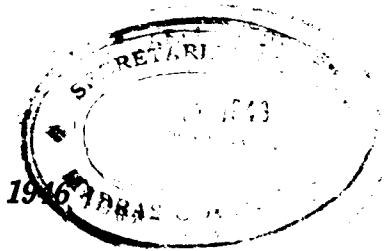


THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

Volume IV, 1946

(15th March to 30th March, 1946)



FIRST SESSION
OF THE
SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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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 merchandise 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	2,00,550
Provisions	3 cwt.	202	cwts.	822
Earthenware	..	238	..	..
Apparel	..	170	..	..
Furniture	..	200	..	104
Stationery	..	397	..	296
Paints and colours	..	32	3 cwts.	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. C. 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 Lall: 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 VANASPATI.

1007. *Mr. G. B. Dani: (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state if Government are aware that the Vanaspati Manufacturers' Association of India have recommended to the Food Department that the latent coloration of Vanaspati 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 vanaspati 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. Sen: (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 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 been 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 part 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 land 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 the 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 52,960 acres. Most of this area has been fallow for the last 50 years and is overgrown 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.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(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

1613. *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. Vellingiri 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	78	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 Saksepa: 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 communication 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 Saksena: (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

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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 plankets 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 one 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 Gurnath 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 Gurnath 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 Gurnath 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 Gurnath 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 Gurnath Bewoor: Yes, Sir.

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

Sir Gurnath 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-Muhammadan 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.

Mawabzada 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 discarded 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 Lallubhai, 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 Ardeshir 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. If 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

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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.

Sjt. 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 Othettiar (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 $8\frac{1}{2}$ times the prices which they quoted before the war. Even after paying $8\frac{1}{2}$ 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. I understand the principle, that concessions were given to companies 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

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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, 1949. 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. Vallabhai Lalubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association; Indian Commerce): I will not go into controversy here today, but I feel, the Income-tax Bill

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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 1942-48, 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 House should be appointed to go through the whole Act and put it in proper order as compared to the various Income-tax Acts in other parts of the world. This year the provision about the difference between written down value, the actual cost value, 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 23-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 Abdool Haroon, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Sir John Sheehy, and Mr. O. 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.

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. Mayalankar) 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	1,87,123
On 31st March 1944	1,80,633
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.

[illegible]

Programme As-	14	4	13	2	11	4	12	2	8	2	8	2	7	2	7	1	7	1
sistant.																		
Transmission	6	...	4	...	4	...	4	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	3	...	3	...
Assistant.																		
Programme Sec-	10	...	9	...	9	...	9	...	5	...	5	...	5	...	5	...	5	...
retary.																		
Assistant Engi-	17	2	13	...	13	...	13	...	7	2	7	2	7	2	7	2	7	1
neer.																		
Technical Assis-	3	5	5	1	4	1	5	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	1
tant.																		
Studio Executive	1	1	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
Studio Commis-	2	1	2	...	2	...	2	...	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	...
sionaire.																		
Publicity Assis-	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
tant.																		
Mechanic .	5	3	5	1	5	...	5	...	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	1	3	...
Painter .	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Office Superin-	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
tendent.																		
Accountant	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
Head Clerk	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...	1	...
Clerk Grade I	3	1	2	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	2	...	2	...
Clerk Grade B	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

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	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	15	...	...	12	...	...
Clerk Grade II .	21	5	19	2	20	5	17	3	16	4	16	3	...	...	13	1	...	...	...
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 .	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
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
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1940-41	4,11,299	3,50,857	3,61,854	2,76,178	2,35,785	2,26,255	1,38,711	1,90,595	54,837
1941-42	4,51,844	3,82,856	4,05,176	3,00,217	2,44,119	3,36,474	1,53,910	2,15,696	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	2,38,700	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 well as from the Army as suffering from a form of insanity?
- (f) Is this at 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 Lalubhai: 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. 3,58,700; (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 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 Lallubhai:** 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 v.—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.

- (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).
- Names of all individuals for whom passages are required showing age, sex and relationship. (See note iv).
- Month in which passage is preferred. (See note v).
- Responsibility for payment of passage money.
(See note vi).
- Any special reasons not covered by the schedule of priorities.
- Name of Travel Agent employed.
- Whether prepared to accept troop deck accommodation if this ensures earlier passage (applicable to European males below 30 only).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

2519

3. 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 residual health.

PRIORITY III

Persons certified by Government to be travelling in the national interest or for the maintenance 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:—

- Those certified as most urgent.
- Those certified as very urgent.
- 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. O. 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 effectively prevent the same, 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 is given in the table, the question being asked.

(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 Rs. A. P.
1944 . .	Nil	(1) Road dacoity near village Paranga, Police Station—Bhinai.	Nil	15 0 0
1945 . .	6	(2) Village Rawatmal, Police Station—Jawaja.	Nil	82,698 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	9,578 2 0
		(7) Road dacoity near village Bandanwara, Police Station—Bhinai, Makarwali and Picholian.	Nil	11 12 0
Total .	7			101,427 0 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. 3169-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 1943, 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 Precise-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. C. 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 (f) of his question No. 940, on the 18th 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. C. 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 VI
Statement 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.	Adtl. Secy.	Jt. Secy.	Dy. Secy.	Under Secy.	Asst. Secy.	F. As.	Adtl. F. As.	Jt. F. As.	Dy. F. As.	Adtl. D. F. As.	Asst. 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	...	6
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	36	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	...	1	3	...	6	5	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 *Tej*, 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 11.8 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.

(c) None, 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-communique 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. Reserve. 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.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Will it go on till the beginning of another war?

Mr. President: Next question.

FACT 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 in the garb 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 Joan 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 Joan 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 Joan 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 Joan 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 Joan 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 Joan 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 Joan 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 80 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 25th 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.Os (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.Os when they are serving ex-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.	180 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 43 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 cases 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 13 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. 13 of the Indian Army Act.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Is it not a fact that the Commander-in-Chief can give only minor punishments and not major punishments?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir. He can give any punishment up to a court martial. 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 did 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. 731 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. 731 explained that pensions may 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 strength of the Naval Headquarters (India)?

Mr. P. Mason: Sir, I lay a statement on the table. Although the figures for Muslims among the members of the R.I.N. serving in Naval Headquarters are given, 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	626	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	6	33
Photographers	4	...	3	2	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
Administrative and Special Duties Branch	...	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

(i) (a) 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.	Assts. 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

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. C. A. Oook: (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 1939-48 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 (48.5%)
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 532 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 Chaman Lal: 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 Chaman Lal: 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. 3,000 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. Ananga 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 or 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 Morris 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.

List of cases of assaults and affrays, involving military personnel.

A. PROVINCE OF ASSAM (OCCURRED UNDER A.L.F., S.E.A. COMMAND).

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.

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 AKHIAR and Sepoy KHODA BUX alleged to have chased women with designs on her near FAUDZERHAT on 18 Sep 44. Unit 499 Ind. Sup Sec.I	Trial of Sepoy Khoda 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. Mo 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. 84958 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. Amartifo, 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, GURDAYAL 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.
32. Woman assaulted by IORs at HI-JILI KHARAGPUR (early May 44).	Acquitted.
33. IORS of 25/8th Punjab Regt. accused of rape in Dunka District, SANTHAL PARGANAS (early May 44).	All acquitted of rape. Havildar sentenced to 6 months R.I. on charge of wrongful confinement and rioting: four sepoy's sentenced to 4 months R. I. on similar charges. 3 acquitted.
4. Affray between Sepoys of 78 Ind. Anti-Malarial Unit and civilians at Ishrude, at prostitute quarters on 25 Jul 44.	Tried by SCM and conviction set aside.
35. Two IORs tried to molest a beggar woman on 29 Jul 44 at KANCHRAPARA.	IORs sentenced to 14 and 7 days R. I. respectively (Summary award).

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1718, asked by Hajee Chawdhury Muhammad Ismail Khan, on the 8th 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.

Information promised in reply to a supplementary to starred question No. 1800, asked by Mr. Badri Dutt Pande on the 18th April, 1945

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.
June 1944	4,769 2 0	779 7 0	3,291 3 0	3,328 1 0	879 0 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
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
September 1944	3,914 6 0	817 6 6	2,985 0 0	3,136 15 0	944 0 0	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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
July 1945	1,780 0 0	1,148 14 0	2,001 8 0	4,032 6 0	4,213 6 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. 85, asked by Pandit Mukut Bihari 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. 83, 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 Vidyalkar.
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 Vidyalkar.
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. Rooprani 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 Krishna 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 Prakasa, on the 14th February, 1946.

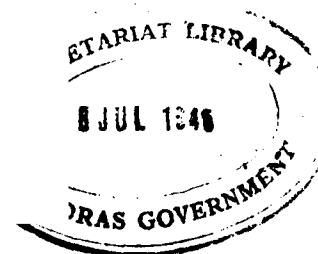
PURCHASE OF WHEAT BY UNITED PROVINCES GOVERNMENT

(a) (i) Within the province	Tons
(ii) From outside the province	98,325
	1,95,059
Total	2,93,384

(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

Recent selling prices 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 Shahjahanpur 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.
1-3-45 to 31-5-45	3 8	3 12 (plains)	3 8	3 8	3 8 Dehradun District and Agra District. 3 12 Rest of Meerut Region.

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 Mussorie 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.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

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.)

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[19TH MAR. 1946]

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 Instt.
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 Othettiar: 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 Othettiar: 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 *dagchee* 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 black-market, 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. R. 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 Reddiah.

In the first place, it relates to two different matters.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadian 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-Muhammadian 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-Muhammadian): There are four Tehsils in Jubbulpore District—Jubbulpore, Pitan, Sindur, 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. R. 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. R. 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.

It is understood that the House must necessarily adjourn at 5 o'clock every day, because

Mr. K. C. Neogy (Dacca Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Is it under-

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 Ohama Lal (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. C. 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 Chaman 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-Muhammadian Rural): What about the peasants themselves?

Diwan Chaman 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 35 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 80 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-Muhammadan 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 300 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 manpower 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. G. 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 national 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

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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 Pheroz Kharegar'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 the nets?' 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 banking 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 affects 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 these 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 *kutch* 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 enthruse 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 a 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 mills 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 want 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 (Cuttack 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

[Sri Bhagirathi Mahapatra]

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 promptly 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 was 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. 930 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 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 claim 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 land 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 there 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 Hazeribagh 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. Mills, vegetable oil 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

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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 Bakhtiarapur 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 detenus 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 detenus 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 R. 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. Waugh: (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 sum 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 Commission 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 13th 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	Subordinate Staff	Inferior Staff	Labourers	Daily-rated Staff	Total	Remarks
Karachi	6	3	12	2	23	
Rawalpindi . . .	33	98	136	106	373	
Multan	13	504	...	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 450)	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, Formen, Storeholders, Asst. Foremen, & Asst. Storeholders.	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 1,336 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 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 freed 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 full 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 Lal:** 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 Lal:** 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 Lall: 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*
* Out of these 2 were engaged from amongst retired staff.	
16. Guards	3
17. Dispensers	3
18. Nurse Dai	1
19. Train Examiners	2
Engaged from retired staff.	
20. Asstt. Train Examiners	4
21. Journeymen (Shop)	3
" (Shed)	13
" (Electric)	1
22. Shedman	1
23. Number Takers	9
24. Salesman	1
25. Wardkeeper	1
26. Sub Bridge Inspector	1
27. Asstt. Watch & Ward Inspector	1
<i>Accounts</i>	
1. Clerks Class I	6
2. Clerks Class II	201
3. Routine Clerks	2
4. Stenographers	2
	627

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 locos received during the year	Imported from	Approximate average cost per erected loco in India	Approximate weight in tons of empty engine and tender
1	2	3	4	5
<i>Broad Gauge</i>			(Rs. in lakhs).	
1939-40	...	...	...	...
1940-41	8	U. K.	1.32 to 2.17	65 to 110
1941-42	...	...	...	...
1942-43	4	U. K.	1.36	56
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
<i>Metre Gauge</i>				
	8	U. K.	3.10	112
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.

Number of Wagons and Coaches imported from abroad for Government-owned Railways during 1939-40 to 1945-46 (up to 28th February 1946).

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
BROAD GAUGE.						
1939-40	...	...	...	...	...	...
1940-41	...	...	...	...	...	...
1941-42	...	...	Nil	...	...	...
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	...	...	...	...	...	...
1940-41	...	...	Nil	...	...	...
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	3990 (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	9
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 licences 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 300 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.

Sri 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 Coperative 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 handing 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 and 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 Kumarpappa 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 8 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 (I. & 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. Ramani	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. 26,631-3-6. 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 Rs. 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	
3	Loco Grainshop No. 2 Lahore	Embezzlement of Government money by a clerk who was alleged to have been handed over the sum of Rs. 895-15-3 for depositing with the Chief Cashier and Treasurer but who failed to do so	896	0 0	Ditto.
4	General Stores Grainshop Lahore	Fraudulent sale of 3 Cash Memo Books and misappropriation of sale proceeds	651	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.
5	Gujranwala Reserve Depot	Rejected supply of soap weighing 306 maunds 15 seers paid to Ward Keeper	9,537	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.
		Total	15,788	0 0	The matter is being investigated by D. I. G. and Special Police Establishment (War Department).

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 silkwoven 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 re-introduce 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 12 Noon 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 an 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.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if these Indians in Malaya who are already settled there will automatically become domiciled citizens here 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 Abdoolah 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

[Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon]

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 Ardeshir 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 reasons 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 the 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): Export will increase the sterling balances.

INDIAN FINANCE BILL

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division: Muhammadan Rural): He means exports from England. 2655

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 or 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

[Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon]

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-Muhammadan 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 Inchcape 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. I 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 free hand 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-Muhammadan 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, illhealth, 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-

[Sjt. N. V. Gadgil]

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."

[Sjt. N. V. Gadgil]

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 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:

"Every thing 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 constant 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 Ibrahim 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 Gurunath 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.

Then 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 outstandings due 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 4,35,000 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. H. G. Bange: 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 helping 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 Rowlands: 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 30 minutes

Several Honourable Members: Only 20 minutes.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Therefore I submit that our Honourable sister 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

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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 postwar reconstruction and had they pressed for the necessary money, perhaps the whole 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 postwar requirements and has got its own postwar plans. But here we are governed by a government which neither knows the country nor even its own mind. Take, for example, 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 both 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 emphasised.

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 Mahapadi 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

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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 1928, there was a Cinematograph Committee under the Chairmanship of the late Dewan Bahadur T. Rangachariar. 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 pies 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 ex-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 316 licences issued, for the sale of woolen cloth, only 50 licences were issued to Muslims by his Department for the distribution of woolen 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 Muslims 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

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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 Muslim 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 3 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 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, beet-ruts 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-salt, 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 Bhatnagary (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 UNRRAs, 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 the 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 Argentine, 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.E.A. Only last year India was made to contribute Rs. 9 crores to U.N.R.E.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 co-operative 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 get 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 co-operative 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. Madandhari 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 Tatas 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-Muhammadan): 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.

*Chaudhri 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 languages 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 Sonipat 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 cause 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 itself 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

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 import. 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 Abdoola 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 Abdoola 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 port 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 tuberosous 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
	1,508

During 1945-46—

Permanent Staff	1,111
Temporary Staff	120
	1,231

Ajmer—

During 1944-45—

Permanent staff	330
Temporary staff	50

380

During 1945-46—

Permanent staff	336
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(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 situated?

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. R. 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. R. 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. R. 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	29,62,463	18,00,000	3,00,000	.....	8,57,15,413
Vegetable Ghee	81	1,57,20,356	46,97,766	.....	.....	.....	2,04,18,122
Sugar	6	1,57,44,026	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,57,44,026
Cement	9	95,03,818	28,37,666	30,000	.....	53,73,333	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. Battory1151. ***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. Battory", 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. Azizul 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 80 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

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vegetables that will be marketed from this area; it is expected that the house holders will utilise the vegetables for their own consumption. The increase in production if adequate water is available and all the arrangements made would 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 quantity 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 Executive Council have started growing vegetables in their gardens?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Aizul Huque: They have done that long before.

Mr. President: Next question.

† COMPILATION OF UNWEIGHTED RETAIL PRICE INDEX NUMBER

1155. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable Labour Member be pleased to state the purpose behind the compilation of unweighted Retail Price Index Number by groups about industrial cities and towns 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 state what the criterion was for fixing upon items, their qualities and number 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 number 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 it 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 of 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 comparable 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			2	41
2. Hubli . . .	2	4	13	19		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 . . .			21					
16. Dibrugarh-Sone . . .		3	11	19	4	3	6	
17. Patna . . .		3	12	20	4	4	6	
18. Cuttack . . .			17	22	3	4	8	37
19. Berhampur . . .			19	24	3	3	5	35
20. Khewra . . .			16	23	3	5	4	35
21. Karachi . . .			16	22	4	4	2	32
22. Benares . . .			10	17	3	9	7	36
23. Meerut . . .	9		10	22	3	9	7	41
24. Howrah . . .								
25. Budge-Budge . . .								
26. Kankinara . . .								
27. Narayanganj . . .								
28. Serampore . . .	4	4	16	24	5	5	7	41
29. Gauripore . . .								
30. Kancharapara . . .								
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	19
2. Maibang	1	2	10	13	2	6	5	37
3. Rajapur	1	2	14	17	3	6	5	48
4. Shankargarh	7	3	8	18	2	3	4	45
5. Sonaili	3	3	12	18	2	6	5	49
6. Muktapur	2	4	9	15	2	5	4	37
7. Nana	4	2	13	19	3	5	3	49
8. Salamatpur	3	4	12	19	2	4	3	47
9. Shujabad	5	4	11	20	4	6	3	53
10. Gujarkhan	2	4	12	18	3	6	2	45
11. Krishna	2	2	14	18	2	6	4	48
12. Lakh	2	3	10	15	2	5	3	39
13. Malur	3	4	13	20	2	4	5	48
14. Muniguda	2	3	13	18	2	4	4	46
15. Kudchi	2	2	13	17	3	7	4	51

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are figures being collected of the actual prices paid by the working classes, or only the prices that are supposed to be asked to be paid in the retail shops?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I think if my Honourable friend there will be an answer to the next question by Mr. Ayyangar in which you find the information about family budget.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What information have Government collected and in their possession of the prices which are actually prevailing in the black market 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 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 commend itself to me.

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

REPORT ON FAMILY-BUDGET-ENQUIRIES

1156. ***Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar:** (a) Will the Honourable 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 quantities 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. Jamahedpur	1-2-45	30-6-45
4. Jharia	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. Cuttack	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 cases in regard to agricultural labour?

The Honourable Dr. B. R. Ambedkar: I will bear that in mind although I 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. C. 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. 894, 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.

(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 1943. 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 Singhania 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 statement 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

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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 it 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 bring them within very narrow limits. There I entirely agree but whether levying 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 cannot

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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 large 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 economic 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 such 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 506 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 lacunæ 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 lacunæ 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 lacunæ 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. 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. C. 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. Every 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 Bhoré 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, 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-Muhammadan): 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.

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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 cognizance 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 cognizance of the general obligations assumed by them in Article 7 of the Mutual Aid Agreement of the 28th 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 impractical 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 Stettinus 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 Stettinus 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 chattaks 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 73 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 sale 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 taluq or tahsil 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. R. 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 which 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 scale 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 ozs. 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 cultivable 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 Malakwal and Sherekot 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.

Sreejot 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 Bench 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 4 P.M. 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 realizes 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. If, 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.

Sreejot 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.

Choudhury 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 wish good fortune and good speed 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 sacrifice 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 butts 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 not, 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-Muhammadan 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

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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 nobulous 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)

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.

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. 18 crores.

(c) Various reasons such as—

(1) increase in the number of assessees,
(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 assessees,

(4) delay in the submission of returns of income by assessees 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

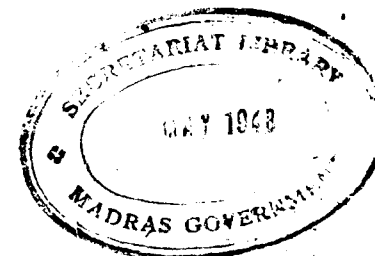
(7) shortage of assessing officers and other staff.

(d) I lay on the table a statement (marked III) showing the position. The total number of officers has increased from 288 in 1938-39 to 558 in 1945-46.

*These questions have, however, been printed serially in these Debates.—Ed. v' 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
1. Amount of payment in respect of Provisional Assessment of Excess Profits Tax made under Section 144 of the Excess Profits Tax Act, 1940	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.	Ra.
		(Scheme was introduced only in 1943-44)				
	1,22,57,638	2,883	55,05,58,521	34,83,64,245(c)	57,38,07,612	74,88,19,164(c)
2. Account of Optional Deposits of Excess Profits Tax made under Section 10 of the Indian Finance Act, 1942			5,58,76,611	1,27,75,260(b)	1,94,31,864	1,55,10,520(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	161
Madras	50	63
Bengal	49	128
United Provinces	35	56
Punjab	46	74
Central Provinces	16	18
Bihar and Orissa	18	26
Assam	6	8
Calcutta (Central)	...	5
Bombay (Central)	...	12
Goorg	1 (Part time)	1
Bangalore	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	5th October.
J/Comd.	Shreenivasa	5th 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) Officers		
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) 98.

(b) Hindus 15, Muslims 8, Europeans 50, Anglo-Indians 18, 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—81.02.

(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 1178.

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. 1178.

COMPLAINTS BY SARDAR SARDUL SINGH KAVEESHAR 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.

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

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

1179. *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 been kept in jails? If so, in which places?

(b) In what class have they been placed?

(c) What form of labour, if any, are they required to do?

(d) What facilities are they allowed in respect of interviews, letters, reading, writing and newspapers?

Mr. 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.

(b), (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 this matter.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will they not be treated as political prisoners?

Mr. P. Mason: Certainly not.

Prof. 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?

Mr. P. Mason: No, Sir.

Prof. 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.

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir. But not to decide whether they are criminal or political prisoners.

Seth Govind Das: Have they been kept together, or separately?

Mr. 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?

Mr. P. Mason: I have already answered that question of Prof. Ranga.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why should the Government of India come in the way of the Provincial Government if they want to be liberal?

Mr. P. Mason: I thought that the Honourable Member was scolding us the other day because we did not take enough interest in them.

Mr. President: Next question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I want to reply to his observation. The other day he was anxious to support the Provincial Government when they were very harsh. When they want to be liberal, the Honourable Member comes in the way.

Mr. President: Next question.

SPEEDY TRANSPORTATION OF DEMOBILISED NON-INDIANS OWING TO SCARCITY OF CEREALS

1180. *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 85 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 430 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 430 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 800 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.

Srijiit Dhirendra 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 Saksena: 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. Nangloi 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 *sishya* (disciple) to search for his shoes. The *Sishya* had gone one better than his guru in the

[Sri T. V. Satakopachari]

feast. The *sisya* 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-Muhammadan 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

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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-Muhammadan 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. 4 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 presson 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 these 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 Pedamji 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 communiqué 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 communiqués 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 Saxena (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?

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

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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 R. 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

4 P. M. 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, Removing seedlings, and transplantation	10 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 I

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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 fag 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 the

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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

[Mr. P. K. Salve]

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 Benthlehem. 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 Bore 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-Muhammadian): 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?

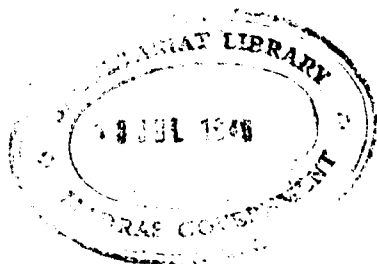
Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: In Delhi, in Bombay, in this blessed country India! According to the provisions of the Land Alienation Act a member of the Depressed Class is not able to buy land of any agriculturist. If you go to any village—there are seven lakhs of villages—you will find the position of 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 duty on

[Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava]

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.



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 *mêlas* 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 1867

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 Gurnath 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 82 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 see his way to accelerate their speed?

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 it 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:

(a) if Government publish any book containing a list of post offices in every postal district;

(b) if the same is not on sale; and

(c) 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.

(b) The P. & T. Guide is on sale.

(c) 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 Sanyal, 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.

Statement
The following are the fares charged by the various Companies

Company	From	To	Fare
Tata Air Lines			Rs.
	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 Abdoolah 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 Abdoolah 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 Abdoolah 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 Abdoolah 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 Abdoolah 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 works 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 on 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 Saksena: 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 Abdoola 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 Lalubhai: 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 Lalubhai: 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-à-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 Lalubhai: 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 8·3 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.	Minority communities recognised for the purpose of communal representations																	Total		
	Europeans		Hindus				Muslims		Domiciled Europeans & Anglo-Indians		Sikhs		Indian Christians		Parsis		Other Communities			
	Hindus other than Depressed classes		Depressed classes		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.		%	
	No.	%	No.	%																No.
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.		%	No.
1	2	3	4	6	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	

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. The 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.

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 Lall: 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 Lall: 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 Lall: 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 Saxena:** (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 Saxena:** (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.

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(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.

PROMOTION 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. 688, 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 Lallubhai:** 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."

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-Muhammadian): 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 this 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, impressment or compulsory work without payment is a feature of which every country or government should be ashamed. *Begar* is still taken in the rural

areas. There is a section in the Penal Code, relating to it, viz., 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 Tyrant Az Iraq Awards Showad"
Mar Guzeeda Murda Bawad"

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.

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 forgot 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 liability 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 now this question of 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 taken of our grievances. Even when we come for grants, after collecting cur

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

1 P.M. 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 312 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 Bhoré 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 1/6 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 93 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 'Khaqnai' 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 man power 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.

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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hort 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. C. 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 300 appear also on the European electoral rolls.

Mr. C. 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. C. 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 deplores 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

[Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi]

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 railwaymen 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."

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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 interpolations 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 *sabardast* 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

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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 a 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 one 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

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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

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

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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 these 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 he 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.

AYES—54.

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.
 Adityan, Sri S. T.
 Asat Ali, Mr. M.
 Ayangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
 Banerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
 Bose Shri Sarat Chandra.
 Chaman Lal, Diwan.
 Chettiar, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
 Choudhury, Sreejuti Rohini Kumar.
 Daga, Seth Sheodass.
 Dam, Mr. G. B.
 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.
 Hiray, Sjt. E. S.
 Jagannathdas, Sri.
 Jhunjhunwala, Mr. B. R.
 Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Katmarkar, Shri D. P.
 Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
 Lahiri Choudhury, Srijuti Dharendra Kanta.
 Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.

Malaviya, Pandit Govind.
 Mangai Singh, Sardar.
 Masani, Mr. M. R.
 Meillon, 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.
 Satakopachari, Sri T. V.
 Sharma, Mr. Krishna Chandra.
 Sharma Pandit Balkrishna.
 Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
 Sri Prakasa, Shri.
 Sukhdev Sethi.
 Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
 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. E.
 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 Abdooli 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.

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 1833 cases out of a total of 40,000. In these 1833 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 34 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. 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. E. 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

[Mr. President]

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 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-Muhammadan 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 capitalist 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 and 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 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-Muhammadan 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

12 NOON a staff study as a basis for further examination into which 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. Killedar (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 .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.

Sjt. 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

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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 rigmarole, 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 Dardanelles 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 one's 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 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 shāhīm to gham nahin hai qafas to kambakht toot jāi

Balā se kazzāq ā ke looten yeh pūsbānon 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 unrelevied. 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 dai*—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

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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

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for at least five years. It was again suggested from these benches—I believe by Pandit 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 lenders 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 nationhood 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 Brahmins met in a solemn conclave for the purpose of establishing a Brahman Sangh, for the purpose of protecting the interests of Brahmins, for the purpose of starting a college for Brahmins, for the purpose of starting industries for Brahmins. And who was the President of that Conference? The great man Sachiyotama Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyer.

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 anybody.

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 Brahmins, 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 Scheduled Caste voters from 861 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 Saxena: 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 2,688. 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 browse 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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the problem of corruption; and that is a very considerable tightening up the law. As the law stands at present, you may know perfectly well that a particular officer is corrupt and yet be powerless to touch him. Let me give you one or two illustrations. Some years ago, I had serving under me in a certain district a revenue officer: his pay, I think, was Rs. 550 a month; he had a very large family. That officer kept two cars and three ponies and he had no private means. I knew and the whole district knew that he was corrupt, but because we could not connect him specifically with the receipt of money from any particular individual, because in other words we could not prove a specific charge of bribe taking, that officer stayed there; in due course, I believe, he even got promotion; and it was quite impossible for me to do anything about him whatsoever.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is he here in the Secretariat now?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: He has gone to a better world than the Secretariat. Another case of a more recent nature. I am going to speak carefully about this, because it would not be fair to indicate who the individual was; but I had a case not very long ago where a certain officer who had long been suspected by me of receiving bribes from contractors, was found on a particular ceremonial occasion to have received presents worth Rs. 20,000 from three people, each of whom was a contractor who had been given contracts the previous year. Once again though the facts were known it was impossible to prove that he had received the presents from these three people. The law dealing with accretions of property in war time did not fit in this particular case and the officer could not be touched. Everybody who has been concerned with administration knows that, in the present state of the law, you cannot deal adequately with corrupt officials; and I want to plead that, if only as a temporary measure there should be some tightening up of the law in this respect. If you find that a man of Rs. 200 a month has acquired a house worth Rs. 50,000, the law must be such as to compel him to explain where he got that property from or where the money came from. You must reverse the normal position with regard to the onus of proof and provide, with respect to Government officials, that they shall be held strictly and legally accountable for unexplained accretions of property

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What about others?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: There are many other classes to be dealt with but I cannot deal with all classes in one speech. At the moment I am concerned with the causes of the present growth of corruption in Government services. During the war it has grown on an unparalleled scale; and moreover it has begun to affect a very much higher class in the official world. Whereas in the past it was generally true that when one found corruption, it was amongst petty subordinates; that is no longer the case. Something has to be done to scotch this evil, and it is my considered view that the main factor in producing that effect can be by tightening up the law in the sense of putting upon the Government official the onus of explaining where and how he acquired any particular property. I do urge that every one of us, irrespective of party, irrespective of politics, should regard this business of eradicating corruption as one of his primary tasks as a citizen.

I pass on from that to another administrative question, the general question of the efficiency or otherwise of the administrative machine of the Central Government. This new Government coming into power will have to lean very heavily upon its official machine. It will consist of men who, however great their ability and however vast their experience of public life may be, will not have had that grounding in official procedure and administration, which many of my friends now on these treasury benches have had. It is therefore of first class importance that they should have behind them a really efficient administrative machine. Have we got one today? I think the only impartial answer to that question must be 'No', that we have an extremely inefficient, clumsy, out of date—I almost said ante-diluvian—machine on which to depend for carrying out the processes of government

An Honourable Member: Who is responsible?

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: When I say that, I expect my friends on my right to applaud me—a thing which they are generally averse to doing!—to point an accusing finger at the Government benches and accuse them of being the cause of inefficiency and so on. But I want to remind them that efficiency in Government depends on two factors: one of these is the political factor, and the other is a matter of the mechanics of administration

Prof. N. G. Ranga: And colour also.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: Are you suggesting that some correlation exists between colour and efficiency? I want to deal today mainly with the mechanical side of the question—administration pure and simple. But before I do so, I must say a word in passing about the political aspect of this matter. In my view, even if seven or eight archangels were sitting on this side they could not make the machine of government work efficiently under these conditions; when you have men in office who are always cried down and belittled whatever they do, who are called traitors because they are doing what nobody else is willing to do, because they are making the machine work when nobody else is willing to make it work, how can you expect from this particular body of men, the drive and the dynamic energy to make things work? For my own part it is my considered view that the country owes a debt of gratitude to these men, especially the Indian members on the front benches (*Honourable Members:* No, no) who have been willing to take this work on. We ought to be grateful even though gratitude may not be a very common human virtue particularly in some parties. Whether we like it or not—and I take it none of us likes the present constitution—the machine has to be kept going, until such time as the new constitution takes its place and I for my part consider that these men have put the country under an obligation. But having said that, I would not expect efficiency from them

Diwan Chaman Lall: They have put you certainly under an obligation.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths: I turn now to the question of the mechanics of administration. I suppose everybody who has had anything to do with government is accustomed to take it for granted that anything that has to be done will be done very slowly: there will be delays at every possible stage because of unwillingness to take decisions; and there is certainly lack of drive; and observers will be puzzled because they look at the individuals and see that they are very much above the average in ability and they wonder why it should be that men of ability cannot make the machine work better. I think there are four main reasons which need examination. First of all is the simple fact that any large organisation wants periodical overhaul; it grows unwieldy; the procedure becomes dilatory, and somebody has got to come along and overhaul it; and I believe that stage has now been reached and it is time for a complete examination of the mechanism of the Government of India. As far as I know there have been only two examinations of that kind attempted in recent times: one was in 1919, and the other, which was over a limited field, was by Sir Reginald Maxwell—I forget the exact year when it took place. Many of the recommendations of these reports have never yet been fully implemented. Taking for example the 1919 report which amongst other things deprecated the habits of noting on files instead of doing most of the necessary references personally by inter-departmental consultation. That point has been raised again and again and every now and then somebody comes along and says "This noting on files is all wrong; it must stop; let us have departmental consultations"; and for three or four months there is a bit of a change but gradually officials drop back into the old rut and fall into the way in which they worked twenty years before. I do think the time has come for a full scientific examination of the mechanism of government.

Sir Archibald Rowlands has recently with very great effect carried out such an examination in Bengal. Those of us who were in touch with what was happening in the Bengal Administration today, can already see some results

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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 proposal 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?

Sgt. 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 and what was

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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. Aranthasayanam 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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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-Muhammadan 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 Pakistani. The hand of co-operation is there.

Shri 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. 8,500 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 B. 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 7th 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. E. 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	14
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 Abdoolah 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 POCKETED 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. 80/- 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	10.37

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	23,906	...	..	19,225	12,187	13,675	2,461	...
1-10-45	34,089	...	..	7,493	8,187	19,747	2,214	...
1-11-45	30,984	...	..	8,313	6,629	19,432	1,343	...
1-12-45	24,899	...	...	13,170	2,945	15,134	1,489	...
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 lithopone.

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 rations 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 Chettiar: 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 Chettiar: 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.

Shri 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.

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.
I. Kripalani, Santdas Khushiram, C.I.E. (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

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. N. 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 Lallubhai:** (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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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. Oulnam: (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. Oulnam: (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.

†Answer to this question laid on the table the questioner having exhausted his quota

(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.

COMPOSITION OF TRADE COMMISSIONERS AND CONSULS FOR INDIA

†1255. *Seth Govind Das: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state:

- the number of Indian Trade Commissioners functioning in different countries of the world today, Indians and Europeans, separately;
- the number of Trade Commissioners, who are drawn from the public as against those taken in from regular Government services;
- the number of pensioners among the Trade Commissioners and in other Consular Services for India in different countries of the world; and
- 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

S. 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.

Statement showing Allocation of 531 Tractors ordered since January 1943, referred to in part (e) of the reply

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 46	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 Forsdon 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 Lal: 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. Asitul 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. Bérar. 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.

Sevadarnis—village level.

Head Sevadarnis—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

1942. *Mr. Manu Sabedar: (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 6 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—

	Ra.
(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 Baini 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.

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	10,80	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	Runjab	213	Cotton Spinning and Weaving to put up a spinnery 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.		

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
		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, ivory work, cutlery and agricultural implements. Assistance of Central Govt. required in obtaining machinery.

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
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	Improvement of the Angul Weaving School and Phulbani Industrial School.		To give a course of weaving instructions.
		123	Conversion of the present Textile Marketing Organization into a provincial Handloom weavers' cooperative society.	29,55	For coordinating production of handloom textiles through primary weavers cooperative societies and for organising their marketing.
		128	Supervision of weaver's Cooperative Society.		To ameliorate the economic conditions of the Handloom weavers.

APPELLATIONS OF MEMBERS. 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 Qaide-e-Azam by itself falls under this definition, and so far as I am aware it is not common practice to speak of Qaid-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. O. 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. O. 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

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	...	10	...	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	

	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. Active Bns	193 5	
	Garrison Bns.	4	8,000
	Trg. Unit	1	
RIASC.	MT. 86 GT. Coys.		83,500
	4 M.A. Sections		
	6 Tpt. Pls.		
	AT. 2,000 IORs.		
	Sups. 10,600 IORs.		
IEME.	Misc. Units		22,300
IAOC.	Do.		11,000
IPC.	14 Coys.		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 agriculturists?

(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 their 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. A. 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 VIOLENCE DURING DISTURBANCES

1313. **Shriwan 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 Kanara 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 Kanara 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 Vencatachellam 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.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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tion 11 of the pensions' Act, Section 800 (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. 731, 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 Abdoola 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 Saksena: (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;

(a) if it is a fact that the All-India Village Industries Research Centre at 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 based 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 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 of 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.

[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

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 runs 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. 300 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. 300 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 pie 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 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 Landholders 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 Lall 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-à-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:

AYES—67.

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.
 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.
 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. 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.
 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 Lal, 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.
 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.
 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.
 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 Ammu.
 Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
 Vadilal Lalubhai, Mr.
 Varma, Mr. B. B.
 Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.

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.)

The motion was adopted.

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 13 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 of 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 it.

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. Cassella, 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 Abdoolo Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rivali): 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 Murain 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 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 pointed out to 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 pias 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 should 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.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan 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 kerosen 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 8 1/2 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. I 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 umbrellas 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.]

ne 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 howling 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. J.
 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.
 Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
 Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
 Killedar, Mr. Mohammad M.
 Krishnama Acharya, Rao Bahadur Sir V. T.

Lawson, Mr. C. P.
 Liaquat Ali Khan, Nawabzada.
 Madandhari Singh, Mr.
 Mason, Mr. P.
 Mohammad Amir Ahmad Khan Bahadur Raja.
 Morris, Mr. B. C.
 Nairang, Syed Ghulam Bhik.
 Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
 Nauman Mr. Muhammad.
 Oulnam, 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.
 Siddique, 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 Lal, Diwan.
 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.
 Hans Raj, Raizada.
 Hirey, Sjt. B. S.
 Jagannathdas, Sri.
 Jhunjunwala, Mr. B. P.
 Jinachandran, Sri M. K.
 Jogendra Singh, Sirdar.
 Karmarkar, Shri D. P.
 Khan, Mr. Debendra Lal.
 Lahiri Choudhury, Sreejuti Dharendra Kanta.
 Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
 Mangal Singh, Sardar.
 The motion was adopted.

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.
 Vinchoorkar, Sardar N. G.

Mr. President: Clause 3. Does any member wish to move any amendment?

Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): Sir, I wish to move the amendment which stands in my name—No. 28 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

4 P. M. 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 less 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 said 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, 1898, proposed to be inserted by Clause 3 of the Bill, under the heading 'Registered Newspapers', the following 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 play-

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, 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 end:

"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, 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.
Habs 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.
Madandhari Singh, Mr.
Mahapatra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Mangal Singh, Sardar.

Manu Subedar, Mr.
Masani, Mr. M. B.
Menon, Sri A. Karunakara.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nagendranath.
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Narayanamurthi, Sri N.
Paliwal, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt.
Rama Narayan Singh, Babu.
Ramayan Prasad, Mr.
Ranga, Prof. N. G.
Reddier, Sri R. Venkatesubba.
Saksena, Shri Mohan Lal.
Salve, Mr. P. K.
Sanyal, Mr. Sankar Sahkar.
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 Ammu.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Vadilal Lallubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.
Vinchoorkar, Sardar N. G.

Abdullah, Hafiz Mohammad.
Abid Hussain, Choudhury Md.
Ahmad Ali Khan Alawze, Raja Sir Saiyid.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Anthony, Mr. Frank B.
Ayaz, Mr. G. 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.
Gwilt, Mr. Leslie.
Habibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Harendra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain.
Himmatsinghji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Inskip, Mr. A. G.
Ishaq Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
Ismail Khan, Bajee Chowdhury Mohammad.
Jeehani, Khan Bahadur Makhdum Al-Haj.
Syed Sheer Shah.
Jehangir, Sir Cowasjee.
Kara, Miss Maiben.
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.
Nayman, Mr. Muhammad.
Oulman, Mr. S. H. Y.
Rahmat-ullah, Mr. Muhammad.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Apoka.
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.
Tamestuddin Khan, Mr.
Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
Turner, Mr. A. C.
Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
Weightman, Mr. H.
Yeates, 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. 3 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.

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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 Abdoolah 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 28th 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 Lal: 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. Chakravarthi—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 Ohaman Lal: 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 Manmad 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 Manmad 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. Mann 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 Saxena: 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.

UTILIZATION 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 expenditure.

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 Gurunath 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 Abdoolah Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member the total amount lying unclaimed over a year with the post office?

Sir Gurunath 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 Gurunath 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 Gurunath 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.

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 Gurunath 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 E. Venkatasubba Reddier:** 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) Brahmmins, (ii) Non-Brahmins, and (iii) Muslims got promotions in the same period;

(e) the number and percentage of (i) Brahmmins, (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) Brahmmins—87,

(ii) Non-Brahmins (Hindus)—84,

(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) Brahmmins	6	26	12	70.5
(ii) Non-Brahmins (Hindus)	2	9	4	23.5
(iii) Muslims	1	4	N/A	N/A
(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, to run,

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 Phaphamau 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 Ohaman 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 Ohaman 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 Lalubhai: 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 Lalubhai: 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 Lalubhai?

Mr. H. Weightman: I am unable to understand that question.

RESTORATION OF TELEPHONE FACILITIES

1354. *Sri V. O. 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. O. 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. O. 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. O. 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)	3,30,702
(b) Jaunkunda	1,78,521
(c) Jambad Selected	1,11,988
(d) Pure Jambad	96,064
(e) Teetilmuri	1,64,345
(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) Teetilmuri, 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. H. 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 the 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 refer 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. 1855, 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.

Sri 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 arguing. 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

1899. *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 invalided due to T.B. or other lung diseases.

(e) The hours of work of all railway servants are being brought under one scale. As regards scales of pay, the matter will be examined in connection with the general question of postwar scales of pay.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Statement showing the number, grades of pay etc. of ordinary Telephone Operators and Telephone Operators in charge 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. 23—4—30 (old)	(P)		
	Rs. 40—42—45—5—60 (new)	2 (T)		
Calcutta	Grade III	2	Grade I	1
	Rs. 23—4—30 (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 THE GOVERNMENT

1891. *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 1918.

(b), (c) and (d). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the information given in my reply to starred question No. 876, on February 19th, 1946.

SELECTION OF CANDIDATES IN TELEGRAPH MASTERS EXAMINATION

1892. *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 form the criterion of selection, or was the same done according to facial expression?

(h) How many of such successful candidates are still awaiting promotion?

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. 506, 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 503 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 503 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

1365. *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 1943.

(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

haphazard 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.

1376. *Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (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 spectacle 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 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 Lall: 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 2279 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 transshipment 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-Muhammadian Urban): Sir, I move:

"That after sub-clause (1) of Clause 7 of the Bill, the following 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 pieces 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: Muhammadian 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 relife 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 Othttiar (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 Othttiar: 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 Othttiar: 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 2891 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 betel-nuts 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.

Sreejot 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 98 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 Canara—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 Canara 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 we

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar.]

have it from Government that as much as 1,00,000 acres of good rice land has 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 Rs. 12 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 urge that the wholesale reduction of the excise duty that is proposed in the present amendments should be carried out; the proposal before the House to reduce it 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 have had to stand have been to the tune of Rs. 150 per acre, on account of this 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, whatever 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 this year at least the whole of the tax should be remitted.

With these words I support the two amendments put forward by Mrs. Annau Swaminadhan.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West Coast and Nilgiris: Muhammadan). 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 public life. (An Honourable Member: Hear, hear.) Certain concessions which we 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 will 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 working, 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 pies, and also 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 relief. I will be satisfied for the present.

Mr. H. Greenfield: Sir, I must oppose both these amendments—32 and 36. 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 6 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 though 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 $1\frac{1}{4}$ 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 $1\frac{1}{4}$ 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-Muhammadan 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 weighment 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,

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 discussions which I have had with this gentleman and other gentlemen 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-Muhammadan 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 pies' 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 pies' 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 pie' 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 Arāmu 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.

Shri Satyanarayan Sinha (Darbhanga *cum* Saran: Non-Muhammadan): 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 (I 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 Lall (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): 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."

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

[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 assesses. 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-Muhammadan 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. 43 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 lending 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 4,900 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 damned 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 Lalubhai: 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 Chettiar: 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 not 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 Cowasjee 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 grew 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 antedeluvian 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. And 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-racial, and I have no quarrel with any one who says that India is multi-religious. There are at least two countries, two sub-continent, in the world which are

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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.

Srijut Dhirendra 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. If that 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 is 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

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can be fully realised, we have got to co-ordinate all these three elements, the wealth, the skill and the labour power and once we have co-ordinated them it will be possible for us not merely to find employment for every single individual living in this land but we shall find fruitful and constructive employment and we shall create a structure of which any one anywhere may be proud. If such a structure can be built up in this country, then you will find that all the discontent which proceeds on group or communal lines shall disappear because every one shall have an equal share in the wealth of the country. That is what we have in mind. That is our approach.

I think I have taken a good deal of the time of the House. I do not wish to say anything very much more although it is possible to touch upon the various points that have been raised in the course of the debate here. I am very sorely tempted to address myself to at least one point which was raised first by a member of my party and replied to by Dr. Ambedkar but for obvious reasons I would not like to tread on thorny ground. But I can say this much. I can hold out the sincerest assurance to Dr. Ambedkar and all those who follow him that we are as anxious as he can ever possibly be to raise that community to its proper status in the social structure of India. We want to do everything conceivable that lies in our power to see that they fill their proper role in the country which is theirs as much as anybody else's and therefore if sometimes we find that acrimonious discussions are started we can only feel sorry about it. The plan which is in our minds is obvious. The way to the realisation of our dreams unfortunately is not clear. It will be clear only when we actually take charge, (when I say 'we', I mean the people, because sovereignty must reside in the people) of the country that it will be possible for us to see that every one gets his due share and that nobody goes without his share. When I say everybody's share, I do not mean the preservation of the present state or structure of society at all. The whole world is undergoing a tremendous change, a new world has arisen, and we must proceed consistently with the dictates of the new consciousness that has arisen in the world. I say it is a new conscience, it is the realisation of this conscience which makes it possible for me to say that the negotiations which are likely to proceed in New Delhi ought to succeed, because I feel that it has become impossible for any country in the world today to rule over any other country. No country has a right to rule over any other country for it has no such moral right. If that is so, then all the theories of no transition of power without creating dislocation and without violence etc., must be laid to rest. Peaceful transition should be possible. I say it is possible. We must strain every nerve all of us who love our country, who have any deep seated profound desire to see this country to come into her own, must strain every nerve to see that we succeed now and we succeed peacefully, because, I fear the state of the world is such that if we do not succeed now, we do not know what may happen in the world. There may be a conflagration in the whole world. There are elements which lead one to believe that the political situation in the world today is terribly explosive. There is tension all over the world, and this tension may at any moment lead to the most disastrous results. India occupies strategically the most important place in this new landscape of the world. I am now looking at Russia geo-politically. Every one of us knows what that means. India alone is the pivot on which the peace of Asia can be based. The sooner India becomes free the better, the sooner every one feels that he has to live in this land, that he has got to stand by those who are now labouring under great disabilities round about, unless this feeling arise now in India and round about us, the world is in danger. It is not only from the point of view of the peace of India and of the rights of India, but it is from the point of view of the peace of the world and of the rights of the world that I must say that we must strain every nerve to see that we do succeed. This is all that I have to say on this subject. I need not go into other rigmatoles about financial complications which are better understood by the Finance Member or perhaps by my Honourable friends here or all over there.

Unfortunately while I know a little about politics, I do not pretend to know much about finance. I do not pretend to know anything about finance if that would please my friends. All that I know is that every time a penny is being taken out of my pocket, I want to know where and how it is going to be spent. I want to have a voice in determining its expenditure. And so long as we have not a voice in deciding how this is going to be spent, it is our duty, it is the duty of my Party to vote against the Finance Bill.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, on a point of information. The Congress does not accept India as multi-national, the Congress accepts India as one nation.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: Mr. Deputy President, I doubt if it was the Honourable the Finance Member who called the discussions on the Finance Bill as if they were made in a spirit of unreality. I called it a Grant Remonstrance and the time spent on it wastage. If any proof were needed, the speech we have listened to just now will convince you of the fact that we are talking tall and talking through our hat, beside the point, and in a meaningless manner. We all know that we are discussing the Finance Bill in this British Legislative Assembly, established in Delhi and that we are working under great handicaps and conditions not established by ourselves. That there were votable and non-votable items was not unknown to us. The Budgets presented in the past by a series of Finance Members were mostly not in the interests of our country and yet we all gathered together from every corner of India to discuss them to vote or abstain from voting on them in the *natak* or the theatre of the Central Legislative Assembly. Knowing all that, to come and talk to us in the way they have been taking today makes me sad. I wish the Honourable the Leader of the Opposition had seen to it that homilies were not preached to the Muslims of India by people who had ceased to co-operate with them. The Honourable Member who preceded me began to talk of things from 1927. May I claim an addition of 20 years to that period? I talk of the period from 1907 till today during which I have been engaged in the process of bringing Hindus and Muslims together. The Honourable the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party was then engaged otherwise in work not altogether of a type that would bring Hindus and Muslims together. To come and teach us about internationalism and how to make common cause with others prove to me that my predecessor in the debate does not know the a, b, c of the Muslim mind. The old adage seems to have gone deeper in his veins than in those of any other Muslim. He seems to have forgotten the very *raison d'être* of the Muslims in this country or in the world. Mr. Deputy President, I wish that that speech had not been delivered at all. We all understand the situation as it is today. To suggest that the decision to throw out the Finance Bill, was not dictated, is again a colossal unreality. The humbug that was talked here today will not create the atmosphere which it is our duty to create if we wish to succeed. Sir, that sentence made my blood boil when it was stated: "Present your sheet of grievances for us to examine." Sir, I have attended Unity conferences year after year, perhaps 20 or 30 years. I have forgotten the actual number. I was also present in London on the occasion of the Round Table Conferences, and speaking as a Muslim before God and man I will say that Indian unity was thwarted, sabotaged and undermined by gentlemen belonging to the nationalist group and their predecessors. It was sometimes the Hindu minority in Bengal and it was sometimes the Sikhs in the Punjab; and every time we made concession after concession they wanted more and more concessions. I have urged more than a hundred times in my political life that I do not wish to submit any list of grievances for them to pick holes in. "Will you kindly give me the terms on which you will allow me to stay in this country?" Not one from the highest to the lowest had the courage to give me those terms, for they knew that the case of the Muslim was perfect and iron bound; they knew that what he was demanding was just and reasonable. But that peculiar mentality which Brahmanical philosophy of life has evolved, that peculiar mentality hidebound by its caste system has no room for the Muslim in the structure of society in India that it visualises.

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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 milleniums and milleniums 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 Daghistan, 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 Brahmans 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 Lallubhai: 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 I will not divulge secrets, but the prophet not being known in his own village I 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 Mahatmaj 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. Vaddai Lalubhai 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 happen 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, Hafez Mohammad.
 Ashraf Hussain, Khushali Md.
 Ahmad Ali Khan, Raja Sir Saiyid.
 Ambedkar, Dr. B. R.
 Anthony, Mr. P. R.
 Ayer, Mr. C. W.
 Ahmad Hussain, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
 Banerjee, Mr. B. N.
 Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
 Bewoor, Sir Gurunath.
 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.
 Himmatnigji, 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 B. H.
 Jeelani, Khan Bahadur Makhdom Al-Haj.
 Syed Sher Shah.
 Jehangir, Sir Owasejee.
 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.
 Ouhnam, 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.
 Siddique, Shaikh Rafiuddin Ahmad.
 Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
 Solanki, Dr. F. G.
 Spence, Sir George.
 Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
 Stokes, Mr. H. G.
 Tamsuddin Khan, Mr.
 Thorne, The Honourable Sir John.
 Turner, Mr. A. C.
 Tyson, Mr. Geoffrey W.
 Weightman, Mr. H.
 Yeatts, Mr. M. W. M.
 Yusuf Abdool Harees, Sen.
 Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.
 Zia Uddin Ahmad, Dr. Sir.

NOES—57

Gadgil, Sjt. N. V.
 Gangaraja, Sri V.
 Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
 Gole, Mr. P. B.
 Gotadar, Sjt. V. G. Vallagiri.
 Govind Das, Seth.
 Hans Raj, Raja.
 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.

Abdul Ghani Khan, Khan.
 Adityan, Sri S. T.
 Asaf Ali, Mr. M.
 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.
 Dashmukh, Dr. G. V.

[28TH MAR. 1946]

Lahiri Choudhury, Sreejot Dhirendra Kanta.
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.
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 Narayana.
Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Sukhdev Seth.
Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader
Sardar.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Ammu.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Vadilal Lalubhai, Mr.
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 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-Muhammadan 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 Lal (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): 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 Lal: 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 cyclo-style machines and so on have not got out of order.

Diwan Chaman Lal: Let them be postponed for another week.

Mr. A. C. Turner (Government of India: Non-Muhammadan 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 Lal: 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 migration as a means of infusing 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, Govt. 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. 13,837 in 1944-45 and Rs. 6,208-14-0 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.
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).
13. Mr. Gurusharan Lal
(Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce).
14. Mr. Fazalbhoi I. Rahimtoola, C.I.E., J.P.
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. Hussainbhoi A. Lalljee.

Representatives of Producers and Land-lord.

Representative of Chambers of Commerce.

Representatives of Trade.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

- | | | |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| 21. Mr. G. D. Pari (Impl. Bank). | } | Representatives of Bank. |
| 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. | | |
| 25. Mr. Narayan Iyer. | } | States Representatives. |
| 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. | | |
| 30. Dewan Bahadur Sir Gopaldaswami Ayyangar, C.S.I., C.I.E. | } | Leaders of Public Opinion. |
| 31. Hon'ble Pandit H. N. Kunzru. | | |
| 32. Sir Shanmugasami Chetty, K.C.I.E. | | |
| 33. Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, M.L.A. | | |
| 34. Mr. Naville Wadia. | | |
| 35. Sir Madhorao G. Deshpande. | } | Women's Representatives. |
| 36. N. R. Sarkar, Esq. | | |
| 37. Begum J. A. Shah Nawaz, M.B.E. | } | Labour Representative. |
| 38. Rani Phul Kumari (of Sherkot), M.B.E. | | |
| 39. Prof. G. D. Parikh, | } | Representative of Trade. |
| 40. Mr. N. C. Mehta. | | |

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, viz., 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.

Spejnt 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. R. 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. R. 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. R. 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 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. R. 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. R. 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. R. 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 3/3½ 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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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 Pheroz 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 3½ 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 Ohaman Lall: 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 Abdoola 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:

- if Government are aware that the Regional Food Commissioner, North West Region, has always been a European Officer; if so, the reasons therefor;
- 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;
- the experience, if any, in matters of food of the present incumbent and his immediate predecessor;
- the reasons for preferring military officers for this post;
- if Government are aware that the present incumbent has no knowledge at all of Indian diet, and eating habits, etc.;
- the pay of the present incumbent and his immediate predecessor; and
- 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:

- 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;
- 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;
- the average quantity of wheat that was produced from these lands; and
- 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:

- how many tons of molasses in the various Sugar Factories in India are utilised for by-products;
- how many tons of it are not utilised for useful purposes;
- whether Government have any scheme to utilise the same for useful purposes; and
- 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 Abdoela 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 Abdoela 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 Lall: 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 Lall: 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 ON CERTAIN MALABAR PRODUCTS

1403. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Minister please state if it is a fact that Malabar products, such as timber, rubber, coconut, tiles, etc., were being exported in country crafts to various centres a long time past?

(b) Is it a fact that up to 1942 there were no restrictions on the export of rubber 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 are allowed to execute a continuity bond on a Rs. 10 stamp paper which is as 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 his 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 as 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 DATE 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. Oulsnam: (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. Oulsnam: 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-Divisions 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 promote 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 Ghafar .	11-2-1942	B.Sc., Civil Engineering (Edin.).	.....
9	„ Mohd. Shafi .	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. Oulnam: (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 vice 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 offices 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.

1422. 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

133. 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—112231 acres, Deccan—152971 acres, Karnatak—80090 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 Viceroyal 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. 5,16,000 under the head 'Railway Board' was under consideration the last session, and Mr. Ayyangar was speaking at that time.

Mr. A. C. 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. C. 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 92 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. C. 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, I would like a ruling from you as to whether this is a supplementary grant or an excess grant.

Mr. A. C. 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 82, 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 3 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. O. 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 than 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

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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. 6,90,00,000 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. O. 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 out 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.
Chatterjee, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Choudhuri, Sreejot Rohini Kumar.
Daga, Seth Sheodass.
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. Kameswara.
Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Nageswarasetti.
Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava, Pandit.
Navayanamurthi, 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 Amma.
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.
Azizul Huque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Banerjee, Mr. R. N.
Benthall, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Bewoor, Sir Gurnath.
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.
Habib 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 Makhdum Al-Haj Syed Sher Shah.
Kharegat, Sir Pheroze.
Krishnama Acharya, 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. O. 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. O. 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. 6-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. 6-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. 6-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 Saxena: 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 Saxena: 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 Saxena: I got this at 12 o'clock last night.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar (South Arcot *cum* Chingleput: Non-Muhammadan 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 Saxena: 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 Saxena: "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."

3 P.M.

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

"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. Karmarkar]

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 6G. Provision of Rs. 6,00,000

Mr. P. B. Gole (Berar: Non-Muhammadan): 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.

Sjt. 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 83 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. O. 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. O. 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 Government to be clear on that point.

Mr. A. O. 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. O. 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. O. 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. C. 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. C. 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. C. 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. C. 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 cut 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. of the 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, I 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 Governments 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 93 Government!

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: Yes, Section 93. 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 had 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. F. 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. 1,500. In these circumstances I do not understand why the Central Government have come with this demand for Rs. 5,73,000 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. F. 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 Wa 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 any thing; 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. O. 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. O. 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. O. 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. O. 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.
Chaudhuri, Sreejunt 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.
Jeelani, 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 Dhirendra 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.
Reddiar, 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 Rafuddin Ahmad.
Siddiqi, Mr. Abdur Rahman.
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.
Vijaya Ananda, Maharajkumar Dr. Sir.
Vinchoorkar, Sardar N. G.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS, 1945-46—RAILWAYS

3197

NOES—38.

Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee, Raja Sir Saiyid.
Ambedkar, The Honourable Dr. B. R.
Azizul Hque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Banerjee, Mr. B. 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.
Griffiths, Mr. P. J.
Gwillt, Mr. Laddie.
Harandra Singh, Sardar Bahadur Captain
Sardar.
Himmatainji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F.
Hydari, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Kharagat, Sir Pheroza.
Kishanrao Acharya, Rao Bahadur Sir V. T.
Lawton, Mr. C. P.

Mason, Mr. P.
Morris, Mr. R. C.
Naqvi, Mr. A. T.
Quisnam, Mr. S. H. Y.
Rangachari, Mr. M. V.
Roy, The Honourable Sir Asoka.
Rowlands, The Honourable Sir Archibald.
Sargent, Sir John.
Sen, Mr. B. B.
Sharbat Khan, Khan Bahadur.
Solanki, Dr. P. G.
Spence, Sir George.
Sri Chand, Chaudhri.
Stokes, Mr. H. G.
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.

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-Muhammadan):
May I suggest that the House do adjourn now and that the other supplementary demands may be taken up tomorrow?

The Honourable Mr. Deputy President: The House has no objection and take it as an urgent business motion 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 the 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 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 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 Haque (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 Haque: 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 Allowance 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-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

[Shri Mohan Lal Saksena]

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. 263 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. 263 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. 263 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 the 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 that 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

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

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 word 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 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

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

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 increased 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. Mansubdar. 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 to increase the salary four times. The price index is changing. It is 305 today 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 135.

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 food-stuffs. 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

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

[30TH MAR. 1946]

[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 Lal (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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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 13 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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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 Lal: 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 93 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 93 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 flings 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. 263 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]

Now, 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: So, 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 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 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.

Sjt. N. W. 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 1924 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 "Howlands 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 amendment motions 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 cut 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 this

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: £3,500!

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 employees 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 "*loot 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 Saksena 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 add the remarks of my Honourable friends Mr. Manu Subedar and Diwan Chaman. I have 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 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 as 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 dearness or living allowance?

Mr. Vadlal 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 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 on a pension which, after he had paid English income-tax, will be reduced in the next few years to about Rs. 650 or 700 a month. Such are the plums of office.

DEMANDS FOR SALARIES

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: Mohammadan 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 £800 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 314 which defines the scope of the Secretary of State's control over the 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

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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 repair 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 300 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. Vadilal Lalubhai: 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

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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 he 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 should 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 reduce 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 the demand by the figure which the Finance Member may give as regards allowance to people drawing more than Rs. 1,000.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I cannot obviously produce 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 must stop it in future, and also not pay two crores of rupees which Government is 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. 32 lakh.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like to substitute the amendment 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 objection would be met if we reduce this grant by Rs. 100, because after the amendment it now only amounts to a token cut. Therefore I move:

3. P. M. would be met if we reduce this grant by Rs. 100, because after the amendment 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): This amendment 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 an 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. 14,99,900 in respect of 'Customs' be reduced by Rs. 100."

The Assembly divided:

Abul Hamid Shah, Maulvi.
Abd Hussain Choudhury Md.
Aryan, Sri S. T.
Ali, Mr. M.
Ayyangar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam.
Benerjee, Sree Satyapriya.
Chandra, Shri Sarat Chandra.
Diwan, Lall.
Dutt, Sri T. A. Ramalingam.
Gudhuri, Sreejuti Rohini Kumar.
Ghosh, Seth Sheodass.
Hodder Swaroop, Sjt. Seth.
Joshi, Mr. G. B.
Khan, Dr. G. V.
Kilgill, Sjt. N. V.
Kumar, Sri V.
Kumar, Sri Shankar Saran Singh, Mr.
Kumar, Mr. P. B.
Kumar, Das, Seth.
Kumar, Bibur Rahman, Khan Bahadur.
Kumar, Raj, Raisada.
Kumar, Ramatsinhji, Col. Kumar Shri.
Kumar, Sjt. B. S.
Kumar, Seth, Haji Abdus Sattar Haji.
Kumar, Mr. Ahmed E. H.
Kumar, Annathadas, Sri.
Kumar, Khan Bahadur Makhdom Al-Haj.
Kumar, Syed Sher Shah.
Kumar, Anjhum, Mr. B. P.
Kumar, Chandra, Sri M. K.
Kumar, Miss Maniben.
Kumar, Markar, Shri D. P.
Kumar, Mr. Debendra Lal.
Kumar, Mr. Mohammad M.
Kumar, Choudhury, Sriji Dhirendra Kanta.
Kumar, Ali Khan Nawabzada.
Kumar, Sandhari Singh, Mr.
Kumar, Patra, Sri Bhagirathi.
Kumar, 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.
Siddique, Shaikh Rafuddin Ahmad.
Sinha, Shri Satya Narayan.
Sri Prakasa, Shri.
Sukhdev, Seth.
Surjit Singh Majithia, Squadron Leader.
Sardar.
Swaminadhan, Shrimati Amma.
Tamizuddin Khan, Mr.
Thakur Das Bhargava, Pandit.
Vadilal Lalubhai, Mr.
Varma, Mr. B. B.
Yamin Khan, Sir Muhammad.
Yusuf Abdoola Haroon, Seth.
Zafar Ali Khan, Maulana.

NOES—31.

Subedar, The Honourable Dr. B. B.
Haque, The Honourable Dr. Sir M.
Benerjee, Mr. B. N.
Chandra, The Honourable Sir Edward.
Gururath, Sir Gururath.
Kacharya, Rai Bahadur Devendra.
Mohan.
Batterjee, Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C.
Kumar, Mr. B. C. A.
Kumar, Mr. H.
Kumar, Mr. Leslie.
Kumar, Mr. M. A. F.
Kumar, The Honourable Sir Akbar.
Kumar, Sir Pheroze.
Kumar, Mr. C. P.
Kumar, 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. B.
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. 14,99,900 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.

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 bandicoots 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 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 far 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. 3—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.

DEMAND 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. 8 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."

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS FOR 1945-46

Ordinarily I would have moved a cut of Rs. 100 only but because the 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 honour, 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 or 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 enquires, 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 Gurnath 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 presidentship 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 Subscribers 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 matters 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 Gurnath 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 Chaman Lal: If there is increased business, what is the necessity for retrenchment?

Sir Gurnath 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 Lall: 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 Lall 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 Allahabad 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 send 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. H. 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 tribes 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 up your car in the garage. Everybody is getting good price in the 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 wife 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 off."

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. 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 induct 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 English and 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 bureaus 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 bureaus 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 bureaus 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 bureaus 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 bureaus 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 bureaus; 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 bureaus 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. C. 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 Tatas what staff they need to put their scheme into operation and they will offer to train that staff if Tatas 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. C. 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. C. 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. C. 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 Selection

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. C. 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. C. F. V. Williams: There are 14,000 Indian applicants.

Diwan Chaman Lall: No English officer applying?

Mr. C. 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-

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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 number of the candidates have put in applications, one would think, without regard to the regulations. Anyway about one-third of them are not eligible under those 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 old 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 if 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. 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 method before the House is entirely different and that is, whether the appointment is 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, 1946, 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.

DEMAND No. 30—AUDIT

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. 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. 29,59,000 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 '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.

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, 1946, 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 Piplođa'."

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'."

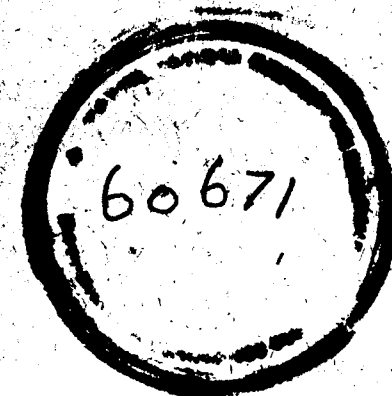
The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 1st April, 1946.

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