similarly in regard to salt also we have similar and very strong feelings. Arguments have been adduced already by my Honourable friends in support of the abolition of this salt duty. If it is abolished my Honourable friend will say that the middleman will be profiting. Where will be the middleman. Is it in those parts of the country where salt cannot be locally manufactured? There the ordinary consumers of salt will have to take their chance and at the same time they will certainly be able to get salt much more cheaply than could possibly be represented by these 8½ crores of rupees which would be lost to Government. The price of salt will be reduced to a much greater extent than could possibly be understood by these 8½ crores at all. That is why we fought and fought for its abolition. We have not so far succeeded but we have succeeded to some extent, and that was to the extent that the Gandhi-Irwin pact would let our ordinary peasants go and manufacture salt freely for their own use etc.. Even today in certain parts of the country our ordinary peasants are manufacturing salt for their own domestic purposes, agricultural purposes and also for local trading purposes. Those of them who have been able to take advantage of this know full well what a great advantage it is; and they are not really Hindus or Sikhs or anybody, they belong to different communities including the community to which my Honourable friends belong. They are certainly happy and they are grateful for this concession and they want this concession to be extended. Indeed they do not want to be any longer under a concession, they want it to be a privilege for the whole of India, so that they may be able to produce salt and use it for their own purposes and also sell it as one of their products to all other poorer classes of people in this country at a much lower price than the price that obtains today in our markets. My Honourable friend twits us by saying, "Wherefrom are you going to get all this money?" Wherefrom is he going to get all that money that he has promised to find to finance the

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

food famine that is facing us? He has assured us that there will be no lack of funds at all for financing the subsidisation of consumers of food as well as the subsidisation of agricultural products. You will need, not less than a hundred crores of rupees. He has got to find it and he is going to find it, as he says. And if it is possible for him to do so it must also be possible for him to find these nine crores of rupees; and what is more, our own people have been providing this and very much more.

Sir, in 1935 I moved for the permission of the House to see that this duty was removed. The same arguments were then advanced as may be advanced now by my Honourable friend against it. Even then the leader of my friends there who are now nodding their heads also said that it was a political thing and it was not going to be practical and so on. Of course he was in a different political garb. But in the meanwhile when the war came the predecessor of this Finance Member introduced commodity taxes which was a new thing; the tobacco tax, for instance. Through that tobacco tax our own peasants belonging to different communities are offering to this Government more than 20 crores of rupees.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir; I pay it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You pay only a few lakhs, whereas other men pay crores and crores. Twenty crores of rupees they have come to pay to this Government; and yet they have not received this little relief of the abolition of the salt tax whereby they might have gained 7 or 8 crores of rupees. It comes to this: once a tax comes to be levied, either by fair or foul means the tax-gatherers fall in love with it to such an extent that they are unwilling to abolish it, and they will find no end of arguments in favour of its further retention. And so new taxes will come to be multiplied and added on to the burden of the masses but the old taxes will not go. That seems to be the only morale behind this Government.

If on the other hand Government really wish to be reasonable and if the Honourable Finance Member is anxious to justify his own claim that the man in the village street and also in the urban street has got to be given some definite, effective and perceivable relief, he should be prepared to agree to our proposal to abolish this salt tax; and not only that but to accept the other proposals also that we will be moving hereafter.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official): Sir, I have an entirely open mind on this question. If I felt and thought in all sincerity that the tax on salt is really a hardship on the poor, even on the very poor, and if there are arguments produced from actual experience of life of the poor and the common people that they really do feel this as a burden, I would gladly vote for the abolition of the salt tax. I do not want to produce arguments on one side or the other. Ever since this House began its sittings there has been so much said for the salt tax and so much against the salt tax that there is no necessity to review the arguments that are brought up on either side. But I do wish to say this in all sincerity, because I was myself brought up in a small Punjab village though that was a long time ago, and I do not know how far the price of salt has risen since then; but I do remember that I have never heard any one, housewife or head of the family or child, complain of the high prices of salt or complain that they were at any time deprived of the quantity of salt which they needed. In fact I remember very well that so far as the poor people were concerned they went round to houses of people who were a little bit better off than themselves and asked for a lump of salt; and whatever else might have been refused I have never known in a Punjab village a lump of salt being refused to any one who asked for it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it the same case today?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: That I am not able to say with such great definiteness. But the position then was that salt was a free gift. In fact I

think even now it is a free gift if a person comes and asks for it. Just as in a Punjab village people go and ask for a little live coal to light their ovens, they in the same way ask for a little salt; and I have never yet heard that salt has been refused.

Now I come to talk of the life of the poor people in the towns. Before I took on my present educational work I spent several years in social work, and it was work among the poorest in this city of Delhi. And I used to go into their houses and visit them and I knew a great many of them; some of them were so poor that I doubt whether any of my Honourable friends opposite know any people who are poorer than those I knew. The people in the slums of Delhi are poorer, I submit, than the people in the villages which my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga knows very much better than I do. I repeat, Sir, that the life in the slums is much harder in large towns than the life of even the poorest in the villages because they at any rate have free water and free sunshine and the shade of trees to sit under, while the people in the slums do not have them. Now, Sir, I have a good deal of experience of work in the slums of the City of Delhi. I have a record in this direction which not many people here can claim. I have talked with these people and I have tried to do my little bit for them. Again and again there have been all kinds of complaints—no shoes, no clothes, very difficult to send their children to school and in most cases they could not afford to send them for school. The price of *ata* was always discussed. The price of milk was also discussed because there was very little milk. Even onions and potatoes were discussed. But honestly, Sir, and I hope you will believe me, that in not one single case, in the fifteen years of my work, have I ever come across a housewife or the head of a family complaining to me that they were suffering because the price of salt was too high and I have not yet heard the complaint that any household had not enough salt. They made complaints that every other article of food and every article of dress, about footwear or the lack of it.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What about ties and collars!

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: We will do away with them very soon as you have. Now, Sir, the position is that this is a complaint which I have never heard from people who live round one. Poor people come and ask for a great many things they need for their daily use the lack of which they complain bitterly of but, I must say honestly that I have never heard any one say that he was suffering because of want of salt. Nor would I believe that if a man came to ask for a pinch of salt that that pinch of salt would be refused. I appreciate one point which Mr. Prakasa made in his humorous speech. I do not know how far he was moved by emotion or if he was promoted by his natural sense of humour in the speech that he made. He said that in the days of his youth there used to be lumps of salt which were placed at the corner of most streets. I was thinking of exactly the same thing when this salt tax was being talked about. For some reason or other these large lumps of salt which used to stand in street corners have disappeared. It is because of the hard-heartedness of City Fathers that these lumps have disappeared and not because the Municipality of Benares or the Corporation of Calcutta, or the Municipality of Delhi or of New Delhi has become so poor that they cannot provide at some street corner a few slabs of even the very poor quality salt which they used to place there. I agree that we should have these slabs of salt distributed over every large town. I have never seen them in villages. It was brought up in a village myself.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who will supply these lumps of salt?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I say the remedy is in the hands of my friends and in our own hands. I am not now a member of any Municipality, but those who are members of Municipalities I do not think it will add much to their budget if they distribute salt free for the use of cattle. If we can give unrelas to peons, and shoes to postmen, let us also provide these slabs of salt. I am not opposing the point of view that my friends have taken. I started by saying that I was open to conviction. If my friends can show me anywhere to-day or this afternoon that any one is suffering from the lack of salt and that some

[Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee.]

one does not possess enough salt for his needs I am prepared to vote for them Rs. 9 crores or even Rs. 19 crores.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Do you know the price of salt compared with 1939?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: You have just said it. You have said it is about two rupees a maund. But what is the difference in the price of wheat today and the price of wheat thirty years ago? My whole point is that if this revenue is being obtained without causing hardship to anyone, real honest solid hardship, then why throw it away. We are asking for relief to poorly paid servants. We are asking for relief to the poor people for removing indirect taxation.

Shri Sri Prakasa: My Honourable friend waits for a complaint. The fact is that they are suffering for lack of salt and they do not realize it themselves and it is up to us to see to it that they get salt. The cattle do not complain. Why do you then complain on their behalf, and say that there must be slabs of salt for them?

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: In answer to my Honourable friend, I say that unfortunately Providence has not given tongues to cattle. Therefore they cannot vote for my Honourable friend.

I do not think, therefore that there would be a moment's delay, before complaints begin to pour in, if there were a real scarcity of salt. Are there not enough complaints over every single bit of food and article of dress from all classes of people. I am only trying to discover that there is a general demand. My point is that this money which we now raise by this tax can be used for greater benefit to the poor and for their amelioration, be they subordinate servants, the low paid staff of Government, or of railways, or the very poor people in the villages, or for the people who will be able to save a little money when the tax on kerosene oil is reduced. That is the reason why at present I do not feel convinced that any advantage will come to the country if the salt tax is removed and this source of revenue has to be given up. If that is so, we will have to explore other avenues and that would probably hit people harder, or rather the loss of revenue would hit the general tax payer harder than the continuance of this small tax.

Shri Sri Prakasa: If you, Sir, will take the vote, tomorrow we will send one thousand persons to complain to him today.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): My friend, Sri Prakasa in his story said that salt has got all the tastes. In spite of his story I would just remind him of the book written in the old days when sugar was first introduced. They called sugar the "Nimik of Hindustan". This is the word used for sugar in all the books written on medicine in Iran. So 'nimik' is well known and even sugar was well known as "Nimuk-i-Shirin".

Coming to the question before us (it has yet to be established that we are purchasing all the requirements of the country) I have before me the Trade Review of India and year after year we have to depend upon imports from outside. If my friend presses the viewpoint that we ought to develop local industry and stop imports altogether from Aden and other foreign countries, and produce the whole of our requirements inside here, then probably a number of people will support it because that will become a problem of the development of our own industry. But when you come to the other side of the question about taxation, of course we do require some kind of taxation for the administration of the country. With that we should all agree. The only question is whether the tax should be transferred from one commodity to another, so that the total revenue remains the same. No doubt salt is used by everybody but the salt bill even in the poorest family is very nominal. The quantity consumed is very small. The salt bill of the average ordinary family is negligible, compared with the bill for other commodities. The entire duty I would have paid during my whole life will not be equal to what I am putting in the pockets of

the textile mills, which would be practically double the sum that I am paying on account of this salt tax in the Finance Bill. The quantity which everybody consumes is so very small that it forms a very small part of the family budget.

As regards the proposition that we should try to stop the import of the entire quantity of salt which we require in this country I entirely agree with that. The question then will be whether we should have an excise duty on salt. There a large number of articles on which we levy an excise duty which brings in a lot of money which is not so seriously left as the duty on other articles. The complaint that I have received is that sometimes we do not get all the salt that we require. It would be better if the quantity of salt needed is always available every where. So as I said the salt budget of the family is a very small part of the total budget.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I think the salt of this discussion has now lost its savour and it is time we put an end to it.

I am afraid I cannot accept this amendment. I listened to the lowering of the bull of Benares in sympathy but was not particularly moved. They have not persuaded me anymore than they persuaded the Taxation Enquiry Committee in 1934-35 that anybody suffers in health because of the salt tax. I explained this morning why I could not accept the amendment and these grounds have been elaborated by my friend Sir Ziauddin Ahmad and Col. Chatterjee. I may however make this promise that if contrary to my expectation but in line with the prophesy of my friend Sri Prakasa I am Finance Member next year, I shall be very glad to do something in this matter.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

Several Honourable Members: The bells are not ringing and the doors are closed locking out several members.

Mr. President: I have asked that the doors be kept open for two minutes.

Shri D. P. Karmakar: On a point of order, Sir, whether an adjournment motion can be moved on the bells not ringing?

Mr. President: There is no point of order. I have already asked that the doors be kept open for two minutes.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Sir, your order has not been conveyed to the doorkeepers.

An Honourable Member: It has been.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, all the members are not here: some of them are sitting in the library and they do not know that a division has been called.

Mr. President: They are expected to be in the House and keep on watching the proceedings of the House. The bell is only a convenience. I may inform Honourable Members that there is a previous ruling on the subject. I am reading from the Decisions from the Chair.

"Sometime after a division had been taken on a certain motion, a member rose and pointed out that the division bell had not rung in a certain room in which he was sitting at the time and asked that his vote should be included."

The President rules that he was not entitled to vote.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: That was the matter about a particular room.

Mr. President: The question is

"That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The Assembly divided:

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
 Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
 Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee, Raja Sir Saiyid.
 Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
 Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
 Ayers, Mr. C. W.
 Azizul Haque, 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.
 Ghazanfarulla Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.
 Greenfield, Mr. H.
 Griffiths, Mr. P. I.
 Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
 Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
 Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain
 Sardar.
 Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
 Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
 Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
 Inskip, Mr. A. C.
 Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
 Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.
 Jeelani Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj
 Syed Sher Shah.
 Jahangir, Sir Cowasjee.
 Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
 Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
 Krishnama Acharya, Rao Bahadur Sir V. T.

Lawson, Mr. C. P.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
 Madanduari Singh, Mr.
 Mason, Mr. P.
 Mohammad Amir Ahmad Khan Bahadur
 Raja.
 Morris, Mr. R. C.
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
 Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
 Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
 Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
 Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
 Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
 Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
 Sargent, Sir John.
 Sen, Mr. B. R.
 Sheehy, Sir John.
 Siddique, Ali Khan, Nawab.
 Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
 Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
 Solanki, Dr. P. G.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
 Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
 Turner, Mr. A. C.
 Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
 Weightman, Mr. H.
 Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
 Yeatts, Mr. M. W. M.
 Yusuf Abdoola Haroon Seth.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—57

Adityan, Sri S. T.
 Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
 Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
 Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
 Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.
 Chaman Lall, Diwan.
 Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
 Choudhuri, Sreejot Rohini Kumar.
 Daga, Seth Sheodass.
 Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
 Dani, Mr. G. B.
 Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
 Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
 Gangaraju, Sri V.
 Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
 Gole, Mr. P. B.
 Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Hirey, Sjt. B. S.
 Jagannathdas, Sri.
 Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
 Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Karmarkar, Shri D. P.
 Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
 Lahiri Choudhury, Sreejot Dharendra Kanta.
 Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.

Manu Subedar, Mr.
 Masani, Mr. M. R.
 Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
 Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
 Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
 Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
 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.
 Satakopahari, Sri T. V.
 Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
 Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
 Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
 Sri Prakasa, Shri.
 Sukhdev, Seth.
 Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader
 Sardar.
 Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
 Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
 Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.
 Vithhoorkar, Sardar N. G.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: Clause 3. Does any member wish to move any amendment?

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to move the amendment which stands in my name—No. 23 on the consolidated list.

Mr. President: Do I take it that amendments in the consolidated list from No. 11 to No. 22 are not going to be moved? There are three amendments in the supplementary list standing in the name of Mr. Haroon.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: He is not going to move them.

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal: Sir, I move:

"That in the First Schedule of the Indian Finance Act, 1945, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, proposed to be inserted by Clause 3 of the Bill, under the head 'Registered Newspapers', the following new entry shall be inserted at the top:

'For a weight not exceeding four tolas ... one pie.'

Sir, my object in moving this amendment is to encourage the publication and circulation of cheap weekly and bi-weekly newspapers for the teeming millions residing in the villages in India. Such weekly and bi-weekly papers are the only means of carrying news, and not only news but useful information like whether reports and market rates and the results of researches, to the people residing in the villages. There is no other practical way of doing these things for the benefit of these villagers, because daily papers cannot go round to the villages and reach them, because in many villages there is no post office. It is the weekly and the bi-weekly alone which can reach there and the villages also lack communication and the present higher postage is a prohibitive price for these cheap newspapers for the people residing in the rural areas because if the price be Rs. 2 per year the postage comes to 13 annas in 52 weeks or about

50 per cent. of the total and we cannot expect the people in the rural areas to pay as much as this. Therefore it is necessary to introduce one pie postage for such newspapers. This proposal involves no financial loss or burden on the Government, because there are very few weekly or bi-weekly papers which weigh four tolas or less. Most of them weigh 8 tolas and more and that is why last time we raised the weight from 8 tolas to 10 tolas for the advantage of these weekly newspapers and as regards the dailies they do not circulate in the villages. There are very few regular subscribers to the dailies and it is only weeklies which reach there. The dailies are sold through the agents and therefore this does not affect in any way the revenue of the Government and this new postage will bring in more revenue when more newspapers are published. I hope that the Government will see its way to accept this amendment and I hope that the House will support it.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in the First Schedule of the Indian Finance Act, 1945, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1898, proposed to be inserted by Clause 3 of the Bill, under the head 'Registered Newspapers', the following new entry shall be inserted at the top:

'For a weight not exceeding four tolas ... one pie.'

Shri Sri Prakasa: It is a matter of great pleasure to me that my Honourable friend Mr. Bewoor or Sir Gurunath Bewoor is still in charge of this Department. He and I have worked in this Assembly ever since I have been here; and whether as Director General of Posts and Telegraphs or as Secretary of Posts and Air and Railway accidents, I find that he is always in charge of our post cards, our letters and our newspapers. I have always found him a sympathetic person so far as newspapers are concerned; and with his assistance it has been possible in the past to raise the minimum weight of newspapers from 8 tolas to 10 tolas for purposes of one pice postage and to give relief in the matter of sending newspaper parcels by post. Today, along with my Honourable friend Mr. Paliwal, I should like to press upon his attention and the attention of his Government, the great need of a further concession. The times have

[Shri Sri Prakasa]

considerably changed; and this war along with its horrors, has certainly brought in its train one good thing, namely, love of knowledge, a desire for the news of the world on the part of the humble people in the town and the country.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan).]

As matters stand, advantage of the rates can only be taken by the heavy and larger newspapers but the small newspapers printed in the Indian languages with a limited circulation, cannot take full advantage of these concessions because the proportionate expense in sending them is very high. I am looking forward to a day, not very far in the future, when we shall have very light newspapers weighing four tolas and less; and these newspapers, I am hoping would not be priced at more than a pice per issue. To pay an additional pice for postage on a paper which costs only one pice, is I think exceedingly disproportionate; and I hope my Honourable friend opposite will see the justice of the claim that we make in favour of this lighter Indian language newspapers which we hope will be published in large numbers, when we say that the postage on them should be specially reduced. At my friend Mr. Paliwal has said, it would not be in the interest of the newspaper agents to take large bundles of such newspapers. They would have to be sent by the post and if the post is prohibitive their circulation will be limited. No harm will be done to the Honourable Member's Department. He will stand to gain and not to lose. I hope he will give his favourable and sympathetic consideration to the proposal we are making and accept this amendment that has been so effectively moved by my friend Mr. Paliwal who if any one here, knows everything about newspapers, the difficulties of their production, their sale and circulation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am very glad to support this amendment. This is specially intended to benefit the rural areas. These big newspapers have not got very much of circulation in the rural areas and necessarily papers produced in local languages and also in district headquarters have to circulate in our rural areas, so that our rural public may be able to get such essential news as weather reports, market rates and also their own local news in regard to crops and other public matters. It is also necessary that the post should make its own contribution towards the development of rural education and newspapers are one of the most important media in that direction. Unfortunately the news agents are not to be found to undertake the work of circulation in rural areas. Today it so happens that our rural public have to pay much more for their newspapers than the urban public because whereas the urban public are supplied their newspapers post free the rural public are obliged to pay for the postage also. I have had some experience in publishing some weeklies for our rural people and we found that we could always supply our newspaper at face value to the town people, but we have to charge postage extra for all rural readers. Therefore if this amendment is accepted, it may not mean very much of a sacrifice so far as the Department is concerned, but it will certainly be an advantage to our rural public. Even with regard to the sacrifice which the Department may have to make, it may be problematical one, if at all there is to be loss. My Honourable friends who spoke before me have made it clear that if this concession is made, there will be more papers, more of them will be sent by post with the result that the Department may stand to gain rather than lose. I therefore suggest that it will be in the interest of the Department itself to accept this amendment and I hope they will accept it.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Post and Air Department): Sir, my Honourable friend Shri Sri Prakasa referred to the very long association I had with this Department. He and I have had several occasions to discuss as to what the postage rates should be, how they should be fixed and what should be the economics of them and so on. I have had both the pleasure and displeasure of the House when I have had the rates reduced or the rates increased. It was

one of my ambitions when I became the Director General to reduce the postage rates and I was able to do so considerably, but when the war came on, unfortunately we had to go back again to higher rates. On the present occasion, the plea is made on behalf of newspapers of light weight. Now the proposed postage rate is one-twelfth of an anna. I admit that in the case of smaller newspapers in Indian languages which are sold for a small amount of money, the postage rate may appear comparatively high. The actual financial loss involved in this matter is very small indeed. Our estimate is that during the next year about 121 million newspapers would be posted of which we estimate that 40 to 50 per cent. would be below four tolas. The actual loss, if we adopt the present suggested rate is only between 5 and 6 lakhs of rupees. It is not however on that account that I feel that I should oppose this motion. First of all there is no postage stamp of the value of one pie at present.

Shri Sri Prakasa: That should be no consideration with him because nowadays he has got a system by which no postage stamp need be affixed on newspapers that are sent by post. He has got a new system by which bills are sent every fortnight to newspapers for the amount of postage consumed. They are paid in cash.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am aware of that, but not every newspaper has got that system. The second thing is that considering the cost of printing and distribution of stamps, it seems to me that it would be hardly worth while of the post office to have pie stamps put on newspapers. It would be better not to charge at all. That, of course is an entirely different matter. I am not aware of the economics of newspaper industry, but so far as I understand it, it is not working at any loss on account of the postage rate being three pies. That rate is upto ten tolas weight and is quite a reasonable charge.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Our rural newspapers work at a loss.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Looking at it entirely from a practical point of view, the value of money has gone down. A pie represents an amount which one hardly sees anywhere. You can buy nothing for it nowadays not even for quarter of an anna. I think it would be entirely unjustified to bring down the rate of postage for newspapers to this insignificant figure of one-twelfth of an anna. Newspapers do not entirely live on subscribers income, they have various other sources of income and I think they ought to be able to bear the present postage of a pice. The present rate is extremely low. It would be impracticable in practice to have a pie rate and in any case, it could not be introduced even if this amendment is passed, unless and until we have had postage stamps printed. Sir, the existing rate is the maximum rate, and I am prepared to examine the practical difficulties in this matter. Let me examine it and see what can be done in this matter. In the meantime, I must oppose the motion.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That in the First Schedule of the Indian Finance Act, 1945, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1938, proposed to be inserted by Clause 3 of the Bill, under the head 'Registered Newspapers', the following new entry shall be inserted at the top:

'For a weight not exceeding four tolas ... one pie.'

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, I find the division bell is not ringing. I am sure a mechanic could be found in this great city to set it right.

Mr. Deputy President: It was set right once, but there is something wrong in the line. We shall attend to it later on.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I rise to a point of privilege. If the division bell is not ringing, then it is not possible for you to decide to have the votes recorded until the machine is set right. Until it is put in order, we cannot proceed with the division. Honourable Members of this House shall not be plag-

ed with. Whatever the rulings may have been in the past I as a Member of this House insist that I shall know when the bell rings and when it stops.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member is justified in asserting his rights as a Member. I am not dealing now with the rulings in the past, but the circumstances now are beyond any one's control and the defect has been detected just now which it is impossible to repair in two or three minutes. The House cannot adjourn just for that purpose. That is why I gave full latitude to the Whips to go out and call their Members and directed that Members standing outside should be admitted.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: If the officials of the Assembly had any common sense about them they would have brought a gong which could be sounded. I am not speaking in a spirit of levity; I mean it. I wish the authorities and the Chair to stand up for the rights of the ordinary Member. If the thing has broken down, the voting, in my humble submission, is not complete.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Sir, may I make a practical suggestion? I suggest that the best procedure would be for an official of the House to be sent to every room in which the bell normally rings.

Mr. Deputy President: Notice will be taken of what Honourable Members have suggested.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Apart from making suggestions for the future, I suggest that steps be taken now to see that a messenger has gone to every room in which the bell normally rings.

Mr. Deputy President: I think officials of the Assembly cannot go and run about the rooms.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I submit that it is the practice not only in this House but also in the House of Commons that Members are not supposed to be in attendance in the Chamber the whole time. They are entitled to be engaged in other work in expectation of the bell being rung. If the bell does not ring some steps should be taken to make certain that information is sent to every room that is normally used by Members.

Mr. Deputy President: It is not one room, there are so many rooms and in two minutes it is impossible for the officials of the Assembly to run about them. But surely some other method will be tried as a substitute if this machine fails to work in future, as has been suggested by Mr. Siddiqi. Just now for practical purposes I have suggested that the Whips should remain on the alert and tell their Members not to go out of the lobby.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, it will be very hard luck on the Members to be sitting here from 11 to 5 p.m. and listen to the very "brilliant" speeches that sometimes are made. The "brilliance" of the speeches may be too much for some of them.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: (Nominated: Non-Official): Sir, on a point of order I submit that as soon as the division is called by the presiding authority the House is not sitting. Therefore all these remarks made during the time when the House was not sitting were out of order.

Mr. Deputy President The question is:

"That in the First Schedule of the Indian Finance Act, 1945, in the proposed First Schedule to the Indian Post Office Act, 1938, proposed to be inserted by Clause 3 of the Bill, under the head 'Registered Newspapers', the following new entry shall be inserted at the top:

'For a weight not exceeding four tolas ... one pie.'"

The Assembly divided:

Adityan, Sri S. T.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Choudhuri, Sreejuti Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
Gangaraju, Sri V.
Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.
Govind Das, Seth.
Hana Raj, Raizada.
Hirey, Sjt. B. S.
Jagannathdas, Sri.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Karmarkar, Shri D. P.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Lahiri Choudhury, Sreejuti Dhirendra Kanta.
Madanchari Singh, Mr.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.

Manu Subedar, Mr.
Masani, Mr. M. R.
Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
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.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Sukhdev, Seth.
Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader.
Sardar.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Annu.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vijaya Ahanda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.
Vinchoorkar, Sardar N. G.

NOES—63

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee, Raja Sir Saiyid.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
Ayers, Mr. C. W.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Ghazanfarulla Khan Bahadur Hafiz M.
Greenfield, Mr. H.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwillt, Mr. Lealie.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.
Jeelani Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Shar Shafi.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Kara, Miss Maniben.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Krishnama Acharya, Rao Bahadur Sir V. T.

Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Mason, Mr. P.
Mohammad Amir Ahmad Khan Bahadur Raja.
Morris, Mr. R. C.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald Sargent, Sir John.
Sen, Mr. B. R.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Solanki, Dr. P. G.
Spence, Sir George.
Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Turner, Mr. A. C.
Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Weightman, Mr. H.
Yeatta, Mr. M. W. M.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy President: I understand that Pundit S. K. Dutt Paliwal voted on the wrong side. I have allowed the lists to be corrected.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy President: Clause 5. Does Mr. Ayyangar want to move his amendment?

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: No.

Mr. Deputy President: Seth Yusuf Haroon does not want to move.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Mr. Deputy President: Clause 6. Are there no amendments?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: There are amendments by Government.

Mr. H. Greenfield (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (a) of Clause 6 of the Bill,—

(a) the words 'and six pies' be omitted and

(b) for the words 'and Five annas', the words 'and Four annas and six pies' be substituted."

This matter was dealt with by the Honourable the Finance Member before the House rose for lunch and there is little for me to add by way of explanation except that under the original proposal the standard rate of duty on betelnuts was to be 5½ annas with a preferential rate of duty of 5 annas on betelnuts produced in a British Colony. By virtue of the present amendment, the standard rate of duty will become 5 annas and the preferential rate four annas and six pies. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (a) of Clause 6 of the Bill,—

(a) the words 'and six pies' be omitted and

(b) for the words 'and Five annas', the words 'and Four annas and six pies' be substituted."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member has given us no information at all. He said that the Finance Member had said something about it. The Finance Member too said nothing.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You could not have been listening. I did refer to it in my speech this morning.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What did he refer to?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We could have had some information why this import duty was imposed. We want it to be imposed of course. How much was being collected as a result of this import duty and what would be the loss as a result of this reduction that he proposes to make. We have no information. I can only consider this to be a very frivolous way of treating this House.

We welcome the decision of the Government to reduce the excise duty on betelnut but I do not see any reason why this import duty should be reduced. The import duty after all was intended to protect our own home betelnut growers. That need for protection still exists. There is the fear of imports coming in and stampeding the market. Our complaint has been that our prices have been very much depressed. All other producers of agricultural products have been suffering but these betelnut growers have been suffering much more and if imports were to be allowed their position will become even worse. So we want this import duty to be there independently of the excise duty. Even supposing the excise duty is completely abolished, we want the import duty. We have told the Honourable the Finance Member on an earlier occasion when some of us went in deputation to him that the position of the betelnut grower is very weak now in the Indian market. He has to be protected from both the middleman as well as the consumer. Both of them are very strong and on top of it he has to be protected from the imports. We want the Finance Member to

realise the difficulties of these people and maintain this import duty independently of any excise duty. We are anxious and we shall certainly press our motion for the abolition of the excise duty on betelnut completely. Even then we want the Government to retain this import duty. What will be the effect of this import duty. The price of the betelnut will not be enhanced to the extent to which this import duty is going to be imposed, because of the greater power that the middleman as well as the consumers do possess in this country. It will only be a sort of assurance to the grower of betelnut that he will be able to get prices which will be remunerative to some extent. Therefore I want the Government to retain the rates that they have already suggested in the Bill and not to move for any reduction. At the same time I want them to proceed with their amendment to clause 7 and if possible to accept our own amendment that the betelnut excise duty should be completely removed. I reserve my remarks in regard to the need for the abolition of the betelnut excise duty when our relevant amendment comes up for discussion.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (a) of Clause 6 of the Bill,—

(a) the words 'and six pies' be omitted and

(b) for the words 'and five annas', the words 'and four annas and six pies' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. H. Greenfield Sir, I move:

"That in sub-clause (b) of clause 6 of the Bill, for the word 'Six' the word 'Three' be substituted."

Here again further explanation is unnecessary. In the original proposal the rate of duty to be applied to unexposed films was six pies per linear foot. Under this proposal that duty will be halved. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That in sub-clause (b) of clause 6 of the Bill, for the word 'Six' the word 'Three' be substituted."

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Sir, I would like to support this amendment and in supporting I would like to point out to the Honourable House that the present duty is 24 per cent. *ad valorem* which works out, I understand, to 1.6 pies per foot. Therefore the increase is nearly 100 per cent. even with this amendment. I think the cinema trade will have to be thankful for small mercies but the Honourable House must realise that the duty is being increased by nearly 100 per cent. According to the original proposal of Government the duty would have increased from about 9 lakhs to about 32 lakhs. That was a very steep increase indeed and I have a feeling that even now the increase as proposed by Government is fairly high and I trust that when the next budget comes perhaps this matter will be reconsidered.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, I oppose the amendment. The cinema is a very unhealthy amusement and it has been displacing other forms of really genuine Indian healthy amusements that used to exist in our country before. It has practically abolished the living stage. It has abolished the old system of music and dancing; and from such stories that I have heard of what goes on behind the scenes in the cinema industry. I am not at all desirous of encouraging it. I think the duty should be increased instead of being decreased. I am surprised that such a pious person as Sir Cowasjee Jehangir who at one time was against any ladies of his community having anything to do with the film industry has now come forward to support the decrease of duty, which would only help to encourage this nefarious industry. Sir, I strongly oppose this amendment; and I hope the Government will see its way to increasing the duty all round and discouraging the industry as far as possible.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: May I make an explanation, Sir. I am not sure that my friend Mr. Sri Prakasa has got the thing right. The

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

budget speech and the Finance Bill increased the existing rate of duty on cinema films. This amendment merely reduces the extent to which it is being increased. It is not decreasing the existing rate.

Shri Sri Prakasa: It is less than what was originally proposed and I do not want that.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: We made a mistake in calculation.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (b) of clause 6 of the Bill, for the word 'Six' the word 'Three' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That clause 6 as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 as amended was added to the Bill.

Mr. H. Greenfield: Sir, I move:

"That after clause 6 of the Bill, the following clause be inserted, namely:

'6A. Alteration of duty of customs on kerosene and mineral oils.—In the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), in items Nos. 27(4) and 27(5), in the fourth column, the words "and nine pies" shall be omitted.'"

Sir, the Honourable Finance Member has already explained to the House that the Finance Bill originally proposed to reduce the previous duty on kerosene oil and on mineral oils suitable for illuminants in a wick lamp from as. 4/6 per Imperial Gallon to as. 3/9 per Imperial Gallon. The present amendment will reduce the rate still further to as. 8 per Imperial Gallon. Sir, I move.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That after clause 6 of the Bill, the following clause be inserted, namely:

'6A. Alteration of duty of customs on kerosene and mineral oils.—In the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), in items Nos. 27(4) and 27(5), in the fourth column, the words "and nine pies" shall be omitted.'"

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, may I ask for some information? My Honourable friend seem to be impervious to any criticisms that we make and to any request that we make for information. I certainly take very strong exception to this treatment that they mete out to this House as a whole. We are here to be educated and they are there to be educated also—we must educate each other. Why do these Honourable gentlemen come here and make these motions without taking the trouble to give us any information at all? How much of this kerosene oil consumed in this country is being imported and how much of it is produced in the country itself? This simple information could have been given, but yet my Honourable friends on that side do not wish to volunteer any information whatever to be given to people who would like to know. Some of us are ignorant of how much is being imported into this country with the result that we have tabled amendments for the next clause, asking that the excise duty on kerosene should be abolished. That would be abolished, but what about the import duty? If the import duty is still there and that kerosene oil comes in, it has got to be paid for also by our people: is that not so? We would have certainly put in an amendment to this clause also if we had the necessary information. It may be very convenient for the Honourable Members on the other side to keep us completely ignorant about these matters; but it certainly does not help this House to understand these things properly and effectively.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, I am also in need of some information. The Honourable Member referred to Imperial Gallon. May I know how many types of gallon there are—Imperial, democratic, socialistic and other? Could he give some information on that?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we getting any information at all or not?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: About the Imperial Gallon?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: No; about the quantity of oil produced in this country and the quantity imported into this country.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Quantitatively I cannot give that answer without notice; but if the Honourable Member would care to read the documents which have been prepared with great labour by the Departments and which are given to Honourable Members, he will find on page 2 of the explanatory memorandum that the customs duty on kerosene oil in the current year's budget is expected to produce 4 crores, and the excise duty 41 lakhs. I must reply to the protest of the Honourable Member against lack of information by the reluctance of Honourable Members to study documents which are prepared with great labour.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Even then you have not given the quantities: you want notice.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I said I was dealing with the financial aspect of the thing—not its quantitative aspect. If the Honourable Members wants the quantities, he can ask me or any one in my Department.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In your budget speech, you are expected to explain.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Certainly not.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Certainly, yes.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That after clause 6 of the Bill, the following clause be inserted, namely:

'6A. Alteration of duty of customs on kerosene and mineral oils.—In the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934 (XXXII of 1934), in items Nos. 27(4) and 27(5), in the fourth column, the words "and nine pies" shall be omitted.'"

The motion was adopted.

New clause 6A was added to the Bill.

STATEMENT OF BUSINESS

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Sir, as I have already indicated, a formidable programme of legislative and other business will remain to be disposed of after the non-official days on Monday 5 P. M. and Tuesday next week, and I would now ask you to direct the House to meet for the disposal of official business on the days after Tuesday next which you have already distributed for the purposes of questions, that is to say, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, the 3rd, 4th and 5th April, Monday and Tuesday, the 8th and 9th April, Thursday and Friday, the 11th and 12th April and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th April. The business of which we hope to dispose includes the consideration and passing of 4 Bills on which Select Committees have reported, the consideration and passing or reference to Select Committee or circulation of 10 other Bills already introduced and the consideration and passing or reference to Select Committee or circulation of some 9 other Bills which have not yet been introduced. There will also be a demand for a supplementary grant for a further contribution to UNRRA in 1946-47 and a resolution recommending acceptance of the constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Agricultural Organisation, while, unless the Law Member is made aware that the House does not desire a debate on the question, he will move his resolution regarding the extension of the jurisdiction of the Federal Court. Finally, the Report of the Public Accounts Committee with the consequential excess grants remains to be disposed of. I should add that in any event we do not propose to ask for further meetings after the 18th April.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable the President has agreed to these proposals to allot these days for the official business. I may also inform Honourable Members in connection with the Supplementary Demands for Grants which will be taken up on the 29th March, that on account of the strike in the Government Press, it has not been possible for the Finance Department to print the proceedings of the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee which were held on the 16th February and the 16th March 1946 with the result that copies of these proceedings have not been circulated to members. A copy each of the Reports of the Standing Finance Committee for these two days has been placed in the Library for the purpose of reference by the Members.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 28th March 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 28th 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

NUMBER OF INDIANS AND EUROPEANS IN CIVIL AVIATION (DIRECTORATE)

1338. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons working in the office of the Director of Civil Aviation and their total salary;

(b) how many of them are Indians, and what the total salary of these Indians is as compared with the amount paid to Europeans; and

(c) whether these figures give even a slight impression that the policy of Government is to give opportunities for employment to Indians; whether it is consistent with their announced policy?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) There are in all 251 persons working in the headquarters office of the Director General of Civil Aviation in India. Their total salary amounts to Rs. 50,400 p.m.

(b) 238 are Indians and the total salary paid to them is Rs. 29,100 p.m. The total salary paid to the European staff amounts to Rs. 21,300 p.m.

(c) The reply to both parts is in the affirmative.

Seth Govind Das: What is the reason for the differential treatment between Europeans and Indians as far as pay is concerned?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: There is no differential treatment. It so happens that European officers are in the higher posts in the Department and they are on higher scales of pay than Indians who are holding junior posts.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is it not a fact that the establishment of the Office of Director General of Civil Aviation is more top heavy than that of United Kingdom or United States of America?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. On the contrary I feel that it is not sufficiently strong.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is there no possibility of appointing an Indian as the Deputy Director General of Civil Aviation? When will the Department be Indianised?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Our aim is to Indianise it as far as possible.

Seth Govind Das: Is the pay of senior officers of the same rank—Europeans and Indians—the same or is there any difference between the pay of Europeans and Indians of the same seniority?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The European officers get overseas pay, otherwise the scales of pay are more or less the same.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that Indians and Europeans were appointed at one and the same time and yet Europeans have got themselves promoted to higher posts when this Directorate was established?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Unless specific examples are given, I cannot give an answer.

QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS OF CENTRAL AIR TRANSPORT LICENSING BOARD

1339. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that the Central Air Transport Licensing Board has been appointed? If not, who will appoint this Board?

(b) What will be the necessary qualifications for becoming members of this Board?

(c) Will these qualifications be based on communal basis? How many Indians and how many Britishers will there be on this Board?

(d) Will this be consistent with the policy of Government announced by them from time to time about giving opportunities of employment to Indians?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to the replies given by me in this House on the 11th March, 1946, to part (a) of Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma's unstarred question No. 103, and on the 5th March, 1946, to parts (a) and (b) of Mr. Manu Subedar's starred question No. 665.

(c) The reply to the first part of the question is in the negative. The rules relating to the licensing of air transport services do not prescribe any proportion between Europeans and Indians in the constitution of the Board.

(d) Does not arise.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member going to give effect to the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Posts and Air when it was brought to the notice of the Government that this Board should be completely Indianised?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The broad conclusions reached in the Committee were that if possible a majority of the Members of the Air Transport Licensing Board should be Indians and both Hindus and Muslims should be represented on it. That broad conclusion would be duly observed.

Seth Govind Das: Is there any intention on the part of the Government to appoint Indians on this Board, whether the future policy of the Government is to appoint any more Europeans on the Board?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The Board has not yet been constituted.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Have any steps been taken since then to find out suitable Indians for appointing them to the Licensing Board?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Steps are being taken.

LONG TERM MONOPOLIES AND SUBSIDIES TO COMPANIES OPERATING AIR SERVICE

1340. *Seth Govind Das: Does the Secretary for Posts and Air propose to give long term monopolies to some limited number of companies to operate daily air services in India? If so, who will give these monopolies, and on what principle will the companies be selected? Will these companies also get subsidies from Government on the top of long term monopolies?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: As regards the first part of the question the Honourable Member is referred to the Press Communique issued by the Government on the subject on the 24th May, 1945, copy of which has already been laid on the table of the House. With regard to the second part, the Honourable Member is referred to the rules for the licensing of air transport services issued with the Posts and Air Department Notification No. 11-M(A)/1-46, dated the 23rd January, 1946. A copy of these Rules has been laid on the table of the House. As regards the last part, the Government's intentions are explained in the Press Communique to which I have referred and in the Government of India's Memorandum on Post-war Development of Civil Air Transport in India a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the fact that the Standing Committee made it perfectly clear that only cent per cent Indian companies should be given monopolies and subsidies may I ask what steps have been taken in this

direction? Will the views of the Standing Committee be conveyed to the Licensing Board when it is appointed?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir.

EXECUTION OF GOVERNMENT POLICY DEVELOPMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION.

1341. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state if it is a fact that Government memorandum issued by the Civil Aviation Department contained that 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?

(b) Has the past record of this Department of the Government of India up to this time, been in keeping with the above policy?

(c) How do Government now propose to work on this policy?

(d) Will the Honourable member give an assurance that foreigners will not be imported and employed in this project of the Civil Aviation Department?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) It is not possible for Government to give any such assurance, because, in the interests of sound and rapid development of aviation in India, it is necessary sometimes to employ non-Indians to a limited extent until suitable Indians become available. I would however give the assurance that non-Indians will not be employed unless they are essential and suitable Indians with necessary knowledge and experience are not available.

Seth Govind Das: What steps are being taken to make Indians suitable for this purpose?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Sir, we are opening Training Institutions, we are approaching the R.I.A.F. to release suitable personnel for employment in civil aviation, we are employing Indians with suitable qualifications in the more junior posts so that they may get the necessary knowledge and experience and in due time succeed non-Indians whom we are employing on contract terms for comparatively short periods.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether the Government have set up any particular organisation which would find out whether suitable Indians are available for these posts or not or whether the Government are leaving it merely to the whim of the Honourable Member in charge or even my Honourable friend over there?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir. There is no such thing as whim in the management of Government business. We look round, we advertise and in certain cases we put the matter before the Federal Public Service Commission. I should like to assure the Honourable Member that in the Civil Aviation Department we have got full information regarding people who have any experience in this line.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I remind the Honourable Member of the speech of the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition on the other day speaking on his Cut Motion when he mentioned about a dozen names of Indians who were available. If so, what steps has he taken since then to employ these Indians to these posts?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am not quite sure, but I believe that most of the people whom he mentioned are already in the Department.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Not all.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Most of them are not in the Department. Is Mr. Kabali in the Department? It is a wrong statement to say that most of them are in the Department.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I do not think it is a wrong statement unless you mean that the names which the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition

mentioned are similar to those who are in the Department, for example, Mr. Chakravarti—I think he is one of the aerodrome officers. But there may be others. I would be glad if the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition or Mr. Jaffer will send me a list of such names, I shall go through them and their qualifications and see whether any of them can be employed.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: For what purposes? To be filed or thrown into the waste paper basket?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: For consideration.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: May I ask if Mr. Kabali is in the Department or if Wing Commander Awan is in the Department or if Mr. Ali is in the Department?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I did not say all of them. I said most of them.

Seth Govind Das: How many of them are in the Department according to the information of the Honourable Member?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I cannot say unless I carefully examine the list of names which the Honourable Member gave in his speech. I have not got the text before me.

Diwan Chaman-Lall: Do I take it that my Honourable friend said that he will consider whether these are suitable or not? Then am I to take it that it is my Honourable friend over there who is going to decide the question whether suitable Indians are available or not.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: If they are suitable, then the Department as such, not myself personally, but the Department as such, will see if there are any suitable men and they will be placed before the Public Service Commission.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Is it a fact that Mr. Chakravarti, whose name I mentioned, has been shunted off to Montreal in order to make room for European officers?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think that is a most unfair remark. Mr. Chakravarti has not been sent to Montreal and not shunted off. There is a certain gentleman called Mr. Raha.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Yes, Mr. Raha; I am sorry.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: He has been appointed Deputy Director in the communications side and he has been sent as India's representative on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organisation to represent India, India being an elected member of that organisation. There is no question of shunting off; we had to send a representative and the Honourable Member should be happy that we sent an Indian and not a European.

CHALLANS UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES ACT OF TRANSPORT COMPANIES' SERVANTS IN C. P. AND BERAR

1342.*Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state the number of police challans, with the statement of the nature of the offences in respect of which these challans were made in the last six months, under the Motor Vehicles Act against the servants of the two transport companies, namely F. C. Chinoy Ltd. and Nagpur Omnibus Ltd., which have now been transformed into the Central Province Transport Co., Ltd., and Provincial Transport Company Ltd., respectively in the Central Provinces and Berar, in which the Railways hold shares?

(b) And out of such challans, how many were later on withdrawn? How many resulted in acquittals and how many in convictions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The material has had to be collected from several different districts in the Central Provinces and Berar and it is regretted that it is not yet complete. A statement will be laid on the table as soon as complete particulars are received.

Seth Govind Das: By what time does the Honourable Member expect these statements to be available?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I cannot say; as soon as I receive them from the provinces.

Seth Govind Das: Before this Session comes to an end?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hope so. I can give the Honourable Member some details so far as I have received them, if he would like to hear them.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Before entering into the contract with F. C. Chinoy & Co., did the Honourable Member consider whether they were running properly or not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That is a matter of opinion and hardly seems to arise out of the question.

Seth Govind Das: Before entering into the contract did the Honourable Member at all consider the point that they were not running properly?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I do not really understand what the Honourable Member is driving at. The figures to show that the provincial officers are strictly enforcing the regulations against the company, which seems to me to be very proper.

Seth Govind Das: Is it a fact that certain local people in the Central Provinces were ready to enter into contract as far as these lines are concerned, and F. C. Chinoy & Co. were preferred?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The question relates to the number of prosecutions against the servants of the company. I do not quite know what the Honourable Member is driving at,—whether it is suggested that there is favouritism in favour of the company. It seems to me that the regulations are being properly enforced.

Seth Govind Das: Mr. Ayyangar asked if there was any consideration as to whether there was proper running of these lines by Chinoy & Co; and my question is whether preference was given to them irrespective of the fact whether they were running the lines properly or not.

Mr. President: That question does not arise.

REPRESENTATION FOR OVERBRIDGE FOR RAILWAY CROSSING AT MANMAD ON MALEGAON-YEOLA ROAD

1343.*Sjt. B. S. Hiray: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether he is aware that a great inconvenience is caused to the public while crossing the Railway lines at Manmad on Malegaon-Yeola Road?

(b) Do Government propose to build an overbridge to avoid this inconvenience to the public?

(c) Have Government received any representation in this respect from the public and the Railway Authorities at Manmad? If so, what decision Government have taken in that respect?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Government are aware that the public are inconvenienced by the existence of three level crossings on the Malegaon-Yeola Road near Manmad Railway station.

(b) The proposal is included in the G.I.P. Railway's Post War Programme for 1947-48 and 1948-49 and plans and estimates are under preparation. The scheme will be examined by Government on receipt from the Railway Administration.

(c) Government are unable to trace any representation in this respect.

GRIEVANCES OF MALEGAON MOMIN WEAVERS DUE TO PROHIBITION OF BOOKING OF YARN GOODS

1344.*Sjt. B. S. Hiray: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether booking of yarn goods produced at Malegaon, District Nasik, is prohibited at Manmad station since long?

(b) Are Government aware that this prohibition of booking has resulted in a heavy loss of earnings of the Momin Weavers of Malegaon?

(c) Are Government aware that the Momin Weavers of Malegaon who are nearly 35,000 have no other business except that of weaving?

(d) Do Government propose to allow the booking of yarn goods at Mammad station and relieve the distress of Momin Weavers of Malegaon?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. There is no prohibition on the booking at Mammad of yarn goods produced at Malegaon, for despatch to their normal consuming areas.

(b) and (d). Do not arise.

(c) Government have no information on the point but are prepared to accept the Honourable Member's statement that this is so.

PROPOSAL FOR RESERVED COMPARTMENTS ON E. I. AND N. W. RAILWAYS FOR DELHI MILKMEN

1345. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that large numbers of milkmen have been given higher class passes to bring milk by the East Indian Railway and North Western Railway from various stations in the neighbourhood of Delhi;

(b) if it is a fact that these milkmen invade all compartments and fill them up with their cans; and

(c) if the Railway Administrations concerned propose to reserve special and suitable compartments in the relevant trains for the convenience of the milkmen as well as long-journey passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No passes are issued. If, however, the reference is to the authority on which these milkmen travel, it is open to the milkmen to purchase the ordinary Monthly Season Tickets of any class open to the public. On the East Indian Railway milkmen can also purchase special Milk Vendor Third Class Monthly Coupon Tickets as well as Third Class Market Vendor Monthly Coupon Tickets.

(b) It is understood that milkmen do occasionally enter compartments on the N. W. Railway portion of the journey with their cans although this is against the rules. Instructions are being issued by the Railway authorities to enforce the rules strictly.

(c) The East Indian Railway set apart separate vans on certain trains running between Delhi and Moradabad and between Khurja and Delhi for the use of milk vendors. The question of extension of such arrangements to other trains will be referred to the Railways concerned for their consideration.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that on one occasion a large number of milkmen entered the compartment in which I was travelling while I was in the bath room, that they had blocked up the whole passage and when I came out I had to perform several acrobatic feats before I could get back to my seat? If so, what compensation does the Honourable Member propose to give me for that?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of forwarding that last suggestion to all other railways, that they should run these separate milk vans and also increase their numbers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It has not come to my notice that difficulty has arisen elsewhere, but if the Honourable Member will make a suggestion as to where this practice might usefully be extended, I shall be very glad to go into it and take it up with the railways.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government recently withdrawn any facilities given to the milkmen supplying milk in Delhi which has caused a strike of milkmen in this city?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of anything of that nature.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In the meanwhile will Government see that these seasonal tickets will not be withdrawn from these milkmen merely because they occasionally cause inconvenience to some of our friends?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Where is the difficulty in setting apart certain compartments for the use of the large number of milkmen who must come to Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I agree that it is a most serious inconvenience that my Honourable friend has suffered. I have suggested that we will go into the question of setting apart separate compartments for milkmen.

UTILISATION OF POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK UN-OPERATED ACCOUNTS MONEY

1346. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money at the present day lying in the Post Office Savings Bank in India in accounts that have not been operated upon for a whole year;

(b) if such accounts are treated as dead; and

(c) how the money is utilised?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The information asked for is not available and cannot be collected without an undue amount of time and labour.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

I may add for the Honourable Member's information that the term 'dead' as used by him has probably misled him. These accounts are only in a state of suspended animation.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: How long will they remain in this condition?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: As long as the depositors do not ask them to be revived.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that some years back the Honourable Member did give the information to the House that there were about 16 lakhs of rupees lying there? And has any special labour to be undergone by him now to find out the present state of affairs, which labour was not necessary at that time?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I cannot remember the exact incident mentioned by the Honourable Member, but I will look it up if he will kindly give me the date on which I gave that information. But I may mention that any account which is not operated upon for six years continuously is treated as 'dead' account merely for administrative purposes. The account is there, the money is there, and at any time the depositor starts a fresh transaction by either depositing money or bringing the pass-book for withdrawing money, the account is revived. It earns interest all the time.

UTILISATION OF MONEY OF UNCLAIMED MONEY ORDERS AND UNDELIVERED V. P. PACKETS LYING IN POST OFFICES

1347. *Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money that is lying in the Post Offices on account of unclaimed money-orders and undelivered V. P. Packets;

(b) what steps are taken by Government to find out the addressees and deliver the money to them; and

(c) how the money so accumulated is utilized, and under what head it is accounted for?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) As regards unclaimed money orders, the information is not readily available and cannot be collected without an undue amount of

ture of time and labour. As regards V. P. Packets, these are returned to the sender if not taken delivery of by the addressee. There is no money realised by the Post Office if the V. P. Packet is not taken delivery of by the addressee.

(b) Every endeavour is made to find the payee before treating a money order as unclaimed. As soon as it is found that a money order cannot be paid to the addressee it is returned to the office of issue for repayment to the remitter.

(c) The amounts of money orders which cannot be paid to the payees or repaid to the remitters remain in Government accounts under the head "Inland Money Orders" or "Forfeited Money Orders"—under Abstract B—Miscellaneous Revenue. The amount is not appropriated but is kept until claims are received and admitted.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Has the Department any rules regarding the amount of time that can legitimately be taken between not finding the person to whom the V. P. packets are addressed and their return to the original addressee.

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I am not quite sure but I believe that it is seven days that a V. P. packet is kept to discover whether the addressee will take delivery of it or not. If within that time he does not take delivery it is returned to the sender.

Seth Yusuf Abdooli Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member the total amount lying unclaimed over a year with the post office?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I have said, Sir, that the information is not available.

Shri Sri Prakasa: It is about Rs. 12 crores!

PERMISSIBILITY OF PRESS TELEGRAMS IN INDIAN LANGUAGES IN ROMAN LETTERS

1348. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that ordinary telegrams can be sent in Indian languages in Roman letters;

(b) if it is a fact that the same privilege is not extended to press telegrams which have always to be in the English language;

(c) why this difference is made; and what particular advantage the Department gets from this; and

(d) if he will consider the desirability of permitting press telegrams also to be sent in Indian languages in Roman letters?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: (a) and (b). Yes.

(c) The rule in question is of long standing and has continued in the absence of any demand for its modification. Press telegrams are generally of great length and their transmission is accelerated if they are in plain English, which is understood by both the sending and receiving operators, and mutilations are likely to be less frequent in English than in any other language.

(d) No.

Shri Sri Prakasa: In view of the fact, Sir, that most of the speeches now are delivered in the Indian languages by public men, and these are sent as press telegrams, will the Honourable Member reconsider his decision on the point and order that press telegrams should also be taken in the Indian languages if they are in the Roman script?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: This is a matter which Government are prepared to consider. So far there has been no real demand from any press agency to send telegrams in Indian languages in the Roman script. There is no difficulty whatsoever in sending such a telegram but we have found that even in the case of private telegrams hardly any advantage is taken of the existing facilities. There are some serious difficulties. Many press telegrams are multi-addressed telegrams. If it is in an Indian language it cannot be sent to a multiple address because it may be of one language to some newspaper and different to others.

I also feel that mutilations are more likely. There is much difference in spelling in the Roman script of certain Indian words—the long and short vowels are difficult—and I think they will also be longer if they are in the Indian languages than in the English language which has developed a jargon for press telegrams. If there is a real demand from the Press Association of India, or Editors of Newspapers or News Agencies, I am prepared to consider the proposition.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will not the Honourable Member take my question as a serious demand and look up the proceedings of the Press Conference in Allahabad where Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in inaugurating the Conference made a specific demand in this connection.

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I am not aware that that resolution was sent to the Postal Department or to the Posts & Air Department. If that is forwarded to Government, we will take action.

DIFFICULTIES OF MANUFACTURERS IN COMPLIANCE OF BRASS AND COPPER CONTROL ORDER

1349. ***Shri Sri Prakasa:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that a Brass and Copper Control Order has been issued making it incumbent on dealers of brassware, whether manufactured by hand or machinery, to have prices and the names of manufacturers marked on each article; and if the prices of all such articles have been fixed;

(b) if it is a fact that different parts of the same article are manufactured by hand by different persons and that many articles are so small that it is difficult to mark the names of manufacturers or even the price of the articles;

(c) if it is a fact that the prices fixed by Government are such that many articles cannot be manufactured within that sum;

(d) if it is a fact that the Benares merchants finding the condition imposed by the Order impossible of compliance, closed their shops for a long period; and

(e) if Government have received representations from manufacturers asking for relief; if so, what Government have done or intend to do in the matter?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) No, Sir. In the case of hand made utensils it is not necessary to stamp the brand of the manufacturer with a die. Ink can be used.

(b) Government are satisfied that prices can be marked in ink in the case of small hand made articles, if stamping with a die is impracticable.

(c) No. The prices have been fixed in consultation with the Industry, and Government are satisfied that they are reasonable.

(d) Benares merchants closed their shops on account of alleged impracticability of marking prices but Government have no information how long shops remained closed.

(e) Yes. Manufacturers of hand made utensils were permitted to mark prices in ink where stamping was not possible. They were also exempted from stamping the Manufacturers' brand.

GRIEVANCES OF BRAKESMEN ON G. I. P. RAILWAY

1350. ***Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that there is a difference of Rs. 10 between the pay of persons who were recruited before 1936 and that of those who were recruited after 1936 as Brakemen in the Great Indian Peninsula Railway;

(b) why does such distinction exist;

(c) if Government are aware that there have been several representations to the Railway Board by the Brakemen recruited before 1936 requesting that

their pay be brought to the level of the pay drawn by persons recruited after 1936;

(d) if it is a fact that their demand has been recommended by the General Manager;

(e) the reasons for not doing away with the difference in pay;

(f) the reasons for the delay in passing orders on their representations;

(g) if Government are aware that the Brakesmen have no chance of promotion to any other positions, and that under the existing provisions, once a Brakesman always a Brakesman is the rule; and

(h) if the Honourable Member proposes to consider the desirability of making provisions for their promotion to other posts?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The minimum pay of all subordinate grades having been temporarily increased by Rs. 10 p.m. with effect from 1st April, 1944, those Brakesmen on the G. I. P. Railway who draw pay on the revised rates of pay introduced after 1934 and whose pay is a fixed sum of Rs. 30, without increments, have had their pay, by the operation of the orders governing the concessions referred to, raised to Rs. 40 p.m. Brakesmen on the old scale of Rs. 20—30, who are all drawing the maximum of the scale, originally received no increase, as the increase of Rs. 10 p.m. is to be added only to the minimum pay. It has since been decided to grant the latter, as a special case, an increase of Rs. 10.

(c) and (d). The reply is in the affirmative.

(e) Does not arise in view of the concluding portion of the reply to parts (a) and (b).

(f) The question raised certain general issues which had to be carefully examined.

(g) No. After rendering 5 years' service—reduced to 3 years for the duration of the war—Brakesmen can become 'D' grade Guards provided they pass the Guard's competency examination.

(h) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (g).

COMMUNAL PROPORTION OF CENTRAL GOVERNMENT SERVANTS IN COCHIN PORT

1351. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Department circular governing communal proportion in Central Government services applies to recruitment to services in the port of Cochin;

(b) if so, the proportion set up for Muslims;

(c) whether such proportion has scrupulously been maintained in making recruitments during the last five years;

(d) how many (i) Brahmins, (ii) Non-Brahmins, and (iii) Muslims got promotions in the same period;

(e) the number and percentage of (i) Brahmins, (ii) Non-Brahmins, and (iii) Muslims in the Gazetted rank, and in the cadre of superior ministerial staff drawing initial pay of Rs. 100 and above; and

(f) what machinery Government have got to see that the minorities in such out of the way Departments get their proportionate share in the matter of recruitment, and promotions?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No. The question of applying the circular to the port of Cochin is under the consideration of Government.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

(d) (i) Brahmins—37,

(iii) Muslims—18,

(iv) Others—58.

(e) A statement is laid on the table.

(f) Government are prescribing a periodical return to watch the progress made in the matter of recruitment of minority communities. The orders regarding communal representation do not apply to vacancies filled by promotion.

Statement

Communities	Officers on grades rising to Rs. 500 and above		Superior ministerial staff carrying initial pay of Rs. 100 and above	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
(i) Brahmins	6	26	12	70.5
(ii) Non-Brahmins (Hindus)	2	9	4	23.5
(iii) Muslims	1	4	Nil	Nil
(iv) Others	14	61	1	6
Total	23		17	

Shri Sri Prakasa: With reference to the Honourable Member's reply to parts (d) and (e), would not Muslims also come under Non-Brahmins?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: For the purpose of the answer I have separated them.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With regard to the reply to part (e) wherein he states that a statement is placed on the table I do not think it is a very long one, will he mention how many Muslim Gazetted officers there are in the statement?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: One.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Out of?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Twenty-three.

SPEEDING UP THE GRAND TRUNK EXPRESS AND RUNNING OF SEPARATE FAST TRAIN BETWEEN DELHI AND MADRAS

1352. *Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for speeding up the Grand Trunk Express by increasing the speed and cutting down long stops like those at Wardha and other places is under examination;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are proposals to run a separate fast train between Delhi and Madras; and

(c) when these proposals are to be put into effect?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Consideration is being given to (i) the possibility of accelerating the present Grand Trunk Express, and (ii) the introduction of a fast Mail train between Delhi and Madras.

say, twice a week in each direction, which, by restricting halts to only really important stations, will reduce the over-all time considerably.

(c) As soon as railways are in a position to provide a sufficiency of stock in really good condition to operate the service, and adequate line capacity is released as the existing volume of military traffic gradually diminishes.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: Kindly set a date to it—one year or two years!

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I hope before that—a matter of months. When I saw this question I made a mental note to enquire myself about this service which we have been considering for two or three months. It is purely a matter of getting the rolling stock.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: That is with regard to the fast mail. With regard to the Grand Trunk Express that is running today, he said he is going to accelerate the speed or to cut short long stays. Can he put a date to that?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. We hope to run a fast mail train.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will he also consider the question of running a faster train with less stops between Delhi and Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member may put down a question on that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: May I know whether the Honourable Member has read the speech of Sir Frederick James in which he has immortalised the efficiency and speed of the Grand Trunk Express?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir: more than once.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether there will be third class bogies on this fast mail train which the Honourable Member is thinking of running?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will take note of the Honourable Member's suggestion.

Shri Sri Prakasa: How is it that the track between Madras and Delhi is strong enough to take on an extra fast mail train, whereas it is not strong enough between Janghai and Phaphaman to enable the Bombay Mail from Calcutta to Allahabad to go *via* Benares?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is quite strong.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know whether the stoppage of the Grand Trunk Express at Wardha has a political significance?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is meant for the general convenience of the public.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How much time will be cut down by running this mail train? What is the time that this mail train will take to reach Madras from Delhi?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not got that information ready at hand. I cannot remember that. There will, however, be a considerable saving of time.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it a fact that the Grand Trunk Express is reversed at Wardha?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Lots of things are reversed at Wardha!

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth: With regard to the stoppage at Wardha and also at many other stations, these stoppages are inordinately long, at any rate much more than the time required by passengers. Unless these stoppages are cut down the new mail train will satisfy nobody.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir. The whole idea is to have a faster train that will both go faster and stop less long avoiding the halts at stations where passengers now have to stop for eating purposes.

REFUSAL OF PASSPORTS FOR FOREIGN LANDS ON POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS

1353. *Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) if it is a fact that passports have been refused to many persons during the last two years to proceed to foreign lands;

(b) if any political considerations came in the way of granting such passports;

(c) if a passport was refused to me, if so, why; and

(d) if Government propose to reconsider their decision in this behalf?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) There have been cases in which passport applications have been refused. During and immediately after the war it was scarcely possible to grant travel facilities with the same freedom as in normal times.

(b) Applicants have not been, and are not, refused passports merely on grounds of membership of political parties.

(c) and (d). Yes. If the Honourable Member makes a fresh application the matter will be reconsidered.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know on what grounds was passport refused to Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai?

Mr. H. Weightman: There was a report of rather close connection with the Germans.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know how long Government take to come to any decision in regard to an application for passport? Is it not a fact that I have applied for a passport to go to Asiatic countries more than six weeks ago and I have not had a reply yet?

Mr. H. Weightman: I was not aware that the Honourable Member had made an application.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask the Honourable Member if he is prepared to place the report on the table of the House?

Mr. H. Weightman: What report?

Mr. President: The report with reference to Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai's case.

Mr. H. Weightman: I have already given a reply.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend gave this answer, that there was a report of some connection between Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai and the Germans. I am asking whether my Honourable friend is prepared to lay that report on the table of the House.

Mr. H. Weightman: No, Sir.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why was a passport refused to my Honourable friend, Mr. Ranga? Was it because he applied for the Andaman Islands?

Mr. H. Weightman: I have not seen the application.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Whose report was it on which this passport was refused? Was it a report from the Government of Bombay or was it a police report?

Mr. H. Weightman: A report was received by Government. I am not prepared to state the source from which it was received.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: May I know if dealing with Germans before the war was a crime?

Mr. President: That is a matter of legal opinion.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know whether Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai's connections with the Germans were political or commercial?

Mr. H. Weightman: They were, I think, mainly commercial, but his application was made at a time when the war was still continuing.

Sardar Mangal Singh: The Honourable Member has replied that the passports have been refused on account of passage difficulties. I want to know

whether he would have any objection if a gentleman wants to proceed by land route to foreign countries.

Mr. H. Weightman: I made no reference to passage difficulties.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Is it a fact that the Industries Department of the Government of India gave me facilities of Air transport and dollar exchange but the Political Department came in the way with the result that the Indian Industry concerned suffered heavily in the matter?

Mr. H. Weightman: I have no information to that effect.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Will he try to get the information?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask the Honourable Member that my Honourable friend here has got a passage and in view of the fact that he is connected with Germany, why a differentiation was made in the case of Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am unable to understand that question.

RESTORATION OF TELEPHONE FACILITIES

1354. *Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state how many private telephones have been taken over by Government during the war?

(b) What is the number of telephones so far returned to them?

(c) How long will it take Government to completely restore telephone facilities?

(d) Are opportunities made available to the people in India to make telephone instruments and wires, in order to make India self-sufficient?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) and (b). The information is not readily available and cannot be collected for all places in India and for the whole period of the war without an undue expenditure of time and labour.

(c) Every effort is being made to expand the telephone systems and to satisfy the public demand as rapidly as practicable.

(d) Yes.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that there does exist in India in the matter of telephones a black market, that people are selling away their telephones? What steps are Government taking to put a stop to this?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am not aware of any black market in telephones. I do not know how it can exist.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: With reference to part (d) of his reply, how long will it take for the Government to restore normal telephone facilities to the public?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is difficult to answer that question since it refers to every town in India, which has a telephone system. There are certain towns where we can continue to give more connections. There are certain towns where the demand is very heavy, for example, Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta and Lahore. There we are trying to put in new equipment. We have ordered the equipment from the United Kingdom and it takes some time also to extend the manual exchanges in existence. We are trying to do whatever we can to satisfy the public demand.

Seth Govind Das: Telephones are being given to new parties and those parties that had telephones before the war and whose telephones were removed during the war, are not being supplied with new telephones.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The ordinary system is this. When telephones become available those whose telephones were compulsorily taken away are given preference but there is a limited preference given for Government connections and for certain types of applicants such as doctors and M.L.As.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: May I ask why the telephones that were taken away during the war, owing to war conditions, are not restored to the people who were deprived of them?

Mr. President: I believe that question has been answered already.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: Has not the Honourable Member ignored such persons and given telephone connections to new men?

Mr. President: That is what he has answered: he said that preference is being given to those whose connections were disconnected, but certain other preferences also are given to people like doctors or M.L.A.'s, over the old people whose connections were cut off.

Sri V. C. Vellingiri Gounder: I ask why telephones are even now given to men who do not come within the above categories.

Mr. President: He says that preference is given to certain private individuals who serve the community: that is his point.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I do not know whether he is referring to the present position or the position during the war. During the war connections were given to industries or to private individuals who were certified by the department concerned as performing war work; and now preference is given, as I said, to connections required by Government departments for Government work or for essential work connected with Government administration, and to certain doctors and M.L.A.'s; but otherwise the general principle is that those whose telephones were compulsorily taken away get preference.

(Some Honourable Members rose to ask questions.)

Mr. President: Order, order, next question.

NAMES OF MINES AND EXPENDITURE INCURRED BY GOVERNMENT IN WORKING OPEN CUT COAL MINING PLANTS

1355. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) the total expenditure incurred by Government up to date for purchasing Open Cut Coal Mining plants;

(b) the total expenditure so far incurred by Government for working the said plants in India and the cost per ton of coal raised thereby;

(c) the amount so far realised and realisable from the mine-owners under this head;

(d) the names of mines where these plants are being worked at present and the quantity of coal raised from each of the said mines; and

(e) if there be any defaulting mine-owner or mine-owners, the name or names of such mine-owners and the amount due from each of them?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a)

	India	U. S. A.
Actuals 1944/45 (lakhs)	08	95.71
Estimate 1945/46	48.13	51.35
	48.21	147.06
Total	Rs. 1,95,27,000	

(b) About 67 lakhs. The cost per ton of coal has not yet been worked out, and is being investigated by a Committee recently appointed by Government.

(c) The amount realisable up to the end of November 1945, is Rs. 40 lakhs. Detailed information has been called for and will be laid on the table of the House.

(d) The information asked for is given below:

Name of mines	Quantity raised upto January, 1946
	Tons.
(a) Bermo (Railway colliery)	3,30,792
(b) Jaunkunda	1,78,521
(c) Jambad Selected	1,11,988
(d) Pure Jambad	96,064
(e) Teetulumuri	1,84,345
f) Sirka	3,07,935
Total	11,89,645

(e) No, Sir; none.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How far has there been a saving over the hand working of these coal mines?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: As you know, Sir, these machines were brought in when the prime thing was to get coal by every possible means, coal being perhaps the first agent of war; and I do not think we can make any comparison yet—certainly not until the examinations I have referred to by this committee are complete.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are these plants being transferred to the Railway Department now and if so at what cost?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That point is at present under discussion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know during the period in which the plants were worked here in India, how much of depreciation has arisen?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That again is a very technical thing. The plants were not all new; some were reconditioned, and one of the facts which this committee is investigating is precisely the sort of thing that has now been asked.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are there sufficient technicians in this country to work these plants?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Not at present.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What does the Government propose to do in that regard?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The Government's main concern is to get coal.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are any efforts made to train our own people?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Yes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: After how many years does the Government propose to entrust the working of these plants into Indian hands?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Certainly, as soon as possible. I do not think I can state the period in years or months at this moment.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if any steps are being taken in that direction?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Certainly, yes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What are those efforts that are being made?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Indian people are working on them now and are now being trained in the working of these plants.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Is it a fact that the depreciation on these plants is fixed?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: As I said, the plants came in widely varying condition and the object of this committee is to examine the whole body of them and reach a considered decision on such matters as the capital revenue allocation and the actual condition.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Have Government withdrawn the concessions that they promised with regard to depreciation?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether these plants were purchased second-hand and reconditioned before being delivered here?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Some were reconditioned plants.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How much did it cost to recondition these plants? Was not the original cost two crores?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I would require notice of that.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if the matter is under review, how contracts may be given for working these plants now?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That is under discussion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will that not be referred to the committee for investigation?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why not?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Because it is not within their terms of reference.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Could not the terms of reference be enlarged so as to cover this matter?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like to know why?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Because the committee is to report very shortly.

AGREEMENTS WITH MINEOWNERS IN WORKING THE OPEN CUT COAL MINES.

1356. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production) is responsible for working the Open Cut Coal Mines; and

(b) the terms and conditions of the agreement with the mine-owners under which the Open Cut Coal Mining plants are being worked?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Open cut mining machinery is being employed at (1) Bermo (Railway collieries), (2) Jaunkunda, (3) Jambad Selected, (4) Pure Jambad, (5) Teetulumuri, and (6) Sirka.

At Bermo the work is being done at the following rates:

Hard rock—Rs. 100 per 1,000 cft.

Soft rock—Rs. 50 per 1,000 cft.

Digging and loading coal Rs. 2-4-0 per ton.

The other collieries mentioned above are market collieries. At Jaunkunda, Jambad Selected and Pure Jambad, agreements have been entered into under which the D.O.C.C.M. is responsible for carrying on all necessary open cut mining operations up to and including the delivery of coal into wagons. The owners have agreed to pay for the work done at the rate of Rs. 6-14-2 per ton f.o.r. siding or the loading point for each ton of run-of-mine coal despatched by rail or road.

At Teetulumuri the machinery is being used to get the coal to the Depot, further operations being the responsibility of the owners and a rate of Rs. 4-12-0 has been fixed. At Sirka only overburden is being removed, and basic rates are: Hard rock—Rs. 90 per 1,000 cft., Moorum and Soft rock—Rs. 40 per 1,000 cft., lead beyond 150 feet is charged extra.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know how much of this rate goes to the workers by way of wages?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I would require notice of that.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know whether he is satisfied with the coal position, and that the demand for coal in this country is met sufficiently from these collieries production?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: These are only a part of the whole of the colliery production in India.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is the Honourable Member satisfied that with the use of this plant, he has brought larger quantities of coal into production, and if so, will Government make arrangements to introduce a similar plant for other collieries?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That is rather a difficult question. It is undoubtedly the case that many parts of India, are suited for this particular type of coal extraction: this can be regarded as a pioneer effort.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Are Government considering to nationalise the coal industry?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if there is an attempt to sell away this plant, which cost Government two crores, for a lakh of rupees to an English company?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: There is no attempt to sell anything.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Are negotiations going on?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No. The position is that we have to arrange for the continuance of these operations in competent hands, and the terms on which that continuance can be arranged are at present under discussion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that there are Indians also who can be classified as competent enough to handle these machines?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No, not to direct an operation of this magnitude yet.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know what is the life of this asset and what is its age at present for the purposes of depreciation?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No; I cannot give that answer just now, because as I said the life of a man depends on his arteries and the life of a machine depends upon its condition.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member said that negotiations are going on which the Railway Department for transferring this plant to them and if so some cost must be arrived at and if the Honourable Member is not in a position to say what the life of the asset is, what the depreciation has been and so on, how is he to arrive at a figure?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: As I have said, this committee is studying the whole of this position and it is for this Committee to provide the basic information. The other discussions which are going on relate to the actual method of carrying out this open cut coal mining and the agency by which it will be carried out.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the composition of this Committee?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: It is a departmental committee consisting of a coal officer, an accounts officer and one other whose name I have forgotten. It consists of three suitable men.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it a fact that this machinery was worth one crore 97 lakhs and its present value after writing down depreciation is 40 lakhs only?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That is a separate question. I am not prepared to answer that now.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If this imported machinery is suitable for coal extraction what steps are the Government taking to get this kind of plant manufactured in this country? Have they considered the ordnance factories for this purpose?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: We have been so much concerned with making the present experiment a success that we have not yet turned our minds to the suggestion made by my Honourable friend opposite but it is a thing we will consider.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I want to know whether Government are satisfied that this kind of machinery is helpful for increased extraction of coal?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: As I have said earlier, India is in many respects suited to this kind of effort. This is a pioneer effort and pioneer efforts very often encounter difficulties. There is a good deal of distrust of this highly developed mechanical extraction of coal. On the other hand I think it may be said in its favour that it can yield good results if it is properly handled and directed. Its *pros and cons* will come up for consideration.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE COAL CESS FUND.

1357. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to ~~hear~~ to his reply to unstarred question No. 29, dated the 8th February, 1946, regarding production cess on coal despatches and state:

(a) whether there is any other organisation or Department other than that of Government for administering the Coal Cess Fund;

(b) the dates and the numbers in the agenda of the meeting of the Coal Control Board in which any matter regarding the administration of the Coal Cess Fund was considered by the Board;

(c) the total amount of the expenditure approved by the Coal Control Board under this head; and

(d) the amount of coal got from the different Open Cut Coal Mines worked by Government during that period?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Matters relating to the administration of the Coal Production Fund have not so far come up for formal discussion at any meeting of the Coal Control Board. As explained in reply to unstarred question No. 29, on the 8th February 1946, the views of the trade and of the other interests represented on the Board are considered and taken into account by Government and questions relating to expenditure from the Fund have been frequently discussed at meetings of the Calcutta Coal Advisory Committee.

(c) The Coal Control Board is an advisory and not an executive body and as such does not "approve" expenditure from the Fund.

(d) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to part (d) of starred question No. 1355, answered earlier today.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if my wording is incorrect, because I used the word 'approved' in part (c)? May I know the total amount of expenditure incurred by the Coal Control Board under this head?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That is another question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any representatives of the coal miners on this Coal Control Board?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The Coal Control Board shall consist of the following members—the Honourable Supply Member of the Government of India, a person nominated by the Indian Mining Association, one nominated by the Indian Mining Federation, one nominated by the Indian Colliery Owners Association, one by the C. P. and Berar Mining Association, one nominated by the Associated Chambers of Commerce, one nominated by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and one nominated by the Coal Merchants Association and official elements.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will Government consider the advisability of giving some representation to the coal miners also on this Board?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Yes, Sir.

LATE ARRIVALS OR EARLY DEPARTURES OF TRAINS FROM MADRAS CENTRAL

1358. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a news item in the *Hindu* of Madras of the 12th March, 1946, to the effect that all trains arriving at Madras Central on and from the 1st April 1946, will be one hour late, and that all trains departing from the same station will leave half an hour earlier than the present timings;

(b) how far the above statements are true; and if there is any truth in them, the full reasons for the action taken;

(c) whether the policy set out in (a) above of delaying trains in their arrival and departing them earlier is going to be followed in any other Railway systems at Bombay, Calcutta and other places, if so, why; and

(d) whether the Government are aware that retarded timings during the war have caused a lot of inconvenience and suffering to the people, and whether Government propose to do anything to alleviate public inconvenience; if so, what?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Though not quite accurate in details, the news item is substantially correct in so far as the over-all timings of a number of the trains will be increased in the time-tables to take effect from April 1st. This is due to the imposition of engineering speed restrictions, imposed in the interest of the safety of the public, on account of bridge and track renewals forming part of the rehabilitation programme.

(c) No, except in so far as similar conditions may exist on any particular section of the line.

(d) Yes, but railways are fully alive to the need for reverting to, and improving upon, the pre-war level of speeds, and are progressively working towards that goal within the limits of their available equipment and resources.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not a fact that on account of the late running and the earlier starting of trains passengers are missing a number of connections with other trains?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should say in explanation that some trains are arriving later and some are arriving earlier. Similarly most of them are starting earlier but some later. I take it that the local administration has looked into the question of connections before arriving at the new time table. As my Honourable friend knows, there is on most railways a time table committee of the Local Advisory Council which goes into these questions. I will however see that this question of connections is examined.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not the deliberate policy of Government and the Railway Administrations to see that these connections must be missed at junction stations in order that passenger traffic may be discouraged?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Only on the trains on which my Honourable friend travels!

RESERVATION OF COMPARTMENTS ON DIFFERENT RAILWAYS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL

1359. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state whether first, second and third class compartments are still being reserved on the different Railways for the military personnel?

(b) If so, will Government state the reason as to the necessity of such reservation even seven months after the termination of the hostilities?

(c) Will Government state for what urgent purposes the military personnel still travel?

(d) Are Government aware that such reservation causes serious inconvenience and hardships to ordinary passengers, who have to travel in overcrowded carriages even when the compartments reserved for the military go empty?

(e) Do Government propose to stop this practice at the earliest opportunity?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) and (c). Although hostilities have ceased Government have still to meet considerable commitments in the matter of the movement of service personnel especially in connection with demobilization and repatriation.

(d) Inconvenience to the general public is inevitable in the circumstances. But the position is under constant watch and wherever there is an indication that the accommodation set aside is not fully utilised over a period, the special reservations are withdrawn.

(e) The special reservations will be gradually withdrawn in line with the progressive decline in the movement of service personnel.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know if compartments reserved for the military are not permitted to the civil population even when they are travelling empty and *vice versa* the military in spite of the compartments being reserved for the civilians come and occupy them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sometimes the compartment is reserved at the starting station to enable the military personnel to get in at some intermediate station.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In cases where the compartment is marked 'reserved for the military' but travels through the journey empty, why should not the R.T.O. and the Railway authorities co-operate in order to make this accommodation available to the civil population?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: They do endeavour to, but of course it is not always possible.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Members of the Executive Council stop travelling in saloons and place them at the disposal of the civil population?

Mr. President: Order, order.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that the military personnel do get into civilian compartments and create much trouble to ordinary passengers and prevent others from getting into them, what steps do Government propose to take to strengthen the station staff to see that the military do not create trouble to civilian passengers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Instructions are constantly sent out by the military and also by the civil side. But I require notice in order to give precise information to the House.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Government see that some degree of co-operation is established between the military and the railway authorities on this subject, so as to relieve the constant and unnecessary annoyance to civil population?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: There is, as I said, constant consultation.

Mr. Manu Subedar: There is not that degree of co-operation which I am urging. Will he make fresh effort?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

HOURS OF WORK AND SCALES OF PAY OF TELEPHONE OPERATORS ON E. I. RAILWAY

1360. *Sri S. T. Adityan: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement containing (i) the number, (ii) grades of pay (old and new) of ordinary Telephone Operators and Telephone Operators in charge, separately, employed in the East Indian Railway at the Howrah and Calcutta Offices?

(b) Is it a fact that the Operators of the East Indian Railway at Howrah have to work 56 hours a week ordinarily and sometimes more if no relief is available?

(c) Is it a fact that no rest interval is allowed to these Operators at Howrah and that they have to work daily for eight hours continuously?

(d) Is he aware of the number of Telephone Operators who have died or have become invalids due to T. B. and other lung diseases during the last twenty years?

(e) Will he be pleased to consider the advisability of reducing duty hours of the Telephone Operators of the East Indian Railway and raising their scales of pay to the level of those for Telephone Operators employed in the Bengal Telephone Corporation at Calcutta?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement which gives the required information.

(b) The reply is in the affirmative, but I would add for the Honourable Member's information that these operators are required to work overtime only in exceptional circumstances. There has been no case during the last year in which overtime has had to be paid.

(c) Yes, these operators are rostered to work eight hours continuously.

(d) Information for the period prior to the 1st January, 1943, is not available. Information readily available shows that of six Operators who either died or retired since the 1st January, 1943, none died or was invalidated due to T.B. or other lung diseases.

(e) The Hours of Work of all railway servants are being brought under review. As regards scales of pay, the matter will be examined in connection with the general question of postwar scales of pay.

Statement showing the number, grades of pay etc. of ordinary Telephone Operators and Telephone Operators Incharge employed on the East Indian Railway at the Howrah and Calcutta Offices.

Station	Telephone Operators		Head Telephone Operators	
	Scale	No. of posts	Scale	No. of posts
Howrah	Grade II	1	Grade I	1
	Rs. 85—5—100 (old)		Rs. 105—5—120 (old)	
	Rs. 65—5/2—85 (new)		Rs. 65—5/2—85 (new)	
	Grade III	5		
	Rs. 25—4—80 (old)	(P)		
	Rs. 40—42—45—5—60 (new)	2 (T)		
Calcutta	Grade III	2	Grade I	1
	Rs. 25—4—80 (old)	(P)	Rs. 105—5—120 (old)	
	Rs. 40—42—45—5—60 (new)	3 (T)	Rs. 65—5/2—85 (new)	
	(P) Permanent, (T) Temporary.			

NUMBER OF AFGHANS INTERNED IN POONA AND KARWAR SUB-JAILS BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT

1361. *Diwan Chaman Lal: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state the number of Afghans interned in the Poona and Karwar sub-jails by the British Government?

(b) What is the period during which they have been detained or interned?

(c) What are the reasons for such detention or internment?

(d) What are the intentions of Government regarding the future of these men?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) There are no Afghans interned in Poona. Eight Afghans are detained in Karwar sub-jail under Regulation III of 1818.

(b), (c) and (d). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the information given in my reply to starred question No. 376, on February 19th, 1946.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES IN TELEGRAPH MASTERS EXAMINATION

1362. *Diwan Chaman Lal: (a) Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state how many candidates in the Telegraph Master's Examination 1944-45, were declared successful, and how many of them have been promoted?

(b) How have their seniorities been fixed?

(c) How have the marks been given?

(d) What were the factors for consideration in declaring the success of the examinees? Was there any racial discrimination?

(e) Were they examined in theoretical papers? If so, were the results taken into consideration in order of merit? If not, why not?

(f) Was there any Selection Board appointed for the purpose? If so, how was the selection made and on what basis?

(g) Did the respective record of service from the criterion of selection, or was the same done according to facial expression?

(h) How many of such successful candidates are still awaiting promotions?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) 106: all.

(b) Four telegraphists have been ranked amongst men selected from the Telegraph Masters examination, 1940. In accordance with their seniority in the Telegraphists' grade. Ten telegraphists have been ranked amongst men selected from the Telegraph Masters examination, 1942, in accordance with their seniority in the Telegraphists' grade. The remaining 92 telegraphists have been ranked below men selected from the Telegraph Masters' examination, 1942, in the order of the selection made by the Director-General.

(c) Two marks were allotted for each year of service in the telegraphists' grade subject to a maximum of 40 marks for service of 20 years' or more.

(d) As regards the first part, success in the written portion of the Telegraph Masters' examination and the past record, seniority, personality, mental alertness and physique of the candidates qualified in the examination were taken into consideration in making the final selection for promotion to the Telegraph Masters grade.

As regards the latter part, the reply is in the negative.

(e) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative.

The reply to the second part is in the negative.

As regards the last part, all those who obtained pass marks were interviewed for selection. The marks or order of merit of the candidates in the written examination were not taken into consideration in making the selection because the written examination does not provide for a test of certain qualities which are necessary for Telegraph Masters.

(f) As regards the first part, selection boards were held at seven places in India.

As regards the latter part, the basis of selection has already been indicated in the reply to part (d) of the question.

(g) Past record of service as well as personality, (and not mere facial expression), were two factors amongst others which were taken into consideration by the Selection Boards while making their recommendations.

(h) None.

INDIA RUBBER CONTROL DEPUTATION TO UNITED KINGDOM

1363. *Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that Messrs. J. P. Anderson and P. N. Haksar of the India Rubber Control were sent out to the United Kingdom on deputation in the year 1944?

(b) What was the object of this deputation to the United Kingdom?

(c) What was the cost incurred in sending this deputation to the United Kingdom?

(d) Did any of these officers submit any report to Government? If so, does he propose to place it in the Library of House?

(e) What are the reasons for not including the two missions or deputations of Messrs Anderson, Haksar and the two Indian Rubber Technologists sent out to the United Kingdom in 1944 and 1945, respectively, in the statement made by the Honourable the Leader of the House in reply to starred question No. 508, dated the 26th February 1946?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To collect and discuss technical information concerning India's war-time and post-war problems of both natural and synthetic rubber so as to provide data and the back-ground necessary for the planning of future policy.

(c) About 7,000 rupees, in addition to the cost of air passages.

(d) No separate report was submitted by these officers on their return, but later Mr. Anderson gave a comprehensive review of the position and his proposals for the development of the industry in the post-war period.

(e) Question 508 was taken to have in view Missions and in general something more than the despatch of individual officers on primarily departmental problems. Messrs. Anderson and Haksar were sent to collect information while Messrs. Roy and Pillai were sent to study the use of synthetic rubber. If however the object of Question 508 was not correctly appreciated I offer the Honourable Member our apologies.

CRUDE RUBBER STOCK WITH JOINT U. K. AND U. S. A. RUBBER POOL.

1364. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that there was a joint United Kingdom and United States of America Rubber Pool, during the war, maintaining the stock of crude rubber?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative (i) what was the quantity of crude rubber considered to be the minimum Critical Rubber stock by the Joint United Kingdom and United States of America Rubber Pool; and (ii) what was the quantity of crude rubber in stock with the joint United Kingdom and United States of America Rubber Pool in April 1945?

(c) Is it a fact that in December 1944, the Controller of Rubber of the Indian Rubber Control was requested by the joint United Kingdom and United States of America Raw Material Board to conserve the maximum quantity of crude rubber produced in India?

(d) Is it a fact that the Controller of Rubber of the Indian Rubber Control was requested to contribute such savings of crude rubber to the joint United Kingdom and United States of America Rubber Pool which was maintaining a stock below the minimum critical limit?

(e) Is it a fact that the Controller of Rubber of the Indian Rubber Control, on his return from the United Kingdom, insisted in his Report to the Government of India on contributing the maximum quantity of crude rubber to the joint United Kingdom and United States of America Rubber Pool and on introducing synthetic rubber in India instead?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) So far as I am aware there was no such joint Rubber Pool. But early in 1942 a Combined Raw Materials Board was appointed at Washington. This Board was composed of a representative of British Government and a representative of U. S. A. Government. It was created with a view to a planned and expeditious utilisation of raw material resources of United Nations. Its functions were purely advisory. India was not represented on the Board and was not bound to accept its recommendations. It will be clear from this that this Board had nothing to do with maintenance of stock of crude rubber or any other materials.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). As already explained India was under no obligation to accept the recommendations of the Combined Raw Materials Board but Rubber being an important strategic material the Government of India, of their own accord instituted in 1942, certain measures of control for the conservation of rubber and for ensuring that the use of this material was restricted to essential purposes. As a result of these measures India was able to export some crude rubber.

(e) No, Sir. The question of using synthetic had been under consideration before Mr. Anderson went to the U. K.

EXPERIMENTS WITH SYNTHETIC RUBBER

1335. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please refer to the answer to part (a) of starred question No. 856, dated the 12th March, 1946, and state:

(a) how much money has been spent in carrying out experiments with synthetic rubber; and

(b) the experiences and results obtained from such experiments?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) and (b). No experimental work on synthetic rubber was carried out under Government control.

DEVELOPMENT OF SYNTHETIC RUBBER INDUSTRY IN INDIA

1366. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if his attention has been drawn to a news item under the caption "Top Ranking German Scientists Working for Britain" in the *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi, dated the 5th March, 1946?

(b) Are Government aware that the Government of the United Kingdom are importing German scientists and technologists for the development of Synthetic Rubber Industry in the United Kingdom? If so, why are the Government of India contemplating the import of Rubber Technologists for the Indian Rubber Industry from the United Kingdom which itself is a deficient country in this respect?

(c) Are Government aware that the Government of the United Kingdom which has already progressed considerably in the Synthetic Rubber Industry, is further developing the Synthetic Rubber Industry? If so, why the Government of India, after spending a considerable amount in the training of the two Indian Rubber Technologists in the synthetic rubber, are abandoning the Synthetic Rubber Industry in India as stated in the answer to part (b) of starred question No. 855, dated the 12th March 1946?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) I have no information beyond what is contained in the news item referred to in part (a). The Government of India is, however, not precluded from making use of German or any other scientists and technologists, if necessary and provided suitable persons are available. They intend to ascertain whether and how use can be made of the technical skill available in Germany.

(c) The United Kingdom is very short of crude rubber and I imagine they are developing the synthetic rubber industry on account of this shortage and not because there is any special advantage in the use of synthetic rubber. These considerations do not apply to India where crude rubber is available in the country and what the Indian factories need is technical assistance in the processing of crude rubber rather than the manufacture of synthetic rubber which would be an uneconomical proposition here.

MUTTRA RUBBER ESTATE.

1367. *Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please refer to the answer to part (b) of starred question No. 856, dated the 12th March, 1946, and state when the 5,000 acres of cereal growing land were acquired by the Government Rubber Estate?

(b) What was the quantity of cereal grown on this land in 1939, 1940, 1941, 1942, 1943 and 1944?

(c) Is it a fact that the 5,000 acres of land have since been returned to the original tillers? If so, when? If not, why not?

(d) What are the expenses incurred by Government on account of the Muttra Rubber Estate during the Financial year 1945-1946?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) During the middle of 1942

(b) I have no information for the years from 1939 to 1942. From 1943 to May 1945 there was no production of cereals since the land was planted with *Cryptostegia*.

(c) The land was returned in May 1945.

(d) Rs. 74,000.

WILD RUBBER PLANTATION AT OKHLA

1368. *Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay: (a) With reference to the answer to sub-part (iv) of part (b) of starred question No. 857, dated the 12th March, 1946, will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that the Government Chemist's Report reveals that the total solid content (including 50 to 60 per cent resin) in the latex collected from the wild rubber plantation at Okhla varied from three to twelve per cent with the season?

(b) Is it a fact that the same Chemist reported that 20 gallons of hot soap solution was necessary to coagulate less than half a pound of rubber contained in one gallon of latex collected from the wild rubber plantation at Okhla?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, what was the actual cost of one pound of rubber produced from the Okhla wild rubber plantation?

(d) What is the selling price of one pound of best Hevea rubber?

(e) What was done with the 150 lbs of rubber produced at Okhla?

(f) Was the rubber produced at Okhla sold? If so, to whom, and at what price?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) There is nothing in the report to corroborate the statement made by the Honourable Member. The Government Chemist concentrated on studying the dry content of the yield and not on the total solid content.

(b) No, Sir. What the Chemist stated was that the volume of cold soap solution required to coagulate half pound of rubber from one gallon of latex was only about 1½ pints.

(c) As the answer to (b) is in the negative this really does not arise, but I may explain that the Okhla Scheme was purely an experimental measure and the cost incurred on the experiment cannot be a true guide to the commercial costing.

(d) About Re. one.

(e) It was sent to factories for studying its chemical and physical properties and its behaviour during the manufacturing processes. It was gathered from the report that *Cryptostegia* rubber was approximately 65 per cent. as good as superior grade Hevea rubber.

(f) It was not sold.

IMPORTING OF RUBBER CHEMISTS FROM UNITED KINGDOM

1369. *Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay: (a) With reference to the answer to part (b) of starred question No. 854, dated the 12th March, 1946, will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the qualifications and experience of the Rubber Chemists whom the Government of India are importing from the United Kingdom?

(b) Before deciding to bring the Rubber Chemists from the United Kingdom, did Government make any attempt to secure the services of any Indians having requisite qualifications by advertising in papers? If not, why not?

(c) If the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, what are the names of the papers with their respective dates in which the advertisements were published?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Government have not yet been able to recruit the rubber chemists. I am, therefore, unable to add anything to the information already supplied in reply to Question No. 854.

(b) No, Sir. Government are satisfied that men possessing the necessary technical qualifications are not available in India. I may add that the proposals for recruitment of technicians from the United Kingdom were explained recently at a Conference of the rubber manufacturers convened by the Director General of Industries and Supplies. All the manufacturers agreed that it was a useful step.

(c) Does not arise.

NEWSPAPERS AND BOOKSTALL CONTRACT ON NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

1370. *Babu Ram Naryan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if Government are aware that several institutions had asked for a change in the Newspaper and Bookstall contract on the North Western Railway in view of a general complaint that Messrs. A. H. Wheeler and Company who are not conversant with the Punjabi and Sindhi dialect and literature, did not meet the needs of the travelling public on the North Western Railway?

(b) Is it a fact that for the above purpose the North Western Railway Administration called for tenders from "experienced and efficient parties for the licence to sell newspapers, etc., on Station premises?"

(c) Are Government aware that previously the N. W. Railway Administration, while calling such tenders had specifically mentioned that only such parties should apply who had experience in multiple bookstall business?

(d) Are Government aware that the contract has now been given to Messrs. R. S. Munshi Gulab Singh and Sons who are mere booksellers at Lahore and have no experience in the multiple bookstall business?

(e) Are Government aware that amongst the tenderers there were parties who had experience in the multiple bookstall business? If so, why was the contract not given to them?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Tenders from "experienced and efficient parties" were called for as the previous contract was due to expire and not because of the complaints referred to in part (a) of the question.

(c) No.

(d) I understand that the contract has now been given to Messrs. R. S. Munshi Gulab Singh & Sons who are well established and well-known printers and publishers. The General Manager, N. W. Railway, considered that they were the most suitable of the tenderers.

(e) The reply to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. With regard to the latter part, the contract was granted to the highest tenderer likely to render efficient service to the public, taking all factors into consideration.

ICE AND AERATED WATER CONTRACT ON N. W. RAILWAY

1371. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that for the purposes of ice and aerated water contract the North Western Railway is divided into four Sections, namely, "N", "E", "C" and "S"?

(b) Are Government aware that during the years 1943 and 1944 contracts for the "N" and "E" Sections were held by Messrs. A. and M. Wazir Ali's Sons of Lahore and Messrs. Behari Lal and Co. of Delhi, respectively?

(c) Are Government aware that there was a very large number of complaints in respect of the working of aerated waters against both these contractors and that the number of complaints against the "N" Section was very much greater than those against the "E" Section? If so, why was the contract of Messrs. Behari Lal and Co. of Delhi terminated while no action was taken against Messrs. A. and M. Wazir Ali's Sons?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, but the name of the firm holding the contract for the 'N' section is Messrs. Syed A. & M. Wazir Ali (not Messrs A. & M. Wazir Ali's sons).

(c) There was no great disparity in the number of complaints. The Administration was satisfied after examination, and considering the general standard of efficiency of Messrs. Syed A. & M. Wazir Ali, that good service could reasonably be expected from them if the contract was re-allotted to them. This was not the case with regard to Messrs. Behari Lal & Co.

DISPARITY IN SALARY AND ALLOWANCES OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES STAFF.

1372. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if he proposes to consider the desirability of removing the disparity in salary, allowances, etc., between the Asiatic and Non-Asiatic staff which exists in the Ordnance Factories of the Government of India? If not, when does he propose to do so?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The question is under consideration.

INDIANISATION OF HIGHER SERVICES OF ORDNANCE FACTORIES

1373. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the policy of Government in regard to the Indianization of higher services—from the rank of Foreman and above—of the Ordnance Factories and how far it has progressed during the past years?

(b) In view of the fact that there is a large number of Indians trained and experienced for carrying on work in all branches of this Department, do Government propose to consider the advisability of completely Indianising this Department within a specified time? If not, what are the reasons?

(c) Are Government aware that, in spite of their declared policy in regard to Indianization of the services, some of the war time recruits from the United Kingdom are being retained permanently in preference to highly qualified Indians? If so, why?

(d) Are Government aware that much lower standard of education (i.e., only compulsory primary education of the United Kingdom) and technical training equivalent to the standard of semi skilled labourer have been prescribed for those who are recruited from the United Kingdom? If so, does he now propose to consider the desirability of replacing these less qualified men by better qualified Indians? If not, why not?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) In 1938-39 there were six Indians of the rank of foreman and above, out of a total of 147. In the proposed provisional post-war establishment of Ordnance Factories (excluding Harness and Saddlery and Clothing Factories the post-war establishment of which is under consideration) 61 posts have been allocated to Indians out of a total of 267.

(b) The object is the quickest Indianisation compatible with efficiency. In this field particularly, efficiency is of the first importance, technique, knowledge, experience of various methods of production, etc. Consequently fixing a date is not practicable now. We are pursuing the object I mentioned in every way possible and the intention is that the Indian Ordnance Factories will be progressively Indianised as recruits of the required calibre become available.

(c) No, Sir. The statement is not correct.

(d) As stated in (a) above necessary attention is being given to the question of Indianization of the factories. It is not correct that we are retaining less educationally and technically qualified Europeans in preference to better qualified Indians.

RETRENCHMENT IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

1374. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether Government are aware of the

naphazard recruitment that had taken place in Ordnance Factories in India during war time for reasons of emergency, if so, does he propose to consider the desirability of having an enquiry conducted to look into the working of the Factories?

(b) Are Government aware that even after the end of the war persons are being recruited for permanent vacancies in Ordnance Factories from the United Kingdom?

(c) Are Government aware that a large number of highly qualified Indians are being retrenched in each of the Factories?

(d) Are Government aware that in some cases Ordnance Factories apprentices who have been recruited through the Federal Public Service Commission and who have undergone the prescribed training for the period of five years are not only, not given any special preference, but others have been given preference to the detriment of the apprentices? If so, why is this being allowed?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) There was no haphazard recruitment. Men in India were obtained through National Service Labour Tribunals and Department Selection Boards, men from outside also through Selection Boards. There is no need therefore for the enquiry suggested.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As work decreases it is inevitable that staff will have to decrease also. But it is our intention to hold on to highly qualified men as far as possible.

(d) No, Sir. Compatible with efficiency, interests of ex-apprentices are safeguarded.

RETRENCHMENT IN ORDNANCE FACTORIES.

1375. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the policy that is being followed in the matter of retrenchment of staff in the Ordnance Factories?

(b) Will he please place on the table of the House a copy of the recent orders issued by his Department in regard to retrenchment?

(c) Are Government aware that seniority coupled with safeguards for minorities are the general principles to be followed in the matter of retrenchment in every Department? If so, why are these rules being not followed in the Ordnance Factories?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) and (b). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 120. in this Session of the House.

(c) Service in the supervisory grades of Ordnance Factories demands technical qualifications. Other things being equal, communal proportion will be maintained in retrenching staff.

SUPPLY OF SPECTACLE GOODS IN INDIA.

1376. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Hydari Mission made a special request to the British Government for the supply of larger quantities of spectacle goods to India? If so, what is the outcome of that request?

(b) Is it a fact that prices of spectacle, frames, lenses, cases, etc., have been fixed? If so, why has no notification been published in the Government Gazette?

(c) Are there any firms manufacturing spectacle lenses in India? If so, what are their names and their average daily production? If there are no firms producing lenses, what steps have Government taken to establish a spectacles industry in India? If none, why?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) "Optical Goods" was one of the items of consumer goods included in the statement of requirements taken by the Hydari Mission. His Majesty's Government agreed to meet as far as possible the entire demand in regard to optical frames and sun glasses and more than half of the demand for optical lenses. Nearly one-third of the total quantity agreed to has been received so far.

(b) No, Sir. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(c) So far as Government are aware there are no firms manufacturing spectacle lenses in this country. The rest of the question has been dealt with in reply to part (a) of the Honourable Member's starred question No. 1377.

ESTABLISHMENT OF OPTICAL INDUSTRY IN INDIA.

1377. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if Government are aware that (i) the Optical Industry was considered in England as a National Key Industry and enjoyed state protection even when England was a "Free Trader", (ii) the Canadian Government have given C. 300,000 as a free gift to expand the Optical Industry in Canada, and (iii) the Australian Government have invited a foreign firm to start an Optical Factory in Australia, and offered them first class terms and a sum of £150,000 as a subsidy, if so, do the Government of India propose to take necessary steps to establish this Key Industry in India?

(b) Have Government any scheme of sending Indian Glass Technologists and Opticians to Germany to acquire necessary machinery and experts? If none, why?

(c) Have Government given any assistance to any firm in India during the last three years for the production of spectacle lenses, cases, etc.? If so, what are the names of such firms, and what progress they have made with Government aid?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The Government of India have no information regarding the position in England, Canada and Australia. The Government of India have however set up an Industrial Panel for the 'Glass Industry'. The Panel's recommendations include manufacture of optical glass in the country and are at present under the consideration of Government.

(b) The Government of India are trying to obtain capital goods from Germany by way of reparations and the question of obtaining from that country technical experts in various industries is under consideration. Government are also sending Indian technicians to Germany to study the technique and the possibilities of development of a number of industries including glass technology.

(c) Yes, Sir. Government have assisted Messrs. Takandas H. Kataria, Karachi, and Messrs. Mumick, New Delhi, by the release of certain controlled materials and in importing raw materials from abroad for the production of spectacle frames and cases.

The production of Messrs. Takandas H. Kataria has increased from 2,000 pairs to 7,000 pairs of spectacle frames per month. Messrs. Mumick, New Delhi, were not able for various reasons to make the same degree of progress.

UNSTARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

TRANSFERS OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES IN DELHI DIVISION, NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY

161. Diwan Ohaman Lal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state, with particular reference to the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway:

(a) the considerations that form the basis for transferring a particular superior line staff from one station to another;

(b) whether administrative convenience and/or Railway interest also form the basis, if so, what;

(c) whether transfers are ordered in order to inflict punishments; if so, which are those stations where such transfers have taken place;

(d) whether the Railway administration provides its employees in all cases with accommodation; if not, whether this is not an additional punishment inflicted on them on being transferred to stations where there is general scarcity of accommodation;

(e) whether the period of joining time allowed is only three days; if so, whether Government consider that this is a sufficient time in which an employee can settle all his affairs;

(f) whether Government are aware that the transfer of an employee tells heavily on his finances if his children are required to be kept separately for attending educational institutions; and

(g) whether there is any time limit before which an employee cannot be transferred, if so, what it is?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Transfers are ordered for the following reasons:

(i) on promotion (permanent or officiating);

(ii) on reversion or reduction from higher to lower posts;

(iii) administrative convenience, i.e., when it is considered that the interests of the service would be better served by the employee's posting to a particular station;

(iv) At the employee's own request.

(c) The reply is in the negative.

(d) Railway employees are classified as "Essential" and "Non-Essential" for the purpose of allotment of quarters, the former being allotted railway quarters if available. As regards the latter portion of this part of the question such transfers are unavoidable in railway working. Government are alive to the shortage of accommodation but cannot allow this question to interfere with arrangements made in the interests of administration.

(e) While three days is the maximum joining time ordinarily applicable to subordinate staff when transferred within the Division, Divisional Superintendents have been authorised to extend this limit in special cases under Rules 2270 and 2278 of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. An extra day's joining time is also allowed to staff in cases where break of gauge is involved, necessitating transhipment of household effects, provided an extra day is needed for the purpose.

In cases of transfers outside a Division, staff are normally allowed full joining time as admissible under the rules mentioned above. As regards the latter portion of this part of the question, Government consider that in view of the existing provisions there can be no ground for complaint.

(f) Transfers have been minimised to a great extent during the war and after, and cases of hardship, when brought to notice, are dealt with specially.

(g) Ordinarily, staff at one station are not transferred to another before a lapse of two years.

PROTECTIVE DUTIES CONTINUATION BILL

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to extend the date up to which duties characterised as protective in the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, shall have effect, and further to amend the Sugar Industry (Protection) Act, 1932.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to extend the date up to which duties characterised as protective in the First Schedule to the Indian Tariff Act, 1934, shall have effect, and further to amend the Sugar Industry (Protection) Act, 1932."

The motion was adopted.

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

INDIAN FINANCE BILL—contd.

Mr. President: Further consideration of the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning on the 1st day of April 1946.

Clause 7.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I move:

"That after sub-clause (1) of Clause 7 of the Bill, the following sub-clause be inserted and sub-clause (2) be renumbered as sub-clause (3):

"(2) That the duty of excise on betel-nut contained in item 12, in the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, as amended by the Finance Act of 1944, shall be abolished and the said item 12 shall be omitted."

Sir, in moving this amendment, I should just like to say a few words. I find that the people who suffer most by the excise duty imposed on betel nuts are the cultivators. In South India the cultivators who have very few acres of land cultivate betel nut and all the income that they have comes from the cultivation of the betel nut. Now, Sir, everything has gone up in price including irrigation, which is done entirely by lift irrigation system. They have to pay a great deal more than they used to pay before for labour. When every thing has gone up in price and when the betel nut cultivator has to pay excise duty beside land revenue, it becomes very hard for him and it almost becomes impossible for him to cultivate betel nut. Because of that, because we want to give relief to cultivators, especially those people who have very small acreage of land and they are the people who should get relief, I submit it is very necessary for us to delete this excise duty. I hope the Honourable the Finance Member will see his way to delete this tax. I do not think it matters very much if the import duty is not cut down because we should first give preference to the home grown product and not to some things which come from outside. I submit this excise duty should be abolished.

Mr. President: Before I put this amendment to the House, there is some difficulty which I have been feeling and there is some conflict in my mind, particularly because I find that, yesterday's amendment moved by the Government for inserting clause 6-A has been accepted by the House. I am just putting my point of view before the House at present, irrespective of the merits of the provisions in the Bill. I am only placing this so that we may not set a precedent which might come in the way of the House or the Chair later on.

I was doubting as to how far this amendment would be in order looking to the scope of the Bill. That is my doubt. I do see that the preamble of the Bill is rather wide and it says, "to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the year beginning, so and so..." But does that really mean that when a particular item of the Central Excise and Salt Act 1944 or any other Act is sought to be revised, added to or subtracted, the whole Schedule of that Act is thrown open for consideration by the House. Is that the scope of the Bill?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): That has not been the practice in the past.

Mr. President: I am saying this because; I do not want to restrict the right of the House to touch any Bill. I am placing my doubt before the House

[Mr. President]

because we are creating—at least it seems to me for the moment—a precedent which is not known to me. Therefore I am mentioning this doubt. If there are any other amendments to be made, I should have personally thought that a separate Bill would be a necessity. So far as this particular Bill goes all that can be touched are the particular items referred to in the Bill. The Government themselves have touched other items yesterday. As I said, clause 6-A—alteration of duty of customs on kerosene and mineral oils enlarges the scope of the Finance Bill as originally introduced. The logical conclusion of that would be that the whole Schedule would be open. To my mind, that is not a very good or desirable precedent of construction. I am merely giving my own mind, apart from the relief to be given to the tax-payer, which is a different matter. I am not guided by the particular clause being good or bad in the interest of the people or against it. I am only looking at it from the point of view of procedure and precedent to be set in this House. I want to have some kind of assistance from Honourable Members so far as this doubt goes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I submit that Government themselves introduced an amendment yesterday, as you mentioned just now. The Finance Bill refers to such items as may be brought by Government from year to year for the vote of the Assembly. In view of various remarks that have been addressed and objections taken during the course of the general debate the Honourable the Finance Member thought it might be proper to introduce this other item also. You will see that in the original Bill it relates to excise duty, individual excise duty was not there in the original Bill at all. The excise duty on kerosene is there in Clause 7 of the Bill; that is one item in the Schedule. We thought that by that itself he opened a vista for us to introduce some other alterations so far as the Schedule is concerned. I need not invite a decision from the Chair at present on the point, but anyhow in as much as that amendment was introduced yesterday the sponsors of the Bill naturally thought that the scope of the Bill was wide enough and the entire Excise Duty Bill was on the anvil for consideration. With regard to betel-nuts they introduced an amendment to reduce it from two annas to one anna and six pies. I am only praying that in these circumstances we need not have a general ruling regarding this matter. It may be deferred and for the present it may be taken that the House is agreeable to have the entire excise duty, so far as it relates to betel-nuts, thrown open for discussion and the original Bill has been amended so as to include this portion also even if it should be considered an enlargement.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar (Madras: Indian Commerce): Sir, I will only add that there are two matters involved in this. First, there is a proposal by Government itself in 7(a) which raises a specific issue about this item.

Mr. President: May I clarify what I was saying? As I said, the object is desirable. Government have themselves done something which, to my mind is really doubtful as to whether that amendment should go, and it was allowed. But I am not prepared to accept the proposition that because Government think that the scope of the Bill is such and such, therefore the Chair should accept it. I do not want to have a precedent of that kind. The scope of the Bill will be decided by the Chair. Of course on the present occasion, as Mr. Ayyangar has suggested, in view of the special circumstances, and if the House agrees to have all these amendments allowed, I am prepared not to raise this objection or to rule out any amendment on that ground. But I want to be quite clear that this is not a precedent, which I accept.

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: There is only one other suggestion I want to make. This may be accepted as the result of another amendment which has been accepted by the House. If it stood alone there might be objection.

Mr. President: What amendment is the Honourable Member referring to?

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar: The amendment already carried, of reducing the customs duty on betel-nuts. The result of carrying that amendment will be

to put local producers at a disadvantage. To rectify that and in view of the amendment having been passed I submit that this is a consequential amendment.

Mr. President: I have clarified the position. If the House agrees I will permit the amendment. But because one amendment has wrongly come in, it does not mean that other amendments also should be allowed. I am merely stating the academic position. Has the Law Member anything to say on this?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy (Law Member): Sir, having regard to the attitude you wish to adopt I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything. It is possible to give a wide construction to the Preamble and say that as the Bill is to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government; and you are making amendments by which certain items of excise duty are being altered, it is permissible to consider the scope of the Bill as being wide enough to allow you to make an alteration in other items. However, as you are not giving any specific ruling on the point today and you are allowing the House to go into the matter I do not think I need take up your time.

Mr. President: Then I will put the amendment. As I said, I was only trying to see that no precedent is created.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava (Ambala Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I will quote a precedent in support of this matter, and it is on page 2391 of the Assembly Proceedings dated the 22nd March, 1929. A similar question arose then and the President ruled like this:

"According to the strict interpretation of the Preamble of the Bill which we are now considering, perhaps I would be inclined to agree with him that the amendment is out of order, but I am disposed to put a wider construction on the scope of the annual Finance Bill as distinguished from ordinary Bills. Further, if the Assembly has under the Finance Bill power to fix rates of income-tax, it has equally, I believe, the power to say which incomes shall be exempted from that tax. I therefore rule that in this particular case the amendment is in order."

The question then was whether the Schedule of an Act was capable of being modified in this House when it referred to another Act, and the ruling given was that there is a difference between a Finance Bill and an ordinary Bill, and it was held that in regard to a Finance Bill such amendments will be in order.

Mr. President: As I said, I do not wish to give any definite ruling, but the present procedure should not be quoted in future in support of the extension of the scope of any other Bill. I do not see much difference, so far as the procedure or practice goes, between a Finance Bill and other Bills. A Bill is a Bill; it is a piece of legislation. And while I agree that the scope of a Finance Bill will be considered more liberally, it does not still undo the first principle that no amendment can go beyond the scope of the Bill. However, I leave the matter there and I will put the amendment to the House. I need not, of course, add that I shall be always inclined to put a wider interpretation than a narrower one; that is a different matter.

Amendment moved:

"That after sub-clause (1) of Clause 7 of the Bill, the following sub-clause be inserted and sub-clause (2) be renumbered as sub-clause (3):

"(2) That the duty of excise on betel-nut contained in item 12, in the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, as amended by the Finance Act of 1944, shall be abolished and the said item 12 shall be omitted."

The other amendment seems to be consequential, that is 36. Am I right there?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Consequential.

Mr. President: That also may be moved.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Madras City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the sub-clause (2) of clause 7 of the Bill:

(i) between the words 'this section' and the word 'shall', the words and figure 'in sub-section (1)' be inserted; and

(ii) at the end the following be added:

'and the provisions of this section in sub-section (2) shall come into effect from 1st April, 1946.'

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in the sub-clause (2) of Clause 7 of the Bill:

(i) between the words 'this section' and the word 'shall', the words and figure 'in sub-section (1)' be inserted; and

(ii) at the end the following be added:

'and the provisions of this section in sub-section (2) shall come into effect from 1st April, 1946.'

Would it not be better if the other amendment of Mr. Greenfield's be taken up now? That also refers to it. It is for the addition of Clause 'A'.

Mr. H. Greenfield (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That after clause 7 of the Bill the following clause be inserted, namely:

'7A. Alteration of duty of excise on betelnuts.—In the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), in Item No. 12, for the words "Two annas", the words "One anna and six pies" shall be substituted.'

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That after clause 7 of the Bill the following clause be inserted, namely:

'7A. Alteration of duty of excise on betelnuts.—In the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (I of 1944), in Item No. 12, for the words "Two annas", the words "One anna and six pies" shall be substituted.'

Sri A. K. Menon (West Coast and Nilgiris: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I wish to speak a few words in support of this amendment.

Mr. President: There are two amendments now.

Sri A. K. Menon: I wish to speak on the amendments moved by Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan. This excise duty on betelnuts was introduced in 1944-45, and so soon, we find that so many amendments and so many props have to be brought in in order that it may retain its existence on the Statute Book. This shews the inherent weakness of the tax—rather the duty. Moreover, what is the revenue that we are getting? The revenue we got, as stated by the Finance Member a few days ago, was Rs. 135 lakhs in 1944-45 and by the amendments now introduced by him he himself admitted that Rs. 55 lakhs was going out, exclusive of the Rs. 4 or 5 lakhs that he was setting apart for the marketing facilities of the betelnut growers. So, after all, what is the Government going to get if calculation is made on the basis of the duty collected in 1944-45? It is something between Rs. 75/80 lakhs. Isn't it better to give it up? There is a strong case for the abolition of this duty by which, after all, Government gets only Rs. 75/80 lakhs. Now, after deducting the expenses that the Government will have to meet in the shape of pay etc. for the officers, the revenue will be still less. Therefore, what I would submit to the Government is to abolish this tax altogether, and obtain the goodwill and satisfaction of the people concerned.

The reasons for abolishing this tax are categorically as follows:—

(1) This is an excise duty and therefore it is intended to fall on the consumers, but the Finance Member has admitted in more than one statement that the grower has to bear the burden of this tax on his own shoulders and that the burden of this tax on his own shoulders and that he was not able to transfer it to the consumers. This shows that the grower of betelnut has not only to pay the land tax but several District Board cesses and also this excise duty. He finds it difficult to carry these several taxes on his shoulders and the increase in the customs duty and the setting apart of a few lakhs of rupees for marketing facilities do not take away the burden hanging on the shoulders of

the betelnut grower, and therefore I pray that on the ground that he is not able to shift it to the consumer this tax should be abolished.

The second ground is this. The origin of this measure shows that it was in 1944-45 that this duty was introduced. This duty was introduced because the customs duty dropped with the conquest of Burma and Singapore and other places by the Japanese, and therefore the Government suffered a loss in revenue and to make it up this tax was brought in in 1944-45. Now the war is over. Imports have vigorously resumed; I understand many steamers are waiting at several ports with foreign betelnuts, and therefore the foreign trade has established itself. This is another reason why it should be abolished.

The third reason is that the Honourable the Finance Member stated yesterday that if there is anything oppressive in character in this tax, then he is prepared to reconsider the imposition of this tax. Perhaps there might be nothing oppressive in the tax itself. But I might assure the Finance Member that the way in which this tax is administered is oppressive. I wish to state one thing. These betelnut growers are persons owning, according to the Finance Member's own statement, most of them at least, less than three-quarters of an acre.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): I made no such statement.

Sri A. K. Menon: In answer to a question of mine the Finance Member stated, that at least as far as South Malabar and South Kanara were concerned, the average holder had not more than three-quarters of an acre of land.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I did not make the statement. I was unaware of the fact.

Sri A. K. Menon: Anyhow, I shall try to convince him later that such a statement was made. It is with me. Anyhow they are small peasants. Betelnut cultivation is not an extensive proprietary cultivation. Small peasants are cultivating it and therefore the tax should not be oppressive. They are illiterate people and these are some of the rules they have to follow:

Rule 15 requires a grower to declare every year the premises where the betelnuts are grown:

Rule 16 requires him to declare the premises used for drying and husking the nuts;

Rule 17 says that he cannot cure the betelnuts except on the premises approved by the Central Excise authorities:

That means certainly bribery; because it is difficult to get premises approved by the excise authorities for these illiterate people unless they gratify the authorities.

Rule 18 requires that he should give security for growing and curing betelnuts:

Rule 21 requires him to maintain an account of the betelnuts cured by him:

Most of these people are peasants owning less than three-quarters of an acre of land; they are asked to maintain accounts:

Rule 27 says that he cannot stock non-duty-paid cured betelnuts in his own premises except in a bonded store-room:

Rule 31 says that he cannot transport for sale the betelnuts grown by him except under a permit obtained from the authorities; and so on and so on—

These illiterate persons find it very difficult to follow these rules. They would rather give up the cultivation than satisfy these rules. Such is the oppressive nature. Perhaps there might be or not be anything bad in the tax itself; but in the administration of this tax, there is so much oppression that that itself is a ground why the tax should be abolished.

[Sri A. K. Menon]

Now another oppression is that raw betelnuts are taxed at six annas per 100 nuts with husks. That comes to about Rs. 350 per acre. I am able to prove by documents that this tax is being collected at the rate of six annas per 100 nuts. Not less than Rs. 350 will be required to maintain an acre of betel-nut garden. Where then is the profit for the poor cultivator? That also is another ground why this tax ought to be abolished.

Fourth reason. The bargaining position of these illiterate small peasants is very small. That point also has been conceded by the Honourable the Finance Member two days ago. Until their bargaining position is improved, and for that the Honourable the Finance Member has set apart four or five lakhs, until their condition is actually improved, I say that this tax ought to be suspended.

Fifthly: As the Mover of the these amendments explained labour involved in maintaining a garden is very great. Lift irrigation has to be used for watering the trees and the plantation requires manure. The garden has to be watered often, at least it is so in Malabar. They should be watered from September or October till April or May, until the South West Monsoon sets in. They should be watered both morning and night. That, is the condition and the grower himself cannot do it both day and night and therefore he has to engage extra labour, which means more expense in these days. That also has to be taken into consideration. Taking all these facts into consideration I say that this tax is a fit tax to be abolished and by doing so the Government will be earning the blessings of the poor peasants of the areas where betelnut is being cultivated.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Choudhuri (Assam Valley: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I also rise to support the motion which has been so ably moved by my Honourable friend Mrs. Swaminadhan. I know very well that if the appeal made in the gentle and persuasive speech of my Honourable friend Mrs. Swaminadhan fall on the deaf ears of the Honourable the Finance Member, I use the words figuratively, there is hardly any hope that anything will be gained by my adding to what has been said before but all the same I should like to din into the ears of the Honourable the Finance Member the following facts. Firstly, both the consumers as well as the growers of betelnut are comparatively speaking poor people. Secondly, the palliative which the Honourable the Finance Member has suggested, namely increasing the import duty on betelnuts, will rather hit hard the consumers. Thirdly, the growers will not be very much benefitted by his proposal for better means of marketing. Most of the growers are small peasants and they do not take the trade as a principal means of their livelihood.

Then, Sir, I would like to draw this attention once again to the fact that the levy of this duty has been used more or less as an engine of oppression in Provinces like Assam and Bengal. The Honourable the Finance Member must have already seen how this duty has risen by leaps and bounds in these two provinces. I would only point out that in the year 1944-45, the total amount levied in Bengal was 60,53,000, whereas in the 9 months in the year 1945-46 it has risen up to 96 lakhs 77 thousand. In Assam in the year 1944-45 the total amount was 3,44,000. In 9 months up to January 1946, this amount has gone up to 4,77,000. The reason for this is, I think, the arbitrary method and the illegal manner in which this duty has been levied in these two Provinces on uncured betelnuts.

My Honourable friend Mr. Menon has already referred to the fact that 100 unhusked betelnuts comes to 3 lbs. Whereas cured *suparies* of the same number would weigh only 1.5 lbs. I think the Finance Member is under a wrong impression that the husks of the nuts are also consumed and therefore he does not mind if the husks are also taxed in the provinces where betelnuts are not husked. But that is not so. Therefore this duty which has been levied in Bengal and Assam is most arbitrary and illegal. As a matter of fact the poor people have been driven to desperation in at least two provinces. I have

filed several civil suits contending that the uncured betel-nuts are not liable to the payment of an excise duty. One of such cases is pending in the court of the Sub-Judge of Sylhet in Assam. I would appeal once again to the Finance Minister that as he can very easily sacrifice this revenue totally, which comes to about 1 crore 60 lakhs, and he should do so. By doing so he will earn the gratitude of the poor people of this country. If I remember aright and if I have listened correctly to the speeches made by some members of the Muslim League Party they are also opposed to this levy of excise duty. So in order to give relief to the people of this country of all section, I hope the Finance Member will agree to the total abolition of this duty, especially in view of the fact that he is now being compensated to a great extent by the import duties on betel-nuts.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I rise to support the amendments moved by Mrs. Swaminadhan and in doing so I may invite the Honourable the Finance Member to travel a little longer the same way that he has travelled.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: But you would not travel with me.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: The Honourable the Finance Member at an earlier stage of the discussion on the budget proposals was pleased to say that I had given him a few brickbats. Now, Sir, if he does not mind I am going to give him a bouquet. I am prepared to say that in all the stages when this question of betelnuts has been taken up he tried to learn and one of the things that he has now learnt is this that on the whole this tax has been wrongly imposed and its incidence has also unexpectedly fallen on the grower. The fact of the matter is that in imposing this piece of taxation upon betelnut what was perhaps intended was that the burden should pass on to the consumer. What really happened and in a case like this was bound to happen inevitably, was that the tax has fallen very heavily upon the grower, largely because this tax is of a nature which is difficult of imposition at the right stage. For instance, the Honourable Members who preceded me made a point that in parts of Malabar and in Assam the tax was imposed at a stage when the poor betelnut grower comes with a bunch of betelnuts to the market. That is not cured betelnut of the original definition. The words used were cured betelnuts. If they are to have any meaning it could not be fresh betelnuts taken from the tree and brought to the market. Betelnut curing is a process and that was necessary, because it has to be an excise duty in which some type of manufacture is presumed. This tax has been imposed—as the Honourable Finance Member can duly verify—upon fresh betel-nut also; unless of course he puts this interpretation that the mere fact of taking it down from the tree and taking it to the market completes the process of curing. I say the burden has wrongly fallen upon the shoulders of the grower. That is one thing.

Secondly, in the actual working of the rules, a lot of oppression does take place. There are various reports which have been received; I have myself had occasion to see them; and I may be permitted to observe that in fact in my constituency in the North Kanara District, all those rules, in the actual working, have resulted in very great oppression.

A third consideration is this that this tax has fallen on a type of people who are already overburdened. I shall limit my observations to my constituency because the case for the other areas has been so very ably argued by the previous speakers. In my constituency of North Kanara—it is a district which grows betel-nut—as irony would have it, during the last about one hundred years the forest policy of the government in that district has worked to the great detriment of the population and the agriculturists; and though during the last forty or fifty years the average population in India has almost doubled, in the district of North Kanara for the last forty years the population has actually gone down; and the forests have been given precedence because they were the source of timber and gave greater income to Government as a matter of fact.

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar.]

have it from Government that as much as 1,00,000 acres of good rice land been left in a state of fallow because Government did nothing to help the grower to bring under cultivation the rice land which fetched an average tax of 18 annas an acre. Under these circumstances, the betel-nut growers have had to suffer this additional imposition of the betel-nut tax. I would therefore strongly recommend that the wholesale reduction of the excise duty that is proposed in the proposed amendments should be carried out; the proposal before the House to reduce the duty only by half an anna, does not bring that amount of relief which the growers really deserve. During the last two years the losses which the growers had to stand have been to the tune of Rs. 150 per acre, on account of the excise tax, as compared with the already heavy land revenue of about 12 rupees an acre which they have to pay. In view of all these considerations, what may be said on the merits of the thing, because this is a question largely concerning the actual basic man, the grower, and the question is not likely to be left at that stage, apart from whatever may happen in the future, Government may very well accept the tentative suggestion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Karunakara Menon that whatever may be said about the future, for the year at least the whole of the tax should be remitted.

With these words I support the two amendments put forward by Mrs. A. Swaminadhan.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muslim). Sir, I come from the same part of the country from which Mrs. Swaminadhan comes, and I agree with every word that she has said with regard to the inconvenience and sufferings of the betel-nut growers in that part of the country. I also agree that there is great need for the abolition of this tax. Nothing will please me better than that this excise duty should be abolished altogether; but our difficulty in this House is that we cannot get 100 per cent of what we want, and therefore compromise has become the essence of our life. (An Honourable Member: Hear, hear.) Certain concessions which have been able to wring from the Finance Member have been wrung after great difficulty. Now, the concessions that have been wrung or have been granted are in themselves a complete scheme. I cannot therefore go beyond the scheme and insist that the Finance Member should abolish this tax altogether. I shall be very happy if he does it, but if he does not do that, then I just join my voice with the voices of those friends on the Congress benches who have asked for certain concessions with regard to the rules, the hardships in their work and the keeping of accounts and so on. I think for this year we will have to be satisfied with the concession that he has given already of six pices, and the promises he has made of effecting better marketing and affording facilities in the matter of working of the rules. I again say that I will be very happy and I appeal to my Honourable friend that he should agree to the abolition of the tax; to that extent I am willing to go. (Interruptions). If my friend does not agree then next year he must go a step further and give complete remission. I will be satisfied for the present.

Mr. H. Greenfield: Sir, I must oppose both these amendments—32 and 33. But before I come to the particular points which have been raised by the various members, it will perhaps interest the House to know that India is total consumption of betel-nuts before the war was in the neighbourhood of 400 million lbs.; and of this quantity, rather more than half was produced in this country. Imports from abroad came mainly from Empire countries and principally from Malaya, other important contributors being Ceylon and Java. Later small quantities also came from Sumatra, Siam, Hong Kong and Goa. 1940-41 was the peak year for imports from non-empire countries; and in that year the imports from Java and Sumatra rose to nearly 8 million lbs. After the outbreak of the war with Japan, the imports from the east were cut off, and supplies from Ceylon thereafter expanded to nearly double their former volume; and in recent times imports from that island have amounted to about 16 million lbs.

But thought the imports amounted to less than half of the total consumption, they nevertheless determined the level of wholesale prices in India. When the volume of imports increased, the price of Indian nuts declined. For some years prior to 1930, prices ranged between Rs. 35 and Rs. 60 a cwt. Then, following larger imports from abroad, they declined substantially. With the severe reduction of imports following the entry of Japan into the war, prices soared to unprecedented heights, and then perhaps for the first time in his existence the indigenous betel-nut grower prospered. But when it became apparent that the end of the war was approaching, prices began to sag, and they have declined still further since Japan was defeated; and I entirely agree with my Honourable friend, Mrs. Swaminadhan, that at this stage it behoves us to have particular care for the position of the indigenous grower. (But I claim that the measures which we propose will bring him far greater benefits than the mere abolition of the excise duty. But for the new customs duty it is probable that the internal wholesale prices would have fallen to the level obtaining in the decade before the war. Since the introduction of the Finance Bill wholesale prices have risen again and at their present level they are capable of affording a fair return both to the primary producer and to the distributor. On pre-war tariff values the incidence of the customs duty amounted to about half an anna a pound on mature and one anna a pound on immature nuts. At that time there was no excise duty on indigenous nuts. On recent tariff values, the incidence of the old rate of customs duty would have been about 3½ annas per pound, while as the House knows the excise duty was 2 annas a pound. It was felt that this difference of 1½ annas a pound would not suffice to afford sufficient protection to the indigenous grower. Moreover it was not static, because the values of imported nuts were bound to decline and the incidence then would have been lower still. To prevent this, assessment or tariff value has, in respect of betel nuts, been substituted by the imposition of a specific duty and this has been so fixed as to enable the indigenous nut to compete on reasonable terms with the imported nut. At the same time, as the Honourable the Finance Member has already acquainted the House, we are initiating measures which are designed to ensure that the grower will obtain a fair share of the price ultimately paid by the consumer. No proper study of the economic position of the betel nut industry in India was made in pre-war years but from the observations of the excise staff it appears that the industry was in a state of depression for many years before the war and the Indian nut was never at that time able to compete successfully with the imported nut. Cultivation and marketing have improved in recent years, as a result of the better prices which the cultivator has been able to obtain; and the measures which we are now contemplating should ensure that this improvement is consolidated and carried even further. We hope that they will bring prosperity to the large body of betel nut growers who have hitherto, I fear, been largely unregarded and we hope that both their health, (particularly in areas like North Canara where they suffer acutely from malaria), and their general standard of living will be improved by these measures. We hope also that the consumer will be able to get a better product and finally we intend to explore the possibility of finding other uses for this Indian product.)

Now, Sir, it is obvious that a total consumption of 400 million pounds a year provides a very commodious vehicle for indirect taxation. Moreover as the Honourable the Finance Member has already explained, the betel nut is a suitable subject for taxation. It is a luxury, (Some Honourable Members: It is not a luxury) albeit a modest one; it is widely consumed; the quantity consumed by the individual is a very small, so that the incidence of the tax is light; and it is a counterpart of chewing tobacco which is already taxed. The total revenue derived from betel nut before the war was about 73 lakhs a year. From the present rates of duty, we expect a total revenue of between 2½ to 3 crores a year and it is possible that if consumption returns to its pre-war level the revenue ultimately obtainable will be very much larger than this.

[Mr. H. Greenfield.]

Now, Sir, it is essential that the tax should be placed not only on the foreign nut but also on the indigenous nut. If the measures which we are now going to introduce are effective, as we hope they will be, they make the indigenous nut more and more capable of holding its own against the imported nut and the revenue that we shall derive from the customs duty will then decline. As this happens, it will be possible to maintain our revenue position by transferring the weight from the one leg to the other, so that ultimately, in due time the country will have built up a useful section of industry and will at the same time have retained a useful source of revenue. But the immediate crux of the matter is that the rate of customs duty has been calculated on the basis that there would be an excise duty of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas per pound, so that if the excise duty were now abolished the result would simply be to give an uncovenanted profit, of the order of $1\frac{1}{2}$ crores or thereabouts, to the wholesalers, who have already benefited quite substantially from the high prices resulting from war-time scarcity.

Now, Sir, a good deal has been said about the alleged difficulties imposed on the primary producer by the central excise rules. These difficulties are, however, more apparent than real. The rules relating to declarations, returns and the maintenance of accounts which were referred to by my friend Mr. Menon do not apply to the whole body of curers in India. They only apply to about one tenth of one per cent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Is it not a fact that Mr. Bhat told you that the ordinary people are being harassed by your officers?

Mr. H. Greenfield: I am coming to that. Particular mention was made of a method of assessment based on the number rather than on the weight of the nuts. This method has been introduced for the benefit of the assessee in order to avoid subjecting him to the weightment of his goods at every stage. It has been represented to me not only in this House but outside that in practice the operation of that arrangement is somewhat unfair to the producer and that matter is already under examination. I do not say that there are no difficulties in the operation of these rules. Difficulties and unevenness of administration are inevitable in any organisation of the extent and nature of this one; but these difficulties are being patiently, steadily, and sympathetically resolved and I would assure the House that this process will continue until the organisation has been brought to an acceptable standard of efficiency. In the meantime,

1 P.M. Sir, the House will perhaps draw some reassurance from a letter which I have but lately received from the Secretary of a leading Association of betel nut growers. This letter was sent to me following discussion which I have had with this gentleman and other gentleman interested in this industry. In the course of the letter, he says that the central excise rules as such are not vexatious and oppressive and that these rules are necessary to collect the tax. His complaint is that in the administration of these rules, inequalities do occur. That Sir, we are well aware of, and I have assured him, as I now assure the House, that the Department I have the honour to represent will go very carefully into any complaints of that nature. Sir, I oppose the two amendments.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated: Non-official): Sir, in view of the opinion expressed on the floor of the House, I do feel that taxation on betel nut is sincerely felt as irksome by everybody and therefore it should go. Even the spokesmen from the Muslim League have expressed the same opinion. My Honourable friend Mr. Guruswami and myself who represent the interest of the workers, also feel that a reduction in this duty is very necessary. We are not satisfied by merely moving certain amendments. We are more interested in achieving certain things for the people. At times the policy we adopt might seem moderate, but we believe in achieving things. . .

Shri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadian Rural): On a point of information, Sir. The Honourable Lady is explaining her stand in the House or the position she takes with reference to the subject matter before the House. I wish to know whether at present the Honourable Lady is opposing the amendment or supporting it.

Mr. President: Her speech will clarify that shortly.

Miss Maniben Kara: Because I always believe in getting something definite which will be for the benefit of the common man in the country, I take this opportunity of appealing to the Honourable the Finance Member to make still further reduction of two pice to the amendment moved by Mr. Greenfield, and the words 'one anna six pices' be substituted by 'one anna'. In view of the unanimous opinion expressed in all parts of the House, I appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member to accept this and I hope he will come forward making these changes. My Honourable friend Mr. Guruswami and myself will be satisfied if we succeed in getting this small reduction.

Mr. President: May I know if the Honourable Member wishes to move any amendment to the amendment?

Miss Maniben Kara: No, Sir. It is merely an appeal to the Honourable the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I am not a very good conjurer and I find it difficult to keep three balls in the air at the same time. It was one of my ambitions as a small boy, but I did not succeed. What I am really asked to do today is to keep three balls in the air—I have to look after the revenues; I am to look after the interest of the producer and I am also asked to take care of the consumer. Now, Sir, to secure all that is no easy task and we have done our best for the producer in offering to improve his position in relation to the middleman. We think, that, by this means, he will in fact, be able to get a fair price for his produce and that, at the same time the consumer will not have to pay anything more. That is why I offered, as an experiment, to reduce the tax by half an anna just to see whether I was right or whether my Honourable friends on the other side were right. However, contrary to what happened yesterday when I made an appeal with sweet reasonableness to this House and to which they refused to respond, I wish to show how courteous one can be and I propose to yield to the appeal of my Honourable friend behind me and also to the sweet reasonableness of my Honourable friends who come from Malabar, to this extent, that I am prepared, with your permission, Sir, to move an amendment to the amendment moved on Government's behalf reducing the tax to one anna. Lest anybody be encouraged to entertain more hopes, I would give this warning that this is my last and final word as the protector of the revenues of this country. That is all I have to say.

Sir George Spence (Secretary, Legislative Department): Sir, I move:

"That in the amendment moved by Mr. Greenfield, in the proposed clause 7A, for the words 'one-anna and six pices' the words 'One anna' be substituted."

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in the amendment moved by Mr. Greenfield, in the proposed clause 7A, for the words 'one-anna and six pices' the words 'One anna' be substituted."

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: May I add one word, Sir? I hope that since the Hon'ble the Finance Member has met us half way this year, shall I say he will go the whole way next year to meet our wishes?

Mr. President: Then, I will put the amendment of Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan to the House.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: My undertaking was based on the understanding that Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan's two amendments will be withdrawn.

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. President: The House was discussing Clause 9 and the amendment moved by Sir John Sheehy.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer (Nominated Non-Official): I only want to raise one very small point in connection with the speech which the Honourable Sir John Sheehy has just made. In the course of his speech reference was made to Section 23A. He spoke throughout, I think I am correct in saying, about private companies, and I think it is perhaps just as well that it should be explained to the House that Section 23A of the Income-tax Act also applies to public companies.

Sir John Sheehy: Section 23A does not apply to a public company.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member says that Section 23A does not apply to a public company.

Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer: It does not when a public company is defined in the manner that it is here. He has overlooked the fact that there is a private company and public company. Perhaps it is a slip on his part.

Sir John Sheehy: I do mean companies as defined in Section 23A. That is what I mean by a public company and not as defined in the Indian Companies Act.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): The Honourable the Finance Member's intention in drafting this sub-clause 11 is, as I understand it, to see that the distribution of dividends is to a minimum. That is restriction of dividends. That is also what he said in his speech the other day. I will just read a few words from his speech. He said:

"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. . . ."

It seems that this was the intention of the Honourable the Finance Member when he drafted sub-clause 11 of clause 9. As I understand this sub-clause, the meaning is that whoever pays that penal rate of super-tax will be exempt from Section 23A.

Sir John Sheehy: That is not the intention. What was meant was that the revenue should have the choice of applying Section 23A or the dividend tax, whichever was more favourable.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: That is all right. The original clause means that if anyone distributes more than 30 per cent. of his profits his dividends will be exempt. Am I right?

Sir John Sheehy: No. It says if he pays the dividend tax Section 23A will not apply but it will be in the Income-Tax officer's discretion to assess him either to the dividend tax or under 23A.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: In that case the idea is not to give any exemption but whatever is higher should be charged by the Income-tax officer.

Sir John Sheehy: That is right.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: So the idea laid down in the Finance Member's speech is quite contradictory to what is stated in sub-clause 11. If that is so the intention of clause 11 and the intention in the speech as I understand them, is quite contradictory, and if so the contradiction ought to be removed, because on one side you say you want to restrict dividends and on the other

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadian): We do not withdraw the amendments, but we do not press them.

Mr. President: Then I will put the two amendments to the House:

The question is:

"That after sub-clause (1) of clause 7 of the Bill, the following sub-clause be inserted and sub-clause (2) be renumbered as sub-clause (3):

"(2) That the duty of excise on betel-nut contained in item 12, in the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944, as amended by the Finance Act of 1944, shall be abolished and the said item 12 shall be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in sub-clause (2) of clause 7 of the Bill:

(i) between the words 'this section' and the word 'shall', the words and figure 'in sub-section (1)' be inserted; and

(ii) at the end the following be added:

"and the provisions of this section in sub-section (2) shall come into effect from 1st April, 1946."

The motion was negatived.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in the amendment moved by Mr. Greenfield, in the proposed clause 7A, for the words 'one-anna and six pies' the words 'One anna' be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That after clause 7 of the Bill the following clause be inserted, namely:

"7A. Alteration of duty of excise on betelnuts.—In the First Schedule to the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944 (1 of 1944), in Item No. 12, for the words "Two annas", the words "One anna" shall be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

New Clause 7A as amended was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Sir John Sheehy (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move:

"That in clause 9 of the Bill,—

(a) sub-clause (11) be omitted, and

(b) sub-clauses (12), (13), (14) and (15) be renumbered as sub-clauses (11), (12), (13) and (14) respectively."

This amendment goes with No. 5 of supplementary list No. II. They are both parts of the same proposal, namely, to exclude private companies from the operation of the dividend tax which is contained in paragraph D of Part II of the Schedule. Dividend tax then will be confined to public companies. The reason why we are taking these private companies out of the dividend tax is that as the Finance Bill has been drafted we took the option either to charge a private company with dividend tax or apply section 23A to it, whichever suited us better. We have had a storm of protest about this and it was pointed out to us that we were compelling private companies to distribute a 60 per cent. dividend and then we were applying dividend tax to them and penalising them for paying a 60 per cent. dividend. So we are getting out of the dilemma by taking them out of the dividend tax altogether. I may also say that this is a provision which is designed to prevent the rich man from avoiding super-tax and to that extent it ought to commend itself to the other side.

Diwan Chaman Lal (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadian): This is only with reference to public companies?

Sir John Sheehy: The dividend tax will only apply to public companies, but section 23A will apply to private companies, and under section 23A they will have to distribute 60 per cent. of their profits as dividend and that dividend will be subject to super-tax in the hands of the shareholders. If they do not distribute 60 per cent. 100 per cent. of the profits will be subject to super-tax in the hands of the shareholders. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Amendment moved.

"That in clause 9 of the Bill,—

(a) sub-clause (11) be omitted, and

(b) sub-clauses (12), (13), (14) and (15) be renumbered as sub-clauses (11), (12), (13) and (14) respectively."

[Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai]

side you say that you will tax to the highest limit although dividends may not be paid. I feel that the Finance Member should see that this contradiction is removed and just as was done in the course of the last two years that if anyone paid dividends he was penalized by one anna in the rupee by extra super-tax, similarly if anyone pays higher dividends, higher than what the Finance Member allows as dividend and that is 30 per cent. of profits or 5 per cent. of capital, whichever is higher, I do not think there should be any penalty levied. I hope the Finance Member will consider this suggestion and let us know what he wants to do in the matter.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official): Mr. President, I am not quite able to follow my Honourable friend, the representative of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association. But I do see the necessity of the amendment moved on behalf of Government. According to me, Mr. President, when the Excess Profits Tax was introduced, Government found it quite illogical to keep Section 23A in operation and therefore they suspended Section 23A.

Sir John Sheehy: That is wrong. We suspended the section only when we introduced the extra tax on dividends distributions.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Section 23A was suspended. Now clause 11 as I read it suspends that suspension and 23A comes into operation again from next year. Well, if 23A comes into operation next year, it will become very unfair because in this Bill it is provided that if anybody pays dividend above 30 per cent., he will be penalised, while according to 23A, a private company is forced to pay 60 per cent. Therefore, on the one hand one part of the Bill will force you to pay 60 per cent. while another part of the Bill will penalise you, if you pay more than 30 per cent., so far as private companies are concerned. This amendment puts the matter right and all private companies will have to pay 60 per cent and there will be no penalty. Am I correct? I want to make this perfectly clear. I am not quite clear on the interpretation of this clause 11. But I want the assurance that this is the interpretation and this is the intention of Government.

Sir John Sheehy: That is so. I might also mention that this 60 per cent. is 60 per cent. after payment of tax and corresponds to 37½ per cent. of the total income as compared to 30 per cent. exempt from the dividend tax.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: What I am concerned with is the effect of this amendment. The effect of the amendment will be that Section 23A shall be enforced for private companies and the other section which penalises companies for paying more than 30 per cent. will not be in operation for private companies. If that is the interpretation I am satisfied but it must be clearly stated what the interpretation is, Mr. President, you know very well as anybody else in this House what difficulty there is to interpret sections of this Act when you come to pay income-tax and super-tax and how the Department can interpret sections differently to the intentions of the framers of the Act. I am sure my Honourable friend who is in charge of the Department has enough trouble in this direction as have also the assesseees. Therefore a clear interpretation of what we are doing may guide the Income-tax Department all over India with regard to the assessments and I trust that the interpretation I have placed upon his amendment is the correct one and that will be followed by the Income-tax Department all over India and they will not come down upon us afterwards.

Sir John Sheehy: That is right.

Mr. President: I believe this amendment is linked to a subsequent amendment.

Sir John Sheehy: It is linked with amendment No. 5 on the same list but that comes in the Schedule.

Mr. President: We will take that amendment later on.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Sir, If you would permit me I would read out. There are certain contradictions

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Contradiction in words and words only. I am not prepared to accept the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai. As anybody knows the suspension of Section 23A in the last two years has cost revenue several crores of rupees.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): May I know whether as a result of this amendment rich classes will be taxed more or less?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: More, certainly.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: That is all he wants.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in clause 9 of the Bill,—

(a) sub-clause (11) be omitted, and

(b) sub-clauses (12), (13), (14) and (15) be renumbered as sub-clauses (11), (12), (13) and (14) respectively."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That Clause 9 as amended stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 as amended was added to the Bill.

Clauses 10 and 11 were added to the Bill.

Mr. President: I take Parts 1 and 2 of the Schedule together. There is only one Schedule which is divided into two Parts.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: How do you take the amendments, Sir, if they are to be moved?

Mr. President: I will take first part 1 and then I will take Part 2.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: With your permission, Sir, I will move amendments Nos. 43 and 56.

Mr. President: Are they both related, one being consequential to the other?

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Both are absolutely distinct, though they relate to the same subject.

Mr. President: Yes.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir I move:

"That in Part I-A of the Schedule to the Bill, the words "Hindu undivided family" be omitted."

I also move:

"That in Part II-A of the Schedule to the Bill, the words 'Hindu undivided family' be omitted."

In regard to the other amendment it will come only if this amendment fails to succeed, because it is an alternative amendment, I mean the second part of amendments Nos. 43 and 56. In regard to this amendment I would respectfully submit

Mr. President: Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that in case the first amendment is negatived he wishes to move the alternative amendment?

Pundit Thakurdas Bhargava: In case this is negatived, I propose to move the other.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Then it ought to be numbered differently.

Mr. President: The House is in possession of what he wants to move. I personally thought that it was an alternative amendment and asked whether the Honourable Member wanted this or that. I wanted to have the matter clarified.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): The word 'or' does mean an alternative. Is an Honourable Member right in proposing alternative amendments to the same thing and in the same motion?

Mr. President: He is not entitled to propose an alternative amendment. What is found here is a notice for the alternative. He is at present moving the first amendment and he tells me that, in case the amendment that he now moves is not accepted by the House, he will propose the other one. The only question will then be as to whether his notice of these two different amendments which he wishes to move in succession and, not at the same time, should be taken to be sufficient or not. It was possible for him to give these as separate amendments and number them separately. But the mere fact that he says he will move this or that, is just a slip so far as the expression of his intention is concerned. It need not therefore deprive him of the opportunity of moving the other amendment also.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Technically speaking, if it is either this or that, then it is neither. I submit that the mover has no mind of his own and the time of the Assembly is more valuable than his choice of the one or the other. I respectfully submit that the whole motion No. 48 should be declared out of order.

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member had wanted to move both together, I should have done that. It is only a question of a proper form of notice of amendment. It is a question of sufficiency of notice and I am permitting him to move the first part of it. It is a proper notice so far as the first part goes. As regards the second part, I have already got the position clarified by the Honourable Member as to whether he wishes to move it. In case the first part is negatived he says he has a desire to move the second part. I do not see why we should be so technical as to rule out an amendment, particularly when the amendment has not been given at the last moment and the House is already in possession of the intentions of the Honourable Member.

Pundit Thakurdas Bhargava: So far as the technical aspect of the question is concerned, may I say a word? As far as I remember I gave the amendment in the alternative. . . .

Mr. President: That matter is closed now. The Honourable Member may proceed.

Pundit Thakurdas Bhargava: In regard to this question, first of all I would submit, that though it appears as if the Hindu undivided family has a certain characteristic of its own and as such some special sort of concession is being asked for the Hindus, but if this is carefully examined it would appear that this amendment is of a national character. I only want that the same treatment which is given to non-Hindus should be meted to Hindus. I do not want any special concession for the Hindus at all, by this amendment.

As regards the principle why it should be so, I would in the first place submit that all the nationals in a country should be uniformly taxed. It so happens that if there is a family of five or six persons constituting a joint Hindu family and if their joint income is Rs. 2,000, then the aggregate income is taken into consideration and the family is taxed as such; whereas in the case of non-Hindus the separate income of the persons constituting a family is taken into consideration and they are only taxed as individuals. If we take an instance or two, the enormity and inequity of the difference will be apparent to members of the House. If a family consists of five members, one getting a thousand rupees a year and the others getting much less, say 250 rupees a year, then all the persons together will be taxed, and each will have to pay income-tax, which it is not the intention of the legislature that he should pay. In fact it amounts to this, that the taxable minimum in the case of Hindus is much less than the taxable minimum in the case of others than Hindus; and this is very unfortunate and very unfair.

In this connection, I would refer you to an observation made by the Taxation Inquiry Committee. It was stated at page 268 (para. 361) as follows

(They were considering other duties and the cases of Hindus, Muslims, Jews, Parsis and others):—

"The existing duties are very inequitable in their incidence. This is determined, as already pointed out, by race, religion or locality. The assets in India of Europeans, Eurasians, Armenians, Jews and persons of foreign domicile must pay duty whether there is a will or not or whether any right is sought to be established in court or not. The estates of Parsis, whether there is a will or not, and the estates of Indian Christians, when there is a will, must pay duty wherever the estate be situated in India, though only when a right is sought to be established in the courts. The estates of Hindus, where there is a will made in or relating to immovable property situated in the Lower Provinces of Bengal or the cities of Bombay or Madras must also pay duty, but again only when a right is sought to be established in the courts. The estates of all Muhammadans who die testate or intestate, the estates of all Hindus and Indian Christians who die intestate, and the estates of all Hindus who die leaving wills not falling within the scope of the Hindu Wills Act need pay no duty, unless the parties themselves apply for and obtain probate or letters of administration."

It was recognised that so far as the different communities are concerned there should be a uniform rule and I submit that this principle should be made applicable to the Hindu joint families. In 1928, I remember a member of the European Group also put an amendment involving uniformity of taxation and it was accepted by the House, on the basis of uniformity of taxation. Now, if uniformity of taxation is to be applicable to all persons, there is no reason why Hindus should be excluded from it. It so happens that the poorer classes of Hindus are subjected to a much greater amount of taxation than other classes; and specially when we remember that the index numbers of prices of necessities have risen so much and the value of the rupee has depreciated to a very large extent, it is certainly very inequitable, to say the least, that the poorer classes of Hindus should be taxed, because they belong to joint Hindu families. Now, Rs. 2,000 is the minimum. If there are five members, it follows that even persons who get Rs. 400 a year are also taxed; and if the value of the rupee is taken into account, then even labourers are liable to be taxed as members of a joint Hindu family.

Leaving that aside, I come to another aspect of the case, whether the Hindu joint family as such should be the unit of taxation. It is true that Hindu joint family has certain characteristics which do not belong to the joint families of other communities, because the law of survivorship obtains amongst Hindus; but I maintain that apart from this principle between the families of Hindus and others there is absolutely no difference. If you take the population figures, the Brahmins constitute the greatest number, the chamars come next and then the mahajans. I ask what is the difference between a family of Brahmins and Syeds? If these members of the Brahmin family do not do any leading business or trade and are not engaged in anything which can be called a profit making concern, my submission is that there should be no difference between them and members of non-Hindu families and in the amount of taxation and in the taxable minimum and incidence of tax also. About the mahajans, also, every mahajan family is not necessarily engaged in trade. I want to know the essential difference between Parsis and Cutchi Memons and Borahs and others, and the mahajans; in fact there is no difference. So far as they are concerned, they are all engaged in trade and their cases should be taxed similarly. There is no reason why the mahajan should be discriminated against. It may be said that since it is very difficult to predicate about any particular portion of property that it is joint or separate, it is difficult to tax them. In regard to this matter also, we know that whenever it suits Government to treat the joint Hindu family as a separate family they have been treating it as such. I will just refer you to another page of the Taxation Inquiry Committee Report, where they say at page 275 (para. 374):

"It is sometimes urged that inheritance taxation ought not to apply to the property of a Mitakshara joint family on the ground that, on the death of a co-parcener belonging to such a family, there is no mutation or acquisition which gives occasion for the levy of a duty. But it cannot be denied that a member of a Mitakshara joint family possesses a beneficial interest in the properties of the family during his lifetime, which he can sell or mortgage and in some provinces, even dispose of by gift, and of which he can get a partition during his lifetime by suit, or effect severance by a mere unequivocal declaration communicated to the other members of intention to hold separately. This interest clearly passes on the death

[Pandit Thakurdas Bhargava]

of the member, and is therefore a proper subject for a tax in the nature of a mutation duty. In the similar case in England, where property or an interest in property passes by survivorship, it is valued for purposes both of estate duty and succession duty. Again, in the Bill to amend the Court Fees Act. . . .

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: I rise to a point of order. The Honourable Member is reading from some legal text; he is reading it in a way that nobody except himself can understand. Either he reads it properly or he gives us a gist of it: he must read it so that we can understand; but if he reads on for five or ten minutes, we are unable to understand it. Let him give the gist of what he wants to say.

Pundit Thakurdas Bhargava: I gave a gist of what I had to submit before I relied upon this quotation. This quotation is not new, at least to the member who is objecting. He has been in this House with me for a number of years and this question has arisen before and ultimately the Law Member and the Finance Member agreed to have a Bill to be introduced in the House in respect of this matter, which all these years they did not have. The point involved is very simple: it is this, that when it suits the Government to treat the joint Hindu family as joint then they have no objection; but when they want to realise anything from it, they treat it as a separate family, though it is joint. In regard to the Court Fees Act about which I was going to read the quotation it was held by the Taxation Inquiry Committee and the principle has been accepted, that the joint Hindu family has been treated for the purposes of this Court Fees Act as a separate family. We have got just now (and I am not going to read the rest of the quotation because my friend is rather tired of it) a new Bill before us—the Estate Duties Bill. In that Bill the same principle has been accepted by the Government. In that interpretation clause we find first of all—“For the purposes of this Act a person shall be deemed competent to dispose of property”. Then in clause 5 we find the words “property . . . shall be deemed to pass on his death”; and similarly in clause 6; and similarly in clause 12. In all these places the law presumes that death has made a difference in the case of the joint Hindu family, whereas according to strict Hindu law, death is of no consequence. It is only partition which can disrupt a joint family, and not death. I was submitting there is no force in the contention that the joint Hindu family if considered from a theoretical point of view must be regarded as a unit for taxation since the Government themselves have been using the provisions of the Hindu law in a manner in which whenever they choose to tax it they treat it as separate family. There is no

reason why for purposes of income tax the Hindu joint family should not be regarded as a congregation consisting of persons who may be regarded as individuals and who may not be taxed as members of a Hindu joint family, because in their dual capacity the incidence is greater. If there are five members and the whole income is Rs. 5,000, all of them are taxed at the rate applicable to an income of 5,000 and not at the rate which will be applicable if they were separate. In regard to the rate, in regard to the amount and taxable minimum and in all other matters the Hindu joint family is not treated fairly and squarely.

Now it will be argued, as I know it has been argued before, that there are certain compensatory advantages afforded to the Hindu joint family under section 14. I would submit that this advantage accrues only to the richer sections of the Joint Hindu families and the advantage is extremely illusory. If a man has two separate incomes, one income of say 4,000 and another a joint income of say 100, he will only be taxed so far as the separate income is concerned as an individual. In so far as the joint income is concerned, he will be taxed as a member of the joint family. That is the only difference. Supposing there are two separate Hindu families one in the Punjab and another in Madras, my submission is that if there is an advantage to one under section 14 it does not follow that the advantage is of such a nature as will be shared by the family which is mulcted in a greater amount. Your policy

should not be to rob Peter to pay Paul. I would submit that this compensatory advantage which is given may be taken away. We do not care for this advantage. It is an illusory advantage. Now take the case of super tax. In the case of super tax previously the taxable minimum was Rs. 50,000 in the case of individuals and in the case of joint Hindu families Rs. 75,000. Thus if the Hindu undivided family consisted of five members, then the super tax will be more onerous than even the incidence of income-tax. As a matter of fact, the Hindus are not treated fairly in this matter by the Government. This matter was mooted in this House for three successive years 1928, 1929 and 1930. In 1928 I submitted an application for sanction in regard to removing this anomaly but the Governor General was not pleased to accord sanction. Ultimately after further agitation the Finance Member and the Law Member gave me an assurance that they will bring a measure before this House in respect of this matter. I find that it has not been brought up yet and the injustice continues. If I had time, I would quote from the assurance of Sir George Schuster. Up to this time nothing has been done and I beg to submit that this matter should not be treated as a communal question, and justice should be done to Hindu undivided family.

Mr. President: Amendments moved:

“That in Part I-A of the Schedule to the Bill, the words ‘Hindu undivided family’ be omitted.”

“That in Part II-A of the Schedule to the Bill, the words ‘Hindu undivided family’ be omitted.”

It is not the concern of the Chair to consider the merits but I was just wondering whether the amendment which the Honourable Member is proposing carries out his intentions. The results might be just the reverse.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I have not the least doubt in my mind that the intention will be carried out.

Mr. President: I would make my position clear. If the words ‘Hindu undivided family’ are taken away, then perhaps that family will be left to assessment under (b) or as association of individuals. Will it serve the Honourable Member's object?

Sir John Sheehy: I think the Honourable President's interpretation is correct.

Mr. President: Even if the words ‘Hindu undivided family’ are taken out there are the words ‘other associations of persons, not being a case to which paragraph (b) of this part applies’. So, the members of the Hindu undivided family will probably come under the description ‘other association of persons’.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: I want that Hindus and persons of other communities may be treated alike Hindu undivided family can never be regarded as an association of persons.

Sir John Sheehy: They will be worse off than they are now. They won't get the benefit of section 14(1).

Mr. President: I only wanted to put it to the Honourable Member to decide whether his amendment carries out his intention. It is for him to decide.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir: Since you have dammed the amendment, he had better withdraw it.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will proceed on the assumption that the amendment really carries out the intention of the Mover. From my short study of this question, it seems to me that there may be cases in which the operation of the law at present works hardly on a Hindu undivided family but there are certain other cases in which an amendment in the direction sought to be made by my Honourable friend would operate hardly on the revenue. A Hindu undivided family consisting of one adult and five minor members would have, under the amendment, the total income divided by five, whereas in the case of a Muslim family or Christian family, it would be only the income of the adult that would be taken into account. But there are

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

highly technical questions involved here and my suggestion is that this is one of the matters that should be specifically referred to the Taxation Enquiry Committee which I have announced that the Government would presently set up. I am afraid I must oppose this amendment. I do recognise that there are several cases in which as I say, the operations of the present law may be hard on a Hindu undivided family. But it is not a matter which I think can be disposed of by a short discussion on amendments to the Finance Bill. I think the best thing to do is to refer it specifically as one of the items to be considered by the Taxation Enquiry Committee.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in Part I-A of the Schedule to the Bill, the words 'Hindu undivided family' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in Part II-A of the Schedule to the Bill, the words 'Hindu undivided family' be omitted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: Pundit Thakurdas Bhargava.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Sir, I rise to a point of order. Are you allowing this word 'or' between these two amendments.

Mr. President: I am not allowing this 'or'. But I am allowing the amendment on the basis that there has been sufficient notice as the amendment has been before the House.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: The text of amendment No. 43, first part does not permit of that impression.

Mr. President: I am not interpreting the text. The Chair has got authority to allow an amendment if it thinks fit, or if it considers that notice is sufficient. I am allowing this amendment on the ground that though notice is not in proper form, he may be permitted to agitate it, particularly in view of the fact that the amendment has been before the House. That is the position.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: May I respectfully submit that your previous interpretation was, 'this' or 'that'. When there is a double point of view, I again respectfully submit that the little that I have read of constitutionalism and the powers of the Chair and the powers of the House do not permit of such exceptions being made.

Mr. President: I have nothing more to add. I stick to what I have said. The Honourable Member, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, will move his amendments.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: Sir, I move:

"That in Part I-A of the Schedule to the Bill, before the existing proviso the following proviso be inserted, namely:

'Provided that the sum of rupees mentioned in items 1 to 5 shall be deemed to be double the amount so mentioned in the case of Hindu undivided family'."

There is another amendment which I also move:

"That in Part II-A of the Schedule, the following proviso be added, namely:

'Provided that the sum of rupees mentioned in items 1 to 12 shall be deemed to be double the amount so mentioned in the case of Hindu undivided family'."

Sir, in regard to these two amendments the reasons which I have already given hold good. I do not want to repeat them. I realise that the Honourable the Finance Member is convinced that there are many cases of injustice in regard to Hindu undivided families. I know that even if this amendment is accepted a Hindu undivided family is not going to be fully relieved from the inequality and inequity of the tax imposed upon it. All the same if this concession is allowed, it will go some way to alleviate the burden. I know the Taxation Enquiry committee is coming. This was exactly the reply which I got in 1929

and 1930 from the then Finance Member. It was admitted by the Honourable Finance Member at that time also that these objections were to be considered by the Government. I submit the Government should take upon itself the task of drafting the Bill and bringing it before the House. Or, if sanction is accorded then any Member on this side of the House may bring the Bill. But it is very difficult for a non-official member to get the sanction. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to bring a Bill of this nature which will do justice to Hindu undivided family. It is because it will take several years before this promise of change in the law will be effectuated I submit this amendment should be accepted and the taxable minimums may at least be doubled in the case of undivided Hindu families for the present.

Mr. President: Amendments moved:

"That in Part I-A of the Schedule to the Bill, before the existing proviso the following proviso be inserted, namely:

'Provided that the sum of rupees mentioned in items 1 to 5 shall be deemed to be double the amount so mentioned in the case of Hindu undivided family'."

"That in Part II-A of the Schedule, the following proviso be added, namely:

'Provided that the sum of rupees mentioned in items 1 to 12 shall be deemed to be double the amount so mentioned in the case of Hindu undivided family'."

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: For the reasons which I have given already in the case of previous amendments, I oppose these amendments also. Those reasons equally apply to these.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in Part I-A of the Schedule to the Bill, before the existing proviso the following proviso be inserted, namely:

'Provided that the sum of rupees mentioned in items 1 to 5 shall be deemed to be double the amount so mentioned in the case of Hindu undivided family'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in Part II-A of the Schedule, the following proviso be added, namely:

'Provided that the sum of rupees mentioned in items 1 to 12 shall be deemed to be double the amount so mentioned in the case of Hindu undivided family'."

The Motion was negatived.

Sir John Sheehy: Sir, I move:

"That in paragraph D of Part II of the Schedule to the Bill, to the Proviso the following clause be added, namely:

'(iv) the additional super-tax shall be payable only by a company in which the public are substantially interested within the meaning of the Explanation to sub-section (1) of section 23A of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, or a subsidiary company of such a company where the whole of the share capital of such subsidiary company is held by the parent company or by the nominees thereof'."

Sir, I have already explained the position in speaking on my amendment to clause 9. The words in this amendment are taken bodily from the Explanation to section 23A. The object of this amendment is to take private companies out of the mischief of this dividend tax which would then apply only to public companies as defined in this amendment.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in paragraph D of Part II of the Schedule to the Bill, to the Proviso the following clause be added, namely:

'(iv) the additional super-tax shall be payable only by a company in which the public are substantially interested within the meaning of the Explanation to sub-section (1) of section 23A of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, or a subsidiary company of such a company where the whole of the share capital of such subsidiary company is held by the parent company or by the nominees thereof'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Sir, I move:

"That in part (a) of Explanation to Part II-D of the Schedule, the following be omitted, namely:

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

'as diminished by the amount on deposit on the same date with the Central Government under section 10 of the Indian Finance Act 1942, or section 2 of the Excess Profits Tax Ordinance, 1943'."

The explanation gives what should be counted as capital while calculating the allowances for giving dividends. Capital would include: "any reserves other than depreciation reserves and reserves for bad or doubtful debts", etc.,. The position is that industries have got certain deposits compulsorily placed with Government which have to be returned within two years from the cessation of hostilities. These deposits are reserves lying not with the industries but with Government. They are reserves pure and simple and nothing else. Now what Government intend to do is that while calculating the capital they will not calculate this reserve as part of the capital. If reserves have to be included all reserves as such this ought to be included; and so I think that if these lines are there in the Bill it will be a contradiction in terms. When Government want to allow reserves I do not understand why they want to tax dividends which may be applicable also on the basis of these reserves to be taxed. That is why I propose that these words should be deleted.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in part (a) of *Explanation* to Part II-D of the Schedule, the following be omitted, namely:

'as diminished by the amount on deposit on the same date with the Central Government under section 10 of the Indian Finance Act, 1942, or section 2 of the Excess Profits Tax Ordinance, 1943'."

Sri T. A. Ramalingam Othettiar: Sir, I have also given notice of the same amendment and I will only add a few words to what has been just stated. These reserves are not different from other reserves. Instead of having the reserve in the business we have been forced practically to leave whatever we can save with Government. Instead of being grateful for that and giving some concession they are now saying that this should be considered as a reserve, and whatever benefit may be allowed for ordinary reserves should not apply. That is not fair. The capital of the company consists not only of the share capital and the reserve they have got in their hands but also the reserve that is with Government; unless it be that Government are not sure that they are going to return the money. If the money is going to be returned it is as much a reserve as any other reserve that is with us.

There is only one other consideration which I will mention. In the market this reserve is taken into consideration. They are purchasing shares at three times and four times the face value of the shares that is invested in these companies. It is not rare to find shares for Rs. 100 being sold in the market for Rs. 500 and Rs. 600 in some cases. In purchasing shares at that price they take into consideration the reserves that are available. So the man who has purchased shares at these high figures feels that he has a share in the reserves; but what will he get if it is not admitted? Supposing, as the Finance Member has provided, 5 per cent on the share capital is allowed and this reserve is not taken into consideration, he will get on the face value 5 per cent. If the share value in the market has been Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 that he has paid for these shares, he will perhaps get 1 or 2 per cent. on the capital and not 5 per cent as the Finance Member assumed he will get under the provision that he is making. It is very unfair to all those persons who have purchased shares in the open market. I hope the Finance Member will consider that in most cases, or at any rate in many cases, shares have changed hands at this large premium, and it will be doing great injustice to all those who purchase shares at these high figures if the provision is to remain as it is and if this exclusion of the reserve with Government is to stand in the Bill. So I will appeal to him that in fairness both to Government which took away all this money from us by force and also in justice to those who purchased these shares during all these years at large premiums to see that this limitation is removed.

Mr. C. W. Ayers (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I may remind the House that one of the bases of this tax is comparison of the income of the company with the capital which earns that income. Two points have been made just now; the first is about deposits. The deposits are with Government; to the company they are producing no income at all. And if you put the deposits into the computation of capital you are comparing the capital with income that only relates to a part of it. Similarly I might say on the point made about prices paid in the market for shares that that also does no affect the amount of capital which is used by the company to earn profits. None of that extra price paid on the stock exchange goes into the coffers of the company. It does not earn income or profits to the company and it should not be taken into account.

Sir Cawasjee Jehangir: Sir, when this money is returned with 2 per cent interest will it then be allowed to be calculated?

Sir John Sheehy: The dividend tax may not be there when that money is returned. But if it is there and if the provisions that are in this Bill are there it will be allowed as capital.

Mr. President: I take it that the phrase "as diminished" etc., governs the word "reserves" occurring for the first time and not occurring for the third time.

Sir John Sheehy: Yes, Sir, that is the intention.

Mr. President: I read and re-read it and was doubtful what it means, whether the phrase "as diminished" etc., referred to depreciation reserve or "reserves for bad or doubtful debts".

Sir John Sheehy: No, Sir, it is the whole capital.

Mr. President: However, that is a matter of interpretation and I need not go into that.

The question is:

"That in part (a) of *Explanation* to Part II-D of the Schedule, the following be omitted, namely:

'as diminished by the amount on deposit on the same date with the Central Government under section 10 of the Indian Finance Act 1942, or section 2 of the Excess Profits Tax Ordinance, 1943'."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: I shall now put the Schedule to the House.

Sir John Sheehy: I have an amendment. Before mine, there is an amendment of Mr. Jhunjhunwala. If he is not going to move his, I will move mine. It is Amendment No. 7 in Supplementary List No. II to Consolidated List.

Sir, I move:

"That in paragraph D of Part II of the Schedule to the Bill, to the *Explanation* the following clause be added, namely:

'(c) where any portion of the profits and gains of a company is not included in its total income, by reason of such portion being exempt from tax under any provision of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, the capital of the company, the total amount of dividends and the amount of dividends payable at a fixed rate shall each be deemed to be the proportion thereof that the total income of the company bears to its total profits and gains'."

It was pointed out to us when this Bill was published that we overlooked the case of companies like tea companies where 60 per cent. of the income is agricultural income and 40 per cent is only subject to our Act. So this amendment composes to take, for example in the case of a tea company, 40 per cent of each factor—40 per cent of the capital, 40 per cent of the total dividends, and 40 per cent of the dividend payable at the fixed rate. That is the criterion for applying the dividend tax. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That in paragraph D of Part II of the Schedule to the Bill, to the *Explanation* the following clause be added, namely:

[Mr. President]

"(c) where any portion of the profits and gains of a company is not included in its total income, by reason of such portion being exempt from tax under any provision of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, the capital of the company, the total amount of dividends and the amount of dividends payable at a fixed rate shall each be deemed to be the proportion thereof that the total income of the company bears to its total profits and gains."

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It is always easy to deal with "he". It is also always easy to deal with "she"; but when "he" and "she" are combined in the same person it is impossible to deal with "it". I have already been at a loss to follow my friend Sir John (she-he) Sheehy, I have been trying to follow him for many years, but I have always been at a loss to understand what exactly he proposes, what he explains, what he means. May I seriously ask him to explain what this amendment really means? I have not been able to understand him at all. Not that I am absolutely ignorant of law or English; but I simply cannot follow the implications of the proposition that he has placed before the House, and if you will please permit him to speak again, I would like to understand the exact meaning of this amendment.

Sir John Sheehy: May I say shortly that what this amounts to is this. In the case of the tea company we will only apply the dividend tax to and calculate it on 40 per cent of the profits, which is the part of the income which we are going to assess to income-tax. Sixty per cent agricultural income goes out. Supposing that the capital of the company is one lakh and that the total income is Rs. 10,000 out of that total income 6,000 is agricultural income and 4,000 is taxable income, and it is only that 4,000 with which we are going to deal, and in taking 30 per cent of the income we refer to 30 per cent of that 4,000 and when we talk of the 5 per cent of the capital we mean 5 per cent of 40 per cent of one lakh. That is what the amendment means. Does the Honourable Member understand the position now?

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does this refer only to tea companies?

Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala (Bhagalpur, Purnea and the Santhal Praganas: Non-Muhammadan): So far as new tea companies are concerned you have fixed the income ratio as forty and sixty, forty being business income, sixty per cent agricultural income. So far as other companies are concerned, having both agricultural and business income there is no ratio fixed. How that is to be determined?

Sir John Sheehy: The ratio is fixed here, viz., "... payable at a fixed rate shall each be deemed to be the proportion thereof that the total income of the company bears to its total profits and gains."

Shri Sri Prakasa: Does this refer only to tea companies?

Sir John Sheehy: To any company where part of its profits are not included in its total income. It would apply for example to a sugar company which grows its own sugar-cane.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I see, thank you.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in paragraph D of Part II of the Schedule to the Bill, to the *Explanation* the following clause be added, namely:

"(c) where any portion of the profits and gains of a company is not included in its total income, by reason of such portion being exempt from tax under any provision of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, the capital of the company, the total amount of dividends and the amount of dividends payable at a fixed rate shall each be deemed to be the proportion thereof that the total income of the company bears to its total profits and gains."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: Are there any further amendments to the Schedule?

The question is:

"That the Schedule (Parts I and II), as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule (Parts I and II), as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause I was added to the Bill.

Mr. President: There is an amendment to the Preamble and Title of the Bill. Mr. Greenfield.

Mr. H. Greenfield: Sir, I beg to move:

"That in the preamble to the Bill,—

(a) the word 'betelnuts', be omitted, and

(b) after the words 'excise on', the word 'betelnuts', be inserted."

I do not think I need trouble the House with an explanation of this change. It is purely formal and is necessitated by the changes in the structure of the Finance Bill resulting from the amendments which have been made.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That in the preamble to the Bill,—

(a) the word 'betelnuts', be omitted, and

(b) after the words 'excise on', the word 'betelnuts', be inserted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Title and Preamble, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Title and Preamble as amended were added to the Bill.

Sir George Spence: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the clauses and sub-clauses of the Bill be re-numbered or re-lettered as necessitated by the amendments made therein and that all references therein to the numbering or lettering of clauses and sub-clauses be corrected as required by such re-numbering."

This, Sir arises out of the fact that two clauses, Nos. 6A and 7A have been inserted.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That the clauses and sub-clauses of the Bill be re-numbered or re-lettered as necessitated by the amendments made therein and that all references therein to the numbering or lettering of clauses and sub-clauses be corrected as required by such re-numbering."

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is that in the nature of an amendment or is it a separate motion?

Mr. President: It is a separate motion. The question is:

"That the clauses and sub-clauses of the Bill be re-numbered or re-lettered as necessitated by the amendments made therein and that all references therein to the numbering or lettering of clauses and sub-clauses be corrected as required by such re-numbering."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Mr. President, I was listening to the Honourable the Finance Member's last speech with great attention and I was struck by the great fund of good humour and pleasant phrasing which helped to relieve an otherwise dreary atmosphere caused by weeks of skirmishing over financial and political issues. But after listening to all the illuminating or depressing speeches which were made in this House for about a week, the Honourable the Finance Member came to the conclusion that the entire debate proceeded in an atmosphere of unreality. I am surprised that the Honourable the Finance Member did not realise right in the beginning that nothing else could possibly take place in this House, because as long as the antediluvian political and constitutional structure continues to exist and does not yield place to the new spirit and the aspirations of the country and as long as this side of the House which consists of a majority of the elected representatives continued to labour under a great disability, mainly the disability of not having any voice

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali]

in the raising of money in this country, there can be nothing else but an atmosphere of unreality. The approach of the two sides of the House to every question here are diametrically opposite. On one side we have an autocratic Government—I am not blaming the Finance Member; it is the structure under which he is working, it is the constitution under which he has to discharge his duties—a wholly autocratic and despotic Government sustained by their secretariat and on the other we find the elected representatives who cannot carry anything to a successful conclusion, if this Government make up their mind to defeat us. It is only on very rare occasions that we can carry any proposition to a successful issue, and therefore the atmosphere of unreality is implicit in the very nature of the situation. All I can say about this unreality is that it is inevitable and this ought to be realised by those who are concerned with the situation as we find it in India today. These old wine skins are utterly unsuitable for holding the new wine. . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: You are not calling us old wine skins?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Yes, these are the old wine skins that are bound to burst when the new wine is poured into them.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): Somewhat heady.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: It is going to many heads I assure you and I hope the whole situation will settle down to a calm and peaceful atmosphere before the wine actually goes to the head, which is not desired by anyone anywhere.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Not the next morning?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Honourable the Finance Member made a reference to what he called a fascist order from Bombay. I think he went further and called it Nazism. Let me correct the Honourable the Finance Member's estimate of the situation. He thought most probably on the strength of the Press report that some orders were passed by someone outside this House, which were obeyed by the party. I can assure him that the party took its own decision right in the beginning and the party took this decision consistently with its past traditions. There was no question of any outside interference and all that appeared in the press must be regarded as nothing more than speculation. And may I now take this occasion to assure the Finance Member and all others concerned that this attitude of the Congress has been consistent ever since it came into this House and it is based on very good grounds.

The situation is this. Leave out the constitutional issue. 88 per cent (if I am wrong the Honourable the Finance Member will correct me but the last time when I made my calculations it was 88 per cent though it may be otherwise today) of the entire money that is sought to be raised by the Finance Bill is non-votable. We have no voice in the expenditure that is involved in this Finance Bill. We can always sanction expenditure but when it comes to the question of raising money it is obvious that our duty becomes heavier, our responsibility is tremendous. We are answerable to the people who have sent us here. Can we turn to our constituents and say "Every penny that you have contributed is carefully watched by us." We know where and how it is going to be spent. We know who is responsible for raising this money. We are not responsible. We have no voice in raising that money. If that is so it is a simple and straight forward position and it is the final ground on which we are bound to vote against the Finance Bill. Anyone who does not take that view is answerable to the taxpayer. He is naturally answerable to his constituents.

Now you cannot turn round and say that this is an irresponsible way of dealing with things. This is the most responsible way of dealing with things. There can be no other way that can be more responsible. Here we are sitting in this House from day to day discussing and debating matters and finally when it comes to somebody putting his hand into somebody else's pocket we are

debarred from saying to what extent the Government should take money out of another person's pocket. After all the entire organisation that is maintained by the Government of India is paid for by the taxpayer. In fact it is paid for even by the pauper who buys a penny worth of salt and thus indirectly pays his share of the tax. So we feel that we are representing here not merely our constituents but we are representing even those who are not our constituents and have not voted for us but to whom we owe a responsibility. It is on that ground that we are bound to vote against the Finance Bill, whatever happens, until the entire constitutional structure of the Government of India is changed, until the old tottering order has yielded place to the new. That structure must go and until it is gone we are bound to continue to vote against the Finance Bill.

Here I may be allowed for a moment to touch on another aspect. I am not going into any details of the Finance Bill.

If it has any good features, they are there. If it has any defective features, they are there; we cannot correct them now. Much has been said as regards both frankly, sometimes in a heated and sometimes in a calm manner, but the result is there; the result depends on the will of one person who can just say "Wavell": He has only to sign a certificate and everything that the government wants will be done. So long as this situation continues, it is very surprising that this party should continue to vote against the Bill? I am not concerned with what the other parties are going to do. It is their lookout; it has nothing to do with me; they are free; after all we are all exercising freedom of conscience. This is how our conscience dictates our course, and it is for the others to decide about themselves.

Here perhaps I may take this opportunity of saying a word or two about a reference that was made by the Deputy Leader of the League Party. I speak with complete deference, with great respect, in a spirit of conciliation and not in a spirit of acrimony. I wish to assure him and all those who sit behind him that he can take it from me—and I am speaking with the utmost sincerity of which I am capable—that it has never been the desire or the effort of the Congress in any way to alienate those whom the League represents. It has been our constant effort; (we are human beings; we may have committed errors; who does not); in spite of everything I can assure him that ever since 1927 right down to the present day, it has been the constant desire, in fact a passionate desire of the Congress to try and come to a settlement with all those who do not agree with it; and we have made very conceivable effort in our own way to do so. We have not tired of these efforts and we never will; and we mean to see this country established on the rock foundation of freedom, which must be enjoyed by Hindus, Muslims and everybody alike. We want this country to grow in greatness, in glory, in wealth and in everything worth having and we want every one to have his due share of the wealth of the country, and of the social amenities which this country may offer, and of the greatness which this country may achieve. I can assure you that there is nothing else behind our mind. It is only this and this feeling and this desire, this passionate desire which moves us. It is true there may be differences; there can be honest differences. For God's sake I appeal to all who are concerned to try and see that honest differences are not misinterpreted as a result of cussedness or the result of any animosity or the result of trying to over reach another. That is not so. Let us sit down round a table any time, and I guarantee that you will find the Congress as reasonable as anybody can be under the sun, to examine everything carefully, to examine every grievance and every demand carefully and if our investigation leads us to certain conclusions they shall be accepted. They shall be accepted in a good spirit; they shall be accepted in the spirit in which they ought to be accepted. Some reference was made somewhere about India being a country where many nations are housed. I have no quarrel with any one for saying that India is multi-national; I have no quarrel with any one who says that India is multi-religious and I have no quarrel with any one who says that India is multi-racial. There are at least two countries, two sub-continent, in the world which are

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali]

multi-national, multi-religious and multi-racial, but they act as one political entity *vis-a-vis* the rest of the world. We have got the U. S. S. R. and the U. S. A. How many nationalities do you not find there? How many religions do you not find there? How many races do you not find there; but politically they have come to act and are acting *vis-a-vis* the rest of the world as one political entity. It is this political entity that we are laying a great deal of stress on, particularly in the world of today, where we find that the whole world has shrunk, metaphorically speaking, to the size of my hand's palm. Distances have been annihilated and science has brought men and men together so very close that today it has become impossible for us to say that a country which is thousands of miles away is more than about a couple of days distance from us. In a world of this description we have got to think of the political structure that we have to build up—[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)]—in order that we may live in this world happily, and with pride, and in order that we may be able to hold our own. The last war has left this world with only three great Powers—one politically great and two materially and politically great . . .

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: May I rise to a point of order? Is it within the rules of etiquette of this chamber for the occupant of the Chair to leave it while a member is on his feet?

Mr. Deputy President: Yes, it is.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I consider that—and I most respectfully urge upon you to convey to the occupant of the Chair—that there is at least one member of the House who considers it improper because it is a reflection . . .

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I will not accept the 'order, order' coming from members like that.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I wish you to convey my grievance. (Some Honourable Members: Order, order.) This matter must be considered.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order: will the Honourable Member resume his seat? There can be no reflection on the action of the Chair.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I have been a member of a House of legislature and I know what is the correct etiquette. Such a thing shall not happen again.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order.

Srijiit Dharendra Kantha Lahiri Choudhury (Bengal Landholders): On a point of order, Sir. Is an Honourable Member competent enough to cast aspersions on the Chair?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): The Honourable Member did not cast any reflection on the Chair, because you are in the Chair.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I continue? I was saying that this world as we find it today, after the great catastrophe, presents us with a very curious picture. Great powers have gone into the melting pot and have been finished; and only three great powers are left in the world—the United States, the U.S.S.R., and Britain. I say that politically the United Kingdom is great even today. It is no use saying that it is not. Materially the United Kingdom is very low. The United States and the U.S.S.R. are both materially and politically very great today. These two colossuses today practically sit astride the whole world, and they are taking a global view. One of these colossuses is nearer home than the other, so far as we are concerned. I look at the whole picture from the point of view of one who lives in India, who sees who is his next door

neighbour. My next door neighbours in the north and in the northwest are the republics of the U.S.S.R. They are great powers and they have great potentialities which are never absent from my mind, and therefore I begin to say to myself, "what sort of country am I going to have"? On the one side I have got China in a more or less disturbed condition and on the other side I have got the entire middle east and the near east, also more or less in a disturbed condition, and I see this huge colossus, or call it an avalanche, politically if you like, sliding down. I am so near it that I feel that I have got to build up my defences on sound foundations all round India, from Kashmir down to Cape Comorin and from Cutch to the other side of India on the North East Frontier.

Chaudhri Sri Chand (Nominated Non-Official): Has your party decided not to concede on the Pakistan issue?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I do not give way. I lay down one condition and no others for the future picture of India that I have in view and that condition is—let the defence of the country and therefore naturally the external affairs of the country which go hand in hand . . .

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: And therefore, naturally, communications, customs, and so on.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I am not referring to them now. These two that I have mentioned must remain indivisible and for the rest, I am not bound by any name, you can exercise whatever degree of sovereignty or autonomy you like anywhere in India and let us all get together. Let us build our country up. Let us have a big plan and let us recreate, and reconstruct an India which may be a pride both to Indians and to the world.

Now, Sir, I come to the Finance Member's criticism about the opposition. His criticism against the opposition was that they were speaking in an atmosphere of unreality and they were attacking planning and everything else, little realising that a great deal has been done as far as planning is concerned. Our approach to these problems may appear a little surprising to the benches opposite but our approach is a consistent one. We dream of this kind of India and naturally therefore we want to apply the test of our own conception of planning to the proposals which come from the Finance Member or from the Government and we find that according to the yardstick that we have in our possession these proposals good as they may be in their own way are utterly inadequate and wholly insufficient for the needs of this country. We want colossal planning but for colossal planning we must also have a Government which has the support of the people. Otherwise how can this Government put its hand into other people's pockets with impunity. I very much fear they cannot. It is our duty to go on telling this Government that this is our approach and our point becomes more emphatic today, because it has been said over and over again that this is the last act of the present Government that the present Government is about to yield place to a new Government. If that is so, we naturally say the test is there. If this desire to transfer power immediately to a Government which will have popular support is sincere and honest, then we see no reason why the planning which we have in view should not influence the proposals of the Finance Member today. He ought to look at it from that point of view and plan accordingly and say—since the popular representatives are coming to this side we must look at everything from their point of view and looking at it from their point of view, 9 crores worth of planning is a drop in the ocean. That is why we criticise the government's planning. I fully realise that the Finance Member has made an honest attempt within his own limitations to throw out a few trends here and there. The trends may be good in themselves but they are trends that have got to be integrated. They must go further and reach the furthest point of the circumference. Our objective is this. We find that our country is full of material and natural wealth. We have at least 20 crores of adults living in this country and one and a half times as much more labour power (which may be nearly 30 crores or 25 crores I cannot be exact about it) in the country. Then you have skill available. If we have got a big plan which

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

I turn to the Englishmen in this House, and if I may pitch my claim a little higher than my common sense would ask me to do, I would tell them "Gentlemen, if you are going out of India give it back to the people from whom you took it."

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): I entirely endorse that remark.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh: And so do I!

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: "Gentlemen, if you are really going away leave it to the people who know and understand administration; do not leave it to the money-making machines who will enslave the country as they have done for millenniums and millenniums over. I admit that I too have developed the slave mentality; 150 to 200 years have made my slavery worse than that of the seasoned slaves of centuries. Sir, my slavery is a double slavery. I am a slave of the Englishman as well as of his agent,—my non-Muslim compatriot in this country. If one reads Anglo-Indian history as I have done, the gentlemen who are talking tall today will realise that it was not the Muslims that established British rule in India. The agents of the British were people other than the Muslims; and yet being in the same boat and tarnished with the same brush of slavery as they are, I am more than anxious to come to terms with them, but not on the lines suggested. The U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. have become the ideals of hybrids in civilisation and political philosophy of the type of my Honourable colleagues in the Congress who have no political theory of their own. Sir, they have read propaganda literature but they have not met men. The Presidium of the U.S.S.R. and the caucus in Moscow have kept Muslim Russia in a state of terror. They talk without knowledge. Sir, I have met people from Caucasia, from Daghestan, from Azov, and from Central Asia. You cannot utter one word, you cannot give expression to any idea of yours in that wretched country called the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. There are the Brahmins of Moscow who call themselves communists, and there are the untouchables in Russia who are not allowed to go from one village to another. They also talk of the United States of America. I have not got any long association with it, but the American worthies did not have the decency to remove from the station at Hot Springs, in Virginia, where the Pacific Relations Conference met, in 1944, at which the representatives of 52 Nations had gathered together the two tablets, marked "Whites" and "Coloured". They advertised their incapacity for democracy by keeping those two boards actually there. Therefore neither the United States nor the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics can be an ideal to me. The U.S.A. has its problem of Untouchables, in the Negroes. I do not know why Honourable Members to my right go thousands of miles away when next door they will find a democracy, they will find brotherhood. They will find a human experience not only preached but practised, where man is brother to man and man is not divided into a Brahman and an Untouchable who are not given the position even of human beings. We have been guaranteed by the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party an equal share in the future largesse that these gentlemen to my right propose to secure in India. May I inquire of them why the Deputy Leader of that party did not tell us how he was going to divide it? I have not understood that argument and I hope the Honourable Leader of the Congress Party will clarify, elucidate and explain that equality of distribution of rights to us. What they always have at the back of their mind is,—We shall share equally but on the basis of the rule of the majority. That rule of the majority we have seen at least for two years and a few months in the seven Provinces of this country. We knew how they were going to rule; we saw how they ruled, and we fear how they will rule if the Englishman does not play the game by us. We are poor, we are small in number; but the one thing we shall not tolerate is the type of humbug uttered in this House today. What we shall demand is further clarification and no nonsense. (Interruption from the Congress Benches) Sir, I seek your protection. I said once before

that when the arrow goes right through the heart they begin to shout. I am not ashamed of what I am saying. The disturbance is due to the avalanche of shame that has fallen on them because of the nonsense uttered. The Muslim does not want any teaching from anybody else in this land of India. He knows what he was and he knows what he shall be. But I would seriously warn my compatriots sitting to my right not to allow Muslims in their camp to hurt us by utterances which they know to be untrue. If a Hindu friend genuinely and sincerely criticizes me I would welcome his criticism and offer what explanation I could give.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): Not Asaf Ali.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Gentlemen who know what the Muslims are and what the Muslims want, must now readjust their outlook. When they start preaching to us homilies, the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition will grant me the right, at least, to protest. I hope in the future he will see to it that the word 'Muslim' is not uttered by such un-Muslim Muslims, as the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party.

Mr. Deputy President: I think the Honourable Member should not call any one un-Muslim.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): He is pleasing somebody!

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: I withdraw the remark. I apologise to the Member who is not here, through you. You can easily imagine how terribly irritated I have felt.

Mr. Vadilal Lalubhai: Go on with your humbugs.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: But when a Muslim member talks nonsense as we have heard it to-day, we shall not tolerate it and we shall not allow it to go unchallenged.

A similar sort of humbug coming out of his mouth was about the remarks made by the Honourable Member for Labour. I feel that he, too, had sufficient provocation to speak as he did. Can you imagine, Sir, and you, too, have been long enough in the public life of this country, that the biggest failure of Mahatma Mohan Das Karam Chand Gandhi has been the problem of the Harijans? Do you realize, Sir, that this also is the most gigantic humbug ever taken up by the Congress? I wonder how many of the Hindu gentlemen present to my right will take a glass of water out of the hands of the *mehtar* of my house! I will not divulge secrets, but the prophet not being known in his own village was actually true in the Ashram at Ahmedabad. I speak on my book, and my utterance is unchallengeable on the point. Therefore, to extend sympathy to the untouchables, the depressed classes, the scheduled castes or Harijans as Mahatmaji calls them, is to talk piffle and utter balderdash. Let us make that the test of the sincerity of the nationalism of the Congress. If they give human rights to the untouchables, I may be dead by then, but my soul will perhaps accept their sincerity. Today when they talk of nationalism, when they talk of equal rights, when they talk of sending these gentlemen home and dream of sitting in their places, sometimes in my lonely moments I feel whether it will be better on my part to go down on my bended knees and ask the Englishman to continue to be here or to allow these Brahmanical blood-suckers to rule over me and to push me down to the level of the untouchables. I have asked many a time where are the 80 to 100 million Buddhists that were in this country. I do not want the fate of my fraternity to go down to the level of the Buddhists in this country. The times are hard and things are very difficult. I hope those who claim to possess the majority right and power in this country will even at this late hour try and show a gesture of real friendship and equity. If they do not they will continue to remain what they are and I shall continue to remain what I am.

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

Sir, I support the third reading of the Bill.

(At this stage Miss Maniben Kara rose in her seat).

Mr. Deputy President: Before the Honourable Member starts, I must remind her that this debate will end at 5 p.m., and I do not want to extend the period beyond 5 p.m. The questions will have to be put and the speeches must be made accordingly.

Miss Maniben Kara: I had no intention of speaking this afternoon, but having listened to the speeches of the members of the two major political parties in the country, I could not help saying a few words on this occasion. Listening to the speeches of the leaders of both parties, Sir, I could feel that they are all fighting amongst themselves for the division of loaves and fishes. No one in this House has uttered a single word as to how is the country going to be governed, what are the fundamental things on which the country is going to be ruled, what will be the sort of constitution of this country? Nobody has brought these questions in the speeches which they have made so far. All the differences which exist today between these major political parties to my mind arise simply because neither of the two major political parties has placed concrete social and economic programme before the country, which is the surest guarantee of uniting the Muslim and Hindu workers of this country. The fact is that there is an absence of the content of freedom in these parties everybody talks of freedom. The version of one class is not the version of freedom of the other class. The version of freedom of my honourable friend, Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai is not the freedom of the worker. The freedom of the richman is not the freedom of the poor man. The rich man wants the freedom from the white bureaucracy so that he can exploit the poor classes in place of the white Power while the poor man's freedom is not his fight against the colour of the skin but his fight is for his own economic freedom. I would appeal to these parties in the name of the common man of this country that if you are really for the people of this country, then you should put before the country an economic programme which is the only guarantee for uniting the common men of this country—the Muslim peasants, the Hindu peasants, the Sikh peasants, the Christian peasants—all the peasants of this country are suffering from indebtedness and poverty, from landlordism and from insufficiency of production. They are suffering because there is lack of modern means of production in this country. If these questions were brought forward the unity of the masses would be achieved in a day. Unfortunately the composition of these major political parties in this country being based on vested interests, the result is that the masses are nowhere. I take this occasion when the Cabinet Mission is in this country, to warn them "Do not consider that the major political parties are the custodians of the people of this country." The poor people, the common man of this country do not appear in the picture of these two quarrelling parties. If freedom is wanted by anybody in India it is wanted by the common man, who has not enough to eat, who has no place to live and no clothes to clothe himself with. Two years back we were told that the question of economic freedom to this country will be taken up first before any political question is taken up. I would appeal most earnestly to the members of both these parties that the only solution to this country is a common socio-economic programme. Then alone there will be unity. Otherwise this vicious circle will continue and the common man will go on suffering. The third party in this country will say they are willing to give power and freedom, if you unite and decide your own fate for yourself. That is the vicious circle that has been existing for years together and if anybody is responsible for the present condition of this country it is both these major political parties. They have been fighting amongst themselves brushing aside the common man of this land. I take this opportunity of warning the Cabinet Mission which has come to this country not to forget that there is the common man, there are people in this country whose case is not voiced by any of these political parties. With these words, Sir, I conclude my remarks.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, this debate is really a reflection of the debate of the previous seven days in that it has very little relevance to the Finance Bill, though my friends opposite have explained why that was so and, on that question, why it was so I shall say nothing. I was warned yesterday when I made a brief intrusion into politics about what would ensue and in view of the exposition that has taken place this afternoon the warning was justified. I certainly should not like to be a referee in a fencing ring between the light weight on my left and the welter weight on my right. I do not think I really have anything to answer on the third reading. Whatever points have been raised, I have already dealt with in the second reading debate. Sir, I move that the question be now put.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the Bill as amended be passed."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—63

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee, Raja Sir Saiyid.
Ambedkar, The Hon. Dr. B. R.
Anthony, Mr. Frank R.
Ayers, Mr. C. W.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurnath.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.
Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. T.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Greenfield, Mr. H.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur, Captain.
Sardar.
Himmatainhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Inskip, Mr. A. C.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.
Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.
Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Kara, Miss Maniben.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Krishnama Acharya, Rao Bahadur Sir V. T.

Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Masson, Mr. P.
Mohammad Amir Ahmad Khan Bahadur Raja.
Morris, Mr. R. C.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Nauman, Mr. Muhammad.
Oulanam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Sargent, Sir John.
Sen, Mr. B. R.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Sheehy, Sir John.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad.
Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Solanki, Dr. P. G.
Spence, Sir George.
Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Turner, Mr. A. C.
Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Weightman, Mr. H.
Yeatts, Mr. M. W. M.
Yusuf Abdoolah Haroon Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—57

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.
Adityan, Sri S. T.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Bose, Sri Sarat Chandra.
Chaman Lal, Diwan.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Choudhuri Sreejuti Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Sheodasa.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.

Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
Gangaraju, Sri V.
Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Gounder, Sri V. C. Vellingiri.
Govind Das, Seth.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hirey, Sjt. B. S.
Jagannathdas Sri.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
Karmarkar, Shri D. P.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.

Lahiri Choudhury, Sreejot Dhirendra Kanta.	Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.
Madandhari Singh, Mr.	Salve, Mr. P. K.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.	Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.	Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Manu Subedar, Mr.	Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Masani, Mr. M. R.	Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.	Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.	Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.	Sukhdev, Seth.
Narayanamurthi, Sri N.	Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader
Neogy, Mr. K. O.	Sardar.
Ram Narayan Singh, Babu.	Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.	Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.	Vadilal Lalubhai, Mr.
Reddiar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.	Varma, Mr. B. B.
	Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: In connection with the Demands for Supplementary Grants in respect of Railways which will be taken up to-morrow, I have to inform the Honourable Members that it has not been possible for the Railway Department to get printed the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways of the 25th, 26th and 27th March 1946 concerning the provision to be made by way of supplementaries for the year 1945-46 in regard to road services with the result that copies of these proceedings have not been circulated to members. A typed copy of these proceedings has been placed in the Library for the purpose of reference by the members.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur *cum* Nellore; Non-Muhammadian Rural): If there is only one copy that is kept in the Library, it will be impossible for the one hundred and forty members of this House to go and consult that one copy. We are learning about it only just now and we have to discuss it tomorrow. How is it possible?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): We shall place one or two more copies in the Library.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab; Non-Muhammadian): May I say that it is not possible to hold any sort of a debate unless and until copies are in the possession of members? One or two will not solve the problem. I suggest therefore that either these demands may be put off to another day; until the Department is in a position to have copies ready no debate is possible.

Mr. Deputy President: Will it be possible for the Railway Department to supply at least two copies each to the two parties?

Diwan Chaman Lall: Two copies will not do. After all there are large numbers of members here who want to take an intelligent interest in voting away money, unlike some of my friends over there, and if we are going to have a reasonable debate on this matter, it is necessary that all the documents must be before us.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division; Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I think that my party needs copies much more because we have to consider these things on merits, not like my friends over there who come here with the intention of throwing out everything, whether there is any reason or not. But what I want to say is this; was it not possible for Government to have these copies cyclostyled? There is a strike only in the press, but surely all the cyclostyle machines and so on have not got out of order.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Let them be postponed for another week.

Mr. A. O. Turner (Government of India; Nominated Official): May I explain that the meeting was held only the day before yesterday and the draft proceedings were not sent for printing until the members had seen them yesterday; and so there has not been time to have them finally printed. The proceedings relate only to one item viz., Road Services; in regard to the rest of the supplementary demands the proceedings of the S. F. C. are already in the possession of Honourable members. The proceedings were comparatively short and any one can read them in 5 minutes.

Diwan Chaman Lall: What is the difficulty in getting it cyclostyled?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: We will see if we cannot get them cyclostyled and circulated to members.

Mr. Deputy President: I think the proceedings of the meeting of the 27th are not very long; they are very small.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 29th March, 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Friday, 29th 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. Bernard Christopher Allen Cook, O.B.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official);
Mr. Charles Frederick Victor Williams, I.C.S., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official); and
Mr. Madapusi Viraragavachari Rangachari (Government of India: Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

EMIGRATION OF INDIANS TO AVOID FAMINES

1378. *Seth Govind Das: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Famine Enquiry Commission had expressed that an ultimate decrease in the rate of population is not only desirable but extremely necessary to avoid famines in India in future?

(b) If so, do the Government of India intend to accept and act according to the recommendation and report of the Famine Enquiry Commission?

(c) If so, what arrangements do Government propose to make for the emigration of Indians to other countries of the Commonwealth which are very sparsely populated?

(d) Do they also contemplate to send the demobilised Indian soldiers to such other countries?

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

(b) and (c). The Government of India agree with the Famine Enquiry Commission that we are not at present justified in depending on Emigration as a means of influencing population growth. No recommendation was made by the Commission on this point, but in considering the general question of settlement of Indians overseas due attention will be given to the view expressed by the Commission that Emigration of Indians to sparsely populated parts of the Commonwealth would help to relieve the pressure of the population on land in India.

(d) No proposal is at present under consideration in regard to sending of demobilised Indian soldiers to other countries.

Seth Govind Das: Will Government be prepared to consider if a scheme is put forward before them to send our population to East Africa which is the nearest colony to India?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That question should be addressed to some other department.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What arrangements have been made with regard to the cultivation of lands in the Andamans where, I understand, enormous waste lands are available?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have no information on that point.

Seth Govind Das: Is the Honourable Member aware that in East Africa also there are enormous lands for cultivation and if emigration is opened to that country a great amount of land can come under cultivation for the good of the inhabitants of that country as well as the persons who are sent on emigration?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I shall take note of what the Honourable Member has said.

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.

INDIAN FOOD DELEGATION TO LONDON AND WASHINGTON

1379. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the names of those non-officials who were requested to accompany the Honourable Sir Jwala Prasad with the Indian Delegation to London and Washington; and

(b) the names of such non-officials who refused to go with such a Delegation, and the reasons conveyed by them, if any, for the same?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). It is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to say how the public interest is going to be affected by certain information disclosed with respect to my question?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have nothing more to add.

Sri S. T. Adityan: What is the reason for not giving the information? The Honourable Member has not given the reason.

Mr. President: He has. He has said that it is not in the public interest to give the information.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Government of India take strong measures against those non-officials like my Congress friends who refused to co-operate in such a vital issue as the food crisis.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will co-operators be rewarded?

MEMBERS OF CENTRAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

1380. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) the names of the members of the Central Food Advisory Council;

(b) their qualifications; and

(c) the total annual expenditure of this Council with special reference to the salary they get?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). A statement giving the names and qualifications of the members of the Central Food Advisory Council is placed on the table of the House.

(c) The total expenditure of this Council amounted to Rs. 13,337 in 1944-45 and Rs. 6,206-14-0 in 1945-46. No salary is paid to the members. Besides Railway fare they get a daily allowance of Rs. 20 and conveyance allowance of Rs. 5 per day for the period the Council is in session.

List of Members of the Central Food Advisory Council
Names

1. Khan Bahadur Abdul Momin, C.I.E., M.L.C.	Representatives of Producers and Land-lord.
2. Syed Aizaz Rasul, M.L.A.	
3. Nawab Major Jamshed Ali Khan, M.B.E.	
4. Sir Williams Roberts, C.I.E., M.L.A.	
5. Raja Sahib of Jahangirabad.	
6. Sir Datar Singh.	
7. Sardar Vivek Singh.	
8. Ch. Mukhtar Singh.	
9. Sir Mani Lal B. Nanavati.	
10. Mr. Ivor Bull, M.B.E.	
11. Mr. B. Ramchandra Roddy, C.B.E.	
12. Hon'ble Mr. H. D. Townend (Associated Chamber of Commerce).	Representative of Chambers of Commerce.
13. Mr. Gurusharan Lal (Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce).	
14. Mr. Fazalbhoy I. Rahimtoola, C.I.E., J.P.	Representatives of Trade.
15. Sir Purshotamdass Thakurdas, C.I.E., M.B.E.	
16. Mr. D. P. Khaitan, M.L.A.	
17. Sardar Santokh Singh, ex-M.L.A.	
18. Mr. Mohd. Hussain Hashim Premji.	
19. Mr. C. W. Tosh.	
20. Mr. Hussainbhoy A. Lalljee.	

21. Mr. G. D. Pari, (Impl. Bank).	Representatives of Banks.
22. Mr. S. R. Jariwala, (Central Bank).	
23. Prof. L. C. Jain, M.A., Ph.D., D.Sc. (Econ.).	Economist.
24. Col. R. H. Zaidi, C.I.E.	States Representatives.
25. Mr. Narayan Iyer.	
26. Mr. K. F. Haider.	
27. Mr. Mir Akbar Ali Khan, Bar-at-Law.	
28. Dr. W. R. Akroyd.	Dietician.
29. Dewan Bahadur Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya, K.B.E.	Leaders of Public Opinion.
30. Dewan Bahadur Sir Gopalaswami Ayyangar, C.S.I., C.I.E.	
31. Hon'ble Pandit H. N. Kunzru.	
32. Sir Shanmukham Chetty, K.C.I.E.	
33. Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, M.L.A.	
34. Mr. Naville Wadia.	
35. Sir Madhorao G. Deshpande.	
36. N. R. Sarkar, Esq.	Women's Representatives.
37. Begum J. A. Shah Nawaz, M.B.E.	
38. Rani Phul Kumari (of Sherkot), M.B.E.	Labour Representative.
39. Prof. G. D. Parikh.	
40. Mr. N. C. Mehta.	Representative of Trade.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that apart from the representatives of the big landholders there is not even one representative of the actual kisans or peasants and also of agricultural labour on this Council?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member can go through the list first and see whether his statement is correct. If it is correct, then I am quite prepared to consider the question of the inclusion of some representatives of producers.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is it not a fact that the member's attention was drawn to this in the Advisory Council?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not remember it, speaking subject to correction.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that the zamindari system is going, will Government consider the question of having kisans and labour represented on this committee?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am quite prepared to consider this. In fact, there should be a representative of kisans and I shall go into this.

Sreejot Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: Have all the provinces been represented on the Council?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The representation is not on a provincial basis.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that working on this Council will involve greater labour for the kisans than working in the fields?

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Is Bihar represented on this committee?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have said that this committee has not been constituted on the basis of provincial representation. It is based on the representation of interests.

CONTRACT WORKS GIVEN BY HORTICULTURAL DIVISION, CENTRAL P. W. D.,
NEW DELHI

1381. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly place on the table of the House a comparative statement showing the

amount of contract works given by (i) tenders and (ii) work orders, separately, to Muslims, Hindus and Scheduled Caste Contractors in the Horticulture Division of the Central P.W.D., New Delhi, during the period from 1st November, 1943, to the 28th February, 1946, by the present Superintendent, Horticultural Operations, New Delhi?

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

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: What are the reasons why the information is not readily available?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: It is not available in the form in which my Honourable friend wants it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made to give additional opportunities for scheduled caste contractors to have their share?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They can get their share in accordance with the rules laid down.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: There are only very few from the scheduled castes, because they are so poor.

MUSLIM HORTICULTURAL SUBORDINATES IN CENTRAL P. W. D.

1382. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state if it is a fact that three B. Sc. Muslims were appointed in the Central P.W.D. as Horticultural Subordinates on the 28th February, 1945, 19th March, 1945, and 23rd May, 1945, but they were not given charge of Sections till the 28th November, 1945?

(b) On what duties were they put during the intervening period?

(c) If they were not required for specific work expected of them, why has public money to the amount of Rs. 5,000 been wasted in this way, who is responsible for that and what action do Government propose to take against the officer concerned?

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

(b) and (c). As the men were fresh from college and had no practical experience, they were given preliminary training as probationers before being placed in formal charge of sections.

SCALES OF PAY AND INCREMENTS TO CHOWDHRIES AND ASSISTANT CHOWDHRIES IN HORTICULTURE DIVISION

1383. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state the scales of pay and increments allowed to Chowdhries and Assistant Chowdhries in the Horticulture Division?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The scales of pay with rates of increments are as follows:

Chowdhries—Rs. 20—1—35—2—55 (for old entrants).

Rs. 25—1—45 (for new entrants).

Assistant Chowdhries—Rs. 20—1—30 (for old and new entrants).

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the particular post of a Chowdhri?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: A sort of head *mali*.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Do Government expect a Chowdhri to live on Rs. 20 a month in the present day living conditions?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: They get dearness allowance also.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What do they get? Rs. 14 or Rs. 8? How much?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I have not got the information with me.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Will the Government go into the question as to whether industrial class Government employees can really exist on the pay they are getting?

Prof. N. G. Ranga:

How much are the *malis* paid?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I want notice.

APPOINTMENTS MADE BY SUPERINTENDENT HORTICULTURAL OPERATIONS, CENTRAL P. W. D.

1384. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state, community-wise, *vis.*, Hindus, Muslims, Other Minority Communities and Scheduled Castes, the number of persons appointed by the present Superintendent, Horticultural Operations, Central P.W.D., New Delhi, from the 1st November, 1943, to the 28th February, 1946, as clerks, chowdhries, assistant chowdhries, lorry-drivers, fitters, time-keepers and mechanics?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement showing the number of persons appointed by the Superintendent, Horticultural Operations, New Delhi from 1st November 1943 to 28th February 1946.

	Hindus	Muslims	Schedule Castes	Other Minority Community
Clerks	9	2	...	1
Chowdhries	...	1	...	...
Assistant Chowdhries	1	...	...	...
Lorry Drivers	2	...	...	...
Fitters	2	1	...	...
Time Keepers	1	1	...	...
Mechanics	1	...	...	...

MUSLIM OFFICERS IN LABOUR DEPARTMENT

1385. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that in the Labour Department the Secretary, Joint Secretary and the Deputy Secretary are all Hindus? Does the Honourable Member propose to appoint a Muslim Officer in charge of the staff in that Department? If not, why not?

(b) How many subordinates in the Central Public Works Department were promoted as Sub-Divisional Officers during the last five years? Are there any Muslims? If so, how many, and in what proportion?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) No. The Secretary is a European and there are two Muslims, one *ex-officio* Joint Secretary and one Deputy Secretary. These two officers also deal with staff questions. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(b) During the last five years 385 subordinates were promoted as S.D.Os., out of which 56 were Muslims. This works out to 14.5 per cent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: When will the Honourable Member consider the appointment of an Indian Secretary to this Department, in view of the fact that for a number of years past, there has been no Indian Secretary in this Department?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: This is a matter which rests with the Selection Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Who selects the Secretaries of Departments?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I want notice.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is there a selection committee which deals with this question?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: There is a committee to which the matter must be referred and the selection is made only from an approved list.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Does it mean that the Honourable Member has no hand in the appointment?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: Not until there is a vacancy, I am sure.

ERECTION OF NEW SUGAR FACTORIES IN BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

1386. *Sjt. B. S. Hiray: (a) Will the Honourable the Food Member be pleased to state whether there is a move to allow the erection of new Sugar Factories in India; if so, how many in India and how many out of them in Bombay Presidency?

(b) When are these new factories expected to start construction and working?

(c) In what district and talukas and villages of Bombay Province these new Sugar Factories are contemplated to be erected?

(d) What are the names of the persons who have approached Government with the proposals for the erection of new Sugar Factories in Bombay Presidency?

(e) Will Government give preference to small producers of sugar cane if they form a Co-operative Body to erect and run a Sugar Factory?

(f) Do Government propose to take special measures for fostering such Co-operative Institutions of small producers for erecting and running the Sugar Factories?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (c). The Sugar Panel appointed by the P. & D. Department has just submitted its report on this point and the matter is under the consideration of Government. Meanwhile permission to set up six new factories has been given but none of them is in Bombay Presidency.

(b) The new factories are expected to start construction as soon as they are able to import machinery from abroad and obtain essential materials such as iron, steel and cement.

(d) No person has approached Government with such proposals.

(e) and (f). These would be matters for the Provincial Government to consider.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know where these factories are proposed to be located?

Mr. B. R. Sen: One in Hyderabad, one in Travancore, one in Bihar, one in North West Frontier Province, one in Madras and another in Baroda.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government taking any shares in these companies?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What control do Government expect to exercise over these factories?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Provincial Governments exercise certain controls under the Factories Act and other Acts.

Mr. Manu Subedar: On what basis were these locations selected? What is the principle of selection of these six places to the exclusion of many others, including the Bombay Presidency?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The main idea was better distribution of factories all over India.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Is it not a fact that Government decided not to give factories to some provinces, but to concentrate them in some other provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The whole question has been gone into by a committee set up by the Planning and Development Department and their report is just to hand. They have made certain recommendations which are under examination by Government.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether one of the recommendations is that Government should take some part in the running of these factories?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have not myself seen the report, so I am not in a position to give any reply to this question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Then before this matter of policy has been decided Government gave permission to start these factories?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Permission has been given to six factories on the basis that there should be proper distribution of sugar factories in India and that is also the point of view accepted by the Planning and Development Department.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I know whether the Honourable Member has understood my question? Before the matter of policy has been decided, whether it should be state owned, state controlled or private owned by shareholders, how is it that permission has been given to start these six factories?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not sure that that particular point has been referred to that committee set up by the Planning and Development Department.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that there is grave discontent with regard to the location of factories not only in sugar but in other matters, will Government bring this matter up for discussion before the House to decide the whole basis and policy on which new locations of industries are to be permitted?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not in a position to give any reply to this question, but I shall undertake to examine this.

Sreejut Rohini Kumar Chaudhuri: In view of the fact that there is not a single sugar factory actually working in Assam, do Government propose to give special consideration to applications from Assam.

Mr. B. R. Sen: So far as I am aware the Committee of Planning and Development Department has included Assam in the recommendations for new factories.

Seth Govind Das: In view of the fact that popular Ministries are going to come into existence in various provinces, will the Planning and Development committee see that no fresh licenses are given to any industries till the recommendations of these Provincial Ministries are received?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not in a position to answer that question.

Diwan Chaman Lall: There is a little mistake. Which of the two statements of the Honourable Member is correct? Is it that he has not seen the copy of the report and the recommendations or the second one where he says that in the recommendations Assam is included?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Both are correct.

Mr. President: Next question.

SUGAR FACTORIES IN BOMBAY PROVINCE

1387. *Sjt. B. S. Hiray: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) how many Sugar Factories there are in the Bombay Province;

(b) their Capital outlay;

(c) their gross earnings and the operating ratio;

(d) the percentage of profit they make;

(e) the total production of sugar per year; and

(f) whether in view of the huge profits the Sugar Factories are making it is proposed to continue the protection?

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

(b) to (d). The information is not available.

(e) About 75,000 tons sugar was produced in Bombay Province in the year 1944-45 and about 72,000 tons is the estimated production for 1945-46.

(f) The question of protection will doubtless be considered by the Tariff Board in due course.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: With reference to the answer to parts (b) to (d), the Honourable Member said, the information is not available. Is it not a fact that all these factories have to submit their annual reports to the Sugar Technological Institute at Cawnpore?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The information is not readily available to us. If the Honourable Member wants the information, I can go into it. I understand some of this information is regarded as confidential, and cannot be disclosed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: What steps are Government taking in order to get the price of sugar reduced in view of the heavy profits which the sugar factories have made and in view of the removal of E.P.T.?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not sure that it is the general opinion that sugar industry has made large profits. It is possible that in the Bombay presidency where the factories own their own agricultural land for growing sugar cane, the profits are higher than other areas. But as a general proposition I do not think his views are supported by the opinion in the country.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: With reference to the reply of the Honourable Member that the information is confidential, may I point out that the information asked for here is capital outlay in the Bombay presidency, not in one factory, but all the factories in existence in Bombay presidency and this information can never be confidential because these companies are limited joint stock companies and the information is readily available to the Government and it is sent by each factory to the Government. Will the Government place this information in the Library of the House?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This information is probably equally available to the Honourable Member. One of the items on which information is sought in the question is "their gross earnings and the operating ratio". I do not think these are matters which we can disclose to the House.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: The information is available to me and not to the Honourable Member who put down this question.

Maulana Zafar Ali Khan: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state how many sugar factories there are in the Punjab and what their annual produce is?

Mr. President: I do not think that arises out of the question. Next question.

SUGAR FACTORIES IN BRITISH INDIA AND INDIAN STATES.

1388. ***Sjt. B. S. Hiray:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) how many Sugar Factories there are in British India and the Indian States;

(b) the total production of sugar per year in British India and States separately; and

(c) whether the present sugar production is not sufficient to meet the normal demands of the country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) British India—139. Indian States—19.

(b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

Statement showing the total production of sugar in each year from 1942-43 to 1945-46

	British India	Indian States	Total
	(Tons)	(Tons)	(Tons)
1942-43	9,93,148	81,604	10,74,752
1943-44	11,00,537	1,24,700	12,25,237
1944-45	8,56,361	1,15,601	9,71,962
1945-46	8,25,000	1,00,000	9,25,000
(Estimated).			

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Government of India Resolution in the Planning and Development Department lays down the policy that should be followed by Government in various departments in regard to the development of new industries and also further development of existing industries?

Mr. President: How does that arise out of the question and answer given?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My point is, why is it that the Government of India do not take any action at all in trying to effect a certain amount of control over the management as well as the profits of these sugar factories? The Honourable Member said earlier that they do not propose to have any control at all

Mr. President: That is with reference to the previous question, and no supplementary question can now be asked on that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Keeping that in mind, what I wish to ask is this. Since they are going to have new factories in addition to those that are already there, why is it that the Government of India do not try to gain some control over the new factories?

Mr. President: I do not think it arises; the question only asked for information.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: With reference to part (c), is it a fact that in 1939 and 1940 there was over-production of sugar in this country and Government imposed an import duty on foreign sugar?

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

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that sugar interests expressed very grave dissatisfaction at Government's undertaking not to export any sugar from India and that there was a surplus at one time, will the Honourable Member tell us whether Government maintain a machinery for constantly revising the prices of foodgrains in favour of the consumer?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am sorry I could not follow the question.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If the sugar produced is adequate why are not the prices brought down? That is the question.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have said that the sugar produced in this country is not adequate; it falls far short of the demand. The demand in the country is estimated at 15 lakhs tons while the production last year was 9.7 lakh tons. This year the production is estimated at something less than 9.7 lakh tons. So there is a gap still to fill.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government examining the possibility of controlling the whole of this industry,—taking charge of the management of the industry?

Mr. President: That question does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Honourable Member says he is not quite sure that they are making sufficient profits and he is not sure of the amount. So Government should take over this industry and then run it.

Mr. President: Where does the question of profits come here?

Mr. B. E. Sen: He is referring to the previous question.

Mr. President: Next question.

SENIORITY OF CERTAIN OFFICERS FOR PURPOSES OF ALLOTMENT OF GOVERNMENT RESIDENCES.

1389. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that during the period of emergency certain offices of the Central Government (Secretariat and Attached Offices) were moved from Delhi/Simla to outstations, for want of office accommodation?

(b) Is it a fact that the staff on return with the offices have not been allowed to count their previous service for purposes of entitlement to Government quarters on the ground that they moved to a station other than Delhi/Simla and that in their cases their seniority for entitlement to accommodation was reckoned from the date of subsequent arrival at Delhi?

(c) Is it a fact that the Secretariat staff working at Calcutta have been allowed to count their previous service for purpose of seniority for accommodation?

(d) If so why has this sort of discrimination between the staff of the Secretariat and Attached Offices in regard to allotment of residential accommodation been made?

(e) Are Government aware that these people have been penalised for no fault of their own in regard to allotment of quarters, as they had to move under orders of the Labour Department in the interest of the State?

(f) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of restoring the suspended liens in respect of these individuals and allot them accommodation according to their date of joining offices at Delhi/Simla?

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

(b) The correct position is as follows:

Some of the staff were allowed to count their previous service if the period of absence from Delhi was not more than one year and if they hold liens on Government residences in Delhi. This qualifying period was subsequently reduced to a maximum of six months.

(c) Yes, but only the staff posted in a Secretariat Department at Calcutta or transferred from a Secretariat Department in Delhi/Simla to a Secretariat Department in Calcutta prior to April 1st, 1945.

(d) There has been no discrimination between the staff of the Secretariat and attached offices except in the case of Calcutta where a Branch Secretariat of a Government of India Department was located and transfers between the Headquarters and the Branch Secretariat were frequent. With the issue of the revised rules, this concession has been withdrawn w.e.f. 1st April, 1945 and persons transferred to a Secretariat Department at Calcutta after this date are not allowed to count their previous service for allotment in Delhi.

(e) Government are aware that some officers have been prejudicially affected by the Rules—but this is inevitable in the working of Rules designed formally to secure the efficiency of administration by reducing movements to a minimum.

(f) Government do not propose to alter the rules in this respect.

SUPPLY OF MATERIAL TO SARDAR SOBHA SINGH TO BUILD QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI.

1390. *Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether it is a fact that Sardar Sobha Singh was given material by Government to build quarters in New Delhi?

(b) What is the cost of the material supplied, and under what arrangement?

(c) How many flats has he built? What is the rent of each flat, how many of these flats are occupied and how many are empty?

(d) Are Government granting any subsidy? If so, in what manner and where it is granted to the said Sardar Sobha Singh?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: (a) I presume that the Honourable Member refers to the residential flats on the junction of Cornwallis Road and Hamayun Road, New Delhi, built by S. B. Sir Sobha Singh. If so, the reply is in the affirmative.

(b) The cost of material supplied is about Rs. 1½ lakhs. The contractor is to bear the entire cost of the material supplied to him.

(c) The number of flats so far constructed is 72. There are two types of flats; a two-bed-room flat and a single bed room flat. The rent of the former has been provisionally fixed at Rs. 220 p.m. and of the latter at Rs. 175 p.m. Provisional rent has been fixed as complete information about the cost of construction has not been supplied by the landlord. Out of the 72 flats, Government have taken over 65 flats of which 59 are already occupied and 6 have been allotted to officers on the waiting list.

(d) No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why have Government a soft corner for this prince of contractors Sardar Bahadur Sir Sobha Singh?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: I do not see any soft corner here.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that they have been favouring him in preference to so many other contractors?

The Honourable Dr. B. E. Ambedkar: Not at all, Sir.

EXPORT OF WHEAT TO BURMA.

1391. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if Government have decided or propose to export wheat to Burma; if so, in what quantities; and

(b) why Government export wheat to Burma even when India is faced with a food famine?

Mr. B. E. Sen: (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PROCUREMENT AND PRESERVATION OF FOODGRAINS

1392. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Food Secretary kindly state:

(a) whether Government have considered the advisability of consulting or enlisting the service of Indian experts for larger procurements of foodgrains and proper preservations of grains for enhancing or protecting the quality of foodgrains;

(b) if not, whether Government propose to secure the services of experienced cultivators and reputed dealers to advise Government on the methods of preservation to prevent wastage;

(c) the estimated total approximate quantity of grains that get spoiled in this country due to rats, etc., and due to ill-preservation; and

(d) whether Government propose ensuring safeguards against that wastage by requisitioning expert advice from people of experience?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The general question of procurement of foodgrains was fully discussed in 1943 by the Foodgrains Policy Committee on which important non-official opinion was represented. For the conservation of foodgrains during storage, trained staff have already been appointed, who work in collaboration with other technically qualified staff employed in Provinces and States.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The annual losses in storage on account of insects, rodents and other causes are estimated at about 3/34 million tons a year.

(d) Government have already appointed technical staff and taking action to reduce losses in storage.

Seth Govind Das: With reference to part (a) of the question, may I know if representatives of all the provinces were present when the question of procurement was considered?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Representatives of most of the provinces were present.

Seth Govind Das: Was there any representative from Central Provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I cannot recollect straight-off; but it was a very well represented committee.

Seth Govind Das: Does the Honourable Member know that grain is preserved in different ways in different provinces and particularly in the Central Provinces no technical help is given to cultivators to preserve their grain?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It is correct that conditions of storage vary from province to province. But the question asked here is whether Government have taken up the question of giving technical advice for the improvement of storage conditions, and I have replied that this has already been done.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: If 3½ million tons of foodgrains were spoiled by insects and other causes, what is the percentage of loss?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It is about 5 per cent.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that they would be able to save these 3½ million tons of grain wasted in this fashion if Government were to provide grain elevators throughout the country?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Grain elevators may help to some extent, but it is not possible to save the entire quantity, because the wastage is due to various causes.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that if grain elevators were provided for the peasantry in the grain growing areas all the grain that is harvested would go straightaway into these grain elevators?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Honourable Member raised this question on some other day also and the reply was that Government were considering the question of construction of silos for this purpose.

Seth Govind Das: Is the grain wasted in military storage also included in the grain that has been wasted last year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This is a figure which has been given to us by the Agricultural Department and this represents the normal losses in this country.

Seth Govind Das: Does it include the losses which the military stores have suffered during the last year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Not specifically. But the losses suffered by the Military form a small part of the total losses.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Why will not Government construct one grain elevator as an experiment?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The Government have already constructed godowns in several parts of the country.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Elevators?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is under consideration.

Seth Govind Das: Has any grain godown been constructed in the Central Provinces?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Several godowns.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is Government examining the utility of the traditional methods of the Kisans in storing the grain in the earth and specially in straw-stores?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I think the idea is that we should go in for more scientific storage than what has been the practice in this country.

ORDERS FOR SUPPLY OF ACCESSORIES FOR TRACTORS.

1393. ***Sri S. T. Adityan:** (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary please state whether Government are aware of the news sent by *Reuter* from London on the 11th March, 1946, as to the non-availability of accessories to be used with the tractors ordered from America, and the reasons therefor;

(b) why the order for accessories was not placed with the American firms at the same time as the order for the tractors was placed with the American firms;

(c) why the order for accessories was placed in England when the order for the tractors was placed in America;

(d) the date fixed for the delivery of accessories;

(e) whether Government propose to consider the advisability of claiming damages from the manufacturers of accessories for failure to deliver the goods ordered in a reasonable time; and

(f) what arrangements, if any, Government have made for obtaining the necessary accessories from other quarters before the monsoon?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Yes, Sir; but the news item referred to is incorrect. The facts are mentioned in a press note issued on the 13th March and have been given in reply to Question No. 1266, asked by Mr. Vellingiri Gounder, on the 27th March.

(b) Orders were placed with firms in the United States of America for the supply of 189 heavy ploughs and with the United Kingdom for another 133. This represents the maximum quantities available from each of these sources.

(c) The firms manufacturing ploughs are usually quite different from those making tractors. Ploughs are being secured from wherever they are available and manufacturers in the United Kingdom, United States of America and Canada have gone out of their way to co-operate and meet our requirements.

(d) The ex-factory deliveries are spread over the period April-December, 1946.

(e) There is a penalty clause in each contract with every manufacturer whether in the U. K., U. S. A. or Canada. As it is expected that deliveries will materialise according to contract it is hoped there will be no occasion to have resort to the penalty clause.

(f) Orders for all our requirements of accessories have already been placed with Manufacturers in the U. S. A., Canada and the United Kingdom. But no country is in a position to supply them before the monsoon. The Government are also examining the possibility of manufacturing parts of tractor-drawn implements in India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that no effort is being made to import these things from Soviet Russia?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid, Sir, the chances of importing anything from Soviet Russia at the present time are nil because the Soviet Union has suffered very considerable losses itself and their first need will be to replenish their own losses and meet their own requirements.

Seth Govind Das: Why is it not considered feasible to prepare these accessories, especially small accessories like crushing machines and cutting machines, in the Ordnance factories in India?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: That, as I said the other day, is already being explored. We are in negotiation with the military authorities in order to see what can and what cannot be manufactured in Ordnance factories in India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How many of these tractors are proposed to be used by Government on their farms?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: All the tractors that are being imported will be used by Provincial Governments or by the Central Government. Most of them will be used in connection with the eradication of Kans and other deep-rooted weeds that are a hindrance to agricultural production.

Sri S. T. Adityan: Is there any chance of getting any of these ploughs before the monsoon?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We will not get a single plough before the monsoon. The earliest we can expect to get them is July.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Before the commencement of the third war or after that?

(At this stage Babu Ram Narayan Singh rose in his seat.)

Mr. President: Order, order. This question has been replied to many times before in this House.

RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF GORAKHPUR LABOUR IN COAL MINES

1394. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to refer to his answer to the 1st portion of part (a) of unstarred question No. 31, dated the 11th February, 1946, and place on the table the Auditors' report for the financial year 1944-45 on the expenditure incurred on account of the recruitment and employment of Gorakhpur Labour in coal mines?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: A copy of the audit report has been called for from the Deputy Director, Labour Supply (Coal) and will be placed on the table of the House when it is received.

TERMS OF CONTRACT WITH RATIONING ADVISER TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1395. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) the terms of contract with the Rationing Adviser to the Government of India and in particular the increase in his pay since he joined the Government of India;

(b) his qualifications;

(c) his experience, if any, of Indian diet, eating habits, etc.;

(d) if it is a fact that the present contract is renewable for another two years; if so, whether Government intend to renew it;

(e) if Government are aware that the Rationing Adviser has not introduced any original scheme or idea in the rationing system, and that he merely copies

what Bombay has so successfully done before his arrival in India; if not, whether Government will please enumerate the achievements of the Rationing Adviser; and

(f) how many visits he has paid to Bombay since he joined the Government of India and the purpose of each?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) The present terms of contract entered into with the Rationing Adviser are:

(1) Period—three years commencing from 1st June, 1944; this may be extended on same terms and conditions by another two years by mutual consent of the parties.

(2) Pay—Rs. 2,850 p.m. plus S.O.P. £13-6-8 p.m.

(3) Leave is regulated by the Model Leave Rules.

(4) Benefits of contributory provident fund @ 1/12 of pay.

(5) Free medical attendance and treatment as for a Secretary of State Officer.

(6) Free 1st class passage to U. K. on the expiry of his term. He first joined the Food Department on the 14th May, 1943, on a six months contract on a salary of Rs. 2,500 p.m. This period was extended in three instalments up to the 31st May, 1944, and the pay raised to Rs. 2,800 p.m. since the 1st June, 1944.

(b) He was employed with the Ministry of Food in the U. K. He was Divisional Food Officer, London, and his services were lent to the Board of Trade to organise Fuel Rationing.

(c) He was in India previously for about six years. He has had ample opportunities of familiarising himself with Indian food and diet habits in the course of his present duties.

(d) Yes. The question of renewal of his contract will be considered next year.

(e) No. The Rationing Adviser had much to do with the perfecting of the Bombay Rationing Scheme, the basic features of which were supplied by the Ministry of Food, London. He has helped all other rationing authorities in working out rationing schemes applicable to their areas.

(f) He has paid eleven visits to Bombay since he joined the Food Department. These visits were in connection with advisory work and for holding consultations with the Provincial authorities on urgent matters connected with Rationing, Milk Priority Schemes, inauguration of Industrial Canteens, School Feeding Schemes, Nutrition Organisation, and similar matters initiated by the Rationing Adviser, including the periodical holding of Course of Instructions on Food Control and Rationing to Officers from all Provinces and States.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member see that his contract is not renewed and that an Indian is appointed at the time of renewal?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have said that the contract provides for renewal by mutual consent at the expiry of three years.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Is there a notice clause in the contract?

Mr. President: Order, order. That question does not arise.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of taking legal advice of the Legislative Department of terminating the contract by giving three months notice?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not see why we should take up that attitude with regard to an officer who has served us well.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: We want an Indian.

Mr. President: That is a matter of opinion.

Diwan Chaman Lal: What was the actual pay of this gentleman when he was acting as Food Adviser in London?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I must ask for notice.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Was his pay less than £100 a month?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is there a notice clause in the contract so that if Government wants to send him away for any reason they can give him notice?

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any efforts being made to see that an Indian is being trained so that an Indian can take his place.

Mr. B. R. Sen: For the last two years, we have been trying to get an Indian officer who will take his place, but all the trained Indian officers are under Provincial Governments who are unable to spare any of them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is not the Central Government training one of their officers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: We are trying our very best to get an officer to replace him when his time comes to retire.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Usually in such agreements, while employing officials of this character, there is a clause about the termination of agreement. If so, why was there no such clause when employing this man?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I should ask for notice of this question.

Sri S. T. Adityan: The Honourable Member said that he had opportunities for studying Indian diet. Did he actually utilise the opportunities?

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

QUALIFICATIONS OF RATIONING ADVISER TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1396. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Food Secretary please state whether the Rationing Adviser to the Government of India has ever studied any rural part of India? If so, what is his scheme for rationing that area?

(b) Is it a fact that, of late, he has taken on himself to advise on schemes for the nutrition of people?

(c) What qualifications, if any, he has got in that line?

(d) Are Government aware that much better qualified Indians are available on a much less pay?

(e) Do Government propose to give an assurance that his present contract will not be renewed?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes. The schemes depend upon the circumstances in the areas concerned and take the form of either statutory rationing or informal rationing or controlled distribution.

(b), (c) and (d). No; he was called upon to take up Nutrition work on the administrative side.

(e) The renewal of his contract would depend upon the circumstances prevailing at the time of the expiry of his present term in May 1947.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are the Government having any Indian who is competent to advise him in regard to rural areas and the diet of the rural folks?

Mr. B. R. Sen: There are several Indian officers working with him who are competent to advise him on all aspects of Indian habits and Indian ways of life.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If this gentleman does not know Indian habits of life, then why is it that he is retained here?

Mr. B. R. Sen: He knows the Indian habits: he has had plenty of experience in India.

Seth Govind Das: Does he take Indian diet or Western diet?

Mr. President: Next question.

QUOTAS OF FOODSTUFFS SANCTIONED FOR QUARTER MASTER GENERAL IN INDIA

1397. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) whether any check is applied by his Department to the utilisation of quotas of foodstuffs sanctioned for the Quarter Master General in India;

(b) if the reply to (a) is in the negative, how does he make sure that foodstuffs are not exported outside India under this guise; and

(c) if he has any method or means of scrutinising the indent of the Defence Services?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) No, as the actual utilisation and physical verification of stocks is properly the concern of the War Department and its finance officers.

(b) The Food Department receives a monthly statement of exports for Indian forces overseas in Middle East and Ceylon. No statement for export to the South East Asia Command which began with the reoccupation of Burma is received, but arrangements are now in force that the demand for troops in this area also is separately stated.

(c) The annual Indent is carefully considered at a meeting of the Food and War Departments, with their Finance officers and is reviewed for adjustment every quarter.

APPOINTMENT OF EUROPEAN AS DIRECTOR OF INSPECTION AND STORAGE IN FOOD DEPARTMENT

1398. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Food Secretary please state if it is a fact that a European gentleman has recently been appointed as Director of Inspection and Storage in the Food Department?

(b) If so, what are his qualifications, academic and technical, for the duties he is expected to perform?

(c) What was his pay while in the service of the Kashmir State, and what is his pay now under the Government of India?

(d) Are Government aware that he is neither an entomologist nor has he any other technical qualifications, whatsoever?

(e) Are Government aware that his appointment resulted in the reversion of two Indian Officers who were in every way much better qualified than the present incumbent? If not, will he please give a comparative statement of the qualifications of the three Officers?

(f) Are Government aware that much better qualified Indians from outside were also available for the post? If so, what are the reasons for not appointing them?

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

(b) As Director of Civil supplies, Kashmir State, Capt. Wreford acquired practical experience of storage and inspection work.

(c) His pay under the Kashmir Government was Rs. 1,500 per month. His present pay under the Government of India is Rs. 2,500 per month exclusive of pension.

(d) Yes.

(e) His appointment resulted in the reversion of two Indian Officers, neither of whom was considered to be of sufficient status and administrative experience to hold the combined post of Director of Storage and Inspection. A statement showing the qualifications of the three officers is laid on the table of the House.

(f) There was one Indian Officer who was considered suitable for this post. Efforts were made to secure his services but the Department concerned would not spare him.

Capt. R. G. Wreford—

Mr. K. R. Sontakay—

Mr. T. M. Gurbaxani—

1. Retired from the Indian Army and entered the Kashmir State Service in 1922.

Since then held several responsible posts with distinction.

3. At the time of joining the Central Government he held the post of Director of Civil Supplies, Kashmir Government. He was mainly responsible for successfully tackling the food problem in that State.

4. He has acquired wide and intimate knowledge of the food problems and especially in matters of inspection and storage of food-grains. He was responsible in designing by himself a special type of granary for bulk storage of grains in Kashmir.

5. He has acquired thorough practical experience in the work connected with the food administration.

1. M.Sc.—Zoology with Entomology.

2. Post Graduate training in Entomology at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, Pussa.

3. Served as Lecturer in Entomology at the Agricultural College, Nagpur and subsequently appointed Entomologist to Government of C.P.

4. Held the post of Deputy Director of Storage, Department of Food, Government of India and also officiated as Director of Storage. At present he is holding the post of Deputy Director of Storage.

1. B.A.

2. Held the post of Secretary, Karachi Indian Merchants Association, Karachi, prior to joining the Food Department as Deputy Director of Purchase (Foodgrains) in 1944. He officiated as Director of Insp. for about six months and on his reversion was appointed Under-Secretary in the Storage and Inspection Branch of the Food Department.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know why Rs. 1,000 more was sanctioned to him as pay when the gentleman was getting a pay of only Rs. 1,500 per month in Kashmir? What was the need for this increase?

Mr. B. R. Sen: This post of Director of Storage and Inspection is an important one. We spent at least six to eight months trying to get an Indian officer. We had one Indian officer in mind who was engaged in a commission. He held out some hope of joining us but ultimately he decided not to come. We approached the Agricultural Department asking for names of suitable officers. They suggested one name. This officer also was employed in some branch of work and ultimately he was also not available. As the matter was being delayed, on the report of one of our officers we selected this man. We have also had reports about his work in the Kashmir State. He was not willing to come for less than Rs. 2,500 and therefore we had to offer him that pay.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know why this post was not advertised?

Mr. B. R. Sen: These posts, in the emergency of wartime and in the conditions arising from the war, had not been filled by advertisement but we selected them from among suitable officers who were available.

Seth Govind Das: Now that the war is over will the Government see whether there are any provisions in their agreement to give them notice? If so, notice should be immediately given to them.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I want to make it clear that we have no intention of dispensing with the services of officers whom we have already engaged and whose work we have found satisfactory.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: What is the opinion of this expert about the loss of 8½ million tons of food-grains? What steps have been taken to prevent that?

Mr. B. R. Sen: It will take many years to prevent a wastage of 3½ million tons.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the opinion expressed in this House against the employment of non-Indian personnel in the Food Department, may I know whether Government will go into this issue and try to restrict or curtail the number in future of British employees?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I can assure the House that the Food Department as well as other Departments of the Government try to engage Indian officers. As far as possible they give preference to Indian officers. But in posts which require certain technical or administrative experience, it has not been found possible to get suitable Indian officers. There are Indian officers but those officers are required by the Provincial Governments who are not in a position to spare their services.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I know why Government have departed from the salutary practice that where a person with a certain type of experience is not available in India amongst their own officers they will invite an expert for a matter of few months only and associate with him one of their own smartest officers so that in the limited time available he will qualify himself in the work to replace the foreign expert? May I know why, as disclosed in these two cases, the Food Department had brought these experts giving them a higher salary than what they were getting before and making the posts permanent?

Mr. B. R. Sen: These posts are not permanent posts. The Food Department itself is sanctioned from year to year.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If that were so, why did the Food Department enter into a contract for three years with these men?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: On orders from Whitehall.

Mr. B. R. Sen: These officers are appointed on a contract, which provides for notice from either side. But we do keep on the officers whose work is found satisfactory and who are suitable.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what definite steps are being taken by this Department in order to see that it does not become a bottomless sink for British officers?

Mr. B. R. Sen: If the Honourable Member will scrutinise the list of officers in the Food Department he will find that the number of British officers is gradually getting less and less and the number now is very small indeed.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member for what period these two Indian gentlemen worked? The Honourable Member said that their work was not satisfactory.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I did not say that their work was not satisfactory. What I said was that they were not considered to be of sufficient status and administrative experience. These two officers were appointed as Deputy Directors in the Storage and Inspection Branch and when they were asked to act as Directors they were told that they would act till a permanent man was appointed and we spent months trying to get an officer to take the place.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know whether it is not a fact that the officer who was appointed from Kashmir had only a limited experience of six or seven months in Kashmir and that he had no further training in the kind of work that he was entrusted with?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That was not our information?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: What was your information?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have given the information in the statement which I have placed on the table of the House.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the general feeling in this House over appointment of non-Indians to such posts, will the Honourable the Food Secretary give an assurance on the floor of the House here and now that in future no appointments will be given to Non-Indians?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I am not in a position to give a categorical assurance like that.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Who then is in a position to do so?

Mr. President: Next question.

Diwan Chaman Lal: On a point of order, Sir. The Honourable Member said that he has placed a statement on the table of the House giving the qualifications of this officer. May I know whether it would not be more convenient and whether the President would not order that when a statement of an important nature like the present one is placed on the table of the House a copy of it may previously be handed over to the questioner?

Mr. President: I will consider that point.

Seth Yusuf Abdool Haroon: If the statement is a short one may I ask why the Honourable Member has not read it to the House, especially when it is such an important one?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The statement is not a short one. It is a very long one.

Mr. President: Short or long, it does not matter.

REGIONAL FOOD COMMISSIONER, NORTH WEST REGION

1399. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** Will the Food Secretary please state:

(a) if Government are aware that the Regional Food Commissioner, North West Region, has always been a European Officer; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) if Government are aware that many Indian Officers, qualified in every way and some of them retired Deputy Commissioners and other high Revenue and Executive Officers were available; if so, the reasons for ignoring them;

(c) the experience, if any, in matters of food of the present incumbent and his immediate predecessor;

(d) the reasons for preferring military officers for this post;

(e) if Government are aware that the present incumbent has no knowledge at all of Indian diet, and eating habits, etc.;

(f) the pay of the present incumbent and his immediate predecessor; and

(g) the reasons for not appointing officers on a much less pay when other Regional Food Commissioners are getting less than Rs. 3,000 per month each?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Yes, Sir. The most suitable men were selected.

(b) No Sir. Better Indian Officers were not available.

(c) Neither of these officers had previous experience in food matters but both of them had considerable administrative experience.

(d) This post has not always been held by military officers. It so happened that suitable military officers were available.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The pay of the present incumbent is Rs. 2,550/-p.m. inclusive of pension. His immediate predecessor used to get Rs. 4,000/- per mensem inclusive of pension.

(g) There is no fixed scale of pay for the Regional Food Commissioners. The pay of each Regional Food Commissioner is fixed in relation to his emoluments before appointment.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is the Honourable Member aware that the regional food commissioner for Bombay was an experienced coal Manager and that he knew nothing either about Bombay or about food when he was appointed?

Mr. B. R. Sen: He worked for over a year and the Bombay Government were of opinion that he served both Bombay and other provinces extremely well.

Mr. Manu Subedar: May I make it clear that I have nothing against the man himself—he is otherwise a good man. I was only referring Government to his absolute lack of the knowledge of Bombay geography and of the habits of the people, and certainly he knew nothing whatever about the food of the people. Is that so or not?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I do not agree with the views expressed by the Honourable Member.

REQUISITIONING OF CERTAIN WHEAT PRODUCING LAND IN NANGALARAYA IN DELHI PROVINCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MILITARY GODOWNS

1400. ***Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that about 86 bighas of land, on which wheat is being grown in Nangalaraya in the Delhi Province was ordered to be handed over to the Government for the construction of military godowns;

(b) if this fact was brought to his notice by the villagers through the village Panchayat of Nangalaraya; if so, the steps taken by him to make the land available again for growing wheat;

(c) the average quantity of wheat that was produced from these lands; and

(d) if it is a fact that these lands will now yield diminished supply of wheat?

Sir, I find part (d) of the question has not been properly printed. What I intended to say was that the supply of wheat would be diminished by the handing over of these lands to the military. It should read: "If it is a fact that the assignment of these lands would diminish the supply of wheat."

Mr. B. R. Sen: My reply will cover that also.

(a) to (d). There was a project to instal certain oil tanks and the original site selected was at Nangalaraya near Delhi Cantonment. Subsequently, however, owing to the project being reduced in size it was found possible to site it on Government owned land on which there is no cultivation

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are we to understand that this land is now free from interference?

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the assignment be resumed next year?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I cannot say about the future.

UTILIZATION OF MOLASSES IN SUGAR FACTORIES

1401. ***Sjt. B. S. Hiray:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) how many tons of molasses in the various Sugar Factories in India are utilised for by-products;

(b) how many tons of it are not utilised for useful purposes;

(c) whether Government have any scheme to utilise the same for useful purposes; and

(d) whether it is a fact that Government do not provide sufficient facilities to the various Sugar Factories to utilise the molasses for useful purpose?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Out of the total production of nearly 400,000 tons molasses about 150,000 tons are utilized for the manufacture of Spirit and Alcohol. Some quantity is also utilized for fuel in boilers, tobacco curing, manuring, manufacture of Food Yeast and crude sugar (Khand).

(c) The matter is under consideration of the Government of India who are awaiting the final report of the Sugar Panel set up by the Planning and Development Department.

(d) No.

Mr. Manu Subedar: In view of the fact that molasses was exported from India before the war to the United Kingdom and was being worked up there, but was not worked up here in this country, will Government now take steps to see that all of it is utilised in India instead of any of it being wasted?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is what the Government are trying to do.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the answer to part (d)? Does that mean that Government does give facilities to the various factories to utilise the molasses?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes; that is the reply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the facilities provided?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I should like to have notice.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Does the Honourable Member know that the Sugar Factory Association at their meeting at Cawnpore had raised a note of protest that Government were not providing them with enough facilities for disposing of all these molasses?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I must plead guilty—I have not seen that; but in any case what Government are trying to do is to give all facilities for utilisation of molasses in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the nature of those facilities? If you cannot give all the details, he can at least give an indication.

Mr. B. R. Sen: If the Honourable Member will put down a question, I shall try and give a reply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, that is indicated in the question—"whether it is a fact that Government do not provide sufficient facilities to the factories". The Honourable Member is therefore expected to know about this.

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have given a reply already.

Mr. President: If the Honourable Member wishes to know the nature of the facilities in detail, he must put down a question to that effect.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Have Government considered the bearing of this question of utilisation of molasses on the ultimate reduction of the price of sugar for the consumer in this country and also the necessity of importing less petrol from outside, if the industrial spirit which can be manufactured in this country can be used?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Yes; these are very important considerations which have no doubt been taken into account by the committee.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What is the amount of molasses which are never used for any purpose at all?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I have given some figures in reply to parts (a) and (b). The total production is nearly 400,000 tons, of which 150,000 tons are now utilised for the manufacture of spirit and alcohol. Some quantity is also utilised for fuel in boilers, tobacco curing, manuring, manufacture of Food Yeast and crude sugar. But I cannot give the exact quantities.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Can any manure be made out of the molasses?

Mr. B. R. Sen: That is rather a technical question; if the Honourable Member will put down a question, I will try to give an answer.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The Honourable Member is aware that from 1932 onwards, for the last 14 years, we have been pressing every year that something ought to be done to utilise these molasses and Government have always evaded replying, saying that they are investigating this thing and that thing. Fourteen solid years have passed and nothing has yet been done.

Mr. President: What is the question?

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is the Honourable Member aware that the total production of molasses in Java is being utilised there?

Mr. B. R. Sen: I fully agree that we must make full use of the molasses in this country. It is possible that Government in the past have not dealt with the matter in the way they might have done; but a committee was set up to go into this whole question; the report is, I believe, just submitted, and the whole matter will be gone into and a decision will be taken for proper utilisation of the molasses.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Any possibility of any expert being imported from England for this purpose?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The possibility is not excluded.

PROPER WAGES TO INDIAN EMIGRANTS TO BURMA

1402. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state:

(a) whether the Government of India have concluded any agreement with the Government of Burma for good wage standards of Indians in that country and for other good conditions of their living;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to press reports specially to that of Mr. Mani of Nagpur, who returned from Malaya and Burma regions lately, to the effect that the wages and conditions of living of the Indian workers is deplorable; and

(c) whether they propose to ensure the conclusion of a proper agreement on these issues before allowing Indians to migrate to Burma?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) This matter is receiving Government's attention.

Seth Govind Das: Is it not a fact that the condition of Indians in Burma is very bad at present and that is the reason why Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was not allowed to visit Burma?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: No.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that the Burma Government has issued a press communique to warn prospective Indian emigres to Burma against the possibility of providing them with adequate housing or food?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The communique which the Honourable Member has in mind only states that abnormal economic conditions still continue to prevail in the country and that the Government of Burma are not in a position to afford any assistance in respect of accommodation, transport, etc., and that Indians, particularly those who want to proceed there to revive their pre-war interests can go more or less on their own responsibility.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are Government taking to bring this to the notice of our own Indians who are thinking of going to Burma, especially labourers?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The Department have given wide publicity to these communiques from time to time, and further publicity will also be given.

Diwan Chaman Lal: What does the Honourable Member mean by the Government giving close attention to this matter in answer to part (c)?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Government have in mind the desirability of arriving at an agreement. Negotiations have been pending for some time.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Are they proceeding? What does my Honourable friend mean by 'pending'?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: They are proceeding; but we have yet to know the final decision of the Government of Burma.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Has a draft agreement been sent to them?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Yes; a draft agreement is under consideration.

Seth Govind Das: Will Government allow certain prominent Indians to go there and see the conditions of Indians there and suggest to Government certain means as to how to improve those conditions?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: Many Indians who had interests in Burma before the war have already gone there.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Why was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru not allowed to go there?

Mr. President: That does not arise out of this.

HEAVY STAMP DUTY ON BONDS ~~RE~~ CERTAIN MALABAR PRODUCTS

1403. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if it is a fact that Malabar products, such as timber, coir, coconut, tiles, etc., were being exported in country crafts to various centres for a long time past?

(b) Is it a fact that up to 1942 there were no restrictions on the export of any articles for trade purposes, except the observance of the usual Customs rules?

(c) Is it a fact that in 1943, for the first time, new rules were passed according to which shippers had to execute a bond on a stamp paper worth Rs. 7-8-0 for each consignment and that merchants who were regular shippers were allowed to execute a continuity bond on a Rs. 10 stamp paper which was valid for three years?

(d) Is it a fact that the rules have now been revised under which every shipper is required to execute a bond on a stamp paper of Rs. 7-8-0 for each and every shipment irrespective of the value of the cargo?

(e) Is it a fact that fresh orders are under contemplation increasing the value of the stamp duty to Rs. 20 for each shipment?

(f) Is it a fact that the system of executing bonds was introduced during the war time to prevent smuggling?

(g) In view of the fact that war has ceased, will Government consider the advisability of restoring the old practice of unrestricted export of articles subject only to the usual Customs rules?

The Honourable Dr. Sir Azizul Huque: (a) Government are aware that the commodities are exported in country crafts.

(b) to (e). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given on 12th March, 1946, to starred question No. 895, by Sri M. K. Jinachandran.

(f) and (g). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given on the 12th March, 1946, to starred question No. 894, by Sri M. K. Jinachandran.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What is the fact; has he withdrawn the insistence upon getting the bonds executed?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: No. It has not been withdrawn. These bonds were introduced with a view to avoid goods being sent beyond the destination for which they were intended and the destination of goods to unauthorised destinations on a large scale and jettisoning of cargo was taking place; and with a view to check this matter, also prevent the violation of export regulations, these things have had to be introduced.

(Some Honourable Members rose to put questions)

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

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

APPOINTMENT OF RETIRED INCOME-TAX OFFICERS AS MEMBERS OF INCOME-TAX TRIBUNALS

1404. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Law Member kindly state:

(a) whether Government are aware that retired Income-tax Officers have been taken as members of Income-tax Tribunals to hear appeals;

(b) whether Government are aware that such appointments of retired Income-tax Officers defeat the purpose and essence of Income-tax Tribunals; and

(c) whether the Government of India propose rectifying the defect in future and not to appoint retired Income-tax Assistant Commissioners or Officers in Tribunals?

The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy: (a) One appointment only of a retired Income-tax Officer to be an Accountant Member of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal has been made on the authority of the proviso to sub-section (3) of section 5A of the Indian Income-tax Act.

(b) Certainly not. If the Honourable Member will refer to the debate which took place in this House on the 10th December, 1938, he will find that while Government disclaimed any intention of using the proviso in question for the purpose of packing the Tribunal with serving or retired officers of the Income-tax Department, they made it abundantly clear that such appointments were designed to be made on suitable occasions and that the House fully accepted this position. I may add that the one relevant appointment has proved a conspicuous success.

(c) Does not arise.

VISITS OF OFFICERS AND STAFF OF NEW DELHI MUNICIPAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT LATE AT NIGHT

1405. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Health Secretary please state if Government are aware of the general complaint of Government servants in New Delhi against the officers and staff of the New Delhi Municipal Health Department who visit their quarters at bed time for sanitation enquiries?

(b) Are Government aware of the considerable harassment and inconvenience caused to the inmates of Government quarters by such visits so late in the night?

(c) Is this practice authorised under any of the Municipal bye-laws? If not, what action do Government propose to take against the persons responsible for the violation of bye-laws?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: (a) No.

(b) No complaint of this nature has ever been received.

(c) Under sections 205 and 211 of the Punjab Municipalities Act, 1911, municipal officers are authorised to enter buildings for the purpose of inspection only between sunrise and sunset. It is reported that these provisions are being observed.

DETERIORATION OF SANITARY CONDITIONS IN NEW DELHI

1406. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Health Secretary please state if Government are aware that sanitary conditions in New Delhi have deteriorated for some time past?

(b) Are Government aware that some Sanitary Inspectors themselves infringe Municipal bye-laws by keeping their cattle on road-side for commercial purposes, instead of keeping them in cattle-byres?

(c) Are Government aware of the most insanitary conditions prevailing in Municipal cattle-byres which are entrusted to local contractors?

(d) If the replies to (a), (b) and (c) above be in the affirmative, what are the reasons for allowing such conditions to continue?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) No. The sanitary conditions have been well maintained in spite of a large increase in population during the war period and shortage of materials.

(b) No.

(c) No. These cattle byres are kept quite clean.

(d) Does not arise.

ALLOTMENT OF CATTLE BYRES IN NEW DELHI TO *Gowalas*

1407. ***Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma:** (a) Will the Health Secretary please state the total number of stalls in the various cow-byres in New Delhi and the number of stalls at present rented to the ministerial and inferior staff of the Government of India and its Attached Offices, and to *gowalas*, and the Municipal employees, separately?

(b) Is the total number of stalls sufficient to meet the requirements of all those who apply for them? If not, what procedure is adopted in making allotment between the ministerial staff and others?

(c) Are Government aware that under the existing practice, a large number of stalls are being allotted to *gowalas*, peons, etc., who keep cattle for commercial purposes?

(d) Are Government aware that the cattle-byres were constructed mainly for the use of *bona fide* cattle-owners among the ministerial staff of the Government of India and its Attached Offices and not for any commercial purposes?

(e) Are Government aware that, since the work of allotment of byres has been entrusted to the New Delhi Municipal Committee, the number of the ministerial staff keeping cattle has decreased and that those of *gowalas*, peons, etc., has increased? If so, will Government consider the advisability of taking back the work of the allotment of all cattle-byres from the New Delhi Municipal Committee, leaving only the work of sanitation to that body?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House when received.

PERMISSION TO KEEP MILCH CATTLE IN CERTAIN GOVERNMENT QUARTERS IN NEW DELHI

1408. ***Mr. Krishna Chandra Sharma:** Will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) if Government are aware of the great difficulty in obtaining pure milk and butter in New Delhi; if so, the steps Government propose to take to remove this hardship; and

(b) whether Government will consider the advisability of permitting the tenants of 'C' and 'D' type Government Orthodox Quarters to keep their milch cattle in their premises, pending the adoption of measures by Government for the supply of pure milk and butter?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam: (a) There are a number of excellent dairies in New Delhi selling milk and butter of quality. In addition eleven milk depots have been provided in different convenient localities within New Delhi Municipal limits, under the Milk Supply Scheme and these are being run under the supervision of the Public Health Department of the New Delhi Municipal Committee.

A scheme has been prepared by the Agriculture Department for the improvement of the milk supply of Delhi as part of the post war development programme.

(b) No. The matter has been carefully considered by the New Delhi Municipal Committee, which found that cattle could not be kept in hygienic conditions in the courtyards of 'C' and 'D' type orthodox quarters. The Government of India are advised that the keeping of cattle in such quarters would lead to the breeding of flies and the spread of disease.

SUPPLY OF ESSENTIALS AND OTHER FACILITIES TO WORKERS IN MICA MINES AT HAZARIBAGH

1409. ***Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) if Government are aware that there is no proper arrangement of water for the workers in the Mica mines at Hazaribagh and that no medical aid is available for them in spite of the fact that the area is a well-known epidemic place;

(b) if Government are aware that though the cost of living has increased from six to nine times, no dearness or any such allowance is being paid to the workers and that there is no proper arrangement for sale of rice and other foodgrains at control price at a time when foodgrains have almost disappeared from the market; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the Sub-Divisional Officer of the place has ordered the sale of rice at the rate of two seers and four chataks per rupee while the control price is three seers and eight chataks per rupee?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) Water supply arrangements are not satisfactory and the medical aid now given is not adequate and there is scope for improvement which the Government of India hope to undertake shortly by means of Legislation.

(b) So far as Government is aware, in some cases wages have been increased to include the dearness allowance while some important concerns are paying dearness allowance in addition to wages.

Proper arrangement for sale of rice and other food grains at controlled price is a matter for the Provincial Government, and I would suggest the Honourable Member takes up the matter with the Provincial Government.

(c) Here again the matter is for local authorities and Provincial Government.

GRIEVANCES OF WORKERS IN MICA MINES AT HAZARIBAGH.

1410. ***Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop:** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether Government are aware that the money paid by the Joint Mica Mission was never distributed amongst the workers in the Mica Mines at Hazaribagh?

(b) Are Government aware that the factory rules and regulations are mostly disregarded by the Mica Mines Companies and that the highly objectionable and illegal practice of deducting one anna per rupee from the workers' wages in the name of *Dastoori* is openly prevalent there?

(c) Are Government aware that because of the grievances referred to above the Mica Mazdoor Sangh has been forced to give a clear notice of strike; if so, what steps Government are intending to take to satisfy the workers' demands and avert the danger of a strike?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) It is not clear what the Honourable Member is referring to. If the reference is to the additional cost allowance

on the price which the Joint Mica Mission was paying to the suppliers; I may inform the Honourable Member that the distribution of the allowance was purely a matter between the employers and the workers.

(b) The Factories Act and the Payment of Wages Act do not apply to Mica Factories. The prevalence of the illegal practice referred to by the Honourable Member has been brought to Government's notice. The practice will, I think, disappear if the Government's proposal to bring mica under Central Control materialises and the Mica Enquiry Committee's recommendations in this respect are implemented.

(c) Yes. The matter is under investigation.

BAN ON GIVING WORKS TO CONTRACTORS RELATED TO EMPLOYEES OF CENTRAL P. W. D.

1411. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the circumstances which led to the issue of the Labour Department Circular Memo. No. M.S. 21, dated the 14th November, 1944, prohibiting the award of works to contractors whose relations are working as officers, etc., under the Central Public Works Department?

(b) Is he aware that this circular has caused great discontent and hardship to many highly reputed and old-established contractors?

(c) Do similar orders exist in any other Department of Government? If so, will he place a copy of such orders on the table of the House?

(d) Was the Legal Department of the Government of India consulted before the Labour Department issued these orders? If so, what was their opinion?

(e) Cannot the purpose of the orders be served if a relation of a contractor who happens to work in the same Division is transferred to some other Division or other station? If not, how?

(f) Will he please consider the advisability of cancelling these orders? If not, what are the reasons?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a), (b), (c), (e) and (f). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given to starred question No. 1143, on 21st March, 1946.

(d) No. It is purely an administrative matter.

REVISION OF ALLOTMENT RULES OF GOVERNMENT ACCOMMODATION

1412. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state when the present allotment rules regarding allotment of residences in New Delhi during the war are to be revised so as to provide for change of residences within the same class or group as was permissible under the former allotment rules, since the war is now over?

(b) Is he aware that some of the allottees who have not been fortunate to get quarters according to their choice are, much to their dissatisfaction, forced to continue in their present quarters?

(c) Is he also aware of the fact that under the existing rules, senior officers moving down from Simla have been at a disadvantage as compared with the junior officers stationed here in securing allotment of quarters?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) The question of the desirability of the revision of the present allotment rules will be taken up shortly, when the question of making provision in the rules for change of residences will also be examined.

(b) That is a matter of opinion.

(c) Yes, in a few cases senior officers have been at a disadvantage but that is no sufficient reason for disturbing a large number of officers who are already in occupation of these quarters.

LOSS OF REVENUE DUE TO ALLOTMENT OF LOWER CLASS ACCOMMODATION TO HIGHER PAID SERVANTS

1413. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the number of officers residing in lower type of clerks quarters in New Delhi but who are entitled to the allotment of (i) bungalows reserved for officers drawing Rs. 600 per mensem or more, (ii) 'A' and (iii) 'B' class quarters intended for officers drawing less than Rs. 600 per mensem?

(b) Is he aware of the fact that Government are losing a good amount in the shape of rent by not providing these officers with the class of accommodation to which they are eligible or even lower than that?

(c) What steps does he propose to take to avoid this loss of Government revenue, and are there any proposals to build more quarters of the higher class?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) (i) 98, (ii) 57, (iii) 138.

(b) Government are not losing. Officers occupying lower type of quarters are paying the maximum rent and no quarters are lying vacant.

(c) Part I.—Does not arise.

Part II.—The matter is under consideration as part of the general proposal for the provision of more residential accommodation for officers..

EXPENDITURE INCURRED ON ANNUAL REPAIR OF CERTAIN ROADS IN D. I. Z. AREA

1414. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Health Secretary please state how much expenditure has been incurred during the last five years on the annual maintenance and special repairs of service roads in front as well as in the rear of the quarters in the D. I. Z. area in New Delhi?

(b) Is he aware that despite the repairs carried out during the last five years their condition has not much improved?

(c) What steps does he propose to take to improve them?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam: Information has been called for and will be furnished to the House when received.

SUPPLY OF UNFILTERED WATER IN QUARTERS IN D. I. Z. AND MINTO ROAD AREA IN NEW DELHI

1415. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether there has been any proposal for the installation of pipes for the supply of 'unfiltered water in the courtyards of the Orthodox quarters in the D.I.Z. and Minto Road areas in New Delhi?

(b) Is he aware of the fact that gallons of filtered water are being wasted every day in every quarter in the washing of floor, W.C., watering of flowers, plants or vegetables and in the sprinkling of water on the *khus ki tatties* during the hot weather?

(c) In view of the approaching hot weather will he please consider the advisability of installing the unfiltered water supply in the quarters, in the wider interest of service and economy? If not, why not?

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

(b) No. A bend and a gland cock are provided on the hydrants of unfiltered water at convenient places near these quarters at the beginning of every summer season to enable the occupants to draw unfiltered water and I do not think that the consumption of filtered water for these purposes during the remaining part of the year is excessive.

(c) No. The Government have already considered this suggestion very carefully in the past and dropped it mainly on account of the excessive expenditure involved.

NON-PROMOTION OF CERTAIN QUALIFIED EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS, etc., WORKING AS SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS AND OVERSEERS

1416. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether he is aware that there is a shortage of Engineers for filling up the posts of Executive Engineers and Superintending Engineers in the Central Public Works Department both in the Buildings and Roads and in the Electrical Branches?

(b) Is he aware that there are many foreign qualified and experienced Engineers working as Sub-Divisional Officers and even overseers who are not being promoted to hold Divisional charge or higher because they are yet junior to unqualified subordinate Sub-Divisional Officers and others?

(c) Is he also aware that Government are sending students for overseas studies to make available foreign qualified hands to fill up higher appointments?

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

(b) There are some foreign qualified Engineers in the Central Public Works Department who have not yet been promoted to Divisional or higher charges, because they are either still junior to other qualified Engineers in the Department or are unfit for such promotion.

(c) Yes.

NON-PROMOTION OF CERTAIN QUALIFIED EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS, etc., WORKING AS SUB-DIVISIONAL OFFICERS AND OVERSEERS

1417. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please place on the table of the House a list of foreign qualified and experienced Sub-Divisional Officers with full qualifications and total experience and length of service of each and their respective date of appointment in the Central Public Works Department?

(b) What is the number of officers appointed directly as Executive Engineers or Superintending Engineers since 1940?

(c) While making appointments mentioned in part (b) were the cases of each of the individuals mentioned in reply to part (a) considered for such appointments? If not, why not?

(d) Will he, in future, kindly consider the desirability of promoting such Sub-Divisional Officers to the rank of Executive Engineers before recruiting men from outside? If not, what are the reasons?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) Superintending Engineers—Nil.

Executive and Electrical Engineers—28.

(c) With the exception of those mentioned below, the cases of all the others were duly considered.

(1) Mr. B. S. Krishnaswami He is a temporary Subordinate, while all the others promoted as Executive Engineers are either permanent subordinates or gazetted temporary engineers.

(2) Messrs. A. K. Sen and Nasir Hussain Their cases have not yet come up for consideration as they are not sufficiently high up in the seniority list, all those so far promoted as Electrical Engineers being senior to them.

(d) No such undertaking can be given, as the officers mentioned in the reply to part (a) are either inexperienced or are unfit for Divisional charge.

List of Foreign Qualified Sub-Divisional Officers in the Central Public Works Department.

Serial No.	Name	Date of appointment in Central PWD	Qualifications	Previous experience, if any
I.—ENGINEERING SIDE				
1	Mr. N. N. Mehta .	17-9-1935	B.A., B.Sc. (Eng.), Sheffield A.M.I.E.	.....
2	„ Gurbachan Singh	5-3-1942	B.Sc., (Civil) Edinburgh.	15 months' apprenticeship in Central Public Works Deptt. 12 years as Superintendent, P.W.D., Khetri State.
3	„ R. R. Tomar	18-5-1942	Diploma Holder of Bettersea Polytechnic, London.	.....
4	„ B. S. Krishnaswami.	13-6-1942	B.Sc., (Eng.), Rangoon (Burma).	.....
5	„ S. V. Subbarao	20-7-1942	B.A., B.Sc. (Hons) Civil Engineering, (Edin.).	1 years' previous experience.
6	„ A. K. Das .	1-1-1943	B.Sc., Civil Engineering, (Edin.).	.....
7	„ M. Rahman .	19-4-1943	B.Sc., (Delhi); B.Sc., (Civil), Durham.	Has had some experience with a firm in England.
8	„ Abdul Ghafer .	11-2-1942	B.Sc., Civil Engineering (Edin.).	.....
9	„ Mohd. Shaffi .	15-3-1944	C.E. (Bristol).	.....
10	„ Narinjan Singh Bisarkhi	4-4-1944	B.Sc., (Civil), Glasgow (Edin.).	15 years' experience in M. E. S., etc.
11	„ S. A. Hakim	30-8-1944	Rasul Overseer; C.E. (Sheffield), A.M.I.E. (Ind.), C.I.S.E. (London).	15 years' in Punjab P.W.D. and 8 years' District Board Service.
II.—ELECTRICAL SIDE				
12	Mr. B. K. Mazumdar	4-5-1942	Diploma in Mech. and Elec. Engineering from Farady House, Electrical Engineering College, London.	Served for 2 years as Apprentice Engineer to Messrs. Crossley Bros., Ltd., Manchester and Southern Elec. Buildings, London. 3 years' term with the Calcutta Supply Corporation.
13	„ M. N. Dutt .	23-9-1942	B.Sc., (Glasgow)	Has had some previous experience. Details not available.
14	„ A. K. Sen .	13-3-1943	Do.	.....
15	„ Nasir Hussain .	1-5-1945	B.Sc., AMIEE (London)	.....

PREPONDERANCE OF MUSLIMS IN CERTAIN SECTIONS OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT

1418. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Health Secretary please state the number of appointments of Assistants and Clerks which have been made in each grade of his Department since it has been formed, and how many of these have gone to Hindus, Mohammedans and Sikhs in each grade?

(b) What is the total strength of the General Section of the Department and how many of them are Hindus, Mohammedans and others in each grade?

(c) Who is responsible for looking after the proper representation of each community's claims in each Section, and by whom are allocations of individuals in each Section made?

(d) What are the special circumstances for giving more than twentyfive per cent. representation to the Muslims in the General Section, and under whose orders has the Section been made a preserve Section for the Mohammedans?

(e) Does he propose to see that due representation is allowed to each community in each Section? If not, why not?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulmam: (a) 17 Assistants or grade "A" clerks and 24 grade "B" clerks have been recruited since the formation of the Department. Of the 17 Assistants 9 are Hindus, 5 Muslims, 2 Sikhs and 1 Christian. Of the grade "B" clerks 12 are Hindus, 8 Muslims, 3 Sikhs and 1 Scheduled Castes man. One of the Muslims has been transferred to another office.

(b) The total sanctioned strength of the General Section is 1 Superintendent, 6 Assistants or grade "A" clerks and 5 grade "B" clerks. The present composition of the section is:

Hindus—2 grade "B" clerks.

Muslims.—1 Superintendent, 5 Assistants or grade "A" clerks, and 2 grade "B" clerks.

Others.—1 Assistant or grade "A" clerk and 1 grade "B" clerk.

(c), (d) and (e). The orders relating to communal recruitment do not apply to particular sections within a Department and postings to different sections are made in accordance with requirements of official work. Steps are being taken, however, to secure a more balanced representation of the various communities in the General Section.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE OF MINISTERIAL STAFF APPOINTED BY SUPERINTENDENT, VICEREGAL ESTATES

1419. *Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please place on the table of the House a sample copy of the terms of appointment and conditions of service offered to the ministerial staff appointed directly by the Superintendent, Viceregal Estates, for specific duty in Simla and or Delhi prior to the 14th July 1936?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: No particular form was prescribed for sending out offers of appointment to the staff. A copy of one of the appointment letters issued during this period is laid on the table.

Copy of letter No. 1031-M, dated the 25th/26th February 1920 from the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy, Delhi to the Superintendent, Viceregal Estates.

Your letter No. 279-M, dated the 20th February, 1920.

I sanction the appointment on probation for 6 months of Lala Dewan Chand as Store-keeper, Viceregal Estates, Simla, on Rs. 50—5—70, with effect from the 1st January 1920 *viz* S. Amir Chand resigned and also authorise the recovery from him of Rs. 350 of his security deposit at Rs. 10 a month.

The agreement bond is returned herewith.

REVISION OF ALLOTMENT RULES OF GOVERNMENT RESIDENCES

1420. *Sardar Mangal Singh: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether it is a fact that an officer who is transferred from Delhi to Simla or a Secretariat Department at Calcutta after the 1st April 1945, on re-transfer to Delhi, loses the benefit of his previous service, and has to earn his seniority afresh for the purpose of allotment of quarters?

(b) What object has been achieved by not giving to such officials, seniority from the original date of qualifying posting *vis-a-vis* those who have remained on duty in Delhi, when transfers are ordered in the interest of public service?

(c) As the situation with regard to residential accommodation is acute, and the persons affected are those who have put in quite a number of years in Government service and have large families, does the Honourable Member propose to examine the necessity of rescinding this decision?

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

(b) The object aimed at was to give relief to relatively junior people whose stay in Delhi had been continuous and who had suffered more from the rigours of the Delhi housing conditions than officers stationed in Simla or Delhi.

(c) The Rule will be re-examined when the general revision of the Allotment Rules is undertaken.

PERMISSION TO BUILD MORE SUGAR FACTORIES IN CERTAIN CANAL IRRIGATED DECCAN AREA OF BOMBAY PROVINCE

1421. *Sjt. B. S. Hiray: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that canals in the Deccan area of the Bombay Province were constructed for protective purposes;

(b) whether it is a fact that the same purpose is served, if not, whether Government propose to extend the areas under Sugar Factories for sugar cane crop;

(c) how many acres of land are irrigated by Canal water in this area, and how many of it are utilised by Sugar Factories for their purposes; and

(d) whether Government propose to allow the construction of more Sugar Factories in this area? If not, why not?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: The information has been called for from the Government of Bombay and will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

MANUFACTURE OF STARCH FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTS FROM TAMARIND IN PLACE OF MAIZE.

162. Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state if he has received any representation from Pectin and Starch Products of Calcutta in January 1946, suggesting the manufacture of starch needed for textile product out of tamarind seed instead of as at present out of maize, and also drawing Government's attention to the researches of Dr. S. Krishna and Dr. W. A. J. Macmillan, who have approved of the use of tamarind seed pectin instead of Carbo Hydro starches?

(b) (i) How much of maize is now being consumed by the Licensed Starch Factories and (ii) how many of them are there in India? Is it not a fact that licences have been granted to some of the factories as late as January 1946?

(c) Why the Conference suggested by the above mentioned Company between Government consumers, manufacturers and the Scientists has not so far been

convened in order to examine the possibility of economising the use of maize by the starch factories and instead utilising tamarind for starch purposes?

(d) Do Government propose to explore every possible avenue of economising the use of foodgrains for non-food purposes?

(e) Will Government consider the advisability of exploring at least now the possibility of utilising tamarind seeds instead of maize and thus saving all the maize that is being now used for manufacturing starches for human consumption?

Mr. B. R. Sen: The question should have been addressed to the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies. It has accordingly been transferred to the List of questions for the 5th April, 1946, when it will be answered by the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies.

AGRICULTURAL LABOUR IN DHARWAR DISTRICT (BOMBAY PROVINCE) NOT ALLOWED TO REMOVE PADDY FOR THEIR EARNING IN KIND

163. Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: (a) Is the Food Secretary aware that paddy is grown in the Dharwar District, Bombay Province, in Dharwar, Kalghatgi, Bankapur, Hangal and Hirekerur Talukas?

(b) Are Government aware that people from outside come to these Talukas and do agricultural labour and are paid in kind?

(c) Are Government aware that these labourers are not allowed to take home their paddy, which is their earning in kind, under the orders of the Collector and District Magistrate, Dharwar?

(d) If the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, do Government propose to modify these orders to enable the agricultural labourers to take home their earnings in kind?

(e) If the reply to (c) is in the affirmative, are Government aware that this will adversely affect the growth and yield of the paddy crops in these areas and thus defeat the objects of the "Grow More Food" Campaign?

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

(b) Yes. The agricultural labourers are paid their wages partly in kind.

(c) The quantity of rice and paddy allowed to be transported to other talukas is restricted to the requirements of an average family for a year according to the current ration scale. Rice is not the normal food of labourers in many Talukas and Government have noticed that large quantities of rice have been transported in the name of fictitious labourers for sale in the black-market due to the shortage of rice in non-paddy-growing Talukas.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

PLANS FOR UTILIZATION OF WASTE LANDS IN GUJRAT, DECCAN AND KARNATAK FOR GROWTH OF FOOD CROPS

164. Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state whether there are any waste lands belonging to Government which can be brought under cultivation in Gujrat, Deccan, and Karnatak in the Bombay Province? If so, how much is it?

(b) Have Government any plans about utilizing the same for the growth of food crops?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The area of the Government waste lands in the Districts of Gujrat, Deccan and Karnatak is as follows: Gujrat—112221 acres, Deccan—152971 acres, Karnatak—30090 acres.

(b) These lands are being leased out rent free on annual leases to cultivators and ex-servicemen wherever it is possible to grow food crops.

DESIRABILITY OF EXTENDING CONCESSIONS ENJOYED BY STAFF OF VICEREGAL ESTATES, SIMLA, TO STAFF OF SIMLA CENTRAL DIVISION OF CENTRAL P. W. D.

165. Sardar Mangal Singh: With reference to the reply to part (b) of unstarred question No. 136, answered on the 9th April, 1945, regarding the desirability of extending to the ministerial and inferior staff of the Simla Central Division, the same concessions as are enjoyed by such staff of the Viceregal Estates, Simla, will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether any decision has so far been arrived at? If so, will he please place a copy of the orders issued on the subject on the table of the House?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: A copy of the orders embodying the final decision arrived at in the case is laid on the table.

Copy of letter No. E-6, dated the 6th December 1945 from the Assistant Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, New Delhi, to the Additional Chief Engineer, Central Public Works Department, Western Zone, New Delhi.

SUBJECT:—Grant of compensatory allowances to the staff of the Simla Central Division and of the Rent Control Office of the Central Public Works Department at Simla.

Reference your letter No. 01171-E, dated 7th June, 1944. The Governor-General in Council sanctions the grant of Compensatory allowances to the non-gazetted staff of the Simla Central Division and of the Rent Control Office of the Central Public Works Department at Simla at the rates shown below:—

(a) *Non-gazetted Ministerial and Technical staff, other than inferior servants.*—15 per cent. of pay, subject to a minimum of Rs. 15 (fifteen) and maximum of Rs. 35 (thirty-five) per mensem.

(b) *Inferior staff.*—Rs. 2 (two) per mensem fixed.

2. These orders will have retrospective effect from the 1st July, 1945.

MECHANICAL AND TRANSPORT ENGINEER TO GOVERNMENT OF BOMBAY.

166. Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: (a) Has the Agriculture Secretary created a new post of Mechanical and Transport Engineer to the Government of Bombay?

(b) If so, when, and for what period?

(c) What are the duties of this officer?

(d) In what manner, particularly, are his services useful to the agriculture or in the interests of improvement of agriculture in the Bombay Province?

(e) Who is the present incumbent of this post?

(f) What are his special qualifications for the same?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) No, Sir. The post has been created by the Government of Bombay.

(b) The post was filled on the 9th October, 1944, on three years' contract, terminable at six months' notice on either side.

(c) and (d). The duties of the officer appointed are to organise and supervise all work connected with mechanical cultivation in the Bombay Province.

(e) Lt. Colonel W. N. Bates.

(f) A statement of his qualifications is laid on the table.

Statement

(i) Trained as Engineering Student at Leeds University and in Commercial Workshops from 1911 to 1914

(ii) Served in the Army from 1914 to 1923.

(iii) Transferred to the R.A.S.C. in 1924.

(iv) Passed examinations for A.M.I.M.E. in 1924.

(v) Elected A.M.I.M.E. in 1925 and A.M.I.A.E. in 1932.

(vi) Inspector of Mechanical Transport, C.I.M.T. Branch, War Office, from 1925 to 1926.

(vii) Transferred to R.I.A.S.C. in 1927.

(viii) Workshop Officer Mobile Repair Unit for 4½ years.

(ix) Since 1932 has held numerous technical and administrative appointments, connected with maintenance and repairs of mechanical transport and fighting vehicles in Indian Army, including Works Manager, Heavy Repair Shop.

(x) Worked as Chief Instructor, Training Centre Army School of Maintenance and Driving, Ahmednagar and Officer-in-Charge Experimental Section of Fighting Vehicles School.

TRACTORS AVAILABLE TO AGRICULTURISTS IN NORTH, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN DIVISIONS OF BOMBAY.

167. Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary please state how many tractors are available to the agriculturists in the North, Central and Southern Divisions of the Bombay Province?

(b) Are they available for use to the agriculturists on hire individually or through the Agricultural Development Associations?

(c) Are there any special facilities offered, in view of the 'Grow More Food' campaign, for making the tractors available in time?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Twenty eight tractors are at present available with the Provincial Department of Agriculture for use in the Province in addition to ten others for which suitable implements are not available. The territorial distribution of these tractors is not known.

(b) The tractors available for cultivation are being worked departmentally on a contract basis both for individual cultivators and for organisations.

(c) The Provincial Government are prepared to pay half the cost of tractor cultivation for increased food production.

INACTION RE REMOVAL OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, Indian Commerce): With your permission, may I raise a little point. On the 4th February I was moving an adjournment of this House in order to draw attention to the failure of Government to give the information which they promised with regard to the removal of the commercial safeguards sections 111 to 121 of the Government of India Act. I regret the Honourable the Planning

12 Noon. Member is not here in spite of the message I sent him. He had only taken office for a week when this question was raised and I did not therefore press him. He had undertaken that a day would be allotted for the discussion of this topic. He gave this undertaking after consulting the Honourable the Leader of the House and said that a day at the end of March or the beginning of April would be given. Now, that the Government have stretched the session by many working days, may I know which particular day the Government propose to fix for this purpose which they have promised to this House.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): I was under the impression that the Honourable Member had informed the Honourable Planning Member that he would not press it. I would consult him and let him know.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If the Honourable Member will let this House know tomorrow, it will be all right, so far as I am concerned.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I will consult the Honourable Member for Planning and Development and let the House know tomorrow.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1945-46—RAILWAYS— contd.

DEMAND NO. 1—RAILWAY BOARD—contd.

Mr. President: The House will now proceed to consider the Demands for Supplementary Grants in respect of Railways for 1945-46. A demand for Rs. 5,15,000 under the head 'Railway Board' was under consideration the last occasion, and Mr. Ayyangar was speaking at that time.

Mr. A. O. Turner (Government of India, Nominated Official): Sir. Before Mr. Ayyangar proceeds with his speech, may I have your permission to make a brief statement. The House will remember that when on February the 28th I had moved the supplementary demand for the Railway Board, the Honourable Deputy President raised a preliminary objection concerning the manner in which provision had been made for expenditure on investment in Road services under Demand No. 12 in the current year without presenting a special memorandum to the Standing Finance Committee and without presenting a token Supplementary Demand under Demand No. 12 to this House. In deference to the wishes expressed on that occasion in this House, the matter has since been referred to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways which was provided with full details and explanations of the present position. As a result of their deliberations, the Standing Finance Committee have now recommended for the current year the following: (1) the provision of a supplementary sum of 50 lakhs under Demand No. 6-G. Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses to defray the cost of chassis purchased and bodies already commenced or completed thereon and (2) the provision of a new Supplementary Demand under Demand No. 12, Open Line Works to cover certain of the investments which had already been made this year. These fresh demands will be placed before the House today and will be for discussion here and in view of this I presume that the Honourable the Deputy President no longer wishes to press his preliminary objection.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): May I ask what the constitutional position is? Do I take it that all this money has been spent without the sanction of this House. Is this an Excess or a Supplementary Grant? I would like my Honourable friend to explain the position to the House.

Mr. A. O. Turner: This will be a supplementary grant to cover certain items of expenditure which have been incurred and which were incurred by Government in good faith in pursuance of the mandate which they thought they had received from the House last April when the House supported the policy of Government as explained by the Honourable the War Transport Member and voted the supplementary demand of 82 lakhs.

Diwan Chaman Lall: This expenditure has already been incurred without the sanction of this House in anticipation of anything that this House might do. The demand comes in the form of a supplementary demand. It can only be an excess grant.

Mr. A. O. Turner: I think that is not quite correct. If the House did not regularize the amount during the current financial year, then it would have to come forward as an excess grant in a later year after investigation by the Public Accounts Committee. But if this House chooses to sanction this expenditure now within the financial year they are perfectly within their rights and the whole proceeding will be regularized.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Do I take it that my friend is not aware of the distinction between a supplementary grant and an excess grant. A supplementary grant is a grant regarding which this House is asked to give its sanction for future expenditure. An excess grant is a grant for which this House has given no sanction whatsoever. It has been utilised by the Department without the sanction of the House and in sack cloth and ashes they now come here to ask for the vote of the House. That is the distinction. Therefore, Mr. President, would like a ruling from you as to whether this is a supplementary grant or an excess grant.

Mr. A. O. Turner: The difference is that an excess grant is never placed before the House for its vote in the year in which the expenditure is being incurred. It is voted in the year after that, or it may be two years afterwards. This House can however, regularize any expenditure in the current financial

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year by a vote in this financial year. That is the distinction, which, I think, is important.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I draw your attention to, page 32, Manual of Business and Procedure, para. 166:

"When money has been spent on any service for which the vote of the Assembly is necessary during any financial year in excess of the amount granted for that service and for that year, a demand for the excess shall be presented to the Assembly by the Finance Member and shall be dealt with in the same way by the Assembly as if it were a demand for a grant."

It is not a question of having spent money in one year and then coming in the next budget year before the House and asking the House to validate the grant by virtue of its being called supplementary. Excess grant is a grant which, without the sanction of the House, during the financial year, the Department has utilised and having utilised without sanction of the House, then has to come to the floor of the House and demand the sanction of the House to validate that particular excess.

Mr. A. C. Turner: I think it is a question of interpretation, the meaning of this particular rule seems to me quite plain:

"When money has been spent on any service for which the vote of the Assembly is necessary during any financial year."

The point on which stress is to be laid is "for which the vote of the Assembly is necessary during the financial year". The vote of the Assembly is being asked for in this financial year. Therefore it is not an excess grant, but a supplementary grant.

Mr. President: I was just considering that the distinction lies more in "the vote of the Assembly" having been asked for or not. It is not so much with reference to the year that the distinction is made. But I would like to consider this point at greater length than now, perhaps more quietly. But I may give the House what is passing in my mind, so that I can have some help from Honourable Members in the matter of interpretation. I am inclined to think that, in cases where there is no budget grant at all and expenditure is incurred, the grant would be excess grant. Where a particular head is included in the budget estimates, money has been provided for on account of that particular head, and some expenditure is incurred on that particular head,—that is on what is sanctioned by the Assembly,—but in excess of the budget grant, then it will come as a supplementary grant. Am I right in this distinction?

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I draw your attention to May's Parliamentary Practice page 501, first para.

Mr. President: Perhaps I did not express myself very clearly. This is what I find in Rule 50, that is Para. 167, the very next para. which says:

"An estimate shall be presented to the Assembly for a supplementary or additional grant when—

(i) the amount voted in the budget of a grant is found to be insufficient for the purposes of the current year."

That is a supplementary grant.

"(ii) a need arises during the current year for expenditure for which the vote of the Assembly is necessary upon some new service, not contemplated in the Budget for that year."

This is what I expressed when I said "no budget grant". That is all I expressed.

The para. further says:

"Provided that when funds to meet proposed expenditure on a new service can be made available by reappropriation a demand for the grant of a token sum may be submitted to the vote of the Assembly, and, if the Assembly assents to the demand, funds may be so made available."

Now, the point which has been raised in this particular case appears to me to be a point not of interpretation but of understanding of parties viz., as to

how the opposition understood the particular vote and as to how the Government understood that vote. The matter would be clarified further from the Note or the Memorandum which was submitted to the Standing Finance Committee by the Government, which is attached to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee dated 26th March 1946. The whole point is one of understanding; and I believe when the Honourable the Deputy President argued his case

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): That was not even taken up. What he said was, what the Deputy President raised as objection was, there was not even a token demand placed before the Assembly as was required by the Rules that you have just now read out. It is a new service for which there is no provision in the budget last year. Therefore there must have been a token amount, and even that was not placed before the Assembly. That was his objection.

Mr. President: That was what he was urging while raising his objection. The point which I wish to make is this. When he raised that point, the Honourable the Leader of the House said, that his view was that as the Government had at that time asked whether they could go on, after the grant of 82 lakhs and odd, and they were given to understand, of course according to them, not according to the party which gave them to understand, that they might go on with the scheme, what the Government has done, that was his contention, was in pursuance of that direction of the committee that, the Government could go on.

Diwan Chaman Lall: The point is this, that a particular grant was given to the Government by the vote of this House for a particular service. The Government understood that they could spend more money in respect of that grant than that given by the House.

Mr. President: That is not the point.

Diwan Chaman Lall: If no money has been granted then they cannot spend money on new service.

Mr. President: That is the contention of one side. The contention of the other side was that this was not a new service, but their understanding is that what was included in the budget included this thing. That was how the Government understood it.

Diwan Chaman Lall: We must be quite clear in our minds before we come to any decision. Whether this grant is an excess grant or a supplementary grant, we must be clear in our mind, whether any grant has been given to the Government at all.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member appreciate the point which I am placing. It is not, to my mind, a question of interpretation, but it is a question as to how the parties understood the vote of the Assembly. If what the Government say they understood as correct understanding, then this will become a supplementary demand. If on the other hand, the real interpretation of the debate last year, if the vote of the Assembly last year, is what the Deputy President reached as the conclusion, then this will be an excess grant. Here the real difficulty is not to decide on the interpretation of the particular rule as to whether this grant is an excess grant or a supplementary grant; but a question of fact arises as to whether the understanding of the one party was correct or the understanding of the other party was correct. Whatever it may be, as a matter of fact there has been this understanding, and we have to take what the Government say they understood—one may not agree with them—but still, if they say, they understood this in a particular way, then we have to proceed on the assumption that, as a matter of fact they understood it that way. I may refer the Honourable Member to the Note submitted by the Government to the Standing Finance Committee, a copy of which was circulated last night. The relevant observations from that Note are in para. 2.

"At the time the budget for 1945-46 was drawn up, the probable outlay in such investments was not known so that no provision was made in the budget. In view, however, of the endorsement of the policy by the Assembly in April last and the fact that investments had been made in road services in previous years, so that the items did not in Government's

[Mr. President]

opinion constitute a new service. Government entered into certain commitments, as mentioned above and made provision in the revised estimates for the expenditure of 119 lakhs which was anticipated would be incurred during the current year and of about 3.48 lakhs in the budget. The amount provided in the revised budget was found to be available by reappropriation within the grant concerned,—Grant No. 12,—so that it was not necessary to present a supplementary demand to the Assembly on that account."

That was the point of Government contention; and the Deputy President was contending that really, it was not a case for reappropriation within that budget head. Certain items of expenditure were transferred from one budget head to another budget head, so that all of it was grouped in budget head 12 and then reappropriation was resorted to. In other words, his allegation was that the Assembly was got round, this expenditure was incurred and it was not put to the vote of the Assembly.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, you have put my contention clearly before the House. At that time also I pointed out that this expenditure under head 12 could not be incurred by reappropriation unless there was a token grant passed by the House and that token grant was not taken; therefore no expenditure could be incurred without coming with a supplementary grant. The Standing Finance Committee has rectified this mistake. My Honourable friend the Financial Commissioner for Railways was not willing to accept my contention at that time, but now he agrees that it could not be made like this and the Standing Finance Committee has agreed to allow this expenditure under head 6-G which was really originally allowed by this House. Therefore there will be no appropriation from one head or the other but it is coming under the head 6-G, as has been shown in the note circulated here. This expenditure of 50 lakhs which has been allowed is a round figure though it falls somewhat short. The Committee was not in a position to know whether all the items of expenditure had been incurred during this time and therefore they allowed expenditure on only one item. But there was one clear understanding that this House does not want to reverse the policy which has been accepted for the coming year by not granting 8 crores and 48 lakhs; that is, we had shelved that matter for running the rail-road coordination scheme until it is revived later on. But there was a clear understanding that whatever Government have spent has been spent without prejudice to that decision which has been taken by the Assembly, and there will be no reversal of our policy. This has been arrived at and now the Assembly will give it. It will now become a regularised expenditure by their vote.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, on account of the passing of a supplementary grant in 1945 Government went on incurring expenditure beyond what was sanctioned and now they come for the vote of the House. This performance should not be repeated again. You might as well say that this policy of rail-road has been accepted in 1945 and therefore you may think it justifiable to incur further expenditure as you have done during the current year. There must be a clear understanding about it.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I was not a member of the Railway Finance Committee but I should like to express my opinion if I am asked to vote on this supplementary demand. This supplementary demand has been before us year after year

Mr. President: I may remind the Honourable Member that we are not dealing with the merits of the supplementary demand now. What we are discussing now is the procedure as regards the point of order raised by Diwan Chaman Lall. His point was that this cannot come before the House as a supplementary demand but must come as an excess demand. If the Honourable Member has to address himself to that point. I am quite prepared to hear him. He can speak on the merits of the demand when it is discussed by the House.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I understand the procedure to be that whenever we have any expenditure for the current year any demand in excess of the voted amount comes in the form of a supplementary demand. But when it relates to excess expenditure in the previous year and is reported by the Public Accounts Committee to be regularised it is presented in the shape of an excess demand. That has been the practice in the past and that is how I have always understood it.

Mr. President: That point has been cleared now. But it appears to me, with reference to what Diwan Chaman Lall said, that in view of the adjustments arrived at—I believe, as a matter of compromise—between Government and the Standing Finance Committee, as also in view of the fact that 50 lakhs of rupees are now added to 6-G, and the demand No. 12 is also now put before the House as a supplementary demand, the question loses all its practical importance so far as the procedure is concerned, and we need not go into the technical position now as to whether as a matter of fact this is an excess grant or a supplementary grant. So the Honourable Member Mr. Ayyangar will now proceed.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, in view of the statement of the Honourable Member and in as much as this particular matter is coming under two other heads divided between 6-G and 12, I do not pursue this matter under this head.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I think any expenditure likely to be incurred in 1945-46 can be taken up as a supplementary demand, but I have a few objections to this. A demand is made for an excess of 14 crores in the supplementary budget; that shows colossal indifference as to the way in which the budget was prepared last year. They could not foresee this expenditure of 14 crores which they are now demanding. It may be said that it may be on account of other expenditure on an approved item which is covered by paragraph 167 (i) of the manual of Business and Procedure. But this amount ought not to be very large and should not exceed two or three per cent. But if the excess is 14 or 15 per cent. it shows negligence in the Finance Department of the Railway Board.

It ought to be within certain limits.

The second thing is that it may be an entirely new item of expenditure. If it is so, then in that case, the vote of the House ought to be taken and no money ought to be spent without our knowledge. When you start a new expenditure you presuppose, and you have no right to do so, that the Assembly would agree to it. Therefore to incur large expenditure of lakhs and crores in the hope that the Assembly will agree to it is not correct. So before you take up a new service, you ought not to spend any money before taking votes.

There is a third thing: a service which has been rejected by the House. I think it is criminal to spend any money on any item which has been rejected by the vote of the House, and therefore to demand anything on any item which has been rejected is not justifiable. Therefore, I would split up the whole thing into three parts:

(a) Where the demand is for an approved service, then I will ask what percentage you are demanding over the budget for 1945-46.

(b) If you come for any demand for a new service, then I would like to know what new circumstances had happened on account of which you could not foresee such things.

(c) If, unfortunately, we have put down any expenditure on an item which has been rejected by the House, then I regret that I will not vote for it.

Mr. President: I think I have to put Demand No. 1—Railway Board to the House now.

The question is:—

"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'."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This is a motion not by the Chair. Somebody should move it.

Mr. President: It was already moved. The discussion was going on and the Honourable Deputy President was opposing it on other grounds.

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 2—AUDIT

Mr. A. C. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'Audit'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'Audit'."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: on this matter I would like to say a few words. Much of this money has been paid by way of dearness allowances to employees drawing Rs. 1,000 and above. This was passed by the Standing Finance Committee last year after the budget was over. I would like to know when Government is going to stop this dearness allowance for higher salaried men. If he is not going to do so, I am against this so far as this includes dearness allowance for highly paid officers.

Mr. President: Do I take it for granted that the Honourable Member does not propose to move his cut motion?

Grant of Dearness and other allowances after the Budget for 1945-46 without reference even to the Standing Finance Committee for Railways

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes, I do. Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 in respect of 'Audit' be reduced by Rs. 1,16,000."

I have already said enough about this matter. So far as employees getting Rs. 1,000 and above, no dearness allowance is necessary for them. You see there are controls. He cannot celebrate a marriage because he cannot feed more than fifty at a time. He cannot have a costly *saree* for his wife because there is no cloth. He cannot enjoy liquor because of heavy excise duty. Therefore such a man can save, whereas others have had to spend on account of the war. To people drawing over Rs. 1,000 the war has come as a boon. Let it be put a stop to. It is improper. As a protest I want that the House will agree with me and support the amendment and vote down the demand to that extent.

(At this stage Prof. N. G. Ranga rose in his seat)

Mr. President: I have yet to place the cut motion before the House. I could not catch the Honourable Member while he was moving the cut motion. He wants it reduced by Rs. 1,16,000.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes, Rs. 1,16,000 as an economy cut.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 in respect of 'Audit' be reduced by Rs. 1,16,000."

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We also took exception to this in the Public Accounts Committee last year and we made it clear to Government that they should not follow this procedure and waste public money on people who really do not deserve it and are not in need of it. If I mistake not, these people, these officers also get the benefit of supplies from their various shops and other concerns by railways at no cost to Government, that is, at cost price and sometimes less than cost price. Therefore, I do not think it is necessary for us to argue this at any great length. We suggest that Government should at least for the future give up this very bad and wasteful procedure and stop all this dearness allowances for these officers who are paid more than Rs. 1,000.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: So far as policy is concerned, I agree with my friend, Mr. Ayyangar, that after the Assembly did not allow this dearness allowance, it should not have been given. But there is one little difficulty. From all the money that is being spent this way in the Railway Board, my friend has only given a cut in the Audit Branch. If we only choose to strike at the Audit Branch and leave out the other bigger salaried men who are getting much more than this, then it will not be consistent with the policy which my friend wants to enunciate. Then there is another matter. The employees of the Audit Branch are not the servants of the Railway Board. The Railway Board pays as an audit fee to the Auditor General in order to have the accounts of the railways checked, and if the amounts have gone up higher then naturally a higher expenditure was required. In this case it is not so much a question of dearness allowance as the fees which are payable under the rules to the Audit Department. But had my friend chosen this as a token cut on the first demand on the Railway Board to discuss the policy, or if he had reduced the whole of the supplementary grant, then it would have been possible, but here we will not achieve the object which my friend has got in mind and the best course will be, what he had done in the beginning, to invite the Honourable the Finance Member to say what is the position of the Government as to whether they agree to this dearness allowance for the future or they want to stop it now. He wants to discuss this because he has mentioned it and I hope the Honourable Member will not take objection and say that because he only wanted to discuss this and he has not said that it is for the sake of economy, therefore he will give only the appropriate reply.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is exactly our intention.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir George Rainy when he was the Railway Member, laid before the House that the facilities which we provide for the servants of the Government of India should also be extended to railway servants.

We had practically accepted this principle. This question of dearness allowance should not be discussed only with reference to the railway employees, much less with reference only to the Audit Department. It is a general question and I think we should adopt a uniform policy in the case of the railways and other servants of the Government of India. Therefore we should allow this particular demand and give them the dearness allowance but this question should be raised as a general question of policy applicable to all the services of the Government.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Where?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Both of us are members of the Standing Committee and that is the place where we ought to raise this question but we ought not to bring up the Railway Department, much less one particular section of the Railway Department and apply a differential principle. Sir, I beg to support the demand.

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

Sir, in this connection I would like to tell my Honourable friend Sir Zia-uddin Ahmad that so far as we are concerned we want this cut to be imposed in respect of other Departments as well when the supplementary demands come up today. As regards the Railway Department I may inform the Honourable Member that there is one special reason. From the General Manager downwards every railway employee gets his articles from the railway shops, for which we are expected to provide in these very supplementary demands about 24 or 30 lakhs to cover up the loss.

An Honourable Member: Some crores.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want to draw the attention of the House to two other points. Firstly, this dearness allowance was given effect to from the 1st January 1945. The Government must have contemplated it long before and it was deliberately not placed before the Assembly, because Government

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

must have been sure that the Assembly will not approve of it and therefore it was later on introduced and the Railway Finance Committee was not even consulted.

One more point, Sir. The other day, Honourable Members will remember, I put a question to the Honourable the Labour Member pointing out that there were employees in Government press who were drawing Rs. 13, 15 and 17 and I wanted that something should be done for them. I think my friend Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad also supported that. The Honourable the Labour Member said that nothing could be done until the commission which was inquiring into the pay of all Government servants had reported. On the one hand we find that there are employees who are literally starving and nothing is being done because a certain commission had not reported and on the other hand we find Government employees who have been drawing Rs. 1,000 and more who are not put to as much hardship as they are represented to be and so far as railway employees are concerned, they have certain extra facilities. Still the Government did not hesitate to introduce these concessions involving the exchequer to the tune of some crores.

In this connection I may also submit that our objection is to the grant of dearness allowance to officers drawing Rs. 1,000 and above. We do not object to the allowance being given to those drawing lower salaries.

Mr. President: Today is Friday and the House has to adjourn at 12-45 p.m. Before we adjourn I want to invite Honourable Member's attention to the party agreement that by 5 p.m. tomorrow we finish not only these railway grants but also the general supplementary grants. Keeping that in view Honourable Members will carry on their discussions. Otherwise we shall not have sufficient time to discuss the general supplementary demands.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: We have no knowledge of that agreement.

Mr. President: This agreement was arrived at the other day by leaders of all parties and groups. An agreement is an agreement whose sanctity cannot be broken.

The assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Quarter Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after lunch at a Quarter Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Mr. G. V. Mavalankar in the Chair).

Mr. President: I believe the Honourable Members would like their memory to be refreshed by what I stated when the House adjourned, about the agreement between the parties. There was a conference at which leaders of groups and parties were present and this was what was agreed to. I had stated that to the House some time back, and I would repeat it now just to refresh the memory of members.

I understand that all sections of the House have arrived at a general agreement on the question of the time table for the Finance Bill and the supplementary grants for railways as well as general.

The time table will be as under. Commencing from Tuesday the 19th instant, all stages of the Finance Bill will be completed by 5 p.m. on Thursday the 28th instant, and all questions then outstanding in respect of the Finance Bill will be put to the vote of the Assembly without any further discussion or any question. The railway and general supplementary demands will be taken up on the 29th instant and continued on Saturday the 30th instant, which will be a working day. The Assembly will similarly dispose of on that day all the outstanding supplementary demands by 5 p.m.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, may I submit that the Government have included in the supplementary demands a demand for Rs. 4 crores for the U.N.R.R.A. This demand

was unanimously opposed in the Standing Finance Committee, and we all said it would be most improper to come to the Assembly with this demand but Government have come and most of us are anxious to discuss this highly controversial item; and if Government try by a trick of this kind to get this through, all that would be open to us would be to vote down that particular head completely without discussion; but I feel that Government ought not to do this: they should separate the demand for the U.N.R.R.A., which is not supplementary to the past year, which is a proposal for spending in future, and that they should come to us separately for it and assign a day for the discussion thereon. It is head No. 70—Miscellaneous. That is as far as I infer, because U.N.R.R.A. last year was put under Miscellaneous . . .

Mr. President: I have no indication here on the paper.

Mr. Manu Subedar: When the agreement which you read out was made, I do not think any member of a group or party—certainly not on this side—had a clear conception that Government would put in items of this kind, highly controversial and very damaging to this country; in a famine year, in a highly deficit year they propose to give away Rs. 4 crores more which will be taken mostly in the form of commodities which we need very badly in the country. I do not want to go into the merits, but I must protest against Government's inclusion of this item in which miscellaneous grants come, when the underlying basis of this understanding which was merely reached as a mutual courtesy in order to expedite the business of the House. I do not think that could be the intention of any member of this House—that this particular understanding reached merely as a matter of assistance should be utilised in order to get in a highly controversial issue like this by the back door.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Sir, in that connection I should like to make a statement, which I was considering making later in the day. In the statement made by me yesterday I said that a supplementary demand for a further contribution to U.N.R.R.A. in 1946-47 would be one of the subjects we will have to bring up before the House. It has since been brought to my notice that the position is, as the Honourable Member said, that there is a supplementary grant for this further contribution to U.N.R.R.A. under, I think, item No. 70; and therefore my submission was misleading, because it will in fact come up for discussion on demand No. 70 tomorrow . . .

Mr. Manu Subedar: How can it come up if the guillotine is applied?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am just explaining the position. It was not clear to me last night, when I made that statement. It is a matter on which the Government will probably accept the verdict of the House, and the point is that if the House desires a considered debate on this subject it is desirable that the House should see that there is time for it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is not possible.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: My object in making this statement was to make the position clear to the House. This is the actual fact. This item is quite correctly included in the supplementary demand and I wish to make that clear to the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I wish to make one suggestion that it should be withdrawn from this list and brought in again separately so that the House will have an adequate opportunity of discussing this matter and afterwards expressing its own opinion with regard to it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Quite clearly I shall have to discuss it with the Finance Member and I shall tell the House at 5 O'clock. I have already sent a wip out to find him.

Mr. President: If the expenditure is not to be incurred or already incurred before the 31st March—may I now if it is necessary to have this demand included in the present supplementary demands?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have not got the papers in front of me, but I think you will find from the papers that it will be put into a suspense account this year to be spent next year.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The urgency of it is not on a par with the urgency of the other items. In the other items, we are required to co-operate with Government and finish the discussion before the 31st March in order to observe the legal propriety that the expenditure is sanctioned before the year expires; but in this case it is clearly a new proposal: it is a proposal to which there was considerable opposition in the Standing Finance Committee; even my friends of the European Group did not agree that the contribution should be given; and I submit that it cannot be included in the demand No. 70 in the form in which it is; and if Government put demand No. 70 minus this Rs. 4 crores which they had intended to give to the UNRRA, they can go through under the guillotine—we have no objection; but the other items should be provided separately and Government can bring this up separately next year.

Mr. President: That is exactly why I put the question, as to whether the expenditure had been incurred or was to be incurred before the 31st March; but if that is not so, the matter will have a different aspect. We will have the position clarified when the Honourable Finance Member comes in; we will then know what the facts are. As I find from the proceedings of the supplementary demands—"It was decided last year with the concurrence of the Standing Finance Committee to make a contribution of Rs. 8 crores to UNRRA, 110 lakhs of rupees by direct expenditure on supplies in 1944-45 and Rs. 8,90,00,000 by transfer to a special deposit account to be drawn upon as and when necessary."

Mr. Manu Subedar: No, Sir; may I mention for the information of the House that Rs. 8 crores was intended to cover three years' expenditure?

Mr. President: I am not contesting the Honourable Member's point; I am supporting that point. That appears to me to be the position under (c). Therefore I put that question about the urgency of the matter being taken up before the 31st March. But the Honourable Finance Member is not here and we will have the position clarified when he comes. I am merely referring to the agreement.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know whether the demand was before the House when the agreement was arrived at.

Mr. President: I could not be sure of that. They may not have been in possession of this particular aspect.

So far as the supplementary demands are concerned, the dates of circulation are General supplementary demand No. 1, was circulated on the 28th February, No. 2, on the 4th March and other supplementary grants on the 25th March. We will have the matter clarified when the Honourable the Finance Member comes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: We must be very careful about agreements in future.

Mr. President: That is a matter for the Honourable members. One need not bind himself to any position. The demand under discussion now is No. 2 Audit.

Mr. A. C. Turner: First of all I should like to correct one or two mis-statements which were probably inadvertently made by my Honourable friend Mr. Saksena. He first said that every one on the Railways, from the General Manager downwards is entitled to grain shop concessions. I assure the Honourable Member that that is not a fact. No one in receipt of more than Rs. 400 per month is entitled to any concession from railway grain shops. The second point he made was that the present revised scales of dearness allowance and war allowance were given with retrospective effect from the 1st January 1945 and he therefore deduced that Government must have made up their mind by that date and they had wilfully withheld this from the House and from the Standing

Finance Committee until after the session had concluded. Sir, that is quite a wrong deduction. Government had not made up its mind at all. Government's decision was taken in April, 1945, and as soon as Government's decision was taken the proposal was put before the General Standing Finance Committee of this House which approved Government's proposals and it was given effect to with retrospective effect.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Was it not on the 12th April that the Standing Finance Committee meeting was held?

Mr. A. C. Turner: Yes.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that the Assembly adjourned on the 12th April.

Mr. A. C. Turner: I am not aware of the date.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Two days later they held it.

Mr. A. C. Turner: There is nothing to be deduced from that except that the usual practice was followed. As far as possible, we hold our Standing Finance Committee meetings outside the period when the House is sitting. I think my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar will support me in saying how inconvenient and difficult it is holding these meetings during the sittings of the Assembly. We have to meet either before or after the hours of business which is onerous and harassing. So that there is nothing to be deduced from the date of this meeting. The decision was not taken till April, that I can vouch for as I had to deal with this matter in another capacity.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why was this not placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. We are not guided in financial matters entirely by the Government of India, Finance Department Resolutions?

Mr. A. C. Turner: My Honourable friend has put me a question. I will reply by putting him a question. When Government have sanctioned relief for all other officials, would Mr. Ayyangar deny that relief to Railway officials?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am afraid the Honourable Member has not addressed himself to the Standing Finance Committee Resolution of the 12th April 1945, where at page 5, where it refers to Central Government servants other than employees on railways. You make a distinction. Do you know that in the case of the Railways the whole procedure is different in the matter of budget, scales, service regulations and so. You yourself have made a distinction between the two services.

Mr. A. C. Turner: I notice that my Honourable friend has not answered my question, but I pass on.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am here to answer questions, not you?

Mr. A. C. Turner: To pass on. I think the correct view has been taken by the Honourable Deputy President and Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, when they say that this is a matter concerning all Government servants. This audit service comes under the Auditor General of India and their allowances are those of civil as opposed to railway employees. If it is the intention of this House to withhold supplies in respect of one small section of Government servants, it is to me in deed a little surprising.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We have cut motions for all Departments.

Mr. A. C. Turner: I notice that my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar has a cut motion down against the first demand in the general budget on this very subject. That appears to me to be the more appropriate place at which to press such a motion. The present demand relates to a very small section of Government servants.

Mr. President: I want to be clear on one point. The Honourable Member has included the whole amount of Rs. 1,16,000 for reduction. In the course

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of his speech he said he objected to the dearness allowance of persons drawing over Rs. 1,000 per mensem. Does this amount work up to the figure of Rs. 1,16,000?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That is my information.

Mr. A. C. Turner: This Rs. 1,16,000 contains a sum of Rs. 4,000 for ordinary allowances which has nothing to do with dearness allowance. The one lakh 12 thousand which remains is for all the Government servants under this head. It includes provision for officers drawing less than Rs. 1,000 p.m. as well as for those who draw more.

Mr. President: Does the Honourable Member wish to press it?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yes. I press it because it gives retrospective effect. I would like to cut out the entire demand.

Mr. President: I wanted to have clarification because the Honourable Member made that distinction in his speech. I wanted to be sure that nothing is cut out by mistake. I have nothing to say on the merits of the motion before the House.

The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 in respect of 'Audit' be reduced by Rs. 1,16,000."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—42

Adityan, Sri S. T.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Choudhuri, Sreejith Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Sheodasa.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
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.
Madandhari Singh, Mr.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Masani, Mr. M. R.

Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
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.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Sukhdev, Seth.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Vadilal Lalubhai, Mr.

NOES—51

Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee, Raja Sir Saiyid.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Anizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Bhattacharyya, Rai Bahadur Devendra
Mohan.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Guruswami, Mr. S.
Gwillt, Mr. Leslie.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.

Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain
Sardar.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.
Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.
Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdam Al-Haj
Syed Sher Shah.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Krishnama Acharys, Rai Bahadur Sir V. T.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mason, Mr. P.
Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Oulnam, Mr. S. H. Y.

NOES—51—contd.

Rangachari, Mr. M. V.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Sargent, Sir John.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Siddique Ali Khan, Nawab.
Siddique, Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad.
Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Solanki, Dr. P. G.
Spence, Sir George.
Sri Chand, Chaudhri.

Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Turner, Mr. A. C.
Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Weightman, Mr. H.
Williams, Mr. C. F. V.
Yeatts, Mr. M. W. M.
Yasuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

The motion was negatived.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,53,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I understand that when I was out of the House a point was raised by the benches opposite as to the propriety of including in a general supplementary demand (No. 70) a sum of Rs. 4 crores in respect of UNRRA. I do not admit it to be in proper, particularly since I have brought it before the Standing Finance Committee; but, of course, we did not contemplate then that the guillotine procedure might have to be applied in the Assembly; and Government are extremely anxious to elicit the views of the House on the subject at greater length than merely voting on it, particularly under the guillotine procedure. I therefore propose, with the consent of the House, to move tomorrow myself for a reduction of Rs. 4 crores under this grant, leaving the subsequent point whether this contribution is to be made to UNRRA for a subsequent discussion. And if the House then approves, I will move a further supplementary grant for next year. This supplementary grant is in respect of the current year's budget. I hope that will meet the point which the benches opposite had in mind, namely, that we will not deal with the further contribution to UNRRA on the supplementary grants of this year except to have a discussion on it, and if the House approves, we will move for a further supplementary grant.

An Honourable Member: When will it come again?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Some time later in this session.

DEMAND No. 3.—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENDITURE

Mr. A. C. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 23,27,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 23,27,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Expenditure'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 5.—PAYMENTS TO INDIAN STATES AND COMPANIES

Mr. A. C. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,22,000 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 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 22,22,000 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 'Payments to Indian States and Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 8-A.—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE OF STRUCTURAL WORKS

Mr. A. C. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,85,02,000 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 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Structural Works'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,85,02,000 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 'Working Expenses—Maintenance of Structural Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 8-D.—WORKING EXPENSES—MAINTENANCE AND WORKING OF FERRY STEAMERS AND HARBOURS

Mr. A. C. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,30,000 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 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Working of Ferry Steamers and Harbours'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 5,30,000 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 'Working Expenses—Maintenance and Working of Ferry Steamers and Harbours'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 6-E.—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

Mr. A. C. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,42,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,42,82,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Traffic Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 8-F.—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF GENERAL DEPARTMENTS

Mr. A. C. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 65,06,000 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 'Working Expenses—Expenses of General Departments'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 65,06,000 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 'Working Expenses—Expenses of General Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 6-G.—WORKING EXPENSES—MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

Mr. A. C. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 76,59,000 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 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 76,59,000 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 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

Irregularity in incurring expenses on purchasing chassis and building bodies

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 76,59,000 in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 100."

Mr. President: What motion is it?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The motion of which I have given notice.

Mr. President: It is difficult for me to admit motions at the last moment.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I got this at 12 o'clock last night.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muham-madan Rural): The original was for Rs. 76 lakhs.

Mr. President: The point is that the list of demands in which Rs. 76 lakhs and odd was shown, was circulated on the 27th March. That means two days before.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: No. We received it only last night.

Mr. President: The book was circulated last night.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: My friend does not know what it contains. This demand is about the statement as to how much they ask under each head. The explanatory memorandum was circulated only last night. That shows Rs. 76 lakhs has been spent for chassis and other bodies. He takes exception not to the entire amount but to the Rs. 50 lakhs, the details of which were not known. He is not in a position to specify his demand.

Mr. President: The book was circulated last night.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: In fact we agreed to discuss these demands today on the understanding that the printed list would be supplied to us. Now that they were supplied only last night, I think the standing order ought to be waived and the amendment be allowed.

Mr. President: I believe this sum of Rs. 50 lakhs was added as the result of Standing Finance Committee's compromise over the other question.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That is on the first demand. He made a statement that we have come to some arrangement so he gives a supplementary demand under 6-G and 12 and I withdrew my remarks in view of the fact that we would have an opportunity to discuss it under 6-G and 12. So my friend is quite in order.

Mr. President: I was considering it from the point of view of waiving the question of notice.

Mr. A. C. Turner: Since the booklet only went out last night, although the actual total amount of the demand was shown in the list which went out on the 27th, I am prepared to withdraw my objection.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member repeat his cut motion and will he pass on the copy to me.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: "That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 76,59,000 in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 100."

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

I do not think I have to make a long speech because this has come before the House several times and as I pointed out before it must have come to the notice of the Members from the report of the *ad hoc* Committee in which the majority of the Committee were of the opinion that this was in contravention of the aforesaid agreement and it was irregular. The *ad hoc* Committee was

3 P.M. not informed as to how much money was spent in pursuance of the rail-road co-ordination policy. They were told that some money had been spent. The majority of the Committee took exception and pointed out that it was irregular. But my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House, did not consider it so and he has appended a note of dissent to it. Later on this question was again taken up during the discussion on the Railway Budget and my friend Mr. Gole pointed it out and wanted an explanation on that point. You know, Sir, that in the House, even that day, it was stressed on behalf of the Government that it was not necessary for the Government to bring that expenditure as a supplementary grant. In the Railway Finance Committee, I understand, the members agreed that they were ready to pass such expenditure as had already been incurred, but from the proceedings circulated to us we find that it was not so, although we have a statement of Rs. 50 lakhs, the Oudh Roadways Limited cost us Rs. 14,75,073 for chassis, building of bodies Rs. 7,88,520 while it was not known how many bodies had been completed.

As a matter of fact, this question had been hanging fire since February and in the meantime the Government should have taken steps to get the necessary information, at least for the Standing Finance Committee of the Railways, but nothing was done.

Then we find that against the Ganges Valley Transport Company Rs. 8,17,500 is shown as cost for chassis. The estimated cost of the bodies is Rs. 1,62,500 and this expenditure was incurred before 1st September 1945. It is very strange that up till now this information could not be had, notwithstanding repeated reminders from this House to get that information.

Again we find in the case of the South East U. P. Transport Company Limited, the Rohilkhand Transport Company Limited and the Gogra Transport Company Limited that Rs. 14,35,100 has been spent on chassis and the estimated cost of bodies comes to Rs. 7,84,500 and again we are not able to know how many bodies have been completed.

In the end no notice has been given to General Motors Limited cancelling their contracts for building the bodies, and therefore it is not known to what extent our commitments to them can be reduced. I want to know why no notice was given. Is it not a fact that the Honourable the Leader of the House could give an assurance to this House that no future commitments will be made? So that was the proper time when these railways should have been asked to notify General Motors Limited and other companies which had been entrusted with building chassis bodies.

Then again I find from the Standing Finance Committee's proceedings, held on the 28th March; it is said in para. 3:

"further recommended by a majority that this money should be expended only on the chassis already purchased and on bodies either already built or in the course of building. They asked that complete information should be placed before it as soon as practicable regarding the total number of chassis purchased up to March 31st 1946"

I ask why up to the 31st March, 1946? After all in February the Honourable Member had given an assurance that no future commitments will be made. If any chassis was purchased after the 4th February, I think the Finance Committee was not justified in accepting this position that any chassis that had been purchased up to the 31st March, 1946, will be paid out of this.

I do not want to say anything more. I know that our representatives in the Finance Committee have agreed to provide for this sum of 50 lakhs. I do want that this should be recorded that the House takes strong exception to the manner in which this expenditure was incurred. The Honourable Member

has been laying great stress on the understanding. So far as this House is concerned it would be a very dangerous precedent to establish that he can proceed to spend and spend to the tune of crores on the basis of an understanding, especially in view of the fact that not even a token demand was brought before the House and accepted. Therefore I think it is necessary that while we are going to pass the supplementary demand of 50 lakhs, this motion should be passed by the House placing on record that the expenditure incurred by the Government was not in order. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 76,59,000 in respect of 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses' be reduced by Rs. 100'."

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir I rise to support the motion before the House moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena. In doing so I would like to invite the attention of the House to what I consider to be not a very accurate statement of facts as they are given in the memorandum for the Standing Finance Committee. The first paragraph incidentally says that when the supplementary demand for 82 lakhs was before the House on the 3rd April, 1945, the Honourable Member for War Transport stated in his speech that if the Assembly passed the demand the Government would assume that the House gave a general consent to their postwar policy of road-rail services investments, which he had fully explained in the course of the debate and then he would take up the matter with the Provincial Governments. Incidentally on the demand for 82 lakhs, which was relevant only with regard to some road-rail services running during the emergency wartime, what happened was this. A discussion relating to the possibilities of road-rail co-ordination policy ensued. The House very well knows that the demand was thrown out. Later on it was re-introduced and here is what the Honourable Member for War Transport said on the 3rd April, 1945:

"I trust that after hearing this further explanation the House will agree to the supplementary demand for the purposes which I have specified. With regard to the postwar policy I am satisfied that Government's policy embraces the maximum possible measure of agreement. If the House accepts the supplementary grant, Government will assume that the House gives general agreement to the policy. I shall then proceed to address Provincial Governments to urge on them the acceptance of the principles laid down where they have not already accepted them."

This was what he said and during the course of the whole debate on those two occasions, when the supplementary demand was thrown out and when the demand for 82 lakhs was accepted, on neither occasion was there any specific reference to any expenditure on these schemes. To make that clear in the course of the debate the Honourable the Deputy President in the course of his observations said:

"I agree to most of the principles he has laid down but of course details will come later on and we shall consult every now and then about the working of the details which will be placed before this House. I do not know what procedure he will adopt, whether he will place the details before this House or whether he will carry them to some other committee. As far as he has just now explained some of the matter will require further elucidation and they will be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. I quite agree with him that everything involving operating or purchase of any kind may be of locomotives or of the other materials, should be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. Sir, on these lines, I give my general support to the proposals which have been made."

To support further my argument that there was an implicit understanding that every important aspect of the scheme was to have been placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, in the course of the discussion regarding the managing agency system the Honourable the Leader of the House observed on the same day, i.e., 3rd April 1945:

"This principle (that managing agency should not be encouraged) is fully accepted by Government, but it is possible that certain Provincial Governments or certain railways may have already gone so far with negotiations with road-transport interests that they are to a large degree committed to a managing agency. I undertake, however, that any case remaining open will be specifically placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways for their approval before an agreement is finalised."

[Shri D. P. Karimarkar]

There he has said very clearly that every important aspect relating to the road-rail co-ordination would be placed before the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and certainly any financial aspect of it should have at least come before the Standing Finance Committee and nothing of the kind has occurred with regard to this scheme. All of a sudden in one of the meetings of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways this 118 lakhs was casually mentioned. Under the circumstances, I do not want to attribute motives behind what has happened, it is an irregularity of a very serious nature. With these observations I support the cut motion before the House moved by my friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: May I ask which is the cut motion moved?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Under GG. Provision of Rs. 6,00,000

Mr. P. B. Gole (Berar: Non-Muhammadian): Sir, I wish to support the motion. The Honourable the War Transport Member has issued a white paper regarding the progress of road-rail co-ordination. With regard to the expenditure in U. P., explanation of which has been given now we find that 50 lakhs have been spent for the purchase of chassis and for building bodies thereon. I refer you to the paragraph regarding the progress of the road-rail co-ordination as stated in the white paper. I find in that paragraph the progress which the railways have made regarding participation in this road-rail co-ordination. I would read to you this small paragraph regarding the progress of road-rail co-ordination in the U. P.

"The U. P. Government are anxious to see road transport fostered in the public interest with a minimum of delay and they accept co-ordination with railways on the basis of financial fusion as the best method of developing rationalised transport in the province."

"Their policy which has been notified in a press communique favours the formation of tripartite companies with the shareholding divided between operators, Provincial Governments and the railways in the ratio of 49, 5 and 46 per cent. The new companies are to give preference to existing operators and their staffs in the matter of employment, and the existing operators will be permitted to invest to the extent of existing or potential interests in road transport up to the maximum of Rs. 10,000 per stage carriage permit and Rs. 7,500 for a public carrier permit."

But so far as the investment by the railways is concerned, I do not find any mention made in this white paper which was issued to the House; and later on an *ad hoc* committee was appointed; and during the discussions in the *ad hoc* committee, no mention was made about the purchase of chassis or the building of bodies on the chassis. As I said, up to that time, the position was that the railway was to purchase shares in these transport companies; and Government was to purchase certain shares; and the operators were to purchase certain shares. But the purchases of chassis by the railways by way of supplementing or by way of investment in those companies was nowhere mentioned either in the white paper or in the *ad hoc* committee while the discussions about this rail-road co-ordination were going on. That is really a surprise to us, that for the first time the other day when this question about the irregular way in which Rs. 118 lakhs were spent by the Government and to which I referred in my speech at that time—of course the Honourable Transport Member said that this was all regular, but when it was again raised by the Deputy President in the Railway Finance Committee, then probably the Government seems also to have realised the irregularity and they have come up with an explanation. I want to know why up to this time this information was kept from the House or from the *ad hoc* committee or from the Finance Committee. You will see from this explanation that was given that Rs. 3,17,000 and 14,75,000 were spent before 30th September, 1945.

Mr. President: It mentions that contracts were entered into.

Mr. P. B. Gole: No, no. Before 30th September 1945. The cost of chassis, the number of chassis—they are before 30th September, 1945; that is the date; have you got the date, Sir?

Mr. President: Yes.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Therefore the Government was in possession of this information long before the white paper was issued and also long before the *ad hoc* committee was appointed. Up to the recent times, when this question about the irregularity of the expenditure of 118 lakhs of rupees was raised in the House and this question was again agitated before the Railway Finance Committee, the Government was silent about this. I really do not understand why the Government was anxious to suppress this information from the House. It was sprung as a surprise upon the House, as to the way in which Government was spending the money. Now, looking to the agreement that was arrived at in 1945 on the floor of this House, the only agreement was that there should be a rail-road co-ordination under a tripartite agreement between the Provincial Government and the railway authorities and the operators. It nowhere envisaged the idea of purchasing chassis. I am very much afraid that by doing this practically the Government is driving away the present road operators; they have got their chassis, they have their buses and they have their bodies built and these were to be taken as the capital, or by way of shares in the new companies that were to be formed. If the Government or the railway was to supply these things, I do not understand how it is possible for the road operators to apply or insist that their chassis also should be taken by way of shares. I find the whole number is 511; and if that is so, the idea of including the present road operators in the new companies that would be formed will not come into operation at all. The Government or the railway want to monopolise the whole thing; they want their share capital to be given in the form of chassis; if that was the intention of the Government, it should have been made clear to the House or at least to the Standing Finance Committee. My submission is, that really speaking this information was long withheld from the members of this House. This surely is irregular and creates a lot of suspicion about the intentions of the Government so far as the rail-road co-ordination is concerned. It is a good augury however that the Honourable Transportation Member assures us here that the Provincial Governments which would come into existence shortly will be consulted regarding the further progress of rail-road co-ordination; but before that is done, certain commitments have been made. For instance, we are asked to vote 50 lakhs of rupees which are alleged to have been spent for purchasing chassis and for the building of bodies. My view is that this is all irregular; and it has been done behind the back of this House. Therefore the cut motion moved by my friend Mr. Saksena should be passed.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal: European): Sir, on a point of information, may I ask the last speaker whether he was stating his party's policy for the nationalisation of road transport or whether I correctly understood him to stake out a claim for the small operators?

Mr. P. B. Gole: Surely I have made it clear that the agreement that was arrived at last year on the floor of the House—we stick to that agreement, and everything should have been done in pursuance of that agreement. My complaint is that that agreement remained here and was departed from out of this House; and all these actions that are being taken by Government are really not in pursuance of the agreement, but with some other object which they may have in view, to which we do not subscribe at all.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, the question that my Honourable friend has put to my Honourable friend Mr. Gole makes me rise and give an explanation. I raised in the Standing Finance Committee on Railways the question of nationalising this road transport also. That is our view. My Honourable friend Mr. Gole is not away from the mark. We still stick to that policy that road transport must be state-owned completely—whether it is the Central Government or the Provincial Government or the local board or all of them, jointly or severally. Some margin, however, is to be left for existing operators. That is a small thing

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: You will allow a margin for the small operator?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Not a large margin—but an infinitesimally small margin for the small operator. The observations of my friend are really not against it. Even according to the agreements that have been entered into, the works have not been carried out. The agreement is that in the United Provinces as well as other places, the existing operators must be given a share; their bus and transport services that have been running till now must be taken over by the state on an assessed value; that must be taken to be the share value they contribute; the state or Central Government must contribute a portion and the Provincial Government another portion, if it is willing. So far, this 50 lakhs for which this demand has been made under 6-G refers to some chassis and bodies that have been built for the transport services in the U. P. It now comes to 50 lakhs; and my Honourable friend wants to know what the total share of the entire company is. The entire Province is divided into 7 regions, with 7 companies. If 50 lakhs is the contribution by the Central Government—with its contribution fixed at 46 per cent. of the capital—while 49 per cent. goes to the road operators, and 5 or 6 per cent. to the Provincial Government as we find in the white paper—if 46 per cent. of the share capital to be contributed by the Central Government comes to 50 lakhs, what is the total share capital of these companies? We have not got that figure. Does it include or does it not include the contribution made by the road operators? If we give effect to the agreement, according to the 50 lakhs that is the present demand, the road operators seem to have gone out of the picture. Have you taken them? If you have, is there any need for purchasing 500 chassis and build bodies on them? That is the account that he wants. We also wanted in the Standing Finance Committee that an account should be given actually of the chassis that have been purchased, the bodies that have been built and the bodies that are in course of construction. We want to sanction expenditure which has been incurred already, leaving it to the future Provincial Governments to continue this policy or not. For that purpose we wanted the exact figures of the chassis purchased and the bodies built. To this day we have not got that information. In the tabular statement an account has been given for 2 lakhs 10 thousand. The balance of 48 lakhs is in block account and payments will be made as and when bills are received from companies. It is legitimate for the House to inquire why the other side has not given details of the expenditure already incurred. That is all that my Honourable friend wants. This is in fact a censure motion on the Government for having spent the money in advance without sanction. The Honourable Member can have the 49 lakhs odd minus the Rs. 100. I trust that the House will vote solidly for this cut motion.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: In the memorandum submitted by the Government to the Standing Finance Committee it is said that in pursuance of the mandate negotiations for the formation of road motor companies were actively pursued with the collaboration of the Provincial Governments. I want to know whether in view of the verdict of the House in rejecting the grant of 3.18 crores for the next financial year, the Government still think that they have a mandate to pursue in terms of the Resolution passed in 1945. They have come back and now ask us to regularize what has been irregularly spent. That is one point.

Then the other point is this. I know they have spent some money in haste because of the commitments made. Now, instead of bringing this expenditure of Rs. 1.18 crores before the House for scrutiny and discussion, it was masked in several ways by shifting it from one demand to another and the explanation given was that the amount was met from reappropriation. After all the Government has now seen that the more regular course is to bring it before the House and secure its assent. The object of this censure motion is not to refuse the whole grant. It will have to be spent in pursuance of certain commitments but at the same time the object of the censure motion is to warn the Government that any such irregularity will not be tolerated hereafter in this House. That is the only object.

Mr. A. C. Turner: My Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil has inquired whether Government feel that they have a mandate to spend next year on such investments. I think every one will realise that the answer is 'No'. He also referred to the transfer between grants. I am afraid he has misunderstood this technical point. Government have never at any time transferred funds from one grant to another. In the Revised Estimates for 1945-46, 118 lakhs were provided under Demand No. 12 for these investments. That is the proper head for investment in these road services. As it happened, provision was possible under this Demand by reappropriation. The fact that previously provision had been made under the working expenses heads for the departmentally run services had nothing whatever to do with it. The 82 lakhs was for departmentally run services and was provided for under the working expenses heads and not under capital. The investments are met from a capital head. There has been no transfer from one grant to another. That would be irregular and in fact it is impossible to do so.

I think Mr. Gole was inquiring why the date 31st March 1946 was put in and how many chassis were purchased after the *ad hoc* Committee Report. 511 chassis are shown in this note. They were all purchased in 1945 and none have been purchased since.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Why do you put the date 31st March 1946.

Mr. A. C. Turner: There is no particular significance in that date except that it is the end of the financial year. It does not affect the case.

Then another point was raised by my friend Mr. Gole about the contract with the General Motors. My information is that the General Motors had finished making the bodies under their contract by February. According to the information given to me, no new bodies have been started by the General Motors since the time Government gave an undertaking to cease all future commitments.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Has any notice been given to them not to make further bodies.

Mr. A. C. Turner: No further contracts have been given.

Mr. P. B. Gole: Has any notice been given to cancel the contracts?

Mr. A. C. Turner: I will now deal with a few remaining points. The position was made clear this morning in the House that these commitments in regard to lorries which were intended eventually to be converted into investments under Demand No. 12 were entered into by Government in good faith, believing that they had a mandate from this House to go on with that policy. Since the debates which took place in the House on the budget demand and on the preliminary objection taken by the Honourable Deputy President when I moved the first supplementary demand, the matter has been taken to the Standing Finance Committee and Honourable Members serving on that committee will agree that they have been given all the information it was possible to secure. As practical men they have agreed that these two supplementary demands should be put before the House. That, Sir, has now been done and I submit we can do no more. It has been said that we can afford to lose Rs. 100—the amount of the cut. We may be able to afford the Rs. 100. What we cannot afford is acceptance of the censure motion implied in this cut and I sincerely hope that my Honourable friend Mr. Saksena in view of what I have said will agree to withdraw his cut motion.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Do you realise that this is irregular?

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Two points which require clarification have not been cleared. One is that one crore 88 lakhs which were provided for in this current year out of that sum is the expenditure which has been explained to be provided for under 6-G, 50 lakhs for the purchase of some trucks. One crore 88 lakhs was intended to be spent but has not been spent in full. The remaining amount 8 lakhs 88 thousand comes under Demand No. 12. I will deal with this when that Demand is reached. These two amounts combined together form a

[Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan]

portion of that item. The only expenditure which has been so far incurred is 50 lakhs which is shown under 6-G and 8 lakhs 83 thousand under Demand No. 12. By this expression that this sum has been transferred to 6-G, it is indirectly admitted that really one crore 88 lakhs should not have been under Demand No. 12, but under different heading. Therefore I do not want to go and beat about words. I quite realise that the Honourable the President has clearly set before the House the rules about this demand, that without a token grant no expenditure can be incurred. Whatever may have been the difference of opinion, in the past, it is now conceded that the Honourable Member is now trying to regularise in the light of what has been explained in this House. I think this will satisfy my Honourable friend Shri Mohan Lal Saksena. The Honourable Financial Commissioner's action speaks for itself rather than his saying that what he had done was wrong. The only thing is that we wanted an assurance and the Government's action has given that to us. Of course we in the Standing Finance Committee understood the position rightly. So far as the House is concerned, I want the Financial Commissioner to get up and say on the floor of the House that the Government stands by the position which has been admitted by it in the Standing Finance Committee. The Government has agreed to what passed in the Standing Finance Committee, and the Government agreed to the proposition which is now before the House. If that is the position of the Government, then it will satisfy this side of the House.

Mr. A. C. Turner: I am not clear as to the exact meaning of the Honourable the Deputy President's remarks just now. What is the assurance he wants from me?

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I am referring to one crore 88 lakhs. Is that clear? The only point that is not clear seems to be this. I want an assurance that the Government stand by the policy which has been accepted by them in the Standing Finance Committee for Railways, that is not to incur any expenditure in the next year on the road rail co-ordination scheme except the one which has been accepted by the Standing Finance Committee, or subject to what will come up under Demand No. 12. The Government stand committed to that position. The Standing Finance Committee has not allowed to negative the policy which has been accepted by this House by cutting off the entire demand of 3 crores 47 lakhs under Demand No. 12. That is one.

Mr. A. C. Turner: It is the Government's intention not to spend anything on the scheme next year except in so far as may prove inescapable. There are certain liabilities which Government have incurred this year which may come to fruition next year and Government may be forced to assent to that expenditure, for example if Government are sued for specific performance of contract. There are certain items like these which may come forward later on and Government will not be able to avoid them. Apart from that, the Government is not going to incur any further commitments until the whole position has been discussed with the various provincial ministerial governments when they come into power. Until those Ministries have had their say, the Government will not proceed.

Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan: Are there any other commitments which the Government expect beyond what has been placed before the Standing Finance Committee? That is my point. I do not want the House to be taken by surprise later on that they agreed to everything which the Government had done excepting those which had been brought to the notice of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways. We have been told about three or four companies in U.P., and C.P. As regards the rest we know there was no commitment. This was the position taken up by the Government in the Standing Finance Committee. I do not want that it should be interpreted later on that the House had agreed to something else by not opposing this. I want the position to be clear on that point.

Mr. A. C. Turner: The position is understood. As regards the future liabilities to which I have referred, which may mature and which Government may find it difficult to get out of . . .

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: What is the nature of that?

Mr. A. C. Turner: I will explain. Government had promised to invest in certain companies, for example there is a company in South India where Government had undertaken to invest nine lakhs. Government have not made that investment. Government have since been served with a notice to the effect that the Company are going to sue Government for specific performance of the contract. When that arises next year, surely Government must be in a position to invest the amount if the suit is decreed against them.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Should not that matter come before the Standing Finance Committee? When you are faced with a demand like that, why not come before the Standing Finance Committee and place the matter before it and take its decision or take the opinion of lawyers.

Mr. A. C. Turner: That is implicit in what I have said already. It is not intended that expenditure will be incurred next year even on the inescapable items without bringing them to the notice of the Standing Finance Committee.

Mr. President: It seems there has been some confusion of "commitments" and possible claims. There are certain definite commitments made today, in the form of promise to purchase shares—e.g. Bombay Government schemes. Then the claims of other people may arise out of commitments, and the assurance, as I understand it, is that so far as commitments actually made or claims arising out of the commitments made, they will come before the Standing Finance Committee. That is how I understand the position of Government.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I have got a copy of the arrangement that was entered into. I am afraid my Honourable friend has a little enlarged the scope, not intentionally but unintentionally. Regarding other commitments detailed in the memorandum and the disposal of the assets, the committee is of opinion that no decision need be taken at this stage, but that after the position has been reviewed in consultation with the new ministerial provincial governments concerned, the matter should be again brought before the Standing Finance Committee. Therefore, barring 50 lakhs which we are voting today, not a single pie extra should be spent unless the matter is reviewed in consultation with the provincial governments and brought before the Standing Finance Committee for railways.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Only about the disposal of these things, there will be consultation.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: So far as other commitments are concerned, it is true that Government have agreed to subscribe to some shares in some Madras company. It was pointed out to us that the Madras company had threatened to file a suit against the Government of India and that therefore the Government of India would incur a loss. I suggested that the Government of India should write back saying that the threatened suit is gladly awaited. So far as other shares in other companies are concerned, the provincial Ministries will soon function and it is for them to decide whether they will have the companies, themselves, or whether they will run them in conjunction with the Central Government and so on. Till then the chassis which you have built need not be sold away in the market. Let them be kept on. Let the position be reviewed thereafter by the Standing Finance Committee.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, I think the object of my cut motion has been served in as much as the Honourable Member has admitted that this expenditure has been regularised, and further I am glad to note that he is afraid of a censure motion. The motion has served its purpose and I beg leave of the House to withdraw it.

The motion was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 76,59,000 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 'Working Expenses—Miscellaneous Expenses'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 6-H.—WORKING EXPENSES—EXPENSES OF ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

Mr. A. O. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 52,51,000 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 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Electrical Department'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 52,51,000 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 'Working Expenses—Expenses of Electrical Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 10 A.—WITHDRAWAL FROM RESERVE

Mr. A. O. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,70,07,000 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 'Withdrawal from Reserve'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,70,07,000 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 'Withdrawal from Reserve'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 11—NEW CONSTRUCTION

Mr. A. O. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'New Construction'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 31st March, 1946, in respect of 'New Construction'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 12.—OPEN LINE WORKS

Mr. A. O. Turner: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,83,000 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 'Open Line Works'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,83,000 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 'Open Line Works'."

The motion was adopted.

Management of the road-rail scheme in the Central Provinces

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,83,000 in respect of 'Open Line Works' be reduced by Rs. 5,73,750."

This amount of 8 lakhs under this demand relates to the shares that Government wanted to invest or say they invested in some companies which have been brought into existence under the road-rail scheme. We in the Standing Finance Committee approved of the investment in three out of the four transport companies. Two of them—the Kulu Transport Company and the Pindi-Kashmir Transport Company Ltd.—are necessary because there are no railway lines there and communication is otherwise difficult, and it is proper that Government should have invested in these companies. We straightaway approved and

sanctioned those payments. As regards the North-West Transport, Company the railway entered into a contract and agreed to subscribe to its capital so early as 1938. The amount was then showed under revenue account and now it is adjusted towards capital. Second in the list then is the Central Provinces Transport Services Limited, for which there is an amount of Rs. 5,73,750 which was paid according to Government by way of share amount to that company. My out motion is with respect to this. I do want to cut out Rs. 5,73,750 from this demand, and the reasons are these. In the Central Provinces the whole road-rail scheme has been brought into contempt by the manner in which the Central Provinces Government unfortunately along with these persons in authority managed the road-rail scheme and tried to create monopolies in favour of Chinoy and Co., and one other company. They have almost destroyed the small operators on the road there. Over their heads two persons were brought in who before 1944, were not running any road services; they were merely dealers, one in Ford motors and the other in Chevrolet motors. They were put on the roads over the head of these operators. Licenses were not given to these operators but exclusive monopolies were given in favour of these companies. And now two companies were floated to operate throughout the entire Province and the entire road transport has been placed in their hands. Somehow agreements were entered into by the Provincial Government. The Central Government thought that the Provincial Government had got so far and it was impossible for the Central Government to withdraw from that position. However, in the Standing Finance Committee we placed one restriction, that we did not want a managing agency system. However, in as much as managing agency agreements had been entered into it was placed in the Standing Finance Committee, and we said that the terms should not be increased but should be reduced to an ordinary level. They want 20 years for managing agents and 10 per cent profits to be given away to them for 20 years. Even if they are likely to be there for 20 years, that is opposed to the spirit of the Companies Act and it would be illegal and improper. That is the concession they have shown to us. They have gone to the topmost limit so far as the period is concerned. The entire transport service is to be placed in the hands of Chinoy and Co., and one other person over the entire province of the Central Provinces for a period of 20 years to be managed as they like. The other day a question was asked in this House as to the number of prosecutions for over-riding or overloading or running at high speed against the servants of Chinoy and Co., and others. Government had no figures to give except with regard to one or two companies.

Now let us see the income that they are likely to get. Originally they wanted to start the company with a capital of 10 lakhs. I shall assume that if the company is started with a small capital of 10 lakhs the person who operates it may want to be managing agent for 20 years with a profit of 10 per cent, because on 10 lakhs the outturn may be small and 10 per cent. may be reasonable. We have since raised the Rs. 10 lakhs capital to Rs. 50 lakhs. Is it not reasonable that we should ask that 10 per cent. of Rs. 10 lakhs will be more than 5 per cent. of Rs. 50 lakhs? We only wanted a reasonable reduction of the percentage of profit. The Honourable Member went directly to the Central Provinces to persuade the Government to agree to this. I want to censure that Government, but it is not open for me to do so. I shall have nothing more to do with this Chinoy. Therefore this Rs. 5 lakhs share capital shall not be subscribed to these companies. So much noise was raised in this House only on account of the Central Provinces company, and the whole road scheme has been brought into contempt.

Then as regards the fact that they have already invested money. What are we to do? As a lawyer I said to file proceedings to wind up that company and you will have no more to pay. Let us hope that the new Government which comes into existence will not have its hands tied. I believe all the sections of the House will be agreeable to the course. If any suit for damages arises, well, we shall pay compensation very happily, but we shall not have

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

anything to do with this company who are intractable, who want 10 per cent. the last pound of flesh, and who want to commit this Government to a long period of 20 years.

Sir, 1 move.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,83,000 in respect of 'Open Line Works' be reduced by Rs. 5,73,750."

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: The Finance Committee has rejected this amount of Rs. 5,73,750, and the Honourable Member has brought this before this House to get the decision of the House.

The history has been fully explained by my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar. It is one of the two companies which were started under the managing agency basis to which a great deal of objection was taken last year. My Honourable friend, the War Transport Member, last year had given the idea that if there were no companies he would not let any company be started on the managing agency system, but he thought that there was some discussion going on between certain companies and the Provincial Government which might have matured to the extent that the managing agency might not be got rid of at that time. Later on, he came to know that it was these two companies in the Central Provinces, and these two companies and the C.P. Government had gone so far in their commitments, that the Government refused to give up their commitments.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Provincial Government.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: The Central Provinces Government refused to give up their commitments.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Section 98 Government.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Yes, Section 98. Then my Honourable friend went to the Central Provinces and he tried to persuade the Central Provinces Government to get out of this tangle. But the Government did not like to give it up and these two companies, seeing that they had good prospects, did not like to give up the benefits they had achieved. The history is that last year it was found that the company was going to be run with a capital of only Rs. 10 lakhs. Later on they came before the Standing Finance Committee with a proposal of increasing the capital to Rs. 50 lakhs and they demanded that 20 years contract should be given. The Standing Finance Committee laid down the proposition that they agreed only (in a mild way they said it is wrong. They said it is unfortunate that the Govern-

ment agreed to this thing) on condition that the Central Provinces companies would agree to take 5 per cent. of the profits as their commission, and instead of 20 years contract they would agree for 10 years. Because they wanted that everybody who is running their business in the Central Provinces should be turned out and it had come to the notice of some members of the Committee that the treatment of the companies towards the bus-owners was not good, the Committee insisted on these conditions and insisted that they should comply with them. The companies did not agree to any of the conditions. One condition was that instead of cash money, they should take the assets of the bus-owners. They did not agree to this even. So no condition was accepted. From 24th July to 30th September this Committee was in existence. But of course this matter did not come before the Standing Finance Committee. Afterwards the Central Provinces Government induced the companies to remain where they were and this money was sought to be invested in the shares. When the present Standing Finance Committee came into existence, they wanted to stick to the former decision and they thought that if this company had refused to abide by the decision of the Committee and had ignored even to negotiate, and had turned down all the conditions. Then the Committee said that they were not going to invest any money. Un-

fortunately this money has already been invested and then the question before the Standing Finance Committee was what should be done with the investment already incurred. To this one of the Honourable Members proposed that the way out was to wind up this company and whatever our investment has been there, we can sell it or wind up this company one way or the other. Therefore they refused to sanction this. I think that the House will on account of the decision which they have already made—even last year they showed that no managing agency should be granted and there was no demand on behalf of the railways until the Finance Standing Committee had come to a decision and they had given their decision—support the Finance Committee in their decision.

Mr. P. B. Gole: The position has been very well explained by Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan and I wish to add one or two words for the information of the House. So far as this Nagpur Omnibus Company, is concerned, I learnt that up to the 15th March, the Central Provinces Government did not invest any money in this Company and did not purchase any shares in it. The reason was that from the balance sheet of 1944-45, it was found that they only had a profit of Rs. 25,000 on a capital of Rs. 10 lakhs, that is 2 per cent, including income-tax. Therefore the Central Provinces Government thought that investment in this company would not be in any way profitable. So they refused to invest any money. Later on I am told an expert from England came. He examined the accounts of this company and he advised that if the company were to be worked in a particular manner, then it could yield profit. The question of the managing agency of this company arose and I am told that the company's managing agents were willing to give up their managing agency provided they were paid Rs. 1,73,000. They held 547 preference shares and 4,740 ordinary shares of Rs. 25 each, and I am told that if this investment in these shares by the managing agents was paid to them, they would be willing to give up the managing agency. I do not know if any further progress has been made regarding these negotiations but if that is the state of things I do not understand why the Central Government should be in haste to invest any money in this company. If this company is not able to show any profits, if the managing agents are mismanaging the affairs of the company it is certainly not advisable for the Central Government to invest any money in this company and I do not know what the Central Government can get out of such a company. The C.P. Government are not willing to invest any money. My view is that the company should be wound up and whatever loss if any the company may suffer may be shared by the C.P. Government who have not invested any money and the Central Government.

With regard to the other company the C.P. Government has been more cautious than the Central Government. They have invested only Rs. 1,500 in that. They have purchased some 20 shares of Rs. 100 each, out of which Rs. 75 per share have been given. In view of that I do not understand the undue haste, if I may say so, of the Central Government in investing any money in this company. Where a company wants that the managing agents should exist and the company exists with the managing agents, they should carry on the work of the company. The Central Government which is really opposed to the managing agency system should not invest any money in such company. In fact the Honourable the War Transport Member went to Pachmahri to induce these companies to give up the managing agency but the managing agents were adamant. They would not forego their rights and therefore it was up to the War Transport Member to refuse to have any connection with these companies, especially when the major portion of the profit, if any, would be taken or swallowed by the managing agents of such companies.

The question really speaking with regard, to these companies is more serious so far as C.P. and Berar are concerned. These two companies want to monopolise and control all C.P. and Berar. Whereas U.P. and Bombay are divided into zones, these two companies have a practical monopoly of the roads in C.P. and Berar. I am told that the capital of these companies was

[Mr. P. B. Gole.]

raised from 10 to 50 lakhs with a view to accommodate the present operators. With the managing agents how is it possible that the present operators would be kept on the road. Our contention is that the present operators who are managing particular roads should be allowed to work on those roads. They should be admitted in the company and given shares in the company and should be given the management of the company also wherever possible.

Mr. M. A. P. Hirtzel: On a point of information, is the Honourable Member speaking as a shareholder in a company, or as a road operator or as a member of the Congress Party stating their policy?

Mr. P. B. Gole: I have absolutely no interest in any company nor am I a road operator. I do not own any company or bus. I am only interested in the travelling public and nothing else, and for that purpose all the regulations that are necessary should be enforced. But so far as these companies are concerned any kind of monopoly that is sought to be given to these companies should be discouraged and the Central Government should be the first to discourage this. Instead of that the Central Government should not have proceeded with investing in this company especially when the C.P. Government itself have not invested any money in it. I have got a letter dated 18th March, 1946, and up to that date the C.P. Government had not invested any amount. In the other company they had invested only Rs. 1,600. In these circumstances I do not understand why the Central Government have come with this demand for Rs. 5,78,000 and why the Central Government should be in so much haste. These two companies not only ought to be regularised but there should be many more companies. The C.P. should be divided into several zones in which separate operators or promoters should be encouraged to manage those roads. Instead of doing that these two companies are being given the monopoly. I think the House is perfectly justified in rejecting this demand.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan).]

Mr. P. K. Salve (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, with regard to these companies that are now in the C.P. my submission is that a very queer position is being brought about. It was given out that these rail-road schemes are going to be nationalised but our sad experience in the C.P. is that they are monopolised. The monopoly is being supported and we are now being thrown into the hands of capitalists. There were a number of road operators and they were running a very good business. There was no complaint against them and the original idea was that when these companies will be started their co-operation will be sought. But we have a regional authority in the C.P. who rides roughshod over the rights of others and in spite of demands, requests, applications and supplications by these road operators the Regional Authority has banged the door against all reasonable requests with the result that these people with all their assets and their motor vehicles have been set aside. Now the position really today is that two people who have plenty of money have come out as monopolists. They are excluding all other businessmen in motor transport. Messrs. Chinoy have exclusive business in Chevrolet cars and the Provincial Automobile Co., have exclusive business of the Ford. These two people have got their own motors and they have put them on the road. As a matter of fact if anybody is running the business it is these capitalists. It is neither the Government nor the Railway, with the result that there is a good deal of inconvenience caused to the travelling public. I have a telegram in my possession today and I want the Leader of the House to listen to this. Recently they have taken a decision that they are going to stop railway communication direct between Nagpur and Kamptee. Formerly they were running trains and all classes of people, students, businessmen, Government servants and others used them to go up and down between Nagpur and Kamptee, and in spite of the arrangement that is being made by Sir Sultan Chinoy's company to run buses they are not able to cope with the situation, and the telegram says that

these people do not find sufficient number of buses running and the timings do not suit them, with the result that this telegram sent to me by the Kamptee Railway Passengers' Association (a copy of the telegram has been sent to the War Transport Member also) says that from the 1st of April, 'on all-fools' day, they are going to stop these trains. I say it is unwise, for this reason, that you will be causing a good deal of inconvenience to the travelling public. Therefore in the Finance Committee of which I am a member, we said that so far as your company is concerned you had better wind it up. The scheme has not been carried out according to the wishes of the House. This company has been brought into existence, according to me, in an illegal manner; the law will never support it; and they were telling me that there may be a suit. I promise that I shall carry out the winding up proceedings without charging the Government anything; and it is possible to wind up this company without much difficulty because I understand that all the necessary parties to this transaction have not given their consent, and it is not complete and therefore this company has not been validly formed and you can wind it up very soon. That is what we placed before the Finance Committee, and by a majority it was agreed that the company should be wound up and that there should be no further commitments. Therefore, my submission is that this cut that has been brought must be supported and I therefore support it.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. A. C. Turner: Sir, there are two companies in the C.P. In one, which is called the Provincial Transport Company, an investment was made last year that is not in question now. But I would like to inform the House that the managing agents that were originally in that company have been eliminated and now no managing agents will be employed in that company. As regards the second company, which is the Central Provinces Transport Services Limited, I understand that that company are prepared even now to take over the vehicles of existing operators against the call money due on shares, if the owners of the vehicles like to offer them for shares. Further in addition, the owners of vehicles will be paid goodwill to the extent of Rs. 2,000 on each permit. I think the allegations of unfair treatment of the existing operators have been exaggerated—I have mentioned two points to illustrate this. There was one other fact which I should mention and that is, the C.P. Government have invested an equal amount with ourselves in this particular company. We have divided 51 per cent. of the share issue equally between us. . . .

Mr. P. B. Gole: May I know what was the investment made by the C.P. Government?

Mr. A. C. Turner: I have not that information with me; if my Honourable friend has it, I shall be glad to hear it.

Mr. P. B. Gole: I said only Rs. 1,500.

Mr. A. C. Turner: My information is that they have 25½ per cent. of the shareholding—the same that we have.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: They may have, but they have paid only Rs. 1,500.

Mr. A. C. Turner: Well, the proposal has been made that Government should apply for winding up the company. I am not in a position to know whether Government can legally make such an application or not; but this matter would arise in due course when the whole position is being examined in the course of discussions with the new Provincial Governments. The whole matter will come up then. It is quite clear that we cannot do anything in this financial year.

Diwan Chaman Lal: When did you make the investment?

Mr. A. O. Turner: The investment was made last October.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Of the entire sum?

Mr. A. O. Turner: 75 per cent. only has been called up. The figure of 5.74 lakhs represents the 75 per cent. which has been called up. It was invested last October. There remains the possibility of the final call of 25 per cent. which is 1.92 lakhs which may come up next year, and for which the Government should of course provide since it is a liability which may occur next year.

Diwan Chaman Lall: What is the present market value of the shares?

Mr. A. O. Turner: I am not in possession of that information. That, Sir, is the position which is before the House. The money has already been invested and the action was taken in good faith. The investment will presumably come under review, when discussions are taking place with the new Provincial Governments during the course of next financial year. Although the Standing Finance Committee did not support this provision of funds for this particular investment Government feel bound to include this amount also in the supplementary demand now put before the House. I would ask my Honourable friends on the other side of the House as practical men to support this demand for the money which has all been spent.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 8,83,000 in respect of 'Open Line Works' be reduced by Rs. 5,73,750."

The Assembly divided:

AYES—74.

Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abid Hussain Couhdhury Md.
Adityan, Sri S. T.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chandhuri, Sreejot Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Gadgil Sjt. N. V.
Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Govind Das, Seth.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Hiray, Sjt. B. S.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
Ismail Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad.
Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.
Jagannathdas, Sri.
Jeslani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj.
Syed Sher Shah.
Jhunjhunwala Mr. B. P.
Jinchandran, Sri M. K.
Karmarkar, Shri D. P.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dharendra Kanta.
Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
Madandhari Singh, Mr.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.
Manu Subedar, Mr.
Masani Mr. M. R.
Mehr Shah, Nawab Sir Syed Muhammad.

Menon, Sri A. K.
Mohammad Amir Ahmad, Khan Bahadur Raja.
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.
Reddinar, Sri R. Venkatasubba.
Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.
Salve, Mr. P. K.
Sampuran Singh, Sardar.
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekar.
Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
Sharma, Pandit Balkrishna.
Siddique Ali Khan Nawab.
Siddique, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Sukhdev, Seth.
Suriit Singh Majithia, Squadron -Leader.
Sardar.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma Mr. B. B.
Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.
Vinchoorkar, Sardar N. G.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee, Raja Sir Saiyid.	Mason, Mr. P.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.	Morris, Mr. R. C.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr, Sir M.	Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.	Oulnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.	Rangachari, Mr. M. V.
Bewoor, Sir Gurnath.	Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Bhattacharya, Rai Bahadur Devendra Mohan.	Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J.-C.	Sargent, Sir John.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.	Sen, Mr. B. B.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.	Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.	Solanki, Dr. P. G.
Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur, Captain / Sardar.	Spence, Sir George.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.	Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.	Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.	Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroza.	Turner, Mr. A. C.
Krishnama Acharya Rao Bahadur Sir V. T.	Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Lawson, Mr. C. P.	Weightman, Mr. H.
	Williams, Mr. C. F. V.
	Yeatts, Mr. M. W. M.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a reduced supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,09,250 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 'Open Line Works'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Satya Narain Sinha: (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadian): May I suggest that the House do adjourn now and that the other supplementary demands may be taken up tomorrow?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Government have no objection and take it as an augury that the House will get through the rest of the business promptly tomorrow.

Mr. Deputy President: I must inform Honourable Members that if they want to adjourn, they will be doing so at their own expense, because the guillotine will be applied at 5 o'clock tomorrow and supplementary grants have to be disposed of tomorrow. (Several Honourable Members: Yes, we agree).

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, the 30th March, 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 30th 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. Harry Greenfield, C.I.E., M.L.A. (Government of India: Nominated Official).

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

TRIBAL RAID BY NAZIRI OUTLAWS

Mr. President: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Sardar Mangal Singh who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the tribal raid committed by a gang of Waziri outlaws on the village of Khan Khel Mandaza when one Hindu was shot dead and three persons including a woman were kidnapped. I am not clear as to how this is admissible. In the first place I want to know whether the tribal raid was within the tribal territory or within the North-West Frontier Province.

Sardar Mangal Singh (East Punjab: Sikh): Sir, I understand that Government are prepared to accept a short notice question. In view of that I do not press the motion.

Mr. President: No further consideration is then necessary.

REMOVAL OF SECTIONS 111 TO 121 OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Leader of the House): Sir, on a point raised by my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar yesterday I undertook to discuss with the Honourable Member for Planning and Development the question whether a date can be allotted for a debate on the commercial safeguards. I understand the Honourable Planning and Development Member has discussed the matter with my Honourable friend opposite and the latter does not wish to press that the Assembly should continue to sit after the 18th April. He desires on the other hand to be assured that if the legislative business can be got through quickly Government will give an assurance that half a day will be allotted for discussion of this subject before the end of the session. I am glad to give that assurance and the matter will be placed on the order paper provided the state of Government business permits.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, while I am glad to hear what has fallen from the Honourable Leader of the House may I point out that the intentions put into my mouth in that statement are not quite correct? What I was told was that if I wanted a day at all I would have to make the whole House sit beyond the 18th April. And I pointed out that there were many pieces of legislation and other kinds of business which were not at all of an urgent nature and could wait. But this was a question on which there was unanimity of public opinion and feeling in this country among all parties. This was a major issue so far as we were concerned and I said this could not be shunted off to beyond the 18th. But I offered to meet Government to this extent that in case they could not spare a full day we might try by arrangement among the parties to finish it in half a day. Let it be understood that this is an issue which we regard as of supreme importance; and now that the British delegation has come here, we do feel that if there is any interim Government they will not be able to carry on the industries of this country or do any planning as—in the words of Sir Ardeshir Dalal—these sections were 'hindering' any such plan or development. And I understand Sir Ardeshir Dalal resigned on this issue.

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.

Some Honourable Members (on Government Benches): No, no.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Anyway, this was accepted by Sir Ardeshir Dalal to this extent that these sections were hindering any proper development and planning of this country's industries. We are all anxious to press for this here and now and we do not want any delay. We think it is a lot more importance than most of the Bills which are merely social reconstruction Bills and which can, if necessary, be put off till the next session. So I trust the Honourable Leader of the House will give us an early date. I thought he was going to give us a definite date today, whereas he merely renews a promise. I do feel that this is really a more serious matter than that. I can understand my Honourable friend's personal feelings in the matter, but I invite him to realise the very deep feelings with which we are looking upon this subject, and let him not introduce his own personal feelings into this matter. Let him recognise the strength of the feeling on the subject among us and let him give us a date—and a definite and early date—for this purpose. We feel deeply about it—I am sure the Leader of the House will endorse that—and we want an early discussion. We want a discussion not for the sake of discussion but we want an early deletion of these clauses which are an offence to this House and an affront to this country. We want them to go. They hurt our own self-respect and that is why we cannot regard them in the light of an ordinary piece of legislation. We want absolute priority to be given to this subject over the normal progress of legislative business some of which is capable of being postponed till the next session.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari (Member for Planning and Development): Sir, may I speak a word of explanation? I feel that it was an unworthy suggestion on the part of my Honourable friend opposite that the Leader of the House was influenced by any personal considerations in this matter.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I only expressed the hope that he would not be influenced by personal considerations nor bring in his own feelings.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I may say for the information of the House that the Honourable the Leader of the House said that he was willing to do exactly as I advised; and after our informal discussion with Honourable friends opposite it was agreed in view of the desirability of the House not sitting after the 18th, to try out the plan which the Leader of the House suggested. I can give the assurance to my Honourable friends opposite that somehow or other we will find half a day for this before the 18th. I want him to accept that assurance in the same spirit of sincerity in which it has been given.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I am sorry I am unaware of the discussion that took place between Government and my Honourable friends to my right, although we on this side are as much interested in the matter as anybody else. I personally had a talk with my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar and I felt that a full day would be absolutely necessary. It will not be possible to dispose of such an important issue in just half a day. I therefore agree that we must have one full day before the 18th April. The legislative business before the House is not so important that no postponement of it is possible till the next session. The Leader of the House should give us one whole day and an early day. I also suggest that the question hour may be dispensed with when this issue comes to be discussed. I support the motion of my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): The demands which have been made from this side of the House, not only by Members of my Party but also by Members of the Muslim League Party, are demands which I hope will be accepted by the Leader of the House. There can be no denying the fact that the provisions to which reference was made by my Honourable and learned friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, are provisions which have eaten into the vitals of our country. Though I was at a distant place at the time, I remember the debate which took place in the House last year, and I read with very great interest what my Honourable and learned friend, Mr.

Manu Subedar, said on that occasion. The time is ripe for His Majesty's Government to declare in clear and unequivocal terms what they propose to do and what they do not propose to do, not in the distant future, but in the near future. In those circumstances, I voice the demand of the whole Opposition in asking the Leader of the House to fix a whole day for the discussion of this most important matter before the current Session comes to an end.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I take the strongest exception to the unwarranted personal remarks made by my Honourable friend opposite who appears to forget that I supported Sir Ardeshir Dalal in his visit to London last year, and I should like my Honourable friend to withdraw those remarks.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Sir, may I say that I had no intention of ascribing any motive to my Honourable friend. I merely voiced my apprehension lest his personal feelings on this subject might influence him, but even if that hurts him I withdraw it.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, the position is, as the House knows, that we have heavy Legislative business which Government regards as very important, and I suggested that we should see how far we can get on with it, and then, if we make good progress, allot half a day. My Honourable friends opposite are pressing for certainty on this matter and the situation as I see it is this: I can definitely give an assurance that we will give half a day. If a whole day is required, then I can see no alternative to sitting on Saturday, the 6th which I think would be a burden on everybody. I do not know whether my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, would wish to come to a decision now or whether he would leave it to me to discuss with him which of those two courses should be followed.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: May I suggest that the matter be left over today in order to enable discussion to take place between myself, Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, and the Leader of the House?

As regards the legislative programme that remains to be gone through, I shall express my own view on that matter. I have examined the legislative programme, and I do not find that there is much in it which is important, I mean important in comparison with the debate which we are asking for from this side of the House. However, I hope we shall come to a satisfactory agreement and the Leader of the House will be able to set apart a full day for the discussion of this matter.

Mr. President: So the matter ends here. The only question it appears to me now is whether the House will sit, if necessary, on Saturday the 6th, it being certain that a day will be allotted.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose: Speaking for myself, I shall try to avoid putting my Honourable friends on all sides of the House to the inconvenience of sitting on a Saturday, particularly in this weather.

PROTECTIVE DUTIES BILL

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to enable the immediate imposition of protective duties of customs on imported goods.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to enable the immediate imposition of protective duties of customs on imported goods."

The motion was adopted.

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

INDIAN SOLDIERS (LITIGATION) AMENDMENT BILL

Mr. P. Mason (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Act, 1925.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Act, 1925."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1945-46

DEMAND No. 1—CUSTOMS

Mr. President: The House will now proceed with the consideration of the Supplementary Demands.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Customs'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,99,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Customs'."

Grant of War and Dearness Allowances at enhanced Rates to highly Paid Officers

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,99,000 in respect of 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Sir, by moving this cut I wish to discuss the question of grant of war and dearness allowances at enhanced rates to highly paid officers

Mr. President: May I take it that the first motion which also stands in the name of the Honourable Member along with Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar is not going to be moved.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: non-Muhammadan Rural): Yes, Sir. It is not going to be moved.

Mr. President: Before we start discussion on these cut motions, I would like to be clear on a point or two so as to enable us to define the scope of the discussion on the various motions. I find that while this motion, which has just been moved, refers to grant of war and dearness allowances to 'highly paid' officers, there are others which refer to officers 'drawing over Rs. 1,000'. There are also other cut motions which refer to 'increased dearness and war allowance'; the word 'increased' is not used in this cut motion.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: They all relate to the same.

Mr. President: Then, when the other motions are taken up, I believe the discussion that will be taking place now will not be repeated.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, as I informed the House while discussing the supplementary grants yesterday that in April last year the Standing Finance Committee passed the recommendation of the Government to grant dearness allowance and war allowance to officers drawing more than Rs. 1,000. This was done in the Standing Finance Committee meeting held on the 12th of April 1945, and the last meeting of the Assembly was held on the 10th of April.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It was held immediately afterwards on the same day.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: In any case the fact remains that it was after the Assembly had risen that it came before the Standing Finance Committee. Now, if you refer to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee of that day you will find it is said that this allowance is going to be given in this way. "Married officers to receive a war allowance equal to 17½ per cent. of pay up to Rs. 1,500 per mensem." Then again it is said that this was pressed by the Provincial Governments and the Secretary of State. So far as the Provincial Governments are concerned, I may remind the House that they were all mostly Section 98 Governments and so far as the Secretary of State is concerned, I do not know what were the reasons for doing so. I would like to know whether similar allowances were given to highly paid officials in England and what were the grounds on which he thought it necessary to make that recommendation. In any case, it could not have been immediately after when the Assembly was going to conclude its session that this came to the notice of the Government of India and they took a decision. It must have been before them much earlier and since these concessions involve no less than Rs. 3,95,00,000, it was not a very small sum that could have been passed without reference to the Assembly. It was necessary that a motion should have been brought before the Assembly to discuss this question whether the Assembly thought it proper that allowances should be given to these highly paid officials.

I may also point out to the House that even this year this thing is being repeated. In as much as the allowance was given with retrospective effect from 1st January 1945, and now we find that in the proceedings of the Finance Committee's meeting held on the 23rd March, that is after we had finished our voting of the demands, a proposal that these allowances should now be given with retrospective effect from 1st July 1944. Like last year the names of the Provincial Governments and the Secretary of State have again been brought in and it has been said that because they urged for it and this had to be done the Finance Committee had to approve. So personally I think even this year it should have been brought before the House. It was not brought in the present budget but it will be brought before us next year by way of supplementary demand. So, personally, I feel that this sort of procedure should not be allowed. I know the Honourable Member will rise and say but this has been passed in the budget. Certainly it has been. It was raised not because we wanted it to be passed but because we could not reach that cut motion on account of the guillotine. There were cut motions to the effect that this money should be cut down but because of the agreement and the understanding we could not reach that and as I pointed out for discussing eighty-six demands we get only four days, that comes to fifteen hours, hardly ten minutes to each demand. So I hope we will not be influenced by the argument that because it has been passed for next year we should also sanction for the current year with retrospective effect from 1st January 1945. As for the merits, as was pointed out by my friend, Mr. Ayyangar, after all on what items are they going to spend so much? They are not going to get more food-grain rations than an ordinary employee who gets Rs. 16. You will see that he gets Rs. 16 a month and living in a place like Delhi and having a big family of four or five members, he is expected to meet the increased expenditure with a sum of Rs. 16. But here is a fraternity drawing Rs. 1,000 or more and they are supposed not to be able to meet this increased expenditure. Again, so far as cloth is concerned, it is also being rationed and there is no distinction between an ordinary employee and a highly paid employee. They get the same quantity. So far as luxuries are concerned, most of them are not available. So it comes to this that because they found an opportunity, they thought, at the back of the Legislature, they could just dole out no less than Rs. 3,95,00,000 and pass it on to these employees who were drawing

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such high salaries. So my submission is this. This supplementary demand should be rejected on three grounds:

Firstly, last year it should have been brought before the Assembly and not this way. There should have been a regular motion before the House. The House should have been taken into consultation. It could have been done easily. Instead of being brought before the Finance Committee it could have been brought to the House before the 12th April and the sense of the House could have been taken, although recommended by the Secretary of State and the Provincial Governments.

Secondly, there was no justification for giving retrospective effect not only from 1st January, but this year it is proposed to give it with retrospective effect from 1st July 1944. I want to know why. They have already spent what they had to spend. At the most it means their savings have been cut down and to make up those savings they are going to be given this extra allowance. So because, it has been given with retrospective effect, it should not be sanctioned.

Thirdly, taking into consideration along with this, the cases of those low paid officials who are getting Rs. 16, as dearness allowance, I think it is not proper that while on one hand we think Rs. 16 should be considered sufficient to meet the increased cost of expenditure on cloth and grain for an ordinary employee, no less than Rs. 268 per month is required to meet this increased cost so far as those highly paid servants are concerned.

Yesterday, the cut motion was rejected on the ground that it was not moved in respect of every demand and it had been moved only in regard to 'Audit'. That defect has been removed today and we have moved a cut motion in regard to every demand and if the House passes this I think, so far as the other demands are concerned it will apply automatically.

With these words, Sir, I move:

Mr. President: Cut motion move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,99,000 in respect of 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 2,00,000."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): I want to interpose in this to raise one small constitutional issue. When this matter was being discussed in the Standing Finance Committee, we had the problem before us of finding more money if we were to give more allowances, and when the allowances were being considered for Government employees getting less than Rs. 30, the allowance was Rs. 14, and most of us felt very rightly—and I am sure the House will agree with us that it is impossible for a man who has to bring up sons and daughters to do this on something less than Rs. 30 plus Rs. 14, which is his allowance. If the money was not there some of us would feel that if the money is not there to increase the dearness allowance to those people, faithful employees of this Government and poor men, naturally the allowances of Rs. 268 given to the top people getting more than Rs. 1,500 should be cut down. This suggestion was natural, if more money was wanted. But the official position which was then disclosed—and I am saying this deliberately in order to enable the Finance Member to clear the position—was that this was an allowance which was fixed by the Secretary of State and that we had no right to touch it. The constitutional point which I wish to raise is this: that if this were fixed by the Secretary of State and we had no right to touch it, why has the Finance Member come up for the sanction of this House in the supplementary grants which he is putting before us, and if this were not so, why were we told that it was the Secretary of State who is concerned with this? Sir, I do not mind telling the House of my retort to this official position: "All right, when the Secretary of State comes to this country I will tell him." I take this opportunity from the floor of this House to tell the Secretary of State that

this is the sort of thing which upsets us. Thousands of poor families are stranded on inflationary prices which Government have taken no steps to reduce and when consideration for them is suggested, you plead that you will give to people getting more than Rs. 1,500 a month not only an allowance of Rs. 268 a month but you will give this with retrospective effect and spend the money of this country on this purpose. I know many of these highly placed officials. I know their budgets. I know their problems. I have every sympathy with them also. But if it is a question of restricted finance, there is not the slightest doubt that the first claim is that of the poor man. If on the other hand it is a question of constitution, the sooner we get rid of this constitution the better, this constitution by which the Secretary of State dictates either to this House or to this Government (he certainly dictates to this Government, because the Secretary of State recommended this matter). My friends opposite are entirely helpless and in spite of the frequent denials of the Honourable the Finance Member that this Government is not Whitehall-controlled, that he never consults them, that they do not give him any order and that if they give him any order, he is not bound to follow it! In spite of this I repeat once again that this is a London controlled Government and we dislike this system, we dislike the interference of the Secretary of State with our affairs in any shape or form, we will not tolerate it any more and so far as this demand is concerned, if it was the Secretary of State's orders, why is it brought before this House? If on the other hand . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: May I intervene for a moment, without prejudicing my right of reply? I have not brought this demand before this House because the cost is involved by the Secretary of State's decision. I have brought it before this House because the cost is involved in the Government of India's decision.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If it is the Government of India's decision, then my friend makes two groups, one group whose allowances are non-votable and the other whose allowances are votable. Is that the case?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is precisely the point. I do not see why the other point is being brought in. I have not brought this before the House because of the Secretary of State's decision.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: This amounts to Rs. 3,95,00,000 in all and that is not brought . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am not sure about the Rs. 3,95,00,000.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: It is in the Standing Finance Committee proceedings.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I will answer my Honourable friend. In the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee dated the 12th April, 1945 . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is a recurring expenditure of Rs. 3,95,00,000.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The explanation of my Honourable friend makes the position worse. How long are we going to stand this distinction of voted and non-voted expenditure? When these three distinguished Ministers have come here offering Independence for the taking, appealing to Indian's to take over power which, they say, they are very anxious to part with, may I ask why it has not been found possible to eliminate this distinction between voted and non-voted items of expenditure, this distinction by which certain items are reserved to the Executive and certain items are reserved for the vote of the House. The Leader of the Opposition very rightly said that we could not

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vote money over the expenditure of which we have no proper control. I say this that the Secretary of State's interference in these matters is galling to us, it hurts our self-respect. He has thrust burdens on this country which are not justified and he has done that on their account.

I am accused frequently of raising questions of racialism. It is not racialism. What are we here for? We are here to safeguard the financial interests of our country. When we find that depredations are made over those interests by the Britishers, we are here to protest against them and until we are satisfied that no such depredations can be made, we shall go on fighting. Let the Secretary of State who is here make a note of it. Why was this heavy allowance given to those very highly paid men who are on the non-voted list? Why was it given against the declared feeling of this House, against the unanimous opinion and feeling of all parties? Why was it done, I ask

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: On a point of fact Sir, last year's committee recommended it by a large majority. The Honourable Member cannot talk for all parties.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If my Honourable friend feels that way why does he not declare that these items are non-voted. Why did he not put them to the House? I challenge him that if this decision of the Secretary of State had been brought before the House it would have been unanimously thrown out. I want him to consider the challenge and put it to his chief who is in this country now. This is the sort of thing which is galling to us. For the benefit largely of the British services these things were saddled on us in a year in which this country is carrying very heavy budget deficits. It was not appropriate on financial grounds. It was not appropriate on grounds of common humanity that faithful servants of this Government earning less than the barest minimum were given allowances which are manifestly inadequate. Can any member of the Treasury Benches get up and tell me that people can live on this money? What are you giving to these lower cadre people? Rs. 20 plus Rs. 8 allowance and Rs. 30 plus Rs. 14 allowance. Can people live on this money in these days? You know they cannot. Why don't you remedy it?

The Honourable the Finance Member has claimed for his budget great merit in so far as he has steepened the taxes on the rich. Why has he omitted to tackle on a parallel logic the question of allowances? Why has he not increased the allowances of men in the lower cadres and eliminated the allowances of men getting more than Rs. 2,000 and 3,000, men in the higher and selected services? Why not

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Nobody earning over Rs. 2,000 is eligible for the allowance.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I am asking why has he not touched the question of these allowances which is manifestly unfair and which by parallel logic is implied on the grounds which he has himself put forward with regard to the taxation of the rich and the relief to the poor. I can quote him, if he wants me to. On the grounds of relief for the poor in his budget; why not apply the same grounds to these allowances? Why are these things done? Because there is a Secretary of State. There are orders from the top. There are superior services whose personnel is largely British

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am sorry I have to interrupt but I want to correct certain inaccuracies. I want to point out that the Secretary of State has nothing to do with dearness allowance. It is entirely a matter for the Government of India.

Mr. Manu Subedar: If my Honourable friend would be a little patient he will see the point. I am explaining why there is this distinction of higher allowances given with retrospective effect to men in the superior services who are earning high salaries. I said that is because they are superior services: they

are recruited by the Secretary of State and what is given to these superior services recruited by the Secretary of State is not votable here. Why is it not votable? Because we are working under an ancient and archaic constitution. If I am to take the speeches and the professions of the three big men who have come here and if I am to contrast them with this position, that even items like this against which the opinion of all sides of the House is very strong are still kept as nonvotable, I cannot help feeling grave disappointment. Why is not the British Government taking certain obvious steps which will reconcile the people of this country and make them feel that justice is being done, that their opinions are being respected, that their feelings and their desires are being responded to? That is the question and the constitutional issue that I have raised. We want social justice done, a phrase which fell from my friend several times in the course of the last ten days. We want social justice done also with regard to the services in the matter of these allowances and why cannot my Honourable friend give us an undertaking, an assurance that the views which we are expressing here will receive consideration?

Sir, at another time when the Secretary of State was mentioned I had to point out that very fortunately he is coming here and we would take the opportunity to tell him—and I say this is the only opportunity we will have and we are taking this opportunity—why do not these big ones also attend to the small topics which will reconcile people, as gestures of good will, on issues on which our people have felt very keenly? Why do not they give way? Never mind the large issues of independence and all that but why do they not give way in other matters? Take the commercial safeguards. Another illustration we had this morning. I do not want to repeat what I said about them; but there are issues like this, on which you will have ultimately to give way: why do you not do it with grace, may I ask, now and reconcile Indian public opinion and get that improvement of the atmosphere in India for which you have professed anxiety more than once and you have made more than one appeal in that direction? The path is clear. Let the official side choose.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, this is a very important question. We have fallen into error on account of the misuse of the words "dearness" and "war." It is exceedingly difficult to define what dearness is or what the limit of the income is up to which it should be applied. I was discussing the same question today: a man came to sell strawberries and asked Rs. 12 a seer for it. I said no, it was too much for me, I cannot afford to buy it. A friend of mine who was sitting there thought it was nothing and purchased it straightaway at that rate. To him the question of dearness did not arise; but to me it did, because I felt it. Therefore the word "dearness" as used by the Finance Member is a wrong word because it cannot be understood at what particular income the dearness would affect a person. My friend who moved this motion has given the figure of Rs. 1,000 because it is a round figure: it was the end of all counting among the Arabs. The Arabs had no word for any number beyond 1,000; counting ended there. So the word "dearness" is really a misnomer. As for the word "war" that is also a misnomer, because there is no war now, and if you say you are giving a war allowance when there is no war on, it is a misuse of the word.

My point of view is entirely different and differs from that of my friends to my right. I put it in this manner: that when we employ a person for any particular work, we guarantee a certain comfort for doing that particular work. That comfort is translated into rupees. When these salaries were fixed in order to represent a certain comfort, the rupee at that time was equal to 1/22 of a tola of gold. 22 rupees fetched a tola and that was the value of the rupee when these salaries were fixed. I say no dearness allowance, nothing whatever: give us a rupee which is equal to 1/22 tola of gold. Then I will be satisfied and there will be no difficulty of any kind. The whole question has arisen on account of the rise in prices. They have given in the explanatory memorandum all these

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figures: the cost of living index figure has gone up to 335 now, while before the war it was 100: it is 335 in Lahore and 390 in Cawnpore—and I am surprised that it is cheaper in Bombay where the people talk so much of wealth and so on—the cost of living in Bombay is much less than in Lahore or Cawnpore. Therefore a person says that in place of the 100 rupees which you used to pay him before the war, in order to ensure certain comforts, for which he was employed, you should now pay him 335 so that he could get the same comfort. This is on account of the lowering of the purchasing power of the rupee. My friend has said repeatedly that the purchasing value of the rupee has gone down to five annas, that is, one-third of what it was before. Everybody admits that and there is no difference there. The present index of prices and our own experience also prove that the rupee's purchasing value has gone down to five annas. Therefore my friend says either you raise the purchasing power of the rupee to 16 annas, instead of the present five annas, so that he could get the same comforts he got before the war for one rupee, or he has no alternative but demand that for every rupee he got before the war he should get three rupees now. Therefore there is no question of dearness or war allowance. It is simply a question of the diminished purchasing value of the rupee, which affects everybody alike, whatever his position may be. I demand that the Finance Member should take immediate steps because he is partly responsible for the lowered value of the rupee: my friends the millionaires are also responsible for this lowering of the rupee value. So either raise the purchasing power of the rupee and give me the same rupee I had before; failing that, if you determine and fix the comfort in terms of your paper rupee and determine your salaries in proportion to the rise in the index number of the living wages.

Shri Sri Prakasa (Benares and Gorakhpur Divisions: Non-Muhammadan Rural): How am I responsible for the lowering of the price of the rupee?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Not you, but your friend to the right.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Mr. Vadilal?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: This is due to compensate the people and to meet the special situation created in this country on account of the rise in living costs on account of the falling down of the purchasing power of the rupee. You must restore the purchasing power of the paper rupee or else give your wages in terms of real silver. Then we will not demand any dearness allowance and we will be satisfied. But so long as the purchasing power of the rupee is diminished and so long as I do not get the same comfort for one rupee as before, my comfort is reduced to one-third, and naturally I will demand some kind of compensation from the Finance Member to meet the economic situation, but for which he alone is not perhaps responsible. My friend pointed out that the daily allowance of Honourable members had been increase to 45 rupees. I say it is not dearness allowance, it was done because 45 rupees today are equivalent to Rs. 15 before the war: and before the war we were getting Rs. 25; so that we were actually getting much more before the war than we are getting today. This increase that you have given, therefore, is not a dearness allowance but compensation for the loss in the purchasing power of the rupee. These are the words he ought to use. Some time ago I gave notice of a resolution which unfortunately was not ballotted and did not come up for discussion—that the salary of every person in India—either Government or private service—should be trebled: every one who was getting one rupee should get three rupees . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Including the Executive Council?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Including every body. I wanted to move a resolution that since the purchasing power of the rupee is reduced to five annas, therefore the salaries of every person should be increased by three times. Now, I had to face certain difficulties. The greatest difficulty was my friend Mr. Manu Subedar. The moment you pass this order the inflation will be increased three

times. Not only that it will react on the prices. The logical position is to increase the salary three times all round but in practice there will be reaction. By this arrangement the purchasing power will be further reduced. We will have to increase the salary four times. We do not know what will be the position and how it will be stabilised. The price index is changing. It is 305 today and it may go down still further. We may find ourselves in the position in which we found Germany after the last war when their marks was going down every day. They had to devise a special machine in order to bring them to the standard value. The kind of relief suggested is not enough. I know something about this. I have a large staff to deal with who are demanding compensation for the fall in the purchasing power of the rupee. I find from my experience that everybody whether he is a menial or lecturer or professor is in the same boat. That is the difficulty which I had to face.

The real point is that this war allowance and dearness allowance is a passing phase. We must tackle the really important question and that is we should increase the purchasing value of the rupee. The first step in that connection is to fix up the value of the paper rupee in terms of silver and gold. I wanted to raise this question during the discussion of the Finance-Bill but I had no opportunity to speak. The first thing that the Finance Member ought to do is to fix the purchasing power of the rupee in terms of gold and silver. The moment that he brings it to the pre-war value, the prices of rice, wheat, cotton and piece-goods will be fixed automatically. In this case the Finance Member alone cannot solve the problem. We want the co-operation of the big business men also. The Government itself is not entirely to blame. It also depends upon the big business men and those who deal in the black markets. They also raise the prices. If all of us co-operate and the Government also come forward and help it may be possible to reduce the price level. The question was raised to what extent it should be reduced. I admit it is not economical now to reduce and bring it to the price index before the war; it is not possible and it is not in the interests of the country because they must increase the purchasing power of the people in order to develop our industries. After a good deal of calculation I find that the prices of wheat and foodstuffs should be brought to the index of 150 compared with the pre-war and the prices of all the manufactured articles should be reduced to the value of 125 pre-war. Therefore the prices of living wages and the prices of eatables should be raised to 150, when 100 was the level before the war. The living index will probably be reduced to 185.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): The prices of manufactured goods must be lowered to a much greater extent than the prices of primary goods.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: The primary goods I put at 150 and the manufactured articles at 135.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I put it at 100.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: 50.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I will have to discuss that with Mr. Ranga in the lobby and not waste the time of the House. We agree on the point that the prices of manufactured articles ought to be lower than the prices of the foodstuffs. To what extent it should be done can be discussed outside the House. We ought to increase the purchasing power of the people and to develop our industries. That is the attempt in which we should all join together. Let us not fight over dearness allowance and war allowance which are misnomers. These two words are wrongly used. We must concentrate our efforts on increasing the purchasing power of the rupee and reduce the price index. That is a question which requires a good deal of consideration. We are all agreed that the present level of 315 is too high. If you find that you cannot put it right, then the only thing is to pass an Ordinance. My Honourable friend the Finance

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

Member must say—wherever there is one rupee, read three rupees and automatically the price of the purchasing power will be increased from one to three and the question of dearness and war allowance will not arise.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): I ask my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin, since he does not like the terms "war allowance" and "dearness allowance" and has given us a disquisition of a rather amateurish type on currency and the gold standard and so on and so forth. What is his plan now for the immediate present in reference to those who are starving and who are unable to carry on in present circumstances? My Honourable friend blew hot and cold. In one breath, he did not want to blame the Honourable the Finance Member but his entire speech was a condemnation of the policy of the Finance Members all these years. He said that he wanted to raise the purchasing power of the rupee, bring down the prices of commodities, manufactured goods, and primary goods. What has the Government been doing? Who has been responsible? It is my Honourable friend over there who is responsible for currency inflation. Is my Honourable friend behind me responsible for the sterling debt that has accumulated in London, for the machinery that has been installed somewhere near Nasik which goes on printing notes, whose issue has risen from 179 crores, I believe it was the figure on the 3rd September, 1939, to about 1,200 crores? It is all very well for my Honourable friend to try to utilise every opportunity in order to reflect upon the conduct of members sitting on these benches but at the same time he does not realise that the responsibility lies there. Give us the responsibility and see what happens. Take the power in your hands and see what happens. You cannot do that by voting with Government in that lobby. You can do it by getting rid

of the gentlemen sitting on those benches. I do not know how my Honourable friend the Finance Member came to the conclusion that those who are drawing Rs. 2,000 were not affected by this. How did my Honourable friend come to that conclusion? In this report itself dated the 12th April, 1945, the figure mentioned is—married officers between Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,000 per mensem with marginal adjustments.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Obviously it is absurd that one who is getting Rs. 1,900, plus allowances, should get more than the man who is entitled to Rs. 2,000. This is purely a matter of adjustment.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I am not worried about that; I say the whole thing is absurd. I am glad my Honourable friend agrees with me that the whole thing is absurd.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not say it is absurd. I am only challenging the statement that an officer drawing Rs. 2,000 a month was entitled to war allowance. He is only entitled to it so that he shall not draw less than one who draws a salary of Rs. 1,900.

Diwan Chaman Lall: The point is that he is entitled. My Honourable friend challenged my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar's statement that a man drawing Rs. 2,000

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I was explaining how he got it.

Diwan Chaman Lall: He does get it and we are objecting to his getting it.

Then another point that my Honourable friend raised was this, that the Secretary of State has nothing whatever to do with it. Is that correct? Do I understand my Honourable friend to mean that?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I said the Secretary of State had nothing to do with the expenditure that has been brought before the House today.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Let me draw my Honourable friend's attention for a moment to what the actual position is. If he will look at the report of the Standing Finance Committee meeting on 16th March, 1946, he will find on page 18 a statement to this effect:

"The provincial Governments and the Secretary of State feel strongly that some additional relief to Government servants is necessary, and even if the change in the price-level is not of a magnitude to justify an increase in the rates, the grant of additional relief is required and should take the form of the present rates of war and dearness allowance" etc.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, may I get this perfectly clear?

We are discussing today several sums of money in supplementary demands and not a single pie of that is determined by the Secretary of State.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Yes, but my Honourable friend knows perfectly well that once the Secretary of State has granted these retrospective dearness allowances to those whose salaries are non-voted it is necessary even for my Honourable friend to follow up, and that is what my Honourable friend is doing.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Not at all; it is not necessary.

Diwan Chaman Lall: But the fact remains that the initiation took place with the Secretary of State for India and thereupon my Honourable friend had no choice but to go ahead and grant similar allowances to these people.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I did have a choice.

Diwan Chaman Lall: If my Honourable friend has a choice will he now agree to the proposition that those drawing over Rs. 1,000 and up to Rs. 2,000 a month should not come under this retrospective effect? Will he now agree that the dearness allowance should be limited only to those who ought to be assisted and not to those whose salaries are over Rs. 1,000? Will he agree to that? I pause for a reply.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will reply to that when I come to reply.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend will reply to it when he comes to deal with this question.

Now my Honourable friend will see that with regard to that further statement relating to provincial Governments and the House must also take note of the fact that these provincial Governments were section 98 Governments. They were part and parcel of the scheme of the Secretary of State; and when the Secretary of State says "Yes" how dare a Governor of a section 98 province say "No"? This is a proposition which I do not think this House is likely to accept; at any rate this side of the House is not likely to accept it. On the other hand see what happens. Here we have allowances being given to people who are going to be given from Rs. 14 to Rs. 20—those who are receiving pays of Rs. 40 or less. Take the case of a man drawing Rs. 30 a month in a station called "C"—stations being divided into "A", "B" and "C", etc., Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi being "A" and others "B" and "C" and so on. In this station he will get under this scheme Rs. 14 per month. Does my Honourable friend really believe that a married man can bring up a family of three children and a wife—equivalent to four grown-ups—on Rs. 44 a month? Does he really believe that? Is there more justification for granting Rs. 263 to these married officers drawing Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 1,900 a month than there is in granting higher relief to those people who are drawing Rs. 30 per month? The lowest cost of food today to keep body and soul together—even according to Government estimates—is rupee one per day per head; a family of four would require Rs. 120. Ask those peons who are standing there round this room what their condition is today,—people who under the orders of my Honourable friend the Home Member are not even allowed to hold meetings in the grounds of the Legislative Chamber without taking special permission. Ask them what their condition is. I suggest that my Honourable friend

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer (Bombay Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): You tell them to strike, and then their allowances will be increased.

Diwan Chaman Lal: I have never in my life—although I have had a great deal to do with labour—done anything to promote strikes. But if a strike comes I would surely welcome it if it makes my Honourable friend move in the right direction.

Sir, my Honourable friend the Finance Member should look at this from the point of view of the needs of these poor people and bring forward a scheme, not of this nature which is meant to benefit to a larger extent those with higher salaries who can well afford to live on those salaries, but something which will benefit those who are drawing these miserable pittance on which they cannot bring up their families. The time has come for my Honourable friend to revise these scales of pay of these lower paid staff immediately with the object of giving them a living wage. The time has come for that, and I do hope that my Honourable friend will take due note of the feeling evinced on the floor of this House regarding the position of this lower-paid staff.

Sardar Sampuran Singh (West Punjab: Sikh): Sir, it is necessary that we should have a standard of minimum income for a person with a family; and we should give allowances only in such cases where people do not ordinarily earn up to that minimum standard. When we go higher up to a person who is getting a pay of Rs. 1,000 a month, if the price of commodities is doubled he has still got Rs. 500 to live upon and if it goes up three times he still has Rs. 333 to live upon. I am saying this relatively to the purchasing power of the rupee. Those people who draw high salaries have, in normal times been saving and there is no reason why they should be given allowances either in the name of war or dearness. We have heard the speech of my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad. We were habituated to hear such speeches from the Government Benches, speeches of this type usually come from a person who does not understand his own country, who does not understand the conditions of people who draw small salaries, whether they are peons, chaprasis or small clerks and who does not understand the conditions of millions of people living on the land and are toiling from morning till night and are yet unable to make their bare living. People who belong to such a country as ours should think twice before they can say that the purchase value of the money has gone so low that the people who are drawing Rs. 2,000 a month or Rs. 1,000 a month should also get this allowance on account of the value of money having decreased. Sir, my Honourable friend Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad has thrown certain slings at some millionaires sitting on the Opposition Benches. I agree that they do not require any sympathy from us, but simply because a man happens to be rich or simply because he is a millionaire, he does not cease to have the right to speak on behalf of the poor people. There may be people sitting on those Benches who are millionaires and I give them credit that they are at least able to appreciate the position of their poor brethren living in this country. I therefore submit that when we are considering this question of giving allowances to these high salaried people, we should keep in view that major portion of our population, I would say almost the whole of our nation, who are living on very paltry incomes and are living from hand to mouth. So many people are starving on account of the fact that they are not getting enough money to live upon. Therefore, keeping these people in view, I think we are not only justified, but I think we are morally bound to stop such allowances and try to save that money so that we may be able to provide food for those people who are not getting enough to live.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I strongly object to this supplementary demand and I take strong exception to this for the same reasons which my Honourable friend Sardar Sampuran Singh put forward so eloquently. Only the other day, I was asking my Honourable friend the Labour Member as to how much he was paying his *malis*. The Honourable Member wanted notice as if he did not know. Then, I asked how much the Chowdries,—the head *malis*—were being paid, and I was told they were being paid the magnificent salary of Rs. 80 to Rs. 40 and not more! Earlier, my Honourable friend Shri Mohan Lal Saksena asked as

to why it is that the Government of India were not thinking of raising the lowest salaries. The Honourable Member got up again and said: "Oh! these things are being discussed by a wonderful commission that the Government have appointed" and therefore they did not want to make any sort of distinction at all. When they have to make a distinction, they do not scruple about things, if only they are in favour of highly paid people. If it is a case of smaller people getting low salaries, then they strain every nerve to give evasive answers and they say 'we are considering the necessity for revising the salaries for all people taken together and then we will do something'. What do they do? What have they done in the past? In the shape of Lee concessions, they have given hundreds of thousands of rupees to the fat salaried people. In the case of the lower paid staff, they grudgingly gave one or two rupees as allowances. My Honourable friend asked the Honourable the Finance Member to imagine how it would be possible for these low paid people who are getting, including this dearness allowance, the sum of Rs. 45 a month, to live at all and maintain their family. Sir, we, as Members of the Legislature are given a combined daily allowance of Rs. 45 a day. We are getting 30 times more than these poor ill paid clerks, chaprasis, etc. We, the Members of the Assembly, know how difficult it is even with our Rs. 45 a day to live decently and save just a few rupees, to carry on public work outside. It must be possible for Honourable Members on that side also to know how difficult it must be for the ordinary folk to live on this pitiful salary, and yet the Government do not want to do enough by these people. The Government go on wasting our money on these highly paid officials. Do they need this increase? My Honourable friend Sri Ananthasayanam Ayyangar gave us a number of instances as to how these high salaried people find it difficult to spend their money upon. They squander this high salary on luxuries, thus raising up the prices. The wonderful part of it is that it is proposed to give these allowances retrospectively. I think every one of these top officials will come into possession of Rs. 5,000, Rs. 6,000 and even Rs. 10,000 per family all of a sudden. There will be ample money in their hands to waste on foreign imported stuffs.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne (Home Member): Nothing like that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I have got here figures. The Home Member seems to be very poor in mathematics, although he is supposed to be in charge of services, their pay and allowances and so on. Here are the figures. At the rate of Rs. 268 per month, it comes to more Rs. 3,100. If these allowances are given for more than two years, then the figures go up to a huge amount.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: No, no.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the use of crying out 'no, no'. You may cry 'no, no' to your own satisfaction and to the satisfaction of the subordinates in the Home Department. Fortunately we are not your subordinates. We have got facts which we place before the House and it is for the Honourable the Home Member to disprove those facts by putting counter facts. Simply running us down in a departmental fashion, saying, 'no, no' is not going to satisfy us. He cannot cow us down like this. He has failed to make us submit to him several times. He, or his successors, or the British people, if all these should try again to overawe us, it will all end in miserable failure as before. What do these fat salaried people do with the sudden fortune that will come to them in the shape of retrospective allowances? As my Honourable friend Mr. Masani pointed out the other day, they will waste this on foreign imports. The Honourable the Finance Member has now got into the habit of expressing his righteous indignation and saying, not this, not that and so on. Where else are they going to spend money? On sugar, you will not allow, on various other things, you have established controls. Then, they will have to spend on black markets. You do not ration these various other essentials for our people with the result that these rich people, now that they get this additional money, will go to the market and pay more and more and thus prevent the poor folk from getting the essentials of life. That is the consequence of the unreasonable things you are doing.

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

New, Sir, I come to the bigger thing. Unfortunately the Honourable the Finance Member is not present in the House and I had hoped he would listen to the few remarks that I was going to make. Here is a big list of supplementary demands. It looks more like a statement placed before the Public Accounts Committee. We are expected to go through the whole gamut here. In fact, all the annual budget demands are here, nearly one hundred of them—including Panth Piploda, the affectionate one of Sir John Thorne. What does this long list show? It shows the utter inefficiency and complete incompetence of the Finance Department. All this time, we have been told that whenever any Finance Member was going away, he has done such and such a great thing to this country and therefore, let us congratulate him as a great man. But what do we find now? The Finance Department people have proved thoroughly incompetent and inefficient and this is proved by this long list of supplementary demands. Not one in the Finance Department could estimate the budget figures correctly in any of the Departments. Their estimates have been out of proportion. The total supplementary demands come to nearly 28 crores. That gives us nearly more than ten per cent. of the total budgetary demands that they make annually. We are asked to congratulate the Honourable the Finance Member. Here comes the Finance Member.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, to receive your congratulations.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We are extremely glad and we sincerely hope and trust that he is correct when he says he is going.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, do I.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The sooner you make room for an Indian Finance Member, the better will it be because under your guidance the Department has become thoroughly inefficient and incompetent. Not that I will applaud a brown Finance Member if he presents the same list of supplementary demands as you have done. I shall criticise him in the same way as I am doing now. Why do they want to give retrospective effect? They say it is a question of justice. My Honourable friend said the other day that the Finance Member speaks with a socialist accent. It is not yet cockney enough for me to be accepted as a socialist accent. My Honourable friend added that he has got a capitalist heart. That certainly is quite correct.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think he meant cockney accent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: You cannot be a cockney because you are a Welshman unfortunately.

These allowances are to be given with retrospective effect to whom? To people who are getting more than Rs. 1,000 per mensem. And why do they need it?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Everybody needs it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Have they made out a case that they are incurring debts or that they have got to repay their debts?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, Sir.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They waste money over drinks and playing Bridge in the Roshanara Club and the Chelmsford Club. Then the Honourable Member says that he is giving this dearness allowance in the name of justice. Very good indeed. My Honourable friends are in very great demand in nocturnal dinners and parties, but we are not here to pamper all these high-salaried people. That is why even if a case could be made out—although it cannot be made out in all fairness and justice—for these people for dearness allowance for this year, there cannot be any case whatever for giving them allowances with retrospective effect. Therefore, I say that if my Honourable friend has got any conception of justice.

it is something indeed extraordinarily unjustifiable and a thing which cannot be imagined at all, even according to capitalist standards. I think this is a wrong thing for him to do. Therefore, looking at it from whichever point of view, he should put a stop to this 'retrospective effect' anyhow.

Is it possible for him even today to come forward before this House and say 'I see the reason of your plea and therefore I am going to stop this dearness allowance'? He may say, as we were told yesterday, that there are some officers of the Railway Board who are being paid dearness allowance, and therefore you cannot afford to make any discrimination between one class of officers and another class of officers. Are we to be told that there is no discrimination in pay and allowances that are being given to different classes of officers today? Is it not a fact that the Honourable the Defence Secretary has admitted in this House that there is a difference between the pay and allowances of Englishmen on one side and Indians on the other. Yet in spite of this are the Government coming forward to equalize their pay and allowances? Of course not.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The Indian officer gets exactly the same as British as far as war allowance is concerned.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is another complaint. I want the Government to lower the scale of salaries and dearness allowance and various other allowances also to all the officers—British and Indian. These people are taking advantage by bribing them and pampering them. In other words they say 'look here, we are giving you the same salaries and allowances as we are getting; so let us be common thieves in looting the Indian exchequer'. That is what they have been doing. We are against this sort of thing. Yesterday and day before when we were asking for relief for the poor, the Honourable Member was coming forward and saying 'if only I listen to you, the whole Government will go bankrupt'. When we ask for relief, he raises the bogey of bankruptcy, and when we ask for the abolition of dearness allowance, he says 'no, no' these people should be paid their dearness allowance; poor people have suffered very badly'. There is something wrong with this Government. They have got lop-sided value of things; they are suffering from jaundiced eyes and jaundiced finances and they do not know—I am sorry I must correct myself, it is not that they do not know, they do know what they are doing. They must go on subsidizing these very highly paid officers so that they may be in good humour and they may carry on their dirty work in this country. When Mahatma Gandhi was fasting, what happened? Only a few people, who were getting lower salaries, were found to protest against the Government policy, not the highly paid officers. Again, who were the people who protested against the inhuman sentence that was passed on Captain Rashid Ali? Only the poor clerks and lower gazetted staff. Why is it that the high paid officers, whether they are Hindus or Muslims, did not protest at all? It is because they are over-fed, they are over-pampered, and they are even offered bribe in regard to the past also for all the sins that they have committed against nationalism and patriotism. And my Honourable friend with an air of righteous indignation says in fairness and in justice, please co-operate with us. We are here to non-co-operate with this Government; we are here to non-co-operate with this Finance Member, and I may tell my Honourable friend that I am prepared to assess his ability properly or fully only when I see him in England. When I meet him there and if he wants me to recommend him to his own Government, I will certainly do so. But here in this country I am extremely anxious—so anxious that I am counting every hour, every minute, every second—to see the day when I can say to myself 'Thanks God, these gentlemen can no longer have a chance of sitting there and propping up our own Indian Members to make a case against us in India'. We want this Government to go. Not only that, we want these Englishmen to go. We are not here to pay any compliments to these gentlemen, and we are not here also to be complimented by these gentlemen. As you know, Sir, when the Honourable the Leader of the European Group suggested that there should be a Rowlands Committee, I made bold to say no

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: So did I.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: We do not want either Rowlands or any other 'Lands' in this country. I say that not because I am angry with my Honourable friend. I am prepared to be very friendly and chummy with him once he is in his own country. Let us then pitch our brains against one another and see who will win, but as long as he happens to be in this country, I am not prepared to grant even a pie for, whether you call it Excess Grant or Supplementary Grant or Regular Budget—not a pie. As my Honourable Deputy Leader made it clear in his speech the other day, we are in favour of throwing out the whole budget.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I hope the Honourable the Finance Member must have been convinced by the time that a sound case has been made out to revise the entire policy of salaries. He will agree with me that Indian administration is the costliest in the world. The highest paid officer in this country gets relatively more than any other highest paid officer in any other country. Similarly, the lowest paid Government servant in this country gets less than any other lowest paid servant in any other country. In the Standing Finance Committee when this question was discussed many of us brought to the notice of the Finance Member the plight of the low-paid Government servant. He promised to go into that question and in the report of the Standing Finance Committee we find that the Finance Department is going to examine the question of increasing the rates of dearness allowance to a flat rate of Rs. 25 and Rs. 22. But so far as the allowances to the high-salaried people are concerned, it is decided that they are to be paid; there is no question of their being reviewed at all. I submit, Sir, that the intention of the Government is to create a class of ultra-loyalists as a second line of defence. If that is not the intention, then apart from the fact whether the allowances are votable or non-votable, apart from the fact whether there is any constitutional issue involved, I ask one simple question of the Honourable the Finance Member—because he has expressed more than once that the salaries paid to the Indian officers are really high—does he honestly think that the officer who draws over Rs. 1,000 is one in the present circumstances who should be given extra allowances, especially in view of the fact that in this country, the poverty, according to him, is very great and whether the finances justify the grant of such allowances, and whether in granting increased allowances to these high-salaried people he is not creating what I should say an unequal society? Instead of diminishing the distance between the rich and the poor, he is becoming a party to bring about a situation just the other way. In 1934 a commission was appointed to go into the question of salaries. It was presided over by Lee. The concessions granted have come to be known as "Lee loot". Does he want that whatever concessions he has been granting to be known as "Rowlands robberies"? If he takes the poverty of this country and its finances into consideration, I am sure, in view of his often expressed opinion that the Government servants are already more than highly paid, he will refuse to grant them further allowances and will agree to this cut. In moving this cut, the object is that the low-paid servants should get the benefit. There are amendments on the various other demands to be moved hereafter, but this particular motion means censuring the policy of the Government also in so far as grant of allowances to high-salaried persons. It is economy cut in that respect also. Therefore, I support this motion.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony (Nominated Non-Official): I rise to support this motion and I feel that anyone who suggests the continuance of a dearness or war allowance to persons of the higher wage bracket can do so only in a spirit of irresponsibility. This House has over and over again made its opinion felt that it was not in favour of this war and dearness allowance to persons in the higher wage brackets. As my friend has remarked, it is notorious that in this country we have a notoriously top-heavy administration. Taken against the economic background of an abjectly poor country, even in peace time, we have in the

country wage levels which are out of all relation to the economic resources of this country, and now it is sought to continue these allowances to people who are already getting unduly inflated wages that are not at all relative to the economic resources of this country. I have over and over again said that it is sheer affectation for people getting Rs. 1,000 and over to say that they cannot manage. Dr. Sir Zia Uddin has said that the purchasing power of the rupee has fallen considerably, but all it has meant to the man in the higher wage bracket is an economy in his luxury. It is sheer nonsense to say that he has had to economise and honestly it is only the poor man who is today suffering not only economic privations but degradation, and it is absolutely indefensible, not only economically but morally to pay huge sums, and certainly retrospectively, to persons getting one thousand and over. I have met men who have come to this country. India is a happy hunting ground for mediocrities, particularly in the services of this country. These are men who due to the economic resources in England can never look forward to the salary that the people in this country get. You cannot, according to economists, expect to combine security with wealth. But that is precisely what you do in the higher rungs of government service in this country. People say, why are lawyers and doctors allowed to earn huge sums of money? Economically it is justified. They run risks. It is because of those risks that you have the compensating advantage. If you are successful in your line, profession or business you can earn large amounts. But not in Government service where you have a guarantee of security and as such you are not entitled to look forward to inflated wages that you get in this country. I do not think that the most senior member of the Home Civil Service, strictly speaking, gets over £1,000 to £1,500 a year.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: £8,500!

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: But what does it work out to relative to the economy of the country, in other words relative to the *per capita* income of the people? I have been reading that an Englishman earns a pound as compared with the shilling earned by a person in this country. The *per capita* income is twenty times higher than in this country and based on that consideration, the persons in the higher wage level should get one-twentieth of what they are getting. That is my whole contention. I admit that the man today getting Rs. 1,000, Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 3,000 has certain commitments, but they are in the nature of luxuries. He will have to come down in his luxuries and what I am resentful about is the attitude of the administration towards the poorer paid employee in this country. Whenever you ask for a dearness allowance, we are told it will raise all kinds of complications and the matter will have to be considered. But when it comes to giving a grant to the men in the higher wage brackets, and even paying them thousands of rupees, with retrospective effect, you do it in a cavalier manner. All your bogeys, all your theories of creating financial complications all disappear when you want to treat with these people who have really not suffered at all. When I say at all I speak in relation to the increased cost of living in this country. I would say that there is a case for the continuance of a dearness and a war allowance for the people in the lower wage brackets and if you at all want to do justice, then divert the money that is being paid to people in the higher wage brackets into making some reparation for the losses in purchasing power by the people in the lower wage brackets in this country.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh (Chota Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): Here in this House, what is talked about appears to me to be all unreal. Discussion is going on against high salaries and dearness allowance. But in my mind, Sir, there are neither salaries nor allowances. All these are "*lot ka batwara*" which means "Distribution of property looted". Sir, I have already said on some other occasion that in fact there is no real government in this country. The salaries of public servants in any country in the world ought to tally with the common life of the people, with the standard of life of the people in general. Here there are some people who are getting Rs. 6,000 a month and

[Babu Ram Narayan Singh]

there are people who are getting Rs. 20 a month. Is it a kind of thing which should be allowed. Is it a thing which can be called legal or just? 80 per cent of the people of this country do not know what two meals a day mean. In my area, which is the poorest in the country, there are people who do not know what corn is for about nine months in the year. They live on leaves, roots and wild fruits. In such a country it is inconceivable to have people getting high salaries. Sometimes I do not like to speak but when I hear or see things going on, I am tempted to speak. When we consider these things seriously our blood boils. My party has taken a good stand and I hope that my friends on my left will also join us. We should never allow such additional grants. Especially supplementary grants should always be discouraged. A good Finance Member should foresee all possible expenditure in the year. Either there is a deficit or some items which were not budgeted for. Why should there be a supplementary grant? These things should be discouraged. Sir, I support the motion moved by my friend Mr. Mohan Lal Saxena and I pray that this should be passed.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt (Bombay-European): Sir, I oppose this motion. I believe I am correct in saying that in the United States or, at any rate, in some of the States the incomes of persons who pay income-tax are published. It is perhaps unfortunate that that system is not in force in this country, because we would then be able to test the sincerity of some of the remarks that have been made on the floor of this House.

The debate seems to have strayed rather far from its actual implications and had the remarks of my Honourable friends Mr. Manu Subedar and Diwan Chaman Lal not been tinged by politics I would have been more in sympathy with them. Nevertheless I join issue with them in their condemnation of the salaries and the dearness and living allowances being paid to the lower paid servants of the Government of India. It is a mystery to me how a chaprassi can live on the wages and dearness allowance that are being paid to him. This particular point was raised in the Standing Finance Committee and I think that those members who were members of it and are present here in the House will agree with me, though he could not say a great deal at that juncture, he nevertheless was in sympathy with the remarks then made on this particular point, and which I understand is under review.

It seems to me Sir, that if there is sincerity in the point of view that has been expressed by a number of members, they ought not to have accepted, some twelve months ago, an increase of 50 per cent in their daily and travelling allowances, from Rs. 30 to Rs. 45 for surely the principle implicit in their acceptance should equally apply in the wording of this cut motion.

My friend Mr. Manu Subedar represents the Indian Chamber of Commerce and on the Congress Benches there is a representative of the Millowners Association. I would like to ask those gentlemen whether in the industries of which they know something employees earning a salary of over Rs. 2,000 are not paid a dearness or living allowance?

Mr. Vaidal Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners Association: Indian Commerce): We give only Rs. 50 just as a token.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: But I think I am right in saying that there have been substantial alterations in salaries in order to make up this small token. Tatas, for instance, pay a bonus of three months' salaries. Whether a sum of money is paid by way of bonus or dearness allowance you are substantially increasing the income of the individual concerned.

I do not know a great deal about the budgets of the I. C. S. officers but I do know something about my own budget and how my expenses have increased. I wonder whether the House realises that the last Finance Member (and here the present Finance Member will correct me if I am making a mis-statement) retired with a pension which, after he has paid English income-tax, will be reduced in terms of rupees to about Rs. 650 or 700 a month. Such are the plums of office.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: Not bad.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: If you are going to penalise these higher paid men and prevent them from saving I must of course assume a man is paid in accordance with his ability, if you are going to penalise these people, they are going out of Government service into industry and Government will lose them.

Shri Sri Prakasa: A good thing too!

An Honourable Member: Welcome.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: My friend Mr. Sri Prakasa says that they will be welcome. If when the new Government comes in they bring into effect the salaries which are indicated by this cut motion I wonder what sort of problems will confront them after they have attempted to run an administration with a low paid service, after a year or so. As I said, and on these grounds I oppose this motion.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): Mr. President, there is not very much that I have to say on this motion which is before the House. I should like to explain the position of the Muslim League Party with regard to the dearness and war allowances that are paid to Government officials.

Sir, this matter of giving dearness allowance to those who were drawing a salary of Rs. 1,000 or more came up in the form of an adjournment motion in the Assembly session last year. At that time the then Finance Member promised that he would place the matter before either the House or a committee of this House before giving effect to this proposal, viz., giving a dearness allowance to those drawing a salary of Rs. 1,000 up to Rs. 2,000. The matter was placed, if I remember aright, before the Standing Finance Committee. The stand which the members of the Muslim League Party took up in the Standing Finance Committee was that they opposed the granting of dearness allowance to Government officials drawing a salary of over Rs. 1,000. And that is the position today. It is true that on account of the rise in prices of commodities every one, especially those who have a fixed income, have been very much hit. But at the same time we feel that those whose income is over Rs. 1,000 can manage it by cutting down some of the items of expenditure which are not absolutely essential. We are opposed to giving of any dearness allowance to Government officials drawing a salary of over Rs. 1,000; and in this connection I am glad that the question of increasing the dearness allowance of low paid servants has also been raised on the floor of this House, although it has really no direct bearing on the motion which the House is considering. The dearness allowance which is paid to low paid servants of the Government is indeed very little. I know that in many cases since 1937—amongst the few servants that I have, the wages have gone up by three times. In the case of Government servants, those of them who have got what they call *dast-i-ghaib* they do not bother; but the other poor fellows who have no *dast-i-ghaib* find it very difficult to live on such low wages as they are getting today. Whatever money is to be given in the form of dearness allowance should be given first to low paid servants and should certainly not be given to those who get a salary of over Rs. 1,000.

My Honourable friend Mr. Gwilt has a fling at the Members of this House by saying that they should not have accepted an increase in the daily allowance which is paid to the Members. Perhaps my Honourable friend would realise that this is the only Legislature in the world where the Members are not paid any salary; and after all, what is it, in spite of the 45 rupees which the Members get? How much does it come to in a year? Not much as the calculation will show. In my friend's own country the members of Parliament today get £600 a year and there is a clamour to raise it to £1,000 a year. I know that some of the members of my Honourable friend's party were regularly paid salaries by the associations which they were representing in the House. So, I think it was rather unfortunate that he should have brought in this argument as a justification for giving dearness allowances to those who are drawing salaries over one thousand rupees

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: If my Honourable friend will be good enough to give way for a moment, I think what I said was that if this point is pressed the logic of it should have been applied also

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member speak a little more loudly? I could not hear him at all.

Mr. Leslie Gwilt: I think what I said in effect was that if the point which is implicit in this cut motion is pressed, then the logic of that must also apply to the travelling allowance which is paid to Members of the Assembly.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: I really do not know what he means by that. All that I can say is that perhaps amongst the non-official Members in this House he will not find more than ten per cent whose income is over Rs. 1,000

An Honourable Member: Not even that.

Another Honourable Member: Some have no income at all!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Not even Rs. 45 a month!

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Therefore I do not quite appreciate his point; but at the same time I know that when this matter was discussed it was recognised that in Delhi specially—and some of the Members live in villages or small towns where the expenses are very little compared to the big cities—it was felt that on account of the increase in the cost of living if they have to live in Delhi, then it was reasonable that the allowance should be increased; and of course nobody can make a distinction that only one Member can draw so much and the other should not, because that would have been very discriminatory. But I can assure my Honourable friend that some of those who are blessed with little more favourable circumstances—to them this Rs. 45 goes away more in charity than towards meeting their expenses.

As I stated just now, the position of my party is very clear. I feel that there is no justification for giving dearness allowance to those drawing a salary of over Rs. 1,000, and there is great justification and great need that the low paid servants of government should be given an increased dearness allowance than what they have been given so far. I support the motion before the House.

Some Honourable Members: The question may now be put.

(Miss Maniben Kara rose to speak.)

Mr. President: A request has been made that the question be now put. So I have called upon the Home Member.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I am not in charge of the subject, but . . .

Mr. President: I have not called upon him to speak by way of reply. The Honourable Finance Member will do that; but before I put the question that the question be put, I thought he wanted to catch the eye of the Chair and I have permitted him to speak.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: I must apologise to the lady behind me for getting in her way. I should certainly not have done so if I had known that she was going to rise.

I have a slight sense of grievance at being in the House at all this morning. When I looked at the list of business I thought I could have possibly a couple of hours in my room to get on with jobs of work which have been greatly neglected and that I would come along when some item with which I am directly concerned is reached lower down in the paper. It does seem rather odd that the Home Member should butt in on a cut motion under a head like Customs. But as it has so happened, this debate has taken a turn with which I am concerned. The Home Department is supposed to be the guardian of the conditions of service of all classes—and let me emphasise, all classes—of government servants. The emphasis very naturally this morning, has been on the needs of the lower grades; and in anything I say I do not want to be understood as in any way minimising or ignoring what has been urged on behalf of the lower paid and therefore the

more needy Members of the government services. But I must emphasise that they are not the only people to be considered and that in all grades of the Government services there is a case, and an unanswerable case, for just treatment. In a special degree the Home Department is also concerned with the Secretary of State's services—I say in special degree because that is a specific item in the business of the Home Department; but I certainly do not mean that any one in the Home Department thinks himself required or entitled to do for the Secretary of State's services anything more in the way of improvement or maintenance of the conditions of service than should be done for other classes of the services.

I have listened with some bewilderment to the course of the debate. It seemed to me to take a line of irrelevance which is remarkable even in discussions which are professedly related to finance. My Honourable friend Professor Ranga seemed to me to have achieved a height or level of irrelevance which even in the many irrelevant speeches he has made before he has never yet attained.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The Tanjore Collector speaking?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: He was not the only one. So far as I could follow my friends who talked about the constitution, they also were going entirely beyond anything which had a bearing on this motion.

There is no secret about the constitution. There it is in the Act. I have no doubt that my friends on the other side know as much as I do about section 81A.

which defines the scope of the Secretary of State's control over the I.P.M. Government of India. That scope is very wide. It will be for my colleague to say—he has said already by way of interpellation—how far the control of the Secretary of State's services was exercised in this matter in relation to servants of the Government of India generally. But specifically of course the Secretary of State is concerned with the services which he has recruited and whose conditions of service he has laid down; and in respect to them it is known and obvious that neither the Provincial Governments nor the Central Government have an entirely free hand. I still cannot understand how it is relevant to drag in the Secretary of State's services on this motion. Still less can I understand my friend Mr. Anthony who seemed to be making some distinction between the British and Indian members of the Secretary of State's services.

Mr. Frank R. Anthony: On a point of explanation. I was making no distinction at all between the British and the Indians. I was merely talking of the relative wage scales in England and in this country.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: The relative wage scales have nothing to do with it, unless my friend was making some racial distinction. He talked of British members of the services as people who, if they had stayed in Britain, would be receiving less remuneration than they do out here. It is an old theme—and there may be something in it, but it is not relevant to this discussion. British officers, as everybody knows, are a very small minority indeed of the servants of Government whose pay is between one thousand and two thousand rupees a month, and those are the people with whom we are concerned this morning. The cut motion specifies the amount of Rs. one thousand rupees a month and above, that is to say these allowances, if the motion is accepted, would cease in respect to officers drawing Rs. one thousand and above. I have listened with some care to see why this figure was suggested. I was not in the House yesterday and I am not quite sure whether a similar motion that was moved yesterday was in identical terms. It is possible that some indication may have been given yesterday as to why this figure of Rs. 1,000 has been chosen as the limit up to which any sort of allowance should be admissible. I might tell my friends that in Britain the people who are benefited by increases in their emoluments are as high up in the scale as those getting £3,000 a year in Government service, and the pay of some of those have been increased to £3,500 a year. Nobody in India would suggest that allowances should go to anything like that height, not because people on three and four thousand rupees a month do not feel the effects of high prices. Everybody knows that every one

[Sir John Thorne]

feels the effect of high prices, but there clearly must be a limit, an arbitrary figure must be fixed somewhere beyond which it is expected that a man can draw in expenses, whether it is on luxuries or on charity or on anything else, to accord more or less with the lower value of money. The figure that was fixed for Government servants was Rs. 2,000 a month, although there are gradations up to that figure; as I say, that was an arbitrary figure, but I submit that this figure of Rs. 1,000 a month is equally arbitrary; and of this I am quite certain—that if the Government of India had fixed Rs. 1,000 as the limit for allowances, this cut demand would still be on the paper, Rs. 750 or Rs. 500 being put in instead of one thousand. (An Honourable Member: No.) I can say that with certainty and I do not believe that Professor Ranga who is denying it has any belief in his denial.

Now, Sir, the only other matter I want to refer to is the retrospective effect to the decision that was recently taken; and I have not noticed any particular acknowledgment of the fact that it was taken at a time when the Assembly was given a full opportunity to discuss it, instead of, as is so often suggested, that the policy of Government is to do these things after the Assembly rises.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That portion of two crores which has to be paid has not come before the Assembly. It won't come up by way of supplementary grant till the next year.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: It has come before the Assembly now. We are talking about it at this very moment. I hope I am not out of order in referring to it because it certainly has arisen earlier in the day. Fantastic figures were given of the actual effect in rupees of this amount. Professor Ranga, I think, suggested that some people were actually going to get Rs. 10,000 in one instalment as the effect of throwing the concession back by six months. That, of course, is nonsense. But this is all I have to say on it, that the decision of July 1944, was from the point of view of the ordinary government servant a very unfair one. I am not speaking only for the officers covered by this Cut, that is officers drawing between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000, but I am rather talking of officers of all classes. When we gave them this increase and asked them to accept it as adequate, when we told them, as we had to tell them, "well of course, what we are giving you now in July, 1944, it does not go even a small way towards meeting your needs, but you know we have to be careful about inflation", then in my experience, if there is anything that infuriated the government servant more than anything else, it was to be told that he must be worse off on account of the inflation. He said, who caused this inflation? Have I caused this inflation? Or, who has caused it? Not being a financier, I could not tell him who had caused the inflation. Anyway it was quite certain that that class of government servant had to suffer, and suffer real hardship. It is known to me that a considerable number of government servants have in the past few years even got into debt, and that is a thing with which no government servant, in ordinary circumstances, in the absence of any special bad luck, is expected to put up. It did not happen to him before the war, and it is a circumstance which is really prejudicial in the highest degree to efficiency of service. Well, Sir, that decision, as I say, was regarded, and regarded to my mind with very good reason, and the expressed in terms which I myself found it hard to rebut, as most unfair; and the concessions that were given and against which complaints were made this morning went only so far as to repeat an obvious injustice.

Some Honourable Members: The question be now put.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the question be now put."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I prefer to speak after Lunch.

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.

HINDU MARRIAGE DISABILITIES REMOVAL BILL

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, I present the report of the Select Committee on the Bill to remove legal disabilities under Hindu law in respect of marriage between Hindus.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1945-46—contd.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I doubt whether outside India there is any legislature in the world in which so much that is not germane to the motion before the House can be brought in.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Do you know any country outside India like India?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, many of them. Amongst other things that have been covered in a motion for expunging a certain sum from the first supplementary demand in respect of allowances paid to officers drawing between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 per month, many things have come in, like commercial safeguards under the 1935 Constitution Act, price-levels and the intellectual capacity of the Finance Member and reference to the predatory habits of his ancestors. In that respect my ancestors seem to resemble pretty closely those of my Honourable friend, Mr. Abdul Ghani Khan.

Sir, I oppose this motion on several grounds. Firstly, because it is irrational in that it seeks to reduce the demand for a supplementary grant by two lakhs of rupees, whereas the total sum covered by the budget provision in respect of which the cut motion is moved, is only Rs. 15,000. Secondly, I want to point out that this grant of war allowance is limited to those married officers who are drawing between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000; it does not apply to single officers. Thirdly, the amount of the allowance is 17½ per cent only, whereas the cost of living is anything in the neighbourhood of 800 per cent, although I do not accept myself that the cost of living indices are entirely appropriate to the class of people we are talking about. Lastly, I doubt very much whether the officers in question are treated as favourably as the officers of big industrial firms in this country within the same salary range, where account is taken of things like salary bonuses; though these are paid out of E. P. T. and therefore, at the expense of the taxpayer; nevertheless such persons were paid increases of salary in the war period. I doubt very much whether officers of Government have been treated half as favourably as officers in the same salary range as themselves in industry.

Mr. Vaddiala Lallubhai: Sir, may I say something by way of reply to that?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I only said I doubted it; I am not making a debate about it.

Next, the officers concerned in this motion are not, except to a negligible extent, European; they are all Indian.

An Honourable Member: It is not a racial cut.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I am not raising a racial issue; I am replying to an issue raised on the other side.

Lastly, I am convinced that a high percentage of officers in this salary range have been very badly hit by the war. They are necessarily living on standards which are inelastic and cannot be completely adjusted to the very high cost of the essentials which they have to buy to maintain those standards. It is not a question of giving up the Roshanara Club or the Chelmsford Club or the I. D. G. Club or drinking less drinks or talking less betel-nuts. It is that they are committed to certain standards like children's education or housing or standards of life generally. An officer in this range cannot give up his house and live in

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

cheaper quarters, even if he can get them. And I do not believe it is sound policy to subject officers, and; amongst them, some of the most important officers of Government to financial worries. In those conditions they cannot do their best work.

Now, Sir, before coming to my Honourable friend Prof. Ranga I want to refer briefly to two points raised respectively by my Honourable friends Mr. Saksena and Sir Zia Uddin. The point of complaint of Mr. Saksena was that this Government, following its usual custom, withheld deliberately the grant of this increased allowance from the Legislature until it had risen last year. I have no hope at all of dispelling this suspicion. The real facts are these. The decision to grant this allowance was not finally taken until the 27th March towards the end of an overcrowded session. The papers relating to the proposal were in fact circulated to the Standing Finance Committee of his House before the House rose, and it was open to the opposition, had they so desired, to have applied for a further date for discussion. In point of fact, it was taken on the afternoon of the last day of the session, as my first performance—and a very interesting one it was too. I am sorry my Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin is not here, for I have to make two appeals to him. I hope he was not serious in proposing a reduction in the price-level of agricultural produce to 150 per cent of the pre-war level. He could not really have been serious. He suggested that wheat sold in the Punjab at Rs. 2/4 per maund before the war would be properly rated at Rs. 3/6 after the war. In my judgment, although I think the present price-level in India is too high and will have to come down, if I were to remain here, I would do everything I could to see that it did not descend to those levels.

The next appeal I wished to make to him was to expound at greater length and with greater clarity his scheme or his doctrine to which he often refers, but never really dilates upon, of using silver and gold to control the price-level. I have no doubt that when he and I have greater leisure between now and the end of the session he will favour me with his views.

And now I come to Prof. Ranga. He covered a wide field with the speed and eloquence of which he is capable. He crowded into a very brief speech the sort of speech he was entitled to make on the general discussion of the budget and on the Finance Bill. Amongst other things he passed reflections on my intellectual capacity. I do not resent that. I hope I do not rate it higher than he rates his own. One of my colleagues the other day referred to Prof. Ranga as in a state of perpetual indignation. He did not seem to like that very much and I like him so much that I do not like to offend him. Otherwise I would describe him as Mount Etna—in a state of perpetual eruption, belching forth torrents of oratorical irrelevancies. I like him so much that I am not going to say anything.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Go ahead.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, I have finished. There are three points, however, on which it happens we are both agreed. The first is that I should quit India as soon as he hopes that I should quit it. I am in complete agreement, and when I am in London I hope I will be enjoying a dearness allowance which will enable me to entertain my Honourable friend.

Shri Sri Prakasa: You will ask him to quit England!

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will not; I hope he will stay there. Besides, he is much too amusing to suggest that he showed quit England!

Secondly, he raised a point which was raised by Mr. Ram Narayan Singh from Bihar, who performed with great dignity and dexterity the difficult feat of delivering his speech and eating betel-nuts at the same time! I am referring

to a protest that most of them raised about the number of supplementary grants that have been presented to the House this year. I entirely share the view. I think it is absolutely offensive to all rules and to the dignity of Legislature to have brought before it on the last day of the Session about eighty supplementary demands which represent expenditure already incurred. In my judgment, supplementary demands should be very much less numerous than they have been. I can only attribute that to the war—these demands relate partly to the war period—and to the fact that the rules here require amendment. I think that a Department, as soon as it is aware that it needs to exceed the amount voted to it by the Legislature, should take the first opportunity of bringing before the Legislature a demand for further money, and I think that arrangements to that end are already in train for the future.

The last point on which I find myself in complete agreement is the belief that the pay of inferior Government servants is too low. I myself entirely share the view that the pay of some of these inferior servants before the war was quite indefensible on any standards. I have already agreed to examine the possibility of increasing the rate of dearness allowance—the existing rates—and I hope that their case will be complete in the course of a few weeks. Of course we have to consult the Provinces which are also affected. But I will give the House some idea of what is involved. Every rupee a month added to the dearness allowance will cost two crores of rupees. It is not quite as easy as all that. Nevertheless, that will not stand in the way and we have come to the conclusion that some increase is necessary. I think it is wrong that Government servants of any grade should have to rely on that insidious hand or greasy palm to which the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party referred this morning.

There was a suggestion in the course of the debate that the money to finance any additional dearness allowance to staff could be found by cutting out the war allowance from married officers. I do not think that could be found by cutting out from the allowance of married officers who are given 17½ per cent. in respect of increased cost of living. The House should know that the total amount involved—voted and non-voted—is only Rs 32 lakhs. I have just said that for every rupee added to the dearness allowance we require two crores of rupees. So, if the object is to find the money for dearness allowance, this cut motion will not achieve it. For all these reasons, Sir, I do hope that before we come to voting—I think I have disposed of the case in favour of this cut—all sides of the House will reconsider the motion, and the Honourable Member will withdraw it.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has said that the amount of allowances in respect of officers drawing Rs. 1,000 and more comes to Rs. 15,000 only, while the cut suggests Rs. two lakhs. Am I right?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The amount involved is Rs. 15,000.

Mr. President: How does the cut stand in that light?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: You will remember that yesterday we wanted to have figures as to how much of this amount related to the increased dearness allowance to officers drawing Rs. 1,000 and more. In the absence of exact figures we have no alternative but to make lump sum reduction. I had in view the fact that the existing concessions were about four crores and the increased concession meant another four crores. So in view of the statement of the Honourable the Finance Member, i.e., 15,000, I am ready to modify my demand.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The total over the whole of Government is Rs. 32 lakhs, including non-voted. But on this particular subject it is only Rs. 15,000.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: There are two courses open to me. Either it should be taken as a cut motion relating to all the demands in which case we need not discuss all the other cut motions that I have moved. This two lakhs

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

may be spread over, and other demands reduced accordingly. Or, we may reduce Rs. 15,000 under this demand, and in respect of others we may get the exact figures from the Honourable the Finance Member which may be inserted in the cut motions when they are moved.

Mr. President: I quite follow what the Honourable Member is suggesting. The better course would be, so far as the procedure is concerned, to reduce each demand by the figure which the Finance Member may give as regards the allowance to people drawing more than Rs. 1,000.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I cannot obviously produce the figures now for every demand.

Mr. Manu Subedar: You can reappropriate afterwards.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I request leave of the House to reduce this cut to Rs. 15,000.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The object is to censure the Government for having done this. That will be achieved by merely confining the cut to Rs. 100.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: That is another question. But you will stop it in future, and also not pay two crores of rupees which Government intend giving.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It is not Rs. two crores of rupees which is involved. Most of the money involved in these things is in respect of dearness allowance. I have just told the House that the total amount, spread over all Government servants drawing salaries between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000, is only Rs. 82 lakh.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like to substitute the amount which would cover the allowance of officers drawing over Rs. 1,000, namely, Rs. 15,000. It is to that extent that we wish to show our disapproval. Therefore I beg leave of the House to amend this figure to Rs. 15,000.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Why not reduce it to Rs. 100. The object will be achieved.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): It appears to me that the object is to disapprove the action of the Government which they have taken in regard to this matter of giving dearness allowance

to Government servants drawing over Rs. 1,000. I think that object, 3. P. M. would be met if we reduce this grant by Rs. 100, because after all it now only amounts to a token cut. Therefore I move:

"That in the cut motion, for Rs. 2,00,000, Rs. 100 be substituted."

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): That would apply to all the others.

Mr. President: Are the other cut motions going to be moved?

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Not on this subject?

Mr. President: Therefore, the Honourable Member is now moving that amendment to the cut motion. The question is:

"That in the cut motion, for Rs. 2,00,000, Rs. 100 be substituted."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I will now put to the House the cut motion as amended. The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 14,99,000 in respect of 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abid Hussain Choudhury Md.
Adityan, Sri S. T.
Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Bose, Shri Sarat Chandra.
Chaman Lall, Diwan.
Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Chaudhuri, Sreejot Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Shoodass.
Damodar Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
Dani, Mr. G. B.
Deshmukh, Dr. G. V.
Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
Gangaraju, Sri V.
Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
Gole, Mr. P. B.
Goyind Das, Seth.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Hans Raj, Raizada.
Himmatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hiray, Sjt. B. S.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
Jaffer, Mr. Ahmed E. H.
Jagannathdas, Sri.
Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdom Al-Haj
Syed Sher Shah.
Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. P.
Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
Kara, Miss Maniben.
Karmarkar, Shri D. P.
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Lahiri Choudhury, Srijut Dharendra Kanta.
Liaquat Ali Khan Nawabzada.
Madandhari Singh, Mr.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.

Manu Subedar, Mr.
Masani, Mr. M. R.
Mohammad Amir Ahmad, Khan, Bahadur.
Raja.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
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 Mohan Lal.
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.
Siddiquee, Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Sukhdev, Seth.
Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader
Sardar.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.
Bentham, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
Bhattacharya, Rai Bahadur Devendra
Mohan.
Chatterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Cook, Mr. B. C. A.
Greenfield, Mr. H.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Kharegat, Sir Pherose,
Lawson, Mr. C. P.
Mason, Mr. P.

Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Oulsnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Rangachari, Mr. M. V.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Sargent, Sir John.
Sen, Mr. B. R.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Solanki, Dr. P. G.
Spence, Sir George.
Sri Chand Chaudhuri.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Weightman, Mr. H.
Williams, Mr. C. F. V.
Yeatts, Mr. M. W. M.

The motion was adopted:

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a reduced supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 14,98,900 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Customs'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 2—CENTRAL EXCISE DUTIES.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,55,000, be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I do not want to move any cut but I would like to say a few words in regard to this demand. In my province particularly with reference to the administration of this Department I find that the offices are not properly manned. Letters addressed to these offices, the office of the Collector of Customs and the office of the Collector of Central Excise in Madras, take a number of days for a reply and the reason I understand is that they are under-manned. I know the Department itself is new but there is a lot of income to the Central Government, as much as 20 crores, from this Department and it should be better manned and administered.

There is another point which I want to mention. Those persons who are recruited as Sub-Inspectors are graduates and double graduates but the persons who are over them as Inspectors have been transferred from the Provincial Excise Department and these men have been brought up in a tradition of corruption. And when they are made to sit over these Sub-Inspectors who are young men fresh from the colleges the latter have to please the Inspectors with bottles of beer and what not. The result will be that these young sub-Inspectors will tend to become dishonest. I know definitely what is happening to a number of young men coming from Universities but unfortunately the old handicoats of the Provincial Excise Department are kept in charge of them and they spoil and corrupt the younger section in the service. The temptation to become corrupt in this Department is very great. Every Sub-Inspector has to issue a number of licenses and with each license the applicant together with some pan and betel nut (which my Honourable friend is made to sell in Shanker's cartoon) places a five or ten rupee note. It is very difficult for the Sub-Inspector to resist the temptation or ignore it. On the one hand they have to supply the Inspector with all sorts of things and he has to maintain himself on the meagre salary of Rs. 60 a month. If you want to keep these men free from corruption you must pay them at least a salary of Rs. 100 per month. Every one has to go out for nearly 20 days in a month to check the acreage of land where tobacco is cultivated. I know of cases of young men who in their early enthusiasm have tried to discover places where illicit tobacco was kept. They have no sympathy from the villagers, who do not even give them water and when they get hold of these officers their lives are in danger. Those are the risks to which they are exposed not only in this Department but also in the Customs Department. In this situation all these people have to be taken care of. Whenever they need police assistance they should be given and the police should go to their help, because there is risk involved to their lives. I am afraid at the tail end, Madras is woefully neglected by the Honourable Member. The Departments are under-manned, the staff are very poorly paid and they are overworked. I hope Government will take proper steps in this matter and put right things.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Madras helped the British to come in.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: It will help them also to go out.

Mr. H. Greenfield (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, all I need say in reply to these comments is to repeat what I told the House the other day, that we quite realise that the administration of this Department is not yet fully perfect but that we intend that it shall be so,—and that as soon as possible.

With regard to the particular points raised by my Honourable friend, I may say that all of them are already well in hand. For example, with regard to the strength of the Department, a staffing enquiry was instituted sometime ago and from the results of that enquiry we shall overhaul the establishment everywhere throughout India, strengthening and retrenching wherever necessary, and that this process will be continued, the object being to ensure that we always and everywhere have neither more nor less staff than we strictly require.

As for the conduct of the officers, I may assure the House and the Honourable Member in particular that if any complaints of this sort are made, and are supported by definite information, to the senior officers of the Department, an inquiry will at once be set on foot, and the evil, if any, will be promptly scotched.

In sum, I would like to assure the House that it is our express aim to build up a revenue service in which the country and the House can have the fullest confidence and of which it will have every reason to be proud.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I was hoping that the Honourable Member would make a reference to the conference that they have agreed to convene between the tobacco growers and the Department. The fact is that the Honourable Finance Member has agreed to our suggestion that such a conference should be called and also the ways and means should be explored to bring the growers into greater contact with the Department in an organised manner, with their own organisations: if that is done and if in addition to that the Department is strengthened also in its personnel, I am sure that greater satisfaction can come to be given both to the Department as well as the growers of tobacco as well as betel nuts.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes; a conference, as my Honourable friend has said, has been called for the 5th and 6th April.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 30,55,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Central Excise Duties'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 8—TAXES ON INCOME INCLUDING CORPORATION TAX.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,14,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,14,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, if any Honourable members wish to move their cuts, they will move it, without being called.

Mr. President: Very well, I will put the question. The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 17,14,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Taxes on Income including Corporation Tax'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 4—SALT.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,38,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Salt'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,38,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Salt'."

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I ask for an assurance that in all those places from which the concessions granted under the Gandhi-Irwin pact have been withdrawn during the war, they will again be restored so that the peasants and other workers who are interested in producing salt for their own consumption and also for that of their cattle and for local trade, can be benefited?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I do not know the particular districts to which my Honourable friend is referring; but he may take it from me that any pledge given by Lord Irwin in this regard will be fulfilled.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,38,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Salt'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 7—STAMPS.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Stamps'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Stamps'."

The motion was adopted.

MAND NO. 9—IRRIGATION, NAVIGATION, EMBANKMENT AND DRAINAGE WORKS

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,15,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Irrigation, Navigation, Embankment and Drainage Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND NO. 10—INDIAN POSTS AND TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,11,91,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,11,91,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

Nature of increased activities in the Department and the method adopted to meet the increased public demand for telephone service

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Now-Muhammadan) Rural): Sir, I have got a motion in my name, No. 3 on the Consolidated list; I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,11,91,000 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Ordinarily I would have moved a cut of Rs. 100 only but because this supplementary demand is for Rs. 2 crores odd, I thought that a cut of even one lakh would not mean much to the Department. If Honourable Members will refer to the supplementary demand for grants memorandum, they will find that on page 7 it is given that the increased activities of this Department are responsible for the increase in the expenditure. So the House is entitled to know what those activities are and to what extent they are responsible for this increase of 89 lakhs odd. Only the other day there were questions regarding telephone connections. We know all over the country there are complaints against the telephone department; and I do not know whether the Honourable Member is aware or not but there is a lot of corruption in the telephone department. I can say from the information brought to me at Lucknow that not only are the recommendations of the advisory committee not heeded to in allowing telephone connections, but even the order of application is not taken into consideration. I do not know what are the considerations in fixing up priority as to which application is to be granted or refused; but the fact is there that those telephone connections which were taken away because of the war have not been restored. There are other applications from business houses and public men, which have not been considered, although they have been there for more than two years or so. So I would like the Honourable Member to let the House know as to the basis on which these applications for telephone connections are considered and as to how long these difficulties will continue and whether these increased activities relate to the providing of greater facilities for telephone connections in these places.

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 2,11,91,000 in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department' be reduced by Rs. 1,00,000."

Shri Sri Prakasa: Sir, I would like to add my voice to that of my Honourable friend, Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena. The Honourable Finance Member paid a very high compliment indeed to this House, of which he himself is an honoured even though a nominated member, when he said that we talked more irrelevance here than is talked anywhere else in the world. I do not know if I shall be guilty of irrelevance when I say something about the manner in which telephones were disconnected and telephones are refused to persons in need of them, and telephones were given to those who did not require them at all. Sir, I should also like the Honourable the Finance Member, to tell me whether there is any country outside India where telephones are taken away for political reasons. Here I know for a fact that telephones have been taken away in innumerable cases, simply because those who had these telephone connections held political views not in consonance with the views of those in authority. In Benares for instance, we received notices from the district magistrate in the following terms:

"Attend my office at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning and show cause why your telephone should not be disconnected."

And whether we showed cause or not, the telephones went. I want an assurance from my Honourable friend the Secretary for Posts & Air and Railway Accidents, that the telephones will not be taken off under such pretences in the future and that those that were thus taken away will be restored without delay.

Mr. Saksena has referred to corruption. It is something so prevalent that it is just as well not to refer to it again and again because it would look as if we were rubbing the thing in too much; but the fact is that when A applies for a telephone connection it is said that extra cables will have to be got, that there are not enough materials available, that the line in that particular part of the town is not working, while B in the neighbourhood gets the connection without any difficulty. What passes behind the scenes I do not know; but what appears on the surface is something that really causes suspicion. The difficulty with our Government is that they stand by the man on the spot. And so, even if facts are given to them enquiries, are made through their own subordinates.

[Shri Sri Prakasa]

I recognise that they have no other avenue for making inquiries; but I do think that in view of the general complaint of which the Government at the top is not or ought not to be ignorant, they should take some of us into confidence and not dub us all entirely as liars. It is not always necessary to uphold subordinates simply because they are subordinates.

I know that the Home Member finds it very difficult to assess the evidence between man and man. When he finds A saying something and B saying something else, he says he is not quite sure who is speaking the truth; but as magistrate, as judge and as a man of commonsense, he knows that there is very often a difference between man and man, and the evidence of one man has to be taken to be more credible than the evidence of another man. It is not enough to say: 'Sri Prakasa says this and Ram Prasad says that; and as Sri Prakasa is my enemy, I must believe Ram Prasad'. I have no doubt the Honourable the Home Member will realise that, even though it is irrelevant to the matter in hand, the statement I am making has some relation to the case of Dr. Lohia and his jailors. So far as my friend Sir Gurunath Bewoor is concerned, I should certainly like him to give us an assurance that he will see to it that political reasons do not interfere in the matter of the restoration of telephones; and that telephones are not given away uselessly to Government officials even when they do not need them and that persons who are really in need of these telephones are not deprived of them.

For instance, in Benares, there is a food office. Inspectors, Sub-Inspectors and everybody connected with this Department has a telephone. Although these men say: 'we do not want a telephone; it is a nuisance in our house; and we cannot have an extra peon to look after them;—they are told: "You must have them, otherwise I cannot deprive Sri Prakasa of his telephone; and giving you a telephone will be a good excuse for not giving it to him. These things should stop. After all, my friend represents a Department that can be regarded truly as a nation building Department. He does not represent a repressive Department like the Home Member. He can understand and sympathise with our point of view; and I hope he will do it and also cure the Department, which was a Department above suspicion, of all the evils that have now come into it. If he wants extra money he must see to it that the money is properly spent. Newspapers that want teleprinters must get them; those who want telephones must get them; and these things should not be unnecessarily planted on persons who do not want them. I do hope that some assurance will be forthcoming from my Honourable friend which will enable us to withdraw the motion. We want to be assured that in future we shall have better times than we have had in the recent past.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: I rise to associate myself wholeheartedly with every word that has fallen from my friends Mr. Saksena and Mr. Sri Prakasa. I can say that the Government of India during the period of this war have considered the telephone department as their own. They did not feel that they have got to serve the public. When the war was on, telephones were indispensable and I can say from my own experience and that of others that just claims have been overlooked and telephones have been forcibly removed. My friend Sri Prakasa spoke of taking us into confidence. When this question of connection and disconnection arose, Government appointed a committee of *ji huzurs* under the presidency of the District Magistrate to consider whose telephones were to be removed and whose retained. Those who opposed Government in political matters were the first to be deprived of their telephones. I can say from my own experience as Secretary of the Telephone Subscriber Association that a telephone of my colleague was taken away because he had the guts to oppose the Government. There is no doubt that they have behaved shabbily in this respect.

Now, they are bringing in the message rate system. I want an assurance from my Honourable friend that the message rate system is buried for ever. It is said that the meters have not arrived. I hope they won't arrive and have

gone below the sea. I hope that this system will not be introduced, I know that during the pre-war days the telephone authorities used to run to the merchants and beg of them to take the telephones. If you feel that we cannot do without them, you are sadly mistaken. We are prepared to carry on our work with the chaprasis and dispense altogether with your damned telephones.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Now that the war is over, there is every scope for extending the trunk telephone system. There are 365 districts in India and each district headquarters must have a trunk telephone connection. No district headquarters should be without this connection. That is all I have to say.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor (Secretary, Posts and Air Department): The first question that has been raised is how this extra expenditure of 2 crores 11 lakhs and 90 thousand has come to be incurred. The details were given in the memorandum to the Standing Finance Committee. They appear on pages 6 and 7 of the proceedings of the meeting on the 23rd March 1946. Briefly speaking the increased cost was due to the payment of war and dearness allowance and good conduct pay at enhanced rates which decision was taken after the Budget had been prepared. There was also an increase in pensions and there was increased expenditure on staff and payments to railways and other mail carriers as a result of growth of traffic. When we talk of increased activities, the intention was not to say that there were any new types of business, but increase in the total volume of business handled by the Department which necessitated the employment of more staff and the payment of more money to carriers of mails.

Diwan Ohaman Lal: If there is increased business, what is the necessity for retrenchment?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: There has been no appreciable retrenchment in the current year. It is as a result of reduction of business in some places that retrenchment becomes necessary. So far as I am aware and according to the last figures we had, there are only a few hundreds all over India, and naturally there is retrenchment in workshops which were manufacturing material for war purposes. So far as the main staff is concerned there has been little retrenchment. Such retrenchment would be in connection with the employing of war service personnel. I do not think I need say much more about the various items. I have got here details, but I do not suppose my Honourable friend Shri Mohan Lal Saksena wants details. They are given in the memorandum to some extent.

Now, Sir, about telephones: There have been serious complaints and I recognise there is justification for these complaints. I am myself one of the biggest complainants against telephone. It is a tragedy as Mr. Jaffer said that while before the war, we used to go round begging people to take telephones in their residences, sending our Inspectors round personally to people, we are now in the unfortunate position that we cannot meet the demands which are being made by various people. As soon as army material becomes scarce, a black market arises and we get accusations of bribery and corruption and various other things. Actually I do not know to what extent there is corruption. We have had communications from various people and every complaint made has been properly attended to. I should like to mention first of all what we have done in order to meet the increasing demand. During the war we were faced with a very large demand from Government Departments including defence services. You cannot expand the telephone suddenly. The material was not in this country. Before the war we were just about meeting the public demand and then we were faced with a very huge demand due to outbreak of war. In order to meet war demand, we had to disconnect some of the existing subscribers. We had the authority under the ordinary hiring contract to disconnect subscribers after giving due notice. We certainly disliked disconnecting our old subscribers, but we had no other way. In order to stop complaints, we had

[Sir Gurunath Bewoor]

in some of the big towns advisory committees appointed, because we did not want the local Divisional Engineer to take all the responsibility for disconnecting 'A' and while leaving out 'B'.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Who are these men on committees? They are *ji huzurs*.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: That is a matter of opinion.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Are the recommendations of these committees attended to?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: So far as I am aware it was done. I have experience of the committee in Delhi, but I do not know how it was elsewhere.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: There is not one representative of the Telephone Association on this committee. Telephone subscribers were not recognised and they always took *ji huzurs* on these committees. It was the most illegal and wrongful act on their part to disconnect telephones. After all what does a district magistrate know. Who cares for the district magistrate.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The opinions of these advisory committees were taken and the telephones of certain people were disconnected.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: No use.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: My Honourable friend Shri Sri Prakasa referred to certain connections which were taken away on the orders of the district magistrate. That was done under the Defence of India rules and the Postal Department cannot be held responsible for that. Now that war is over, the Government demand for telephones is going down slowly, but we have not yet had that large release of the number of telephones which we hoped to get from the defence services. When A.R.P. was disbanded, a certain number of telephones were released. But there are various other activities of Government and Government Departments come to us for telephones for essential services. I can assure Shri Sri Prakasa that we do not automatically accept the demand from Government departments so as to over-ride the claims of private subscribers, unless it is specifically asked for as required for essential services. Otherwise, government servants take their turn along with old subscribers.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Will the Honourable Member take it from me that the Food Officer of Benares distinctly wrote to the Department that he did not want an extra telephone for his Inspector but he was forced to keep one; and . .

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am not aware of that.

Shri Sri Prakasa: . . . a non-official neighbour who happened to be the Editor of a Congress newspaper, was denied the same.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am not aware of that instance. If that is so, I am sorry.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member aware that a hair cutter in Poona got a telephone whereas the telephone of Mr. Pocha was removed because he opposed the message rate system.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: After all hair cutters also serve a very useful purpose in the economy of the country. I do not know whether all this occurred during the period of the war or before the war.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: During the war period.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am under the impression that this Association was started sometime before the war.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: During the war.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The present position is this. General instructions have been issued to discontinue all the advisory committees. There will be no more advisory committees so that these so called *ji huzurs* will cease to exist.

and the question will be decided by the postal authorities concerned. The second thing is that as telephones become available they are going to be made available first to subscribers whose telephones were taken away. They will be fairly high up in the order of priority. The exception is this. Government connections for essential services must take precedence over everything else.

Diwan Chaman Lal: What is my Honourable friend doing to get more material and making more telephone lines available?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am coming to that.

Shri Sri Prakasa: What do you mean by essential services?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: If the head of the department considers that a particular connection for one of his officers is essential the postal department has to accept that, because it cannot take any other decision owing to lack of knowledge of the essentiality of service. During the last six months we have made special exceptions in favour of elections. For example various election bodies or parliamentary committees were given preference over people who are in the waiting list. To a limited extent Doctors are given preference depending on whether there are numerous doctors already in the area or not. Then we have in certain cases given preference for newspapers and newsagents. But leaving these few exceptions, by and large those whose connections were taken away—what I call the old clients—are given preference.

Mr. Chaman Lal wants to know what we are doing to meet the large demand that undoubtedly exists. I may say straightaway that as a commercial department, the Posts and Telegraphs Department would only be too anxious to satisfy customers because we make a net income over our expenditure. Now, Sir, during the war we could not get the equipment. We had ordered a large amount of equipment before the war but all these orders were held up partly due to the diversion of the factories in England to war production and partly due to shipping difficulties. Throughout the war we have been trying our very best to get full equipment and we have not succeeded.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Sir, may I know why orders were not placed in the U. S. A.?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It was still more difficult to get them from the U. S. A. Also, the equipment is different.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: I want to know whether orders were placed at all?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir, because we were aware that we could not get them; we made inquiries and found that we could not get them. In fact we had to start manufacturing in this country and we have developed a large factory in Bombay which produces manual telephone equipment.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that many of these instruments were taken by the American forces here and there would have been justification for getting material from the U. S. A.?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I do not understand the Honourable Member's question. If he refers to the fact that the defence services taken a large number of telephones, that is true. But we manufactured for that.

At present we have planned and in some cases we have placed orders for a large number of telephone equipments. For example, for Delhi and Delhi Cantonment we have ordered 2,000 new units for replacing existing units, and 2,500 for new equipment. Similarly for Lahore and Lahore Cantonment we have ordered altogether about 3,600 equipment, for the Jheria coalfield exchanges about 1,100, for Pindi 1,000, for Allababad 600, for Cawnpore 1,000, for Nagpur 300, Amritsar 1,500, Simla 1,700, Lyallpur 400 and Meerut 200.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: And how many for Lucknow?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Lucknow has already been extended. What I have mentioned here are all automatic telephone equipments. So far as manual equipment is concerned we are manufacturing it in this country.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: How many for Bombay and Poona?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: We have ordered for Poona 1,350 and for Bombay we have recently placed before the Standing Finance Committee a memorandum which shows that for Bombay we have ordered 6,400, for Ahmedabad 700 and for Karachi 1,000.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: What about Bihar?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: Telephones are ordered for exchanges and not for a province as a whole.

For Calcutta we are planning to put in automatic telephone equipment capable of taking on 50,000 subscribers as against 25,000 at present.

I just wanted to give a general idea of what the department is doing in order to meet the undoubtedly existing demand among the public; and in this connection I would draw Honourable Members' attention to the post-war plan relating to telephones in this volume a copy of which is in the Library of the House. And if any Honourable Member feels particularly interested I shall be glad to sent him a copy. I am sorry I have not got enough copies to give to every Honourable Member.

Sir, in view of what I have said I hope the Honourable Member will withdraw his motion.

An Honourable Member: What about message rates?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: I do not know if it is quite relevant to deal with message rates and it is also difficult to give straightaway "yes" or "no" as a reply. It is a matter which has been examined at great length and I am quite prepared to argue it out with the Honourable Member; but I would like to say that the declared policy of the Government of India is to introduce the message rate system all over India. It is a system which is found all over the world and the Government of India have definitely decided that the message rate system should be introduced. It is the fairest system to everybody; it reduces unnecessary calling and it enables the man who wants to have a telephone as a security and convenience to have it without having to pay the high subscription which a business man who makes 300 to 500 calls ought to pay. But really Sir, this question is not relevant to the present supplementary demand and that is why I did not mention it. But I have given the position as the Honourable Member forced me to do it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about extension to the Frontier?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: That is in the plan.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee (Nominated Non-Official). When will you exchange these antediluvian telephones in Delhi by automatic ones? I refer to those which are worked with the hand and no replies are ever received.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In view of the opposition throughout India to the message rate system, will the Government of India abandon this system altogether?

Sir Gurnath Bewoor: There is no such opposition as the Honourable Member assumes. It is his assumption only.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: Sir, in view of what the Honourable Member has said, I do not like to press the motion.

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,11,91,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 12—EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 59,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1946, in respect of 'Executive Council'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 59,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March 1946, in respect of 'Executive Council'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 14—LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary 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 on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a supplementary 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 on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Legislative Assembly and Legislative Assembly Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 15.—HOME DEPARTMENT

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I beg to move:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,86,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Home Department'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,86,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Home Department'."

*Expenditure on item D—Employment Selection Bureau and item E—1(I)
Indian Civil Service Recruitment Expenses*

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,86,000 in respect of 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 2,54,000."

I wish to condemn the expenditure on item D—Employment Selection Bureau, and item E.1(I) Indian Civil Service recruitment expenses.

Sir, we are given no information in detail about these Indian Civil Service recruitment expenses, if it refers only to the additional expenses that they are going to incur or that they have already incurred during the last year in making selections that were referred to in the adjournment motion, we take very strong objection because this House has already expressed its view that the Secretary of State there and the Government of India here should not proceed with their proposed policy of recruiting a new large numbers of Europeans to the Civil Services; and although the House has condemned that policy of the Government of India and the Secretary of State, Government seem to have incurred all this expenditure, and we wish to condemn that. If on the other hand it is intended to continue this policy of Indian Civil Service recruitment as per the Government of India Act or whatever it is, I wish to tell them that they have no warrant whatsoever to proceed with that kind of policy any longer, and that they had much less warrant during last year to have incurred this

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

expenditure, for the simple reason that the Government in England has declared its policy of abandoning its imperialistic hold over India and to transfer power to Indians. If they are really sincere in these declarations I do not see any reason why the Government of India should carry on this recruitment to the Indian Civil Service in England merely because they have been authorised to do so according to the Government of India Act. They should have taken an early occasion to have got that Government of India Act amended. That they have not done. The next thing is that they need not have given effect to that particular provision which empowers them to carry on this recruitment to the Indian Civil Service in England as well as in India. Merely because they are given power it does not mean that they should exercise their power. Therefore I have very strong objection to this particular item in this supplementary demand.

Next I come to the Employment Selection Bureau. They want to spend a lot of money on this. They give very little information in the explanatory memorandum, but on the other hand I am told that a memorandum was placed before the Finance Committee, and I find from it that this is a new section that is transferred from the Army Department. They have had what is known as 'Employment Selection Bureau' with psychological experts working the Army. Now that the Army recruitment is stopped or is suspended for the time being, they have fallen so much in love with this particular department that they have transferred it to the Home Department. Supposing it is a good thing, why should it be transferred to the Home Department? The Home Department is not a very popular department in this House; this House has expressed its want of faith and confidence in the Home Department. Of all the departments of the Government of India, the Home Department is the worst sinner so far as silence is concerned; they give so little information and they keep back so much information. In the Department itself there are so few Indians that Indians—either in private or in public—are incapable of getting any kind of information whatsoever in regard to the working of this department. Therefore supposing it is a good office, I do not want it to be controlled by the Home Department.

Let me come to the merits of the scheme itself. What is the scheme intended to achieve? They are to investigate and advise the Government of India and other authorities on the application of technical methods of selection for the purposes of recruitment to the various branches of the public services and for general employment purposes, and so on, such as suitability for industrial and vocational training, or for any particular form of employment. If it is merely intended to help Government in their selection of officers for various industrial and vocational training and such other activities, it can be contended that there is a very good case for it, because psychological experts are now said to be very good in finding out the suitability of various candidates for various technical activities as well as proficiency. But if, on the other hand, it is intended to extend its operations to any particular form of employment, and later on to try to help the Government in selecting candidates for ordinary civil employments also, I am not quite sure whether it will be a very good thing at all. Some time last year, during the session of this House, complaints were made from different parts of the House about the way in which the psychological experts are supposed to be using their talents over a number of people who were going for recruitment in the Army. Scientists themselves differ over the value of this psychological examination of various candidates. But supposing it is a good one, when is it to come in? Is it to come in in order to decide which particular candidate is the most efficient one, and therefore that particular candidate alone has to be selected by Government irrespective of the community to which he belongs. It is the agreed policy, I think, of the Government here as well as of the various Provincial Governments that several of these suppressed neglected, backward, scheduled castes and classes of people are to be given special weightage, and special preference

in selecting people for various departments. I subscribe to that principle; I am in favour of giving as much help as possible to those who otherwise do not have the same chance in competition but who are capable of satisfying these psychological experts. But if on the other hand we are going to use these experts in making a selection as between various candidates belonging to a particular community, say scheduled castes, I have no objection. If you want to select a candidate from amongst the scheduled caste candidates, then you can make use of the services of these experts in order to select a candidate who is really fit and competent. So you have got to use this machinery very carefully and very conscientiously. That much of care and that much of conscience you cannot expect to be displayed by the Home Department, and that is why I take objection to this particular new department being placed under the Home Department. I suggest that it should be placed either under the Education Department or under the Labour Department, but not at all under the Home Department.

Now, I come to the personnel of this Department. Who is the head of this Department? An Englishman—an ex-Army officer. Like this they go on creating any number of new jobs. I do not wish to go into details, but I must say that we feel very strongly about it. The other day the Food Department told us that they brought a man for six weeks to start with.

Shri Sri Prakasa: Six hours!

Prof. N. G. Ranga: They tried him and he was found suitable. They kept him on for six months, then two years, and then another two years. They have now taken him on for five years. It goes on like that. In another case they have brought an English officer *via* Kashmir; it is a thin end of the wedge. In Kashmir he was found to be a competent fellow, and therefore they transplanted him in the Government of India Secretariat. He was getting Rs. 1,500 there, but here he has been given Rs. 2,500. And this wonderful gentleman was unable to accept anything less than Rs. 2,500! Some name was given to us—White or Lloyd, I do not remember what it was. We do not want Englishmen in all these key positions, and this is an important position. He is gaining experience at our cost, and after he gains all that valuable experience he will go back to his country and the benefit of his experience will be utilized by England. We get nothing at all. We want to prepare our own Indians, and I can tell my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches that Indians in every way can beat anybody in efficiency, in competence, and in sense of responsibility. But yet we do not get these opportunities. Even when a new department is being created, I do not see any reason why an Englishman should be kept as the head of the department. Therefore, Sir, I want my Honourable friend to give us an assurance that this gentleman will be kept there—may be for a few months—until an Indian is trained to take his place. It must be the policy of the Government to see to it that the Indian is trained with the definite purpose of taking the other man's place and not that he is just being given a training. We want a definite assurance and I move my motion:

Mr. President: Cut motion moved:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,86,000 in respect of 'Home Department' be reduced by Rs. 2,54,000."

Does the Honourable Member stick to the figure Rs. 2,54,000?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The figure is not so important.

Mr. President: What figure does he want it to be?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I am prepared to make it Rs. 2 lakhs or Rs. 100. Everything depends on the answer of the Honourable Member.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I simply want to say that I was one of the three who went from this House last year at the invitation of the Government of India to Dehra Dun to inspect the working of this Bureau. There were Sardar Mangal Singh, Shri Sri Prakasa and myself. The process that we saw, I can confess, we were very much struck with. A lot of candidates who came

[Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan]

from the Army before this Bureau were considered by us to be very brilliant. I and Mr. Prakasa were in one batch and Sardar Mangal Singh and another gentleman were in another batch and we were assisted by one member of the Public Service Commission each and these psychologists and psychiatrists were examining the gentlemen. We see a very brilliant man come in and we thought he should be chosen. But ultimately he began to fall down and we ourselves condemned him for the service.

Diwan Chaman Lal: How many Members of the Assembly would have passed this test?

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I do not know. But we were impressed by the character of the test.

Mr. President: Order, order. Honourable Members will carry on consultation in a lower tone.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: There was one gentleman who was picked to be very brilliant and he was doing well in the tests. Then there was a telephonic test and in this test this man was made to telephone to the other side and he was supposed to be the District Judge and he was going on long leave and he had to dispose of his car. He said he wanted to garage his car. He was told to phone to a motor car company: he did, and he started talking something like this: "Hello, old chap. I want to put my car in the garage." Later on the other side was tempting him and saying "Why are you putting your car in the garage. Everybody is getting good price in black-market for his car. Why not dispose of it." He said: "No, no. My wife likes the car very much." The other fellow replied: "The car can be kept quite when you get such a good price." Later on he said "All right, old chap, come to dinner and if my wife is willing I will sell it."

So the very man who was supposed to be administering against the black-market, got tempted and succumbed to the temptation.

Shri Sri Prakasa: How does the Honourable Member know that he was not ultimately appointed to the job?

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: I don't know. But Sri Prakasa and myself were amazed to find that he whom we considered so brilliant ultimately was found to be wanting in character and succumbed to the temptation of the black-market. So whatever may be the nature or broader policy of the Englishman or the Indian, I believe entirely in that. But I was very much struck by the method and the things which went to split up the different qualities of each man so that you could know at once who is the man who could be the best man as a public servant and who should not be admitted as a public servant. So this test as apart from the mere academic qualifications is really the proper test for the man to be a good public servant. We have seen very often that those who were very brilliant students ultimately they were not good when they came in life and people who used to play truant in their schools and colleges became really prominent figures in public life.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Like Knights of the British Empire!

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Yes, some of them become Knights of the British Empire! That is how the tests were held and I thought it my duty to give this explanation to this House, because I was deputed not in my personal capacity but as a member of the Assembly along with other members, and I thought that this was the best opportunity when to do it. Sir, I resume my seat.

Shri Sri Prakasa: I should also like to say a few words. I think that the method is good, apart from the merits of the case as presented by my friend, Prof. N. G. Ranga, and it should be adopted for recruitment in the public service.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

But I agree with Prof. Ranga that that should not mean that only one community members of which happen to pass the test should get all the jobs; and that other communities should be excluded. Some method must be found so that members of all communities get a fair chance in these tests and get a fair share of the public services. One thing I remember when you, Sir, and I saw the experiment together, and that was that in a picture test, I passed and you failed!

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee: I would like to say a few words about the psychiatrists at work on these Selection Board. In Delhi on the Army Selection Board we continually quarrelled with them because they wanted to impose their opinion as against the rest of the Board and the result was that whereas they non-co-operated with us and refused to sit with us on the Delhi Selection Board, they cut our throats at Dehra Dun and whichever candidates we sent up they sent down because there these psychiatrists had too a free hand at the final selection. I take a middle view. As an educational worker I recognise the value of the psychologist while making selections but there is always a danger that these people take too much unto themselves and my experience in Delhi was that they tended to prejudge the case of a candidate. This was a board in which there were three Europeans and one Indian member, viz., myself. As such it could not be a board which was in any way biased particularly in favour of these candidates. I am not a psychologist myself and therefore may be prejudiced against a psychologist but my brothers are very well known psychologists in the country. These psychologists certainly form a very valuable addition to a selection board and to this extent I do support the idea of bringing them in. You will remember last year when speaking on the very same question I raised the point that up to now or at any rate till recently most of these psychologists on the army selection boards were all Englishmen and I felt that in this matter Government had been very slow in utilising the talent that we have in this country. There are certain people in this country who have done a great deal of work in experimental psychology. At that time my remarks were addressed to the Defence Secretary and he definitely promised that he would undertake to Indianise these ranks of psychologists but I do not know what progress has been made. In spite of a certain amount of prejudice which I have against giving the psychologist a *carte blanche*, I feel that it would be a good thing to train them in this country. I also agree with Prof. Ranga to this extent that the most suitable department in which these people should be trained or the department which is best suited to take charge of this training is the Education Department. After all the Education Department has some psychology I think and they would be very much better able to train these people than any other Department.

I would like to have another assurance that a definite effort will be made to discover psychologists in this country. Psychology is a subject which is appreciated and valued by Indians more than any other nation. Every effort should be made to discover the talent in this country. There are men here who are fully capable not only of learning but of training others and every effort should be made to train these people up very quickly.

I have declared more than once that it is my view that recruitment to the public services should be on merit and on merit alone. I do not want to press that point, because it is not relevant on this occasion but I would like to modify my own view to this extent. When I say merit and merit alone I do not mean that it is merit determined by an examination test only and that no other test of character or personality or fitness for public service should be applied. I did not mean that and I do not hold such a view. What I said was that there are many systems of recruitment. Experience shows that every system has some defect or other. Some people say that selection by nomination is the best. Others feel that a purely educational or academic test supplemented by a personal interview (which is the old system by which the Civil Service was recruited) is by far the best. My own view is that in the end a competitive system really is the fairest system because it cuts out nepo-

[Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee]

tism, recommendations, nominations and reservations. After that I would say that when the candidates are selected and they come up to a certain intellectual level, I have no objection to your prescribing a different intellectual level for backward classes, at that time a psychologist will be of great help to advise the board if he sits there as an adviser and not as one who largely determines the decision. I hope that these two assurances viz., that Indians would be trained for this work and Indians who are capable now would be employed and secondly that this work would be transferred to a more suitable department, would be given. The Home Department, even when my friend Prof. Ranga becomes the Home Member, is not the department suitable for selection of candidates for the Public Services. Even then, the Education Department which is a new Department and have not got very much work to do might with advantage be entrusted with this responsibility.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi: General): Sir, may I seek some elucidation? I am feeling a little confused on this matter. The creation of the employment selection bureau, as far as I know, is still under the consideration of the Home Department. Is that not so?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: My joint Secretary, Mr. Williams, will explain the thing presently. The Employment Selection Bureau does exist. It already exists in a partly elementary stage, and the officers concerned with it, are for the moment, for the most part, employed in connection with the civil selection board.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: What I want to know is this. If I have not made a mistake, a note was put up before the Standing Committee of the Home Department and it related to the Employment Selection Bureau. I do not want to go into the details. It is as yet before the Standing Committee, which have not yet considered it. Now what is it that we are talking about? Is there an employment selection bureau in existence? If so, what is its nature and scope? How is it working and all the rest of it? Is it working under the Home Department or has it been taken over from some other Department? I want to know what exactly is the position so that one should be able to offer some remarks.

Mr. C. F. V. Williams (Government of India: Nominated Official): Sir, it is necessary to distinguish in this matter between the Employment Selection Bureau and the Selection Boards. As the House is aware these modern methods of selection have been very greatly developed during the war both in England and in India, in particular, for the selection of officers.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: May I interrupt.

An Honourable Member: Don't interrupt him. He is making a maiden speech.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: We should be very glad to hear all that he has to say. At present all that I want to know is whether an employment selection bureau is actually working under the Home Department or not. If so, what exactly is its personnel and what work is it doing? That is all I want to know at present.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member will make it clear in his speech.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: The Honourable Member is now telling us what these modern methods are. We are all well aware of them. What I want to know is whether an Employment Selection Bureau is actually working under the Home Department.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Yes.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: Then, Sir, I should just like to say a few words about it before going any further. Something has already been said about these modern methods having been developed during the last war. I have been trying to keep in touch with some of these developments, particularly through the medium of American newspapers and I believe in America these methods have

been developed to a high degree. These methods were first started and employed in industries and they were developed by industries. Eventually when the war broke out these very bureaux began to operate in relation to civil and military employments as well.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: This was in America?

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: I believe the method was rather popular and therefore it was adopted also in England. I am not suggesting for a single second that it is not a good thing. It is a good thing. I should like to see it imported into India under favourable circumstances but there are certain difficulties which have also to be borne in mind, particularly when these methods are going to be employed in India. To begin with, the work of these specialists or the tests of these specialists cover a long period; each individual has to be tested for a number of days before they have done with him, which only means that if a large number of officers or a large number of recruits are to be examined, a small board like this will be of no use whatever. The means that we shall have to employ a large number of experts who may be able to examine the recruits or the candidates over a long period and come to their own conclusions. Personally I feel that at this time when industrialisation is in the air and when we know that industrialisation is bound to take huge strides in India, I think we ought to leave the organisation of such bureaux by the industrialists themselves. The industrialists can employ them and we can perhaps borrow their services for our purposes. At present, the industrialists would like to utilise the bureaux for their purposes. I dare say they will be prepared to pay the government for the examination of all the candidates who may come to them from these industries. But I would rather that the government subsidised such bureaux if they were maintained by industrialists, because that would be cheaper. I am, looking at it from a purely economic point of view. It would be much cheaper. The actual work would then be done by these experts in an independent fashion and perhaps their advice would be of value. Today, as Prof. Ranga put it, the Home Department unfortunately is under a cloud of suspicion—rightly or wrongly—it is a fact and I am not suggesting for a single moment that the suspicion is entirely justified—it may not be justified; but there it is; you cannot get rid of it; and so long as it is under a suspicion I personally think it would be highly advisable for the government to leave this matter out and leave it to those who can organise such bureaux with equal efficiency, as far as I can judge. Now whom are they going to employ? In this case it would be a director, a chief psychiatrist, a chief psychologist, an assistant to the chief psychiatrist and an assistant to the chief psychologist. This seems to be the cadre. They may be excellent gentlemen—I have not the slightest doubt; they may be very competent and efficient; but finally the burden of the expenditure falls entirely on the taxpayer. I would prefer this burden to be shifted to some independent agency, so that they may maintain these bureaux; and if the Government of India feel that they ought to consult them in respect of their recruits they can easily send them to these bureaux where they may be tested and the results may be accepted or not accepted as the case may be by the Government of India. I do not wish to say anything more than that, but I do support the motion of my friend Prof. Ranga on the other ground as well and that ground, I think, is vital. That ground is the recruitment to the Indian Civil Service and to the Indian Police Service in England. That is a serious point. This recruitment must stop. You cannot go on talking of immediate transfer of power to India and at the same time prejudice the government that will succeed the present government in their choice of whom they are going to employ. It is quite possible that the government of free India may want some recruits from England or elsewhere—I do not know exactly what their policy will be; we cannot decide it today; and therefore since this decision is going to be taken, and since this transfer is going to take place, I personally feel that the protest of this House must be effective against any recruitment to any services in England and particularly the protest against the recruitment to

[Mr. M. Asaf Ali]

the Indian Civil Service and the Indian Police Service. On that ground I support my friend, Prof. Ranga.

Mr. O. F. V. Williams: Sir, the government have set up a bureau as a highly expert investigating and advisory body. The Honourable Member opposite has suggested that each big industrial concern might maintain a bureau of this sort. That is simply out of the question because these very highly qualified officers do not exist in such numbers. Government have had very great difficulty in finding the two experts for the bureau—the chief psychiatrist and the chief psychologist; and it is out of the question to contemplate at this stage setting up more than one highly expert body of this nature. What the government are aiming at is that these modern methods of selection which I gather are approved by my Honourable friends opposite should now be adapted to all possible civil needs, and they visualise this bureau as a source of advice, not only to Central Departments and the Federal Public Service Commission, but also to Provincial Governments and to any large industrial concern. The function of the Bureau when it is given a specific project will be to advise on the project, to work out a scheme to implement the project and then it will have to find the staff to put that scheme into operation. For instance, it has already had an inquiry about a particular selection task from Messrs. Tata and Co. That being a non-official matter, it will have to go at the bottom of the bureau's list; but when eventually the Bureau are able to take it up, they will advise Tata what staff they need to put their scheme into operation and they will offer to train that staff if Tata want them to do so. Another function of the bureau will be on the educational side. The Education Department are very keen that these methods of selection should be applied at every stage of selection for high school education and for higher education. They have already put a specific task to the bureau, namely, the best method of selecting children at the age of 11 plus as it is called, for high school education.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I interrupt my Honourable friend? Would he tell us what the number is of Indians who are going to be placed before the selection board in connection with the war reserve vacancies and what is the percentage of the others?

Mr. O. F. V. Williams: I will come to that. The question has been raised about the European officers employed in the bureau and on the selection boards. Three senior officers of the bureau itself are European officers. They are very highly qualified and it was not possible to find Indians with those high and necessary qualifications.

Lt.-Col. Mr. J. C. Chatterjee: Did you advertise or make any efforts to find suitable Indians for this work?

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member is making his maiden speech. He should not be interrupted.

Mr. O. F. V. Williams: The particular vacancies to which I have been referring were not advertised because we were already aware from very sound advice that officers with these qualifications did not exist in India. I should like to tell the House that as regards the chief psychiatrist in particular there are probably not more than 10 or a dozen men in the whole world who have the qualifications which are required for this job. We could not find one in the U.K. and we had to go to the United States of America.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How long ago did they begin to train themselves for this?

Mr. O. F. V. Williams: As regards the staff of the selection boards we have nine presidential officers. Three of them are Europeans and six of them are Indians. We have three psychiatrists, one for each board. Two are Indian officers whom we have trained ourselves and only one is a European. Of four psychological officers two are Indians and two are Europeans. The two Indians, I may say, were trained in the War Department's Directorate of Selec-

tion Personnel during the war. Out of 12 group testing officers two are Europeans and the rest Indians, and of three Secretaries all are Indians. These officers comprise the total officers staff of the three boards?

Diwan Chaman Lall: By Europeans, you mean Englishmen?

Mr. O. F. V. Williams: The training of Indians is one of the bureau's functions, to which I may say they attach very great importance. They are all enthusiasts in the bureau. They want to train Indian officers ultimately to take their place in the bureau, at any rate to train them in psychiatry and psychology and fit them for this particular method of selection which may well have a big future in India.

An Honourable Member opposite referred to the application of this method of selection to communal vacancies. I would like to explain that whatever the method of selection followed, whether it is a selection board or written examination or interviews the communal rules will apply to direct appointments.

An Honourable Member on my left referred to the importance of shall I say, of reducing or controlling the influence of the psychiatrists on the selection board. The whole board is designed to balance technical knowledge and tests on the one hand against wider experience and knowledge on the other hand. Each Board carries a President and two Deputy Presidents and those gentlemen are either men with long administrative experience in India or, in I think two cases, with some experience of public life. If the board works properly under the President, then the opinions of the psychiatrist and psychologist should be balanced against the opinions of the presidential officers.

An Honourable Member inquired as to the number of candidates for these war reserved vacancies. I would like to explain at this point how the bureau came into being and how it was placed under the Home Department. Government were faced with what they knew would be this enormous task of selection for these war reserve vacancies in the I.C.S., the I.P. and the Central and Provincial services. It turned out to be in fact a much larger task than we had anticipated. We have a total of 14,000 applications for all these various reserved vacancies.

Diwan Chaman Lall: How many of them are English?

Mr. O. F. V. Williams: There are 14,000 Indian applicants.

Diwan Chaman Lall: No English officer applying?

Mr. O. F. V. Williams: The number of European applicants is something like 700. Of the 14,000, something like 3,000 will be or have been found ineligible for one reason or another, so that it means that between 10 and 11 thousand candidates will have to be passed through these selection boards. It was the Government's original intention to use for this purpose selection boards borrowed from the War Department, but unfortunately the War Department found that it had to continue with the selection of emergency commissioned officers and so it could not lend its selection boards and we had to set about creating them ourselves. And we have very great difficulty in finding the staff for these three civil boards. But that is how the matter comes to have been handled in the Home Department and I would like to say with reference to the remarks of some Honourable Members about the proper location of the bureau, that it is not merely concerned with educational problems or with labour problems. It is also concerned with selection for the public services and from that point of view and from the point of view of consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission, the Home Department seemed to be its natural location, but as I say it grew up in the Home Department from the force of circumstances.

One other point was raised by an Honourable Member opposite and that was the period of these tests. It is true that in these tests for commissioned officers which we have broadly adapted for the purpose of recruitment to the I.C.S. and the I.P. the period of test is about 2½ days. But this period is not necessary for all tests of this kind. There are what are called intelli-

[Mr. C. F. V. Williams]

gence and aptitude tests used for testing the fitness of children for high school education and they are only a matter of two or three hours. You can vary your tests and their length according to the particular purpose which you wish to achieve.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Sir, I had no intention of intervening in this debate, but to ask a question of my Honourable friend to which he gave a reply namely that by this method the Government are going to put through 14,000 Indian officers and that 700 British officers are going to be put through tests in London.

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: Seven hundred European or British officers are being tested in London and not in India.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I take it that my Honourable friend gives them a free passage back to England for that test?

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: They are all Service personnel and they are transported by the Services.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Specially for this purpose. I take it that an officer who is already in service and has not got out of the army yet can apply to this Selection Board for selection?

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: Yes.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I take it that at the expense of this country, 700 British officers are being exported, if I may use that expression to Great Britain to be vetted there. Is that correct?

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: They are being transported by R. A. F.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Whether by R. A. F. or not, we pay for it. If that is correct, if the Board here is good enough for Indians, why not for Europeans? Are they not good enough for Britishers?

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: It is not a question of their being good enough. The European applicants come from all over the world, from all the service theatres, some of them from Europe, some from the Middle East, some from Italy and it was decided broadly speaking that those in the Middle East and Europe should go to London for selection, and that those in India and in S. E. A. C. should be tested in India. But unfortunately we were not able to reproduce the same scale of tests in India which they were using on the London Board and therefore the Secretary of State decided that European applicants in India and S. E. A. C. should also go to London.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Because English tests are usually easier tests

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: They are if anything more difficult.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: How do you know?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, may I suggest that the Honourable the Finance Member must immediately withdraw the demand relating to U.N.R.R.A., because it is nearing five o'clock. The time will not be extended.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. Diwan Chaman Lall will continue his speech.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Now, Sir, I want you to take full note of this that this particular Board before which Indian officers go, 8,000 of them have not been found fit for selection.

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: Ineligible.

Diwan Chaman Lall: It is a difference without distinction. It is not a question of not fit. It means that they are not eligible for this job because they are not found fit by this Board.

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: No, Sir. The candidates have to be eligible according to three main qualifications, age, war service and education. In a good many cases, the candidates have put in applications, one would think, without reading the regulations. Anyway about one-third of them are not eligible within these three conditions.

Diwan Chaman Lall: There are yet about two thousand who are eligible from that point of view, I take it. I want to know why this particular racial discrimination was made in actually getting the British officers, in the Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force to leave this country at Government expense to go before a Selection Board in London when you have a Board here which is going to deal with about 14,000 applicants. Is it contended that this Board in Dehra Dun neither had the time nor perhaps the inclination nor perhaps the qualification to deal with 700 Britishers? Is it or is it not a fact that the Secretary of State for India is finding it increasingly difficult to get hold of officers for the Indian Police and the Indian Civil Service? Is it or is it not a fact and my Honourable friend knows it as a fact that through this particular method my Honourable friend is going to fill up these vacancies which would ordinarily not be filled up.

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: As I said about 700 applicants are Europeans. They are being tested in London by a Board borrowed from the War Office. We do not know the results of the tests yet because they are not complete. After they have been tested in this preliminary way by the Selection Board, they will come before the final interview Board which the Secretary of State has set up in the India Office, and the Secretary of State has always emphasised—you will find it throughout these Regulations—that only suitable candidates will be appointed although these tests have been reserved for men with war service, it is subject to the consideration that suitable men will be forthcoming.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I am afraid my Honourable friend has not seen my point. We know perfectly well how suitable candidates in the past have been selected by the Secretary of State. We know perfectly well as we found this morning how suitable candidates were selected for highly remunerative posts in the Government of India. We know perfectly well the reason why this is being done. I want an answer from my Honourable friend, why was it done? How many British officers have been taken or will be taken from India at the expense of our exchequer to be vetted not by the Board in Dehra Dun but by the Board in London? Does my Honourable friend have the figures? He talks about the Middle East. Are all the officers from the Indian army?

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: No.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it the position that even those who are not in the Indian army are eligible to be selected? Is it not a fact that officers of the British Army for whom these reservations are not made are also seeking selection by this Board? Will my Honourable friend enlighten the House about the position? Let us know the facts. Why is my Honourable friend hesitant about enlightening the House? Are not these reservations made only for officers in the Indian army?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: May I know whether my Honourable friend wants an answer to each question here and now in the course of cross examination or whether he is going to make his speech in order that the Government Member may reply to all the points later on?

Mr. Deputy President: I think the Honourable Member must go on with his speech and wait for the reply later on by the Honourable the Home Member.

Diwan Chaman Lall: It is rather an extraordinary position put to me. It is the duty of the Honourable Member for Government to enlighten the House. I am well within my rights before I proceed with my speech to find out the constitutional position. So far the country has been told that reservations were made for officers of the Indian Army including Indian Air Force. Now we are told that these reservations are not only for officers of the Indian army but also for officers of the British army who have got nothing whatever to do with the Indian army.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Is it only one Honourable Member that should monopolise these questions. Every one has got the right to put questions. These cross examinations won't take us anywhere.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member Sir Ziauddin can ask questions when his turn comes to speak. But I think the Honourable Member Diwan Chaman Lall will take a long time if this cross-examination goes on.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Unless we have the facts there can be no debate.

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: I can answer that particular question of the Honourable Member. All the recruitment regulations are in this small pamphlet a copy of which is in the Library. But the position is that persons of European domicile and descent who satisfy these conditions of age, war service and education may compete for these vacancies. War service may be anywhere; might be in the Royal Navy or the Air Force, the Indian army or the British army.

Diwan Chaman Lall: The position is clear. So far the country has been told that these vacancies are reserved for officers of the Indian army. (Voices of "No, no" from Government benches.) Everybody has understood this. Now we come to the proposition that it is not so, that by this method my Honourable friends are wanting to recruit to the Indian Police and Indian Civil Service men belonging not to the Indian army but to the British services. And it that is the position I do not see what necessity is there to take men from the Indian theatre of war, officers belonging to the Indian army or those belonging to the Indian army serving in the middle east and sending them to London to be vetted by a board there, instead of coming before this board and taking their chance with the Indian officers. What is the reason for this discrimination? I do submit that my Honourable friend must realise that he is finding it very difficult in the conditions that prevail to get recruits for the Indian Police and the Indian Civil Service. I believe they have not been able to get their quota and I submit that this is another method of getting their full quota. I ask my Honourable friend if he has got his full quota. Advertisements were published in London; how many have they got? I believe that out of the total number they have not been able to get 25, and even out of the 25 I do not believe they have got even seven or ten in the final acceptance. I believe my Honourable friend has not got the figures.

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: That is wrong.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I may be wrong, but my Honourable friend should enlighten me as to the figures. I ask this and I want my Honourable friend to deny it that he has not been able to get his quota and this is another method of getting that quota. Sir, there is another important matter before you and so I will wind up this speech now and will take another occasion later on to deal with this matter.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir,

Mr. Deputy President: I will remind the Honourable Member that the guillotine starts at 5 o'clock and the Honourable Member should not take long over any point that he wishes to make.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, I thought that the Public Service Commission will make the selections from the disbanded military officers and fit them into different posts. This question was discussed and though the Public Service Commission is qualified to select suitable persons for particular posts, the process here is reversed. We have got the person and we have to find out for what appointment he is more suitable and therefore the selection board must be of a different type from the Public Service Commission. I think the type of board they have selected is most suitable to find a job for each person who has retired from the army and for whom appointment has to be found. Besides, I was also present in the meeting of the special committee of the Central Advisory Board in which their officers explained the method by which selection of candidates can also be made at the age of 11. Unfortunately the issue before the House is entirely different and that is, whether the appointments will be made in India from Indians or in England from the Britishers.

But the method of selection which has been devised by the Home Department is the only method by means of which they can fit in a particular individual to a particular post to which he is qualified. Therefore I supported this motion in the Finance Committee and I support it now.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: Sir, may I ask one question? The position has been rather confused. Do I understand the Honourable Member to say that these posts are reserved for Indians and domiciled Europeans who have served in His Majesty's forces?

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: These war service vacancies.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: People who have rendered war service. So it is not confined to those who have served only in the Indian army; which means that the posts are reserved for Indians and domiciled Europeans who have rendered war service.

Mr. C. F. V. Williams: Yes, war service anywhere.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Sir, I have just a few minutes to reply. I have felt that there has been some confusion in this debate. I cannot believe myself that the Home Department has been responsible for the confusion. My Honourable friend Diwan Chaman Lall seeks to turn this House into a law court. His method is that of a cross-examining lawyer and—I may say—a cross-examining lawyer who has not studied the case of the other side. The case of the other side lies in the Library. Questions which have confused him here are questions to which he could get an answer if only he had read the pamphlet which lies in the Library. It is not the slightest use trying to give an answer now because if he really wants an answer he can go there and get that for himself. But I quite admit that it is a little bit confusing to have these two bodies or agencies,—the Employment Selection Bureau and the Civil Selection Board. The Civil Selection Boards—I hope it is now clear—are boards set up for a special and temporary purpose, that is, for recruitment of war service candidates to a great number of posts which have been kept vacant for war service. The Employment Selection Bureau is a different matter altogether. It is a body set up and for the time being largely occupied with advising on the methods to be used by these Civil Selection Boards but with the intention of surviving and outlasting these Civil Selection Boards, and if it is successful and if it establishes its position of being set up on a permanent footing. I myself am at a disadvantage in discussing these matters. I have never seen a selection board at work and the methods of psychiatrists and psychologists and all such recruitment officers are to me a mystery. I should have liked to remedy my ignorance of these matters but it was not possible because of the sitting of the Assembly. But I have been very much interested to hear on the whole favourable accounts from those Members of the House who have seen these methods in operation.

Sir, as regards the Employment Selection Bureau, as distinct from the Civil Selection Boards, the matter for the future is entirely open, in my view, and this is the view that I have put to the Bureau. They have to attract customers. Either their methods and the purpose for which they have been set up are of use, not only to Government departments but also to industrial employers and the educational authorities throughout India or if they are not of any use they will cease to have customers and they will cease to exist. If they prove their merit for the purposes for which they have been set up they will continue to exist, but not through a fiat of the Home Department; and I for one see no reason why it should be an irrevocable decision that they are attached to the Home Department. They will continue to exist not because the Home Department so decrees but because they have proved their value and because there is a large number of people who wish to make use of their services.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I do not wish to press it. I am not satisfied with the answer given by the Honourable Member, but we shall take another occasion to discuss it at greater length.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: Read the pamphlet first.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: . . . Sir, I beg leave of the Assembly to withdraw the motion. The motion was, by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy President: Order, order. It is now 5 o'clock and I will put the remaining demands to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,86,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Home Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 18—LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Legislative Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 19A—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 19B—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,32,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 20—DEPARTMENT OF COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,14,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Commonwealth Relations'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 21—FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,95,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Finance Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 22—COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,79,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Commerce Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 23—DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Labour'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 24—DEPARTMENT OF POSTS AND AIR

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 52,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Department of Posts and Air'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 25—WAR TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'War Transport Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 26—FOOD DEPARTMENT

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,22,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Food Department'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 27—CENTRAL BOARD OF REVENUE

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,71,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Central Board of Revenue'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 28—INDIA OFFICE AND HIGH COMMISSIONER'S ESTABLISHMENT CHARGES

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 6,22,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'India Office and High Commissioner's Establishment charges'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 29—PAYMENT TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS, DEPARTMENTS, ETC., ON ACCOUNT OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF AGENCY SUBJECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF TREASURIES

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Payments to other Governments, Departments, etc., on account of the Administration of Agency Subjects and Management of Treasuries'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,60,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Audit'."

The motion was adopted.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): On a point of order. Not one of these items, except 29, has been moved by the Honourable the Finance Member.

Mr. Deputy President: The Honourable Member knows when the guillotine comes in there is no necessity. It is usual practice after the guillotine that it is not necessary for the Finance Member to move. It is moved from the Chair and the question is put straight off.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: The only point that my friend wants to be made clear is whether in the case of supplementaries the guillotine can be applied because in the Standing Orders there is no mention of it. It is only in the case of the budget that the guillotine is applied. The point is only raised so that whatever is being done is in order.

Mr. Deputy President: Usually it cannot be done and the Honourable Member is perfectly right. But by agreement it can be done and it was done through agreement. When the House agreed to do this, this procedure was adopted. Otherwise there was no limit to the time.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan: That is all right.

DEMAND No. 31—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,21,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Administration of Justice'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 33—POLICE

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 20,21,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Police'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 34—PORTS AND PILOTAGE

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 3,98,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Ports and Pilotage'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 35—LIGHTHOUSES AND LIGHTSHIPS

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,19,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Lighthouses and Lightships'."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali: On a point of order. The Chair might some time resume its seat so that Members may go out of the House.

(At this stage Mr. Deputy President resumed his seat and Mr. Asaf Ali left the Chamber)

Mr. P. K. Salve (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): On a point of order. Can the Chair put all these together.

Mr. Deputy President: This cannot be done. Every demand must be put separately and the House will be perfectly right to throw out any of these demands. If the Chair puts the demands in a lump, then the House will be deprived of voting down any of these demands.

Mr. P. K. Salve: By agreement?

Mr. Deputy President: Throw the whole thing out?

Mr. P. K. Salve: By agreement all can be made in one lump sum.

Mr. Deputy President: If the House says that they are going to speak or reject and they want to oppose the whole thing

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: We want to reject Panth Piploda.

Mr. Deputy President: That will not be the proper procedure to put all demands at once. We will take only a few minutes more.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: We accept the suggestion to take all.

Mr. P. K. Salve: If the House agrees generally?

Mr. Deputy President: Unfortunately the Chair has not got the total of all the demands and therefore the total cannot be put, and by the time we total the amount, we will be able to dispose them of one by one.

DEMAND No. 38—ZOOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Zoological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 39—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,07,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Geological Survey'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 40—MINES

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Mines'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 41—ARCHAEOLOGY

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,66,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Archaeology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 42—METEOROLOGY

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 12,86,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Meteorology'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 45—MEDICAL SERVICES

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,09,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Medical Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 46—PUBLIC HEALTH

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,90,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 47—AGRICULTURE

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 20,50,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Agriculture'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 50—CIVIL VETERINARY SERVICES

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,56,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Civil Veterinary Services'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 51—INDUSTRIES

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 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 on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Industries'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 52—SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,34,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Scientific and Industrial Research'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1945-46

DEMAND No. 53—AVIATION

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1945, in respect of 'Aviation'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 58—EMIGRATION—EXTERNAL

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,23,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Emigration—External'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 59—COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE AND STATISTICS

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,73,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Commercial Intelligence and Statistics'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 60—CENSUS

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 77,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Census'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 61—JOINT STOCK COMPANIES

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 26,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Joint Stock Companies'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 63—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,80,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 66—CIVIL WORKS

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 71,62,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Civil Works'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 68—SUPERANNUATION ALLOWANCES AND PENSIONS

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 9,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Superannuation Allowances and Pensions'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 69—STATIONERY AND PRINTING

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,58,25,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Stationery and Printing'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70—MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Deputy President: I think the Honourable the Finance Member is reducing the amount in his Demand No. 70 by Rs. 4 crores.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Cutting out the provision for U.N.R.R.A.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 1,35,11,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 70-A—GRANTS-IN-AID TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 8,00,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Grants-in-Aid to Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 71—MISCELLANEOUS ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN THE CENTRAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Adjustments between the Central and Provincial Governments'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 74—DELHI

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 18,83,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Delhi'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 75—AJMER-MERWARA

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 11,04,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Ajmer-Merwara'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76—PANTH PIPLODA

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Panth Piploa'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 76A—ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Andaman and Nicobar Islands'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 78A—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Capital Outlay on Industrial Development'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 80A—PAYMENTS TO RETRENCHED PERSONNEL

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 25,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Payments to Retrenched Personnel'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 81—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 7,05,00,000 be granted to the Governor General in Council to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1946, in respect of 'Interest-Free Advances'."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven o'clock on Monday, the 1st April, 1946.

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