

THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

Official Report

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(*16th April to 18th April, 1946*)

FIRST SESSION

OF THE

SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1946



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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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THE HONOURABLE MR. G. V. MAVALANKAR.

Deputy President :

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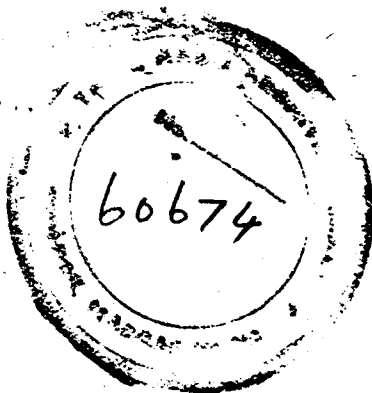
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 16th April, 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

MUSLIM SIGNAL INSPECTORS ON B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY, METER GAUGE

1824. *Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please refer to his reply to starred question No. 203 asked by Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi in the Legislative Assembly on the 24th February, 1944, in which he gave the Muslim representation in the Signal Department of the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Meter Gauge, as follows?

	Total posts	Held by Muslims
Assistant Signal Engineer	2	..
Chief Signal Inspector	6	1
Signal Inspectors	9	Nil
Assistant Signal Inspectors.	15	Nil
	<u>32</u>	<u>1</u>

(b) How many Apprentice Signal Inspectors have been recruited since the above reply was given, and how many of them are Muslims?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Government are informed that on the Metre Gauge system of the B. B. and C. I. Railway two Apprentice Assistant Signal Inspectors have been appointed since February, 1944, of whom one is a Muslim.

RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIM APPRENTICE SIGNAL INSPECTORS ON B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY, METER GAUGE

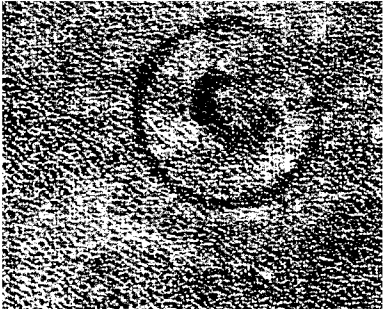
1825. *Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state the total strength of Assistant Signal Engineers, Chief Signal Inspectors, Signal Inspectors and Sub-Assistant Signal Inspectors on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Broad Gauge, and how many posts in each designation are filled by Muslims?

(b) Is it a fact (i) that there is only one Muslim Signal Inspector on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Broad and Meter Gauge Systems, (ii) that this Signal Inspector was appointed in 1935, and (iii) that all appointments of Signal Inspectors, made after 1935, were filled by Non-Muslims?

(c) If the reply to (b) above is in the affirmative, what steps were taken by the Railway to recruit Muslim Apprentice Signal Inspectors after 1935?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table of the House a statement which gives the required information.

(b) Government are informed that there are two Muslim Signal Inspectors on the Broad Gauge system of the B. B. and C. I. Railway, including one on temporary transfer from the Meter Gauge. These posts are filled not by



direct recruitment but by promotion, which is not made on communal considerations. The two Muslim Inspectors are working as such from 1936 and 1937.

(c) The practice on the B., B. and C. I. Railway hitherto has been to select suitable men as Apprentices from among the permanent or temporary staff. The question of modifying the practice to provide for the recruitment of Muslims is under examination in consultation with the General Manager, B., B. and C. I. Railway.

Statement showing the total strength and the number of Muslim Assistant Signal (English), Chief Signal Inspectors, Signal Inspectors and Sub-Assistant Signal Inspectors on the B. B. and C. I. Railway.

	Designation	Total number	Number of Muslims
1	Assistant Signal Engineers	3	...
2	Chief Signal Inspectors	3	...
3	Signal Inspectors	22	...
4	Assistant Signal Inspectors	8	...
5	Sub-Assistant Signal Inspectors	9	...

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In regard to part (ii), the Honourable Member said that there are two. What is the total strength?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid I cannot lay my hand on the figure without wasting time. I will let the Honourable Member know when he wishes.

RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIM APPRENTICE SIGNAL INSPECTORS ON B., B. & C. I. RAILWAY, METRE GAUGE

1826. *Hafiz Mohammad Abdullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please refer to unstarred question No. 210 asked by Qazi Mohammad Ahmad Kazmi in the Legislative Assembly on the 29th March, 1944, and state what steps were taken by the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway to attract suitable Muslim candidates for the posts of Apprentice Signal Inspectors which fell vacant since 1935?

(b) What are the minimum educational qualifications for the recruitment of Apprentice Signal Inspectors?

(c) How many Apprentice Signal Inspectors have been recruited on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, both Meter Gauge and Broad Gauge Systems, since 1935, and what are their educational qualifications?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) In view of the practice regarding the appointment of Apprentice Signal Inspectors as explained in the reply to para (c) of the preceding question, the question of applying the orders regarding direct recruitment does not arise. As I have said, however, the matter is being pursued with the railway administration. This railway was under company-management prior to 1942.

(b) The Honourable Member is referred to rule 37(b) of the rules for recruitment and training of subordinate staff as contained in Appendix A of the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(c) I have called for the information and a reply will be laid on the table of the House in due course.

GOVERNMENT EXPENSE ON AMENITIES TO MR. GANDHI ON HIS MISSION TO BENGAL, ASSAM, MADRAS AND BOMBAY

1827. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state the approximate expense to Government for supplying Mr. Gandhi with special trains, loud speakers and other amenities during his recent mission to Bengal, Assam, Madras and Bombay?

(b) Were these amenities supplied at the special request of Mr. Gandhi and the Congress High Command?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). Railways have recovered charges at public tariff rates for such special trains as have been run for Mr. Gandhi's travels by rail and therefore no 'net' expenditure has been incurred. No loud speakers or other special amenities were provided for him by the railways.

BURNING OF RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI

1828. *Mr. Muhammad Rahamat-Ullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please lay on the table of the House a statement about the burning of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office, Delhi?

(b) Is it a fact that out of the three garages only one, in which record was kept, was burnt?

(c) Has the Honourable Member investigated that outsiders could not reach the Record Rooms of the main building unless they were directed by the clerks of the office?

(d) Will the Honourable Member lay on the table of the House a report written by the Director of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office about the burning of the Office?

(e) Did the Director of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office issue any instructions to the staff for the restoration of the records and the manner of work?

(f) How many temporary hands are working in the office and how many of them have been discharged on account of lack of work?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) No. Out of six garages, five have been burnt. One of these five contained records.

(c) The Record rooms have not been burnt. The question does not, therefore, arise.

(d) A copy of the first report sent by the Director, Railway Clearing Accounts Office, is placed on the table of the House.

(e) Yes. Necessary instructions were issued from time to time.

Certain staff have also been sent to stations and other offices to obtain the necessary papers for reconstructing such records as are considered necessary.

(f) The number of temporary clerks working in the office is as under.

(i) Against permanent posts	284
(ii) Against temporary posts	821

Total 1,105

Number of men discharged 36

(These were all overage re-employed men)

Statement

At about 3.15 p.m. on the 7th March, 1946, the Care-taker of the Railway Clearing Accounts Office received information on the telephone from the Supervisor, Food, of the same office, stationed at Sadar Building, that a mob had set fire to the Dak Shed in Sadar. The

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

Care-taker collected a few of the inferior staff and despatched them to the Sadar Building. On the way they met a mob of about 500 to 600 persons proceeding towards the Clearing Accounts Office, so they returned to inform the Care-taker, who straightaway phoned up the Subzimandi Police station and requested them to send armed police immediately to protect the Office. The Assistant Care-taker was also mobilized as many as possible of the inferior staff who are residing in the attached quarters. The office was, of course, closed as the 7th March was a public holiday.

Before the police could arrive, the mob had reached the Office, and in spite of all efforts at persuasion by the Care-taker and his men started the fire and soon both the buildings were completely ablaze. The Care-taker made attempts to contact the fire-brigade on the phone but could get no response from them.

The mob reached the office at about 4 p.m. and left after about half an hour. The police reached the office at about 5 p.m. The N. W. Railway Fire-brigade was able to come at about 9 p.m. but could do nothing.

The total loss is estimated at 7½ lakhs.

The matter is being investigated both by the Police and a special officer, appointed by the Chief Commissioner, whose reports are awaited.

Copy of Report No. Fire/1, dated 8th March, 1946.

The first time I heard about the Fire in my office was at 6 o'clock yesterday afternoon when I was in New Delhi and happened to phone up my house. I understood then that reports had been received from the Railway Clearing Accounts Office that it was burning as a result of having been set on fire by a mob. I reported this to you over the telephone and then proceeded to the office. By the time I reached the office, Messrs. T. S. Subramanian, Deputy Director, Dina Nath Marwaha Assistant Accounts Officer and Barkat Ali Headclerk and a few others were there. I went round the buildings and found that they were burning vigorously. The main halls of both the N. W. Railway and C. P. W. D. buildings were burning so vigorously that there was no prospect of any of the records in them being saved. But before I came in, the Headclerk and the Caretaker with a few of the staff seem to have taken very prompt measures to bring out as much of the records as possible from the Administration and the Establishment Sections. I may mention that of the records that were taken out was a steel admirah containing P. I. Ledgers. Successful efforts were made yesterday night to check the spread of the fire to one of the old record rooms of C. P. W. D. block. So far as the old record room of the N. W. Railway Block is concerned, special efforts were made to shield the wood work in the doors and windows with bricks. Before I left, the Senior Deputy Director Mr. Mobin Khan and Mr. Hafizullah Assistant Director also reached the office.

Efforts were made by Mr. Subramanian and Mr. Dina Nath to contact the Police and the Fire Brigade without much immediate success. Some Police came down later and I understand the N. W. Railway Fire Brigade also made a visit. I left the office at about 8.45 p.m. and after reaching home telephoned to you again. The Police turned up, I understand at about 9 p.m. and the Deputy Directors, Assistant Director and the Assistant Accounts Officer left soon after. The Headclerk Mr. Barkat Ali remained in the office for the night.

I visited the office again this morning at about 6.30 and was there for about an hour. I went round and saw the state of destruction of the buildings by the fire which was still smouldering. Practically the entire roof of the main halls of both the N. W. Railway and C. P. W. D. blocks had come down by then and some portions were still falling. The walls were badly cracked and appeared to be in a dangerous condition. I went over to the Delhi Sadar buildings to see the damage done to the Dak Shed, the destruction of which by fire was reported to me by the Supervisor yesterday evening. This is a small tin shed and appears to have been entirely destroyed. I went to the Grainshop and understood from the Supervisor that there was no trouble during the night. He, however, reported yesterday night over the telephone that there was some trouble during the day but was quite successfully staved off.

When I reached home I learnt from a peon there that both you and the Financial Commissioner, Railways had come over to inspect the scene of fire. I came to the office again but found that you had already left.

I met you in your office afterwards and reported to you also in person the state of affairs.

The Branch Officers have been asked to arrange with the supervisory staff that the records staff that were saved may be properly sorted out and listed. I have also asked the supervisory staff to assess the loss of the current record destroyed by fire and the Branch Officers to suggest how best to meet the situation.

Such of the clerical staff as were required for sorting and listing have been retained and the other clerical staff have been sent home with the instructions that they need come only on Monday.

ABOLITION OF RAILWAY CLEARING ACCOUNTS OFFICE, DELHI

†1829. *Mr. Muhammad Rahmat-Ullah: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the Railway Clearing Accounts Office was burnt thrice?

(b) Is it a fact that the Retrenchment Committee in 1931 recommended the abolition of this Office?

(c) In view of the fact that all Railways have been purchased by the State, why is this office being kept?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) There was a small fire in the Railway Clearing Accounts Office in July 1940. The portion of the office located on Queen's Road was burnt in August 1942, and again practically the whole office was burnt down on 7th March 1946.

(b) The Retrenchment Committee did not recommend the abolition of the office, but recommended that its cost should be reduced by at least one lakh.

(c) I lay on the table a statement showing the reasons for retaining this office.

Statement

The Railway Clearing Accounts is responsible for (1) checking the accounts rendered by stations of traffic received from or booked to other railway systems, (2) compilation of statistical information in regard to such traffic, (3) adjusting with Military Accounts Authorities the charges in respect of military traffic, (4) preparing certain statistics for Civil Authorities like rail borne trade statistics, (5) apportioning receipts between carrying railways, (6) working out the share of receipts of worked lines, where traffic passes over such lines.

There can be no question as to the necessity of these items of work. There will have to be done in any case whether in a central office like the Railway Clearing Accounts Office or in the Accounts Offices of individual railways. The necessity exists of apportioning receipts between carrying railways after their acquisition by the Government. There can be no proper financial control over Railway finances unless both the receipts and expenditure of each railway are known separately. Further more if the work is decentralised the extra recurring expenditure on the basis of present scales of pay and allowances will be between 4 and 5 lakhs per annum.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIANS ON RAILWAY BOARD

1830. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state: whether Government propose to appoint suitable Indians either from their own Railways or other Railways, even though they may not be the senior most when further vacancies occur in the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: On the assumption that the Honourable Member is referring to posts of Members of the Railway Board, Government will continue to fill these appointments by the selection of the most suitable persons available on the Railways. They cannot undertake to make selections on the basis of race or community.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Will the Honourable Member State why senior officers who are Indians have been superseded by junior officers who are Europeans in the matter of appointment in the Railway Board?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I have frequently explained these are selection posts, though naturally the men are selected from the senior men on the railways, but seniority is not the deciding factor in any case.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that a most junior man, namely Mr. Hall, has been appointed General Manager of the North Western Railway, superseding many Indians?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That does not arise out of the question.

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

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that in the appointment of Mr. D'Souza in the Railway Board many senior and competent Indians were superseded?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should have to look up the facts. That was some time ago.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that in the case of Dr. Nicholls again Indians were superseded?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Both Europeans and Indians were not selected.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it the Railway Board's policy to supersede Indians?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. It is not a question of supersession but one of selection.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: How then, Sir, does it happen that Mr. Rowlerston was taken to the Railway Board when there are other seniors before him?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I explained yesterday, and the day before, and the day before that, he was the most suitable man for the post.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not on account of his seniority?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is a question of selection in the case of these posts. Naturally the selection is made from the more senior men and the most suitable man is chosen.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In the four or five instances that have been given, Indians have been superseded in all these cases.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have with me, as it so happens, eleven cases in which Indians are replacing Europeans in senior posts on the railways, but there is no complaint that Europeans are being superseded.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is there a single case of a General Manager who is an Indian superseding a European?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think so.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I would like to insist on an answer.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Mr. Bhandarkar has been selected as General Manager of the B. A. Railway and senior European officers have been passed by, but I would like to make quite certain of my facts.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that Sir Guthrie Russell, who was a most junior person in the service, was shot into the Railway Board, superseding a large number of Europeans?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: He was brought into the Railway Board from the post of General Manager on the G. I. P. Railway, which is a senior post.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Was he made General Manager of the Railway when he was a most junior person on the service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am unable to speak of his seniority at that stage. But he was certainly young when he was appointed General Manager.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Was he so young that he had to be kept for four years before being raised to a higher post?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should like to have notice to reply to things that happened fifteen years ago.

CHANGE OF CONDITIONS OF SELECTION AFTER ISSUE OF PERMITS TO APPEAR AT POSTAL INSPECTORS' EXAMINATION

†1831. *Sjt. B. S. Hiray: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether at the time of issuing permit to Postal clerks to appear for the examination of Postal Inspectors in the year 1943, the condition was, that those candidates who stand highest in order of merit up to the number required will be selected by the Heads of Circles for appointment as Inspectors and Head Clerks to Superintendents;

(b) whether it is a fact that after the issue of permits, this condition was changed, and that selection from among those who had secured passing marks was substituted, thus shutting the prospects of those who may be sure of qualifying but not sure of coming top-most; and

(c) if the reply to (b) be in the affirmative, whether Government propose to issue orders cancelling the results of this examination and holding a fresh examination allowing those who did not offer for examination (under old condition of competition) chances to appear; if not, why not?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The reply is in the affirmative in respect of five Postal Circles but in the negative for the remaining three Circles.

(b) The position is not entirely as stated. The change made was the introduction of a Selection Board in order to select the candidates on the basis of certain essential qualities required of an Inspector of Post Offices, thus ensuring that the best men available would be selected.

(c) No.

TIFFIN ROOM AND RECREATION ROOM AT AHMEDNAGAR HEAD-POST OFFICE

†1832. *Sjt. B. S. Hiray: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of permanent staff of the Ahmednagar Head Post Office;

(b) the dimension of the Tiffin Room provided by the Department for the staff referred to in (a) in the Post Office compound;

(c) whether it is a fact that this Tiffin Room is also to be shared by the Telephone Exchange staff as a Retiring Room;

(d) whether plans for construction of additional accommodation to serve as Tiffin Room, etc., were approved and funds provided and subsequently withheld; and

(e) if the reply to (d) be in the affirmative whether the Postal Department propose to remove the grievances of the staff for a Tiffin Room and also provide a Recreation Room; if so, when?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The total number of permanent staff is about 60.

(b) There is no tiffin room at present.

(c) The position is not as stated. In fact, the rest room provided for the Telephone Operators has been permitted to be used as a tiffin room by the postal staff.

(d) Yes.

(e) Yes. Plans and estimates have been drawn up for the construction of a tiffin room for the clerks and one for the inferior staff, and the work is intended to be carried out during the current year. No recreation room is contemplated at present.

POSTAL SUB-DIVISIONAL INSPECTOR'S EXAMINATION, BOMBAY PROVINCE

†1833. *Sjt. B. S. Hiray: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

- the number of candidates who appeared for the Postal Sub-Divisional Inspector's Examination in the Bombay Province held in the year, 1943;
- the total number of successful candidates;
- the names of the first ten successful candidates according to merit; and
- the names of clerks who have been selected and brought on the 'Waiting List' of Postal Inspectors with their numbers according to merit in the examination?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) 162.

- 45 officials obtained qualifying marks in the examination.
- The information required is not readily available. I may add that this is now a qualifying and not a competitive examination.
- Three officials were selected in the following order:
 - Mr. P. C. Sahiyar.
 - Mr. S. M. Pandit.
 - Mr. S. Z. I. Nagamia.

CLAIM FOR IMPORT OF GERMAN MACHINES FOR GROWTH OF OPTICAL AND SPECTACLE GLASSES MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

†1834. *Sjt. B. S. Hiray: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

- whether there is any industry in India manufacturing optical and spectacle glasses;
- if it is a fact that Indian imports of optical and spectacle glasses were from Germany;
- whether it is a fact that the German Industry is being curtailed and destroyed;
- whether it is a fact that all the German drawings, models, manufacturing processes and techniques and machinery are being removed and shared by the Allied Nations;
- whether Government have made any special claim, for importing German machines for the growth of such industry in India, for the Allied Nations; and
- what steps Government propose to take for the establishment in India of this Industry?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) So far as Government are aware there are no firms manufacturing spectacle lenses in this country.

(b) Yes, Sir. Germany was an important source, though not the principal source.

(c) and (d). Government have no information except that one optical and mechanical instrument plant and one optical factory are ready for delivery from Germany.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The Government of India have 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.

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

DELEGATION TO BRITAIN AND UNITED STATES re EXPORTS OF RAW HIDES AND SKINS

1835. *Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to an A.P.A. news item under the caption "Another Trade Delegation to U. K." in the *Hindustan Times*, page 5, column 5, dated the 25th March, 1946;

(b) if it is a fact that two delegations are to be sent to Britain and United States for studying trade conditions at first hand in raw skins and hides; if so, when these proposals were made and approved;

(c) if it is a fact that "the South Indian Skins and Hides Association" has declined to join the delegation as it is opposed to export of raw skins and hides; and

(d) if Government propose to persist on sending the delegations even after this House has expressed its opinion against the exports of raw skins and hides during the debate on demands for grants recently; if so, the reasons for it?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) I have seen the news item referred to by the Honourable Member.

(b) No Sir, Government are sending no delegations. Government have agreed to render to two purely non-official parties, one representing merchants dealing with the export and internal trade in raw hides and skins and the other representing the leather and tanning industry, the ordinary type of assistance which Government have given and are prepared to give to any Indian businessman desiring to proceed abroad to study the latest developments in technique and trade practices and to establish contact with opposite numbers in those countries. Government were approached in this connection in September and October 1945 and agreed in the first week of March 1946 to render the usual assistance.

(c) The reply is in the affirmative so far as the party representing the hides and skins merchants is concerned. The Association has however requested Government's assistance in sending abroad a representative party of tanning industrialists of South India.

(d) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (b).

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will this delegation go at the cost of Government?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No, Sir.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: With reference to part (c) of the answer, will the Honourable Member state for what purpose the South Indian Skins and Hides Association requested Government's assistance in sending abroad a representative party of tanning industrialists of South India?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: They wanted to send a representative party of tanning industrialists from South India to acquaint themselves with the latest practices. Government merely gives assistance to these people as to any Indian businessman who asks for it.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it the policy of the Government to encourage the export of raw hides and skins in preference to tanned articles?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That is not really my subject; but I would not say it was the Government's policy at present; and so far as this question is concerned, I would like to make it plain that the approach came from these particular parties who said they had decided that they wanted to go abroad for doing this, that and the other, and would Government help them in the usual way by assisting in the matter of passages and so on?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it not the policy of the Government to encourage local industries?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That is correct.

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Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If so, and if that delegation which has gone to the U. K. for various reasons has been assisted directly, will Government encourage these others and give them additional facilities, many more than those offered to other parties?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think Government would certainly give assistance to any expedition which it thought was in the interests of the industrial development of this country.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether Government will be able to give the same assistance to any other organisation of the exporters if they wanted to go abroad for the encouragement of their business?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Exports of what?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think it is rather like this: where people want to go abroad themselves and study their own subjects, I do not think Government can say to them "You shall not go"; which is really in effect what the Honourable Member implied.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: I want to ask whether they will give some assistance whatever it may be, as they are prepared or they may be prepared to give to the South Indian Skins and Hides Association, if they want to go?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I think any responsible body of India's merchants and industrialists who wish to go abroad to study could reasonably ask for assistance and I think we should be prepared to give it.

MUSLIM FIRMS IN DELHI AUTHORISED TO STOCK IRON AND STEEL

1836. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state how many Muslim firms in Delhi are authorised stockists of Iron and Steel? If none, what is the reason for not appointing them as such?

(b) What are the technical qualifications of the newly appointed Deputy Iron and Steel Controller, Lahore?

(c) Did the Deputy Regional Iron and Steel Controller, Lahore, officially visit Delhi in February last? Did he on this visit inspect factories and workshops which had applied for quota of iron sheets and scrap to manufacture articles for civil use, and what quota was allotted to these firms?

(d) How many Muslim firms, factories, workshops were allotted such quota, and in what proportion to firms, factories and workshops owned and managed by Hindus?

(e) Is it a fact that two Non-Muslim stockists have monopolised the whole iron and steel market and that not a single Muslim firm has been authorised?

(f) Is it a fact that one Muslim firm, Messrs. Standard Iron and Wood Works, Delhi, were given assurance and undertaking for release to them of iron sheet quota, and that no quota whatsoever has yet been allotted to them?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Three. Besides, there are eight firms whose names do not indicate community.

(b) The Regional Deputy Iron and Steel Controller, Lahore, is a B.Sc., with practical experience in Engineering firms. He was employed with the Tata Iron and Steel Co. before his appointment in the Department of Industries and Supplies.

(c) Yes. He inspected some factories particularly those engaged on the manufacture of tin cans. No quota was, however, allotted to any firm as the licensing system was about to be abolished.

(d) It was the intention to allot quotas to over 200 Muslim firms and factories (mainly small establishments) as against about 50 to 60 Hindu firms, but the decision to abolish licensing rendered this course unnecessary. In accordance with the arrangements made by the Iron and Steel Controller, the

controlled stockists will be advised of the importance of Fabricators' requirements by quantities for Hindu and Muslim firms working out approximately to 3 to 2 in proportion.

(e) Government is not aware of such monopoly. Muslim firms are also operating in this field.

(f) Messrs. Standard Iron and Wood Works Delhi had applied to the late Director General, Supply, for release of iron sheets and the release was recommended by that officer to the Iron and Steel Controller, but no assurance or undertaking was given.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know how he was able to ascertain that the eight other firms are Muslim firms?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No. I said there are eight firms whose names do not indicate their community.

RESTRICTION ON MOVEMENTS OF ALLAMA MOOSA JARULLA—A RUSSIAN MUSLIM THEOLOGIAN

1837. *Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary please state if he has seen the article published in the Daily Manshoor, dated the 18th March, 1946, regarding Allama Moosa Jarullah—a Russian Muslim Theologian of repute?

(b) Is it a fact that he is not permitted to go out of India?

(c) Is it a fact that he is not keeping good health and that Government have made no arrangement to give medical aid to the ailing old gentleman?

(d) Do Government propose to take early steps to give a monthly allowance for the Allama until he is allowed to leave India?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of removing the restrictions on the movements of the Allama and permitting him to leave India?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) Yes: I have seen the article in question.

(b) Not exactly for the Government of India have already stated that they would not prevent him from going on the Haj.

(c) The Government of India understand that Musa Bey Jarullah was ill last winter but has recently been in better health. Since the relaxation of the restrictions on his movement last November it has not been thought necessary to make any special arrangements for medical aid on his behalf.

(d) The allowance granted to him lapsed with the relaxation of restrictions and Government see no reason now to continue it.

(e) The Government of India are removing all restrictions on his movements in India and do not intend to prevent him from leaving India.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: With reference to part (b), the Honourable Member said "Not exactly", if I understood him correctly—may I know what he means?

Mr. H. Weightman: The question was "Is it a fact that he is not permitted to go out of India?" My reply was that that is not exactly so; we have already said that he may go on the Haj.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that he is not permitted to go out of India and he certainly cannot earn his living as a preacher in this country, why is it that the Government of India have not thought of giving him an allowance?

Mr. President: That question has already been answered: the restrictions are being removed.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is only with regard to his movements in India.

Mr. President: I am afraid the Honourable Member was not attentive.

USE OF STAFF CARS AND STATION WAGONS IN DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SUPPLY

1838. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) the number of staff cars and station wagons maintained by the Department in the Directorate General of Supply;

(b) the purposes for which officers of the Department may legitimately use these cars and wagons; and

(c) whether it is permissible for any officer to take any of these vehicles out of New Delhi for any purpose, official or private; if so, in what circumstances and under what conditions?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Five. Only four however are usable.

(b) Official.

(c) The cars are primarily for use on official journeys in Delhi. Occasions may arise, however, when official business outside Delhi demands the performance of a road journey by these vehicles.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know whether the Director General of Industries uses one of these cars?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: All officers use them and the chief users of them are really visiting officers.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Is it a fact that the Director General of Industries does not maintain a car and he uses this car?

Mr. President: Order, order: the Honourable Member will not put questions about individuals.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Are these officers who use these cars allowed T. A. in addition when they perform journeys outside Delhi?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask whether the Honourable Member has received any representation from anywhere bringing to his notice that Government cars have been misused by officers for their own personal use, and if so, what action has been taken?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I have received a representation to that effect and I have gone into that case and taken steps to see that the existing rules are strictly followed.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Has any action been taken against those who have used these cars for their private use?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The suggestions made were considerably exaggerated; but as I said I have taken steps to see that the rules governing the use of these cars are strictly complied with.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member prepared to deny that the cars were not used for personal purposes and in what way was the information exaggerated?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: He is not denying it.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I ask in what way the information is exaggerated?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: It was stated that cars were used without paying for petrol and it was found in cases where a car had been used on some private business, that the petrol had invariably been paid for by the officer concerned.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: What about the official petrol coupons? Is it not wrong to use them for private purposes though the petrol may have been paid for?

Mr. Manu Subedar: Is not there a general circular in all Departments of the Government of India regulating this matter, and is it not true that in the military section we find frequently the use of Government cars for private purposes?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I cannot say anything about military cars.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I therefore take it that Government officers can use Government cars if they pay for the petrol?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No; that is not correct.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: In this particular case, what action was taken by Government when they found an officer using the car for private purposes and using official coupons?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I have taken proper action.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: What action has been taken, may we know?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I have warned the officer concerned. I examined the details of the whole case and I found they were very considerably exaggerated; but I have told the officer concerned that he had been imprudent and I have warned him.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the issue of a warning is sufficient?

Mr. President: Order, order. Next question.

COARSE AND FINE CLOTH FOR DELHI PROVINCE

1839. *Mr. Muhammad Nauman: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state what quantity in yards of cotton cloth is proposed to be placed at the disposal of the Delhi Province during 1st April 1946 to the 30th September, 1946?

(b) What quantity in yards will be of coarse cloth and fine or super-fine cloth?

(c) What quantity in yards will be supplied by the local mills of Delhi, and what quantity in yards will be supplied by other Indian mills?

(d) What quantity in weight of "fent cloth" will be supplied to the Delhi province during the same period, and how do the Delhi Civil Supply Department propose to distribute the same?

(e) What quantity in yards will be supplied to the local mills of Delhi to be sold through their own depots, and how are their mill stocks checked?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) 8,910,000 yards.

(b) 7,626,960 yards of coarse cloth; 891,000 yards of fine cloth, and 392,040 of superfine cloth.

(c) About 3,645,000 yards will be supplied by local mills and about 5,265,000 will be supplied by mills outside Delhi.

(d) It is expected that Delhi will receive about 108,300 lbs. of fents. The Delhi Civil Supplies Department tell me they propose at present to release these fents to retailers who were dealing in fents during the years 1940 to 1942.

(e) No cloth from outside Delhi will be supplied to the local mills of Delhi to sell through their depots, and the quantity of their own production which they may sell will be restricted to 12 bales per month at each depot. Mills are required to send in monthly returns and their stocks are checked against these returns.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: With reference to (b), they will be supplied to those who were selling fents between 1940 and 1942. Will the Department advise the local Civil Supplies Department to take into consideration the Muslim quota?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: As you notice, these are proposals of the Delhi Civil Supplies Department but actually I have been looking into that and it is the

case that of the fent dealers in 1940-42, the great majority were Hindus. I am looking into that in consultation with the Chief Commissioner along with a variety of other points bearing on this general matter of distribution of cloth in Delhi.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It requires further inquiry, because I would state that the majority of the fent dealers were Muslims and for that I can discuss with the Honourable Member.

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I would be willing to discuss it with the Honourable Member.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the latest position? Are there any signs of easing out?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I am afraid not at the moment.

TELEGRAM FROM CLOTH AND GENERAL MERCHANTS' ASSOCIATION, DELHI AND DISTRIBUTION OF FENTS AND UN-RATIONED CLOTH TO MUSLIM AND HINDU MERCHANTS

1840. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if any telegram has been received by the Secretary of his Department this week from the cloth and General Merchants' Association, Delhi? If the reply be in the affirmative, will he please state if enquiries necessary in this connection have been made or not?

(b) What is the report of the enquiry on this telegram, and what is the exact position of distribution of fents and un-rationed cloth to the Muslim Merchants and the Hindu Merchants at the Delhi Province during January, 1946 to March 1946?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part of the question, I have written a demi-official letter to the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, regarding the points raised in the telegram and certain other points which the Honourable Member raised in discussion with me.

(b) I have not yet had a reply from the Chief Commissioner. During the months of January, February and March of this year Muslim merchants have received 32 bales of fents and other unrationed cloth whereas non-Muslims have received 420.

EXPORT OF CLOTH FROM DELHI BY LOCAL MILLS

1841. ***Mr. Muhammad Nauman:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state if it is a fact that the local mills in the Delhi Province have been sending out their stock out of the Province to be sold through their own agents? If the answer be in the affirmative, how is this permitted, and is it a fact that these mills do not place their whole output at the disposal of the Industries and Supplies Department for being distributed in the manner the Department may think necessary?

(b) What quantity in yards have these local mills of the Delhi Province sent out of the Province to be sold through their own agencies during June, 1945, to February, 1946, and were these quantities checked by the representative of the Delhi Civil Supply or the Government of India Industries and Supplies Department? If not, why not?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir; it is correct that mills in Delhi have been sending some of their own production out of Delhi to be sold through their own agents. They do this under the orders of the Government of India and in accordance with the Government of India's distribution scheme, the reason being that Delhi is a surplus area as regards cloth production. The whole of the output of these mills is at the disposal of the Government of India.

(b) During the period from October 1945 to February 1946 the Delhi Cloth Mills sent 2,643 bales of cloth out of Delhi for sale through their own retail stores, and during the period from December 1945 to February 1946 the Birla Mills similarly sent 177 bales. No similar figures are available for the months before those mentioned. Quantities of cloth sent from mills to consuming areas

are checked by the Industries and Supplies Department of the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Wherefrom do they obtain their yarn supplies. Do they produce it locally or do they import it from other centres?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I could not say offhand.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: What is the method of distribution from surplus to scarcity areas?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The distribution system divides the country into surplus and deficit areas. Delhi is a surplus area, which means that apart from the amount allotted to it for consumption the extra is distributed outside Delhi in accordance with the general all-India distribution scheme.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: May I know whether the Ahmedabad Mills will have to distribute their surplus to scarcity areas?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: They have to. Ahmedabad is a surplus area and they are one of the biggest suppliers of deficit areas in India.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Are they allowed to distribute the cloth through their own shops?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: That matter was discussed at considerable length in the Textile Control Board some time ago and it was decided that so far as the old shops were concerned, the ones that had been in existence for a considerable time, the mills could be allowed to send limited quantities to these branches.

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: In view of the serious cloth situation in the Frontier, would you relax that qualification and allow Ahmedabad mills to open new branches?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: No, Sir. No new branches.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: If Delhi is a surplus area, why is it that every one is complaining of not having received his quota. Four duplicates have been found with some shop keepers.

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The mere fact that Delhi is a surplus area does not mean that there will be much left there when the control is finished with it. The whole object of the control is to take away the surplus from the surplus areas and give it to those who are in deficit. On the other points raised by the Honourable Member, that is the sort of thing that happens in any highly detailed system of control. Even with a fairly high quality of supervision, things of that kind take place on the fringes of control and it is that kind of thing that we try to deal with with the assistance of persons like the Honourable Member.

I.C.S. OFFICER AS COMMERCIAL ATTACHE TO BRITISH DELEGATION AT KABUL

1842. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava:** (a) Will the Foreign Secretary kindly state whether Government have appointed any I.C.S. officer as a Commercial Attache to the British Delegation at Kabul?

(b) If so, what is his name, and what are his functions, who is responsible for his pay, and what are his emoluments?

(c) Has he been entrusted with the task of promoting the interests of the Board of Overseas Trade of the United Kingdom and helping the British traders of Afghanistan also?

(d) Do the Government of the United Kingdom contribute any amount towards his pay and emoluments?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

TERMS OF EMPLOYMENT AND POWERS OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF INDUSTRIES AND SUPPLIES

1843. ***Mr. Manu Subedar:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state when the office of the Director-General of Industries and Supplies was created?

(b) What is the function of this office?

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

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(c) Who is the present incumbent of this office, and has he sufficient acquaintance with the problems that arise in connection with this office?

(d) For how many years has the present incumbent been appointed?

(e) Has he got authority and initiative to act on his own, or, has he to refer every matter to the head of the Department?

(f) What are the matters, which he is obliged to take to the head of the Department?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) 17th December, 1945.

(b) Development of industries in accordance with approved industrial plans and procurement of stores for Government.

(c) Mr. S. A. Venkataraman, C.I.E., I.C.S. Yes.

(d) For the present up to 28th February, 1947.

(e) He has authority and initiative to act on his own within the financial and administrative powers delegated to him as head of a Department. He has thus not to refer every matter to the Secretariat.

(f) On questions of policy or matters outside the powers delegated to him he has to make a reference to the Secretariat.

KOH-I-SULTAN SULPHUR MINES

†1844. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) whether Government propose to dispose of the Koh-i-Sultan sulphur mines;

(b) if so, the reason for selling away the concern;

(c) the amount of outlay which has been made on the said mines by Government;

(d) the amount, if any, so far offered by any prospective purchaser;

(e) the annual output of the said mines, and the annual expenses of the said mines; and

(f) the number of non-Indians employed in the said mines as executives and technicians and the posts held by them with the salaries of the said posts?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The question will be answered by the Honourable the Labour Member on the appropriate day.

PRODUCTION AND IMPORT OF HYPO AND PROTECTION BY TARIFF

†1845. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state:

(a) the number of factories in India producing "hypo";

(b) the total annual production capacity of the said factories, and the normal annual requirement of the country;

(c) whether Government have lifted the war-time ban on the import of "hypo", and have allowed import in packings of 28 lbs. and below;

(d) whether a British firm in India has, in spite of the ban on larger packings imported 40 tons of "hypo" in large packings; and

(e) whether the Indian "hypo" industry has applied for protection by tariff, and whether the question is under investigation by the Tariff Board?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Seven.

(b) Annual production capacity is 1,000 to 1,200 tons. Normal annual requirements are 500 to 600 tons exclusive of reagent quality of Hypo which is not produced in India.

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

(c) Imports of Hypo are subject to licensing but no import licences are being granted as sufficient stocks of this chemical are available in India.

(d) Government have no information about this specific case. If the Honourable Member will furnish further details, necessary enquiries will be made.

(e) Yes.

LOW SALARY OF STATION MASTERS ON SOUTH INDIAN RAILWAY

†1846. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the scale of salary of Station Masters on the South Indian Railway;

(b) whether it is a fact that Station Masters on the South Indian Railway, after serving for fifteen years receive Rs. 40 per month as salary; and

(c) whether there are any other Railways in India in which the scale of salary of Station Masters is so low as in the South Indian Railway; if so, the names of such Railways?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) I lay on the table a statement showing the old and revised scales and the modifications made in the minimum during the war.

(b) Government are informed that Station Clerks and Clerks-in-Charge on the S. I. Railway are eligible for promotion as Station Masters and some of the Station Masters promoted from these categories are drawing Rs. 40 p.m. even though they have rendered more than 15 years total service.

(c) The scales of pay of Station Masters on other Indian Government Railways are higher than those obtaining on the S. I. Railway. I would, however, remind the Honourable Member that the railway was taken over by Government as recently as 1st April, 1944, on the condition that the staff taken over would continue to be governed by the ex-company's scales of pay, and further that a Commission is being set up to consider suitable scales of pay for Government (including Railway) servants in the postwar period.

Statement showing the old and revised scales of pay of station Masters on the S. I. Railway

	Old scale of pay	Revised Scale	Remarks
Station Masters	30-1-35 35-1-40 40-2-50	30-1½-40½	These are permanent scales, but in 1944 a war time advance of Rs. 10 was made in the minimum of the lowest subordinate scale subject to the resulting minimum not exceeding Rs. 40 so that the scales now are as follows :— Old scale Revised scale Rs. 40 fixed. Rs. 40-40½ Rs. 40 fixed. Rs. 40-2-50.

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

STENOGRAPHERS IN S. I. RAILWAY DEPRIVED OF EXTRA PAY

†1847. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railway Board has passed an order that stenographers in Railway service must be granted an extra pay of Rs. 20 per mensem;

(b) whether the South Indian Railway is paying to stenographers the said additional salary;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the South Indian Railway the stenographers are described as "personal clerks" and on that score are deprived of the additional pay; and

(d) how many stenographers, if any, are receiving the additional pay in the South Indian Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Railway Board, as a temporary measure, in view of the conditions obtaining during the war emergency, ordered an increase up to Rs. 20 in the minimum pay of the lowest scale of stenographers subject to the resulting minimum not being in excess of Rs. 70 p.m. or the maximum of the scale, whichever is less.

(b) and (d). There are no posts designated as stenographers on the S. I. Railway with a minimum pay of less than Rs. 70 p.m.; hence the concession of additional pay referred to in the reply to part (a) is not applicable to them.

(c) Government understand that personal clerks on the S. I. Railway are borne on the clerical cadre. The question of extending the concession referred to in the reply to part (a) to staff who, though not designated as stenographers, are solely employed as such, will, however, be examined in consultation with the railway administration.

LOW PAY OF JUNIOR CLERKS IN MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY

†1848. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have ordered that all "subordinate staff" getting a salary below Rs. 40-0-0 per month should be paid a salary of Rs. 40-0-0;

(b) whether it is a fact that junior clerks in the Madras and Southern Marhatta Railway have been held to be ineligible for the benefit of this provision on the ground that they are not subordinate staff;

(c) whether the junior clerks in other Railways are getting the benefit of the provision;

(d) if the junior clerks are not to have the benefit of the provision, whether their salary will be below that of menial servants who get the benefit of the provision; and

(e) whether Government and the Railway authorities have received complaints from the junior clerks of the Madras and Southern Marhatta Railway in this respect for about sixteen months now, and what action has been so far taken by Government?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The orders on the subject are that the minimum pay of the lowest grade of all subordinate staff except stenographers should be temporarily increased by Rs. 10 subject to the resulting minimum not being in excess of Rs. 40 p.m.

(b) Yes, the junior clerks concerned were not formerly admitted to the concession referred to, but the Railway Board have recently instructed the M. and S. M. Railway Administration to extend the benefit of the increase of Rs. 10 to junior clerks and certain other categories of staff by treating them as subordinate staff for the purpose of the temporary increase in pay.

(c) Yes, generally speaking they are classified as subordinate staff.

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

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) but I would add for the information of the Honourable Member that inferior staff are not eligible for the concession in question.

(e) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. The second portion does not arise in view of the reply to part (b).

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO MR. ANAND SINGH OF GANESHGUNJ, NAWAIIYA, LUCKNOW, TO START *India's Voice*.

1849. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Anand Singh, Managing Editor and Proprietor, Ganeshgunj, Nawaiya, Lucknow, made a request for permission to start publication of a weekly Journal entitled 'India's Voice', and that it was turned down? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that the Provincial Government had recommended its consideration?

(c) Do Government propose to reconsider the decision and grant the necessary permission to Mr. Anand Singh?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative. Under clause 9(a) of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1945, and clause 4 of the Newspaper Control Order 1946, the starting of publication of a new newspaper or periodical is prohibited except with the special permission of the Central Government. No reasons have been advanced by the applicant which would justify the grant of special permission in this case under the present unsatisfactory supply position of paper and newsprint.

(b) No, Sir. The Provincial Government merely stated that they had no objection to the permission asked for being granted.

(c) Government will be prepared to re-consider the matter if the request is renewed and grounds for special permission are established but subject to improvement in the supply position.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if the decision regarding permission for starting newspapers is taken in consultation with Provincial Governments?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Yes, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that the control order does not throw the responsibility upon Provincial Governments?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The Provincial Governments are consulted as to the suitability of the particular venture.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is it a fact that there is nothing in the control order which throws the responsibility on the Provincial Governments? Does it not state specifically that it is the authority of the Central Government and not the Provincial Governments?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I have not got a copy of the order. I should imagine that would be the natural position.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Then why does my Honourable friend insist upon consultation with the Provincial Governments?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Because the newspaper is published in the region of Provincial Governments and therefore the Provincial Government of the particular region may have very useful comments to offer.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Is that another form of censorship?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Not at all.

Diwan Chaman Lall: What then is the object? Useful comments in regard to what?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: As I said, the supply position in regard to paper and newsprint, especially newsprint is acute. When you have, as we have in cases like these, literally to dole out very meagre supplies, it is very important to find out whether for example, some paper deals in a new line or possibly

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hither to unrepresented line of activity and so on and it has a better claim to special consideration in giving out of this dole of newsprint.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are political views of newspapers taken into consideration? Is encouragement given only to political views which are to the liking of the Central Government or the Provincial Governments?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I can not say what the Provincial Government think about them, but I know this Department has the sole consideration that we have very little stuff to go round and there are many more applicants than we can possibly satisfy and it is a matter of trying to make the best possible use of the limited paper that we have.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Is it not a fact that some papers had offered to use hand made paper and even in such cases permission was refused?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I do not think my Department has anything to do with hand made paper.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: The Honourable Member said that because of shortage of paper this permission was refused. There have been cases with my knowledge where newspaper proprietors had offered to bring out newspapers on hand made paper and still permission was refused.

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: We do not handle hand made paper, we control only mill made paper.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In view of the fact that in certain provinces, particularly Madras, newspaper proprietors are prepared to manufacture their own hand made paper, but yet the local Paper Controllers come in their way, will Government consider the advisability of giving permission to those who are prepared to produce their own hand made paper and use it?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I should certainly be prepared to consider that.

POLICY re FUTURE ORGANISATION OF POSTS AND TELEGRAPH WORKSHOPS AND STORES

1850. ***Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have laid down their policy in respect of the future organisation of the various Post and Telegraph Workshops and Stores in their Bulletin captioned "Post War Scheme";

(b) whether Government modified the above policy after publication of the above Bulletin; and

(c) if the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, what is the revised policy?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The general lines with regard to the future organisation of the Posts and Telegraphs Workshops at Alipore, Jubbulpore and Bombay have been indicated in Part I, Chapter 2, of the Posts and Telegraphs Department Post-War Plan, December, 1945, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

(b) and (c). It is intended to examine the matter further in detail under expert advice.

EXPENDITURE ON AND PRODUCTION OUTTURN OF DUPLICATE TELEGRAPH WORKSHOP, JUBBULPORE

1851. ***Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the expenditure for starting and developing the duplicate telegraph Workshop at Jubbulpore and what has been the corresponding annual production outturn at the Jubbulpore Workshop since its creation; and

(b) whether the necessity for expansion of the Jubbulpore Workshop exists even after the cessation of hostilities; if so, on what considerations?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The expenditure incurred on Buildings, and Apparatus and Plant at Jubbulpore is of the order of Rs. 65 lakhs inclusive of the Departmental Training Centre buildings. The value of the outturn of lines stores and instruments at the Workshops is as follows:

	Operating Expenditure	
	Rs.	Rs.
1943-44	12,29,000	3,85,000
1944-45	37,22,000	8,00,000

Figures for 1945-46 are not yet available.

(b) There has been no expansion of the Workshops after the cessation of hostilities other than that contained in the completion of the war-time plan with a view to utilising the workshops for post-war production.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know if all the articles necessary for Posts and Telegraphs Department are produced in this workshop? If not, what percentage of these articles are bought from elsewhere?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am afraid I cannot answer that question. This workshop is one of three workshops and certain articles are produced. I cannot say how much is produced and what percentage?

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not want details. I should like to know, all workshops put together, what percentage of articles are produced in this country? What are the possibilities of expansion?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I cannot give straightaway the percentage.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it the policy of the Government to manufacture all the spare parts in this country itself?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir, we produce as much as we can. We have been producing in the past. These are telegraph and telephone workshops and we produce in these workshops all that we need. There is a further question on this subject to which I will give reply later on.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: In regard to the development of the workshops, the Honourable Member said that they are considering their post war schemes and that they would be able to come to a decision a little later on. If and when they come to a decision, will Government take the public into their confidence by issuing a press communiqué?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I do not see why a press communiqué is necessary. I am prepared to give every information to this House when a decision has been taken.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Is it a fact that orders for articles which could have been successfully manufactured in Alipore workshop have been placed in U. K.?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: If the Honourable Member will wait until the next question is answered, he will get the information.

ORDER PLACED WITH U.K. FOR INSTRUMENTS PRODUCED IN ALIPORE TELEGRAPH WORKSHOP

1852. ***Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders for instruments which have been successfully manufactured at the Alipore Workshop during the war have been placed with the United Kingdom;

(b) whether it is a fact that orders for instruments ordinarily produced in the Alipore Telegraph Workshop have been placed with the United Kingdom; and

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, the reasons therefor?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a), (b) and (c). Ordinarily, stores which can be manufactured in the Telegraph Workshops at Alipore are not ordered from the United Kingdom. In times of emergency, however, when the capacity of the Workshops is not sufficient to meet urgent demands, purchases have necessarily to be made in the open market in India and in such circumstances the suppliers may obtain the instruments required from the United Kingdom.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether during the last five years there was ever a condition more emergent and difficult in India than it was in England and yet England was able to export articles to India?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I know that the state of emergency was everywhere, but in England they had got factories which were producing on a much larger scale than what we were producing in India before the war. We had only one workshop in Alipore and we had to start expanding it in order to produce for our own needs. We could not start producing straightaway and as war demands were very emergent, we obtained materials from America and England. These were essential.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Is it a fact that the capacity of Alipore workshops was being shrunk to a capacity where it could not develop, that it was not being given any opportunity for development that it was being shrunk and so it was not possible to manufacture there?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No Sir; It was expanded along with Jubbulpore.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: Am I to understand that there was no further chance to develop?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Because we had certain difficulties in Alipore with regard to land. We could not expand because there was no land to expand. We wanted to produce on such a large scale that we had to open new workshops in Jubbulpore and in Bombay as well.

Diwan Chaman Lall: What was the value of the stores ordered from U. K. and America?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I have not got the figures.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Is it a fact that on 19th October, 1945, after a discussion that took place between the Secretary, Posts and Air Department, the Director General, the Chief Engineer, the Additional Chief Engineer and the Financial Adviser, they came to the conclusion that the ultimate objective was to concentrate construction of all line stores at Jubbulpore and to close down such work at Alipore and that while it may be necessary to retain Alipore for the present, no new expenditure should be incurred there, any necessary addition being made at Jubbulpore?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir, I have stated that and I have said that that conclusion has been included in the post-war plan to which I have referred. But I added that the matter is going to be examined further with the help of experts in workshop organisation and telegraph engineers in the Department.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: May I take it then that the policy of Government is to starve the Alipore workshop out of existence?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Is it part of the post-war plan to manufacture all the requirements in this country itself?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir, so far as possible.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: If so, what steps are being taken to enlarge any of these workshops to the size which will produce all the requirements in this country?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: We expect that our workshop in Jubbulpore which was expanded to meet the enormous needs during the war would be perfectly capable of producing our demands during peace time.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member said that things ordinarily required are manufactured in this country. Are any extraordinary things being brought from foreign countries?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir, certain things which we cannot manufacture, for example, automatic telephone equipment.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What attempts are made in the direction of manufacturing them in this country?

Mr. President: Order, order; next question.

ENQUIRY INTO SCHEME OF TRANSFER OF ALIPORE TELEGRAPH WORKSHOP

1853. ***Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state whether, in view of the probable misuse of tax-payer's money, he proposes to consider the advisability of an immediate enquiry of the entire scheme of transfer of Alipore Workshop in all its bearings and to appoint a qualified departmental Engineer or a Board of Engineers, if not a non-official Committee, at this stage?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: The matter will be examined under expert advice before a final decision is taken.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: May I know whether they have appointed any departmental expert to examine the whole question?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Not yet.

TRANSFER OF ALIPORE TELEGRAPH WORKSHOP TO JUBBULPORE AND DIFFICULTY OF FINDING SUITABLE WORKSHOP PERSONNEL

1854. ***Sree Satyapriya Banerjee:** Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in view of the fact that the final decision regarding transfer of the Alipore Workshop to Jubbulpore has not been taken, Government will consider the deficiencies of Jubbulpore in respect of transport, skilled labour market for petty purchases, cost of production, etc., etc., while coming to a final decision;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Cooper, S. W., Jubbulpore, has written on the 23rd February, 1946, to Mr. Ash, D.T.W., Alipore, about the impossibility of obtaining suitable workshop personnel in Jubbulpore;

(c) whether it is a fact that the final decision in this regard has been decided to be taken after the present Assembly Session is over; if so, why;

(d) whether the Departmental Examination referred to in answer to (d) of starred question No. 582, dated the 27th February, 1946, has been completed; and

(e) if the answer to (d) above is in the negative, whether he proposes to select some suitable Departmental Engineer or a Board of Engineers for the purpose?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) All relevant factors will be considered.

(b) I have no information.

(c) and (d). No.

(e) The matter is under consideration.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the position with regard to this Jubbulpore Workshop? Is it being worked to full capacity at present?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: It is being worked to the capacity necessary to produce the articles that we require.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Can we be assured that all the machinery that they had set up there in order to see that it can work to full capacity when needed is being kept there and not being sold away or dismantled?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Nothing is being sold away.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: What is the financial result of the Jubbulpore Workshop? What is the cost and what is our investment?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I mentioned in answer to a previous question what the expenditure incurred on the workshop was, what it produced in 1943-44 and in 1944-45. I have not got the figures of 1945-46.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are there any experts in Jubbulpore or elsewhere belonging to this Department who are making a special study of how to manufacture automatic telephones in this country?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: No, Sir, they cannot do that. We have no experts in this country who know how to make automatic telephone equipment. It is a very highly skilled manufacture covered by hundreds of patents, and it is not possible to undertake manufacture of automatic telephone equipment in these workshops. This is a separate business by itself, but I understand that there are certain Indian industrialists who are in negotiation with British manufacturers with a view to introduce or organise the production of automatic telephone equipment in this country.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Then what is it that the Government of India are doing either to purchase some of these patents on their own account or to help the efforts of Indian manufacturers who are trying to purchase them and establish the necessary factory here in order to manufacture this?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Government are prepared to help any industrialist who is negotiating, and when he can manufacture, the Posts and Telegraphs Department will purchase the equipment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that Government do not take any initiative in this matter and why should they wait until some manufacturer takes it into his head to develop it?

Mr. President: That is an argument.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Has any action been taken by the Government of India since the meeting of the Standing Committee for Posts and Air, which discussed this subject, with regard to the transfer of the workshop from Jubbulpore to Alipore?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: There is already a workshop in Jubbulpore and there is a workshop in Alipore.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai: Why is it that Government are not thinking of establishing a factory themselves?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: If private industrialists can establish the industry it would be quite helpful to the country as a whole. The question as to whether the demands of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for automatic telephone equipment would enable a factory to be established so as to pay its way is somewhat doubtful, because the amount of Posts and Telegraphs Department requirements may not be enough to keep a first-class factory in production and the costs may be very high. But there is nothing to prevent

Government from starting a factory, if they think it right to do so, if private negotiations which are now going on fail.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Does my Honourable friend consider private manufacturers to be philanthropists? If Government cannot pay their way in the manufacture of automatic machines how do they expect private manufacturers to pay their way?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Private manufacturers could undertake a number of associated lines and they could also sell to outside markets in the countries neighbouring on India.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Why cannot my Honourable friend do the same?

Mr. President: Order, order; next question.

TRANSFER OF MACHINERY AND PLANT OF ALIPORE TELEGRAPH WORKSHOP TO JUBBULPORE

1855. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mr. Ash, D.T.W., Alipore, wrote to the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs on the 31st January, 1946, for orders regarding transfer of all serviceable plants and machineries from Alipore to Jubbulpore; if so, whether he will explain this with reference to the fact that no final decision has been taken for the transfer of the Telegraph Workshop to Jubbulpore;

(b) whether it is a fact that Mr. Ash, D.T.W., Alipore, has wired from Bombay to the S. W., Calcutta, to dismantle three Shaping Machines, if so, whether the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs has sanctioned the transfer;

(c) whether the workmen of the Alipore Workshop refused to dismantle the above machines; and

(d) whether he proposes to stop the transfer of plants and machineries from Alipore until a final decision is taken thereon and place orders at the Alipore Workshop?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Yes The Director of Telegraph Workshops, Alipore has been informed that any large scale shift of plant from Alipore cannot at present be approved pending further investigation of the general question of policy in regard to the future of the Alipore and Jubbulpore Workshops.

(b) The Director of Telegraph Workshops ordered the transfer of two, not three, shaping machines which are not in use at Alipore to the Bombay Telephone Workshops where additional shaping machine capacity is urgently required to deal with current work. The transfer has been sanctioned as the interchange of units of machinery between the departmental workshops as and when necessary is essential in the interests of efficiency.

(c) There have been some indications of labour unrest in the matter.

(d) No—not as regards small units of equipment although as stated in reply to (a) no wholesale shift of machinery will be made until the question of policy has been decided.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: With reference to part (b) of the question, why was it necessary to dismantle the two shaping machines when orders could have been placed with the Alipore workshop?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I said that these machines were not being used in Alipore and the Bombay Telephone Workshops, where the work is being done, required these two machines for dealing with their current work.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: They are not being used at Alipore because orders are not placed there. May I know why orders are not placed at Alipore?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Because the Bombay Telephone Workshop which is also a departmental workshop and which is producing these goods wanted additional machinery which was idle in Calcutta.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: It only became a departmental workshop during the war while Alipore has been going on for the last 75 years.

Mr. President: That is a matter of argument. Next question.

ACQUIRING DEHRI ROHTAS LIGHT RAILWAY

1856. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the District Board of Shahabad in Bihar was prevented from exercising its right of acquiring the Dehri Rohtas Light Railway in November, 1948, by an order of the Provincial Government on the plea that the aforesaid District Board could not acquire the Railway with the funds provided by a third party although the money so provided was to be received by the District Board by way of premium and was not to be refunded to the party which advanced it?

(b) Is it also a fact that the District Board of Shahabad being dissatisfied with the orders of the Provincial Government filed a representation to the Central Government in July, 1944, which was duly forwarded by the Provincial Government to the Central Government?

(c) Has any decision been arrived at regarding the alternative proposal of the District Board to have this Railway acquired by the state, in view of the discrimination this Railway has been making against other parties in favour of their own?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The District Board of Shahabad proposed to purchase the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway from the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway Company, Limited with funds supplied by an outside party and lease it to a company brought into existence for the purpose. The Bihar Government did not approve the proposal. The Government are not aware that the money to be provided was to be received by the District Board by way of premium and was not to be refunded to the party which advanced it.

(b) Yes.

(c) Under Section 41 of the Bengal Tramways Act, 1888 the right of purchase is in the District Board of Shahabad and not the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to the answer to part (a) that Government were not aware that the money to be provided was to be received by the District Board by way of premium and was not to be refunded to the party which advanced it, will Government consider the advisability of helping this District Board to acquire this railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: That seems to be a matter for the Bihar Government, in the first instance at any rate.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What are the rights of the Bihar Government? Have they only the power to advise the Central Government or can they take a final decision?

Mr. President: I believe that is a matter of law as between the Bihar Government and the Centre.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I think that is the case. I understand that the Bihar Government have very considerable powers under the Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Act of 1923 of control over such District Boards.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: What help can the Government of India give to the District Board concerned if they want to purchase the railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I understand it, the District Board is empowered to purchase it but the Government of Bihar has certain powers of control over the District Board.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are Government aware of the fact that this particular Railway has come to be monopolized or controlled by one Dalmia Company and their factories, and it is for that reason that the District Board is anxious to

acquire this Railway so that not only one big capitalistic concern but all industrialists and the general public also will be able to make use of this Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, But I think it is open to the District Board to take up the matter again and to purchase the Railway if they have funds for the purpose and subject to such conditions as the Bihar Government may impose.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: May I know if there is any legal provision which prevents the Government of India from helping the local District Board in acquiring this Railway?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I should require notice of that question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: If Government are otherwise satisfied, is there anything to prevent the Government of India to offer the necessary loan to the District Board in order to enable them to purchase this Railway?

Mr. President: That is problematic. Next question.

AUCTION OF MR. UTTAM CHAND'S PROPERTY

+1857. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) With reference to the answers to starred question No. 1217, dated the 25th March, 1946, will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to lay on the table the nature and general description of the properties of Uttamchand which were auctioned and the value that such auction fetched and how the sale proceeds have been disposed of?

(b) Was anybody on behalf of Uttamchand asked to watch the auction?

(c) Has Uttamchand lodged any claim? If so, for what properties?

(d) Has Uttamchand given any estimate of the value of the properties which according to him have been seized and disposed of?

(e) How do the claim and dispute now stand?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) The property consisted of commercial and household goods of which a list is placed on the Table. A sum of Af. 68,447 was realised by the auction. A sum of Afghanis 19,910 was deducted on account of amounts due to the Afghan Government and the house owner, and the balance of Afghanis 48,537 was deposited to Uttam Chand's credit in the Bank of Afghanistan where he had a personal account. Later the Afghan Government agreed to refund a further sum of Afghanis 3,248 which had been confiscated.

(b) As already stated in answer to starred question No. 1217, on 25th March, 1946, persons nominated by Uttam Chand as his agents declined to act for him.

(c) Uttam Chand complained that the list of his property auctioned by the Afghan Government was incomplete in respect of the item referred to in the list of which a copy is placed on the Table. He also disputed the deductions made on account of dues against his property.

(d) According to Uttam Chand the total amount of his claims was, roughly Afghanis 2½ lakhs.

(e) The Afghan Government's replies to his complaints were communicated to Uttam Chand who requested that the amount which the Afghan Government were prepared to pay might be transmitted to him through His Majesty's Legation, while reserving to himself a right to claim further compensation and to take legal steps if so advised. This request was passed on to the Legation who communicated it to the Afghan Government. A reply is awaited.

List of Uttam Chand's property put to auction

10 cases of Ammonia.

191 pieces of glasses of German made hurricane lamps.

16 porcelain basins (flowered) for washing head.

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

17 pieces of white porcelain basins (flowered).
4 pieces of white porcelain basins (painted with flowers); a handle of one of these basins was found broken.

32 pieces of white porcelain basins, with handles.

One 10 valved R. C. A. (American) Radio Set No. 2636/7707, Model 810. The Radio was not in order and needed repairs.

One (used) 6 valved Radio Set—Telefunken—(German made) No. 40655.

One 'His Master's Voice' Radio Set (British make), without Valves, Loud Speaker and Transformer.

Four pieces of almirah glasses (broken and unbroken).

One (commercial) almirah, without glasses.

One table measuring 2x70 Centimetres.

One table measuring 50x70 Centimetres.

849 white & small soup plates—new.

26 big soup plates—new.

12 small big and small soup plates.

13 small soup plates.

5 medium sized soup plates.

White big dish (British make)—one.

3 white, medium sized & unflowered dishes.

4 white small dishes.

1 green coloured dish.

1 round big dish.

18 light coloured flower pots—Japan made.

17 brownish coloured flower pots.

5 green coloured flower pots.

4 brownish coloured and dented flower pots

Bedding straps.

6 glasses (for drinking water).

One jug.

Two fruit dishes.

One Thermos.

One soup dish.

One copper Samavar (used).

One porcelain tea pot.

One Thermos.

One electric table lamp.

6 yards of china silk.

4 jugs.

4 dozen of glasses (for drinking water).

6 crystal plates.

1 large tea pot.

1 dozen of cups.

1 thermos (for soup).

12 glasses (for drinking water).

2 jugs.

1 dozen of glasses (for drinking water).

One water jug with two glasses—3 pieces.

2 jugs.

2 jugs.

1 dozen of glasses (for drinking water).

7 glasses (for drinking water).

1 dozen glasses (for drinking water).

One dozen of glasses (for drinking water).

One brass tea pot.

One frying pan.

One small brass cup.

One small brass basin.

One wooden rod used for making chapatis and called 'Belna' in Hindustani.

One spoon.

One porcelain basin.

Two 'Kafgirs' (stirrers)—big and small.

8 large spoons (used for soup).

One iron sheet (coloured).

One copper tray.

Nine cigarette cases (empty).

8 coat hangers.

3 sweetmeat cases.

2 coat hangers.

1 brass 'Lota'.

1 iron sheet (small).

One box of different coloured pencils.

2 rubbers.

1 box of ordinary pencils of every kind.

Nibs (iron)—18 in number.

2 pieces of pencil menders.

3 boxes of pencils of every kind.

6 wooden trays (with glass surface).

7 wooden trays (with broken glasses).

One cot (copper).

9 fused Radio valves (4 of which were completely fused and it could not be definitely ascertained whether the remaining 5 were completely fused or not).

Fruit dishes (dented)—22 in number.

11 sugar pots of every kind.

2 lids of sugar pots.

8 stoves.

6 meters flexible wire.

14 pieces of jam pots.

13 pieces of jam pots.

1 wall socket.

2 barrels.

2 pots for oil.

1 hurricane.

1 leather case (old).

66 fruit dishes.

33 jugs of every kind.

3 jugs.

3 lantern wicks.

Brass Ring (one).

3 boxes of paints.

One lantern.

3 pieces of oil cloth.

11 pieces of matting.

2 locks (out of order).

2 used shirts of prints.

23 pieces of handkerchiefs and table cloths.

8 tea sets (broken).

70 small cases of gramophone needles.
 78 small cups.
 232 crystal saucers.
 95 flower vases of every kind.
 One quilt used for 'Sandli', with a long cloth cover.
 4 quilts of prints.
 2 small mattresses.
 One mattress with a cover of print.
 2 used pillows.
 1 bed sheet.
 1 hammer without handle.
 1 almirah.
 3 spectacles.
 9 tables of every kind.
 9 chairs.
 1 'Bukhari' (with 'Abdan')—stove.
 1 'Bukhari' (without Abdan)—stove.
 6 empty cases (for knives & forks).
 1 empty case.
 2 pieces of 'Galim'—coloured.
 1 carpet measuring $3/72 \times 2/53$ metres
 1 carpet measuring $2/70$ metres $\times$ 2 metres
 1 carpet measuring $1/90$ metres $\times$ $1/27$ metres.
 One carpet measuring $2/5$ metres $\times$ $1/15$ metres.
 One carpet measuring 2 metres $\times$ $1/13$ metres
 One carpet measuring $1/24$ metres $\times$ $1/21$ metres.
 2 old bicycles No. 191.
 One brass cup.
 23 knives and forks
 12 cigarette cases and ash trays.
 88 Crystal Plates.
 1 set of cups.
 5 window panes.
 2 bottles motor oil.
 2 utensils.
 1 Pishauri 'kulah'
 9 tea pots.
 17 milk jars (for children).
 48 Japanese glass 'Isitikans' (tea cups).
 10 Gramophone records
 1 His Master's Voice gramophone.
 14 white bottles (of all kinds).
 2 bottles—four sided.
 6 bottles—coloured.
 1 tooth paste
 11 lamps.
 8 used trays.
 1 brass utensil.
 14 plates.
 1 spoon.
 1 kharak.
 1 lamp (petrol).

One Austrian stove—new, big.
 6 glasses (for drinking water).
 11 Japanese goblets with glasses (one broken).
 71 small white jars with lids.
 1 jar (repaired, white and big)
 168 belt flowers.
 2 Thermos.
 4 big commodes (for urine).
 2 small glass commodes (for urine).
 4 white commodes.
 2 carnival wheels.
 1 air gun.
 33 jam and pickle dishes—big (made of Japan).
 42 big, new, flowered plates.
 13 medium sized plates.
 6 White and new plates.
 53 White and new plates.
 73 medium sized plates.
 31 small, new and coloured plates.
 1 soup plate large.
 1 medium sized soup plate.
 1 broken soup plate.
 1 His Master's Voice Radio, 5 valves, No. 208945.
 1 His Master's Voice Radio, 7 valves No. 4796.
 1 His Master's Voice Radio, 5 valves No. 209492.
 1 His Master's Voice Radio, 5 valves No. 209497, (bulb—fused).
 1 His Master's Voice Radio 5 valves, No. 209509.
 1 His Master's Voice Radio, 5 valves, No. 209517.
 White long cloth No. 2500, Indian make, 80 pieces
 His Master's Voice Radio, 5 valves, No. 209537.
 His Master's Voice Radio, 5 valves, No. 209493

Radio parts as below—

2 transformers.
 1 Qajra.
 25 Radio bulbs.
 6 Resistance.
 30 fuses.
 20 condensation.
 1 roller.
 1 meter nickel wire
 1 spare coil
 12 condensers.
 6 valves.
 Radio Loud Speaker (not in order), with flexible wire and wall socket.
 One wrist watch.
 11 table watches—small and big.
 One black leather box.
 One fruit dish.
 Five small crystal plates.
 One "Kashkari" cup.
 Five white porcelain plates, medium sized (some broken).
 Porcelain glasses of different kinds—4 in number.
 2 wooden trays (upper portion covered by glass).
 1 'Tat' used.

- 1 Bang Khrwar.
 One small stove.
 2 charpoys.
 One lock with key (large).
 6 glasses (for drinking water).
 6 plates.
 2 crystal glasses.
 6 plates, white and medium sized.
 Two water jugs.
 4 crystal glasses.
 6 ordinary glasses.
 4 crystal glasses.
 2 small glasses—coloured.
 1 jug without lid.
 2 jugs without lid.
 6 plates.
 6 small glasses.
 4 small flowered glasses.
 2 jugs without lids.
 6 plates.
 12 crystal glasses (for drinking water).
 2 crystal glasses (for drinking water).
 4 wooden trays (with glass inside).
 1 wooden tray (with glass inside broken).
 6 Lbs. of white papers, 110 reams @ Afg. 3 per reams.
 8 Lbs. of paper (white), 52½ reams @ Afg. 45 per reams.
 250 white plate (medium sized) @ Afg. 3/- per plate.
 Coloured pencils of every kind. 503 pencils 5 pencils sold at the rate of one Afghani.
 16 water jugs with lids @ Afg. 10/- per jug.
 Jug without lid. 4 in number @ Afg. 15/- per jug.
 5 fruit dishes at Afg. 10/- per dish.
 2 tea sets (less by two cups).
 102 small glasses (for drinking water).
 69 crystal glasses (for drinking water).
 700 glasses, small, coloured and uncoloured, @ Afg. 1-50.

Statement showing properties with their value which Uttamchand alleged were not included in the list of goods seized or otherwise accounted for

Properties	Value according to Uttamchand
(1) Telephone set, complete, with wiring and poles, etc.	Afghanis 2,500
(2) Motor car	(not given)
(3) Shaving box complete	700
(4) Cash taken by Afghan police at Jalalabad	3,200
(5) Carpet	3,000
(6) Portable typewriter	1,500

Properties	Value according to Uttamchand
(7) Firewood (150 maunds)	Afghanis 1,700
(8) Charcoal (60 maunds)	1,800
(9) Two wrist watches	500
(10) Cash in British currency	£ 250
(11) Silver Kabul coins	(Afghanis) 200
(12) Documents relating to the loans made as part of commercial dealings	to 300
(13) One radio set	3,500
(14) One life insurance policy	...
(15) A book containing old stamps	4,000
(16) Documents and receipts relating to loans made to Afghan subjects	...

NEED OF STEAMERS AT MANGALORE PORT FOR GOODS TRANSPORT

1858. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: (a) Will the Honourable Member for War Transport be pleased to state whether the South Canara Chamber of Commerce and other trade interests on the West Coast made any representations to the Honourable Member for War Transport and the Controller of Shipping at Bombay to make arrangements to send a few steamers to the Mangalore Port, so that the goods accumulated there for export may soon be lifted to Bombay and other northern ports before the South-West Monsoon sets in? If so, with what result?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that Mangalore Merchants depend mainly on sea-transport for the export of goods to Bombay and other trading centres in the north, for want of any easy Railway connection?

(c) Is he aware that generally from April to October no country crafts carry goods from Mangalore and other Western ports to other ports on the West Coast?

(d) Do Government propose to make arrangements to send a few steamers to Mangalore in accordance with the representations if any, that were made by the merchants of Mangalore and the West Coast?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. A representation dated the 26th March, 1946, from the Kanara Chamber of Commerce, Mangalore, was received by the Controller of Indian Shipping, Bombay, on the 30th March, 1946, and a copy of it was received by me direct from the Chamber on 1st April, 1946. A reply was sent by the Controller of Indian Shipping, to the Kanara Chamber of Commerce, on 1st April asking the Chamber to approach direct the following shipping Companies:

- (1) Malabar Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay.
- (2) Kalmarsund Co., Bombay.
- (3) Ambika Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay.
- (4) Merchants Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Bombay.

According to the information available with the Controller of Indian Shipping, none of the above companies has so far been approached. It is understood, however, that a vessel the *s.s. Sygna* called at Mangalore on the 8th April,

1946, on her way to Bombay and that all the accumulated cargo which is expected to be 12,000 packages are being or have been cleared by the vessel.

(b) Yes.

(c) I am aware that country craft do not generally ply on the West Coast of India during the South-West monsoon period. It is understood that country craft can ply from and to Mangalore upto about May 10th depending on weather conditions, and to Konkan ports upto about June 10th from Bombay.

(d) In the absence of any definite information about the quantity of cargo offering for shipment at Mangalore from time to time, it is not possible to make any special arrangements for sending steamers to Mangalore. If the Kanara Chamber of Commerce approaches the Steamship Companies mentioned in reply to (a) above with full details of cargo available, there will be no difficulty in lifting it as their steamers not infrequently arrive in Bombay only three-quarters full.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: May I know from the Honourable Member what steps are the Government taking to facilitate the removal of cargo instead of asking the Kanara Chamber of Commerce to directly apply to this Company?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: It is up to the Chamber of Commerce or the members thereof to get in touch with the steamship companies which I have indicated and to make known to them their requirements in order that the steamship companies may put on the necessary steamers. It is not much use coming to Government and asking them to arrange the steamers, and I suggest that it is really for the chairman, or the secretary, or the individual members of the Chamber of Commerce to look a little more lively about their own interests.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of the fact that monsoon is a recurring nuisance so far as that area is concerned and for four months cargo cannot be lifted through country craft, what steps do Government propose to take in the matter? Is not the Government aware that these people have approached them already for help and they are now approaching through the Controller of Shipping?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am trying to explain. It is not really a matter for the Government to put on these ships. Government is not in a position to know what cargo is waiting. If the merchants themselves or the Chamber of Commerce, which represents them, will adopt the ordinary business procedure of getting in touch with the steamship companies, I am certain that things will go more smoothly.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Will the Honourable Member advise the Controller of Shipping to afford the necessary facilities if these people are not able to remove the cargo at reasonable rates? The cargo is sufficiently large.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have been informed by the Controller of Shipping that these steamship companies will be only too glad to help but unless the merchants concerned make them aware that the cargo is waiting there, they find it difficult to learn the facts.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Has the Honourable Member got any machinery to ascertain what quantity of cargo is lying there?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: No, Sir. It is now left to the ordinary business procedure whereby merchants arrange their own shipping. They should let the steamship companies know their requirements.

Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: What does the Controller of Shipping do? Why can't he gather statistics as to what quantities of cargo are waiting and can be shipped from port to port, all along the coast?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: It is all *laissez faire*.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: To give a full reply to that will take a long time, and I suggest that the Honourable Member gets in touch with me and I will let him know what the procedure is.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know whether the allocation of steamers to these ports is not the concern of the Controller of Shipping at Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not particularly. I understand that representatives of some of the small companies have said that there is a dearth of cargo on the Malabar coast and their steamers have been calling at three or four ports to get a full load, and therefore if only the merchants concerned will inform these companies, whose names I have carefully given on the floor of the House, they will be able to fix it between themselves without any difficulty.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Representations have been made through the Controller of Shipping at Bombay that these goods are lying. As these exporters have no direct influence with the Chamber of Commerce or the shipping companies, will not the Controller of Shipping help them in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: As I have said in answer to part (a) of the question, the Controller of Shipping when approached advised these people to get in touch with certain steamship companies. In spite of that no attempt has been made by the persons interested to get in touch with them. What more can the Controller of Shipping do?

Mr. President: Next question.

SUPPLY OF YARN TO HOSIERY FACTORIES IN AJMER-MERWARA.

1859. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava:** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if it is a fact that the mills at Beawar, specially Edward Mills have a very large number of yarn bales in stock? If so, why is not the yarn released for sale to hosiery factories?

(b) What is the number of hosiery factories in Ajmer and Beawar and of places in Ajmer-Merwara?

(c) What is the number of workers engaged in these hosiery factories and the total quantity of output as also the quota of yarn allotted to these factories?

(d) Is it a fact that these factories have stopped working? If so, since when and for what reasons?

(e) Do Government propose to see that sufficient quota of yarn is allotted to enable them to resume their work? If not, why not?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The answer to the first query is in the negative. The second query therefore does not arise.

(b) There are eight hosiery factories in Ajmer-Merwara.

(c) About 200 workers are employed in these factories. Their total monthly output is about 22,500 lbs. Of these eight factories only two were established before 1945. These two factories have been allotted monthly quotas of 21 and 18 bales of yarn. The remaining six factories were started in 1945 by some enterprising gentlemen who came into Ajmer-Merwara from the Punjab. It is not Government's policy to encourage such new factories at present because, owing to the grave shortage of yarn in India, the setting up of such factories results in throwing handloom weavers out of work.

(d) The two factories established before 1945 are both working. Of the remainder only one is working; the other five have not been working for the last two months for lack of yarn. They have not received yarn because of Government's policy which I have described in the answer to part (c) of the question.

(e) No, Sir; for the reason already given.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: With reference to Government's policy of distribution yarn, is any effort being made to reconsider it in the light of the experience of the last Yarn Distribution Control Order?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: I may say that Government is always reconsidering those Control Orders.

Mr. President: Order, order. Question hour is over.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

ALLOTMENT OF YARN TO AND OUTPUT OF TEXTILE MILLS IN AJMER-MERWARA

1860. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the number of textile mills in Ajmer-Merwara and the annual output of cloth and yarn by such mills?

(b) What is the quota of cloth and yarn allotted to the Province of Ajmer-Merwara from out of the local produce in yarn and cloth in the Province?

(c) What is the quantity of yarn reserved for supply to handloom-weavers?

(d) Is it a fact that only five bales of yarn are being supplied to Bhambhies (handloom-weavers) of Beawar, and that they have been forced to give up the handloom industry? Do Government propose to take steps to release sufficient quantity of yarn to these weavers? If not, why not?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) There are four textile mills in Ajmer-Merwara, and their approximate output for the year ending 31st December 1945 was: Cloth—25,747,250, yds.; Yarn—15,186,000 pounds.

(b) About 1,440 bales of cloth and 200,000 lbs. of yarn per annum are supplied from the local mills.

(c) 26 bales of yarn a month are reserved for handloom weavers.

(d) Beawar's share of Ajmer-Merwara's quota comes to nine bales a month, of which five bales are allotted to the handloom weavers of Beawar town and four bales to the rural area of Beawar sub-division. It is not a fact that the weavers of Beawar have been forced to give up the handloom industry. Whenever possible, Government supplements the yarn quotas by *ad hoc* allotments. Only a few days ago an *ad hoc* allotment of 42 bales was made to Ajmer-Merwara for the weavers, and this quantity is at present being distributed.

REFUSAL OF PERMISSION TO REVIVE *Rajasthan Kesri*

1831. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: With reference to the answer to my unstarred question No. 35 asked on the 13th February, 1946, will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state as to why and for what reasons an exception has been made in the case of *Rajasthan Kesri* of Ahmedabad only when newsprint quota has been allotted to no less than 110 Daily and Weekly newspapers newly started up to the 30th January, 1946, while permission for revival has been continuously refused notwithstanding repeated representations made to the Government in this behalf?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: Under clause 4 of the Newspaper Control Order no newspaper or journal can be published which was not being regularly published during the month immediately preceding the 18th February, 1943, except with the special permission of the Central Government. No reasons have been advanced by the proprietor of the *Rajasthan Kesri* of Ahmedabad which would justify special permission being granted in his case.

PROMOTION TO POST OF CHIEF TICKET INSPECTOR, (B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY METRE GAUGE), DELHI

1862. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the responsible post of Chief Ticket Inspector, Delhi, on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway, Metre Gauge System, is being held by a person who is a previous convict in a

burglary case (No. 135/2 of the 13th December 1916)? If so, will the Railway Administration give the reasons why a man of this character has been promoted to such a responsible post?

(b) On what basis are promotions given to the Railway employees on the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway Metre Gauge System, and is it a fact that recently a number of juniors possessing no necessary qualifications have been promoted to the post of Chief Ticket Inspectors in supersession of the better and more deserving aspirants?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The railway administration have no information regarding the present Chief Ticket Inspector's conviction in a criminal case twenty-nine years ago, but they are making investigations.

(b) Promotions of subordinate staff are effected in accordance with the rules contained in Appendix II-A to the State Railway Establishment Code, Volume I, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. The post of Chief Ticket Inspector is a selection post, promotion to which is made on the recommendations of a properly constituted selection board on considerations of merit. Government have no reason to believe that the principles of selection have been ignored in this case.

INSULT TO AND RESIGNATION OF INDIAN PROFESSORS OF HABIBIA COLLEGE OF AFGHANISTAN

1863. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Has the attention of the Foreign Secretary been drawn to a message published under the Caption "Indian Professor in Kabul insulted" in the *Amrit Bazar Patrika*, of the 30th March, 1946? If so, will he please state:

(i) if the statement contained in the message is true;

(ii) if Prof. Mufizul Islam Chaudhary has been insulted by the Afghan Principal of the Habibia College, Kabul: if so, why;

(iii) if, as a protest, twenty Indian professors in the Afghan Education Service have resigned; and

(iv) if they have sent a joint representation to His Excellency the Viceroy for necessary steps and proper remedy?

(b) If the answers to (a) be in the affirmative, what have the Government of India hitherto done in this matter?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) I have seen the message in the *Amrit Bazar Patrika* and have received a copy of a representation addressed to H. E. the Viceroy by three of the Professors who apparently claim to represent the rest.

There has not yet been time for a full account to be received from His Majesty's Minister in Kabul, but from the information at present in my possession it appears that about 20 professors have resigned or have decided not to renew their contracts. These resignations appear to have been due in the main to disagreement with the Afghan Government over wages and terms of service.

(b) The Government of India await a full account from His Majesty's Minister before deciding whether, and if so in what form, they should make a representation to the Afghan Government.

INDIANS IN AFGHANISTAN

1864. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Foreign Secretary please state:

(a) the number of Indians in Afghanistan;

(b) the number of Indian professors in Afghanistan;

(c) the number of Indians in the service of the Afghan Government in (i) Education, and (ii) Law and all other Departments;

(d) the machinery of the Afghan Government here in India for recruitment of Indians for service in Afghanistan; and

(e) the Government of India's connection and control in all these matters?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) There is a total of 416 British subjects in Afghanistan the great majority of whom are Indians. The figure for Indians alone is not available.

(b) 15.

(c) (i) 15; (ii) 8.

(d) and (e). The Afghan Government generally recruit Indians through the Afghan Consul General in New Delhi. In particular cases in which the Afghan Government seek their assistance the Government of India use their best endeavours to assist them to obtain suitable persons on appropriate conditions of service.

IMPROVEMENT AND OPENING OF NEW RURAL POST OFFICE IN CERTAIN DISTRICTS OF BIHAR

1865. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the methods the Postal Department follows in their attempt to improve postal facilities in rural areas in Bihar with special reference to Chhota Nagpur;

(b) the number of applications from the people of all Districts of Chhota Nagpur lying in the custody of the Department for opening new rural Post Offices in those Districts; and

(c) whether the people of Pandepura area in the Hunterganj Thana and also of Pathalgura area in the Chatra Thana of the Hazaribagh District have applied for the opening of rural Post Offices in those areas; if so, when these Post Offices will be started?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) The method followed in Bihar in this matter is the same as everywhere else in India. The grant of postal facilities is subject to the observance of the declared policy of Government that the Posts and Telegraphs Department as a whole must not be operated at a loss to the taxpayer. Subject to this reservation, it is the aim of Government to provide all reasonable facilities by opening post offices wherever this may be desirable in the interests of the general public. To further the object of extending postal facilities, the Posts and Telegraphs Department have been authorised to bear a working deficit in post offices required in the interest of the general public upto a maximum of Rs. 240 per annum in respect of each individual post office.

(b) Ten.

(c) Yes. The matter is under enquiry by the Postmaster General, Patna.

AEROPLANES AND AIR FIELDS IN BIHAR

1866. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air please state:

(a) the number of aerodromes in Bihar;

(b) the number of landing grounds in Bihar;

(c) the facilities for air travel in Bihar;

(d) the number of planes possessed by private individuals in Bihar and the names of the owners; and

(e) the number of Biharee airmen and officers in the service of the Government of India and the places of their posting?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) There is no aerodrome in Bihar.

(b) There are five civil landing grounds in Bihar, namely, Gaya, Jamshedpur, Patna, Muzaffarpur and Bhagalpur.

(c) There are no air travel facilities in Bihar other than what the Bihar Flying Club may be able to provide.

(d) I lay on the table a statement giving the information.

(e) There are no Biharee airmen or officers in the service of the Civil Aviation Department of the Government of India.

Statement

Nine aircraft are owned by private individuals as shown below:

(1) Mr. W. Fairweather, Muzaffarpur—Five aircrafts.

(2) Mr. H. M. Weatherall, care Messrs. Arthur Butter & Co., Ltd., Muzaffarpur—One aircraft.

(3) Mr. Neville Corbett, care Muzaffarpur Club, Ltd., Muzaffarpur—One aircraft.

(4) Mr. Roger Lees, Superintendent of Police, Purnea—One aircraft.

(5) Mr. A. H. Kemp, I.C.S., care Chief Secretary, Government of Bihar Patna—One aircraft.

Four aircraft are also owned by Messrs. Tata Iron & Steel Co., Jamshedpur.

1867. *[Withdrawn].

SURVEY OPERATION ON CERTAIN LINES IN BENGAL

1868. *Mr. Tamisuddin Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state what the new Railway lines in Bengal are for which (i) survey operations were completed in the year 1945-46, and (ii) survey operations are proposed to be undertaken in the year 1946-47?

(b) Of the lines coming under (a)(ii) above, when are the survey operations likely to be completed?

(c) When is the question of sanctioning the construction of the lines indicated above likely to be taken up for consideration?

(d) Have the Government of Bengal been consulted about these lines, and what is the result of consultatory if any?

(e) Has any of the shipping companies likely to be affected by these Railway projects been consulted, or have they volunteered any opinion about these projects? If so, what opinion have they given in each case?

(f) Is it a fact that the proposed line from Faridpur to Barisal is likely to be abandoned in deference to the wishes of a steamship company likely to be adversely affected if the project materialises?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) (i) No survey operations for any new line in Bengal were completed in the year 1945-46.

(a) (ii) and (b). Survey operations for the following new lines in Bengal are in hand and are expected to be completed in June 1946:

(1) Faridpur-Madaripur-Barisal, B. A. Railway.

(2) Rohanpur-Nithper-Dinajpur, B. A. Railway.

The programme of work during the cold weather of 1946-47 is under consideration.

(c) The survey reports and estimates will be examined by the Railway Board immediately on receipt from the Railway Administration, and a decision will be reached without avoidable delay whether to undertake the constructions or not.

(d) Yes. The selection of new lines for investigation in Bengal has been made in consultation with the Provincial Government.

(e) Representatives of the inland steamer companies operating services in this area represented their views on the co-ordination of road, rail and river services at the last meeting of the Post-War Policy Committee on Transport. As a result, the railways were instructed to arrange locally for an exchange of views with the parties interested and to incorporate the results thereof in the survey reports.

(f) No, but steps will be taken to see that road, rail and river services to the public in this area are not redundant.

PUBLIC DEMAND FOR RAILWAY LINE FROM DACCA TO ARICHA IN BENGAL

1869. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: (a) Is the Honourable the Railway Member aware that there is a great public demand for a Railway line from Dacca to Aricha in Bengal?

(b) Why was the project abandoned?

(c) In view of the general importance of the project, in question, and of the public demand for the line, do Government propose to reconsider the question?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The Government of Bengal objected to the project on the grounds of "public health" and "irrigation". The project was not, therefore, included in the post-war plan.

(c) The project has only been recently considered in consultation with the Government of Bengal and the question of reconsideration does not, therefore, arise.

RAILWAY LINE TO TANGUIL IN BENGAL

1870. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether the question of connecting Tanguil in Bengal by a Railway line has ever been considered? If so, with what result?

(b) Is the Honourable Member aware that public interest demands that Tanguil should be connected by Railway and that there is a very great public clamour for such a line?

(c) What action, if any, is proposed to be taken in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The question was considered in consultation with the Provincial Government and it was decided not to include a line to Tanguil in the post-war plan.

(b) Government are aware of the public interest involved but consider the reasons which caused the Government of Bengal to come to their decision to be paramount.

(c) None.

PROMOTIONS IN RAILWAY BOARD

1871. *Mr. P. B. Gole: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that promotion to the staff of the Railway Board is not given in the order of seniority if so, why the usual rule is departed from in the case of the Railway Board staff;

(b) whether junior clerks in that office have been promoted as Assistant Superintendent by ignoring the claims of senior men;

(c) whether the staff in the Railway Board Office made a representation that promotion in that office should be made according to seniority; if so, what decision was reached on their representation;

(d) if it is a fact that some second Division clerks in the Railway Board's Office are working as Assistant Superintendents, but have not been promoted as Assistant Superintendents;

(e) if it is a fact that during the time of the late Sir P. R. Rau, Financial Commissioner of Railways it was decided that the staff of the Railway Board be allowed to represent their case to the Chief Commissioner for Railways if they are not satisfied with the decision of the Secretary; if so, whether his decision was communicated to the staff?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes. This is in accordance with the Manual of Office Procedure of the Railway Board.

(b) Some of the promotions to the posts of Assistant-in-Charge have gone to junior men on the basis of selection. The claims of all persons eligible for

promotion are considered before they are made. I may add that there are no posts of Assistant Superintendents in the Railway Board but Assistants-in-Charge and Superintendents.

(c) There have been some representations from the staff. These have been duly considered but it has been decided not to alter the rules.

(d) No.

(e) I have not been able to trace any such decision as referred to. The latter part does not arise.

GRANTS TO EUROPEAN AND INDIAN INSTITUTES ON O.T. RAILWAY

1872. *Mr. B. B. Varma: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) the numerical strength of members of each of the European and Indian Institute on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway;

(b) the amount of grant allotted out of the Railway funds to each institute;

(c) if it is a fact that the buildings and play grounds of European Institutes are far bigger than those of the Indians although the numerical strength of members of the Indian Institutes is three times greater than that of the European Institutes;

(d) if it is a fact that on the other state Railways both the European and Indian officers can join one or the other Institute without any question while on the Oudh and Tirhut Railway there is discrimination; and

(e) whether the Honourable Member proposes to see that no such discrimination exists in future?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The number of members of the European Institutes on the O. T. Railway is 350 while that of Indian Institutes is 7,700.

(b) The grants made during the year 1945-46 to the European and Indian Institutes, together with subscriptions, were Rs. 25,000 and 26,000 respectively.

(c) The reply is in the negative as far as the Institutes at Gorakhpur are concerned. Where the buildings and playgrounds of other Indian Institutes on the O. T. Railway are small as compared with those European Institutes, it must be remembered that the Institutes were built when membership of Indian Institutes (which is optional) was small. Additions and improvements have continued to be made from time to time and under the post-war scheme provision has been made for new Institutes and improvements to the existing Institutes, where found necessary.

(d) Indian officers on Indian Government Railways have the option of joining the European Institutes, though on the O. T. Railway this has in the past been subject to certain conditions. Orders have been issued by the General Manager removing these conditions.

(e) Does not arise.

RECONSTRUCTION OF RAILWAY BRIDGE ON THE GANDAK RIVER

1873. *Mr. B. B. Varma: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if he is aware that reconstruction of the Railway bridge on the Gandak river has been surveyed at Chitanni ghat on the Narkataganj-Bagaha and Gorakhpur line; if so, what the position is; and

(b) if there is any proposal to take up the reconstruction of the bridge in the post-war scheme; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). The reconstruction of the bridge at Chitanni Ghat has been found to be impracticable and the existing site has been abandoned. A survey for a suitable site between Bagaha and Dumaria Ghat, preferably near Bagaha, has been sanctioned and a decision will be taken when results of the survey have been received and considered.

OPENING OF CERTAIN NEW RAILWAY LINE AND REBUILDING OF SONEPUR BRIDGE ON O.T. RAILWAY AND BUILDING OF BRIDGE OVER THE GANGES.

1874. *Mr. B. B. Varma: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) if there is any proposal to open a Railway line from Chakia (Oudh and Tirhut Railway) to Sidhwalia;

(b) if there is any proposal, as a post-war scheme, to construct a Railway bridge on the Ganges river to connect North Bihar with Patna;

(c) if it is a fact that the Sonepur bridge, Oudh and Tirhut Railway has served its life;

(d) if the reply to part (c) is in the affirmative, whether Government propose necessary to have another bridge so that there may be a service of train from Muzaffarpur to Patna direct; and

(e) when the survey of the line and the construction of the bridges are likely to be taken up?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) A railway line from Chakia to Sidhwalia was surveyed in 1927-28 and a re-investigation has been approved. A change in the alignment may be necessary owing to a proposal to provide a combined road and rail bridge over the River Gundak, which is at present under investigation.

(b) The project for the construction of a combined road and rail bridge over the River Ganges at or near Patna or Mokameh Ghat is at present under active investigation in the field.

(c) The girders of the Sonepur Bridge are old, but the bridge is safe for passing the present traffic at a restricted speed. It is proposed to renew the girders in the year 1951-52.

(d) The question of providing a direct train service from Muzaffarpur to Patna will perhaps arise if as a result of the decisions on the investigation referred to in part (b) of the reply, a metre gauge connection is established between these stations.

(e) The investigations of these schemes are in hand, and as soon as they are completed and the reports studied a decision will be taken whether to proceed with construction or not.

RETURNING OF LAND REQUISITIONED BY O.T. RAILWAY TO TENANTS OF SIMARIA DISTRICT, MONGHYR

1875. *Mr. B. B. Varma: (a) Has the attention of the Honourable the Railway Member been drawn to a letter from the tenants of village Simaria, District Monghyr, as published in the *Searchlight* of the 3rd April, 1946, with regard to their claim for restoration of their land by the Railway authorities of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway?

(b) Why has not the land, in question, which is no longer required by the Railway authorities, been returned to the original tenants?

(c) Are the original tenants not entitled under the law for the return of their land?

(d) Is it a fact that the land, in question has been given to a contractor of their own for cultivation purposes and that the said contractor has been in possession for a number of years?

(e) Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of directing the Oudh and Tirhut Railway authorities to return the land to the original tenants? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes.

(b) The land has not been relinquished as it may be required at a later date for railway purposes should the Ganges river move to certain alignments.

(c) No, in view of what is stated at (b) above.

(d) Only a comparatively small area of this land has been licensed to a contractor since 1944 in connection with the "Grow More Food" campaign.

(e) About 600 acres of land at the high level Semaria Ghat site are in process of being made over to the Civil authorities for safe custody.

PROPOSAL FOR DIRECT METRE GAUGE LINE FROM EGMORE (S. I. RAILWAY) TO RENIGUNTA

1876. *Sri T. V. Satakopachari: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to take a direct metre gauge line from the Egmore Railway Station South Indian Railway to Renigunta via west Madras; and

(b) if not, whether Government propose to consider the advisability of opening such a line so as to give a direct and through connection from Madras direct by metre gauge to Timpatti, thus linking the metre gauge lines of the South Indian Railway with those of ceded Districts, South Bombay and Hyderabad?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) and (b). There was formerly a proposal for the construction of a metre gauge line from Madras to Renigunta, but it was abandoned since the Madras Government would not give any undertaking to take steps to ensure that, if this line were built, it would not be liable to the unfettered competition of motor vehicles. The proposal was recently considered in consultation with the Provincial Government but it was decided not to include this project in the initial post-war programme. In reply to the second part of part (b), I must point out that the metre gauge lines of the S. I. Railway are already linked with the M. G. systems of the M. & S. M. and H. E. H. the Nizam's State Railways at Katpadi.

STEPS TO PROTECT AND ENCOURAGE RUBBER INDUSTRY

1877. *Sri N. Narayanamurthi: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether rubber production is not of great strategic and industrial importance;

(b) what steps Government are taking to protect and encourage the Rubber Industry of India;

(c) whether any protective or developmental steps which Government have been taking till recently by way of purchasing Indian rubber at remunerative prices are recently withdrawn; if so, why;

(d) whether Government have reduced the prices of the Indian rubber; if so, why; and

(e) whether Government have received any protests from rubber growers and producers against the present neglect displayed by Government towards this Industry?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) With the end of the war and the recovery of Malaya and other rubber producing areas in the Far East rubber is now not of great strategic importance. It is of industrial importance but in the same way as other commodities such as cotton, leather and chemicals.

(b) Presumably the question refers to Rubber Growing Industry. No rubber has so far been allowed to be imported into India. The manufacturing capacity has expanded considerably in India during the war. This capacity is sufficient to consume all the rubber produced. The Rubber Grower has been thus protected from competition from abroad and given a market which can consume all the produce.

(c) The decision to purchase Indian rubber at high prices was not taken as a developmental or protective step for the industry. It was an emergency

measure which aimed at ensuring an uninterrupted maximum supply of rubber in connection with the prosecution of the war effort.

(d) Prices were reduced with effect from 1st February, 1946, as there was no economic justification for maintaining higher prices.

(e) Yes, but their allegations that the rubber industry is neglected are not correct. Even now Government are examining the question of establishing a post-war marketing organisation for rubber in consultation with the interests concerned for the protection of this industry.

NEWSPRINT QUOTA TO NIRANJAN SINGH TALIB FOR REVIVAL OF *Desh Darpan*

1878. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: With reference to the answer to starred question No. 80 of the 7th February, 1946, will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the said Niranjana Singh Talib has approached the Controller of Newsprint asking for quota of paper supply with a view to being enabled to revive publication of his Punjabi Daily *Desh Darpan* which ceased to have publication after the arrest and detention of the said Niranjana Singh Talib, proprietor and editor, in 1942; and

(b) whether Government propose to consider the desirability of giving him the quota asked for without delay, in view of the particular fact that his detention without trial was solely responsible for the cessation of publication of the paper?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Application dated the 2nd April, 1946, has been received.

(b) The supply position of newsprint has deteriorated to such an extent at the present moment that it is anticipated that existing dailies and journals will soon be in difficulties regarding supplies. The present supplies do not admit of grant of quotas for new journals or for revival of journals. The matter can be considered as soon as the newsprint supply position shows substantial improvement. This may not be for another six months.

UNSUITABLE TIMINGS OF TRAINS ON PANIPAT-AMBALA SECTION OF N. W. RAILWAY

1879. *Sri T. V. Satakopachari: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state whether the timings of passenger trains in the Delhi-Panipat-Ambala Section of the North Western Railway are for the convenience of the Railway Staff or for the travelling public?

(b) Is it a fact that the timings of passenger trains on the Delhi-Karnal-Ambala Section of the North Western Railway do not suit the travelling public?

(c) Is it a fact that the East Indian Railway used to change timings of passenger trains on the Delhi-Ambala-Kalka Section twice a year for the convenience of passengers when that section was under the East Indian Railway, but the timings of trains remain the same throughout the year under the North Western Railway? If so, why?

(d) Is it a fact that the 2 Down train of the North Western Railway stops at unimportant stations (Samalkha, Neral and Badli) whereas it does not stop at an important station (Shahabad Markanda)? If so, why?

(e) Do Government propose to order the stoppage of the 2 Down train at Shahabad Markanda on the Delhi-Ambala-Kalka Section of the North Western Railway? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) All train timings, including those for the Delhi-Panipat-Ambala Section, are drawn up with due regard to public convenience. As evidence of this, I should like to remind the Honourable Member that all periodical revisions of the time-table are made in consultation with a Time Table Sub-Committee, of the Local Advisory Committee who are expected to represent the needs of the travelling public.

(b) Government have not received any previous representation to this effect.

(c) I am unable to say, without extensive—and profitless—research into past history, what was being done when the Section was worked by the E. I. Railway. But the N. W. Railway also revise their Time Table every six months, and the fact that the timings on a particular section remain unaltered merely indicates that they continue to meet public convenience.

(d) No. No. 2 Down mail is not scheduled to halt at any of the four stations mentioned.

(e) No. The 2 Down mail is a long-distance “through” train which is not intended to cater for purely local traffic, for which an alternative passenger service is available.

TRAINS ON DELHI KARNAL AMBALA SECTION OF N. W. RAILWAY

1880. *Sri T. V. Satakopachari: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that there are only two passenger trains that run on Up and Down directions on the Delhi-Karnal-Ambala Section of the North Western Railway, that both of them run over-crowded and that being important trains for Bombay, Peshawar and Simla, passengers at intermediate stations do not get accommodation in these trains during summer season?

(b) Is it a fact that one shuttle train runs from Ambala to Panipat and back and the other from Panipat to Delhi and back on the North Western Railway? If so, do Government propose to extend one of them up to Delhi or Ambala and make it a local train from Ambala to Delhi and back for the convenience of the travelling public? If not, why not?

(b) Is it a fact that one shuttle train runs from Ambala to Panipat and back the North Western Railway? If so, has any train been introduced on the Delhi-Karnal-Ambala Section of the North Western Railway? If not, why not?

(d) Do Government propose to re-introduce 105 Up and 106 Down passenger trains on the Delhi-Panipat-Ambala Section of the North Western Railway which were abolished owing to the war? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) No, three trains a day each way are scheduled to run on this section, namely, the Calcutta-Delhi-Kalka Mail, the Bombay Express and 81 Up/82 Dn. Passenger between Delhi and Ambala. The Mail and the Express are essentially long-distance “through” trains not intended to cater for purely local traffic, which is served by the Passenger train referred to.

(b) No, there is only one shuttle service between Delhi and Panipat. The suggestion to extend this to Ambala is one to be put to the Railway Administration through the Local Advisory Committee, whose function it is to acquaint the administration with the needs of the travelling public.

(c) Yes, a number of passenger services have been restored on the N. W. Railway, as on other railways, since the cessation of hostilities, but the list of restorations does not include any additional service on the Delhi-Karnal-Ambala Section. The reason for this is that the railway administration must utilise its available resources of stock and power, which are still below the level required to meet all demands, in the order of urgency of traffic requirements.

(d) As I have said in reply to part (b), this proposal should be referred to the Railway Administration through the Local Advisory Committee. I am, however, in the meantime, sending a copy of the question and my reply to the G. M., N. W. Railway for information.

WITHDRAWAL OF CERTAIN POWERS OF GUARDS ON N. W. RAILWAY

1881. *Sri T. V. Satakopachari: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state if it is a fact that the power of granting certificate to passengers by Guards of trains on the North Western Railway has been taken away? If so, why?

(b) Are Government aware of the hardship to passengers who cannot get ticket or who want to change from lower to upper class as the Guards of the train have no power to grant a certificate? If so, do Government propose to confer on the Guards the same power of granting certificate to passengers on the North Western Railway as is in vogue on other Railway? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Yes, in the case of passengers without tickets. With regard to the latter part of the question, owing to the abnormal conditions created by the war which still obtain, it was necessary to withdraw this privilege with a view to discouraging passengers travelling without tickets when trains are overcrowded.

(b) If would-be passengers apply for tickets at the booking office in ample time, they will be able to obtain tickets. With regard to changing from lower to upper classes, Government understand that guards of the trains still have powers to grant certificates in such cases. The question of reintroducing the privilege referred to in reply to part (a) of the question will be considered as soon as conditions return to normality.

RAILWAY BOARD MEMORANDUM re REVISED SCALES OF PAY IN RAILWAYS

1882. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board had sent a memorandum to all the Indian Government Railways on the 25th February, 1946, regarding post-war scales of pay for non-gazetted staff;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board has tentatively suggested in the memorandum two scales of pay a lower scale for the Madras and Southern Marhatta, South Indian, and Oudh and Tirhut Railways and a higher one for the rest; if so, why;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Railway Board discussed the memorandum with the General Managers of Railways in March last; if so, with what results; and

(d) whether organised labour on Railways was apprised of the revised scales of pay; if not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The reply is in the affirmative, but the memorandum was intended to be exploratory in character, the object being to suggest broad principles for further investigation after discussion with railway administrations.

(b) The reply to the first portion is in the affirmative. With regard to the second portion, it was tentatively suggested that as the cost of living in the areas traversed by the O. T., S. I. and M. & S. M. Railways continues to remain low as compared with that prevailing in other parts of India, this factor should not be lost sight of in fixing the post-war scales of pay for these railways.

(c) Yes; no conclusions were reached at the meeting referred to.

(d) No, for the reasons given in the reply to part (a) of this question, it was considered that no useful purpose would be achieved by discussion with organised labour at this stage.

ABSENCE OF DAY TRAINS FROM SAHEBGANJ TO KIUL ON E. I. RAILWAY

1883. *Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala: Will the Honourable the Railway Member please state:

(a) whether representations were made by the public to resume the running of two trains in the Sahebganj Loop Section of the East Indian Railway; and

(b) whether, in view of the inconvenience to the travelling public by the absence of day trains at proper time from Sahebganj to Kiul, Government propose to arrange for such service?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) The Railway Administration are aware of only two representations in recent months from individuals asking for the extension of Nos. 59 Up and 60 Down to and from Kiul. No such proposal has been received from the Local Advisory Committee or from any other public body.

(b) The extension of particular services is a matter to be represented through the Local Advisory Committee to the Railway Administration, whose endeavour it is to utilise their available resources of stock and power in the order of priority of the public demand and requirements. I am, however, sending a copy of the question and my reply to the General Manager, E. I. Railway, for information.

DEMAND FOR STOPPAGE OF BENGAL NAGPUR RAILWAY DOWN BOMBAY MAIL AT GHAT SILA

1884. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable the Railway Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a large volume of public demand that the Bengal Nagpur Railway Down Bombay Mail should touch at Ghatsila;

(b) why it is that the said train does not touch at Ghatsila when the needs of a Copper Corporation which has its establishment at Ghatsila require the said train to stop;

(c) why it is that even when the said Down train stops for accommodating the passengers of said Copper Corporation other Passengers, even of the upper classes are not allowed to entrain;

(d) why it is that though the Bombay Mail Up train stops at Ghatsila, the Down train does not; and

(e) the difficulties in the way of arranging for at least one or two minute stop at Ghatsila in view of the great public demand?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The reply which I gave to the Honourable Member's unstarred question No. 146, on the 20th March, 1946, covers the points he has now raised, except that in part (c). In regard to this, I have since ascertained that the Railway Administration have not issued any orders debarring passengers from taking advantage of the special out-of-course halts arranged in favour of officials of the Indian Copper Corporation.

DISCOVERY OF EX-POWER MACHINE BY MR. ROBERTSON TO DRIVE CENTRIFUGAL PUMP AND CRUSHER, ETC.

1885. *Mr. G. B. Dani: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware of the fact that one Mechanical Engineer, Mr. Robertson of the Sholapur District, (Bombay), has discovered an ex-power machine which can drive centrifugal pump and crusher, etc.?

(b) Are the Government of India aware of the fact that Mr. Robertson, Mechanical Engineer, had sent a copy of this new discovery to the Director of Agriculture, Bombay, in or near about 1939?

(c) Why did the Government of India not encourage the Engineer to manufacture the ex-power machine?

(d) Will the Government of India now encourage the manufacture of the ex-power machinery?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) and (b). Government have no information.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

ADVISABILITY OF WITHDRAWING INDIAN SOLDIERS FROM MID EAST DUE TO POLITICAL TENSION

1886. *Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state whether, in view of the political tension in the Middle East, the Government of India propose to consider the advisability of withdrawing the Indian soldiers therefrom?

Mr. H. Weightman: The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply given by the Joint War Secretary to Mr. Jaffer's question No. 1659, on the 9th April, in regard to Indian troops serving in the Middle East. The Government of India do not consider that the situation in the Middle East is such as to warrant the immediate and wholesale withdrawal of Indian troops therefrom.

BAN ON ENTRY INTO KURAM AGENCY

1887. *Khan Abdul Ghani Khan: (a) Will the Foreign Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact:

(i) that people from the Settled Area cannot enter the Political Agency of Kuram without a permit;

(ii) that people from surrounding areas around the boundaries of the Agency cannot go into the Agency area without a permit even when they have fields, property and relations there;

(iii) that tribal people and even Afghan subjects are exempt from such permits; and

(iv) that when an application for a permit is made, it is referred to the Settled Area police to report if the man is a Khudai Khidmatgar or has red shirt sympathies, and, if he has, he is not given the permit?

(b) In view of the fact that the Frontier Ministry is made up of Khudai Khidmatgars and is responsible for law and order, does he propose to remove this ban on the people who are running the Government?

Mr. H. Weightman: (a) (i), (ii) and (iii). A permit system is in force, applicable to residents of N. W. F. P. and other parts of India who do not own property in Parachinar. The permit system is operable in practice only on the motor road at Thal. The control is applied there to all non-residents of the Kurram, except migratory tribesmen who are on their way to Afghanistan.

(iv) No.

(b) The question of the continued need for the permit system in its present or in modified form is under consideration.

STEPS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF RUBBER INDUSTRY

1888. *Sri N. Narayanamurthi: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is the policy of Government to encourage the development of rubber production in India;

(b) whether it is a fact that the growers and manufacturers of rubber have been asking for the establishment of a special Committee to develop research, marketing and otherwise to protect the interests of the industry; and

(c) whether Government propose to take early steps to set up such a Committee?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir. But it should be mentioned that the price is now a matter of some importance. While after the fall of Malaya, rubber became an extremely critical item and Government took every step possible to induce rubber growers to produce the maximum amount of rubber, even at high prices the position has changed since the termination of hostilities with Japan and there is a change of emphasis as regards price. It is still Government's policy to encourage the development of rubber production in India and as stated in reply to an earlier question today, Government are now considering the question of the establishment of a post-war marketing organisation to look after the interests of the rubber industry in India.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. But the Government of India anticipating post-war depression in prices convened a conference last December to consider the question of establishing a research and marketing organisation for rubber on the lines of the Indian Coffee Board. The conference appointed an *ad hoc* committee who have since circulated a memorandum to the rubber producers inviting their comments. Their replies are awaited.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

RAILWAY TRAINS ON DELHI-MUTTRA LINE STOPPING AT BULLABHGARH AND PALWAL

221. Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Railway Member kindly state how many trains carrying passengers run between Delhi and Muttra daily, and how many of them stop at Bullabhgargh and other intervening stations?

(b) Is it a fact that several trains used to stop before the war at Bullabhgargh and other intervening stations and that the only train from Muttra to Delhi which now stops at Bullabhgargh reaches there at midnight?

(c) Is it a fact that in these trains also which stop at Bullabhgargh and intervening stations two third class bogeys are daily reserved, that booking for the public is stopped at times for want of room, and that these trains convey other than passenger coaches also?

(d) Are Government aware that Bullabhgargh and Palwal are big trade centres, that Bullabhgargh has a Mandi, that both these towns are also the headquarters of Tehsils, that there is considerable traffic between these towns and Delhi and Muttra?

(e) Do Government propose to consider the desirability of arranging the stoppage of a few more trains at Bullabhgargh, Palwal and other intervening stations?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: (a) Seven trains a day each way run between Delhi and Muttra, of which two are scheduled to stop at Bullabhgargh and other intervening stations for passenger traffic to and from such stations. The others are long distance "through" trains which are not intended to cater for local traffic.

(b) In the absence of the time tables of the period, it is not possible to verify the Honourable Member's statement that before the war several trains used to stop at Bullabhgargh and other intervening stations. There are, however, two trains now from Muttra to Delhi which stop at Bullabhgargh, and they are scheduled to arrive there at 23.23 hours and 1.44 hours respectively.

(c) The Honourable Member does not indicate for whom the two third class bogies are alleged to be reserved every day. It is quite possible that, in accordance with normal practice, passenger booking is occasionally suspended for a time to prevent overcrowding. Of the two trains that stop at Bullabhgargh and other intervening stations, one is a Parcels Express which carries parcels and other coaching vans in addition to passenger-carrying vehicles.

(d) Government have no detailed information on the subject.

(e) As I have said in reply to the Honourable Member's earlier question on the subject (unstarred No. 38 of the 19th February 1946), this is a matter to be taken up by the Local Advisory Committees. I am, however, sending a copy of this question also and my reply to the General Managers of the G. I. P. and B. B. & O. I. Railways.

COMPLAINTS FROM GROWERS AGAINST REDUCTION IN PRICES OF RUBBER

222. Sri M. K. Jinachandran: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if Government have recently reduced the price of rubber in India? If so, from what date? What was the price before the reduction, and what is the price now prevailing after the reduction?

(b) Have Government received complaints from growers of rubber, protesting against the reduction in price?

(c) What is the reason for the reduction?

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(d) Are Government aware that the cost of production still continues as high as—if not higher than in 1942 and that there is no prospect of a fall in the cost of production in the near future?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir. The prices were reduced by the Government of India with effect from 1st February, 1946. A statement showing the prices before the reduction and the current prices is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Cost investigation undertaken by the late Supply Department towards the end of 1944 established that Indian prices were completely out of line with the costs of production. The supply position was, however, unsatisfactory and the Government of India were advised that additional supplies would be forthcoming only if an increase in prices was allowed however unjustified by costs of production. In the interests of the war effort, therefore, a bonus scheme was introduced allowing for a bonus over and above the basic prices but this was later replaced on 30th June, 1945, by a fixed addition to prices. As a result of this special inducement, the Government of India were able to get in 1945 approximately 3,000 tons of rubber more than in the previous year. With the end of hostilities both in the West and East, however, there seemed to be no justification for continuing the bonus or its equivalent addition to fixed prices which had been offered merely to attract additional supplies. The Government of India also felt that the prices of raw rubber along with prices of other commodities such as Steel and Cement should be reduced to more reasonable levels. They, therefore, decided to withdraw the bonus element and revert to the pre-bonus prices with effect from 1st February, 1946.

(d) Yes, Sir. It is common knowledge that, owing to increased costs of production during war time, there has been a general increase in the prices of all articles, but there is reason to think that the increase in the production costs of rubber has not been so high as to justify continuance of the bonus element. The pre-bonus price allows a good margin of profit to the producer. A fresh cost investigation has just been made and if it should necessitate a revision of price, Government would be prepared to take a decision on it.

Statement

Prices of Raw Rubber before reduction

(I. and C. S. Deptt. Notification No. 16(2) FP/43, dated 30th June 1945)

Serial No.	Grade and quality of Rubber	Group No.	Place Delivered	Rate per 100 lbs.
				Rs. As. P.
1	R. M. A. IX	Group 1	Cochin	100 0 0
2	" 1			
3	" 2			
4	" 3	Group 2	"	99 0 0
5	Cuttings No. 1			
6	R. M. A. 4	Group 3	"	96 0 0
7	" 5			
8	Cutting No. 2			
9	Rejections Group—3	Group 3A	"	80 8 0

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Serial No.	Grade and quality of Rubber	Group No.	Place Delivered	Rate per 100 lbs.
				Rs. As. P.
10	Pale Latex Crepe IX	Group 4	Cochin	101 0 0
11	" " " 1			
12	" " " 2			
13	Palish " " 3 F. A. Q.	Group 5	"	95 0 0
14	Estate Brown Crepe IX			
15	" " 2X			
16	Smoked Blanket	Group 6	"	90 0 0
17	Remilled Crepe 2			
18	Estate Brown Crepe 3X			
19	Remilled Crepe 3	Group 7	"	85 8 0
20	" " 4			
21	Flat Bark			
22	35% Normal Latex (Excluding cost of containers)		"	100 0 0 plus a premium of Rs. 17/8—based on actual D. R. C. of latex delivered.
23	50 to 55% Concentrated Latex (Excluding cost of containers)		"	Rs. 100 0 0 plus a premium of Rs. 43/—based on actual D. R. C. of latex delivered.

Prices of Raw Rubber after reduction i.e., with effect from 1st February, 1946.
(I. & S. Deptt. Notification No. 19(1)-IP/46, dated 1st February, 1946)

Serial No.	Grade and quality of Rubber	Group No.	Place Delivered	Rate per 100 lbs.
				Rs. As. P.
1	R. M. A. IX	Group 1	Cochin	77 5 0
2	" 1			
3	" 2	Group 2	"	76 15 0
4	" 3			
5	Cuttings No.			

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Serial No.	Grade and quality of Rubber	Group No.	Place Delivered	Rate per 100 lbs.
6	R. M. A. 4	Group 3	Cochin	Rs. 48. 75
7	" 5			
8	Cuttings No. 2			74 8 0
9	Pale Latex Crepe IX	Group 4	"	
10	" " " 1			
11	" " " 2			78 4 0
12	Palish " " 3 F. A. Q.	Group 5	"	
13	Estate Brown Crepe IX			
14	" " " 2X			72 12 0
15	Smoked Blanket	Group 6	"	
16	Remilled Crepe 2			
17	Estate Brown Crepe 3X			68 5 0
18	Remilled Crepe 3	Group 7	"	
19	" " " 4			
20	Flat Bark			68 7 0
21	55% Normal Latex (Excluding cost of containers)		"	77 5 0
22	50% to 55% Concentrated Latex (Excluding cost of containers)		"	plus a premium of Rs. 17/8/- based on actual D. R. C. of latex delivered. Rs. 77 5 0 plus a premium of Rs. 43/- based on actual D. R. C. of latex delivered.

DIFFERENCE IN PRICE OF RUBBER BETWEEN INDIA AND CEYLON AND OWNERSHIP OF PLANTATIONS

224. Sri M. K. Jinachandran: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state the price of rubber per pound prevailing in Ceylon?

(b) Why does the difference in price exist between Ceylon and India?

(c) Is it a fact that the main proprietors of rubber plantations in Ceylon are Europeans and in India, Indians?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Re. 1 per lb. for M. S. I. Sheet Rubber.
(b) The entire rubber crop in Ceylon is being bought by H. M. G. and the decision to continue the prices of Re. 1 per lb. was taken prior to the Japanese capitulation as it was anticipated that rubber would not be available from Eastern sources until April 1947. There is no economic justification for linking Indian prices with those in Ceylon.

(c) No information is available in respect of the first part of the question. With reference to the second part, exact information is not available about the area under rubber owned by Europeans and Indians separately. It is, however, a fact that many proprietors of Indian Rubber Estates are Europeans.

DEMAND FOR RUBBER AND FIXATION OF PRICES

224. Sri M. K. Jinachandran: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if the demand for rubber is on the increase or decrease after the war?

(b) If on the increase, do Government propose to take steps to retain the price of rubber at the higher level where it was until the recent reduction?

(c) If on the decrease, do Government propose to consider the advisability of lifting control on the marketing of rubber and allowing the same to enjoy a free market?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) The demand is on the decrease since the termination of war.

(b) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (a) of the question.

(c) Government have under consideration the revision of rubber prices on the basis of cost investigation and are also examining the question establishing a post-war marketing organisation for rubber in consultation with the interests concerned. The questions raised by the Honourable Member will be given due consideration.

POLICY re PRODUCTION OF RUBBER

225. Sri M. K. Jinachandran: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state if there has been any change of policy on the part of Government in the matter of production of rubber?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The Government have had discussions with the rubber producing interests on the establishment of a post-war Marketing Organisation to look after the interests of the rubber industry in India after the abolition of the existing Rubber Production Board. The matter is still under consideration.

RETENTION OF TEMPORARILY EMPLOYED MEN IN PREFERENCE TO THOSE ON DEPUTATION

226. Sardar Mangal Singh: Will the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies please state whether it is a fact that in order to ease the question of unemployment in India, men, employed temporarily during the present war, will be retained in Government service in preference to experienced men who came on deputation from Central Government/Provincial Government/or Government controlled bodies?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: The principles followed by the Department of Industries and Supplies in this matter were set out in a Press Note in December from which I quote below:

"In the selection, from the temporary staff, of personnel for reduction, the considerations adopted are suitability of the individual for the duties to be entrusted to him, length and quality of service and experience, the need to avoid 'age blocks', adherence to standing orders requiring adequate representation of minority communities, and regard to fair representation of the several provinces."

EXPLOITATION OF ENEMY PATENTS

227. Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: (a) Is the Honourable Member for Industries and Supplies aware of the fact that the Government of the United States got compiled and tabulated all enemy patents and released about 45,000

of them to the American industry for use at nominal cost immediately after America entered the last war?

(b) What steps were taken by the Government of India to exploit the enemy patents immediately after India entered the war? How many enemy patents were made available to the Indian manufacturers for exploitation purpose? Is any fee charged for using these patents? If so, what is the amount?

(c) What is the present position in respect of the exploitation of the enemy patents? Is the relaxation of restrictions in this regard likely to come to an end in the near future?

Mr. M. W. M. Yeatts: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two steps were taken as follows:

(1) All enemy property in British India movable or immovable including patents belonging to, or held by, or managed on behalf of any enemy subject was vested by virtue of Commerce Department Notification No. 72(1)-TR(W)/29, dated the 2nd November, 1939, in the Custodian of Enemy Property in British India.

(2) Rule 84-B of the Defence of India Rules was framed so as to allow the grant of licences for the exploitation of enemy patents and the powers conferred by the Central Government by these rules were delegated to the Controller of Patents and Designs vide Defence Co-Ordination Department Notification No. 346-OR/40.

In all, property in 635 enemy patents was vested in the Custodian of Enemy Property during the last war. As required under the rules, these patents were registered with the Controller of Patents and Designs, but only 67 applications were received by him for grant of licences under these patents, 40 of which were granted.

Under Rule 84-B(10) of the Defence of India Rules, a fee of Rs. 20 is charged for the grant of a licence to exploit an enemy patent and the licence is granted subject to a condition that royalty is payable by the licensee at not more than five per cent. of the turn-over.

(c) At present only 22 enemy patents are in force in British India. The rest have lapsed. Licences granted to these patents will continue to be in force for the full term of the patent while the property in others will continue to vest in the Custodian of Enemy Property. The Controller's power to grant licences will continue as long as rule 84-B of the Defence of India Rules remains in force.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

DETENTION OF MR. S. K. KHASTGIR IN RANGOON CENTRAL JAIL

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: (a) Is the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations aware that one Mr. S. K. Khastgir is in the Rangoon Central Jail?

(b) Is it a fact that, while other Indian prisoners are being repatriated to this country, Mr. Khastgir has been informed by the authorities in Burma that he would not be repatriated because of the Government of India's objection to his repatriation? If so, what are the special reasons for the same?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) I have no information as to his whereabouts.

(b) The Government of Burma have been informed that the Government of India have no objection to his return to India.

PLANE CRASH NEAR ALLAHABAD AND SUBSIDY TO INDIAN NATIONAL AIRWAYS

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Secretary for Posts and Air be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news under the heading "Two killed in plane crash near Allahabad" in the *Statesman* of the 11th April, 1946;

(b) the causes of the accident;

(c) the object of the flight;

(d) the exact loss of life and property;

(e) any compensation paid or proposed to be paid to the dependents of those killed; if so, what; if not, why not; and

(f) whether the Indian National Airways receives any subsidy or help in any shape or form from Government; if so, what?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: (a) Government had already seen the news and had also read a direct report about the accident in accordance with the Indian Aircraft Rules.

(b) The accident is under investigation in accordance with Part X of the Indian Aircraft Rules and Government are awaiting the final report of the Government Inspector.

(c) The object of the flight was to 'ferry' the aircraft from Lucknow to Allahabad preparatory to a scheduled flight in the return direction next morning.

(d) The two pilots, Mr. B. Ramachandra Rao and Mr. H.O. Neill, were both killed. The aircraft was a total loss.

(e) Government have no information. The pilots were employees of a private company and not Government servants.

(f) Under the air mail agreement dated the 27th June, 1938, Indian National Airways are in receipt of a mail payment of Rs. 3½ lakhs a year for the carriage of mails between Karachi and Lahore. This payment is at present diverted to other services performed by the Company for Government. Apart from the contract mail payment, Indian National Airways are operating certain scheduled air services under temporary arrangements with Government whereby Government undertake to make up the deficiency in traffic revenue below a certain figure. Payments under this head from January to March 1946 have amounted to Rs. 1,690 only.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member whether necessary precautions were taken by the I.N.A. for flying between Lucknow and Allahabad?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Does the Honourable Member know that the plane which takes off at six o'clock in the evening from Lucknow and flies to Allahabad without a wireless set, and if there was a storm or low clouds and the plane had to return back to Lucknow, there is no arrangement for flood lighting and other illuminating lighting for the plane to reach Lucknow?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am afraid I have no information about the exact facilities available at Lucknow. All these matters will be examined by the Inspector of Accidents who, under the rules, is required to make recommendations to prevent similar accidents in future.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Is it not a fact that this plane was engaged for carrying the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* and was returning to Allahabad?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think the Honourable Member is misinformed. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* is carried from Allahabad to Lucknow. This plane was going empty from Cawnpore via Lucknow to Allahabad in order to fetch the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* the next morning and this company has been permitted by the Director-General of Civil Aviation to undertake this work. So the flight was a fully authorised one.

The Government of India has watched with great concern the deterioration in the position of Indians in South Africa during the past two years. In particular it has been seriously concerned with the legislative measure now before the South African Parliament, restricting the Indians' right to keep and acquire land. The Government of India has done its best to persuade the South African Government to drop the measure and to discuss the Indian question at a conference with Indian representatives. The Government of India has also conveyed to that Government the intense feeling aroused in this country which is shared by the Government, regarding the injustice of such a measure. It regrets to note that in spite of all its efforts the Bill is being pushed through the South African Parliament and is likely to become law. The Government of India has therefore to consider what further steps should now be adopted, in addition to those which have already been taken or have been indicated. A suggestion has been made that international intervention should now be invoked and that the issue should be placed before the United Nations Organisation. In normal circumstances Government would be reluctant to indicate in advance of the actual steps taken, the course which Government proposes to adopt in a matter which is the subject of conflict between the two Governments. In view of the special circumstances of this case, and taking cognisance of the very widespread feeling in this country that some indication of the Government's attitude should be given as early as possible, I wish to state that the Government of India has come to the conclusion that in the event of the Bill being passed into law, it will take steps to bring this issue before the United Nations Organisation. The fact that there is no difference of opinion between the Legislature and the Government of India on this subject will, I trust, give sufficient confidence to the public that every step will be taken, which is required by the situation and is in consonance with the dignity and prestige of this country.

Diwan Chaman Lal (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): May I ask whether the Indian High Commissioner is going to be withdrawn from South Africa?

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: I think the High Commissioner will be returning to this country very shortly.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE.

Secretary of the Assembly: Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State.

"The Council of State at its meeting held on the 15th April, 1946, agreed without any amendment to the following Bills which were passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 8th April, 1946, namely:

- (1) A Bill to enable the immediate imposition of protective duties of customs on imported goods; and
- (2) A Bill further to amend the Indian Soldiers (Litigation) Act, 1925."

RESOLUTION RE RATIFICATION OF AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

Mr. S. C. Joshi (Government of India: Nominated Official): Mr. President, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation adopted at the 27th Session of the International Labour Conference held at Paris in October 1945, be ratified by the Government of India."

My resolution seeks ratification of the Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Office, which were approved by the International Labour Conference last year. Under the constitution of that body, any amendment to be effective, has got to be ratified by a minimum number of the members of that organisation . . .

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member come a little further down so that Honourable Members on the other side may be able to hear him?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (Moved a little further down and spoke). Under the constitution of the International Labour Organisation it is necessary for the amendments to be effective, that the amendments should be ratified by the minimum number of members of that organisation, as specified in the last article—article 36 of the constitution. India is a member of that organisation from its very inception. As Honourable Members are aware, after the first great world war, the League of Nations was brought into existence by the Treaty of Versailles and a sister organisation called the International Labour Office was also then established. The object of the organisation of this body is stated in the preamble to the constitution of that body. I will read only a few lines of the preamble.

"Whereas the League of Nations has for its object the establishment of universal peace and such a peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice and whereas conditions of labour exist involving such injustice, hardship and privation to large numbers of people as to produce unrest so great that the peace and harmony of the world are imperilled and an improvement of those conditions is urgently required. . . . (then certain illustrations have been given) . . . the high contracting parties agree to the following constitution."

I do not desire to say anything with regard to the work of the League of Nations but it cannot be denied that the International Labour Organisation has done very useful work during the period of over 27 years of its existence. In fact, in India, we have followed the example of that body and established a tripartite organisation which is now called the Labour Conference where representatives of Government, of employers and workers meet together and discuss the common questions affecting all the parties. Sir, the International Labour Organisation has done much service to the Indian workers. Much of the legislation that has been enacted in recent years has been the result of the conventions and the recommendations passed at the conference of that body. I do not mean to suggest that the improvement of Indian labour that has been done is very great and that everything that is required to be done has been done. Far from that. Much has still to be done. The working conditions of the Indian workers are not very satisfactory.

But the question is that after the second world war it seems to have been decided that the League of Nations may not be useful hereafter and will have to be replaced. It seems from the reports that it has been decided to dissolve that body. The League of Nations and the International Labour Organisation, when they were so formed and so constituted that they were interdependent. The International Labour Office was dependent to a large extent on the League of Nations. The League of Nations being no longer to be continued it has become necessary to modify the constitution of the International Labour Organisation, which has to be continued because it has been found that it was very useful and has been responsible for achieving the object for which it was established. Therefore, it is necessary to separate this organisation from the League of Nations and amendments to the constitution have been necessary. Experience of the working of that organisation has also shown that amendment in certain other respects in the constitution have become necessary. It was therefore decided at the 27th Session of the International Labour Conference that was held in Paris in October last year that this question be taken up. It was also decided that the amendments that were thought necessary were divided into two parts. The first set of amendments consisted of those matters which were very urgent and essential. The conference decided to take them up immediately for decision. As regards the second set of amendments the matter was referred to a small sub-committee of the conference delegates, which was called the Working Party. That body was asked to consider the articles of the constitution and suggest recommendations that were necessary in the opinion of that party.

We are now concerned only with the first set of amendments. These amendments are only three and relate to articles 1, 13 and 36. Article 1 deals with the membership of the I.L.O. The original constitution provided that membership of the League of Nations was also a membership of the International

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Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that there were complaints that the plane in which these pilots had flown and which had crashed, was not considered to be fit and efficient and in spite of that the I.N.A. insisted on flying it so many times?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think, Sir, this is a very serious statement to make. I have got here full information about this plane. There is no reason whatsoever to believe that it was not safe, and I am absolutely certain that if it was not safe, Indian National Airways, who have got a most enviable record for safety, could never have flown it. May I say that the Indian National Airways who have been flying thousands of miles, have not had a single accident since 1941.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What steps are Government taking to see that every aeroplane that is being flown by anyone of the airways companies here in this country is examined and testified to be airworthy before it actually takes off?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: If the Honourable Member only studies the Aircraft Rules, he will see that there is full provision made for an examination of every aircraft, every year, when a certificate of airworthiness is to be renewed. In this particular case, the aircraft was issued with its original certificate of airworthiness in March 1944, valid for one year, and at the time of the accident it held a current certificate of airworthiness valid until April 1946.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: I travelled by that plane to Lucknow and with the same pilots that had lost their lives; but there was no wireless set and I asked why there was no such set. Is the Honourable Member aware of that?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I am certainly aware of it. It is not necessary to have a wireless set always and when flight is by day. The plane had a first-class navigator. It is a short distance and the provision of wireless sets in the aeroplane is not an absolute condition, and I may say that this plane was not carrying any passengers at the time.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: In reply to the answer to the supplementary question, the Honourable Member said it is quite safe when the plane flies by day. I made a statement that the plane used to leave Lucknow at six o'clock in the evening for Allahabad and whether on its return to Lucknow it would not be at a disadvantage in landing. Is the Honourable Member prepared to look into this question? After all civil aviation is to play a big part in the future.

Mr. President: Let the Honourable Member not argue. The question is whether the Honourable Member is prepared to consider the matter.

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: Yes, Sir. It will form part of the report of the Inspector of Accidents.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is it not a fact that not so long ago planes used to be examined every time before they took to flight. Now that practice has been given up. If so, why?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: I think the Honourable Member is misinformed if he thinks that every time before an aeroplane starts on a flight it requires to be examined and certified. What is required to be certified is its airworthiness, certified once a year, and every time any structural alteration is made. There is no such provision that every time an aeroplane gets down it must be examined before it goes up again.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Honourable Member aware that Mr. Ram Gnandra Rao was considered to be a distinguished airman and was employed by Government in the R.I.A.F. and he was later on discharged on his own request?

Sir Gurunath Bewoor: That may be so, but it is not relevant to the issue. (Interruptions).

Mr. President: Order, order.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

ALLEGED NON-PARTICIPATION OF INDIA IN FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE AT PARIS

Mr. President: I have received notice of an adjournment motion for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance namely:

"To censure the Government for the non-participation of India—as was stated by the official spokesman yesterday in the Assembly in reply to my adjournment motion—in the forthcoming Foreign Ministers' Conference at Paris on the 25th April, 1946, in spite of the recognition by the Council of the necessity of India's representation on the ground, firstly of the interests of Indian Muslims in the Muslims of Italian colonies and secondly, the importance of Italian colonies in relation to India's security and maintenance of communications by sea and air with the countries of the west."

An Honourable Member: Whose adjournment motion is this?

Mr. President: Let us discuss it impersonally without knowing who the mover is. What was stated yesterday by the Government Member, as I find from the Report of the proceedings is:

"a further meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the three great powers was held in Moscow, where no other country was invited to send a representative; but a procedure was evolved for the preparation and consideration of peace treaties with the ex-European enemy countries, less Germany."

And then it was stated:

"That, then, leads to the coming meeting of the foreign ministers in Paris where they will consider the first drafts of these treaties—(I suppose this refers to the Foreign Ministers of the three great powers)—When they have reached their conclusions on those drafts they will be placed before the peace conference at which India will be represented by a full scale delegation. But at this Paris meeting of Foreign Ministers, there is no room for us or for any other country to send a representative."

How does the non-participation of India arise?

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda (United Provinces: Landholders): In September last India was invited.

Mr. H. Weighman (Secretary, External Affairs Department): No.

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: and Sir Geoffrey Prior was appointed for this very express purpose of that meeting. He did not attend that meeting because the question of the Italian colonies did not come up; and furthermore because India is going to be invited to the peace conference, it is no favour. When the question of the Italian colonies will be discussed—and very likely it will be discussed in the forthcoming meeting and conference—India is deeply interested in that matter, because lakhs and lakhs of Muslims are in that area.

Mr. President: We are not concerned with the merits of the case at all. The fact is that no other country is being invited for the conference: nothing further is going to be discussed at this conference of foreign ministers but only the draft and then the draft will come before the conference. Where is the non-participation at present?

Maharajkumar Dr. Sir Vijaya Ananda: The mere fact that other countries are not invited does not at all matter. India should be invited and the Secretary of State took great pains to get India a place in the council last September; and had the Government of India done its best I am sure she would have been invited at this conference. I see no reason why she should not be invited.

Mr. President: There seems to be some misapprehension of facts on the part of the Honourable Member. On the facts, I do not think the question of non-participation arises and I cannot give my consent to this.

STATEMENT RE DETERIORATION IN POSITION OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Honourable Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Leader of the House): Sir, I promised the House last week that I shall be in a position to make a statement on the South African question early this week, and I propose to make that statement on behalf of the Government of India now.

Labour Organisation. That body having ceased to exist, it has become necessary to alter that rule and the necessary amendment has been adopted by the conference namely that all members who were members of the League of Nations in 1945 shall be the members of that body. Advantage has also been taken of providing for the termination of membership of that body. The procedure for terminating the membership has been laid down. Provision has also been made in the article for readmission of any member who has gone out. This is one amendment.

Another amendment to article 13 deals with finances. The original constitution provided that the finances of the organisations were to be met by the League of Nations. It has become necessary to modify that rule and to have the body financed independently by the members and provision has been made in that article for the financing of the organisation.

The third amendment deals with the procedure for amendment of the constitution of that body. There is not much change but the change is only in respect of the mode and the number of votes required for the passing of the amendment and also the subsequent ratification by the members for the amendment becoming effective.

These are the only three amendments to the three articles that have been agreed to by the Paris Conference and call for ratification. As I have just now stated, the amendments are simple and yet very essential. They are non-controversial also. The organisation has got to be continued as it should be and as it has done very useful work during its existence. It is however necessary to put that body on an independent footing and not made dependent upon any other organisation. Therefore, these amendments are very vital, although they are quite simple. From the amendments to my Resolution of which notices have been given to be moved, it seems that there is no difference of opinion as to whether these amendments are necessary or not. There seems to be unanimity on the question that these amendments are necessary and should therefore be ratified. Unless they are ratified by a minimum number of Member States, the amendments will not be effective. India being one of the Members, it has got to ratify it. It is therefore for this House to recommend to the Governor General to ratify these amendments.

I am quite aware of the fact that there is a feeling in India about the unsatisfactory nature of some other articles of the constitution of that body, and particularly Article VII which deals with membership of the governing body of that institution. The governing body consist of 32 representatives, 16 from Government, eight from workers representatives and eight from employers representatives. Of the 16 representatives, eight seats have been reserved for industrial countries, India being one of them. Of the 16 seats again, six have been reserved to non-European countries. Out of eight representatives of employers, two have been reserved for non-European countries. The same is the case with regard to eight representatives of workers. India pays a large contribution to that body and India is quite regular and prompt in discharging its financial obligations to that body. India has all along continuously paid all its contribution quite regularly, promptly and fully. India, therefore, would naturally expect to have adequate representation not only for Government but for workers and for employers. It is true that the constitution provides reservation of certain number of seats for non-European countries. But that is not sufficient and there seems to be serious dissatisfaction and cause for resentment over the failure to provide adequate representation to Asiatic countries.

That is however a matter which is still under consideration of the working party to which the question of amendments of other articles of the constitution has been referred to. The committee has only recently completed its deliberations and submitted its report. The Government of India have received the report only a few days ago and the report is now being examined. There will be very many occasions for expressing our views on the question to which I have made reference and which has been responsible for discontent and resent-

ment. The first opportunity will be when, as that body itself has provided for three months time to be allowed to all the member States to express their views on the suggestions and recommendations made by the working party. We shall express our views. They will then be considered by the Chairman of that committee. If the Chairman thinks it necessary, he will again call a meeting of the Working Party for consideration of the question. Then the matter will go before the governing body, after that it will be placed before the conference. After the decision of the conference is taken, again it will be sent for ratification, as in the present case, to all the members and will necessarily come before this House for ratification. I can assure the Honourable Members that the Government of India will not lose any opportunity of expressing the feeling of the members and seeing that proper and adequate representation is secured to India and all the Asiatic countries. That, however, is a matter which is not relevant, I say, with great respect, not relevant to the present issue. It is quite possible to secure relief and proper representation at the proper time, but at present we are concerned only with the ratification of the amendments to the three articles, amendments which were approved of by the Paris conference. That approval is essential, as I said, and unless sufficient number of members ratify it, it will not be effective. I therefore submit that the House will agree to ratify the amendments and pass the Resolution. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Resolution moved:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation as adopted at the 27th Session of the International Labour Conference held at Paris in October 1945, be ratified by the Government of India."

I am considering whether it is the desire of Honourable Members to move the amendments. Notice has been given of six amendments in all.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadian Rural): We are moving only No. 2.

Miss Maniben Kara (Nominated Non-Official): I submit my amendment is slightly different.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: We do not move any amendment except No. 2 in the second list.

Mr. President: The first amendment No. 1 of Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad is out of order.

The second amendment of Miss Maniben Kara is covered by that of Sjt. N. V. Gadgil's amendment.

Mr. Guruswami is absent and so his amendment No. 3 falls through. Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: We do not move amendment No. 4 in the first list and amendment No. 1 in the supplementary list. We move only No. 2.

Mr. President: Mr. Gadgil's amendment will be moved. I want to know if Miss Maniben Kara wishes to move her amendment. At any rate, the substance of it is covered by the amendment of Mr. Gadgil.

Miss Maniben Kara: I have no objection. Both the amendments are almost the same. Therefore I would not move it. But I would like to speak on it.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member would be entitled to speak on the substance of it, though not technically on the amendment.

Mr. Guruswami's amendment is virtually the same. I take it that, that also is not going to be moved.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I move:

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added:

"Provided that in view of the utterly inadequate representation which the non-white countries had on the governing body of the I. L. O. during the last 25 years, at least the number of seats now reserved for non-Europeans with any further additions that may be justified on a population basis."

[Sjt. N. V. Gadgil]

The Honourable Mr. Joshi stated that there are three amendments embodied in the resolution which he has moved before the House for ratification. So far as the ratification of these amendments are concerned there is no disagreement about it. The main point which this House wants to urge on the attention of the Government is that it is time for this country to consider whether this country should remain in the I.L.O. if in the constitution the article which relates to the composition of the Governing Body remains as it is. My friend Mr. Joshi raised the question whether the amendments that have been tabled and out of which one has been moved by me, were relevant. I want to point out to him that it is perfectly open to this House to say that we do not want to ratify the resolution or we want to ratify it but at the same time we can make the ratification conditional, and that is exactly what my amendment seeks to do.

Now this House well knows that this International Organisation was brought into existence after the first World War was over. It was pointed out then by the leading statesmen in the Allied countries that the war was won mainly through the efforts of the workers and it was only proper that the workers after the war was won should get a square deal, that the peace of the world and social justice were not possible if things were to go on as they went before and unless there was an organisation to secure fair working conditions all over the world, the peace of the world would be once more jeopardised. For that purpose this International Organisation was set up, and the very preamble of its constitution says:

"Whereas the League of Nations has for its object the establishment of universal peace and such a peace can be established only if it is based upon social justice:

And whereas conditions of labour exist involving such injustice, hardship and privation to large numbers of people as to produce unrest so great that the peace and harmony of the world are imperilled. . . ."

I think the conditions to-day are exactly similar. At that time this International Organisation of Labour was so to say a part of the League of Nations. Today the League of Nations is no more and now what is sought to be done is to give this I.L.O. in adoption, so to say, to the United Nations Organisation. When this deal is being executed it is time for us to examine somewhat critically the advantages we have received from our membership of the International Labour Organisation. To this International Organisation in the beginning India was paying as much as any other nation. The contribution was equal to that of the biggest nation. Thereafter India has been paying a considerable sum and it ranks third in point of contribution. I am not claiming advantages merely from the point of view that India has been contributing more than many other countries, though that also is a point which must be taken into consideration.

Since the inauguration of the I.L.O. we have found that the non-white countries are not given a square deal. That is the main objection. In 1919 when the constitution was first drawn up the Governing Body consisted of 24 members and it was expected, although there was no provision for regional representation, that all the countries as far as possible would have some representation so that it might not be lopsided. But experience has shown that non-European countries were not in the picture. Then in 1922, as was stated by my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, certain amendments were made. The Governing Body thereafter was to consist of 32 members—16 for Governments, eight for the employers and eight for the workers. At that very time two provisions were made and they were these. "Of the 16 members represented six shall be non-European States". So far as delegates of employers and workers were concerned, "two employers' representatives and two workers representatives shall belong to non-European States." That was the provision. Now this House will see that it has not worked well. In fact countries other than 'non-European' ones have virtually come to mean countries other than Asiatic. This has resulted in injustice to non-white races. The present composition of this Governing Body is this. So far as Europe is concerned the Governments get six, employers three and labourers three, altogether twelve out of 32. America gets six for the Governments, two for employers and three for labour

altogether eleven. Asia gets two for Governments two for employers and one for labour; total five. Oceania gets one for Government, and one for labour; total two. Africa gets one for Government and one for employers, and none for labour: total two. If we take into consideration the respective populations of these five continents we will find that excluding Russia the European population is 402 millions, America 273 millions, Asia excluding Russia 1,154 millions, Oceania 10 millions and Africa 158 millions. That nearly comes to this that Asia with 1,154 millions gets only five seats and Europe with 402 millions gets 12 seats.

This is really inequitous. What happens is that this provision of reservation for "non-European" virtually works to the benefit of the American Governments and the result is that Asiatic countries often go unrepresented. With all that has been actually done by the I.L.O. in the matter of improving labour conditions and adopting the Conventions, we find that the needs of Asiatic countries are not properly attended to. From 1919 up till now some 60 Conventions have been adopted by the I.L.O. and out of these 60 only 14 have been ratified by the Government of India; why the rest were not ratified is a question which may be dealt with later on. But out of these sixty only six related to agricultural labour. That is the main point. Now it is clear to everybody that so far as Asiatic countries are concerned they are predominantly agricultural, and what happens in the I.L.O. conferences and meetings is that organised industrial labour always wins. That is one of the reasons why we in this country want that the labour needs of this country must be paid more attention to, and in order to secure that *desideratum* we want to suggest certain amendments in the composition of the governing body. Now out of 60 Conventions, as I said, only 14 have been ratified by the Government of India. Why the rest were not ratified was obvious. The simple reason is that industrial conditions in India were not so advanced as to justify the ratification of the same.

Now the main object of the I.L.O. is to secure uniform labour conditions all over the world. But what actually happens is, as I have stated, that little attention is paid to local circumstances and local needs. The result is that the uniformity becomes unreal. That is also a point which ought to be taken into consideration when we are asked to ratify amendments made in the Paris Conference and the ratification of which now is before the House.

Then there are other matters, though they are not as important as the one I have discussed up till now. The point is that although the Government of India is the regular paymaster, so to say, so far as the contribution to the I.L.O. is concerned, it will be interesting to know how little India gets by way of patronage in the Secretariat of the I.L.O. It will be interesting if the Honourable Member were to tell us what all other members of the I.L.O. subscribe. But here are certain facts,—and I am talking of days immediately before the war. Out of 397 officials in the office of the I.L.O. exclusive of German, Italian and Japanese nationals and staff in the third division, there were 89 of French and 81 of British nationality, accounting for nearly 43 per cent. of the officials of the staff. The consequence of such an extremely unsatisfactory situation has been that the aggregate of the salaries paid to the officials of the French nationality represented 209 per cent. of the contribution of France and the amount paid to the British nationals in salary amounts to 153 per cent. of the British contribution to the organisation. India unfortunately was not in the picture at all beyond two or three posts held by Indians on the staff of the organisation. I now understand that a couple of more appointments have been recently made as a result of representations made by the present Labour Member. In these circumstances we want to inform the I.L.O. that our experience during the last 25 years has shown that, firstly, the needs of the non-white races are not taken into consideration at all; secondly, when they talk about labour they usually mean industrial labour, and so far as agricultural labour is concerned little or practically no attention is paid to it.

Now my Honourable friend stated that he has some objection to the form in which the amendment has been framed. I want to make it perfectly clear

[Sjt. N. V. Gadgil]

that we do not want to remain in the International Organisation unless what is suggested is done. It is not merely that we ratify or do not ratify. We understand the utility of International Organisations but our experience has not been altogether happy. The League of Nations was virtually an organisation to stabilise the status quo. Even the present U.N.O. will virtually come to that position. It may be an apparatus in the hands of the big three or big four powers to the detriment and disadvantage of the rest. Who knows that this International Labour Organisation may not be used by these very big three or big four powers to keep these three or four big nations perpetually in advance, so far as industrialisation is concerned, and keep back India and other Asiatic countries? These Asiatic countries and also the countries in the middle east are also awakening to the needs of the present hour; and if what is happening in the far east is any guide, the House will quickly understand that this country has a great role to play. And if that is so, India must define her attitude clearly and if she wants to remain in the I.L.O. she will remain as a champion of Asiatic nations. Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Amendment moved:

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added:

'Provided that in view of the utterly inadequate representation which the non-white countries had on the governing body of the I. L. O. during the last 25 years, the I. L. O. agrees to reserve for the non-white countries at least the number of seats now reserved for non-Europeans with any further additions that may be justified on a population basis.'

Is this description of "white" and "non-white" correct? Is that the usual phraseology?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Leader of the House): This phrase "non-white" finds no place in any international document and even the phrase "coloured people" is not applicable to Indians. Let us not generalise from the South African precedent that we are taken to be coloured people anywhere at all. In America Indians are not coloured people, in no part of Europe are Indians treated as coloured people. And I respectfully venture to suggest that calling ourselves "non-whites" or "coloured people" incidentally is putting a reflection by ourselves on us which is not justified. Any other phraseology would be better than this phrase "non-white" which has no prevalence in international language.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): We can say "Asiatics" and "Africans".

Mr. President: I believe Dewan Chaman Lall will maintain that Africans include whites. I suggest that so far as the phraseology is concerned, the matter may be talked over if necessary and we may have the necessary amendment later. In the meantime instead of discussing the point here we can proceed with the debate.

Miss Maniben Kara: I very well realize that this House will not be competent to move any amendment to the amendments which are already before us for ratification. But, Sir, we have put this amendment in this House with a view that the Government of India will express the opinion of the people of this country that they wish to have adequate representation on this International Organisation. With this view I gave notice of a Resolution on the 20th of March, the substance of which was the same as the amendment which is before us. Unfortunately the resolution could not come before this House

because there was no day left for non-official Resolutions. I am very glad that the Government have at least given way to the opinion of the Members of this House and have agreed to allot a couple of hours in order to discuss these amendments which are certainly most vital from the point of view of India's interest in this International Organisation.

As it has been pointed out, when the I.L.O. came into existence there were only 24 Members. It was only under the pressure of American public opinion that after three years this amendment was ratified in 1922 because the American people found that the spirit of this international organisation, which

was meant to give adequate representation to all the various Continents, was not fulfilled. There was a terrible lot of public agitation in America and as a result of their propaganda and agitation in 1922 it was again amended and the number was increased to 86. The result of this increase in the number of members, was that American States got ten extra representatives on the Governing Body. They got six out of sixteen Government representatives, two out of eight employers, two out of eight workers' representatives. In all ten members belonging to Non-European countries were all from the American States. It was not mentioned in the amendment, that ten members will be included exclusively from American States, but the virtual result has been that only the American States have been benefited. This was ratified in 1922 but it was not given effect to until 1934. Since 1934 the Governing Body is constituted of 34 Members of whom at least ten are non-Europeans. Even today because these extra ten members come from the American States, it has not affected the predominant representation of the European countries in the Governing Body. The twenty-four out of 32 members even today are represented by the European countries. India, China, and Japan have got very little representation on the governing body. Till 1944 India had her share of full quota of representation. Since Japan went out of I.L.O. the claim of China was backed up by the United Nations, and it was rightly backed too, but the result was, that this was done at the cost of the representation of our country. At present, if I remember aright, we have only two seats on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. International Organisations are supposed to safeguard the interests not only of various races but they are supposed to give adequate representation to various continents on population basis and I take my stand on the basis that Asia and Africa are not given adequate representation even from the point of view of their population. The present position, is that Europe has a population of 402 millions. With a population of 402 millions they have got twelve members. America has a population of 278 millions and they have got eleven members. Asia, without Russia, has a population of 1151 millions, but she has only five representatives on the Governing Body. One of the reasons for moving this amendment is that just as in 1922 under the pressure of American public opinion, the non-European countries, namely the American States, got ten extra seats, we feel confident, that as a result of the chance given to this Assembly to discuss this question to ascertain the public opinion in this country, the Government of India will take up this question seriously; I am confident that Government will certainly succeed in getting adequate representation for India.

There is another point as well. Recently the I.L.O. is realising the need for more representation for agricultural countries. If they have come to realize that at present sufficient representation has not been granted to the agricultural countries, and if they also feel that the problems of agricultural countries need looking after, there is all the more reason why adequate representation should be given to the Asiatic countries.

Then, Sir, it has been pointed out by my Honourable friend, the last speaker, that India has been up-to-date in regard to payments. Although that is not the reason why we expect better representation, it does help to a great extent to show that poor as we may be we have been the first in making full payments of our obligation to the I.L.O. In spite of our being up-to-date in payment we see no reason why we should not have adequate representation.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express that we will not be satisfied merely by getting our full quota of representation on the Governing Body. What we want to have is an effective control in the machinery of that body and I think we have every legitimate right to claim that. I trust that the Government of India will take note of these various suggestions which have been put forward and they will try to get the necessary amendments passed in this International organisation.

I have nothing more to say as most of the points which I wanted to bring forward have been very ably brought forward by my Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil.

Diwan Chaman Lal (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): I was surprised to hear from my Honourable friend that he was in general agreement with the purport of the amendments that had been tabled by us (I am of Mr. Joshi and not my friend, the Leader of the House) but that ultimately he considered that those amendments were irrelevant to the matter at hand. Now I took note at the time the remark was made by my Honourable friend and the remark was to the effect that they are "not relevant". I want my Honourable friend to remember the vital principle that we are fighting. It is this: that although Asia and Africa, between them represent practically 2,000 million of the population of this world, yet we have not the representation that we deserve as a result of our preponderant population. I want to remember that this principle has to be carried a little further. It is not only on the basis of our population that we want representation on the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, but equally from the point of view of the fact that a large proportion of the working community of the world is affected by anything that is done by the International Labour Office and concentration so far has been on European topics and European conditions but concentration has not been so far on conditions as they prevail in Asia and Africa. This principle again has to be considered a little further, namely that the direction of the International Labour Office has been in the hands mainly in the hands of Europeans. Soon enough they found that that did not meet the circumstances of the case and there was a large number of complaints. Hence there was an amendment of the constitution to the effect that out of the total number of representatives, both Government employers and workers, a certain proportion should be reserved for non-Europeans. When my Honourable friend said that this was not strictly relevant, he should remember that originally this distinction was imported into the Governing Body by the organisation itself. But the distinction did not go far enough. The distinction went to the extent that power which was being monopolised by the European States was modified to this extent that a certain number of seats available should be utilised and reserved for the non-European States. I have not the slightest doubt in my own mind that what the people, who were responsible for this particular amendment, really considered, was the condition of the African and the Asiatic countries. But unfortunately, again because of the non-use of the very expression to which my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House has referred, non-European came to mean in actual fact not Asiatic or African, but American and South American. The monopoly was then shared by the European and the North and South Americans. The reason, therefore, why this particular amendment is so very relevant is that the third stage has now been reached when we should take away the monopoly not only from the Europeans, not only from the Europeans combining themselves with the Americans and the South Americans, but that we should break into that monopoly and make it absolutely necessary for the Governing Body to be represented in a large measure by the African and the Asiatic countries. This is the third stage and a very important stage, not only from the point of view of our population, not only from the point of view of the fact that the Asiatic and African countries are not properly represented, but equally from the point of view, that this world organisation which is meant for the betterment of the working classes has so far taken great note of the industrial countries and of industrialised portions of labour, but they have taken very little note of countries like India where agriculture is also one of the basic industries and very little note of those African countries where agriculture is a basic industry.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member can continue 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 Lal: Mr. President, before Luncheon hour I was referring to the question of the necessity for adopting the amendment moved by my friend Mr. Gadgil which also stands in my name and I was drawing the attention of the House to the fact that a distinction regarding the type of representation on the Governing Body found its place in the constitution of the I. L. O. a very long time ago. The distinction originated with the necessity of providing seats for those countries which were more highly industrialised with the result that eight countries of the first importance from the point of view of industrialisation were assured these seats, irrespective of the other seats that were provided. Amongst those countries there is no doubt that India being one of the countries of the greatest industrial importance found its place. Therefore from that point of view, from the point of view of Government representation in the Governing Body, India has no grouse. We are at the present moment raising this question not from a selfish point of view, not looking merely at our own interests, we are raising it because India has to take the lead in international matters throughout the East and India has to give the lead to countries similarly situated—all African countries and Asiatic countries—and we want to be sure that these countries get their due representation.

The second point, as I was saying, in regard to differentiation arose when it was found even with regard to those particular reservations that it was impossible for other countries to get adequate representation according either to their population or their position in the industrial world. The result was that reservations were made in respect of the employers, Government and workers' delegates on the Governing Body restricting certain representation to those who were of non-European origin. Now that did not work, as I said, because the intention, I take it, originally was that those countries in Asia or in Africa who need representation should obtain this representation. That is the justification for our amendment. That is the justification for the plea that we are making now that the word "non-European" should go out and immediately that reservation should be made available for non-white countries for non-white representation.

Now, my Honourable friend objects to the word "non-white". I do not object to it myself. The fact still remains that my Honourable friend over there the Leader of the House and I myself can hardly come in the category of my Honourable friend the War Transport Member as far as the colour of our skin is concerned. It does not mean that we are not superior to my Honourable friend over there, it does not mean that we do not feel superior to my Honourable friend over there. Therefore there can be no objection to the use of that expression. It does import a very significant principle in regard to representation on the Governing Body of the I. L. O. and that important principle is this: that henceforth the reservation of ten seats (six for Government, two for employers and two for the workers) shall not be confined to non-Europeans only meaning thereby North America and South America but shall extend to people coming from India, Indonesia, Burma, Egypt and other parts of Africa, Siam and other countries in the East. Some of them are members today of the International Labour Organisation or of the League of Nations. Others are likely to become in the very near future members of that organisation and counting this Government I came to the conclusion that the number of such countries is 17, although at the present moment there are only seven that one can think of. Look at the Phillipines. My Honourable friend knows perfectly well that countries like that are on the threshold of their independence and it is necessary therefore to keep in view all those countries which are likely in the immediate future to obtain representation in the League of Nations or in the International Labour Office. I submit that in view of this particular fact my Honourable friend's plea that this amendment is not relevant has no weight whatsoever. It is eminently relevant, because we want to protect the interests of the non-white population, which is the major population in this world, in matters which vitally affect their interests.

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

If you look at the conventions that have been passed, Mr. President, by the International Labour Office from the time of its inception in 1919 up to date you will find that out of 67 Conventions, this Government of ours has ratified I believe only 14 and mostly it is the minor ones that have been ratified. The major ones have not been touched. I happen to know something about it because my wanderings throughout the world have often taken me to Geneva and often to the Councils of the International Labour Conference. I found there to my utter disgust, as long ago as 1925, when I first had the good fortune to visit Geneva in connection with the meeting of the International Labour Conference, that the spirit of racialism was rampant in that office. In spite of the fact that the donation given by the Government of India on behalf of the people of India was equal to the donation given by some of the richest countries in the world, yet the representation of Indians I found in that office was so infinitesimal that I, at that time, (21 years ago) had to take the matter up with them and had even to take the matter up in the press in England by means of correspondence in the *London Times* calling attention to this discrimination against Indians. It is necessary therefore that we should have due representation of the non-white races of this world on the Governing Body of the International Labour Office not only in order that their interests may be protected in that office, not only that their interests may be protected in the Governing Body but that due attention should be paid to matters which affect the life and well-being of the working classes in those countries. Today the emphasis has been on industrial labour. It is necessary that the emphasis should shift from industrial labour to agricultural labour and shift to those countries which are primarily agricultural, in spite of the fact that countries like India are also from the industrial point of view of very great importance, that can only happen when we assure a certain quota for ourselves, which is definitely allotted to us in the Governing Body of the I. L. O. and it cannot happen by sticking to the term non-European. It can only happen when we tie them down definitely, finally and irrevocably to the proposition that these ten seats shall be reserved for non-white countries and not for non-European countries. I submit that these matters are of very great importance to our country. I submit that we have tried our level best to get these matters mooted in the I. L. O., in the Governing Body, in the press and on the floor of the House. But so far we have not received the satisfaction that we deserve in this matter. So much so that in the year 1932 after a tremendous fight in the conference itself and in the sub-committee appointed for the purpose in Geneva I was able to get representation for Indian workers on the governing body. From 1932 Indian workers were represented on the Governing Body until the year 1944 when suddenly action is taken against us and the Indian workers representation is taken away by the Governing Body. Had there been representation of these countries that I have hinted at, had there been this provision that non-white countries would get this representation, I submit that such action could not have been taken after a period of twelve years of representation in the Governing Body. Today there are millions of organised workers in the trade unions and yet we have no representation on the Governing Body.

I do not want to make a lengthy speech but I should like to draw the attention of the Government and particularly the I. L. O. and all those members of the I. L. O. who have some voice in these matters to this glaring inconsistency that the major part of the population of the world should go without representation or only meagre representation, while a few countries like France, England and the American countries, or the big four as my friend puts it should get the major portion of that representation and guide the destinies of the working classes of the world because of that major representation. The time has come to reverse that process. Article 393 of the Peace Treaty gives the position regarding the governing body and Article 395 about the representation in the I. L. O. and it lays down that the staff of the I. L. O. shall be appointed by the Director who

shall as far as possible with due regard to the efficiency of the work of the office select persons of different nationalities. It goes on to say that a certain number shall be women. Quite right. In view of this provision, may I ask how many Indians are there in the office? I submit it is their duty to choose the staff with due regard to the different nationalities.

Then again if you look at Article 405 of the Peace Treaty it gives rise to this particular matter, namely, that it is necessary that there should be adequate representation on the Governing Body of the non-white countries because the problems to be considered by the Governing Body are of a different nature affecting Europe on the one side and the non-white population on the other. In Article 405 of the Peace Treaty you will find a direction given to the Governing Body and to the conference in these terms:

"In framing any recommendation or draft convention of general application, the conference shall have due regard to those countries in which climatic conditions, the importance of development of industrial organisation or other special circumstances make the industrial conditions substantially different and shall suggest the modifications which may be required to meet the case of such countries."

How can the conference come to a conclusion regarding these modifications which are vital to countries like India, the Far Eastern and the Middle Eastern countries or the African countries apart from South Africa unless there is adequate and due representation of these countries on the governing body? Considered from every point of view, this amendment must be carried in order that the people concerned should know the feelings of the people's representatives from India as expressed on the floor of the House so that they should be made to understand the necessity of making an alteration in order to give due representation to the non-white races.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I do not like to move the amendment that stands in my name but while supporting this Resolution, I should like to point out that the action which the I. L. O. is taking for ameliorating the condition of the labouring classes does not go far enough. It is only an eye wash and I would like the Honourable Member in charge to communicate to the organisation that they should go still further. We are now living in 1946. The war has changed the attitude of labour and people at large. Labour should now be treated as business partners and not wage earners. We can no longer allow the position under which the labourer will get the wages and the capitalist will take away all the profits. The capitalist should be given the bank rate of interest, the labourers should be given living wages and the directors should be given reasonable salary and whatever profit is left should be distributed among all in a certain proportion. Unless this is done, labour unrest will continue and there will be strikes. Not only strikes but there will be a tendency to burn the factories.

During war time the capitalists have accumulated huge profits on account of the sufferings of the poor. Sterling balances have accumulated in England on account of this and under the same conditions we have accumulated rupee balances in this country. When we demand an account of the sterling balances, we would also demand that the rupee balances ought to be distributed among the labourers who are chiefly responsible for producing wealth. The old theory about labour will no longer be effective. The position must now be accepted that everybody who is responsible for producing the profit of a factory has got a share in the distribution of the profit of that factory. With these remarks, I request that this demand of ours may be communicated to the International Labour Organisation.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: I support the amendment. I agree with all that has fallen from my friends, Mr. Gadgil and Mr. Chaman Lall. I wish also to express my thanks for the remarks made by Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad.

This organisation is based on the principle that the present *status quo* in regard to industrial organisation has to be accepted, that is, that the workers

[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

Why we, who are supposed to be aging towards statesmanship should be so very keen on maintaining that we are not non-whites, that we are not coloured people. What are we? We are Indians. Very well. Then how are we to distinguish ourselves from other people. If we are to distinguish ourselves from others by simply saying that we are Indians, our difficulty is that we are Indians ourselves from all the coloured peoples also. Do we wish to do so? We are not isolationists. What are we? We are sufferers under the heels of imperialism. We can understand the sufferings of other people in the world who are similarly suffering under the heels of their rulers.

It is our birthright to be free. We are soon going to be free. Even other people say so again and again. Anyhow we are determined to be free whether they allow it or not. If we become free, then what is our duty towards those who are not so fortunately situated. The leaders of this country, all the patriots in this country, people belonging to all denominations without distinction of caste, creed or colour in this country have reached a stage of being able to stand up and look the whole world in the face. Others cannot run away with the goods as they have been doing till now. They have been masquerading in the name of trustees for the whole world and the Whites have been enjoying all the special privileges till now. We have reached the stage when it is our duty to offer a helping hand to other people also. That is why we insist on having separate reservation of seats, not for Indians only, not for Chinese only, but for all the coloured races in the world. Somebody may say, do you want this special reservation for Negroes in America? Why not? To the Red Indians in South America? Why not? To the Negroes in Africa? Why, not? Somebody was saying that they are semi-barbaric and so on. I was very much pained to hear that expression used by somebody. I hope no one in this House will be unwilling to associate himself with all the Negroes in Africa. They may not be so fortunately situated as we are, but yet it is our duty to stand up and give them all possible help. That is why we are anxious that this House should accept this particular definition we have given—non-whites.

Somebody may ask, you are fighting against special reservation in political field, and then why are you asking for special reservation in international field. All that I say is that we are not the initiators of this particular idea of special reservations. The I. L. O. started it in the interest of Americans there in South America. Therefore, we want to take advantage of the distinction they themselves made and we want to see to it that this particular reservation is made in favour of the coloured people who so richly deserve it.

One little suggestion was made by Mr. Joshi in the lobby. That is that we should not make this a condition precedent. If we do so, then we run the risk of being disaffiliated or automatically taken out of the organisation. No, I do not think so. Even if we go through this particular Act, you will find that we will have sufficient time before we actually go out and during this time it would be possible for I. L. O. to give due weight to all the views expressed in this House and to the strong feeling that is expressed here also. It is for them to realise the consequences even for their own organisation in case India were to be out of it. Already U. S. S. R. is out of it. It is a great blow to I. L. O. It will be a much bigger blow if India also were to go out of it. Then what will be the attitude of China, we do not know. If China also goes out, then the very name of I. L. O. should be changed. Some other name should be given to it. Let our amendment be accepted by the Government, let the Government exercise all the influence they can upon the I. L. O. and in addition to that, let the Government also go and plead for the acceptance of this amendment. If I. L. O. does not accept our suggestions and insists on her own articles, then it will be time for us to reconsider our position, if at all we should remain in it or not. Therefore, there is no need for the Government spokesman to feel so hesitant about accepting our amendment. I request him to accept the same.

Mr. B. C. Joshi: Sir at the outset, I should like to express my regret that I was not quite clear in my statement of my views about the amendment that has been moved. I never intended to convey that the amendment is irrelevant. I know full well that it is open to the House either to ratify the amendment to the constitution that have been adopted or to reject the same or to give conditional ratification. My view about the amendment moved by my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil is that it is a conditional ratification, the condition being that I. L. O. should in the first instance accept our view to modify Article VII in the manner stated in the amendment. It is to that point only that I made reference in my speech. In fact, I am personally in sympathy and in agreement with the sentiments that have been expressed by the Honourable Members and those contained in the amendment. I would have very gladly accepted the amendment provided it had been worded somewhat differently. I wish it had been worded in a manner that it was not treated as a condition precedent to ratification but if it indicated only our insistence to the modification of amendment to Article VII, as regards representation in the manner that we have indicated. In that I would have accepted it. In view of the fact that it has been so worded and made a condition precedent to ratification, it is not possible for me to accept the amendment. If the amendment had been put in the manner indicated by me, in some other way such as, 'and insists or urges' instead of 'provided that', it would have been easy. I still hope that Mr. Gadgil will see his way to modify his amendment in that manner.

I assure the House that all that has been said in this House will be conveyed to the governing body and to the conference and I hope that the conference will no doubt give due consideration to the views of this House. I know this full well and that is why I made a reference in my opening speech that adequate representation has not been given to the workers and to the employers of India and to all other Asiatic countries and that in the clause of non-Europeans, Americans have got a larger share. I am also conscious of the fact that on the staff of I. L. O. there has not been proper representation of Indians. I am also conscious of the fact that while office has been opened by the Organisation in Canada, there has been no regional office of I. L. O. opened in the Asiatic countries. I am equally conscious of the fact that problems of the workers in Asiatic countries are entirely different from those of the European countries which are very much advanced in various matters and where there has been great industrial development; and that it would be necessary for that organisation to pay special attention to the problems of labour in Asiatic countries. It would have been much better for that organisation if long before now the organisation had held a conference of the Asiatic countries which they are now thinking of. I am sure that if these views of the House are conveyed to that body proper attention will be paid to them.

I still say that there are many more occasions that will come soon hereafter when it will be possible for us to make efforts to see that we get redressed all the various disabilities to which we have been subjected till now. I do appeal to my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil that he will see his way to modify his amendment slightly, in which case it will be possible to have a unanimous decision of the House which will be conveyed to the Conference.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Sir, I am agreeable to the suggestion made by my Honourable friend Mr. Joshi to substitute the word 'and insists' for 'provided' in my amendment.

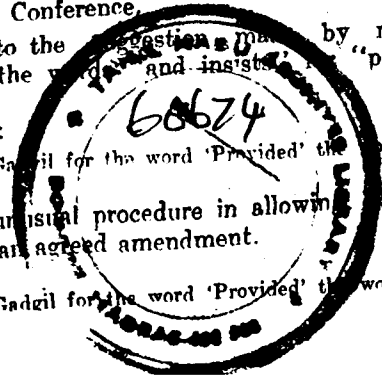
Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, I formally move:

"That in the amendment moved by Sjt. N. V. Gadgil for the word 'Provided' the words 'and insists' be substituted."

Mr. President: I am adopting a rather unusual procedure in allowing this amendment at this stage but I do so as it is an agreed amendment.

The question is:

"That in the amendment moved by Sjt. N. V. Gadgil for the word 'Provided' the words 'and insists' be substituted."



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[Prof. N. G. Ranga]

have always got to be workers and nothing more, that the employers have every right to take what they can get out of the industry after having paid the workers and that the Governments come in only to keep peace between the two parties. This is a position that most of us do not accept, but at the same time under the present circumstances, with the kind of industrial organisations that we have in most of these countries, this I. L. O. has come to be organised on that basis, and we are prepared to work through that organisation for the amelioration of the conditions of workers, without compromising to any degree the principles that we hold, that workers—professional, intellectual, technical and manual workers—alone must have the major voice as well as the major control and interest in the industrial organisation of any country.

Our experience of the I. L. O. during the last 25 years has not been happy. I have said so on many occasions previously on the floor of this House, and I wish to say only one thing more in regard to that particular matter. The I. L. O. has been very much under the influence of the Europeans, and latterly under the influence of the white people as a whole, and would only pay lip sympathy to the coloured peoples and the Asiatics and Africans and other peoples. It has not concerned itself as much as it ought to have done with the problems of agriculturists, especially agricultural labour. It is true now and then it did moot some agricultural problems; it had appointed a number of committees and got a number of enquiries made and a number of reports published; but beyond that, it would not progress, and somehow or other this very idea of looking after agricultural labour as a whole, as well as looking after industrial labour, did not come within the compass of its conception of work. My Honourable friend, Diwan Chaman Lall, has already told us that only in regard to five conventions the I. L. O. had given prominence to the question of agricultural labour, out of the 60 conventions that it had passed.

What do we mean by labour, first of all? It is by what we say in regard to labour that the work of the International Labour Organisation has to be judged. In the west, they mean by labour mostly industrial labour; it is only when they are taunted that they say: "Yes, yes; we wish agricultural labour also to be protected and considered." Otherwise, whenever they think of labour, the ordinary man anywhere in the west, except in the Balkan States, straightaway says it is industrial labour, the proletariat and so on. Is it the fault only of employers in the west or of the Governments? I am afraid it is the fault also of the industrial workers in the west. They have been under the influence of western socialists and communists. And to most of the western socialists and communists workers mean the proletariat; and the proletariat means the industrial workers employed in those organised industries. That is why all of them have made this particular mistake of concentrating most of their attention upon industrial workers and neglecting the agricultural workers. The time has come when we have got to make these people and make ourselves also realise the fact that by labour we ought to include not only industrial labour but also agricultural labour, and that is why I feel extremely glad that today several of our Honourable friends here said that if labour has to be protected, agricultural labour also must be catered to and must be protected by the I. L. O.

But there is one section of labour which has been neglected by the I. L. O. which ought not to have been neglected and which must be protected hereafter—they are the artisan classes of the east. In India we have as many as 40 millions of them, dependent upon our cottage industries. These people have never been considered by the industrial west and their proletariat as forming an essential and integral part of the proletariat classes of the world. But they are the true proletariat and they have got much greater right to be considered as the proletariat than the western proletariat because these people have been the proletariat for ages and ages in this country, whereas in the west the total history of the industrial proletariat does not go beyond 250 years. If they number 40 millions here in India, they must be numbering even more in China, and there

are nearly a corresponding number of them in Africa also. These people also will have to be treated as industrial labour and they also have got to be protected by the I. L. O. if it really wishes to be worthy of its name. So far as these artisan classes are concerned, till now they have not had even one convention; they have not had one full dress debate in regard to their position, and it is high time we asked the I. L. O. to concern itself with their welfare and also with their needs.

Sir, the importance of the proper definition of the word labour comes in this way. If industrial labour alone is catered to by the I. L. O. and their standards of labour conditions, of employment including wages and so on, alone are considered and are improved, what happens? Over the whole world, one small section of the totality of labour will be insulated, will be given such high standards of living that they will be enabled to enjoy a disproportionate amount of the world's wealth for themselves. There is already an unequal distribution of the wealth between the rich and the poor, between the employer class and the workers; between the west and the east, between the industrial classes of people and the agricultural classes of the people; and this unequal distribution of the world's wealth will go on becoming worse and worse if you concentrate more and more on industrial labour alone and try to improve their conditions alone through the I. L. O. and neglect the much larger sections of labour, that is, the artisan classes and agricultural labour. Therefore, if we wish to bring about a much more balanced distribution of the world's wealth between continent and continent, country and country, and between one class and another, it is most necessary that the I. L. O. should concern itself with the welfare not only of industrial labour but also of artisan and agricultural labour.

I come to the question of representation for all these peoples. Are we to call ourselves coloured peoples or not? I have always understood that we were also coloured people; but my Honourable friend the Leader of the House told us this morning that the western people do not consider the east as coloured. It does not matter what the western people think. Are we coloured people or not in this country? We certainly are coloured people; we are not white people, however much many of those gentlemen, Indians, in this House like to go to America and England and like themselves to be flattered with the sort of attention that my friend described—"Oh, you are not a coloured man I am proud to honour you." We remain coloured and we can not very well say we are not coloured, short of a metamorphosis through some discovery like the atom bomb or something like that. We are certainly coloured people and what is more, merely because of the fact that the coloured people in the world have been bottom dogs till now, I wish to take pride in saying that I am also a coloured people, in order to be able to make common cause with all the other coloured peoples and raise their social, economic and political level in this world. Therefore, I am not ashamed of owing to the fact that I am a coloured man and all my peoples in this country are also coloured peoples whether they live in the Himalayas or down near Cape Comorin.

But if for technical reasons you do not want to have the word 'coloured people' lest the westerners exclude you and prevent you from enjoying the benefit of this amendment, then we suggest "Very well, accept the suggestion that we have made—non-white." We certainly are non-white. Knowing that some of us used to be tickled when we were in England, particularly at Oxford and other places soon after the last war, when some of these girls used to come and say "You are a little fairer than the other man". (Interruption) I did not say myself—I said some of us.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Tell us what you did at Oxford.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: My professors will tell you that I led an exemplary life at Oxford.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyengar: Who are the others?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: That is the frailty of youth.

[16TH APRIL 1946]

[Mr. President]

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That at the end of the Resolution the following be added:

"and insists that in view of the utterly inadequate representation which the non-white countries had on the governing body of the I. L. O. during the last 25 years, the I. L. O. agrees to reserve for the non-white countries at least the number of seats now reserved for non-Europeans with any further additions that may be justified on a population basis."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that the Instrument for the Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation as adopted at the 27th Session of the International Labour Conference held at Paris in October, 1945, be ratified by the Government of India, and insists that in view of the utterly inadequate representation which the non-white countries had on the governing body of the I. L. O. during the last 25 years, the I. L. O. agrees to reserve for the non-white countries at least the number of seats now reserved for non-Europeans with any further additions that may be justified on a population basis."

The motion was adopted.

RESOLUTION RE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS, EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION

Sir John Sargent (Secretary, Education Department): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation."

I do not think I need take up very much of the time of the House in explaining or commending the objects of this organisation, and I think it may help me to contribute to shortening my remarks if with your permission and that of the House I refer to this organisation in future as UNESCO, the name by which I suppose it is likely to be known. We have circulated to Members of the House the Final Act of the Conference which set out to establish this organisation, and I have also circulated a note which I hope will explain what I might call the Indian background of it.

Now, Sir, although I hope that these papers will have commended the general idea to Honourable Members, I have lived long enough to realise that it would be reckless for me to assume in any gathering that I shall find all those present taking the same interest in education as I do myself. I am aware that in this country and in other countries there are cynical people who regard the spread of popular education as an extravagant luxury or possibly as a need the satisfaction of which can be indefinitely postponed. I am aware that there are other people who regard with some dislike the spread of popular education, on the ground that it may prove inimical to their personal interests. But I am optimistic enough to believe that these people are becoming an increasingly small minority and that none of them are represented in this House; and I am confident that Members in all parts of the House will feel as I do, that if there is to be peace and good-will among men, the most powerful instrument for ensuring that end is the spread of education among the people. I think that the need for an international organisation through which the educational resources of the world can be mobilised and developed and made available for all will be regarded as beyond question. It seems none the less clear, in my humble opinion, that an organisation of this kind will not achieve full success—I would almost say any success—unless India is a member of it. It is not merely that India con-

tains within her borders such a considerable proportion of the world's population but she also has a store of traditional and historical culture which should, I think, enable her to make a contribution of real value in an assembly of this kind. And then, again, on the other hand, India stands to gain a great deal from a much closer association than she has at present with progressive educational countries, from whose experience she has a great deal to gain and on whose assistance I hope she will be able to count in the solution of the vast educational task which lies in front of her.

I am glad to be able to say that my colleagues on the delegation, which went to attend what I might call the preliminary business meeting in regard to this organisation last November, were unanimous in feeling that it was in India's interest to join, and to join as soon as possible. And I think those Members who know the lady and gentlemen in question will feel, as I do, that any opinion they gave on a matter of this importance would be a well-considered and impartial one and would not be influenced to any extent, if at all, by what they might regard as official or non-official policy.

I do, however, realise, Sir, from what has been said previously in this House that a number of Members, who may be as convinced as I am of the desirability of the establishment of this organisation and of India becoming a prominent member of it, may say that a decision of this importance might well be postponed for the new Government or the next Government. Normally I would sympathise with a view of that kind, but I would venture to submit to this House that there are one or two good—I would almost say compelling—reasons why if India is going to join the UNESCO, she should do it now. It is the intention, if sufficient countries accede to this organisation—the number is 20—and I think there will be no doubt whatever that they will be easily obtained—that the first real conference of the organisation will be held this summer or in the early autumn. At the conference some very important matters will be settled; for instance, the election to the Executive Board, the financing of the organisation, its budget and the basis on which the contributions of the member States will be determined, the appointment of the Secretariat, a matter in which I think we ought to be interested, and the selection of essential educational problems for early exploration. I feel, Sir, that India has a very vital interest in these matters and it would be a good thing if she were in a position to make her voice heard at the first meeting at which no doubt very important decisions may be taken. And I am strengthened in that feeling by the fact that to my great satisfaction and in no way through my own efforts, India was elected to a seat on the Executive Committee of the Preparatory Commission which has been set up to prepare the work of the conference.

Another reason which seems to me to make the matter urgent is that the Governments of the member States have been asked to establish what are called National Commissions to advise them in regard to the selection of their representatives at the meetings of the Organisation and in regard to all matters affecting the Organisation.

Now, Sir, it is quite true that the Final Act makes the establishment of a National Commission permissive, but it is obviously a desirable thing if it can be done. At the same time one realises that in a country so vast and so variegated in its interests as India, it would require a considerable amount of patience and I think accommodating discussion to arrive at a satisfactory basis for a national commission for this country in which all interests will be fairly represented. We discussed this matter in the Central Advisory Board in January and in anticipation that this Assembly and the Governor-General would agree to India accepting the constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, the Honourable the Member in charge Education was asked to establish at the earliest convenient moment a Committee to explore this rather important matter. Therefore, if anything is to be done that Committee will obviously have to be established and get to work at the earliest possible moment.

[16TH APRIL 1946]

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

be one with the whole creation. There is a divinity there. (Turning to an Honourable Member on the Muslim League benches) You are my friend though you think you belong to a different race. Differences of race, colour, sex, language or religion do not disturb my love of humanity. Humanity is my religion, and their service and sacrifice for them my birthright. If those are the watchwords of the institution then well and good. I support the resolution.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): I rise to support the resolution so ably moved by my friend the Secretary for Education. No doubt India has to contribute in the matter of general culture. Among us in this country, whether Hindus or Muhammadans or any other religion, there are very strong tendencies for religion and spiritualism. The western countries have developed all their culture along materialism. Now after the war people in the west are realizing that religious instruction also forms an integral part of education, which we in India have been practising for a very long time. We all know that India has got the oldest culture, the culture which has stood the test of centuries. So by mixing together we will understand the people of different countries better. On the political ground, every country has got its own outlook, but in educational, cultural and scientific researches, we all meet together and it is very desirable to find a common place where you can understand each other.

As regards the question raised by Mr. Ayyangar about Professor Raman and Professor Saha, I said on occasions that these are two stones—Bengal and Madras—and we people of the U. P. and the Punjab are being ground between these two stones.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Leader of the House): What?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: These two people have been two grind stones and when things are ground together, then the persons who are ground by their fight are the people who belong either to the U. P. or the Punjab and as such I consider myself in it. We had to send representatives to the two different institutions—one the Raman Scientific Society and the other the Saha Scientific Society and I became so angry that I said that unless the two societies combined, we would refuse to send representatives. But I am glad that on account of the good influence of Dr. Sargent, these two associations are meeting together and I am realizing that Prof. Saha has done good work. But he has been much misunderstood. I now understand the value of the work he has done in the case of sound and other things. The number of scientists is few and we cannot afford to fight among ourselves when the common object is one and we are going on the right path and we understand each other well. Undoubtedly the history of this fight has been very undesirable but it has now come to an end. I think the mistake was committed two years ago when we omitted the other organisations altogether and gave the efficiency to one organisation. Therefore, this little thing is now being cemented and there will be no further complaint about it in future, and it is hoped we all work together. In matters scientific and cultural, there is no difference or communalism, or nationalism or in any other way whatsoever. The whole of mankind stands on a common platform and we should aim for it. If we could stand together on these three common platforms, the time will come when we will be on the same platform on all economic and fiscal questions, and we will probably come together.

Now the world is moving very differently. As regards labour, the labour people are complaining that we are not here to produce wealth for the rich people. We are not here to kill people for the sake of the politicians and they refuse to do these things. These changes are coming into the world and the organisation that Dr. Sargent has laid before us will be a stepping stone by which we can come to the ideal which we have in mind.

Prof. G. Ranga (Guntur Cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I am glad to be able to associate myself with this particular motion of this connection. I am certainly in favour of not merely international, cultural, scientific and social co-operation, but also world co-operation. But I certainly have certain views in regard to the warfare that is going on in the world between various ideological imperialisms. There is the Soviet ideological imperialism. There is the Anglo-American ideological imperialism, and between these two there is a regular struggle going on. Their victims are the Eastern Culture and the Tribal Culture and this is not a new thing.

India has been a witness to a series of wars that were carried on on this plane in her long history. There are our own tribes, the hill tribes which you find on the Himalayas and on the Nilgiris which many of our so-called civilised people are proud to consider as very backward, have come to the hands of men because of their once intellectual and ideological defeat at the hands of men. Fortunate people. Till very recently in our own country there were pandits who said that women were not entitled to read the Vedas. Some were not entitled to read the Vedas and even now there are some stupid people in our own country who subscribe to this sort of thing. That is why in our country there is a series of self-respect movements in different provinces. What does that show? It shows that there is a very great necessity for people of all countries to be very much on the alert whenever such motions are made.

What is the objective with which this particular UNCIO is supposed to be established. They say "All wars begin in the minds of men" and these wars are going on today. We have got to fight these wars. How best can we fight it. Wendell Wilkie wrote in his book "One World" that there is what is known as Imperialism at home and we have got to fight that Imperialism. He warned Americans that they have got to fight their own prejudice against the Negroes. Take our own country. We have to contend against the intellectual arrogance of our own people. Take the Harijans to start with, then the tribal peoples, and the kisans and many other people in the countryside. Is it not necessary to rid ourselves of our own self-styled aristocracy, the aristocracy of birth, the aristocracy of trade, or profession and craft? We have got to fight that Imperialism. We have got to carry on an incessant struggle against this imperialism. It is against this imperialism that Mahatma Gandhi has been waging his struggle during the last 25 years in this country on the front of untouchability, on the front of sex inequality in favour of women and on the front also of the toilers of this country. And that is why he is there in what is known as Bhaghi Colony.

There is another imperialism, the religious imperialism which has got to be fought. Sometime ago when a social bill was being discussed people were under the impression that all of us were being married in the Brahminical way under the Brahminical law. It is not so. Unfortunately it is the habit of people who live in the Brahminical way to imagine that others do the same. But the Harijan even today enjoys a divorce system. They need not go to the courts like the English people and wash their dirty linen there. He has his own caste panchayat. There he places his case and gets his divorce without any cost. Man as well as woman has the right. They can go on divorcing six times but the fact is that they do not resort to this divorce so often. Why do I mention this. For the simple reason that we people somehow or other have got a capacity for self-deception. We think that our system is the best and want to subject others also to the same sort of system and so for all of them we make the same law. That is how it has been going on in our country as also in the rest of the world. The English man goes to South Africa and preaches his system as the best. He has come to our own country also. There is the Christian Literature Society and we have a branch of it also in Madras. These goody goody people who collect a lot of money from old widows, come to this country and try to salvage our souls by claiming for themselves high intellectual stature, a superior cultural heritage and calling us uncivilised and barbarous. Take the books written by Thackeray and see what sort of prejudice we find in his books. They are fine novels no doubt but they are rotten and

[Prof. N. G. Ranga.]

stinking so far as race prejudice is concerned. Only day before yesterday we read in the papers that the Ku Klux Klan is being resurrected again in America, and also that a white woman should not marry a dark man and *vice versa*. According to scientists, anthropologists, and psychiatrists so far as sex is concerned the Negro tops the list. They accept their defeatism and they want to safeguard themselves and in order to do that they raise the bogey of race. They are suffering from this disease in America and they cannot very well claim to be our leaders.

Only the other day you have been congratulating yourselves upon the defeat of Nazism but have you not got Nazism in America and South Africa. You have got to wage war against that. In the Southern States of the United States the position of the Negro is worse than that of the Harijans (Interruption by the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands) My Honourable friend Sir Archibald Rowlands will be going back to England none the wiser for his stay in India if he were to go away with the impression that the position of our Harijans here is not much better than the position of the Negro in America.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Nonsense.

Mr. President: I am afraid the whole trend of the discussion sidetracks the main point.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: The position of the Negro is this. He cannot send his own fellowman elected to the House of Representatives, whereas our Harijans can get their own people elected to our legislatures. The Negro cannot have his own ministers whereas our Harijans can have theirs in this country. Such is the record of the whites in America and in the South of America it is even much worse. The Red Indians are oppressed and suppressed and even the Mestichio or half caste people are not treated any better in America and other places.

Coming to Europe how are they treating one another? How are they treating the poor defeated Germans today?

Mr. President: Order, order. I am afraid all this will not be relevant. The Honourable Member's point, *viz.*, the necessity for such a world organisation is amply made out.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Sir, it is said here that war begins in the minds of men and the psychology of people has to be mended. Those people who have set themselves up as teachers of the rest of the world really do not deserve the title they have given to themselves and therefore cannot be trusted to make this organisation as great a success as it deserves.

I take strong objection to intellectuals alone being sent as delegates. I would have been proud if a savant like Sir S. Radhakrishnan had been here on the floor of the House today even as a nominated member in order to sponsor this motion. He would have made a brilliant speech, a speech that would have stood quotation in any Assembly all over the world. But unfortunately he is not here.

That does not mean that all the time we should be represented by these philosophers or scientists alone. My Honourable friend Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad pleaded for our religious leaders being sent. We must also be represented by the people who cater to the educational needs of these backward people whether they belong to any caste, religion or tribe. Therefore I do not want this organisation to concern itself entirely with mere scientists, with mere professional philosophers and so on.

Then there is the question of ideology. Has our country got any contribution to make at all? There I have learned one very splendid thing from my Honourable friend Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar some time ago, when we were spending our time together in the Amroli jail. Every day we used to have our discussions on these subjects and my friend used to tell me that the one great ideal for which our ancient Brahmins stood—not the Brahmin who has come down to us in hereditary fashion by being the son of his father and

nothing more—the Brahmin who has risen to be a Brahmin because of his excellence, because of his *tapas*, because of his sacrifice, and because of the excellence of his service, and the excellence of not merely intellectual but social eminence. Those Brahmins have set before us this marvellous ideal of what is known as "*Sarva Janah Sukhino Bhavantu*." They pleaded for the welfare, for the happiness, for the well being, not of one man or caste or country, or even of a race or religion; but of all human beings all over the world. But beyond that lesson, I go one step further and that is the lesson for which Mahatma Gandhi today is sacrificing himself, that is the lesson of service to the whole universe. There are Jains in this country who have devoted themselves to this kind of sacrifice—they do not even tread the ground before whether there is an ant or insect on it; some of them may be misguided and may go even to the extreme of tying cloth across their mouths lest any insect should get into their mouths. It may look silly. But then these scientists say the whole world is one and there is no distinction at all between one and the other—it is all electrons.

Therefore I am extremely anxious that if this organisation is to make its real contribution at all, it ought not to make itself a vehicle of any one culture, either of the west or of the east, or of Soviet Russia; but it ought to become the general forum for all cultures, for the exchange of all thoughts and also in order to train and help people to grow not in one intellectual or cultural mould, but in different, virile competing, but at the same time harmonious ways of looking at things and also ways of life and living.

Sir John Sargent: Sir, fortunately I have very little to reply to or take the time of the House. I can only express my appreciation of the way in which this resolution has been received. I could not possibly attempt to follow up the eloquent speeches which we have heard, but I should only like on a point of personal explanation to assure my Honourable friend, Mr. Ayyangar, that I cannot accept his suggestion that I take an unworthy pride in my own sartorial arrangements. The amount of time I spend in front of my looking glass is extremely limited. I also want to explain that my presence in this delegation was largely an official one, owing to the fact that my chief, the Honourable Member in charge of Education, was unable to make the journey. So I went to represent the official view but I think I was the only member of the delegation who can properly be described as a Government Yes-Man. The rest of the team, as I have stated, was an educational team of which any country might be proud. It is of course perfectly true that other people might have been included, and one of the problems we shall have to get down to and decide is who are to be our representatives to go to the first conference. I may perhaps say that in regard to scientists, it was at first uncertain whether their collaboration in an educational and cultural organisation would be secured as there was already in existence an international union of scientists and they might decide stand out of this new body. It was only at the actual conference that the scientists expressed their desire to co-operate, and the word 'scientific' was added to into UNESCO in the course of the meeting. I think everybody will realise that we have now secured a common front of educationists in regard to world problems, though of course I appreciate that the proof of this pudding—like that of all puddings—will be in the eating thereof. It remains to be seen whether UNESCO will in fact reproduce the rather arid results which some of our international educational bodies in the last generation have produced, or whether it will be a real live stimulating influence in the world. I can only say that in regard to the spiritual side of which we have heard so much today, I think everybody who has read the preamble of the Final Act will feel that that side has been adequately emphasised. In fact I may say that when the preamble was finally approved, there was a certain amount of criticism that it might be regarded as over-idealistic. At any rate I think that emphasis was laid, and rightly laid, on the importance of the spiritual side in all educational endeavour. I have only to express once more my gratitude to the Honourable Members who have been good enough to support this resolution.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation."

The motion was adopted.

INDIAN COINAGE BILL

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

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Coinage Act, 1906, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Mr. P. J. Griffiths, Mr. C. P. Lawson, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, Hajee Chowdhury Mohammad Ismail Khan, Mr. Muhammad Ismail Khan, Miss Maniben Kara, Mr. K. G. Ambe-gaokar, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, Prof. N. G. Ranga, Mr. B. P. Jhunjhunwala, Shri D. P. Karmarkar, Mr. Jagannathdas, Diwan Chaman Lal, Mr. K. C. Sharma, Mr. Madandhari Singh, and the Finance Member for the time being, that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five, and that the Committee be authorised to meet at Simla."

This is one of the shortest Bills that have been introduced in this House during this Session and I hope my speech will be one of the shortest also. But the Bill, though short, is a very important one in that it seeks to introduce a fundamental and radical change in the subsidiary coinage of India. It proposes that India shall adopt the same system of coinage that has been adopted in most countries of the world outside the British Commonwealth and, even in the British Commonwealth, there are several important exceptions to that general rule. Canada is an example, and Ceylon, and East Africa, where there are one hundred cents to a shilling. The Bill does not propose to touch the key coin of India, namely, the rupee which, in addition to the position which it has attained within its own country, has also established a position in world transactions. The rupee will remain; there will also be the half rupee and the quarter rupee. But it is proposed to replace the 2-anna and smaller coins by cents. The rupee, instead of being divided into 16 annas and 64 pice and 192 pies, will be divided into 100 cents and 200 half-cents. Anybody who is perhaps not as learned a mathematician as Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad will appreciate, I think, that it is easier to handle duodecimals than it is to handle fractions, whether they be vulgar or otherwise; and I do think that, as a method of calculation for at least business and other purposes, the decimal system has great advantages over a fractional system.

The immediate occasion for introducing this Bill is as follows. During the war, owing to the shortage of nickel, it was necessary to employ an alloy which contains one per cent. of nickel as compared with the 25 per cent. in the pre-war coin. Owing to the great expansion of Government activities and expenditure, no less than 532 crores of subsidiary coins of 2-anna pieces and below, were issued in this unsatisfactory alloy.

[At this stage, Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

The alloy is unsatisfactory for a good many reasons; it wears badly, it loses its colour and it is easily counterfeited; and, therefore Government have decided to replace this enormous volume of coins by an alloy which is practically the same (or slightly better) as existed before the war. This is an enormous coinage problem. But it does provide an opportunity which will never occur again for introducing a change which, I submit and believe, is an improvement over the present system of coinage. I will not go into all the objections that have been raised against the change. There are several: first of all it is alleged that it is revolutionary. But as my friend Prof. Ranga is fond of claiming, we are living in a revolutionary age and, merely because a change is revolutionary it should not be resisted on that account: in fact, it should be commended on that ground. Here, as I say, is an opportunity for carrying out easily and without expense a revolution. As Professor Ranga is so fond of quoting literature, he will remember what Shakespeare has said. There is a tide in the affairs of men which taken at the flood leads on to fortune.

The second objection is that the public will be confused by having the cent coin circulating at the same time as the present coins. It would be quite impossible to carry out an operation which would put into the hands of the people overnight 530 crores of coin. Even if we could stock them all, it would be quite impossible to get them into the hands of the people all at once. In fact, the circulation of the two coins side by side meets the third objection. The third objection, that has been raised against the decimalization of the coinage is this, that the unscrupulous trader will take advantage of the poor man and charge him a unit which, in value, is higher than the old one. Well, if he has both coins in his pocket he will have to offer the one which suits him best

and, by the time the old coinage disappears, he will have got used to the new value. On that point I may say this, that the lowest unit will be a half cent, which is 1/200th of a rupee. Now, I doubt whether anybody can buy anything with a pie these days but, if he can, he will be equally able to buy something with a half cent, because the value is so close to a pie that it is unlikely that more than half cent will be charged. The real lowest effective coin in India today is, I believe, the pice which is 1/64th of a rupee. Well, we are going to introduce 1/100th of rupee in the cent, so that that objection, if it is an objection at all, will, I think, operate in favour of the purchaser rather than of the vendor.

In view of the quite obvious fact that objections would be raised to a revolutionary change of this sort, Government took the precaution of circulating the proposal for public opinion. We consulted the provinces; we consulted the trade associations; we consulted the chambers of commerce; we consulted the States and we consulted a certain number of private individuals and the replies we have received are predominantly in favour of the proposal.

Now, it could be alleged that the Provincial Governments which might have been considered to represent the common man where section 93 Governments and not popular Governments and, therefore, I am prepared on behalf of the Government, if the amendment that has been tabled is pressed, to have the Bill circulated once again for eliciting public opinion, instead of moving for reference to a Select Committee at once. That will depend upon what the Mover thinks.

Three other objections have been raised against the proposal. One is that it is premature to introduce a new coinage of this sort until education is more widespread. I think the answer is that it was introduced into Russia in 1839, when there was no education at all. It was introduced into Japan in 1871 and in East Africa in 1922 and in all the countries it became rapidly the established currency. It exists also in Palestine, Malaya, Siam and, as I said already, Ceylon.

Another objection is that you ought not to introduce decimalization of coinage until you have decimalized weights and measures. Now, I believe that weights and measures should be decimalized. The main difficulty at the moment is two-fold. First of all, there is no standard weight. A maund means one thing in one part of the country and another in another part. Secondly, it is partly a provincial subject. It would take quite a long time to have got agreement on the point. In the meantime, here is an opportunity in the coinage field to introduce decimalization of the coinage. It is the first step towards decimalization. I do believe that India would benefit in every way, not only from standard weights and measures, but also from a metric system of weights and measures.

The last thing that has been urged is that the United Kingdom is still on the duodecimal system and it is not proposed to change that and that it has proposed on that system. The question of the decimalization of the coinage in the United Kingdom is an old question and it has been considered on more than one occasion. The only tentative step taken in that direction was the introduction of the florin, which is one-tenth of a pound. There have been Royal Commissions on it and the proposal foundered on the dual rock of the pound

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In the first place, this Government have no voice behind them. In the second place, there is nothing like an inner voice. For a long time it was impressed upon the Government that decimalisation should be introduced. It was only when the Science Congress took up the matter in right earnest that the Government accepted it, and probably out of courtesy to the Science Congress, but they failed to catch the spirit of their recommendations. Unless their recommendations are accepted in their entirety, it is not doing justice to the Science Congress or to the ideas which they have given. It is for the Government to find ways and means for forestalling the difficulties and dangers to which Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Kishorilal Mashruwala drew pointed attention. The best thing that the Government can do is to drop the Bill now and send it to the Science Congress on the one hand and to public men like Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Mashruwala and others. Certainly, they in their wisdom will give advice which will be helpful to Government, if the Government care to take the help of outsiders. Therefore, I suggest that the matter should be circulated for eliciting public opinion and experts should be consulted.

I am glad that the Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands referred to the other question of decimalisation of weights and measures and in this he has anticipated us. Our case is clear, that partial decimalisation is neither here nor there. There must be complete decimalisation. By the time this Bill comes back from circulation, the Legislative Department of the Government of India ought to be ready with a draft Bill covering questions of weights and measures and have decimalisation law in the entire field, from one end of the country to another. Let the opinion of scientists be obtained, let all those who can speak with authority on economic questions give their opinions. Let the interest of the poor villagers be safeguarded. It will be time to consider this matter then. If there are things to be settled at that time, they can be settled through the Select Committee or on the floor of the House.

So far as the amendment of Mr. Ishaq Seth is concerned, there is no difference between mine and his. All that I wanted is to get this matter done as early as possible. I suggested 30th June. He suggested 31st December. I do not mind.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I would prefer a compromise. Let it be 30th September.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: If that is the offer of my Honourable friend I accept it. We want circulation for public opinion and that may be done.

Mr. Deputy President: The following amendments have been moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th June, 1946."

Another is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the end of December, 1946."

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th September, 1946."

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th September, 1946."

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces: Southern Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, we all know that the Greeks always had a Sexagesimal scale, i.e., scale of 60 and the Arabs also followed it. The Hindus first introduced the decimal scale which the whole world adopted. So I thought my friends on my right would jump at this proposal because their ancestors introduced the decimal scale which this Government vitiated. It is a pity that the My Honourable friend looks at it from the point of view of practical coinage; I look at it from the point of view of the teaching of mathematics to Indian boys.

I am sure the life of the children will be saved at least by two years if the decimal scale is introduced throughout. I will refer to the history and development of mathematics which will throw a great light on the solution of the problems now before us.

We all read geometry by means of Euclid. Euclid was a mathematician who compiled a book named after him containing all the propositions discovered in the previous 600 years. Euclid played such an important part in the teaching of mathematics among the Greeks and the Arabs that no one would look into any Mathematical proposition unless proved by geometry. When Newton discovered the law of gravitation and proved the three laws of Kepler all the mathematicians demanded that it must be proved by means of geometry. And he did prove it by means of geometry and put it in his 'Principia' and then the world accepted the law of gravitation.

Later on unfortunately a proposition came before the world about 1750 that every triangle which you can draw can be proved by Euclid to be an equilateral triangle. When this proposition came, the eyes of the mathematicians were opened and they began to say that the logical methods of Euclid which had been followed for so many centuries were hopeless, and so the mathematicians wanted a change. This was discussed in about 1750-54, conferences of teachers were called and they said that Euclid should not be changed. But the conservative teachers advanced arguments of the type used by my Honourable friend Mr. Sanyal and as the mathematicians always opposed any change in the teaching of geometry the old Euclid occupied its unshakable position. But fortunately for the world, Cremona who was one of the greatest mathematicians in Italy became Minister of Education in 1874. He did not believe in Acts and Bills of legislatures and by his own decree he ordered that from then onwards in all the schools of Italy the new geometry and not the old Euclid should be taught. The teachers in Italy protested but they had to follow the decree. In 20 years the Italians who had been so poor in mathematics became leaders in geometry. When I was in Cambridge I had to spend eight months in Bologna in order to learn modern geometry in which Italians then excelled. Then the Germans saw that this change brought the Italians in forefront in geometry. They gave up Euclid and adopted modern Geometry. The French followed and they also began to change Euclid into modern geometry. England is more orthodox in these matters and in the meetings of the British Association in 1904 which I had the honour to attend they passed with great reluctance and amidst great opposition that Euclid should not be taught but should be replaced by modern geometry. It was the last nail in the coffin of Euclid. In India I fought a great deal for modern geometry in 1907 and we succeeded here also. The result of these changes in other countries and the example of Italy was that higher books in geometry which were confined to Italians like Pascal Dini and others were also written now by Germans, Frenchmen and Britishers. So this great example set by Cremona in Italy became the common property of all and now it is recognised that Euclid should be replaced by modern geometry.

We had been suffering the same thing in the teaching of Arithmetic and the teaching of Algebra. Whatever difficulties we had in the teaching of geometry in the last two centuries we are also suffering in the teaching of Arithmetic and Algebra. Our teachers who have been trained in a particular way refuse to have any change; they want to solve the same questions in the same manner. The system prevalent here is that arithmetic, algebra and geometry are all taught separately and in water-tight compartments; but the modern tendency is to teach them in conjunction. They will say that the principle that two and three mangoes are equal to five is arithmetic; if you say two A's and three A's make five A's it is algebra. If we say that the two inches line and three inches line make up a line of five inches, it is geometry. But there is no difference between arithmetic, algebra and geometry. All these arithmetical problems must be illustrated by geometrical diagrams. Fractions come in the way; they do not allow you to illustrate your arithmetical formula by geometry, but it is possible

[16TH APRIL 1946]

[Sir John Sargent.]

I do not want to take any more time of the House, but I hope that I have been successful in satisfying Honourable Members that it is desirable that India should accede to this new Organisation and that, if I have been successful in that, it is desirable that she should do so at this juncture.

Mr. President: Resolution moved:

That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to accept the constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have my doubts regarding the utility of this Organisation, but I am not opposing the entry of India even at this stage into this Organisation. I am glad of one thing that in the former League of Nations there was a Branch—an auxiliary service—which was called the Intellectual Co-operation Institution. I am glad, Sir, that this Organisation is not confined merely to the growth of intellect, but has expanded itself to the educational side and the cultural side also. I, belonging as I do to a country with ancient traditions which places its faith more on the spiritual than on the material side of existence, would have immensely liked if the spiritual aspect of it also had been included in the Statement of Objects and Reasons and the denomination of this Institution.

I have my own doubts as regards the value of this institution from this point of view. Our Western friends, however good they might be in their intentions, have not yet got rid of the idea that their civilization is superior to ours and they have to impose their materialistic civilization upon us. They estimate the goodness of a man by his arrogance, by his dress, and by his capacity to push himself in the forefront by treating this whole world as a battlefield. And they prepare their children for this battle of life. The Darwinian theory of 'survival of the fittest' has been extended from the animal kingdom and the law of the jungle to humanity also. They forget that the human being has the highest place in the world because he has developed his mind and in the place of law of jungle where obviously there is competition he can substitute the law of co-operation, in place of inconsistency and struggle he can have homogeneous love, and in place of exploitation he can substitute service and sacrifice. Had these ideals been placed in the forefront of these intellectual movements and social welfare institutions, the two world wars which have been waged in one generation could have been avoided.

I do not know what the object of this institution is going to be. Are they going to emphasise on the spiritual side of life or are they going to emphasise the material side of life? From ancient times, you will find that man has been trying to educate his children according to the needs and the circumstances. Hiranyakasipu in the *Puranic* age wanted to train his son so as to fit him to destroy all honest and well-meaning people in the world. He wanted to educate his child in the art of warfare so that he may put to death every honest, truth-speaking man in the world. He wanted his son to be brought up in that way, but ultimately God appeared and destroyed the father. That is our ancient *Purana*.

This Government has introduced their own method of training. I can refer you, Sir, to G. O. 501 which wanted children to be taught in a particular groove; it is an educational circular. The parents could not train the child in any other manner. They are taught to revere neckties and collars, they are taught to revere a man who was a tyrant, who instead of being thrown into the Sea, was thrown into this country—Lord Clive. They are the persons whom they worship. These are the people who are mentioned in the text books of our children. Our ancient heroes have not been included in the text books. In the beginning of a text book you find the picture of King George the Fifth with necktie and collar and we are told that unless we also put on a necktie and collar we cannot lift our heads in the world. I want a plain life,

plain life and high thinking. I find that in my country, in spite of the hot weather, our European friends are not able to put on *acholis*. I have yet to see a single European, except perhaps a few in the Salvation Army, change his dress. They are sticking to their traditions; but our superstitions stick in their nostrils. If a man grows a beard they say he is a fool; he is fool unless he shaves every day. According to them everybody must shave his beard every morning or twice a day. I am absolutely confused as to what exactly this cultural association is going to do.

Do you know, Sir, what Hitler did. He started with the children. He imparted his lessons to them through their text books. For instance, questions on multiplication would be like this: If one Bomber can throw five bombs how many Bombers are necessary for throwing 100 bombs, or if you have 100 bombers and each bomber can throw five bombs in one trip, how many bombs do you require in all? This is how he tried to inculcate the idea of treating every other human being as his enemy and that is how he prepared his children for a future war. Is it the kind of education that they are going to give in the conference as a retaliatory measure to what unfortunately Japan did in this Conference? I am sure, Sir, our friends have not yet decided as to what kind of education has to be given. Dr. Sargent is an exceedingly lovable person. He has prepared a scheme for education for this country, but is he the representative of India at this Conference? Why not Sir Radha Krishnan, one of our philosophers, who can carry the message of East to the West? Has the Conference got all the philosophy that is necessary? They have unfortunately thrown our genius to the wind. According to them the only Christian died on the Cross. They are Christians in name; we are Christians in spirit. We are proud to be Christians in spirit. They have scattered him to the winds. Why not take our people there to the conference or was Sir C. V. Raman there? He was the first Indian Scientist to receive the Nobel Prize. This is a scientific institution. The educational institution is represented by my friend. Is there nobody else in India but my friend? This is a disgrace. He is a well meaning person. He has come with a scheme but the scheme is unsuited to my country. I do want every boy to be trained up in the spirit of sacrifice. I am prepared to lose myself if another friend of mine can only live on what I can spare for him. That is the spirit that I want to inculcate into this new world.

Then there will be competition not in possession but in service. This must take the place of competition in worldly possessions. You and I have been lawyers. In judging the value of evidence, a man who stands in the witness box and says that he pays Rs. 1,000 as income-tax, according to the rules today will be preferred to Mahatma Gandhi who has no property though the former may be a scoundrel. Is that the kind of education they want to instil into young minds today? To make a tall man short, out off his head. That is the kind of educational regimentation that this institution is going to give. Until I am free I may not be able to send a true representative to carry the message of hope to remove false values from the world, we feed not a hungry man but a man who is unable to digest a cup of coffee unless we give him a carminative mixture. The man who has come by wealth through evil ways is respected. Those persons who fled from England to America have come today to teach us. Though we are not rich in worldly possessions, the spirit is there. We are much better in spirit than others. Have we to learn lessons from them. We have a different outlook. Much sooner than my friends expect we shall be able to carry this message to the corners of the world and re-establish the Kingdom of Christ which unfortunately my friends on the other side are not prepared to acknowledge and carry. The sun rises in the East always sets in the West. The sun never rises in the West, and am I always to get my inspiration from a country where the sun never rises?

However, let the institution start. I wish it good luck. All institutions which try to bring persons together into a homogenous whole are good. My religion is not confined to service to a nation, but of Humanity. I want to cross the bounds of a nation. The smallest worm I am not prepared to tread. I want to

[Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad]

if you introduce the decimal system. And once you do that the whole work will be simplified.

Again, we have scales of 4, 8, 16, 32, 64, etc. We have got all kinds of scales and thus our fraction multiplication tables became very complicated. In old days we had only one multiplication table, ten to ten, which was quite enough. Then they had a scale of 12 to 12. But now with all these different scales our Indian boys have to learn a considerable amount of matter. In the U. P. I changed fractional tables after seven years' fight in the various committees. Now Indian boys have to learn fractionally $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{4}$, $1\frac{1}{2}$, $1\frac{1}{3}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$, $2\frac{1}{3}$, etc. All these fractional tables are to be learnt from one up to 20, not for fractional numbers. It is a great strain on the memory when you ask these tables to be learnt by boys of six, seven and eight years of age; it is great cruelty. For a considerable time our examiners asked what $5\frac{1}{2}$ multiplied by $2\frac{1}{2}$ came to and the answer had to be given orally and immediately. And any one who could not reproduce them from memory failed. And the teachers became anti-intellectual that they brought out special books and special brands of mathematics called Mental Arithmetic, by which they had repetition of the fractional formulas.

I think it is really a great cruelty to the children to torture them in the particular manner in which we have been torturing. People really forget that arithmetic is not mathematics. A man who is a good mathematician will be found to be hopelessly backward in arithmetical tables. This is on account of the way in which we have been teaching arithmetic and we are responsible for it. The modern tendency is that arithmetic, algebra and geometry ought to be taught simultaneously and if they are taught simultaneously four years are sufficient to pass matriculation instead of ten years.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadian Rural): On a point of information. Can Geometry be taught by the decimal method?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Yes. Geometry can be used to solve arithmetical and algebracal problems.

Mr. Deputy President: What about the Bill?

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: I am supporting the bill. I am speaking on the advantages of decimalization. If you take up any proposition in geometry then simply by means of geometry you cannot do the thing definitely unless you verify it by measurements also, and whenever the question of measurement comes in you find that decimal scale helps you more than a scale of four, six, eight or twelve. If you have a decimal scale, then and then alone you will simplify the teaching of mathematics and you can teach mathematics in a manner that the whole work can be done in four instead of ten years. I have tried this experiment and it has been successful.

Sir, we spend a lot of time in what is called the I.C.M., the G.C.M., and vulgar fractions, and waste time in *langra* fractions. Why waste time on all this? You take up any text book printed on the Continent and you will find that vulgar fractions are not there; you will find decimal fractions. (Interruption). My Honourable friend is playing on the word 'vulgar' and therefore I say that vulgar is always vulgar and therefore it should be omitted.

Dr. G. V. Deshmukh (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): I entirely agree.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, this is very important, and, in fact, I moved a Resolution about eight years ago in which I suggested that we ought to take up decimalisation of weights, measures and money to simplify the teaching of mathematics. I was not very much interested from the commercial point of view, nor was I interested very much from the point of view of coinage, but ~~was~~ ^{was} very much interested from the point of view of simplification in the teaching of mathematics which is very badly needed in this country. If we can simplify

the teaching of mathematics, arithmetic algebra and geometry, we will save enormous time of the students. Therefore I lay very great stress on the importance of this Bill.

You may call it a little out of the way, but it is my conviction that we cannot teach mathematics, geometry, algebra and so on in watertight compartments. We must teach them as one unified whole; illustrate everything by means of algebra, arithmetic and also by means of geometry. This can be done very easily, but the only thing which stands in our way is the difference in scale. Another advantage of this would be that your calculations in respect of buildings and engineering projects will be simplified. Now you have so many different scales. If you have one decimal scale, your building plans will be very much simplified, and easily understood.

As regards the point which has been raised with regard to weights and measures, this is a corollary. We need not wait for that. The moment we introduce the decimal scale in money change in weights and measures will follow with as certainly as the night follows the day. I understand the difficulty of finding the unit, but I am sure it will be found both in respect of weights and measures. At present if you go to a cloth merchant there is one unit, if you go to the grocery shop there is another unit, if you go for fuel and coal there is a third unit. If you have one unit which is adopted in teaching and which is adopted in all scientific books and in all our transactions, the work will be very much simplified. When you have different units, a lot of time is wasted. These vulgar fractions which we are teaching to our boys makes them less intellectual. If you put the proposition in a manner by means of which we give them somewhat inspiring ideas, the boys would be interested, but if you present the proposition in a form which is exceedingly dull nobody would be interested. Some astronomer went to Alfonso in Portugal and explained to him the movement of heavenly bodies. He replied that had he been God he would have created the world in a simpler manner. The fault was not of God, but the fault was of those who invented the epicycles and hypocycles. The mathematics becomes dull to the students, the fault does not lie in mathematics; the fault lies with those persons who invented different scales. Therefore, I hope that my Honourable friends on the right will feel proud that now we are going to adopt a system of which their forefathers were inventors. In fact, we should jump on this idea because it will be of great advantage. There is no need to circulate. Why waste time. Why not follow Cremona for decimalisation in India?

India? **Shri Mohan Lal Saksena** (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I would not have taken the time of the House but for the speech of my Honourable and learned friend, Dr. Sir Zia Uddin. I may say that so far as we are concerned, we are not opposed to the introduction of decimal system both in regard to coinage as well as weights and measures. But our difficulty is that on the one hand Dr. Sir Zia Uddin has pointed out that if we adopt this decimal system the difficulty of our students will be solved. I think, Sir, that by adopting this system in regard to coinage and at the same time not changing the weights and measures, we will be increasing the difficulty of students. At present they have evolved certain mental arithmetical formulae for making calculations, for instance, a yard is divided into 16 parts—*gira*hs—so he can calculate that if the cost of cloth is so many rupees per yard, it will be as many annas per *gira*h. Similarly, there were formulas in regard to maunds, seers and chatta

ks. If cost is so many rupees a seer, the cost per chatta

ks will be an equal number of annas. If the cost of a maund of goods is a certain number of rupees, the cost of $2\frac{1}{2}$ seers will be an equal number of annas. So I want to point out that so far as we are concerned, instead of proceeding with these decimal measures piece-meal we would like, to have not only a bill providing for decimal coinage, we should have also similar legislation for weights and measures. In the absence of that the difficulties pointed out by Sir Zia Uddin instead of decreasing will be increased.

I may point out in this connection that a committee was appointed in 1912-14 to enquire into the weights and measures and in that report I find that one of

[Shri Mohan Lal Saxena]

the members recommended that so far as weights and measures are concerned, the decimal system should be adopted. Because there was some confusion at that time on account of the varying weight of a maund in different places.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: This confusion still exists.

Shri Mohan Lal Saxena: It was therefore easy to have adopted a seer of 100 tolas and it was easy to have introduced it then. But it was not done. But now that the Honourable Member has introduced this Bill we want it to be circulated and we accept his suggestion that it should be circulated up to the end of September. Meanwhile we would suggest that the other Departments of the Government, the Commerce Department, should prepare similar Bills for introducing decimal weights and measures. With these words I support the motion for circulation.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The point about introducing a bill for Weights and Measures I explained in my opening remarks. We have got to undertake a very large recoinage programme and we thought this was a suitable opportunity to take advantage of that to introduce what is, undoubtedly, a desirable reform. I agree with Mr. Saxena that we ought to tackle weights and measures, which are provincial subjects, of course. But I do not think it would be wise to hold up the decimalization of the coinage until we have introduced a scientific metric system for weights and measures. I was very fascinated by the history of geometry given by my friend Dr. Zia Uddin. I think we order things much better than they did in those days when a mathematician introduced his ordinance without there being questions on the floor of the House. I must confess that, when he argued what the answer was of $5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$, I found it much easier to get the answer by long fractions than by the decimal system. I have actually done it.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: They had to learn it by heart. That is the point.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Join the Aligarh University!

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I will join the Aligarh University. I do not know much about epicentres, though I am supposed to know something about trade centres. I gather that Mr. Sanyal and Mr. Ishaq Seth are prepared to accept the amendment of 30th September as the date by which replies should be received from the public. If that is so, I will agree that that should be done.

Mr. Deputy President: The original amendment was moved by Mr. Sanyal that the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinions by 30th June, to which an amendment has been moved that the 30th June be substituted by 30th September. I want to put to the House that this amendment be made to the original amendment.

The question is:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th September, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sri N. Narayanamurthi, Mr. Gauri Shanker Saran Singh, Sree Satyapriya Banerjee, Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, Mr. R. C. Morris, Rai Bahadur D. M. Bhattacharyya, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Harender Singh, Mr. A. T. Naqvi, Sir Mohamad Yamin Khan, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. Muhammad Nauman and the Mover, that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five, and that the Committee be authorized to meet at Simla."

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL

Mr. Deputy President: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of The Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sri N. Narayanamurthi, Mr. Gauri Shanker Saran Singh, Sree Satyapriya Banerjee, Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, Mr. R. C. Morris, Rai Bahadur D. M. Bhattacharyya, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Harender Singh, Mr. A. T. Naqvi, Sir Mohamad Yamin Khan, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. Muhammad Nauman and the Mover, that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five, and that the Committee be authorized to meet at Simla."

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): I have an amendment.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am afraid

Mr. Deputy President: I thought the Honourable Member did not want to make any speech. He was entitled to make a speech before I put the motion before the House. However, the amendment may be moved and then the Honourable Member can speak.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st August, 1946."

I will also reserve my speech.

Mr. Deputy President: Amendment moved:

"That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 1st August, 1946."

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Sir, I am afraid that there is nothing revolutionary about this Bill to attract my friend Professor Ranga. It is rather in the nature of a humdrum but, we consider, very necessary piece of legislation. The Bill is somewhat lengthy and detailed but I submit that it is not as formidable as it looks. It will, however, require a great deal of study in the matter of detail and I have no desire to hustle decisions in the matter. Indeed in order to make things clear we have, I think, gone to considerable extremes in setting out notes on the clauses to explain what we are aiming at in each recommendation for amendment.

I have a certain amount of remarks to make on this Bill which I think will carry us over till tomorrow but I should like now to make one suggestion in view of what has fallen from my Honourable friend opposite. That is this. We are very anxious to get on with this legislation, to get it under the consideration of a Select Committee. If my Honourable friend opposite does not think that it has been circulated sufficiently for eliciting public opinion, I propose to make a suggestion which I would like him to consider overnight, viz., that we refer it to a Select Committee but that we circulate it departmentally between now and say the 1st of June or the 1st of July. We will circulate it departmentally and then the opinions which are received in the interim between now and whatever date might be decided upon (whether the 1st of July or even the 1st of August) would then be put before the Select Committee. In that way we shall achieve the objective both of this side of the House and the other, the objective of that side of the House in getting it circulated for public opinion and the objective of this side of the House in getting up the Select Committee of the House during this session. I will refer to that again at the end of my speech tomorrow.

The Motor Vehicles Act of 1939 has been in force about seven years with the exception of one Chapter, Chapter VIII, that which deals with compulsory third party insurance which comes into force in July of this year and about which I shall have further remarks to make later. It has, I think the House will agree, had a substantial effect in bringing about improved and uniform standards of driving and of safety on the roads and in regulating competition between the small owners to the general benefit of the latter. And this has been achieved in spite of the fact that shortly after the Act came into force we entered into the war and conditions entirely changed from those which existed before the war were brought about.

[Sir Edward Benthall]

The amendments which are included in the Bill are desirable, in our view, for three main reasons. First of all, to clarify and improve upon certain provisions which practical working of the Act has shown to be desirable. Secondly, to provide for general simplification of the procedure which is made possible to a large extent by the growth of the organisation of road transport, that is to say by the growth of organised transport companies in place of the former small owners. And, thirdly, it is desirable to make certain modifications as the result of what I think is now a generally recognised appreciation of the desirability of bringing about co-ordination of some sort between road and rail. Our proposals with regard to the latter objective are really quite straightforward and I would like to disabuse the House at once of any idea, if they have any, that we are trying to circumvent the decisions of the Assembly in any way—decisions as regards financial participation by the railways in road rail co-ordination companies—because Government have, as the House knows, accepted the verdict of the House in that matter. The principle that there must be co-ordination of some sort is, I think, accepted, though not the means. What is intended in the Bill which we have before us is of general application and has no particular application to the question of financial participation in the railways.

Sir, the Act of 1939 dealt with the situation when the bulk of road transport was provided by small owners. In the intervening years there has been a general development towards amalgamation of small owners into companies. For single owners it is obvious that it is necessary to have a tighter control in order to prevent destructive competition between the small operators themselves and to ensure that a particular owner did not get by malpractice any advantage over his competitor, and, I need hardly say, to the public disadvantage also. When transport companies have come into being in the way that they have in recent years, it is possible to allow greater freedom to these companies to vary their service according to the needs of the public, without of course in any way diminishing their responsibility to provide efficient service to the public and certain of the clauses in this Bill, such as 20, 30 to 32, 39, 41, 48 and so on, are examples designed to meet this changing condition.

The Act of 1939 was a fairly complicated piece of machinery which was evolved after considerable discussion. The defects which have been revealed in the intervening years have been commendably few which only shows that those who built up the Act did a very careful piece of work. Nevertheless, the years have shown that there are some defects in the Act. Some of these have been brought to the attention of Government by non-official associations of owners and others by Provincial Governments; and some of them we have discovered ourselves. We have kept a careful record of all the recommendations which have come to us from any source and a number of these recommendations are embodied in the Bill. Most of the amendments to Chapter I of the Act, Chapters II, III, VI, VII and IX and the amendments to the schedules are almost all inspired by these practical recommendations which have been made from various sources.

Mr. Deputy President: I believe the Honourable Member would like to continue his speech tomorrow.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 17th April, 1946.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 17th April, 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 Pheroze Merwan Kharegat, C.I.E., I.C.S., M.L.A. (Secretary, Agriculture Department); and Mr. Donald Ross Rutnam, O.B.E., I.C.S., M.L.A., (Government of India : Nominated Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

BRINGING DISPUTE WITH SOUTH AFRICAN UNION BEFORE SECURITY COUNCIL OF UNITED NATIONS

1889. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer:** (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations be pleased to state, categorically, whether he proposes to bring the disputes between the Government of India and the Government of the South African Union before the Security Council of the United Nations at an early date?

(b) Have Government ever given this procedure their consideration?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the statement made on the subject by the Honourable Leader of the House on the 16th April, 1946, in the House.

LOSS OF TWO CONSIGNMENTS OF WHEAT SHIPPED FROM BOMBAY TO KUMTA

1890. ***Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar:** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that two consignments of wheat each of 750 bags shipped from Bombay to Kumta in January and February, 1946 were reported lost;

(b) if it is a fact that the loss of the January consignment was brought to the notice of the Food Controller, Bombay, and that he sent the next consignment also by sea;

(c) if Government have been able to find out whether there was no foul play in this reported loss;

(d) why the Food Controller, Bombay, sent the second consignment also by sea even after the loss of the first consignment was brought to his notice; and

(e) if any action has been taken by Government on this matter?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (e). The matter is under investigation by the Provincial Government.

(d) As no foul play was suspected and as access to the port of Kumta is only by sea, the second consignment was also despatched by sea.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar: Was it not sent by country craft?

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

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Is the Honourable Member aware that Kumta is accessible by rail and road and not by sea only?

Mr. B. R. Sen : It is more easily accessible by sea.

Sri R. Venkatasubba Reddiar : Did such an occurrence take place at the end of 1945 also ?

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

Khan Abdul Ghani Khan : In view of the fact that there is need for safe dispatch of such commodities, was it not proper for Government to have chosen the safer route ?

Mr. President : That is a matter of opinion.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIM BOYS IN BEVIN TRAINING SCHEME

1891. ***Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer :** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state whether there is any proposal for sending candidates to England for training in the Bevin Training Scheme? If so, how many? What will be the representation of Muslims among them?

(b) When will they be sent, and for what period?

(c) Up to what date are the candidates required to apply?

(d) Are candidates of Indian States eligible for training? If not, why not?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) Yes. A batch of about 60 will be sent. The number of Muslims will, as far as possible, be as prescribed by the orders of Government regarding communal proportions.

(b) End of May or beginning of June. The period of training will be one year.

(c) Applications from serving and ex-servicemen were required to reach Government by the 20th February, 1946. In the case of civilians the National Service Labour Tribunals were asked to send their recommendations by the end of the first week of April 1946.

(d) Yes.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : Is it a fact that preference will be given to ex-servicemen?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : About ten posts will be for ex-servicemen.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government try to send them early enough so that they may be in time for the beginning of the academic session there?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : Arrangements have been made for their training at the time when they reach there. They will not be going to the universities and there is no question of academic training.

SUBSIDY BY CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVINCIAL POST-WAR EDUCATIONAL SCHEMES

†1892. ***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan :** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state whether Provincial Post-war Educational Schemes are subject to the approval of the Central Government, and whether approval of the Central Government is a condition precedent to any subsidy by the Central Government?

Sir John Sargent : The intention is to make Central grants for schemes which are in general accord with all-India Policy.

QUARTERS FOR LABOURERS IN FUEL DEPOTS AT GOL MARKET, NEW DELHI

1893. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga :** (a) With reference to the short notice question and its answer on the 11th February, 1946, will the Health Secretary please state at what stage the construction of proper quarters for labourers employed in fuel depots at the New Delhi Gol Market is?

(b) Is it a fact that the labourers are still living in far off places like Paharganj, Ajmere Gate, etc.?

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

(c) Is it a fact that these labourers cannot come to the fuel depots before 9 A.M. and that they leave the depots at 6 P.M.?

(d) Is it a fact that the Secretariat employees who purchase fuel at the Gol market depots are not able to attend personally to the purchase of fuel on account of the labourers not being able to turn up at the depots before 9 A.M. when the employees themselves have to leave for their offices?

(e) Is it a fact that the Secretariat employees have to leave the money and charcoal coupons with the fuel depot owners, instructing them to send the fuel to their houses?

(f) Is it a fact that the purchasers are left at the mercy of the fuel depot owners in the matter of quality and quantity of fuel supplied without being able to check personally?

(g) Do Government propose to expedite the construction of quarters at the depot premises? If not, why not?

(h) What have Government done in the way of giving a subsidy to these displaced workers to enable them to construct temporary houses?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) Sites for quarters for labourers employed in the depots on the scale of four quarters per depot have been selected and detailed estimates for the works are being prepared.

(b) Yes.

(c) It is reported that the labourers come to work at 8 A.M. and leave at 8 P.M.

(d) No. The depots open at 8 A.M. and remain open till 8 P.M.

(e) Some of the Secretariat employees adopt this procedure.

(f) No.

(g) The Municipal Committee is making every effort to expedite the construction of quarters near these depots.

(h) The Municipal Committee considers that as the structures in which the coolies were living were unauthorised and unhygienic, and as the New Delhi Municipal Committee never agreed to their staying there, the question of compensation or subsidy to the workers for having to make housing arrangements elsewhere does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Apart from the legal aspect of it and purely from the humanitarian point of view, why is it that the Government of India have not considered it possible to give them some decent subsidy in order to enable them to set up temporary buildings?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : Arrangements are being made as quickly as possible to provide accommodation for them.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : How soon do Government expect to complete the construction of these quarters?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : I cannot say exactly when the construction will be completed; but I may say that pending completion of the construction of these quarters the Municipal Committee has allowed the owners of the depots to construct temporary quarters in accordance with the requirements of the Health Department of the Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Apart from the financial responsibility of the New Delhi Municipal Committee, will Government consider the advisability of giving them some subsidy in order to help them to protect themselves during the coming summer?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : I think temporary arrangements will be made before the summer season is over.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Who makes that temporary provision?

Mr. President : Order, order; next question.

REPRESENTATION OF MUSLIMS AMONG SUPERINTENDING ENGINEERS AND EXECUTIVE ENGINEERS IN CENTRAL P. W. D.

1894. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the strength of Superintending Engineers in the Central Public Works Department;

(b) how many Muslims are holding such positions, and in what ratio; if the representation of Muslims among Superintending Engineers is inadequate, why it is so, when the Muslims of the requisite qualifications and experience are available; and

(c) the strength of Muslims in Executive Engineers posts in the Central Public Works Department; if the representation of Muslims among Executive Engineers is inadequate, why it is not adjusted at present?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a), (b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the replies given to Starred Questions numbered 1015 and 1646, asked on the 15th March, and the 8th April, 1946.

Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: May I know what steps have been taken by Government since then to make up the ratio in these appointments of Superintending and Executive Engineers, in view of the quota of Muslims being very short?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: As pointed out in reply to that question, the question of communal ratio does not arise in the matter of promotions and these posts are promotion posts. So the question of filling any quota of Muslims does not arise in this case.

CERTAIN OFFICIATING PROMOTIONS IN KARACHI AVIATION DIVISION

1895. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state the ratio of Muslims in the proposed panel for Class I Service by promotion from Class II or from the senior experienced temporary Engineers or from Subordinates? What is the percentage of Muslims in the proposed panel for Class II?

(b) What are the duties of the qualified experienced temporary Engineers holding gazetted ranks and working as Personal Assistants to Executive Engineers?

(c) Is it a fact that when an Executive Engineer who is a gazetted officer, proceeds on leave the officiating chance is given to his Personal Assistant who also holds gazetted rank? If so, why was a non-gazetted officer allowed to act when the Executive Engineer, Karachi Aviation Division, proceeded on leave, ignoring his Personal Assistant who is holding a gazetted rank?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a) A Class II Engineering Service has not yet been formed and the questions raised in respect of this Service do not, therefore, arise. A proposal for the formation of a panel of temporary Engineers and Subordinates for promotion to Class I Service is under consideration but no decision has been taken as yet in regard to the composition of the panel.

(b) To assist Executive Engineers in matters of routine.

(c) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: If the Additional Executive Engineer proceeds on leave will the Assistant Engineer be given a chance to act in his place?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: If he is the senior most he will be given a chance.

AUDIT REPORT ON EXPENDITURE OF GRANT OF MONEYS TO ROYIST PARTY

1896. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether the auditor appointed to audit the accounts of expenditure by the Royist party out of the grant of moneys made to them, has made his report;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said report reveals that the money has been improperly spent and that the accounts have not been properly kept;

(c) the total amount of salary paid per month to propagandists from out of the grant by Government;

(d) the maximum salary paid to a single man for acting as propagandist in the Royist organisation; and

(e) if Government will lay on the table of the House the report of the auditor?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a) No Auditor was appointed to audit the accounts of the Indian Federation of Labour relating to the grant. In the middle of 1944 an accountant was deputed from the Office of the Accountant General, Central Revenue, to advise the Federation on maintenance of the accounts. The monthly accounts from June 1944 to July 1945, which I placed before the House on the 19th March, 1946, have been checked by the Accountant General, Central Revenue as in the case of other Government expenditure.

(b) In view of the reply to (a) above, this does not arise.

(c) Attention is invited to the statement of accounts, which I placed before the House on the 19th March, 1946. The expenditure shown therein under the heading 'Pay of propagandists' for the months of May, June and July 1945 represents the total amount of salaries paid to propagandists during those months. The expenditure shown for the preceding months under the heading 'Pay of Propagandists' includes, besides the salaries paid to propagandists, expenditure incurred on dissemination of news. Information specifically relating to the salaries paid to propagandists from June 1944 to April 1945 is not readily available.

(d) Except in the case of two persons, who were paid Rs. 100 each for a few months on account of their special qualifications, the maximum monthly salary paid by the Indian Federation of Labour to propagandists was Rs. 75.

(e) This does not arise in view of the the reply to (a) above.

ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS PASSED BY ASSEMBLY DURING THE CURRENT SESSION

1897. *Shri Mohan Lal Saksena: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state, categorically as to what action, if any, was taken on the various adjournment motions passed by the Assembly during this Session?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: A statement giving the required information is laid on the table.

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

[17TH APRIL 1946]

Serial No.	Member moving motion and date on which adopted	Subject-matter	Action taken
1	Prof. N. G. Ranga—21st January.	Failure of Government to refuse to co-operate in violent operations in Indonesia and Indo-China.	Copies of the debate were forwarded to the Secretary of State. Withdrawal of troops from Indo-China was substantially complete when the motion was discussed and British Indian troops are now being steadily evacuated from Indonesia.
2	Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar—31st January.	European recruitment to Indian Civil Service and Indian Police.	The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to parts (a) and (b) of the short notice question asked by Mr. Manu Subedar on 12th February.
3	Seth Govind Dass—4th February.	Threat to interests of Indians in South Africa by the introduction of the "Freezing" Bill.	Government have given notice of the termination of the Trade Agreement with the Union of South Africa. The position with reference to further action has already been fully stated in the House.
4	Seth Govind Dass—5th February.	Danger to the position of the Indian Community in the proposed Inter-territorial Organisation in East Africa.	Government have communicated their views on the proposed inter-territorial organisation in East Africa to His Majesty's Government. These views were formulated after the opinion of the House and of the Standing Committee attached to the Department had been taken into consideration.
5	Mr. N. V. Gadgil—7th February.	Imminence of a general strike in the Posts and Telegraphs Department.	Action was taken not in consequence of the adjournment motion, but on the merits of the case, as the result of which strike notice were withdrawn or held in abeyance and no strike has occurred.
6	Mr. M. Asaf Ali—12th February.	Failure of Government to instruct its delegate to UNO to convey to the Security Council the views of the Assembly on the subject of Anglo-Dutch operations in Indonesia.	A copy of the debate was forwarded to Secretary of State and to the Indian Delegation to UNO.
7	Mr. Muhammad Naima—13th February.	Arrest of Muslim League workers in Delhi and use of handcuffs and chains by the Delhi police on the 12th February.	None.

Serial No.	Member moving motion and date on which adopted	Subject-matter	Action taken
8	Mr. M. Asaf Ali—23rd February.	Mutiny in the Royal Indian Navy.	The question was discussed with the Defence Consultative Committee who agreed unanimously to the setting up of a Commission of Enquiry and to the terms of reference. The Commission has since been appointed under a Government resolution and its first meeting was held on 15th April.
9	Mr. M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar—6th March.	Collision between the Dehra Dun Express and a goods train.	What action if any is required in connection with the accident cannot be determined until the report of the Chief Government Inspector has been received and considered. In the meantime assurances given in the course of the debate with regard to the furnishing of information to the House and the collection of figures as to the sale of tickets have been duly implemented.
10	Nawab Siddique Ali Khan—8th March.	Shooting of innocent citizens and use of tear gas and lathi charges in Delhi.	None.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What action was taken in regard to the adjournment motion passed by this House on the question of recruitment to the Indian Civil Service and Indian Police Service?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the reply to part (a) and (b) of the Short Notice Question, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 12th of February.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : That is asking one to go from pillar to post. What was that answer?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : I have not got the information with me at present.

SINDHIS CALLED FOR INTERVIEW AND GRANTED SCHOLARSHIPS

1898. *Seth Sukhdev : (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state how many scholarships were given to applicants from Sind last year?

(b) How many scholarships have been given or are proposed to be given to the Sind applicants this year?

(c) How many scholarships in all were given to applicants from the whole of India, province by province, last year and this year?

(d) Have any Sindhi applicants been called for interview this year? If not, why not?

Sir John Sargent : (a) None of the scholars selected by the Central Government for Overseas Scholarships in 1945 belongs to the Sind Province. The selection of scholars was made on considerations of merit without reference to the Province or State to which they belonged or to the University at which they studied. 15

scholars were, however, selected on behalf of the Sind Government, and the Central Government will pay half the total cost of their training.

(b) The selection of scholars for 1946 is still in progress. The scholarships to be awarded by the Central Government are not earmarked for persons domiciled in any particular province.

(c) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to page 6 of the Report of the Selection Board for Overseas Scholarships, 1945, copies of which are available in the Library of the House, for information relating to the 1945 scholarships. In the current year, it is proposed to award about 253 scholarships on behalf of the Central Government if suitable candidates are available. 347 scholarships are to be awarded by the Provincial Governments and out of these 17 are allotted for Sind.

(d) Three candidates belonging to Sind have so far been called for interview for Central Government scholarships. It is not possible however to give final figures at this stage.

Manlana Zafar Ali Khan : How many of these scholarships are earmarked for Muslims ?

Sir John Sargent : As I have said in reply to many questions, the Central Selection Board are endeavouring to observe the quotas laid down for communities. Last year in fact they did so, and Muslims actually obtained slightly more than the minimum they are entitled to.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : With reference to part (a) of the question, may I ask the Honourable Member how many Sindhis had applied for scholarships last year ?

Sir John Sargent : I am afraid I must ask for notice of this question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : In view of the fact that no scholarship was awarded to any Sindhi, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of including some of the applicants who have applied for overseas scholarships in the Central Government quota ?

Sir John Sargent : I am afraid I have not been able to catch the point of the Honourable Member's question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : In view of what the Honourable Member has said in reply to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Member consider the claim of Sindhis in future ?

Sir John Sargent : Every applicant receives careful consideration, but so far as the Central Government scholarships are concerned, they are to fill posts the necessity of which is being felt by the Central Government, and from that point of view the Central Selection Board are endeavouring to select the best applicants. But in addition, as I have explained, there are scholarships in which the Central Government and the Provincial Government co-operate so far as the financial responsibility is concerned, and those scholarships are of course allotted to people from the provinces concerned.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : May I know from the Honourable Member if the financial responsibility in regard to 15 scholars who are selected on behalf of the Sind Government rests with the Central Government ?

Sir John Sargent : The Central Government's responsibility is 50 per cent of the total cost of the training.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why has this number been decreased since last year ? Is it not a fact that 500 scholarships were given last year whereas this year they propose to send 253 students ?

Sir John Sargent : The number is exactly the same. The scholarships are being divided between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments and this year the allocation has been 253 scholarships for the Central Government and 347 scholarships for the Provincial Governments, making a total of 600, the same number as was allotted in 1945.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What is the significance of the expression 'if suitable candidates are available' ? Is it not a fact that many times more than were actually needed last year applied for the scholarships and they possessed suitable or necessary qualifications ?

Sir John Sargent : As I said, Sir, the selection for this year has not yet been concluded, but I don't think there will be the slightest difficulty in getting candidates with suitable qualifications. The standard of candidates on the whole is of a very high order.

INDIA'S PARTICIPATION IN WORLD SHIPPING TRADE

†1899. ***Mr. K. O. Neogy :** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representative on behalf of the Government of India attended the Conference of the United Maritime Authority held recently in London, and whether any non-official Indians representing Indian shipping were associated with him;

(b) the broad conclusions reached at this Conference as well as the attitude and policy adopted by the Government of India's representative in respect of the decision reached at this Conference;

(c) whether an interim arrangement is going to be adopted in order to assure ocean transportation of food, fuel and other commodities to areas where they are urgently needed for preservation of human lives;

(d) whether India would continue to be a member of any such interim organisation;

(e) whether any decisions have been reached at this Conference in regard to allocation of routes, especially in the Far East where Japanese tonnage has been eliminated as a result of the war; if so, whether Indian shipping would be allocated any of such routes in pursuance of the policy announced by the Government for a more adequate participation of Indian shipping in the various maritime trades;

(f) whether any provision has been made for the development of Indian shipping services as an integral part of the new arrangement; and

(g) whether India has been included in the category of countries to which the temporary agreement applies for provision of transport in respect of essential needs ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : (a) The Honourable Member is presumably referring to the final meeting of the United Maritime Executive Board (which was the Executive body of the United Maritime Authority) held on the 11th February 1946. The Government of India was represented at this meeting by the Deputy High Commissioner. No non-official Indian was associated with him.

(b) I lay on the table a copy of the Press release made by the United Maritime Executive Board after its final meeting. There was nothing in the recommendations made by the Board to which exception could be taken. I may add, however, that the representative of the Government of India has instructions to make it clear that they were pledged to a policy of assisting in the rapid development of the Indian mercantile marine, and desired to see Indian Shipping carry an adequate share of India's Coastal and international trade including ex-enemy trade.

(c) Interim arrangements recommended by the Board came into force as from 3rd March and will remain in force till 31st October, 1946, unless terminated earlier.

(d) India is one of the countries participating in the interim arrangements recommended by the Board.

(e) As far as I am aware, the reply to the first part of this question is in the negative; the second part does not, therefore, arise.

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

- (f) The development of Indian Shipping is a long range problem which does not come within the purview of the interim arrangements.
- (g) India like any other participating country is entitled to seek shipping assistance under the interim arrangements when need arises.

UNITED MARITIME EXECUTIVE BOARD

FOURTH SESSION

Press Release

The final meeting of the Fourth and Final Session of the Executive Board of the United Maritime Authority was held to-day under the Chairmanship of Sir Cyril Hurecomb (U. K. member of the Board).

At earlier meetings during the session the Board approved arrangements for the closing stages of the Authority, which terminates on 2nd March.

Because of the special experience of shipping problems which they have gained during the period of the United Maritime Authority, the Board considered that it would be helpful to Governments if they made recommendations to their Governments as to the situation in the following few months after the U. M. A. ends on March 2nd.

The Board were unanimously of opinion that the return to normal processes of international shipping business should not be retarded. The Board were also unanimously of opinion, however, that certain difficulties and problems might arise in the shipping situation after the termination on March 2nd next of the Agreement on Principles of August, 1944. This situation did not appear to the Board to call for any continuation of the comprehensive control of U. M. A. but they came to the conclusion that it would be desirable for nations to take certain measures which are designed to facilitate the prompt and efficient transportation of relief and rehabilitation cargoes. These arrangements are to operate for a limited period of eight months. Accordingly they agreed upon certain Recommendations for the consideration of the Governments they represent.

These recommendations will be referred immediately for consideration to the eighteen Governments who are members of U. M. A., and to other Governments who may desire to join in the proposed new arrangements.

The eighteen Governments who are members of U. M. A. are Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Denmark, France, Greece, India, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States and Yugoslavia.

11th February, 1946.

PREFERENCE TO NON INDIAN FIRMS FOR EXPORTING CLOTH TO SIAM

1900. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state whether the information published in the *Times of India*, dated the 27th February, 1946, that the shipments of about ten million yards of cloth to Siam are being arranged through the Anglo-Thai Corporation is correct?

(b) If so, did the Government of India intimate their intention for allowing this export to long-established Indian firms who carried on this trade between India and Siam?

(c) If not, why have Government given preference to a non-Indian firm who never handled this trade from India against long-established national firms already in this trade?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: (a) The information is incorrect. Shipments of cloth to Siam are being arranged through the Government of India's official purchasing agency.

(b) and (c). These do not arise.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: May I know from the Honourable Member which is the official purchasing agency on behalf of the Government of India?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: The Textile Commissioner.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know whether for distribution in Siam any agency will be given to the Anglo-Thai Corporation?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: The question of distribution in Siam is certainly not within the jurisdiction of the Government of India.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is our cloth being exported there in return for food from that country?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I can assure the Honourable Member that the Government of India was cognizant of the food position in this country and of getting more food from Siam when they discussed the question of sending cloth to that country.

Mr. Mann Subedar: May I know what is the total quantity of cloth which has been sent to Siam and how much rice is expected?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: So far as the details are concerned it is very difficult for me to say offhand, but as regards the cloth I might say that it is roughly about ten million yards.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Has the Honourable Member assured himself that the Food Department have satisfied themselves with regard to the import of rice in exchange or cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: It is not a question of actual exchange. We have cloth and they have food. It is a question of food that we are expecting to get in view of the cloth that we are sending there. That is all I can say.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I take it that the rice which my Honourable friend the Leader of the House obtained from Siam through the Combined Food Board is being obtained in lieu of this barter of cloth?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I am not aware if the Combined Food Board have anything to do with the Siamese rice.

Mr. Mann Subedar: Have Government made any arrangement with Indonesia for the exchange of cloth against 500,000 tons of rice offered by the Indonesian Prime Minister?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: That question is still being enquired into.

Diwan Chaman Lall: May I ask if the Honourable Member is not aware that the Honourable the Leader of the House contemplated getting a certain portion of rice from Siam, and whether this arrangement is in connection with that demand by the Honourable the Leader of the House from the Combined Food Board?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: If my Honourable friend is aware of the situation there, he will realize that at the time when treaty was made between Siam and the Allied countries it was understood that large quantities of rice would be available there, but, unfortunately, towards later stages it was found that it was extremely difficult to make any procurements of rice in Siam. The rice passed into the hands of those people who did not want to part with it, and it was represented to us that the only way in which the procurement of rice can be made easy was to offer them cloth. Therefore not only this cloth but other consumer goods were sent there with a view to ease the procurement policy of rice in which we are all interested.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Why is it that the Government of India did not think of coming to a bilateral agreement with the Siamese Government so that we can export our cloth to Siam in exchange for an equivalent quantity or value of food for this country?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: We felt that if we sent a certain quantity of cloth in order to ease the procurement policy of that country in getting food, in the long run we will be benefited by it. It is from that point of view that we agreed to send a special quota.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Do I take it that my Honourable friend has no guarantee whatsoever that he will get a single grain of rice from Siam and that he is prepared to hand over this cloth without any agreement with that Government?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: One can always defeat the best of case by the most extreme arguments.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Is it not a fact that Indonesia is prepared to give rice in lieu of cloth? And what steps has the Honourable Member taken with regard to that offer?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : As I have said, that matter is being urgently looked into.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Why did my Honourable friend not take steps to enter into an agreement with Indonesia prior to coming to an agreement with Siam?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : As a matter of fact I stand in the *pro forma* position. Decision with regard to the import of food are taken by those who are responsible for the food situation in this country and we act on their advice. We are satisfied that we are doing what should be done.

EXPORT QUOTA FOR LINSEED AND CASTORSEED

1901. ***Mr. Manu Subedar :** (a) What was the export quota fixed by the Honourable the Commerce Member for linseed and castor seed?

(b) Was the original figure departed from? If so, under what circumstances?

(c) What is the quota fixed for the official year 1946-47?

(d) What is the estimate of exportable surplus from India and on what basis is it fixed?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : (a) During 1945 the export quota of linseed was 315,800 tons. Export of castorseed was allowed freely to the United Kingdom while a quota of 5,500 tons was fixed for Australia.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Castorseed 42,520 tons and castor oil 2,350 tons during 1946. Linseed 62,000 tons and linseed oil 5,300 tons during 1946-47, subject to the confirmation of the proposed Basic Plan by the Provincial and States Governments concerned.

(d) The provisional quota of linseed represents the estimated exportable surplus which was worked out on the basis of outturn *minus* internal requirements. The exportable surplus of castorseed could not be determined for want of proper statistics and export quota has been fixed on the basis of exports during previous years and the minimum requirements of the importing countries.

Mr. Manu Subedar : I am not clear about under what circumstances the original quota was departed from in 1945.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : No, Sir, it was not departed from.

Mr. Manu Subedar : On what basis, that is to say with regard to the requirements of this country, does the Honourable Member and his Department make this estimate for what we are free to send out? And on what basis is the requirement of this country given absolute priority, and having regard to the failure of crops in many parts of the country, does he propose to revise the quota for this particular year which he has mentioned?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : If my friend means that I reserve all I require first and then after that we send out, that is an impossible position in international trade. All we have to do is to get an estimate from the Agricultural Department as to production, the requirements of trade and industry as reported by the different Departments, the previous year's figures of exports and consumption within the country, and on that basis an estimate is made and on that basis this has been returned.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know whether the Honourable Member or his Department consults any trade organisations in this country before they determine this quota and receive more adequate and more full information which these trade organisations may have?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : So far as I am aware, it is not done in my Department. Whether it is done in other Departments who advise in this matter, is more than I can say.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Has my Honourable friend received any representation on this subject?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : The danger is that once we let out the fact that so much is allotted for export the market will be full of speculators and speculation will go on. That is the danger.

RESERVATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HARIJANS, ETC., FOR STUDIES ABROAD

1902. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if any places for scholarships for Indian youths and for the tribal people to go abroad on Government's account are reserved for Harijans and other scheduled castes; if so how many;

(b) how many have applied and from which Provinces, and how many have been selected for this year;

(c) whether the selections for this year have been made, if so, when; and

(d) what precautions are being taken in the light of their last year's experience to see that our scholars are provided with seats in the required faculties of the United Kingdom and United States of America Universities?

Sir John Sargent : (a) No specific number of Overseas Scholarships to be awarded by the Central Government have been reserved for Scheduled Castes or any other community. It is however intended, in making the awards, to ensure that as far as possible minority communities receive a fair share of these scholarships provided suitable candidates from these communities are forthcoming. The communal ratio to be aimed at is the ratio fixed for recruitment to Central Government services.

(b) and (c). There are 43 Scheduled castes candidates who have applied for Overseas Scholarships this year. The distribution according to Provinces is: Bengal 23, Madras 6, Bombay 5, C. P. 3, Punjab and Mysore State 2 each and U. P. and Hyderabad (Deccan) 1 each. The selections for this year are not yet over but are likely to be completed before the end of this month.

(d) In order to facilitate securing seats in educational institutions abroad for our students, the selections this year are being completed early and advance intimations about our requirements have been sent to our agents in U. S. A., U. K. and Australia to enable them to secure reservations for the students.

APPROACHING ARGENTINA FOR WHEAT

1903. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga :** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the state of wheat stores in Argentina;

(b) whether Argentina is exporting large quantities of wheat amounting to millions of tons to Spain and Portugal and has surpluses over those exports;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to contact Argentina with a request for wheat supplies to India;

(d) whether such a request will be urgently made;

(e) whether a special mission will be sent to her for this purpose; and

(f) whether India has the necessary diplomatic machinery to approach her directly; if so, what it is?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Argentina is a surplus wheat producing country, but the extent of its surplus is not known.

(b) Government have no information.

(c) Exports of Argentina wheat are subject to allocations by the Combined Food Board and we await a communication from that body as to the precise amount allotted to India within our general allocation from that country.

(d) and (e). In view of the reply to part (c) of the question parts (d) and (e) do not arise.

(f) The Government of India have got a Trade Commissioner at Buenos Aires.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Government does not seem to grow any wiser.

Mr. President : No comments, please. The Honourable Member may put his question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : With reference to part (b), Government says they have no information at all whether any efforts have been made. The Honourable member says that the Combined Food Board is in contact with them. Argentina is not a Member of the Combined Food Board. Then Argentina should have been contacted through U. N. R. R. A.

Mr. President : What is the question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : The question is that it is to be based on facts and he has given no facts. That is why I am stating facts.

Mr. President : The approach to the Combined Food Board has been a matter of questions so many times that there is nothing new.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : The question is that he cannot go on making mistakes.

Mr. President : Order, order. He may put his question.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Part (b) of the question asks : " Whether Argentina is exporting large quantities of wheat amounting to millions of tons to Spain and Portugal and has surpluses over those exports." Is it not the duty of the Government to ascertain the facts ? The Government say they have no information.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : To clear up the position. Argentina is not a member of the Combined Food Board. It is the member of the small committee which works under the Combined Food Board. I said there are two committees—one the wheat committee and the other the rice committee. On the wheat committee Argentina is represented and the Combined Food gets information about Argentina from a committee that works under the Combined Food Board.

As regards the one million tons of wheat from Argentina, my Honourable friend may rest assured that Argentina has not got any shipping of its own. Neither has Spain and anything that has to be shipped from Argentina to Spain can only be shipped through the efforts of the Combined Food Board.

Mr. Manu Subedar : The question is why has not this Government made any independent effort to contact the Government of Argentina. We want to know whether they have made this effort. If not, we want to know why : and whether they will not now consider making such effort or a direct approach to the Argentina Government ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : We have already taken up for examination the exports which could be used to get the best terms for India. We have called for information from the Combined Food Board as to the quantity to be allocated from Argentina. The point we have taken up with the Combined Food Board is that India needs imports as quickly as possible and if large quantities are allocated from Argentina then we shall not get these in time.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Do I understand that the difficulty is for shipping and that even the allotments made by the Combined Food Board cannot be brought here ? Then what has Government done to reduce the bottleneck in shipping ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : The difficulty is not shipping but internal movement. That is our insuperable difficulty in getting large quantities quickly out of Argentina.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is there any constitutional difficulty preventing the Government of India from making a direct approach to Argentina.

Mr. B. R. Sen : There is no constitutional bar to it, but we must proceed in a manner which will be the most effective in the circumstances.

1904. ***Prof. N. G. Ranga** : Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) if Government have approached the Government of U.S.S.R. either through the British Government or directly for supplies of foodstuffs as a special matter to enable us to wade through the present food crisis ;

(b) what action has been taken since the Government assured the House that such an approach would be made ;

(c) whether it is a fact that during the war, India sent foodstuffs to the U.S.S.R., if so, in what quantities ; and

(d) whether Government propose to send an urgent mission to Soviet Russia for pressing the need for food imports from Russia ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) and (b). The question has been taken up with H. M. G. and their reply is awaited.

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

(d) This will depend upon H. M. G.'s reply.

Statement showing exports of Foodstuffs to U.S.S.R.

Name of article (Unit of weight)	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	1944-45
Pulses (Tons)	...	...	...	150	...	...
Butter (Cwts.)	...	...	...	986	200	...
Ghi (Cwts.)	...	...	...	2,137	...	...
Other sorts of provisions (Cwts.)	...	...	...	8,979	200	...
Sugar (Tons)	...	...	...	50	1	...
Tea (Lbs.)	34,791	...	...	798,602	100	1,444,458

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it impossible for the Government of India to make a direct approach to the U. S. S. R. without having to go through the British Government ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : I am not quite sure about the position. This question was asked before and I undertook to take it up with His Majesty's Government, and we are still awaiting a reply from them.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Is it not possible for this Government to send a cable direct to Russia intimating that in view of the distress, will Russia be able to free any wheat for supply to India ? Is there a constitutional bar or is it merely a matter of convenience ? We feel that convenience ought not to be allowed to stand in the way of the calamity which is facing us.

Mr. B. R. Sen : The whole matter is under consideration. We shall not go very far by making a direct approach over the head of His Majesty's Government.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : May I know his reply to part (d) ? Is it in the affirmative or in the negative ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : We are awaiting the reply of His Majesty's Government in this matter.

[17TH APRIL 1946]

DESTRUCTION OF FOOD STOCKS BY U.S. ARMY

1905. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the news item "U.S. Army Destroys Huge stocks of Food" published on page 8 of the *Hindustan Times*, of the 3rd April, 1946;

(b) why Government have failed to approach the United States Army and other authorities in India asking them to try to implement the appeal of President Truman to be economical in their use of food for their personnel in India; and

(c) whether Government propose to appeal to them now not to destroy or to re-export to America their unwanted food materials but to hand them over to the Government of India or the Local Provincial Government and take, if necessary, the usual price for it?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Government have seen the news item as also the statement of the U. S. Army Commander, India-Burma Theatre, published in the *Statesman* of Friday the 5th April, 1946, that the quantities destroyed were small and unfit for human consumption.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Arrangements already exist whereby the Q. M. G. in India acts as stockholder for all food surpluses of the U. S. A. Forces in India. These surpluses are disposed of in consultation with the civil authorities for civilian consumption to the extent feasible.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know whether Government do not propose to take these surpluses and store them as a reserve in areas which are threatened with famine for use at critical moments and whether they permit them to be disposed of in those localities where perhaps they are not needed?

Mr. B. R. Sen : Surplus stocks are taken over by the Q. M. G. He is the authority to dispose of these stocks in India and in disposing of these stocks he has got to get into contact with the civil authorities concerned. When the quantities are large he informs us and we approach the Provincial Governments who are likely to be in need of the foodgrains.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : May I know if the total quantity of food allotted to the Q. M. G. for purposes of the army is determined after taking into consideration whatever quantities of food may be taken over from the U. S. Army?

Mr. B. R. Sen : In the beginning of the year the Q. M. G. submits indents and we make allocations on those indents. If during the course of the year other supplies come into their hands, those supplies are also taken into consideration. There is a quarterly review of the requirements of the Q. M. G. by the Food Department.

Mr. Manu Subedar : My query was whether something could not be done in order to prevent the dissipation of these supplies to those Provinces which are not facing any food danger and whether these stocks could not be reserved for those areas in the country which are going to face food danger.

Mr. B. R. Sen : The quantities involved are not considerable. If I may give the figures, at the time of the Japanese surrender the total quantity of foodgrains in the hands of the U. S. army was 90,000 tons. A total of 310 tons have been destroyed as unfit for human consumption. 39,000 tons out of the 90,000 tons since the Japanese surrender have been consumed by the U. S. army. The total remaining is 51,000 tons. Of this 12,500 tons have been delivered to the UNRRA and Indian charitable institutions. 2,000 tons have been retained for the American soldiers during the balance of their stay in India. The other quantities have been supplied to us and to the civil authorities where these stocks are held. There is no question of large quantities being available from these surpluses.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Why are these sold in the Punjab, in Bengal and in other areas like the U. P. which may not face the food famine? Why are they not supplied to Bombay and Madras which are going to face food famine?

Mr. B. R. Sen : Whenever any stocks are reported to us we get into touch with the Provinces which are likely to need them. We take into the account the keeping quality of these stocks and the time they would take to be sent to certain places. All these factors have got to be taken into consideration in disposing of them.

LOW PRICE OF CANE OFFERED TO PEASANTS AND SHORTAGE OF SUGAR AND GUR

1906. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if his attention has been drawn to a letter by Mr. Phool Singh, M.L.A. of Saharanpur to the Editor of the *Hindustan Times* of the 3rd April, 1946 stating that, although peasants demanded a higher price for their cane as the prevailing price was too low, Government refused to raise it to Rs. 1-8-0 per maund of cane and that, as a result, there has come to be a shortage of gur and sugar on the one hand and peasants were obliged to use cane as fodder owing to too low prices;

(b) if it is a fact that there is a shortage of both gur and sugar and, therefore, Government have asked for 500,000 tons of sugar imports from the Combined Food Board;

(c) if it is also a fact that Government have fixed higher prices for sugar and gur in view of this shortage, while not increasing the corresponding prices for cane; and

(d) when Government propose to take the necessary steps to raise the prices of sugarcane in order to encourage growers to plant cane on a larger acreage and also to assure them of remunerative prices?

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

(b) There is a shortage of sugar and gur due to the cane crop having been damaged by adverse monsoon conditions and by frost. The Government of India have asked for an import of 200,000 tons sugar.

(c) This is not strictly correct. The price of sugar was recently increased to enable the factories to pay higher wages to labour and to keep a small reserve to meet costs of renewals and repairs to the plant. The price of gur has not been raised but a maximum has been statutorily fixed this year in parity with sugar cane price.

(d) Fixation of cane prices will be taken up in the beginning of the next season (1946-47) some times in August this year. Cane crop for the next season has already been sown and any increase in the cane price at this stage will not affect the cane acreage.

SCHEME FOR SCIENTIFIC APPROACH FOR FOOD CONSERVATION

1907. *Mr. K. C. Neogy: (a) Has the attention of the Food Secretary been drawn to a note by Prof. V. Subrahmanyan, Head of the Department of Biochemistry, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, enunciating certain lines of scientific approach to the problem of food shortage in India and dealing particularly with (i) prevention of food spoilage by moisture control, (ii) reclamation of partly spoilt food, (iii) securing more food value out of grains, (iv) scientific control over parboiling of rice, and (v) popularising and finding additional use for some of the less commonly used food materials, and stressing the need for a permanent State organisation in the nature of a Food Conservation Board or Authority mainly for scientific planning and helping in the execution of the scheme outlined by him?

(b) Has the scheme been given a careful consideration, and if so, what action is proposed to be taken thereon?

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

(b) Prof. Subrahmanyan's note was considered by the Technical Panel set up by the Food Department at the end of March, 1946. The report of the Panel is awaited.

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

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

and it is only for that reason that the Government do not find it possible to reduce the working hours from 44 to 40.

Free Satyapriya Banerjee : If it was possible for the Government of Bengal to do so, may I know what stands in the way of the Government of India to do so?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : The Government of Bengal did it sometime ago without consulting the Government of India or without giving any intimation to the Government of India.

Free Satyapriya Banerjee : What are the other grievances of the workers besides hours of work?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : There are other grievances of the workers. Some of them have been already considered and relief granted.

Free Satyapriya Banerjee : Which of them have been considered and relief granted?

Mr. President : Order, order. Next question.

HOSPITALS IN AJMER-MERWARA

1910. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava :** Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of hospitals in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara in rural and urban areas;

(b) the percentage of villages for each hospital in the said rural area;

(c) the percentage of population of rural and urban areas served by each hospital;

(d) the amount of money spent during the last year on hospitals in rural and urban areas; and

(e) the amount provided for hospitals in rural and urban areas in the budget for 1946-47?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam : (a) There are two hospitals, both in urban areas.

(b) There are no hospitals in the rural area. There are six dispensaries. Each dispensary serves on the average about 116 villages.

(c) One of the hospitals serves a population of 1,47,258 and the other a population of 36,720. Each dispensary serves about 60,000 persons.

(d) Rs. 1,19,770 including dispensaries.

(e) Rs. 2,01,000 including dispensaries.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee : Is it a fact that the local administration have for years pointed out to the Central Government the gross inadequacy of medical and health facilities in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam : It is a fact that the medical facilities in Ajmer-Merwara are inadequate but plans to improve them are under consideration.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee : In view of the answer given by the Honourable Member that each dispensary serves about 60,000 persons, do not the Government think that the time has arrived to take more expeditious measures than merely to raise the grant from one to two lakhs.

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam : Yes, Sir.

* **Prof. N. G. Ranga :** When do Government propose to establish hospitals in the rural areas of the Ajmer-Merwara Province?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam : That is under consideration in connection with the general plans for improving medical relief.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Do they propose any urgent measures at all?

(No answer was given.)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH, AJMER-MERWARA

1911. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava :** (a) Will the Health Secretary please state if there is any Department of Public Health in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara? If so, what is the strength of the staff in such Department, and what work is it doing?

(b) Has there been made any provision for such Department in the budget for 1946-47? If so, what functions are proposed to be assigned to such Department, and will it work in urban or rural areas or in both?

(c) Do Government intend to implement the recommendation of the Bhore Committee report in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara? If so, in what way?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam : (a) With the exception of vaccination and some public health staff employed by local bodies there is no public health department in Ajmer-Merwara.

(b) Provision has been made in the budget for staff for malaria control in both urban and rural areas. The appointment of additional staff for public health work is under consideration.

(c) This is under consideration.

Lt.-Col. Dr. J. C. Chatterjee : Do the Central Government consider it a satisfactory state of affairs for a province which is directly administered by them?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam : That is a matter of opinion.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES FOR BOYS AND GIRLS IN AJMER-MERWARA

1912. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava :** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schools and colleges for boys and girls in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara and the number of boys and girls receiving education in such institutions;

(b) the number of schools for girls and boys in the rural areas of the Province, the amount spent by Government on colleges in the urban area and on schools in rural areas;

(c) the number of Government-aided schools and colleges for girls and boys in the Province and the amount contributed to such institutions; and

(d) the amount spent by Government in Ajmer-Merwara on education, Primary, Secondary and Higher?

Sir John Sargent : A statement furnishing the information asked for by the Honourable Member is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a)

(Girls)

Institutions	Number of Scholars	Institutions	Number of Scholars
Recognised—290	25,169	Recognised—92	6,583
Un-recognised—72	4,169	Un-recognised—4	252
Total—362	29,338	Total—96	6,824

[17TH APRIL, 1946]

1908. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

- whether it is a fact that under the Regional Food Commissioner there are Assistant Directors and Inspection Officers; if so, their functions;
- whether it is a fact that laboratories required for examination purposes by the Inspection Officers referred to above do not exist and whether, as consequence, thereof they have no work; and
- if the answer to (b) be in the affirmative, whether he will explain why the Inspection Officers continue to be in service even when there is no work for them to do?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) There is one Assistant Director (Inspection) under each Regional Food Commissioner. A statement setting out the functions of the Assistant Directors (Inspection) is laid on the table of the House.

(b) Facilities for analysis work are available to the Assistant Directors (Inspection) in Provincial and Army laboratories situated at their headquarters. Laboratory work is only one of the numerous duties of these officers.

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Functions of the Assistant Directors (inspection) under the Regional Food Commissioner

- Generally to assist in the organisation of inspection of foodgrains on a scientific basis regarding quality and weight and in devising ways and means for improving quality from the fields onwards and ensuring correct weighing.
- To study the various methods of analysis and to prepare a record of the procedure of analysis followed in different parts of their regions.
- To assist and supervise the establishment of efficient grain Inspectorates by Provincial and State Governments in their regions and other large consumers, such as the Railways, Posts and Telegraphs and large scale industries.
- To conduct the inspection of foodgrains purchased by the Government of India for the Central Reserve and/or supervise inspection of foodgrains movement under the Basic Plan or of such movements at convenient points.
- To keep a watch on the condition of stocks in the Central Reserves and note the rate of progress of deterioration of such stocks by infestation or otherwise and advise about turnover.
- To advise the Regional Food Commissioners on technical matters arising from disputes between the supplying and recipient Administrations with a view to bringing about or facilitating an equitable settlement.
- To undertake tours in their respective regions and to furnish reports regarding deliveries, arrivals and stocks at Mandies, etc.
- To study the various methods of grading, standardisation and processing of foodgrains as practised in Mandies.
- To study the characteristics and qualities of the various types and varieties of foodgrains grown in their regions and to furnish all the relevant particulars to the Director, Storage and Inspection at headquarters, through the Regional Food Commissioners.
- To draw F. A. Q. samples of the season and to send them to the Central Foodgrains Analysis Laboratory through the Regional Food Commissioner, for analysis, with a view to seeing if any modifications are necessary in the existing specifications.
- To see that the existing standards of foodgrains laid down by the surplus areas are strictly adhered to. These officers will secure the co-ordination, observance and maintenance of the All India standards when they are evolved.

GRIEVANCES OF AND STRIKE NOTICE BY EMPLOYEES OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

1909. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted their first memorial on December 20, 1944;

(b) whether it is a fact that employees of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, submitted a memorial to the Secretary, Labour Department, through proper channel on December 17, 1945, stating their grievances and praying for redress;

(c) whether it is a fact that no consideration has been given to redress their grievances yet;

(d) whether it is a fact that the employees have submitted a strike notice on the 18th March 1946 to the effect that, in case their long-standing grievances are not properly redressed, they will go on strike on and from March 23, 1946; and

(e) if the answers to (a) to (d) above be in the affirmative, what steps, if any, have been taken to meet the grievances and to avert the impending strike as also the cause of delay in taking steps?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) Yes.

(b) The memorial was addressed to the Controller of Printing and Stationery (India), with an endorsement to Secretary, Labour Department.

(c) Some of the grievances have been redressed. Others are under consideration. Steps are being taken to ameliorate the conditions of service of the Press workers as far as possible.

(d) Yes, but no specific date was intimated. The strike notice stated that the Press employees would suspend work from any day on the expiry of a fortnight from the date of the strike notice. The workers actually went on strike from the 2nd April, 1946.

(e) I have already answered it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it not a fact that recently a deputation of these press workers headed by some of our own colleagues waited on the Labour Member?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : Yes, it was so. I had discussions with the Honourable Member who has asked the question and had also long discussions with the deputationists.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What progress has been achieved?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : Most of the matters have been dealt with and relief granted to the extent which was possible and the rest are under consideration either by officers specially appointed for the purpose or by the Pay Commission.

Diwan Chaman Lal : What decision have Government come to in regard to the reduction of hours of work from 44?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : The working hours were 48 and after very careful consideration the Government of India thought that they would be able to reduce it to 44 and that has already been done. It is not possible just at this stage to further reduce the working hours from 44 to 42 or 40.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee : Is it a fact that the Government of Bengal have reduced the hours of work in their presses to 40?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : It is true.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee : Is it a fact that the Regional Commissioner of the Government of India in Calcutta recommended 42 hours of work for the Government of India Press at Calcutta.

Mr. S. C. Joshi : That was the recommendation made by him. The working hours of the Bengal Press are 40. We found that all the presses in India belonging to the Government of India have to work on the same lines. Therefore it was thought necessary to reduce the working hours from 48 to 44.

Sree Satyapriya Banerjee : Is it not an anomaly that Government of India Presses and the Government of Bengal Presses have different hours of work?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : That is an obvious anomaly but there are various other anomalies also. An attempt has to be made to remedy the anomalies and not to create more.

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(d) Yes, some arrests were made for alleged rioting and assaulting new recruits and prosecution in this respect is pending in the court. The accused persons have been let off on bail and since they have not been dismissed by the mill authorities, the question of their reinstatement does not arise.

LOW PRICES OF CANES TO GROWERS

1917. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) if he has seen the news item published under the caption "Cane Growers Grievances", on page 5 of the *Hindu*, of the 1st April, 1946, stating that the present minimum price is not enough, that the commandeering of all cane at unremunerative prices goes against jaggery production and that loans advanced by the factory are not enough to finance cane cultivation; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to help the peasants to enable them to grow cane on larger areas?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Yes. The minimum price of cane fixed for the Hospet Factory area is Rs. 26 per ton which is over 0-15-3 per maund and is the highest price of all factory areas in the Madras Presidency.

Cane which is required for crushing has to be delivered by the cane growers at the factory. For cane which is to be used for the making of jaggery, a permit has to be obtained from the Revenue Divisional Officer.

Government have no information as to the loans advanced by the Factory.

(b) It is not proposed at present to increase the acreage under cane at the expense of other food crops.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: May I know what examination was made by the Government of India to assure themselves that this price of 0-15-3 per maund for sugar cane is adequate and remunerative?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: The price was fixed by the Government of Madras and not by the Government of India.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Does the Honourable Member know that the percentage of sugar in sugar cane in Madras is much higher than in Bihar and therefore the price of cane in Madras should be much higher than in Bihar?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: I am afraid I have no information on the point.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: Will the Honourable Member look into this because injustice is done to the Madras growers compared to the Bihar and U. P. growers?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: It is possible that the earlier statement that the yield is higher in Madras is correct. But it is also probably true that the costs of production are also higher.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon: It is not only the yield. The percentage of sugar in sugarcane is also higher. Will the Honourable Member refer it to the Madras Government and draw their attention to this fact, that as compared to Bihar and U. P. the Madras grower should be paid much more?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: An enquiry on the point will be made.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: May I know whether Government have examined the fact that any higher price will discourage the farming of necessary foodgrains? Has the Government examined the possibility of discouraging the growth of foodgrains if a higher price is fixed for cane?

Mr. President: Is the question clear to the Honourable Member? His argument seems to be that if sugar cane prices are reduced, the plantation of sugar cane will be discouraged and the production of foodgrains encouraged. If so, has the Honourable Member considered that possibility? That is his question.

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: We presume that all these factors have been taken into consideration by the Madras Government when they fixed the price.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Does an appeal lie to the Government of India over the decision of the Madras Government when sugar cane growers are not satisfied with the minimum price fixed?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: No appeal lies to the Government of India.

FOOD SITUATION IN INDIAN STATES

1918. *Sri A. Karunakara Menon: Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken to watch the food situation in the Indian States;

(b) whether any Joint Contact Committee exists between the Food Department and the Chamber of Princes and other States which have not joined the Chamber;

(c) whether it is a fact that in some States food shortage is very acute; if so, what are their names;

(d) whether any steps are being taken to persuade the surplus States to introduce Government procurement procedure and maximise their exports and to induce the deficit States to introduce rationing and thus minimise wastage and maldistribution; and

(e) whether the food offices of the Crown Representative and the Chamber of Princes are being availed of to see that in the matter of food, all India is treated as one unit?

Mr. B. R. Sen: (a) Regional Food Commissioners appointed by the Food Department for British Indian territories also act as Regional Food Commissioners for some States. In other States the Residents, with whom the States are in political relationship, act as *ex-Officio* Regional Food Commissioners for the Food Department and in the discharge of their duties in connection with food are assisted by Directors of Food Supplies or Group Liaison Officers. These Officers keep the Food Department informed of the situation in the States.

(b) The Food Department are in close contact with the Chamber of Princes through its Secretariat and with States which have not joined the Chamber, through Regional Food Commissioners and Residents.

(c) Yes. Certain States in the South such as Mysore, some of the W. I. States and the Deccan States.

(d) and (e) Yes.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Which of the States have introduced rationing and food procurement procedure in their own States?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Is it with regard to procurement procedure or rationing?

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Both.

Mr. B. R. Sen: If the Honourable Member means monopoly procurement, then it has been introduced in the States of Travancore, Cochin, Mysore and some of the Deccan States.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What about the surplus States?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Hyderabad, which is one of the surplus States, has some system of monopoly procurement. But I am not in a position to give all the details.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Are steps being taken to persuade the surplus States in Northern India adjacent to the United Provinces and the Punjab to introduce monopoly procurement in order to maximize their exports?

Mr. B. R. Sen: Every attempt is being made to get these States to introduce monopoly procurement. We have not only approached the State direct, but we have also approached them through the Chamber of Princes and its Secretariat, in this matter.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: May I know what steps are being taken to supply the Mysore State to cover its deficit?

Mr. B. R. Sen : Supply to these States forms part of our general plan of distribution of our imports and our internal resources.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar : Does the Honourable Member know that the situation in Mysore is very acute and that the present supply and storage of grain is very short ?

Mr. B. R. Sen : I am fully aware of the situation in Mysore.

PROCUREMENT PROGRAMME FOR GRAIN AND GROUNDNUT IN CENTRAL PROVINCES AND SUPPLY OF RICE TO MADRAS

1919. ***Sri A. Karunakara Menon :** Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) if he has seen the news from Nagpur (29th March, 1946) on page 8 of the *Hindu*, of the 1st April, 1946, to the effect that though the Central Provinces Government were prepared to send 5,000 tons of rice to Madras, the Government of India had not yet replied; if so, why;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is no procurement programme for grain and groundnut in the Central Provinces, if so, why;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce monopoly procurement with fixed producer's prices in the case of groundnut and grains in all Provinces; and

(d) whether the Central Provinces Government have asked for an increase in the prices to be paid for their exports of rice, wheat, jwar, grain; if so, from what prices to what prices?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) The Government of India had asked the C. P. Government to spare 5,000 tons of rice for Madras, but before instructions could be issued for its despatch a very serious shortage of stocks was reported in Travancore owing to the delay in the shipment of rice from Sind and this quota of 5,000 tons from the C. P. has had, therefore, to be diverted as a matter of the greatest urgency to Travancore to prevent depletion of stocks there.

(b) The C. P. Government do procure rice, wheat and *jowar* by official machinery. To these grains has recently been added gram and arrangements for the official procurement of pulses are in hand. Groundnuts are not procured officially.

(c) The Government of India have recommended a policy of monopoly procurement for all the major grains with fixed producers' prices. Monopoly procurement of groundnuts is not considered necessary or feasible at present as they do not form a common article of food and a good portion of the production is utilised by village *ghannies* for making oil.

(d) No, Sir.

APPROACHING SOVIET RUSSIA TO MEET CENTRAL PROVINCES GOVERNMENT'S DEMAND FOR TRACTORS

1920. ***Sri A. Karunakara Menon :** Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) if he has seen the news item published under the caption "Central Provinces Government's plans" on page 8 of the *Hindu*, of the 1st April, 1946, in which the Adviser said that the Central Provinces Government asked for thirty tractors so as to bring under cultivation nearly a lakh of acres in the Northern Districts;

(b) what arrangements are being made to supply them these tractors; and

(c) in view of the fact that Soviet Russia is able to reconstruct her Tractor Factories and have huge surpluses of wheat, whether Government propose to make a direct approach to the Soviet Government for the supply of 500 tractors?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : (a) Yes, Sir. The statement referred to is reported to have been made by the Secretary, Department of Agriculture. The fact, however, is that the scheme in question is still under the consideration of the Provincial Government and no order for tractors from it is pending with the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The chances of obtaining tractors from Russia are practically nil, for the reason that the Soviet Union have suffered considerable losses themselves and their first need will obviously be to replenish their own losses and meet their own requirements.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : In view of the fact that the answer to part (c) is only a repetition of an answer to a supplementary question earlier, will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether they have made any sort of inquiries from any one connected with Soviet Russian Government in order to find out whether they can spare any tractors ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : No ; no enquiry has been made.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Why is it that the Government of India do not think it necessary to make inquiries when a suggestion is made in this manner that Soviet Russia is able not only to meet the requirements of her own population but also export to other countries ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : Because it is considered practically certain that nothing will be available from Soviet Russia at present.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are we to understand that Soviet Russia is treating India as a pariah, or *vice versa* ?

(No answer was given.)

Mr. Manu Subedar : Is it the conclusion of the Government of India without any enquiry, is it merely a surmise, or has any inquiry official or unofficial been made in the direction ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : No inquiry has been made from the Soviet Union. But it is a fact that the Soviet Union are themselves in the market in the United States of America in order to purchase tractors from America.

IMPORT LICENCE FOR PLANT AND MACHINERY TO PUNJAB ELECTRIC LAMPS AND RADIO MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED, LAHORE

1921. ***Diwan Chaman Lal :** Will the Honourable the Commerce Member kindly refer to his answers to starred questions Nos. 1527 and 1528 asked on the 3rd April, 1946, and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Committee comprising of the representatives of the Supply, Planning, Commerce and Industries Departments of the Government of India considered the desirability of further extending the industry for the manufacture of Electric Lamps in India and, as a result, the Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company, Limited, of Lahore were permitted to issue capital;

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what special circumstances and reasons the Government had in not issuing an import licence to the Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company of Lahore, but recommending others;

(c) If the Government are aware of the fact that there is no Lamp manufacturing factory in Northern India;

(d) if it is a fact that the largest producers of electric lamps in India are E.L.M.I. a branch of the British Lamp Manufacturers in the United Kingdom and that they opposed the issue of an import licence for plant and machinery to the Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company of Lahore; and

(e) if any import licence for obtaining additional plant and machinery for the manufacture of lamps has been issued to the existing lamp manufacturers; if so, on what dates, and to whom?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : (a) Yes, on long-range conditions i.e., with the stipulation that the bulk of the money must not be invested until the time comes when it could be spent on lawful objects.

(b) I may invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to part (a) of Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia's question (No. 1528) on the 3rd April, 1946, and may

	Number of Recognised Schools	Number of Unrecognised Schools	Total
Boys	175	14	189
Girls	33	...	33
			Rs.
Expenditure on Colleges in Urban areas			1,02,577
Expenditure on Schools in Rural areas			2,59,719
(e) Number of Government aided schools and colleges in Ajmer-Merwara:—			29
Amount of grant paid by Government			Rs. 90,102
(d) The amount spent by Government in Ajmer-Merwara on Education—			
Primary			2,00,883
Secondary			2,86,032
Higher			1,12,193
Total			3,98,908

INSANITARY CONDITION OF MUNICIPAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN AJMER AND BEAWAR

1913. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Is the Education Secretary aware that most of the Primary Schools run by the Municipal Committees of Ajmer and Beawar are located in rented buildings and are in very congested and in very insanitary conditions? If so, is it because the Municipalities have no funds at their disposal to erect their own buildings for such schools?

(b) Do Government propose to furnish requisite funds to these Committees for erection of their own school buildings? If not, why not?

Sir John Sargent: (a) Yes, Sir. The Government have no information about the latter part of the question.

(b) No request for funds for buildings has so far been received from these Municipal Committees. The question of providing proper buildings for all schools is being taken up in connection with the plan for educational development of the Centrally administered areas.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What is the position regarding school buildings in rural areas?

Sir John Sargent: The Local Administration are preparing a plan for implementing the proposals of the Central Advisory Board of Education and I am hoping to receive that plan at any moment.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: What does the Honourable Member mean by 'local administration'? Is there an elected District Board there?

Sir John Sargent: I mean the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is the Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara aided by any adviser or district board there?

Sir John Sargent: Yes. He is aided by a technical adviser with regard to education and he is frequently in touch with officers of my own Department.

FACILITIES FOR MEDICAL, ENGINEERING, TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN AJMER-MERWARA

1914. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Education Secretary please state if it is a fact that there are no institutions for medical, engineering or other technical and vocational education in Ajmer-Merwara? If so, do Government propose to take steps to provide such education in Ajmer-Merwara?

(b) Have Government any scheme in view for providing such educational facilities in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government, till such educational facilities are available in the Province, take proper steps in collaboration with the Government of such Provinces where such education is available, to secure admissions for the students of Ajmer-Merwara aspiring for such education?

Sir John Sargent: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India are considering the question of provision for medical, engineering and other forms of technical education for the Centrally Administered Areas as a whole in connection with their post-war educational development scheme.

(c) The Government of India have been making a contribution to the authorities of the Medical College in Bombay and the Civil Engineering College, Roorkee on account of seats which are reserved for candidates from Ajmer-Merwara. In addition students are also awarded scholarships and stipends for technical and professional training available in other provinces.

LOW SCALES OF PAY OF GOVERNMENT SCHOOL TEACHERS IN AJMER-MERWARA

†1915. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Education Secretary please state if it is a fact that the scale of pay of teachers in the Government Schools in Ajmer-Merwara is comparatively much lower than the scale of pay of Government School teachers in other Provinces? If so, what are the reasons for this disparity, and do Government contemplate to revise the same and to bring it in level to the scale of pay prevailing in other Provinces? If not, why not?

Sir John Sargent: No, Sir. The scales of pay of teachers in Government School are in some cases higher and in others lower than those prevailing in the neighbouring provinces. With effect from the current year, further improvement will be made in the existing scales of pay in the Province.

STRIKE IN BIJAINAGAR TEXTILE MILLS, AJMER-MERWARA

†1916. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that there have recently been a number of strikes in the Bijainagar Textile Mill (Ajmer-Merwara)? If so, what was the number and date of the strikes as also reasons for the same?

(b) What steps, if any, have been taken so far by Government to minimise the chances of a conflict between labour and capital in future?

(c) Is it a fact that the mill authorities have refused to give any bonus to the mill labourers notwithstanding repeated representations by the labourers to the mill authorities and to the local Government? What steps have Government taken or do contemplate to take to see that the bonus is duly paid to the labourers?

(d) Are Government aware that recently a number of mill labourers have been arrested? If so, for what reasons, and do Government propose to see that such mill labourers are re-instated? If not, why not?

Mr. S. C. Joshi: (a) There were three strikes in the Bijainagar Textile Mills on the 29th January, 16th February and the 11th March, 1946. The reasons were either re-employment of certain discharged persons or grant of bonus.

(b) The Government of India have set up in Ajmer-Merwara a labour organization, with a labour officer in charge thereof, for dealing with labour disputes, etc. So far as the present dispute is concerned, an amicable settlement has been arrived at between the mill authorities and the representatives of the labourers, and the strike has been called off on the 28th March, 1946. In order to avoid similar conflicts in future regular Service Rules are under preparation by the mill authorities.

(c) In accordance with the terms of the compromise, the mill authorities have agreed to grant bonus to the labourers.

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add that the grant to a party of consent to the issue of capital does not automatically entitle the party to a licence for import of machinery for its business. The applications which were recommended and accepted were received earlier.

(c) There is a lamp manufacturing factory in the United Provinces, namely, Kaysee Industries, Shikohabad.

(d) Electric Lamp Manufacturers of India, Limited, Calcutta, are at present the largest producers of electric lamps in India. It is not a fact that they opposed the issue of a licence to Messrs. Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company, Limited.

(e) Radio Lamp Works, Lahore was granted a licence on the 30th June, 1945, and the application of Bharat Electrical Industries Limited, Calcutta, has been accepted for registration under the Capital Goods Registration Scheme and registration certificate issued on the 25th July, 1945.

IMPORT LICENCE FOR PLANT AND MACHINERY TO PUNJAB ELECTRIC LAMPS AND RADIO MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LIMITED, LAHORE

1922. *Diwan Chaman Lal: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member kindly state:

(a) If the Government are aware that Train Lighting and Auto lamps are not being manufactured in India; if so, why the Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company of Lahore has not been given the necessary import licence for the importation of plant and machinery for their manufacture;

(b) whether, while considering the total post-war requirement of lamps for the country, the Government considered that it is time that Indian manufacturers also looked to export trade; if so, the figures;

(c) whether, in view of the fact that over 44 lakh lamps of different kinds have been permitted to be imported from overseas during the last twelve months, the Government are justified in turning down the application of the Punjab Electric Lamps and Radio Manufacturing Company for obtaining plant and machinery for the manufacture of General Lighting, Train Lighting, and Auto lamps; and

(d) if, in view of the questions now raised, the Government are prepared to reconsider the matter?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Haque: (a) The potential capacity of factories manufacturing train lighting electric lamps in India is estimated at 5,00,000 numbers. As regards refusal of licence, Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply just given to his question (No. 1921).

(b) Yes; it was considered that manufacturers in India who depend to a large extent on imported raw materials would not be in an advantageous position to capture foreign markets in the near future.

(c) Yes. I have already explained the position in my reply to Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia's question (No. 1528) on the 3rd April, 1946.

(d) No.

DETENTION OF BABU ANAND MOHAN SAHAI OF BHAGALPORE, MEMBER, PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF FREE INDIA, IN SINGAPORE JAIL

†1923. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: (a) Will the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations please state whether Babu Anand Mohan Sahai of Bhagalpore a member of the Provisional Government of Free India, is at present detained in the Singapore Jail? If so, when will he be brought to India and released?

(b) Is he aware that the eldest daughter of Babu Anand Mohan Sahai is in Hongkong and his wife and other children in Tokio? If so, when will they be allowed to return to India?

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: (a) Mr. Anand Mohan Sahay was released from Singapore Jail in the first week of this month. As he is now a free man it is for him to decide whether and when he should come to India. Government of India have informed the Government of Malaya that there is no objection to his returning to India.

(b) It is understood that Mr. Sahay's daughter is in Hongkong and is likely to join him in Singapore shortly. I have no information regarding the whereabouts of Mr. Sahay's wife and other children.

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

†1924. *Babu Ram Narayan Singh: Is the Secretary for Commonwealth Relations aware that Mr. Hari Jee of the Shahabad District in Bihar has a large landed property in Burma? If so, does he propose to enquire about his estate and is the estate at present in the possession of the Government of Burma or in the possession of Mr. Hari Jee's men?

Mr. R. N. Banerjee: The information is being collected and will be furnished on receipt.

STUDENTS FOR STUDIES ABROAD

†1925. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of scholars hitherto selected in each Province for overseas training in various subjects;

(b) how many of them, in each Province, are (i) Muslims, (ii) Caste Hindus, (iii) Members of the Scheduled Castes, and (iv) others;

(c) how many of them, in each Province, have hitherto been able to proceed to their respective destinations;

(d) how many, in each Province, are yet held up for want of shipping accommodation or air passage;

(e) within what time are those hitherto held up likely to secure the necessary passage; and

(f) the prospects of those now in the process of selection or those who will be selected in the near future for getting the necessary passage to their destinations?

Sir John Sargent: (a) to (d). A statement in regard to students selected in 1945 is placed on the table of the House. With reference to (b) it may be pointed out that while the Government of India impressed upon Provincial Governments the desirability of ensuring that all communities received a fair share of these scholarships provided that suitable candidates from the various communities were forthcoming, the Provincial Governments were left free in making their selections to decide the communal ratios.

(e) and (f) It is not yet possible to say when passages are likely to be available in sufficient numbers: but it is expected that all students selected for the United Kingdom will be able to sail in time for the next academic session. The position in regard to passages to the United States of America depends on when the Government of the United States of America will be able to lift the embargo which they have placed on non-American personnel travelling on the United States of America Flag Vessels. We have no information when this embargo will be lifted, but it is hoped that the position may improve early enough to enable us to secure passages for the balance of students selected last year and also for those being selected now in time for the next academic session.

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

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

Statement
Communal Composition

Name of Province	Total No. selected	Hindus	Muslims	Sched. Caste	Others	Total No. called (upto 15-1-46)	Balance yet to proceed
Madras	78	59	7	...	12	43	35
Bengal	50	24	25	1	...	22	28
Bombay	38	30	3	...	5	20	18
Punjab	43	12	19	...	12	16	27
Sind	34	19	11	...	4	19	15
U. P.	25	18	7	...	...	6	19
Bar	19	15	3	...	1	11	8
Orissa	26	21	1	...	4	14	12
C. P. & Berar	26	25	1	...	...	16	10
Assam	10	6	4	...	...	6	4
N. W. F. P.	9	4	5	...	...	4	5
Goorg Adm.	1	1	...	...	...	1	...
Total	359	234	86	1	38	178	181

NOTE.—This statement is inclusive of Government servants sent abroad wholly at the expense of the Provincial Governments concerned.

INDIANS FOR POST OF DIRECTOR OR HEADS OF DIVISIONS OF INTERNATIONAL FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANISATION

†1926. *Mr. M. R. Masani: Will the Agriculture Secretary please state:

(a) whether the International Food and Agriculture Organisation expressed a desire in January, 1946, to appoint Indian Directors or Heads of Divisions on its staff and asked the Government of India for its recommendations;

(b) whether the Government of India failed to make any suggestions or recommendations in time, with the result that these positions have now been filled up by nationals of other countries; and

(c) whether it is a fact that no Indians are to be found who are qualified to fill such responsible positions in an international organisation to which India makes a substantial financial contribution and whose activities have so much significance for this country where the problem of agricultural production and food consumption is acute?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) Information was received on the 24th January, 1946, that the Food and Agriculture Organisation proposed to make appointments for (1) Nutrition and food management, (2) Agricultural production (crops and livestock), (3) Economics, (4) Fisheries, (5) Forestry and Forestry Products, (6) Rural welfare, (7) Statistics, (8) Administration, and (9) Information (Public Relations).

The posts were of two grades: in respect of the first eight divisions there were to be Directors (Grade 1) salaries 10,000—12,000 dollars a year, and Assistants (Grade 2) salaries 7,500—9,500 dollars a year; for the 9th division there were to be Asis-

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

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

stants (Grade 2)—salaries 7,500—9,500 dollars a year and assistants (Grade 3) salaries 5,500—7,500 dollars a year with international experience in work with the press, the radio and other mass information outlets. These salaries are free of Federal American income tax. It was stated that the Staff appointments Committee would meet on the 28th February to consider applications.

(b) and (c) Provincial Governments and various Central Departments were consulted. Five nominations were received for the posts of Directors, all from the Indian Forest Service; three of Grade 2 and four of Grade 3 for public relations officers, not one of whom however had international experience of the type required; and one of an assistant statistician. It was not considered desirable to recommend any of these names. As it was understood that staff appointments are to take place slowly over a period of two years, it was decided to give wider publicity to the matter so as to attract persons of the requisite calibre and qualifications. A press note has been issued accordingly. It has to be borne in mind however that at the present time there is such an acute shortage of technically qualified persons in India that it may be difficult to spare such men to go from India to the Food and Agriculture Organisation especially when we are trying to obtain such persons from other countries to meet our own requirements.

APPOINTMENTS MADE BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

†1927. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state whether Director General of Archaeology is empowered to appoint subordinates in connection with conservation and excavation works up to a limit of Rs. 250 per month in each case?

(b) Is it a fact that under these powers the Director General appointed certain permanent men of clerical cadre to temporary posts of the class mentioned in (a) above?

(c) If the replies to (a) and (b) above are in the affirmative, will the Honourable Member please place on the table of this House a comparative statement for the year 1945-46 of the persons so appointed showing (i) names, (ii) designations, (iii) pay and allowance, (iv) duration of appointment with dates and (v) place of duty?

Sir John Sargent: (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise.

STUDENTS SELECTED FOR CLASS I POSTS IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

†1928. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state if it is a fact that students who attended archaeological training at Taxila for about three months have been considered fit for holding gazetted posts in the Archaeological Department?

(b) Will he please also give the number and communities of such of the abovementioned students as have been selected recently for appointment to Class I Posts?

Sir John Sargent: (a) Appointments to Class I Posts in the Archaeological Survey of India are made through the Federal Public Service Commission on basis of academic and other qualifications. Attendance at one of the technical training schools organized by the Archaeological Survey for research students of the Indian universities is naturally taken into consideration in this connection but is by no means the only qualification required. Subsequently to provisional appointment each officer serves a period of two years' probation during which he receives further intensive training. The appointment is not confirmed unless and until a satisfactory report is received.

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

Prof. N. G. Ranga : How did the Government of India then satisfy themselves that the present costs of cultivation are not much higher than the prices paid for the foodgrains ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : We have no information about the cost of cultivation at present.

STEPS TO INCREASE RICE PRODUCTION

1936. ***Sri N. Narayanamurthi :** Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state whether, in view of the assurance given by the Finance Member through the Secretary of the Agriculture Department that necessary funds will be granted for the development of research marketing and other improvements needed by rice growers, Government propose to set up a representative Committee to administer the funds which will thus be made available and also to take other steps to assist rice producers to increase productivity, and also to obtain remunerative prices and make the production and distribution of rice cheaper?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : The postwar schemes of the Central Government include the establishment of a Central Rice Research Institute with one or two regional stations and sub-stations. This Institute will undertake research on rice strains, its cultivation and other allied problems. The advisability of setting up a Rice Committee will be examined.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are we to understand that the Government of India do not propose to include in their studies in rice development, the improvement of the marketing possibilities for rice ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : If and when the Rice Committee is set up, that would probably be included as one of its functions.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government consider the advisability of including the same aims and objects for the rice committee as were asked for the other day in this House for the Coconut Committee and the Oilseeds Committee ?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : If a committee is established, that suggestion will be considered.

ALLOTMENT OF RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION TO GOVERNMENT SERVANTS DRAWING NOT MORE THAN RS. 600 PER MONTH

1937. ***Mr. Nagendranath Mukhopadhyay :** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please indicate the precise policy followed in the allotment of residential accommodation to Government servants, particularly to persons drawing not more than Rs. 600 per month?

(b) Is it a fact that persons who are transferred to Simla on duty after April, 1945, are allowed to count their date of posting at Delhi on retransfer and not the first date of posting either at Delhi or Simla for the purpose of determining seniority in the allotment of residential accommodation at Delhi?

(c) If so, what is the reason for this discriminatory treatment to persons who are unfortunate to have been transferred out of Delhi after June, 1945?

(d) Is the Honourable Member satisfied that the allotment of residential accommodation to Government servants on duty at Delhi is done according to the rules prescribed for the purpose? If not, what procedure has been prescribed to check the prevalent abuses?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) Allotments are made on the basis of arrival seniority in accordance with the Allotment Rules.

(b) and (c). The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to my reply to Starred Question No. 1420, on the 29th March, 1946.

(d) The insinuation contained in the last sentence is without any foundation in fact.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is Government aware of the great discontent that prevails amongst our own Members of the Legislative Assembly in view of the allotment of a large number of M. L. A. quarters to these Government servants during the recess?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : I am not aware of it.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government take note of it, that several of us do resent the allotment of our M. L. A. quarters during the recess to these Government officials in preference to the Members who have got to come here for the discharge of their duties in connection with Standing Committees ?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : That will be taken into consideration.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

BENGAL SCHOLARS FOR STUDY OF AGRICULTURE IN AMERICA

1938. ***Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah :** Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that in May, 1945, provisional selection letters were issued by the Government of Bengal to some applicants for scholarship for study in Agriculture in America ;

(b) whether the scholars were asked to contact Messrs. Thomas Cook and Sons, the travelling agents, and subsequently American Express Company, Limited, for particulars about passage, dollar exchange, equipment expenses, etc. ;

(c) whether the scholars executed bonds to the extent of Rs. 10,000 or more ;

(d) whether passports were issued to them in September, 1945 ;

(e) whether they were directed to approach the American Consulate for medical certificate ; and

(f) whether immigration certificates were issued to the scholars ?

Sir John Sargent : (a) to (f). The Government of India have no information. The matters referred to by the Honourable Member were dealt with by the Bengal Government, except that dollar exchange facilities were arranged by the Government of India for all Government scholars, whether sponsored by the Central Government or by a Provincial Government.

BENGAL SCHOLARS FOR STUDY OF AGRICULTURE IN AMERICA

1939. ***Maulvi Abdul Hamid Shah :** Will the Education Secretary please state :

(a) whether the India Government asked the Bengal Government to send the testimonials educational qualifications and mark sheets of the scholars selected for study in Agriculture in America ;

(b) whether telegraphic messages were sent to the scholars stating that the India Government has secured admission in an American University and that the scholars should be prepared to sail at a moment's notice ;

(c) whether it is a fact that after all these tests, the India Government again asked the scholars through the Bengal Government to submit fresh copies of applications in prescribed forms stating amongst others the financial position of the scholars and also testimonials, etc. ;

(d) if the answer to (c) be in the affirmative, the reasons for this when the scholars have been finally selected and only awaiting the orders for sail ; and

(e) whether these scholars who have not yet been able to sail are likely to sail in the near future ; if so, by what date ?

Sir John Sargent : (a) All Provincial Governments including the Bengal Government were asked to furnish the Government of India with application forms of all selected students in the form contained in the late Department of Education, Health and Lands brochure " Information for students desiring to proceed overseas for

(b) Of the students who received training at Taxila and subsequent appointments have been appointed to permanent or temporary Class I posts in the Archaeological Department on probation. Of these three are Hindus and two Muslims.

NEW DELHI MUSEUM BUILDING

†1929. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state whether the New Delhi Museum building belongs to the Archaeological Department or to the Central Public Works Department?

(b) Is the building meant exclusively for the museum or it is also available for residential accommodation?

Sir John Sargent: (a) The New Delhi Museum building belongs to the Archaeological Department.

(b) The building is used partly as a store, partly as offices for Department Headquarters, Museum Branch, Delhi Circle, and occasionally during the present acute shortage of residential accommodation in Delhi for emergency sleeping accommodation for officers and subordinates of the Archaeological Department on duty in transit and on courses when other accommodation is not available.

POSTS OF ACCOUNTANT, CASHIER AND ACCOUNTS CLERK IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

†1930. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Education Secretary kindly state if it is a fact that posts of Accountant, Cashier and Accounts Clerk in the office of the Director General of Archaeology are being declared technical?

Sir John Sargent: As it is essential for the incumbent of the post of Accountant in the Office of the Director General of Archaeology in India to possess technical qualifications and accounts experience, it has been decided with the concurrence of the Federal Public Service Commission to remove the post from the ordinary clerical cadre of that office for the purpose of recruitment. It is not proposed to declare the other two posts in the office of the Director General of Archaeology in India as technical posts.

EXPENDITURE ON AND SITES EXCAVATED BY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

†1931. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state what sites in India have been excavated by the Archaeological Department during the year 1945-46?

(b) What is the total expenditure incurred on actual excavation works during the abovementioned period?

Sir John Sargent: (a) During the financial year 1945-46, an exceptionally important site near Pondicherry was excavated by the Archaeological Survey of India. The Department is at the present moment carrying out excavations at the famous site of Harappa in the Punjab. The results of these excavations which have been of great importance will be published in due course.

(b) The total expenditure incurred on the two excavations in respect of labour and materials is Rs. 39,335-4-9.

NOMINATION OF RETIRED INDIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICERS TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY BOARD

†1932. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: Will the Education Secretary kindly give reasons for not nominating retired Indian archaeological officers to the Archaeological Advisory Board?

Sir John Sargent: Since almost all the senior active officers of the Archaeological Survey of India, many of them with long service, are already members of the Central Advisory Board of Archaeology, priority was given at the outset to representatives

drawn from outside the Survey in order to spread the basis of the Board as widely as possible. Otherwise there is more than a risk of the Board becoming primarily a Departmental Committee and so failing in its principal objective. There is, however, no objection whatsoever to the inclusion of ex-officers of the Survey as such.

APPOINTMENT OF EPIGRAPHIST AS JOINT DIRECTOR GENERAL ARCHAEOLOGY

†1933. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state whether a new post of Joint Director General has recently been created in the Archaeological Department? If so, why?

(b) Is it a fact that the post has been filled by the appointment of the Epigraphist?

(c) Is it a fact that this Epigraphist is the same officer who had been holding the tenure post of Deputy Director General of Archaeology since 1940 and given extension after extension?

Sir John Sargent: (a) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, attention of the Honourable Member is invited to the answer given on the 8th April, 1946, to parts (c) and (d) of starred question No. 1653.

(b) and (c). Yes. The former Deputy Director General of Archaeology who holds substantively the post of Government Epigraphist has been appointed as Joint Director General of Archaeology. His tenure as Deputy Director General of Archaeology was extended by about two years and three months.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA TAKEN OVER BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY

†1934. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Education Secretary kindly state the date from which the present Director General of Archaeology has taken over the Archaeological Survey of India?

(b) Is it a fact that his appointment is on a contract basis? If so, for what period?

Sir John Sargent: (a) 24th April, 1944.

(b) Yes. He has been appointed on a four years' contract.

EXPENDITURE ON GROWING OF AND PRODUCTION OF PADDY, WHEAT, LINSEED AND GRAM PER ACRE IN INDIA

1935. *Mr. G. B. Dani: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the average production of paddy, wheat, linseed and gram, separately, per acre in India as a whole; and

(b) the average expenditure incurred on growing paddy, wheat, linseed and gram per acre in India as a whole?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: (a) The average production per acre in British India is 10 maunds of rice, eight maunds of wheat, 3½ maunds of linseed and 6½ maunds of gram.

(b) It is regretted that no reliable data are available as regards the average expenditure incurred in the cultivation of these crops. The only all India inquiry in this connection was the one conducted by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research during the three years, 1933-34 to 1935-36. A copy of the report of this enquiry is in the Library of the House.

Prof. N. G. Ranga: Is any effort being made by the I. C. A. R. to collect the information asked for here from the various local surveys made in different provinces either through provincial Governments or through universities or private individuals?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat: As far as I am aware, no enquiries are in progress at present, because the question was considered but it was felt that owing to the present uncertain situation about prices it would be better to wait for the stabilisation of prices and of general conditions before making a further detailed inquiry.

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

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

advanced Studies (1945)" together with the other necessary documents, as prescribed in the brochure, two copies of photographs and the syllabuses of studies pursued for the B.A. or B.Sc. degree and other higher examinations. The sheets showing marks obtained by the students in their examinations were not required.

(b) The Government of India had asked the Bengal Government to instruct all students to be sent to the United States of America to keep ready to go by air at 24 hours notice if necessary. This was done as failing arrangements for sea passages, efforts were being made to secure air passages and we were asked by the authorities concerned to warn the students to be ready to leave at 24 hours' notice. Our efforts, however, to secure air passages were also unsuccessful.

(c) and (d). No, Sir; fresh applications on regular forms were asked for immediately after the selections and not after admissions had been secured. In a few cases the Bengal Government might have asked students to fill in the regular application forms after the Government of India had arranged admissions abroad; but even in these cases, regular application forms were necessary as the admissions secured on the basis of particulars communicated telegraphically, were only provisional subject to the receipt by the institutions abroad of all the relevant papers relating to the students.

(e) The Government of India cannot say when the Government of the United States of America will be able to lift their embargo on non-American personnel travelling on the United States of America Flag Vessels. It is, however, hoped that all the scholars left behind will be sent abroad in time for the next academic session. In regard to those students who are to go to the United Kingdom passages are arranged for them as soon as places can be secured for them at suitable institutions.

DISPUTE BETWEEN MICA MAZDOOR SANGH AND MICA MINES AND FACTORY OWNERS AND LEVY OF CESS

1940. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, Government have taken to settle the dispute between the Mica Mazdoor Sangh and the Mica Mines and Factory owners?

(b) If the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, how far have Government succeeded in their efforts?

(c) Is it a fact that Government have decided to collect 3 per cent. welfare cess from Mica Mines and dealers?

(d) What will be the basis of the cess, production or income?

(e) When is the tax going to be levied?

(f) In what manner will the money be spent?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) and (b). As a result of Government intervention, peaceful negotiations are going on between the two parties concerned and an amicable settlement is expected to be reached very soon.

(c) The Honourable Member is aware of the provisions of the Bill I have introduced in this House to constitute a fund for the financing of activities to promote the welfare of the labour employed in the Mica Mining industry.

(d) The basis of the cess is neither production nor income. It is *ad valorem* duty of custom on value of all mica exported from British India.

(e) The date of levying the cess will be notified only after the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill has become an Act.

(f) The Honourable Member's attention is invited to clause 3 of the Mica Mines Labour Welfare Fund Bill.

REPRESENTATION TO MICA MAZDOOR SANGH ON MICA MINING BOARD

1941. *Sjt. Seth Damodar Swroop: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if there is any Mining Board for the Mica Area?

(b) If so, is the labour represented on the Board?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, why has no representation been given to the Mica Mazdoor Sangh, which is the best organised workers' association in the Mining Area?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) There is no Mining Board in any of the Mica Areas. The Mica Enquiry Committee have recommended the establishment of Mica Warden's Boards. The matter is under consideration.

(b) The Mica Enquiry Committee have recommended the inclusion of representatives of Labour on the Mica Warden's Boards. The question is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

BILL FOR SOCIAL SECURITY OF INDUSTRIAL WORKERS

1942. *Mr. S. Guruswami: Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state whether he proposes to introduce a Bill for social security of industrial workers before the close of the present Session of the Assembly? If not, why not?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : A Bill is being drafted but Government regret it will not be ready for introduction during the current Session of the Assembly. Government hope to publish the Bill in the Gazette in May. Copies will be circulated by the Labour Department simultaneously for eliciting public opinion and printed summary of the opinions received will be made available to the Honourable Members when, as expected, the Bill is taken up for consideration at the next Session.

BAN ON FORWARD DEALINGS IN OILSEEDS

1943. *Mr. Manu Subedar: (a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state when forward dealings in oilseeds were prohibited by Government, and the reason for this decision?

(b) Have Government received any representations for permitting forward dealings in any class of oilseeds? If so, from whom?

(c) Have Government consulted Provincial Governments and organizers of producers on the subject of permitting forward dealings? If so, with what results?

(d) Is the question now being considered? If so, by whom?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : (a) Forward dealings in oilseeds were prohibited on the 29th May, 1943, to prevent exorbitant rises in prices due to speculation.

(b) Yes. Government have received representations from certain Chambers of Commerce and Associations such as the Marwadi Chamber of Commerce, Bombay, the Seeds Traders Association, Bombay, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Karachi Indian Merchant's Association.

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

(d) The question is under consideration in the Commerce Department.

WARD COMMITTEES FORMED BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER, DELHI, FOR DISTRIBUTION OF WHEAT, SUGAR AND KEROSENE OIL

1944. *Chaudhri Sri Chand: (a) Is the Food Secretary aware that Ward Committees were formed in Delhi by the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi, in 1943 for proper distribution of wheat, sugar and kerosene oil in the respective wards of Delhi?

(b) Are Government aware that with the introduction of rationing in Delhi these Ward Committees were also abolished?

(c) Are Government aware that the Members of the Ward Committees were solely responsible for the proper distribution of wheat, sugar and kerosene in their respective wards?

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(d) Are Government aware that the Members of the Ward Committees gave every satisfaction for the proper distribution of these commodities to the public?

(e) Have Government recognised the services of the Members of these Ward Committees? If so, in what manner? If not, do Government now propose to recognise their services by the grant of Sanads, etc., to them? If not, why not?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Ward Committees were formed earlier than 1943 and one of their duties was to assist in the equitable distribution of foodstuffs and kerosene oil, etc.

(b) They were not abolished, but were relieved of their work in respect of the distribution of foodstuffs, etc.

(c) They were responsible to a large extent for the proper distribution of these commodities.

(d) Yes, generally.

(e) Yes.

FIRST SHIPMENT OF FOODGRAINS ALLOCATED BY COMBINED FOOD BOARD

1945. ***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state when the first shipment of foodgrains allocated by the Combined Food Board to India is likely to reach India?

(b) What quantities of rice, if any, are expected to be received separately from Burma and Malaya?

(c) What is the result of the attempts that were being made to secure some foodgrains from Soviet Russia?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Shipments are already coming in against quotas previously allotted by the Combined Food Board for the first half of 1946. Shipments against the recent increased quotas should start arriving by the end of May.

(b) Nil

(c) The question has been taken up with H. M. G. and their reply is awaited.

DECLARATION OF FAMINE IN CERTAIN AREAS

1946. ***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state the areas in British India and Indian States where famine has already been declared?

(b) Is the question of famine being declared in any other areas under the consideration of Government? If so, what are those areas?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) Actual famine has not been declared in any part of India. Scarcity conditions have, however, been declared by Provincial and States Governments in various villages of the following Districts.

British India.—The districts of Bellary, Cuddapah, Anantapur, Chittoor, North Arcot and Salem in Madras Presidency.

The districts of Satara, Sholapur, Belgaum, and Bijapur in Bombay Presidency,

Indian States.—Districts of Chitaldrug, Tumkur and Kolar in Mysore State Kolhapur in Deccan States.

(b) This is a matter for Provincial or State Governments who declare scarcity conditions as and when they develop.

INTRODUCTION OF RATIONING IN NEW AREAS

1947. ***Mr. Tamizuddin Khan:** (a) Will the Food Secretary be pleased to state the names of places with their populations where full rationing of food has been introduced?

(b) What is the Government's programme, if any, for bringing new areas under full food rationing during the current financial year?

(c) What are the areas under informal food rationing?

(d) Has formal food rationing been introduced in any rural areas? If so, what are these areas?

Mr. B. R. Sen : (a) A Statement (No. I) is placed on the table of the House.

(b) According to information so far received 43 more towns with a total population of about 24 lakhs are expected to be brought under full rationing during the current financial year.

(c) A Statement (No. II) showing towns and areas under informal food rationing is placed on the table.

(d) Yes, formal food rationing has been introduced in the suburban area of Madras District, the District of Malabar, the entire rural areas in the States of Cochin and Travancore and in certain areas in Hyderabad (Deccan).

STATEMENT I

Statement showing fully rationed towns areas with their population.

Province/State 1	Name of town/area 2	Population 3
Assam	1. Jorhat	23,765
	2. Sylhet	40,242
	3. Tezpur	19,268
	4. Dhubri	18,101
	5. Nowgong	19,291
	6. Gauhati	42,480
	7. Dibrugarh	34,273
	8. Silchar	20,134
	9. Shillong	60,197
	10. Habiganj	11,856
	11. Karimganj	7,813
	12. Golaghat	5,470
	13. Sibsagar	7,559
	14. Tinsukia	8,338
Bengal	1. Calcutta	44,00,000
	2. Tollygunj	
	3. South Suburban Garden Reach	
	4. Bally-Belur	
	5. Howrah	
	6. Budge Budge	
	7. South Dum Dum	
	8. Dum Dum	
	9. Baranagore	
	10. Kamarhati	
	11. Panihati	
	12. Khardah	
	13. Titagar	
	14. South Barrackpore	
	15. North Barrackpore	
	16. Garulia	
	17. Bhatpara	
	18. Naihati	
	19. Halisahar	
	20. Kanchrapara	
	21. Uttarpara	
	22. Ketrung	
	23. Rishra	
	24. Konnagore	
	25. Serampore	
	26. Baidyabati	
	27. Champdani	
	28. Bhadreswar	
	29. Hooghly Chinsurah	
	30. Bansbaria	

1	2	3	
Bengal—contd.	31. Dacca	2,40,415	
	32. Narayanganj	80,313	
	33. Chittagong	80,000	
	34. Comilla	51,283	
	35. Darjeeling	42,000	
	36. Kurseong	30,000	
	37. Kalimpong	29,996	
Bihar	1. Patna	2,88,853	
	2. Jamshedpur	1,70,000	
	3. Dhanbad-Jharra	2,08,974	
	4. Darbhanga	77,348	
	5. Chapra	59,875	
Madras	1. Madras City	10,72,648	
	2. Suburban area including Saidapet	1,93,516	
	3. Vizagapatam	1,45,883	
	4. Tuticorin	1,00,000	
	5. Tinnevely	1,52,598	
	6. Palanacotah	}	32,925
	7. Bodinayakanur		
	8. Dindigul		68,331
	9. Madura		3,48,557
	10. Palni		30,242
	11. Periyakulam		32,431
	12. Devakottal		30,455
	13. Karaikudi		37,879
	14. Rajahpalayam		52,270
	15. Sivakasi		17,103
	16. Srivilliputtur		40,280
	17. Virudhnagar		41,662
	18. Trichinopoly		2,87,519
	19. Srirangam		
	20. Karur		39,075
	21. Coimbatore		1,87,550
	22. Dharampuram		23,907
	23. Erode		64,057
	24. Pollachi		41,500
	25. Tiruppur		53,542
	26. Udumalpet		22,689
	27. Coonoor		30,242
	28. Ootacamund		45,328
	29. Vizianagaram		98,125
	30. Kodaikanal		13,176
	31. Bimilipatam		11,061
	32. Anakapalli		44,696
	33. Chinnole		28,348
	34. Cuddapah		38,892
	35. Proddutur		33,400
	36. Kurnool		54,000
	37. Nandyal		30,868
	38. Anantapur		24,978
	39. Himpur		22,540
	40. Tadipatri		17,910
	41. Bellary		74,921
	42. Adoni		49,465
	43. Hospet		27,947
	44. Vellore		1,18,027
	45. Wallajpet		13,596
	46. Vaniyambadi		42,339
	47. Tirupattur		27,151
	48. Gudiyattam		42,815
	49. Tiruvannamalai		41,754
	50. Conjeevaram		94,361
	51. Chingleput		22,379
	52. Chittoor		41,510
	53. Tirupatni		27,043
	54. Salem		1,87,933
	55. Kumbakonam		89,667

1	2	3
Madras—contd.	56. Manargudi	29,206
	57. Mayavaram	38,689
	58. Negapatam	57,657
	59. Tanjore	85,903
	60. Tiruvarur	32,246
	61. Mangalore	1,47,351
	62. Kasargod	34,774
	63. Udipi	23,053
	64. Palghat	86,028
	65. Cochin	32,367
	66. Tellicherry	49,285
	67. Calicut	1,73,116
	68. Cannanore	71,600
	69. Cuddalore	75,040
	70. Villupuram	31,437
	71. Chidambaram	22,109
	72. Cocanada	1,10,404
	73. Poddapuram	24,000
	74. Masulipatam	81,509
	75. Gudivada	34,544
	76. Ellore	86,574
	77. Palacole	25,977
	78. Tenali	50,000
	79. Narasaraopet	19,289
	80. Nellore	75,483
	81. Ongole	23,142
	82. Guntur	1,21,000
	83. Bezwada	1,46,385
	84. Rajahmundry	1,07,335
	85. Chirala	49,897
	86. Calicut Taluk (Rural Area)	2,84,340
	87. Kurambranad Taluk (Rural Area)	4,77,092
	88. Kottayam Taluk (Rural Area)	2,70,976
	89. Chirakkal Taluk (Rural Area)	4,04,375
	90. Ernad Taluk (Rural Area)	5,63,204
	91. Palghat Taluk (Rural Area)	5,24,032
	92. Ponnani Taluk (Rural Area)	6,94,228
	93. Wynad Taluk (Rural Area)	1,26,882
	94. Walluvanad Taluk (Rural Area)	5,24,122
Punjab	1. Rawalpindi	2,45,227
	2. Amritsar	3,94,244
	3. Lahore	9,10,007
	4. Simla	89,420
N. W. F. P.	1. Peshawar	1,73,420
Sind	1. Karachi	5,12,826
	2. Hyderabad	1,55,338
Bombay	1. Ahmedabad	7,61,145
	2. Surat	2,38,148
	3. Poona	6,29,572
	4. Sholapur	3,11,122
	5. Aubli	1,23,132
	6. Bombay City & B. S. D.	25,18,537
	7. Bandra	
	8. Ghatkopar	
	9. Juhu	
	10. Kurla	
	11. Malad	
	12. Parle-Andheri	
	13. Mulund	
	14. Chembur	
	15. Remaining areas of Suburban District	
	16. Belgaum City and Cantonment	94,768

1	2	3
Bombay—contd.		
17. Nasik		1,06,100
18. Virangaum		29,858
19. Dholka		20,894
20. Nadiad		57,353
21. Kapadwanj		23,588
22. Anand		23,513
23. Borsad		20,439
24. Umreth		19,430
25. Breach		65,185
26. Godhra		46,800
27. Dohad		41,102
28. Rander		14,000
29. Bulsar		35,486
30. Thana		50,861
31. Kalyan		52,856
32. Bassein		17,428
33. Bhiwandi		21,427
34. Ahmednagar City and Cantonment		98,272
35. Jalgaon		58,470
36. Chalisgaon		26,878
37. Anjalner		39,451
38. Bhusawal		50,975
39. Erandol		16,625
40. Parola		16,538
41. Chopda		24,705
42. Dharangaon		20,451
43. Dhulia		79,275
44. Nandurbar		29,457
45. Shirpur		15,488
46. Taloda		13,063
47. Shahada		11,511
48. Dodaicha and Varwada		10,434
49. Malegaon		53,494
50. Igatpuri		11,785
51. Yeola		21,313
52. Sinnar		13,087
53. Nandgaon		11,466
54. Main ad		25,625
55. Baramati		21,280
56. Lonavla		17,407
57. Dhond		11,748
58. Talegaon Dabhade		10,971
59. Satara		43,749
60. Karad		24,087
61. Wai		15,942
62. Panchgani		6,318
63. Mahabaleshwar		5,102
64. Barsi		38,745
65. Pandharpur		36,580
66. Gokak		16,105
67. Nipani		20,283
68. Athni		14,209
69. Bijapur		64,331
70. Bagalkot		21,280
71. Guledgud		19,858
72. Ilkal		19,642
73. Dharwar		63,737
74. Gadag		64,156
75. Ranebennur		23,944
76. Haveri		15,943
77. Karwar		22,704
78. Panvel		20,489
79. Matheran		3,682
80. Ratnagiri		24,104
81. Chiplum		16,242
82. Malwan		18,330
83. Astha		11,456
84. Islampur		15,947
85. Tasgaon		12,747

1	2	3
Bo nbay—concl.		
86. Kumta		15,002
87. Honavar		9,825
88. Bhatkal		11,299
89. Ankleshwar		16,633
90. Jambusar		15,628
91. Faizpur		12,241
92. Nasirabad		14,252
93. Yawal		14,409
94. Raver		10,333
95. Savda		13,386
96. Shendurni		10,740
97. Junnar		10,946
98. Bailhongal		13,000
99. Chikodi		12,530
100. Sankeshwar		11,572
101. Gokaran		5,984
102. Sirsi		13,260
103. Vengurle		11,749
104. Dhandhuka		13,065
105. Modasa		10,471
106. Sangamner		17,639
107. Pachora		15,164
108. Nasik Road, Deolali Village and Cantonment.		63,900
109. Bhagur Town		10,039
110. Prantij		10,289
111. Jamner		9,030
112. Bhadgaon		7,987
113. Kasoda		10,129
114. Kaira		11,000
115. Dakar		9,328
116. Mehminabad		11,633
117. Mahad		6,098
118. Dombivli		5,886
119. Bardi		15,000
120. Dahau		4,068
121. Trimbak		14,470
122. Bellapur		13,220
123. Kopargao		5,037
124. Lonad		8,764
125. Mhaswad		
United Provinces		
1. Cawnpore		6,74,701
2. Lucknow		4,38,822
3. Benares		3,42,155
4. Agra		3,51,352
5. Allahabad		3,03,254
6. Dehra Dun		1,08,370
7. Saharanpur		1,04,025
8. Roorkee		20,813
9. Meerut		1,74,389
10. Aligarh		1,25,890
11. Hathras		48,742
12. Muttra-cum-Brindaban		1,01,250
13. Firozabad		40,574
14. Farrukhabad		74,900
15. Etawah		54,586
16. Ghazipur		33,189
17. Ballia		24,729
18. Mirzapur		75,982
19. Jaunpur		47,186
20. Gorakhpur		1,10,980
21. Deoria		17,422
22. Azamgarh		26,578
23. Mhow		29,568
24. Fyzabad		78,236
25. Partabgarh		14,509
26. Sultanpur		18,402

1	2	3
United Provinces— <i>contd.</i>	27. Rae Bareilly	20,838
	28. Unao	22,577
	29. Bareilly	2,00,241
	30. Moradabad	1,42,700
	31. Shahjahanpur	1,14,646
	32. Jhansi	1,08,820
	33. Mozaffarnagar	54,179
	34. Bijnor	27,900
	35. Badaun	52,077
	36. Pillibhit	44,709
	37. Barabanki	4,633
	38. Bulandshahr	29,701
	39. Nagina	26,077
	40. Najibabad	26,898
	41. Fatehpur	27,436
	42. Lalitpur	16,881
Central Provinces & Berar	1. Nagpur	4,00,000
	2. Jubbulpore	2,78,000
Delhi	1. Delhi and New Delhi	9,50,000
Ajmer-Merwara	1. Ajmer	1,75,000
Baluchistan	1. Quetta	86,882
	2. Chaman Town	6,400
	3. Pishin	4,886
	4. Saranan	334
	5. Gulistan	881
	6. Killa Abdulla	600
	7. Bostan	491
	8. Yaru	205
	9. Loralai	6,000
	10. Sunjawi	
	11. Duki	
	12. Barkhan	
	13. Musakhel	
	14. Kohlu	
	15. Sibi	
	16. Hurnai	
	17. Mach	
	18. Kolpur	
	19. Ushta	2,476
	20. Jhatpat	2,476
	21. Fort Sandeman	6,996
	22. Hindubagh	1,011
	23. Killa Saifulla	539
	24. Dalbandin	1,500
	25. Nok Kundi	1,572
	26. Nushki	2,017
Travancore State	1. Trivandrum City	1,89,168
	2. Nagercoil	54,861
	3. Quilon	59,413
	4. Alleppey	1,12,997
	5. Kottayam	35,866
	<i>Rural Areas.</i>	
	6. Thevala	45,057
	7. Agastiwarum	1,32,006
	8. Kalkulam	2,55,664
	9. Vilavancode	2,02,568
	10. Neyyattinkara	2,98,597
	11. Trivandrum	1,72,745
	12. Nedumangad	1,87,795
	13. Chirayinkil	2,15,433
	14. Quilon	2,54,918
	15. Pathanapuram	1,26,196
	16. Kottarakara	2,08,386

1	2	3
Travancore State— <i>contd.</i>	17. Shencottah	55,470
	18. Karrunagappaly	2,28,919
	19. Karthigappaly	1,64,474
	20. Mavelikara	1,97,597
	21. Kunnathur	1,44,662
	22. Pathanamthitta	2,00,617
	23. Thiruvella	3,60,431
	24. Ambalapuzha	2,98,766
	25. Shertallai	2,14,606
	26. Changanacherry	2,94,450
	27. Kottayam	2,86,731
	28. Vaikom	1,97,781
	29. Meanachil	2,69,700
	30. Thodupuzha	1,30,211
	31. Muvathipuzha	2,25,874
	32. Kunnathunad	2,76,923
	33. Parur	1,81,702
	34. Poermade	64,899
	35. Devicolum	30,266
Cochin State	1. Trichur	67,693
	2. Mathancherry	73,187
	3. Narakkai	12,110
	4. Ernakulam	60,881
	5. Tripuni Thura	11,442
	6. Irinjala Kunda	17,448
	7. Chalakudi	65,185
	8. Ollur	11,392
	9. Kunnankulam	12,149
	10. Wadakkancherry	6,779
	11. Palanji	2,593
	12. Chittur	10,500
	13. Tattamangalam	7,230
	14. Memmara	7,800
	15. Cranganore	22,233
	16. Other remaining areas of Cochin State	11,21,378
Kashmir State	1. Srinagar	3,00,000
Mysore States Agency	1. C. & M. Station, Bangalore	2,25,220
	2. Bangalore City	4,19,358
	3. Mysore City	2,01,436
	4. Tumkur	28,954
	5. Kolar Gold Field	1,40,331
	6. Davangore Town	46,104
	7. Mandya Town	16,941
	8. Channarayana Town	26,754
	9. Chikmagalur	20,664
	10. Harihar Town	16,970
	11. Chamarajanagar Town	13,856
	12. Sandur State	15,814
Gwalior State	1. Gwalior	2,15,586
	2. Lashkar	
	3. Morar	
Baroda and Gujarat States	1. Baroda City and Adjoining Villages	1,90,000
	2. Dumas	10,337
	3. Bhimpore	
	4. Sultanbad	
	5. Bansda State	55,559
	6. Cambay Town	38,000
Hyderabad State (Deccan)	1. Hyderabad City	7,20,000
	2. Warangal	1,12,000
	3. Narayanpet	21,600
	4. Gulbarga Town	63,551

1	2	3
Hyderabad State (Deccan)— <i>contd.</i>	5. Yadgir 6. Mahbubnagar 7. Shorapur 8. Achampet 9. Khammam 10. Secunderabad 11. 300 villages of Atraf, Balda and Bagat Districts; 142 villages of Achampet Taluk in Mahbubnagar District.	17,661 16,462 15,207 72,240 1,53,167 2,30,000
C. I. States	1. Bhopal City 2. Sehore and all Tehsil Headquarters 3. Indore 4. Narsingarh 5. Pachore 6. Khujner 7. Chhapihara	1,10,500 88,225 3,13,041 11,514 3,001 3,503 2,538
Deccan States	1. Kolhapur 2. Sangli 3. Shahpur 4. Akalkot Town 5. Aundh State 6. Ichalkaranji Town 7. Jayasingpur 8. Mudhol	1,25,335 60,447 18,819 15,748 90,000 24,745 7,028 10,786
W. I. States	1. Bhavnagar City 2. Mahuva 3. Kundla 4. Botad 5. Porbandar State 6. Jafrabad 7. Morvi State	1,35,000 29,834 20,817 17,300 1,65,625 7,500 1,68,730

No. of towns rationed = 460.

Total population rationed (approximately) = 4,52,00,000.

STATEMENT II

Statement showing town/areas under informal food rationing

Province/State 1	Name of town/area 2
Bengal	1. Burdwan Sadar Sub-Division. 2. Katwa Sub-Division. 3. Kalna Town. 4. Kalna Sub-Division. 5. Faridpur. 6. Madaripur. 7. Rajbari. 8. Muktagacha. 9. Gowripore. 10. Natrakona. 11. Kishoreganj. 12. Bajitpur. 13. Jamalpur. 14. Sherpur. 15. Tangail. 16. Jessore.

1	2
Bengal— <i>contd.</i>	17. Kot-Chandpur. 18. Maheshpur. 19. Joynagar. 20. Baruipur. 21. Rajpur. 22. Rural areas of Sadar Sub-Division (District 24 Parganas). 23. Feni Sub-Division. 24. Jhargram. 25. Tamluk Sub-Division, including 6 thanas and Tamluk Town. 26. Contai. 27. Sadar North Sub-Division. 28. Barasat, Gobardange, 48 Unions of Barasat Sub-Division. 29. All the unions of D. Harbour Sub-Division (District 24 Parganas). 30. North Dum Dum. 31. Other unions of Barrackpore Sub-Division. 32. Mir Sarai. 33. Sita-Kund. 34. Double Mooring. 35. Panchlaish. 36. Hathazari. 37. Fatikchhari. 38. Raozan. 39. Patiya. 40. Ranjan. 41. Anwara. 42. Rangunia. 43. Boalkhali. 44. Banskhali. 45. Satkania. 46. Other Sub-Division areas and rural areas of Jessore District. 47. Sadar (South) of Bakarganj District. 48. Sadar South Sub-Division (District Midnapore). 49. Mymensingh. 50. Chandpur Town. 51. Nilphamari Sub-Division. 52. Cox's Bazar. 53. Serajganj.
Bombay	All villages or urban areas where there is no statutory rationing.
Orissa	1. Jharsugoda union Board Area. 2. Angul. 3. Puri. 4. Balasore. 5. Berhampur. 6. Sambalpur. 7. Bargarh. 8. Cuttack. 9. Rayaghada. 10. Gunupur. 11. Jajpur. 12. Chatrapur. 13. Parlakemidi. 14. Kendrapara Municipal Town.
United Provinces	1. Mussorie. 2. Hardwar. 3. Naini Tal. 4. Almora. 5. Ranikhet. 6. Pauri. 7. Lansdown.

1	2
Bihar	1. Giridih. 2. Arrah. 3. Ranchi. 4. Monghyr. 5. Bhagalpur. 6. Gaya. 7. Muzaffarpur.
Central Provinces and Berar	1. Wardha. 2. Kamptee. 3. Chhindwara. 4. Katni. 5. Damoh. 6. Saugor. 7. Pachmarhi. 8. Khandwa. 9. Ellichpur. 10. Amraoti. 11. Burhanpur. 12. Bedner. 13. Akola. 14. Khamgaon. 15. Piparea. 16. Sohagpur. 17. Gadarwara. 18. Narsinghpur. 19. Harda. 20. Hoshangabad. 21. Itarsi. 22. Hinganghat. 23. Hoshangabad District (3 Tehsils of Hoshangabad, Sohagpur and Gadarwara). 24. Nagpur District (Ajni and adjoining villages and Mahadulla and adjoining villages).
Hyderabad State (Deccan)	1. Raichur.
Kashmir State	1. Jammu.
Punjab States	1. Patiala. 2. Malerkotla. 3. Phagwara Town.
Rajputana States	1. District of Abu. 2. Partabgarh City. 3. Kotah City. 4. Sirohi. 5. Sheoganj. 6. Abu Road.
Rampur State	1. Rampur City.
Benares State	1. Gyanpur. 2. Ramnagar.
Madras State	1. Pudukottah City and one Taluk of the State.
Central India States	1. Mhow Cantonment. 2. Dhar. 3. Ratlam. 4. Rajgarh. 5. Biaora. 6. Sitamau. 7. Laduna. 8. Khilchipur. 9. Kurwai. 10. Bareth. 11. Leera. 12. Dewas Town (Junior) 13. Sarangpur.

	14. Ringnod Town Kaslia. 15. Padlia. 16. Dewas Senior and Alote. 17. Piploda Town. 18. Ajaigarh Town.
Deccan States	1. Jamkhandi City. 2. Savalgi. 3. Banhati. 4. Rampur. 5. Hunupur. 6. Kodapatti. 7. Hanchinal. 8. Remaining areas of Jamkhandi State. 9. Miraj Town. 10. Jath. 11. Sawantwadi Town and surrounding 11 village 12. Kurundwad Town (Senior). 13. Kurundwad Town (Junior). 14. Janjira State.
Western India States	1. Jayapadar. 2. Sardargarh. 3. Dharangadhra. 4. Vithalgadh. 5. Junagadh City. 6. Veraval. 7. Rajkot City and villages. 8. Rajkot City Station. 9. Wadhwan Civil Station. 10. Limbdi State. 11. Mungrol.
Madras	Rural areas of the following districts :-- 1. Vizagapatam. 2. South Kanara. 3. Nilgiris. 4. Coimbatore. 5. Ramnad. 6. Tinnevely. 7. South Arcot. 8. North Arcot. 9. Chittoor. 10. Chingleput.
Baluchistan	All rural areas except Marri and Bagti tribal areas and certain desert areas along less the frontier.
Mysore State	All the rural areas.

FURTHERANCE OF GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

1948. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: (a) Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state the additional areas of land brought under cultivation during the year 1945-46 in furtherance of the "Grow More Food" campaign?

(b) What is the Government's programme, if any, in furtherance of the campaign for the year 1946-47?

(c) What do Government propose to do to bring under cultivation large areas of cultivable waste land in Assam in furtherance of the "Grow More Food" campaign?

Sir Pheroze Kharegat : (a) Figures in respect of 1945-46 are not yet available. But comparing the average area of culturable waste and current fallow in the three pre war years with the average of the years 1942-44 (as later figures are not available) for the temporarily settled areas of British India (i.e., excluding Bengal, Bihar

and Orissa) the figure has gone down from 110.5 to 107.9 million acres which indicates that 2.6 million acres of additional land have been brought under cultivation.

(b) The programme during 1946-47 will be the same as before, viz., subsidies for the construction of works of land improvement, including wells, tanks, bunds, dams, drainage cuts, etc.

(c) It is understood that the Assam Government are making detailed enquiries to ascertain full particulars about the culturable waste which is really available for cultivation, bearing in mind the need for the maintenance of grazing areas. Suitable action will thereafter be taken for bringing this land under cultivation depending on what facilities are needed in respect of each such block of land.

EXPENDITURE ON INVITEES OF CONGRESS, MUSLIM LEAGUE AND OTHER PARTIES TO SIMLA CONFERENCE

1949. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House be pleased to state:

(a) what amount was spent by the Government of India in connection with arrangements for the invitees to the Simla Conference in June-July, 1945;

(b) what part of the amount, if any, was spent for the invitees from the Congress Party; whether the amount was paid in cash or it was spent directly over the arrangements; and

(c) what part of the amount, if any, was spent for the invitees from the Muslim League and other parties invited to the Conference?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : (a) Rs. 13,432-1-0.

(b) and (c). The expenditure was incurred partly on payment of travelling allowances to the invitees and partly on the arrangements made for their messing and accommodation. It is not possible to allocate the expenditure according to parties. I may add however that the Muslim League delegates were offered their expenses in the same way as other delegates but both Mr. Jinnah and Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan did not accept anything.

REPRESENTATION OF ASIATIC AND AFRICAN COUNTRIES ON GOVERNING BODY OF INTERNATIONAL LABOUR ORGANISATION

1950. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) the representation of Asiatic and African countries on the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation;

(b) whether it is a fact that more representation to Asiatic and African countries could be secured through amendments to the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation; and

(c) whether Government propose to direct their representatives in the International Labour Organisation to press for an amendment to Article 7, clauses 2 and 4, substituting the words "non-European" with the words "Asiatic and African", when amendments suggested by the Paris Session of the International Labour Organisation are taken up for consideration?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) The representation of Asiatic and African countries on the present Governing Body is as follows :—

Government Members	Three	{ India. China. Egypt.
Employers	Three	{ India. China. South Africa.
Workers	One	(China).

(b) Yes.

(c) Governments intentions have been made clear in the course of discussions on the resolution recommending ratification of the Instrument of Amendment of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation.

COST TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF SPECIAL TRAIN FOR MR. M. K. GANDHI TO PARTICIPATE IN TALKS WITH CABINET MISSION

1951. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the cost of the special train in which Mr. M. K. Gandhi arrived in Delhi on April 1, 1946, to participate in the talks with the Cabinet Mission, was borne by the Government of India; and

(b) what, if any, was the cost of running this special train?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions 1951 and 1952 together.

As far as my information goes, the Government did not meet any part of the expenditure in question but I am getting this confirmed and will communicate the result of the enquiry to the Honourable Member in due course.

COST TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA OF SPECIAL TRAIN FOR MR. M. K. GANDHI TO PARTICIPATE IN SIMLA CONFERENCE

†1952. *Miss Maniben Kara: Will the Honourable the Leader of the House please state:

(a) if it is a fact that the expenses for the special train in which Mr. M. K. Gandhi travelled to Simla in June-July, 1945, to participate in the Simla Conference, were borne by the Government of India; and

(b) the total cost of running this special train?

REVISION OF CERTAIN OUT OF DATE AJMER-MERWARA REGULATIONS

1953. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Health Secretary be pleased to state if Government are aware that Ajmer Municipality's Regulation No. VI of 1925 is quite out of date? If so, will Government consider the advisability of revising the same at an early date and bringing into line with similar enactments in other reformed Provinces of India like the United Provinces and the Punjab?

(b) Are Government aware that Ajmer-Merwara Regulations, viz., No. II of 1887, is out of date? If so, what steps do Government contemplate to revise them to bring them in consonance with modern conditions at an early date?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulnam : (a) and (b). The Chief Commissioner is undertaking review of Regulation VI as well as of other Regulations in order to determine what amendments are necessary.

CONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT BOARD, AJMER-MERWARA AND REPRESENTATION OF ISTIMRARDARS

1954. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Health Secretary please state how the District Board of Ajmer-Merwara is constituted, what the strength of nominated and elected members is, and what representation is given to Istimrardars on the said Board?

(b) What is the qualification for exercising casting vote at the election of the District Board?

(c) Is it a fact that the Deputy Commissioner is its *ex-officio* permanent President and the Assistant Commissioner is its *ex-officio* permanent Secretary?

† S. C. Joshi's answer to this question. See answer to question No. 1951.

(d) Do Government propose to take into hand the revision of the constitution of the District Board at an early date with a view to making it more democratic and representative of the rural population and issuing necessary instructions to the Chief Commissioner to do the same at an early date before the new Board is constituted?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) and (b). A statement showing the constitution of the Board and the qualifications for voters is laid on the table.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the affirmative and to the second part in the negative.

(d) The question of the revision of the constitution of the Board and of revising the franchise is under consideration by the Chief Commissioner.

Statement showing the constitution of the District Board, Ajmer-Merwara and the qualifications for voters

Constitution of the District Board, Ajmer-Merwara--	
Officials nominated	7
Non-officials nominated	7
Tazimi Istimrardars (<i>ex-officio</i>)	16
Elected members	21
Deputy Commissioner (<i>ex-officio</i> President)	1
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Qualifications for voters.—The following persons of the male sex only are, if they have attained the age of 21 years, entitled to be enrolled as electors:

- (1) A Bhomia possessing 200 Bighas or more of land or a Head Bhomia representing a group of Bhomias possessing 200 Bighas or more jointly of Bhum Land.
- (2) Muafidars, Jagirdars, and Minor Istimrardars individually possessing 100 Bighas or more land or a representative of a group of such Muafidars, Jagirdars or Minor Istimrardars jointly possessing 100 Bighas or more land.
- (3) Lambardars crediting annually Rs. 500 or more as land revenue (excluding water revenue).
- (4) Khewatdar proprietors whose individual liability for payment of land revenue is not less than Rs. 10 per annum.
- (5) Ex-proprietory tenants of land liable to payment of land revenue of not less than Rs. 10 per annum.
- (6) *Bona fide* residents of the rural area who have passed the Matriculation or School Leaving Certificate Examination.
- (7) Primary school teachers of the rural area who hold certificate of training and of Vernacular Final Examination of the United Provinces Examination Board.

EVALUATION AND TRANSFER OF ASSETS OF DELHI ELECTRIC SUPPLY AND TRACTION COMPANY, LIMITED, TO GOVERNMENT

1955. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava :** (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member kindly state by what time the assets of the Delhi Electric and Traction Company, Limited, will be transferred to Government?

(b) Is it a fact that Government have agreed to have the assets of the said Company evaluated by an English firm of the name of Merz and Macbillen and to pay half the costs of evaluation?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) 2nd March, 1947.

(b) Yes, by Messrs. Merz. and Macbillen.

PROSECUTIONS UNDER THE DELHI MILK CONTROL ORDER

1956. ***Babu Ram Narayan Singh :** Will the Health Secretary please state:

(a) whether Government are aware that prosecutions under the Delhi Milk Control Order are, in effect, summary prosecutions;

(b) whether the Chemical Analyser who reports on milk being adulterated or otherwise, is a local official;

(c) whether any maximum punishment is prescribed by the Order referred to in (a);

(d) whether culpability in cases under the Milk Control Order referred to in (a) is based on the Chemical Analyser's report referred to in (b) or on some other evidence;

(e) if the replies to (a) to (d) be in the affirmative, the particular section of the Defence of India Act under which the prosecutions referred to in (a) are made summary prosecutions; and

(f) the total number of prosecutions under the Milk Control Order in Delhi and the total amount of fines realised by way of punishment for violating the provisions of the Order as regards selling adulterated milk?

Mr. S. H. Y. Oulsnam : (a) No.

(b) Yes.

(c) No. The punishment is prescribed in the Defence of India Rules.

(d) There is no specific provision in the Order as to how culpability is to be determined and evidence can be allowed by the Court in its discretion according to the law of evidence.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The information is being collected and will be furnished to the House in due course.

KOH-I-SULTAN SULPHUR MINES

1957. ***Sri S. T. Adityan :** Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state:

(a) whether Government propose to dispose of the Koh-i-Sultan sulphur mines;

(b) if so, the reason for selling away the concern;

(c) the amount of outlay which has been made on the said mines by Government;

(d) the amount, if any, so far offered by any prospective purchaser;

(e) the annual output of the said mines, and the annual expenses of the said mines; and

(f) the number of non-Indians employed in the said mines as executives and technicians and the posts held by them with the salaries of the said posts?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) It has already been decided to dispose of the Koh-i-Sultan sulphur mines and properties and Government have been trying to sell them for sometime past.

(b) Koh-i-Sultan sulphur ore is not in demand as imported sulphur is cheaper. The estimated reserves are not of an order to work the mines as a national industry.

(c) The total expenditure incurred up to 31st March, 1946, comes to about 32 lakhs, a large part of which has already been recovered by sale of sulphur ore.

(d) Rs. 1.5 lakhs.

(e) The average annual output for the last five years was about 13,000 tons of Sulphur ore while the average annual expenditure was about Rs. 6.4 lakhs.

(f) Four non-Indians were employed on the said operations of whom one was regular officer of the Geological Survey of India. Of the remaining three temporary officers two were Mining Engineers and one a Mechanical Engineer. The pay of the temporary officers were Rs. 1200, 800 and 630 respectively. Only one of the temporary officers was employed for more than a year.

WANT OF GOOD CATTLE AND HANDICAP IN GROWING FOODGRAINS IN NORTH KANARA DISTRICT IN BOMBAY

228. Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Agriculture Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that one of the handicaps of agriculturist in growing foodgrains in the North Kanara District in the Bombay Province is the want of good cattle;

(b) what Government propose to do to help growers to have good cattle for agricultural purposes;

(c) whether cotton-seed has to be imported from the neighbouring districts for the cattle of the district;

(d) what arrangements Government have made for regular imports of cotton-seed into the North Kanara District; and

(e) whether Government propose to provide for the sale of cotton-seed for purposes of cattle through Government agency?

Sir Pherose Kharegat : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be supplied as soon as it becomes available.

PRINTING OF ARMY BOOKS 64-M AND 64 AT HIGHER RATES IN PRIVATE PRESSES AND REDUCTION OF STAFF IN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA

229. Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the Honourable Sir Frank Noyce, the then Member-in-charge, Labour and Industries Department, Government of India, stated in the Legislative Assembly on the 20th September, 1933, in reply to unstarred Question No. 127 that the rate of printing and binding of Army Books 64-M and 64 in private firms is slightly higher than that of the Government Presses?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. H. I. McDonald, the then Special Officer, Central Revision Section, Army Department, Government of India in his note, dated the 1st July, 1931, expressed the desirability of the said work being done at the Government Presses on economic grounds?

(c) Is it a fact that now 64-M and 64 Army Books are being printed and bound at the Press of outside contractors instead of at the Government Press?

(d) Is it a fact that the Manager of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, is going to discharge eighty-eight workers on ground of reduction?

(e) Is it a fact that the Machine Section is remaining idle for want of work?

(f) Is it a fact that Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose, President, Press Employee's Association, Calcutta, sent a telegram to the Honourable Member-in-charge, Labour Department, Government of India, acquainting him with the situation as stated in (e)?

(g) Is it a fact that Government are sending more and more work to the outside contractors contrary to the past declaration of Government?

(h) If the answers to (a) to (g) be in the affirmative, what is the reason?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) Yes.

(b) No such note can be traced.

(c) Yes.

(d) No.

(e) No.

(f) Yes.

(g) No. Only overflow work and such work which cannot be undertaken by or done in the Government of India Presses is entrusted to contractors.

(h) The question does not arise in view of the reply given to part (g) above.

DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN BINDERS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS, CALCUTTA AND OUTSIDE CONTRACTORS *re* SUPPLY OF MATERIAL

230. Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: (a) Will the Honourable the Labour Member please state if it is a fact that Government supply materials along with works to the outside contractors, whereas the binders of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, are not given materials along with work? What is the cause for this discrimination?

(b) Will the Honourable Member please state the names of contractors and the amount and value of the works given to them during the period 1939—1945, year by year?

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (a) No discrimination is shown between the binders of the Government of India Press, Calcutta, and outside contractors in regard to the supply of materials. Ordinarily work is distributed along with the materials. It happens sometimes, however, that a particular item is not available when indented for. This difficulty was felt during the war and is still being felt in respect of some items.

(b) The information asked for is not readily available and the time and labour involved in collecting it would be incommensurate with the value of the results.

FIRMS FUNCTIONING IN BIHAR REGISTERED OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE

231. Mr. Madandhari Singh: Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to refer to the answer to my starred question No. 1543 asked on the 3rd April, 1946 and state when the information regarding the number and location of the firms functioning in the Province of Bihar which are registered outside the Province will be made available to the House?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : As the Indian Companies Act does not require the particulars of places of business to be filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, the required information can only be collected by direct approach to each individual firm operating in Bihar. The Honourable Member will no doubt appreciate that the time and labour involved in the collection of the information will not be commensurate with the results obtained.

PROPOSAL *re* CALENDARING OF MARATHI RECORDS IN POSSESSION OF MR. S. L. VAIDYA OF POONA

232. Sardar N. G. Vinchoorkar: (a) Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state whether Government are aware of the fact that at the instance of a Frenchman, Mons. A. Lehuraux, in the meeting of the Indian Historical Records Commission, held at Aligarh in 1943, a Sub-Committee was appointed, consisting of Dr. S. N. Sen, Prof. D. V. Potdar and Mr. S. L. Vaidya for the purpose of determining the cost of calendaring the valuable Marathi records in the possession of Mr. S. L. Vaidya of Poona?

(b) Is it a fact that the Sub-Committee submitted a report at the Udaipur Session of the said Commission in 1944?

(c) If so, what action have Government taken thereon?

(d) If no action is proposed to be taken, have Government any object in or difficulty on financial or political grounds, in not giving effect to the recommendations therein?

(e) Do Government realize the importance and usefulness of making the Daftar available to the public?

(f) If so, will Government be pleased to expedite action on the report of the Sub-Committee, in view of the old age of Mr. S. L. Vaidya?

Sir John Sargent : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) No action was recommended either by the Sub-Committee in its report or by the Research and Publication Committee or the Indian Historical Records Commission in their resolutions on the subject.

(d) As the report made no recommendations at all, the question of giving effect to them does not arise.

(e) Government realise the desirability of preserving manuscript records in private custody and of making them available to research students, and are prepared to consider any scheme submitted to them through the Provincial Government concerned or the Indian Historical Records Commission.

(f) Does not arise.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

LARGE SHIPMENTS TO SOUTH AFRICA.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : Will the Honourable the Commerce Member be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has received any representation from the South African Indian Delegation as to the danger of a large shipment of goods to South Africa within the next month or two, anticipating the termination of trade relations between India and South Africa; if so, what steps he proposes to take to ensure that the effect of the measures adopted by the Government of India to enforce termination of trade relations is not nullified in practice ; and

(b) whether the Government will assure the House that during the period of notice no purchase or export of goods from India to South Africa shall be allowed except to the extent of the monthly average of such purchases and exports in past years ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government have received a representation from the South African Delegation and are fully aware of the position. In fact, even before this question was received, steps were taken to stop excessive exports to South Africa.

Periodical reports of actual exports to South Africa are being received by the Government of India so that, if necessary, any tendency to excessive exports may immediately be checked.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : Does the Honourable Member know that heavy purchases are being made on behalf of South African merchants in India and they have applied for the export of these purchases to the Honourable Member's Department ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I think if any merchant in India wishes to do that, I consider him not a very intelligent class of merchant.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : Will the Honourable Member then assure this House that any export in excess of the average of pre-war years will not be allowed out of this country ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : Certainly. That is the policy. We will not allow anything beyond the usual quantity that has been allowed in the past.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : What will be the basis of calculation to come to the average ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I think a simple arithmetical calculation of the customs offtake from the different ports of India.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : Has the Honourable Member fixed any definite basic years in regard to this export to South Africa ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : So far, we have got reports that it has not gone beyond the quota which we fixed long before this question was taken up.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : When was that quota fixed ? On the basis of which year ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I should like to have notice of that question. I cannot say off hand but it is with regard to a year which we consider fair.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : Was the usual year pre-war or during the war years ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I want notice of that question.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : May I draw the Honourable Member's attention to his answer given on the 12th April in reply to Mr. Jaffer in which he laid a statement on the table, showing the export made from India to Africa to the fact that the export during the war was much higher than it was before the war and that the basis should be fixed with reference to the pre-war years, as is done in the cases of other mercantile dealings ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : In the midst of the war exports were stopped to many countries like Germany and Japan. That would make the average higher for other countries to which exports were allowed. We took a fair average year.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : May I draw the attention of the Honourable Member to the fact that during the month of April in 1945 the exports were extraordinarily higher than in the years from 1939 to 1945 ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : That might be so. That was long before any economic action was contemplated.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Can we be assured of complete co-operation between the Commerce Department, the Commonwealth Relations Department and the Leader of the House in regard to this particular matter in order to see that South Africa is not able to get any sort of undue advantage by playing one department against another ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : That is always better than one can usually see from outside.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

PROPOSED PARTICIPATION ON BEHALF OF INDIA BY NOMINEES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA IN THE PRELIMINARY MEETING FOR CONSIDERATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORLD TRADE AND EMPLOYMENTS

Mr. President : I have received notice of an adjournment motion from Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai who wishes to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely :—

“ Proposed participation on behalf of India by nominees of the present Government of India in the preliminary meeting for consideration of an International Conference on world trade and employment without consulting this House and keeping it in ignorance about their intentions to participate.”

Will the Honourable Member state his facts ?

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai (Ahmedabad Millowners' Association: Indian Commerce): The proposal for this International Conference has been submitted to various Governments by the U.S.A. and U. K., The United Kingdom is taking a keen interest in these proposals because they want to help the industries of highly industrialised countries and this is to the great detriment of backward countries. These proposals are lying with the Government of India for several months. A question was asked on the 3rd April when vague replies were given such as Yes and No and that the matter is under consideration. Then again as the matter is so important to the tariff policy of this country I tried to raise this question by means of a short notice question and the reply was that no short notice question would be allowed. What happens is this. Although they say that the matter is under consideration they have already agreed to join this conference and that comes out from the speech of Mr. Herbert Morrison on the 15th April. This speech came to our hands only yesterday morning in the *Times of India*. In that speech Mr. Herbert Morrison has brought these proposals to the notice of the House of Commons and he has explained what these proposals are and how they would help the Government. In that speech

[Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai]

he has said that the Government of India are going to join this preliminary conference, while on the 3rd we were told that the matter is under discussion and no decision has been taken. Further the U. K. Government is approaching the India Government and other Commonwealth Governments so that they may meet in a preliminary conference in U. K. itself. The matter is very important for the industries of this country because the proposal that has been placed goes absolutely at the root of the tariff policy and the protective policy of the various backward countries. If proper attention is not given in connection with drafting the proposals for the final conference, it would be very dangerous for India. We will be committed to a certain action and the matter is of vital importance to India. I think the House ought to be consulted and there were two opportunities for the Honourable Member. Further last year when the budget discussions were going on the then Finance Member, Sir Jeremy Raisman said in reply to the speech of Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, who asked, at the time of the Bretton Woods Conference, why the Assembly was not consulted, that there was no time to consult. Again when we were asked to decide about joining the Bretton Woods agreement, we were told that there was no time. As Government have always been saying that there has been no time to consult the House, I say there has been enough time. For the last three months the proposals are before the Government of India and various other Governments, and they are consulting their respective legislatures. The Government of India, on the other hand, although an opportunity has come to tell the House what their policy is, what they are going to do to take the confidence of the House, still the Government of India refuse to do it. That is why the matter is very vital and very important and urgent.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Haque (Commerce Member) : I am afraid I can exactly make the same allegations as my Honourable friend has made against me. This proposal for participation in the International Trade conference was announced by the Government of India in December 1945 by a Press statement and the contents of that Press statement are that the Government of India have accepted the invitation of U. S. A. Government to attend a preliminary meeting of certain invitee countries in the spring of 1946 which will consider proposals for expansion of world trade and employment issued to the latter Governments subject to the reservation made by us that the proposals will be treated as a basis of discussion. In other words, in December 1945, when accepting the participation in the discussion, we made it quite clear that we keep an open mind as to what line we should take in this matter in so far as these proposals are concerned. Having done that, later on we received memoranda on that subject and as far as I remember about the end of February or the first week of March, that memoranda has been circulated to all the Chambers of Commerce, to Members of the Consultative Committee of Economists and their opinions are still awaited so that before we can formulate our views, we should be able to know what views the Chambers of Commerce have got. I might say at this stage that the date for this preliminary meeting has not yet been fixed and we have not yet received any invitation as to when this preliminary meeting will be held. What we have made clear in December was that we will participate, but what the participation will be and on what subject and on what basis is a matter on which we are awaiting opinions. Then, Sir, during the budget debate, there was a Cut Motion put in by a leading Front Bench of the Congress party on that very issue, and I took it that if there was any substance in the contention of my Honourable friend Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai, he would have insisted that on a momentous matter like this there should be some discussion. Even during the debate on the Finance Bill, there was no discussion on this subject. Throughout all these stages my Honourable friend kept absolutely silent. In a matter which was brought to the notice of everybody in December 1945 and on which we consulted the Chambers of Commerce, my Honourable friend comes now and tables an adjournment motion. Having regard to the statements I made just now, there is no urgency on this matter. No invitation has yet been received and as such it is a little premature on our part to say anything in reply to a question or in reply to an adjournment motion like this.

Diwan Chaman Lall (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : Sir, may I be permitted to add a word? I think my Honourable friend having been a lawyer of

repute has entirely confused the issue. The issue is not whether in December 1945 a Press Statement was issued or not by the Government, the issue is not that the Government had agreed to join this particular conference. The issue arises out of the question put on the floor of the House when it was asked whether the Government had agreed to join the conference and send their delegates. The answer was that the matter was under consideration. We now learn from the debates in the House of Commons, from the statement made by Mr. Herbert Morrison on the floor of the House of Commons reported in the papers last night that India has not only accepted the invitation, but is joining this preliminary conference.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Haque : I may say that we issued a press statement in December in which we announced that the Government of India would participate in the preliminary conference. Beyond that we know nothing as to the date. No personnel has been selected, none of us know as to how and when that conference is going to be held.

Mr. President : Let me have these questions and answers which seem to be the basis for this Adjournment Motion and which appear to have caused misapprehension on the one part or the other.

Diwan Chaman Lall : It is Starred question No. 1505 put on 3rd April 1946. I shall read the whole question :

"(a) Will the Honourable the Commerce Member please state if the Government of India have received from the Government of the United States of America the 'proposals for the expansion of World Trade and Employment'?"

(b) If so, have they decided on the attitude they are going to adopt on these proposals?

(c) Is it a fact that preparatory to the conference to be called by the Government of the United States of America, it is proposed to hold a conference of the Empire countries in London?

(d) If so, have Government taken any decision regarding their joining such discussion in the United Kingdom? If so, have Government chosen their delegates to the Conferences in the United Kingdom and United States of America?

(e) If not, what is the procedure that Government are going to follow in choosing these delegates to the said two Conferences? What will be the composition of this delegation, and will this House have a decisive voice in determining the same?

(f) Will this House be given an opportunity to discuss the subject? If so, when?"

Sir, the answers given are very laconic. The answers to (a) and (c) are : 'Yes, Sir'. The answer to (b) and (d) : 'No, Sir'. The answer to (e) and (f) : 'These matters are still under consideration'.

In spite of the fact that this question was tabled to be answered at short notice, my Honourable friend did not have the courtesy to accept short notice. It was rejected. In spite of the answers which the Honourable Member gave on 3rd April, what do we find? Last night news comes from the House of Commons that India is joining this preliminary conference.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Haque : I entirely deny that any statement, made in the House of Commons is a matter which must apply to the Government of India. I am getting up here and making this categorical assurance, and I made it clear on 3rd April that we have not so far made up our attitude. I submit one further point that if anything arises out of this question and answer as a subject matter of Adjournment Motion, then between 3rd April and 17th April, long number of days have elapsed and no action has been taken by Honourable Members opposite. I submit no Adjournment Motion can arise now.

Mr. President : I am not clear on one point. I do not understand this negative answer to parts (b) and (d) of the question. Part (b) of the question says :—

"If so, have they decided on the attitude they are going to adopt on those proposals?"

Part (d) of the question says :—

"If so, have Government taken any decision regarding their joining such discussion in the United Kingdom....."

As I understood from the Honourable Member they already decided in December 1945 to join the discussion.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Leader of the House) : Sir, may I intervene and say a few words ? I know there is a great deal of confusion in the country also on this subject. The United States of America some time back issued an invitation to some 15 important industrial countries to join in the discussion with a view to arriving at some sort of trade agreement with those countries bilaterally and if possible on a multilateral basis. This invitation was issued in September last year. When this invitation was issued India was one of the countries that received this invitation from U. S. A. and India accepted that invitation. I may say that most of the other countries which accepted the invitation were already bound by the Mutual Aid Agreement which had been signed between the U. S. A. and each of these countries whereby under Article 7 of that Agreements there was a clause which committed them to a reduction of tariff barriers with a view to promotion of greater international trade. India was not one of those countries which signed the Mutual Aid Agreement and therefore was not bound by that Article. In spite of that India can attend the Conference with—as my Honourable friend stated—an open mind and follow the discussions but not committed in any way even to the extent that the other 13 or 14 countries were committed by the Mutual Aid Agreement. That is the only invitation which the Government of India have so far accepted. Mr. Herbert Morrison in his statement the other day—which I heard on the radio—stated that the Dominions and India had accepted the invitation of the United States to that preliminary Conference of 15 countries. That is a fact that he was stating, because the Government of India by their press communique had already stated in December 1945 that they had accepted it. In addition he said that the Dominions and India were being invited to a preparatory conference which will be held ahead of the scheduled conference with the United States. The time has not yet been fixed and this preparatory conference of the Commonwealth countries may be held a few weeks before the date of the scheduled United States Conference when that date is actually decided. Now invitation for that conference has not yet come to the Government of India and the Government of India have therefore not accepted any such invitation because it has not yet come.

I may also add, to complete the picture, that after the United States had issued these invitations to the 15 countries, the United States felt that the United Nations Organisation of the Economic and Social Council having come into existence, an international trade conference on a world scale should be convened under the auspices of the United Nations and the Economic and Social Council at its last meeting in February at the instance of the United States delegation has agreed to convene a conference of all the countries and has established by itself a preparatory committee composed of 18 nations including India which will study the agenda and the documentation necessary for this international conference. That also is likely to be held in September or so, and it is at the same time that the United States preparatory commission of these 15 countries is also likely to be held.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau : Indian Commerce) : Sir, may I point out the danger from the point of view of this country ?

Mr. President : Order, order. I want to be clear on one point. I was confining myself to the answer and perhaps the Honourable Leader of the House has supplied some explanation about it. The specific question was, "If so" (i.e., if the U. S. A. propose to hold a conference) "have Government taken any decision regarding their joining such discussion in the United Kingdom ?"

The answer was, "No". There seems to be an apparent contradiction.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : This refers to the Commonwealth, as also to attitude.

Mr. President : The question is this : "(c) Is it a fact that preparatory to the conference to be called by the Government of the United States of America, it is proposed to hold a conference of the Empire countries in London ?"

The answer is "Yes". Then—

"(d) If so", i.e., if the U. S. A. propose to hold a conference of the Empire countries—

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : No, the U. S. A. conference is different and the Empire countries conference is different. The latter can only be held on the invitation of the United Kingdom and the U. S. A. has nothing to do with that. To that conference we have not received an invitation yet though we have seen reports in the press that we will get it.

Mr. President : With reference to what was said in December 1945 about acceptance of the invitation, does it not include acceptance of the invitation for the preparatory conference also ?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : That is acceptance of invitation to the preparatory conference organised by the United States of 15 sovereign States some of which are members of the British Commonwealth. The other Empire Conference is quite different ; it is to be confined to the six Dominions of the Commonwealth and India.

Diwan Chaman Lall : You have not accepted that ?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : The invitation has not yet come.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, I will refer to the following statement which appeared in the *Times of India* yesterday :

"Announcing this in the House of Commons on Monday, Mr. Herbert Morrison, Lord President of the Council said that the preliminary negotiations were designed to prepare for a full international conference to be called by the United Nations.

Mr. Morrison said that he understood the invitation, had also been accepted by Canada, Australia, South Africa, India," etc.

This is the preliminary conference called by the United Kingdom.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : No, Sir, that is the United States preliminary conference.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Haque : Sir, may I repeat the press statement ?

"The Government of India have accepted the invitation of the United States Government to attend a preliminary meeting of certain invited countries, but acceptance is subject to the reservation that the proposal will be treated as the basis for discussion."

So it was made clear that the United Kingdom has nothing to do with it, the Empire countries have nothing to do with it ; it is the U. S. A.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, I will again draw attention to this :

"The British Government have accepted the United States invitation to nominate a representative to attend a preliminary meeting for consideration of an international conference on trade and employment."

This conference has been accepted by India.

Mr. Vadilal Lallubhai : Sir, the question is whether they are going to consult this House on the matter. In the past they have been saying that they would consult the House but they had no time to do so. Now the House is in session. Two opportunities were given to the Honourable Member to reply and make a statement and let the House know what they were doing in the last three months, because the proposals are very sinister so far as backward countries are concerned, and still they say they have taken no decision. But we see in the papers that they have accepted the invitation both from the U. S. A. and the United Kingdom.

Mr. President : Mr. Manu Subedar wanted to say something.

Mr. Manu Subedar : What I wanted to say from the point of view of this country is that generally in these international issues there are 40 to 47 countries but there were only 15 picked out for the first preliminary conference and poor India got linked up to their apron-strings, whereas we have an economic life of a very peculiar nature and we are in no position.....

An Honourable Member : That is an argument.

Mr. Manu Subedar : No, it is not so. We are not in a position to have this country committed definitely to economic propositions of the kind which were set out in that preliminary report. Therefore it is very necessary that this country's

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

Government, whoever they are, should be very vigilant and watchful, and not commit themselves. Our unfortunate experience has been that this Government, which is not responsible to this House, have selected hand-picked men to go to these conferences on behalf of India and they have gone and committed themselves to various things. And fears to this extent have been expressed in meetings of businessmen in Chambers of Commerce and elsewhere. This Government had the opportunity and now before we come to a close we want an assurance from this Government that the delegation will be selected by this House and will reflect the views of this House, and that certain things will not be committed to at all even if the delegation goes to such a Conference and the apprehension generally felt in the country will be allayed, and we want a line of action which will satisfy this House. My Honourable friend was saying the other day with regard to tariffs that the whole world is uncertain and we cannot fix our permanent tariffs. If so, how can we go to an organisation which is fixing.....

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs : Muhammadan Urban):

Sir, may I rise on a point of order ?

Mr. President : I think the discussion is not relevant for the purpose of determining its admissibility.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, if my Honourable friend has not come to a decision regarding the delegates to be appointed to this conference, may I know whether he is prepared to consult the Standing Committee before he takes any such action ?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I may say, because that point was raised.....

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : Sir, may I rise again to a point of order ? Honourable members cannot speak six times on one motion. I seek your guidance on the matter. When to seek permission to move an adjournment motion can be discussed as we have done and all kinds of arguments given there is no fun in having an adjournment motion at all. The mover should give the grounds for the motion, then a reply from the Government side and then your judgment. That should be the rule normally.

Mr. President : Ordinarily that should be the rule I quite agree, but it seems there had been, as was just seen in this instance, a misapprehension as regards the proper facts, and I have been trying to get the facts, elucidated. In fact, the laconic answers given—yes or no—have created a confusion as to which invitation was accepted and which was not accepted. When the Honourable Member read the replies and the questions, I was wondering as to how the Government could answer in the negative when a particular declaration was made by them in December 1945. So it was for the purposes of clarification that I wanted to have more information, and it is not a sort of debate at all. It is the importance of the question which is stressed by certain Members.

Now, I believe, a request is made soliciting information, just to enable the Member to decide, without having the ruling of the Chair, as to whether he should press his motion or not. That is the point.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I was going to say that unfortunately during this debate.....

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : I rise again to a point of order. How many times will the Honourable Member speak ?

Mr. President : He was interrupted by the Honourable Member's point of order.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi : This is the sixth time the Honourable Member is going to speak on this subject.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I will not get up to reply if I am not asked a question.

Sir, there has been a certain amount of assumption in this matter. An invitation came on behalf of the American Government through the Commissioner of the United States of America in India to the Government of India and the reply went from us to the United States of America through the usual channel to the effect that

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we propose to attend the meeting but it does not imply the acceptance of the proposal.

As regards the question as to why steps were not taken, my answer is that we have taken all steps, namely that we have consulted all the Chambers of Commerce ; we have consulted about 50.....

Mr. President : That is not necessary.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : But, Sir, it is very difficult to answer off hand because it is premature for me to say whether that invitation will be received or not.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal : European) : On this side of the House we have been for some fifteen or twenty minutes past not been following the Honourable the Commerce Member's vehement but quite inaudible oratory. May I request you Sir, to tell us which Preliminary Conference the House is now discussing—the United Kingdom or the U. S. A. ? We still do not know, on these particular Benches what the House is discussing.

Mr. President : It is the United Kingdom Preliminary Conference to which they have not yet received the invitation, and therefore that invitation has not been accepted by them. The answer to the question put perhaps raised a doubt that they had received invitation for that very conference and yet the reply was in the negative. That has been cleared by the Honourable the Leader of the House and the Honourable the Commerce Member. I believe the point is clear to the Honourable Members now. And now the only question put is as to whether the Honourable Member will consult the Standing Committee before he finally decides his attitude.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : That has not yet been decided.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Sir, it is a very important matter.....

Mr. President : Order, order. I see from the facts as have been disclosed that, as the question was answered categorically, there seems to be some misapprehension as regards facts. The matter is no doubt important, but as the invitation has not yet been received, I think it will be premature to take this up as an adjournment motion. I do not think, therefore, that it would be proper to allow this adjournment motion.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF SEVENTH LABOUR CONFERENCE

Mr. S. C. Joshi (Government of India : Nominated Official) : Sir, I lay on the table a copy of the Summary* of Proceedings of the Seventh Labour Conference held at New Delhi on the 27th and 28th November 1945.

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PRESENTATION OF THE SECOND INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member) : Sir, I present the second interim report† of the committee on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements.

With your permission I would like to explain that I am also tabling a motion to ask the House tomorrow to approve the Report. It is a unanimous report and is not controversial and will not take up much time of the House.

* Not printed in these debates. Copies placed in the Library.—Ed. of D.

† Report printed as Appendix to these Debates.

MOTOR VEHICLES (AMENDMENT) BILL.—*contd.*

Mr. President: Now we proceed with the consideration of the motion moved by the Honourable Sir Edward Benthall to refer the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, to a Select Committee.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall (Member for Railways and War Transport): Sir, when the House rose last night I had just been giving the reasons for introducing the Bill and referring it to a Select Committee. In my opening remarks I had observed that there were three main reasons for introducing the Bill and they were, firstly, the object of effecting improvements in order to meet the changing conditions brought about by developments in the organisation of road transport and secondly, to effect improvements in the Act the desirability of which had been drawn to our attention by various official and non-official bodies. The third reason which prompted us to suggest these amendments was the desirability of introducing certain amendments as a result of the increasing appreciation of the need for co-ordination between road and rail. The third reason is in no way dependent upon any financial participation by the Railways in road transport companies. The position is that Provincial Governments must now consider what their policy is to be, keeping in view what has happened in the past and what they desire to happen in the future. They may decide on provincial ownership of transport, or they may decide upon joint ownership between the provinces and the Railways, or they may decide upon tripartite ownership, or they may decide upon soundly organised road transport companies. But one thing, I hope, they will not decide upon is the continuance of the chaotic conditions which persisted in the past, the governing principle of which was the allowance of fierce cut-throat competition between the individual operators and between the operators and the Railways. The amendments which we are proposing in this Bill provide the next step towards a co-ordinated system of inland transport and the House will observe that we have provided an enabling provision to include representation of river steamers also in Bihar, Bengal and Assam on the Provincial Transport Authority. I trust that all the hard work that has been put into this question of road-rail co-ordination will not be wasted and I am convinced it will not be. But whatever may be the decision of Provincial Governments, some sort of co-ordination is necessary and the amendments which we have introduced in the Bill in clause 28, 29, 31, 38 and so on are, I believe, a valuable contribution to this end. I am sure they will have the careful scrutiny of the Select Committee. It may be observed that no provisions have been made to enable Provincial Governments to embark on provincial nationalization if they wish to do so. At one time we thought that it was desirable to introduce such measures into this Bill, but we decided after consideration that a matter of such far-reaching importance was one which the provinces themselves ought to decide in view of its importance to the provinces, and also to the existing owners. We therefore thought it better to leave this legislation to the Provincial Governments and Provincial Legislatures, and we do not wish to prejudice any decisions on their part. The Provincial Governments were advised of this and no objections were raised about it.

I should say something about Chapter VIII of the Act which deals with compulsory third party insurance. That portion of the Act is being brought into force in July of this year. We have of course no experience of the working of this chapter of the Act and therefore we cannot suggest any amendments based on experience. There is also another point in connection with this Chapter of the Act. Compulsory third party insurance in British India raises important and complicated questions with those States who wish to enforce compulsory insurance on a basis of reciprocity. We have had prolonged discussions with the Political Department, there has been a conference attended by a majority of the States that are interested and it has transpired as a result of these discussions that the legal complications are very considerable. The advice of our legal authorities is therefore that we should not attempt to amend

Chapter VIII of the Act just at present, and it is proposed at some suitable time when the legal position has been clarified, and possibly when we have had some experience of the operation of this chapter of the Act to introduce a separate Bill as and when it seems desirable to do so.

Now, Sir, there remains the question to which I referred last night: whether it is desirable to refer this Bill to a Select Committee, or whether it is better to circulate it for further opinion. This Bill is the result of prolonged discussion between my Department under Sir Kenneth Mitchell, who has put in a very great deal of hard work on this subject, and whose services we are shortly going to lose, and the Provincial Governments and the Transport Advisory Council. As a result of all these discussions we reached a large measure of agreement and eventually circulated a draft Bill at the end of last year. In circulating that Bill we asked the Provincial Governments to obtain the views of those interested, in particular the views of associations of road transport operators and also the views of users of motor vehicles. In addition to asking Provincial Governments to obtain these views and report them to us, we also had 217 representations on different points from seventeen non-official bodies which include references from Bus Syndicates, Motor Industries Associations, Automobile Associations, the Indian Road Transport and Development Association, Motor Union Congress, Motor Operators Council and various Chambers of Commerce. We could have, I think, wished for more views from the public, that is to say from, the user of road transport. I admit that owing to the desirability of getting on with some measure and the shortage of time, this Bill has perhaps not had the fullest circulation that some Honourable Members would like in spite of the large amount of work put into it by the Provincial Governments. In view of that we have already asked Provincial Governments to forward to us the views of any organizations of transport users or transport operators who have not had time to submit their full views. We said that when we received those views we would put them before the Select Committee if and when it was appointed. We now propose, as I mentioned last night, that we should go further than that and we should circulate the Bill departmentally to organizations likely to be interested and we should call for representations in reply by, I suggest, June 15th. I think when this Bill is circulated again with the ample notes on clauses which we have provided, it will clarify a number of points which have not been hitherto perhaps quite clear to everybody who has taken an interest in the Bill.

The objections which have been raised to the Bill are largely concerning Chapter IV, that is the control of transport vehicles. That is naturally because no operator likes control but the clauses, I think it will be found, are designed in the public interest and I hope that after examination in Select Committee and by the public, the interest of the public will prevail.

There has been a certain amount of objection to clause 24 which amends Section 38 of the Act so as to produce the maximum and the minimum limits of a certificate of fitness to a period of one year and three months respectively. Clause 39(2)(c) also has drawn a certain amount of criticism. That is the clause which enables Provincial Governments to appoint a single official to grant permits for a public carrier. That, Sir, was introduced because it was found by experience in the United Kingdom and elsewhere that such a provision is desirable, but the point was raised on the Standing Roads Committee to whom I pointed out that there would be ample opportunity when the Bill came before the Select Committee to argue this out thoroughly and we shall be pleased to put forward in detail the arguments for and against such a proposal.

In asking the House to refer this to a Select Committee instead of circulating it, I think we are not asking the House to commit itself to any new principle except the broad principle of road-rail co-ordination. I think everybody agrees that there must be co-ordination between road and rail. But I should like to make it clear that agreeing to a reference of this Bill to a Select Committee does not commit anybody any more than to the broad principle of co-ordination. It certainly does not commit anybody to the policy which has been already rejected by the House, that is to say of financial participation by the railways in road companies.

[Sir Edward Benthall]

So I think there is no new principle to which the House is not generally agreed in this Bill and that being so, our proposal is that we should circulate the Bill departmentally to all those likely to be interested and that we should ask for considered opinions by, I suggest, June 15th, though I am not in any way bound to a particular date. When we get the opinions, I suggest that we should print them up and place them before the Select Committee and that the Committee should sit about a fortnight after that, as soon as the papers have been read, say the beginning of July. There will then obviously have to be very considerable discussion in the Select Committee and provision has been made that discussions should take place in Simla. I hope I have made clear what Government have in mind. My Honourable friends opposite will appreciate that we are trying to meet the wishes of the House to have further circulation and at the same time our own desire that a Select Committee should be appointed to consider the whole matter.

Finally, with your permission, Sir, I should like to substitute the name of Mr. D. R. Rutnam in the place of Mr. A. T. Naqvi in the list of names for the Select Committee.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor Non-Muhammadian): And add the name of Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no objection.

Mr. President: Do I add the name of Mr. Saksena also?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Yes, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Yesterday, my Honourable friend made the motion and I also moved my amendment for circulation. We agreed that after he finished his speech I should speak.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan (Agra Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Honourable the War Transport Member has explained many things which probably met the point of view of this side of the House. The chief objection to reference of a Bill of this nature to the Select Committee was that if the House accepts that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, then the House stands committed to the principle underlying the Bill and there are certain provisions which probably may not be acceptable to the House and the Select Committee will find itself in great difficulty when those provisions come before it, because on one side is the verdict of the House rejecting the demand for Rs. 3,47,00,000 on account of road-rail co-ordination and on the other hand there will be the Bill which may be contradictory to that policy. Then the position of the Select Committee will become rather difficult not knowing which to accept and which to reject. Now that the Honourable Member has explained that the Select Committee will not be bound really to accept those principles which are contrary to the previous verdict which had been given by the House by rejecting the road-rail co-ordination scheme for which Rs. 3,47,00,000 were asked for, it has simplified the matter a great deal. Because once I give my vote on one principle and give my vote on the second contradictory principle, then I find myself in a hopeless position when I go into the Select Committee. Now that this position has been clarified I think it will simplify the matter to a great extent.

Another thing which I was fearing and this side of the House was fearing was that though the Bill had been circulated, the views of the persons whose views ought to have been taken were not properly taken. And now the circumstances have changed in two respects. Firstly, in most of the Provinces popular Governments have begun to work. Formerly we had Governments under Section 93 and in those cases the Government's view was the view of one person who was appointed by the Government to conduct the Department concerned on their behalf and whatever he wrote was considered to be the view of the Government, whether anybody agreed with it or not. Now it will be the views of the ministers that will be taken and the ministers will be guided by the views of their constituents. The ministers will be asked to give the views

which will be beneficial to his Province and to his constituents. Formerly it was ignored and the views which we have got at present in our possession are the views which had not taken into consideration whether a person was going to benefit or to lose. This House has laid down the principle that it is not willing to accept any proposition which may absolutely nullify or reduce the capital of the poor people. The scheme which we had before us envisaged that the capital of the people who were going to be affected was going to be reduced practically to a very small sum. Now the views of these people, after the debate, are bound to be taken and I would ask my Honourable friend when he circulates the Bill for eliciting opinion thereon that he should give direction to the local Governments that they should not confine themselves to obtaining the views of certain persons only but the views must be obtained from every district in every Province, where there are associations of bus owners, because they are the people who are going to be most affected and it is for the benefit of those people as well as of the travelling public that we are going to legislate. We can speak on behalf of the travelling public but we cannot call ourselves representatives of the people who provide the conveyance for the travelling public and their views are essential in order to come to a proper conclusion. We should not make a law which may affect one adversely while benefiting the other section. Our law should be based on equity, on the principle that we do not disturb the vested interests very quickly, the interests which are at present very valuable to those poor people who have invested all their wealth in the shape of these conveyances. This is one essential principle which should be borne in mind by my Honourable friend and he should give specific directions that if those opinions do not come from the districts or if they have not been asked for they will not be acceptable to the Select Committee. We are agreeable to refer the Bill to the Select Committee only on this condition that the opinions of these people are also invited and not only merely within the two months which we have got before us the opinions of the high officials are obtained which will not satisfy us. But we want to know what the poorer section of the people who are really going to be affected think of this law and how in their experience of day to day they suffer. We want to know what provisions we can make in the law which may reduce to the minimum the difficulties which they are experiencing, and how those provisions can benefit the travelling public also. This opinion is essential. I think I cannot call myself competent to legislate or to make any provision unless I am in full possession of the views of all sections of the society, whose opinions were not obtained in the past. They are essential. If this is done, I think the Select Committee will be able to do justice to the task which is going to be entrusted to them. Without this I think we will not be able to discharge our duty properly.

Sir, I think one more matter which is essential is that the Select Committee, when they meet to go through the law, must of course take into consideration that there is likelihood of a certain kind of co-ordination coming in the future. But it should not be laid down by a strict rule of this kind as we may find ourselves bound down to one kind of principle. The law must be elastic and must be capable of being changed as the circumstances change. Of course, the Select Committee will take good care about this. Although we have rejected 3 crore and 47 lakhs of rupees, if the Provincial Governments find some kind of scheme which may be essential, then our law must be so elastic that it may come into existence. Sir, I think we cannot legislate in a manner that the law may be enforced very soon or at once, affecting the people, who ought to be given due chance and due time before being affected. Therefore, I think this point will meet us, that the Bill is referred to the Select Committee on these conditions, as I have said, that we will not be bound strictly by the principles which have been laid down and that the Committee will be able to alter the principle of the Bill also.

With these words I support the suggestion that the Bill be circulated to elicit opinion by the 15th of June.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I understood my Honourable friend differently from what the Honourable Member, the Deputy President, has said just now. What the mover wanted was that immediate reference to the Select Committee ought to be made and that departmentally opinions may be gathered by the 15th of June.

Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan: What I meant was that the Bill be referred to the Select Committee on the condition that departmentally the opinions are obtained by the 15th of June.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: In view of this I beg to withdraw my motion for eliciting opinion. I am satisfied with the assurance given by my Honourable friend that departmentally the same opinion would be gathered as in the ordinary course. I would like to say a few words on the Bill itself.

The Act was passed in 1939 and has come into force from that time, barring Chapter VIII relating to insurance. In many matters the proposed Bill seeks to interfere with various clauses in the original Act. Many of them are formal except a few which are controversial. I welcome many portions in the Bill which are an improvement on the old Act. But as regards the controversial portion I will have my say presently. Any Act regulating motor traffic or road transport services in the country must address itself to three or four considerations. First of all, I would place safety first, even before any proper service. In recent years, during the period of the war, for five years, all the accidents have occurred on account of young people not trained in the art being given licences by the Central Government. Military men caused a lot of havoc in the country. Military lorries ran over a number of persons on roads in all Presidency towns and wherever there was congestion. Young men who had not been given sufficient training, even for three or four months, and who had been given licences, were responsible for a number of accidents. When the Central Government is the owner of any vehicle, to that extent the licence need not be given by the Transport or Licensing authority. The Central Government may itself do so. The Central Government unfortunately did not appoint sufficiently good men to examine the various cases where licences are requested by drivers, and to examine even with respect to lorries whether they were in good condition or not. I would like the Select Committee to place further restrictions, having regard to the manner in which the Central Government has exercised the privilege of licensing its own drivers and permitting vehicles. Safety has been thrown to the winds. Personally I know of a case where a young soldier was driving a car. It was dashing at the speed of an aeroplane. I heard it from a distance. It was a small street in a small town where a number of children were playing. I went to him and requested him not to drive so fast. I do not know wherefrom he came and where he was going. He would not even pause to give an answer. He said "I will have nothing to do with that" and drove faster. If I had carried it further during the period of the war, having regard to my political affiliation, I would have had to undergo incarceration for another period of three years. But now peace has come. Let us avoid these accidents. Safety should come first. As it is, the man in charge of a vehicle wants the whole road. If there is an old woman or a child on the road, they must give way to him, immediately he horns. If there is a double bullock cart on the road laden with heavy goods, in a trice the bulls must come under control when he horns. They may be in a precipice. He would not wait. These are the ways in which these people have played with motor vehicles. But I am surprised at one thing. And it is exactly because my Honourable friend does not have the experience that we have in the mofussil. My Honourable friend has increased the speed limit. He said: "Improvements have been made in the mechanism and therefore we are no longer wedded to the 30, 20 and 6 miles limits. Let us therefore increase it to 35 miles" and so on. There is danger ahead. Even as it is, these people are driving recklessly. Every motor should have a speedometer, not for the purpose of finding out whether the speed limit is kept or exceeded. But some mechanism must be devised by which it must

be impossible for any vehicle to be driven at a higher speed than that which is authorised by the Traffic Licensing authority. Some such mechanism ought to be provided in every vehicle. With respect to private owned motor vehicles there is no question of speed limit. If the private owner does not run it for hire and uses it for himself, then there is no speed limit either under the old Act or the present one. Such people are dangerous. Why should there be no speed limit for them? I would say there ought to be in every motor vehicle, plying anywhere, either by private owners or a stage carriage or a goods vehicle, some maximum speed limit: 30 must be the maximum and there should be automatic mechanism which would prevent the driver from exceeding the speed allowed for that vehicle; and this ought to be enforced strictly. I would therefore place safety regulations first and foremost.

Then there is the question of exemption in the case of those drivers who are expected to drive heavy vehicles, in respect of light vehicles or vehicles for invalids. I say that any person who is in charge of a vehicle ought to be an expert. There should be no exception because whether he drives slowly or fast, he must be able to apply the brake suddenly. Various situations may arise and therefore any vehicle of this kind ought to be placed only in the hands of experts, and there ought to be no exemption regarding the capacity or the quality of experience that is expected of drivers or their skill in driving.

Now whenever an accident occurs, it is expected that the driver will report that accident to the nearest police station. But where a motor vehicle refuses to run on account of any defect in the mechanism itself, and stops on the way for an hour or two, that matter also must be reported to the police station, for this reason: if these things are not reported then and there, it is once a year or so that these vehicles are tested. If these vehicles are tested only once a year or once in three months even, these defects may be covered up; and unless timely intimation of these defects are given to the police authorities near at hand and they make a catalogue of the defects from time to time, proper investigation of these vehicles cannot be made. I know that the persons who are supposed to make these investigations and issue certificates are the Superintendents of Police who are busy with their own police work in the district and have little time or no time at all to attend to these things. They get into these vehicles and ask the persons in charge to drive for ten or fifteen minutes and then certify it is all right. Such practices ought to be given up.

I now come to the next item—services. There ought to be certainty and there ought to be regularity. We wait and wait for hours together on the road, expecting to catch the bus, but the bus never turns up. There is no punishment or penalty imposed upon the driver for not driving the vehicle to time: his excuse is the machine would not move, though he may be himself at fault, he may have other business, and he goes at his sweet will and pleasure. There is a provision that is sought to be made that the owner of a vehicle who has got a transport permit must have other vehicles also, so that if one or two vehicles are unable to move, there must be others in their stead so that the service may not be interrupted. Every person who wants to run a service on the road must be made to maintain a fleet of vehicles so that the service may not be discontinuous and there may be certainty and regularity. As regards reasonable fares, no doubt the provision is useful; but it is only after we get into the buses that we find we have to pay twice or thrice as much—he does not give receipts, and sometimes he gives receipts for the higher fare that is exacted

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): Nationalisation will make it worse!

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: On the contrary, we will have much better men then. Perhaps in your country it may not be so; but in this country I feel that things will be better. My friend is trying to draw me away from the road transport—I will not yield. But whether we have nationalisation or otherwise, there must be inspectors on the road appointed by the Government or by the local authorities to check and inspect and supervise; and they must be allowed to get into these buses while in transit, and find out whether tickets have been given, whether the speed is more than it ought to be,

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar] whether proper fares are charged, whether a larger number travel than are allowed to, and about other inconveniences to passengers, etc. These are wanting in the Bill. They may collect excess tax from these bus owners if necessary

Mr. President: I believe the Honourable Member wants to speak for some time more. He can 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.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: When the House rose for Lunch, I was referring to considerations of safety and service in relation to motor transport.

A third point of equal importance is the co-ordination between various forms of transport. In the Act of 1939 there have been provisions to regulate road and rail transport. I find now a change in keeping with the times. Inland navigation is also taken up along with road and rail for co-ordination purposes. Now, Air service is coming in and other provisions may be necessary to avoid unnecessary and cut throat competition.

In the matter of co-ordinating all forms of transport the efficiency of service and healthy competition are factors which ought not to be forgotten. Under the guise of avoiding competition, a monopoly in favour of rail transport ought not to be given. With the best of management, rail transport is not up to the mark. It does not give the passenger all the conveniences he wishes to have. Railway transport is considered to be a commercial business. The passenger is the person who pays, but from the time he enters the station up to the time he emerges out of the station at the other end he feels as though he is in prison. In the matter of purchasing tickets, getting into the train, sitting comfortably in the train, getting down at a station where the train stops only for half a minute or a minute, in all these respects he is put to great inconvenience and if the monopoly of the railways were not there, passengers would avoid the rail and get into other forms of transport.

So far as goods services are concerned, there is no guarantee that the goods will reach safely. Pilfering goes on all the time and from the porter to the station master and the Inspector everybody gets his share of the commission. I am against buttressing this form of monopoly and this form of service, with all respect to my Honourable friend. On the other hand, there should be healthy rivalry between these forms of transport and cut throat competition ought to be avoided.

I am at one with my Honourable friend in the matter of making proper arrangements in regard to rates and fares in road transport but he ought not to take advantage of it to stifle road transport and bring it within his clutches, so that he can play ducks and drakes with road transport as they have been doing with the railway system today. Railways are not yet properly managed. I am not casting aspersions on X, Y or Z but the Railways as a whole cannot take pride in the way they are doing things now.

As regards the provisions which are sought to be included in this Bill to avoid unhealthy competition and to encourage co-ordination between these services, I agree that where there are roads parallel to the railways, the motor vehicles ought not to be allowed to ply at lower rates and thus make it impossible for the Railways to cater to the needs of the public. I know many cases where unhealthy competition is prevailing. Private owners of buses and driver owners undercut in such a way that it is impossible for the Railway Administration to reduce their fares and in spite of the efficient working in particular lines, railways are unable to compete with the road transport service. In those cases where there are parallel roads, the railway traffic ought to be protected. Wherever there are not, there road transport ought to be encouraged and inducements ought to be given and I feel that some more stringent provisions should be made in the Act itself to avoid long distance passengers and goods traffic.

A driver owning a lorry carries goods for over 300 miles when the goods can be carried conveniently on the railways. He is also carrying at cheaper rates making it impossible for the railways to have sufficient traffic along that particular route. This ought to be avoided. As regards passenger traffic, 50 miles ought to be the limit. When a passenger has travelled 50 miles in a bus, he feels exhausted and feels like a man who has been two days in a train. In their own interests, the passengers must be protected against travelling beyond 50 miles in any bus. So far as goods are concerned, 150 miles ought to be the maximum over which goods should be allowed from one place to another in a bus or lorry. It is here that unhealthy competition with railways comes in.

When we are willing to go so far, my Honourable friend wants to create a kind of dictatorship in the various Provinces by introducing a new provision here and superimposing or creating a substitute for the provincial transport authority. In each Province there is a Provincial Transport Authority. Under the Act of 1939, the Provincial Government may bring into existence a Provincial Transport Authority and also subsidiary transport authorities called Regional Authorities exercising jurisdiction over areas which are not less than a district. Under the Bill hitherto they have been doing good work. They have been holding the scales even between the railways on the one side and the road operators on the other side. My Honourable friend with a view to emphasizing the interests of the rail as against the road has now created a new person called Provincial Road or Transport Commissioner and he is trying to clothe him with all the powers which a Provincial Transport Authority has been exercising. He will be a Government servant whereas the Transport Authority might be representative of various interests. It is improper, unwise and it will stifle the road transport service if all the powers are vested in a commissioner who is to be appointed. I am against that provision. My Honourable friends from the Central Provinces have complained bitterly how this commissioner who was appointed in the place of the Provincial Transport Authority has abused all his powers in the Central Provinces and it is on account of that that we were obliged to throw overboard the scheme which my friend put before this House for financial assistance to road transport companies and financial participation by the Government of India in road transport service. That instance of the Central Provinces has created a lot of misunderstanding about this matter. It is the way in which the Provincial Commissioner superseded the Provincial Transport Authority in the Central Provinces that made us think twice and thrice before we accepted this plan. I would request my Honourable friend to see in the Select Committee that the provision relating to the appointment of a Commissioner is deleted. The clause relating to the appointment of a Provincial Transport Commissioner superseding in some cases the Transport Authority ought not to be allowed to continue in the Bill and it ought to be removed in the interest of the safety of Road transport service. There is another provision. Hitherto persons interested in road transport have not been allowed to be Members of either the Provincial Transport Authority or the Regional Authority because permits have to be given and their cases have to be judged by the authority. If the road operator is himself a member of the Transport Authority, he has to judge his own case. He has to prosecute himself, he is to be the judge of his own case. That is the reason why in the 1939 Act in the Provincial Transport Authority representation of persons who are interested in transport service were not allowed. Now this Bill aims at deviating from that position, which was the only safeguard we had. If representation is given to such persons who have interest, when their case comes up before the Provincial Authority they ought not to be allowed to vote. This reminds me of a case before the Federal Public Services Commission. A relative of a Member of the Federal Public Service Commission applied for a certain job. When the applications came to be considered by the Commission, the Member went out saying that he was interested in the matter and therefore he would not like to sit on the Board of Selection. I do not know if other Members of the Board of Selection would not have taken this as a hint to get that applicant passed, although the Member himself had got out of the group. This might be an inducement for them to vote in favour of the selection of the candidate.

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

Similarly, Sir, there are these difficulties. If they know that a Member who sits with them in the Provincial Transport Authority is interested in a particular matter, and though technically he might get out or he might not vote, yet that will be an inducement to his colleagues to vote in his favour. Therefore, Sir, it is not right or proper to clothe him with this authority or to make him a member of the Transport Authority.

Another point which I wish to stress is this. There must be equal representation for road operators and rail operators in that Transport Authority, if road and rail are allowed representation on this Board. My own feeling is that neither the road nor the rail need be allowed to have its own representatives on the Board. They may be advisers. Their advice is always taken by an independent authority. There is the Provincial Government, there is the Local Board interested in road service. Before these Boards the road operators and rail operators may place their case. There is already provision there. I do not think it is right that the road operators or the rail operators should sit as Members of the Provincial Transport Authority or Regional Authority. If, however, it is thought desirable to have one or two and equal representation is given to road and rail operators, then I would say, Sir, that labour, which is much in evidence in this service and which contributes to the efficiency of service, must also be given representation on the Provincial Transport Authority as well as the Regional Transport Authority. Labour—such as conductors, drivers, cleaners and so on, ought to be allowed a seat there.

The next point is this. Under the Act permit can be granted for periods extending from three to five years. In the Bill it is sought to increase the upper limit of five years to ten years. The reason is this. That it might be an inducement for any person to invest in a large number of buses. If he is given permit for a sufficiently long number of years, he might run an efficient service and he may not be in a hurry to make as much money out of it as possible much to the disadvantage of passengers and curtailing their conveniences. No doubt that is an argument in favour of the long term permit. But my Honourable friend must look at the other side. Ordinarily a motor vehicle which is purchased new has a life of five years. After that period, it will not be able to give efficient service. Even if it is in running condition, its utility goes down considerably. Therefore, five years is a sufficiently long period for any person to undertake this service. There is a clause already in the Bill which says that preference shall be given for renewal of permits to persons who apply for permits anew. I therefore submit that ten years upper limit ought not to be placed there.

I now come to another section with respect to which attention has not been bestowed, that is labour. I must acknowledge, however, one fact, that is that the Honourable Member has introduced one wholesome provision, that is he had reduced the hours of work from 54 to 48. To that extent this provision is good. In addition to safeguarding the interests of labour—conductors, drivers, cleaners and others who run the transport service,—there must be some provision here which will give fixity of tenure of service to the labourers. There must be provident fund for them. Something ought to be done for them. Motor transport service is becoming a huge service. We must take interest not in the road operators who are the middlemen between the general public and the persons who work, that is, labour. Therefore, let not the road operators walk away with enormous profits that they get. Let them distribute a portion for labour welfare, let them make the tenure of labour fixed. One other matter which I should like the Select Committee to consider in favour of labour. There is now third party insurance risk in Chapter VIII. Third party lives are protected by way of insurance, so that in case of accident, monies can be easily paid for them. But so far as the employees are concerned, I am speaking subject to correction, the employees who run this service are the people who suffer the most in case there is an accident. The driver, the conductor and the cleaner

suffer the most. There is no provision in the Bill or in the Act which insures their lives. A valuable, though dangerous, asset is placed in their hands and if they meet with an accident, they must be insured against it. Some provision must be made for the welfare of the wives and children of labour in motor transport. I should like the Honourable Member to tell the House what steps he has taken so far as the Insurance Chapter is concerned to bring it into operation. The original Act was passed in 1939 and it took four years for bringing this Chapter into operation. The provision relating to third party risks has been extended from 1943 to 1946. So, after seven years of the passing of the Act this provision comes into operation for the first time from 1st July 1946. Third party insurance may be done either by private companies or by co-operative cum insurance basis composed of various road operators. What steps have been taken by the Government to bring into existence co-operative insurance amongst road operators themselves? Have any steps been taken relating to the provision of co-operative insurance, particularly in the Act so that the road operators may derive the full benefit and risks will be evenly distributed amongst all the road operators. The intention in making provision for co-operative insurance is that no third party may take advantage of this Act, no middleman would take advantage of the profits, but that Government should help the road operators to organise themselves into various co-operative insurance societies. I pause for an answer from my Honourable friend.

Next as regards the collection of opinions, I request the Honourable Member to communicate with the new popular Ministries that would soon begin to function in various Provinces. It is better we take their advice. I did not hear my Honourable friend saying that they would be consulted. I am sure the popular Governments will be consulted and their opinions made available to the Select Committee. I am sure my Honourable friend will consult all the other agencies, if the circulation motion is carried, and their opinions may be taken by the Legislative Assembly Department and placed before the Select Committee so as to enable them to come to right conclusions in this matter during the Select Committee stage.

Sir, I support the motion for Select Committee and I withdraw the motion for circulation.

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel (Bengal: European): Sir, as I understand the position, by accepting the motion for reference to Select Committee we are accepting no more than the principle that there should be some form of co-ordination between road transport and other forms of transport. We are prepared to accept the motion on that basis. Had that not been the basis we should certainly have more to say about the various clauses of the Bill some of which appear to us to go dangerously far. Clause 28, for instance, eliminates the very significant phrase, "after having heard the representatives of the interests affected." That right to be heard is a very important principle, and we shall certainly want to know in Select Committee the reasons why that should be removed. I only wish to say at this stage that the Honourable Member will refer to the fact that he has given an undertaking that he will circulate this Bill for opinion departmentally. I understand that there are precedents for this procedure, but it appears to us that the public at large will have difficulty in knowing exactly how the matter stands. The Honourable Member only told us that he will refer to the Select Committee the opinions that he will receive on this new circulation about a week before the Select Committee meets. I ask the Honourable Member to consider extending that period. It is extremely difficult for members of Standing Committees or Select Committees to master the subject when papers reach them at the last minute. This is a matter of great interest to the smaller interests engaged in transport, and it is of great importance, in our view, that the opinions expressed on this Bill should be placed in the hands of the Select Committee, since they could not be placed before the House, at an adequate time so as to allow us time to weigh them.

[Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel]

up and assess the whole position. I hope the Honourable Member will find it possible to enlarge on what he said on this subject and give us more time.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: How much more time would the Honourable Member like to have?

Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel: I should say, a minimum of three weeks.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha (Darbhanga cum Saran: Non-Muhammadan): Sir, I propose that the name of Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar be also added to the Select Committee.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I have no objection; I do not know if the other parties will agree.

Sir, I may say that I was extremely interested in the speech of my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar speaking, I understand, for his party, because I found him referring to many points which I think have frequently escaped notice in these debates and which we regard as being of the greatest importance. He stressed, for instance, the importance of safety and of service. These are points which all too often are forgotten when the problem of road transport is under discussion. I particularly welcome the stress he has laid on those points, and which of course it is the intention of the Act and of the Bill to meet. Generally speaking, I found his comments altogether very constructive and helpful; and where I differ—and I differ in a number of respects—I entirely respect the grounds on which he differs. He raised a number of points which we have already threshed out to a considerable degree with the Provincial Governments and we have come to one conclusion while he comes to another. But the conclusions which he holds to are perfectly legitimate conclusions which we shall welcome an opportunity to thresh out in the Select Committee. For instance, with regard to clause 29, amending section 44 of the Act, he took exception to the suggestion for a Provincial Transport Commissioner. I understand that none of the statutory powers of the Provincial Transport Authority will be given to such a Provincial Transport Commissioner. There is also the kindred question in clause 29 (2C) where it is suggested that the Provincial Government may be enabled to appoint a single officer for dealing with licenses for permits for public carriers. These are points on which we shall welcome discussion in Select Committee.

My Honourable friend laid considerable stress on the desirability of certainty and regularity and emphasised the need for penalties. In clause 32 (xviii) he will find certain provisions which will go a long way to meet what he desires.

On his point on labour I think I am correct in saying that road transport labour comes under the Workmen's Compensation Act, and I believe we have already circularised model rules to the Provinces to cover that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore: Non-Muhammadan Rural): What about provident fund for workers?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: I am not aware of anything special in the nature of provident fund regulations, but the point has been noted in my Honourable friend's remarks. Everything that he has said will be carefully looked into with a view to discussion in Select Committee.

He asked why Chapter VIII had not been brought in before. The reasons are purely the intervention of the war. I remember a discussion on the Transport Advisory Council in which the matter was raised, and to the best of my recollection it was decided that under the pressure of the war it was simply not possible to get the staff to draw up rules or get insurance companies to take the necessary action to get prepared for the introduction of this chapter.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I wanted to know if any steps have been taken by Government to inaugurate or establish co-operative insurance societies for the road operators.

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: Not so far as I am aware. I will see what there is in that suggestion; I have not given my mind to it at all and I am not aware that any action has been taken.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Still there is time. Instead of throwing them to the ordinary insurers will the Honourable Member and Government try to take steps to start co-operative insurance companies?

The Honourable Sir Edward Benthall: The Honourable Member is asking for an answer on a subject to which I have not given any consideration at all. But, as I have said, the point he has raised will be looked into. He made another point that on the Provincial Transport Authority there should not be representatives of road, rail and river. We came to the conclusion that their presence on this Body would be extremely useful for the purpose of getting all points of view, but where their interests are involved, they would have no vote. My Honourable friend suggested that that might be done by calling in advisers. There is room for difference of opinion. When we decided that these three experts should sit round the table we thought that their advice would be most useful in that way.

I agree with my Honourable friend when he suggests that there must be healthy rivalry between road services and rail but not unhealthy competition. That is what we have been trying to arrive at and many of the provisions in this Bill are designed to help towards that end.

My Honourable friend, the Deputy President, took rather a different line. He took the line that equity dictates that we should not disturb vested interests. While paying some attention to the desirability of getting the opinions of the travelling public and of all sections of society, he appeared to suggest that his main interest is to see that the vested interests of the road operators are not too harshly dealt with. To that end, he made what appeared to me rather a curious suggestion; he said that we ought to give a specific direction to local Governments, by which he meant Provincial Governments, to make sure that every district association of operators was consulted. Hitherto the line of action taken by my Honourable friend, and other Members who supported him, has been that the Central Government should do nothing until new Ministerial Governments came in because new Ministerial Governments would be able to speak for the people. That, Sir, was our view, but he now wishes us to give specific directions to the Provincial Governments. That is not how we should look at it. What we propose to do is,—and this is an answer to my Honourable friend, Mr. Hirtzel's point—to write to the Provincial Governments and ask them to obtain opinions from exactly the same people as they would have done if the Bill had been circulated in the ordinary way. And I think the Provincial Governments can be relied upon to secure the views both of the vested interests, in which my Honourable friend Sir Mohd. Yamin is particularly interested, and we hope also of the public—the bus user—in whom my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar is particularly interested. In that way we hope to get a general consensus of opinion representing both sides of the question.

I think, Sir, I have, in these brief remarks, covered all the points which are necessary at this stage. The suggestion is, as I have mentioned before, that we should circulate the Bill for opinion in the manner which I have described and should ask for replies by the 15th of June. My Honourable friend, Mr. Hirtzel, suggested that we ought to allow three weeks after receipt of the replies to get them into the hands of Members of the Select Committee for their study. It will certainly take a few days also to print them and that being so it looks as if we should not hold the Select Committee until the middle of July. Without giving any definite undertaking as to particular dates, it seems to me that that would probably suit everybody's convenience and that is the line on which we will proceed if the House passes this motion for reference of the Bill to the Select Committee.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member, Mr. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, wishes to have leave of the Assembly to withdraw his amendment for circulation of the Bill.

[Mr. President]

The amendment was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Honourable Sir Asoka Roy, Pandit Sri Krishna Dutt Paliwal, Sjt. N. V. Gadgil, Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, Sri N. Narayanamurthi, Mr. Gauri Shankar Saran Singh, Sree Satyapriya Banerjee, Mr. M. A. F. Hirtzel, Mr. R. C. Morris, Rai Bahadur D. M. Bhattacharyya, Sardar Bahadur Captain Sardar Harender Singh, Mr. D. R. Rutnam, Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan, Nawab Siddique Ali Khan, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, and the Mover, that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five, and that the Committee be authorised to meet at Simla.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: I was just doubtful as to whether I should state at this stage, or not state at all, one point about the understanding of parties with reference to the circulation of the Bill. I take it that the understanding does not affect the ordinary rule about the scope of the Bill. When the Bill comes up, as reported by the Select Committee, it cannot be pleaded that though the Select Committee may have gone beyond the scope of the Bill the amendments should be permitted and not confined to the principles of the Bill.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: There is no such danger.

Mr. President: That is for the Honourable Members to see. It cannot be argued then that the Chair must rule accordingly because the parties came to this understanding on the floor of the House. I am only making the position clear.

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR 1946-47

DEMAND NO. 66.—MISCELLANEOUS

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

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,00,000 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 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Mr. President: Motion moved:

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,00,000 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 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

Diwan Chaman Lal (West Punjab: Non-Muhammadan): May I ask your direction in this matter? I take it that this item was on the agenda previously and was withdrawn. It was withdrawn willingly by the Government. What is the necessity for bringing this item on to the agenda for the second time particularly when the Standing Finance Committee has turned it down unanimously?

Mr. President: I think it was withdrawn from last year's list of supplementary demands; it was never put in this year's supplementary demands. Is that so?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member): Yes, Sir, and also because adequate notice was not received by the Honourable Members and they understood that it will come at a later stage....

Diwan Chaman Lal: Which Honourable Members?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: All Honourable Members.

Diwan Chaman Lal: There was no such understanding on this side of the House. We understood that because the Standing Finance Committee had turned it down unanimously in deference to the feeling of the House in this matter it was taken out immediately.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants Chamber and Bureau; Indian Commerce): I pointed out that this was a backdoor method of getting it through by putting it at

the bottom of a long list of supplementary grants, especially as it was an item which the Standing Finance Committee had turned down. It was admitted by the official side that it was so and that it had got there in under a misapprehension and that it would be taken out and put up separately.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That is what we are doing.

Mr. President: It comes to the same thing, namely, that this particular thing was not debated upon.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The propriety of bringing up an item which the Standing Finance Committee has turned down is something which the Finance Member should explain.

Mr. President: That is a different matter. So far as the admissibility is concerned, the point is that the matter was never argued. That is the chief point. Now there is the amendment of Nawab Siddique Ali Khan. Mr. Abdus Sattar Seth is not present.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan (Central Provinces and Berar: Muhammadan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding four crores in respect of 'Miscellaneous' be reduced to two."

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): It should be two lakhs.

Mr. President: What happened was that the Honourable Member who gave the notice first, missed to put in two further dots.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: Then he must amend it formally.

Mr. President: Order, order. I have not finished. Then he came and amended it. He wished for the amendment after his cut motion was circulated. There was no time for recirculation of the matter and so an amended copy was given to the leaders of parties.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: The point is what was in the original amendment of the Honourable Member? Two lakhs? If so and if he now wants to change it, he must do so by way of a separate amendment.

Mr. President: This is not a motion of amendment by the same member. This amendment is tabled by another member.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: The point is at what does the original figure stand? If it stands at two lakhs, then it cannot be changed here without a proper amendment.

Mr. President: The Honourable Member has not got the point or I am not very clear. The first amendment was tabled by Mr. Sattar Ishaq Seth. Therein the figure of two lakhs was given. He wanted to have the correction of two crores. He is not moving it but this amendment is tabled by another member with the original figure of two crores.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil: But the original amendment has not been received.

Mr. President: The point is whether this member should be permitted to move this amendment by waiving of notice. If the members do not agree.....

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: The Honourable the President has already allowed me to move it and I have moved it.

Mr. President: I have called upon him to move it.

Nawab Siddique Ali Khan: That shows you have given your consent.

Mr. President: It is not a question of my consent. It is a question of the Chair's right to waive notice. That is the right of the Chair. But if, as I have said so often, any amendment coming at the last moment, is not substantially agreed to by the House, I shall not waive notice.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa: Muhammadan): The Chair has waived notice on a previous occasion.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I might say that on the question whether there is a mistake, and you are satisfied that it is a mistake, there is no

[Sir M. Azizul Huque]

objection. It has been generally understood that whatever might be the respective opinions of the members, no one has objected to the amendment being moved.

Mr. President : Let us be clear and there is nothing more to be discussed. There seems to be some confusion. I am prepared to accept the mistake of the Member and rectify it myself. I am not concerned with the point of procedure as that is a different matter. The point now is that that the member who has given the mistaken amendment, is not moving it, not being present. Another Member has given an amendment with the correct figure and the question is whether the Chair should waive notice. As the Chair has already expressed once, I do not propose to waive notice in any case, in any amendment unless the House agrees substantially. After all, it is not a question of this or that amendment but we should not have the practice of allowing amendments at the last minute. Therefore, as I find there is a serious difference of opinion, I do not waive notice.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I want to know whether the Finance Member is going to make any speech in justification of his having brought this demand against the recommendation of the Finance Committee. He owes it to the House to make a statement.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : It is the practice for the Finance Member to move formally all demand for grants and equally the practice of the Member in charge of a particular subject to talk about it.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I ask my Honourable friend, whether he himself having voted against this grant in the Standing Finance Committee.....

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : I did not vote against the grant.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My Honourable friend himself turned it down.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : I did not.

Diwan Chaman Lall : My Honourable friend challenges that ?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : Certainly.

Diwan Chaman Lall : Will my Honourable friend place the proceedings on the table ?

Mr. President : There is no scope for that discussion. Assuming he has voted against it is open to move the motion for the grant.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : What I said was that it would be brought before the House.

Diwan Chaman Lall : It is not part of the proceedings.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I will not take much time to explain the reason why this motion was brought before this House. The House will remember that after UNRRA was brought into being for sending relief to the war affected areas, this House in a motion brought before it agreed to participation with UNRRA with the rider that any area important to military operations of the United Nations and stricken by famine or disease, should be included for the benefit of the UNRRA. This resolution was by the wish of the House sent to UNRRA and it was accepted in September 1944. Then in the last budget, not in this one, but the previous one, an item was put in for sanctioning a sum of Rs. 8 crores.

I might here say that when this UNRRA organisation came into being, they met together, tried to find out what should be the actual needs for the relief organisation in terms of money, and it was the decision of the UNRRA that contributions approximately equal to one per cent. of the national income should be granted, but with a rider that where any such grant would be in conflict with the war demands or excessively burdensome, it would be for the country to vote an amount less than that.

It is well known that India has a very low *per capita* income and we have certain special responsibilities in India arising out of the distress and famine conditions in the country, and therefore we did not agree to accept the formula of one per cent. of the national income and it was on a question like that that I consulted the leading members of the different parties and with their agreement a sum of eight crores was

put in the Budget which was agreed to by the House. I might say in this connection that it was explained at that time that though the contributions were allotted in terms of money, in fact a very small percentage, namely ten per cent, is given in money. The rest is given in commodities which can be spared by this country. Representative of UNRRA came to India and discussed this matter and having regard to our difficult commodity problem, we were unable to give them what they wanted. But they were very pleased to get certain commodities which we could spare, such as, jute, raw cotton, tea, pepper, coir, manganese ore and surgical instruments. Raw cotton and surgical instruments were for China. When we were asked to contribute, it was merely in the nature of an estimate as to what would be the ultimate need of a country to which reliefs would go. At that time it was thought the amount of money then sanctioned would be enough for the entire relief operations. When in fact the relief operations were undertaken, it was found that both in the East and in the West the problem was of such magnitude and the work of relief and rehabilitation required so much of money, that they have come now with a request for further assistance to all the participating countries granting relief. Sir, I might say that the war did not end simultaneously in Europe and in Asia. As the war in Europe ended first naturally the task of relief and rehabilitation was first taken up in Europe. China and the Far East being war zones adequate relief could not be sent. To the extent relief could be sent it was sent to China and as far as I know 6½ to 7 per cent was allotted to China and in spite of the difficulties of transport and the commodity problem, relief was sent to China. Having gone to Europe for the task of relief and rehabilitation, once the nature and magnitude of the problem is realised, nobody can say that the relief operation must keep aside 50 per cent of the money for later needs in the face of the agonies of humanity, starvation, disease, hunger and all other problems. Having gone to render relief in Europe they could not stop saying that we could not proceed because we have to divide the money into two parts. The result is that almost the entire sum which was allotted for relief purposes was exhausted in relief to Europe and now we are confronted with the problem not only of continuing relief in Europe but also the task of relief and rehabilitation in China and the Far East, where the problem is of very great urgency and importance. As far as we have been able to study the materials I find from the estimates of this year that roughly about 47 or 48 per cent of the entire relief operation will go to China. An estimate has been made in terms of dollars and it comes to 1,006 million dollars of which 878 million dollars is for China. The relief for China is a matter of great importance both to India as well as to the world and that is the consideration which has made me to bring this matter before this House.

Commodities to the extent of a little over 2½ lacs tons were sent to China in spite of transport difficulties, in spite of the operations in Europe and in spite of the war not being over. These were sent actually to China as a part of relief operations and the situation today is that more funds are needed. Already some of the major participating countries have allotted a considerable amount of money as additional contribution to the UNRRA for this purpose. For example the United States has allotted an additional sum of 1,350 million dollars for this year's contribution and this roughly will come to about 400 crores of rupees. The United Kingdom has allotted 302.25 million dollars for this year's additional contribution and that comes roughly to a little over 90 crores of rupees. Canada has already allotted 69.3 million dollars for this purpose and that comes to about 20 crores of rupees. These have been the additional contributions of these countries so far as the present year's operations are concerned.

A question may be asked as to the difficult position in India ; I might say that the UNRRA does not want any part of our food from India or any part of the food which India is receiving from any of the countries from which food is coming. These relief operations consist in terms of food, clothing, rehabilitation, reconstruction and a thousand other small matters, all that they want is additional funds for the purpose of helping them in their work. So far as India is concerned UNRRA requires particularly jute, tea and such other commodities as we can spare. I may say in this connection that they have been very helpful to us in every way and they have never for a moment tried to create any difficulty even on the ground that we promised something which we could not give subsequently. As we are well aware

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we promised a certain amount of groundnuts. The moment the Indian food situation deteriorated we said we could not send our ground-nuts but they said we could substitute it by jute, that shows as to what extent they themselves realised the difficulties of the Indian situation.

I should like to take this opportunity to mention what was reported in some sections of the press about what was alleged to have been said by Mr. Guardia, viz. that the promised wheat shipments to India might be diverted to the UNRRA. I am authorised to say that Mr. La Guardia never made that statement. On the other hand the whole of the UNRRA organisation in the United States has been trying their level best to create public opinion in favour of more sacrifices not merely for Europe and China but also for India to enable us to get our food allocation. The President of UNRRA made it quite clear that they have never asked for anything whatsoever to be taken from India's quota or from the share which she is entitled to. There the UNRRA is well aware of the food situation in India and they have all along made special efforts in America to see that the supplying countries from which food will have to come out do help not only the UNRRA but also the other countries where the need for food is as great as ours. These two things are being simultaneously publicised by the UNRRA organisation and to that extent American public opinion is created for more sacrifice and for sparing more food.

So far as India is concerned I might say that in spite of our difficulties India's generous contribution has greatly assisted the relief work of the UNRRA organisation and the reports that we have got show to what extent this relief has helped the organisation. I hope there will be no confusion between the two issues, namely India's need for more food and UNRRA's need for more money. Because UNRRA has asked for money, India's case for food should not be brought in. The question should be decided whether in the circumstances of the case we ought to pay the amount which has been asked for by the UNRRA. I will show to what extent the propaganda of UNRRA has been of great value so far as the food position in India is concerned. I shall quote from what appeared in an Indian paper a few days ago. Mr. Hendrickson said :

"Today's situation in India is even more tragic. Unless India can obtain 4 million tons of cereals, which it must have, from 5 to 15 million people will lose their lives in the months lying ahead. It is a mathematical certainty that without grain from the Western hemisphere more people will perish in India in 1946 than died in the Bengal famine. The very lives of scores of millions of men, women and children in the Far East depend utterly on the actions by the Food exporting countries in the Western hemisphere. In China, Indo-China, the Philippines, the Dutch East Indies and India famine is no longer a spectre: it has arrived. Although the UNRRA is not empowered to provide physical assistance to the people of India it is taking every possible opportunity to emphasise during the critical time of global food shortages that every human effort must be exercised by the more fortunate food producing countries to make available sufficient food not only to the UNRRA for those countries dependent upon its aid but also to all other nations as well which must import food at this time in order that mass starvation may be averted."

I want to draw the special attention of this House to the fact that in the matter of food for India the UNRRA has rendered a great assistance and I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge with gratitude all the work that they have done in the way of publicising this in America. I feel that the reason why I have to bring this motion at the far end of the session is that having joined an international organisation, and a decision having been made by that international organisation that extra grants should be made, it should not be for the executive government to say one thing or the other without bringing it before the legislature for the final decision in the matter. It is for this reason that I have brought it. I do not want to enter into the issue of the Combined Food Board and the UNRRA and the relation between the two. I have tried to show the reasons why in the midst of the present difficult situation in India it is absolutely essential that the American public should be with us in order that the food allocation which has to come to India might be facilitated and no difficulty might be created. Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I cannot congratulate the Government of India on the occasion which they have taken to bring this motion before the House nor my Honourable friend for the manner in which he has sponsored it. So far as the Finance Member is concerned it is quite clear to me that he has done his duty by

his colleague in bringing it up and permitting him to play his own part on the floor of the House. But I suspect he was lukewarm without the same degree of zeal or enthusiasm which has characterized the outburst, if I may say so, from the Honourable the Commerce Member. Sir, I plead for a postponement of the consideration of this question till the next session and I will give a few reasons why it would be in the highest interests of this country to do so. This country has never turned down the call of charity from any quarter in the world, but it must consider its own financial and other position before it promises and rushes into payment of sums which I shall demonstrate are unduly large for it to bear. It is with a view that we may not turn down the call of charity that we should postpone its consideration till after four months when we will know the more acute requirements of famine and distress in our country and the dangerous position, as pointed out and painted by my Honourable friend the Commerce Member, from which this country is suffering in a more acute degree than any part of the world. After that period of danger, after four months when we meet again, having examined the position of this country generally we may respond to the call which is now being made. I feel that the sponsoring of this motion by the Honourable Member is premature and I will give the House several reasons for it. The first reason is that out of 47 countries which have joined the UNRRA only 31 have made the first payment. And only seven more have made or promised to make the second payment for which this country is being made ready. If there are 24 countries of this world who are members of the UNRRA whose sense of charity, obligation and responsibility to the distress and suffering of the world could not be inferior to that which is evinced by my friend, the Commerce Member, is it not right that this country, which is in the throes of a famine, which is in financial difficulties and which has got various other difficulties which I shall show, need not be among the very first who volunteer and promise, at the first call, to make a payment which is very heavy according to the resources of this country? Is it not right that we should wait instead of rushing in? Yet my Honourable friend has thought it proper to put it to the House at the tail end of the session without telling us what has happened to various constitutional and other issues in connection with the UNRRA to which I shall refer. My Honourable friend has thought it proper to bring it up now. I submit that this is very premature, that this matter could be held up without any harm to that very question which he dealt with, namely "what would America think?" The American people have got their own machinery of information. Even President Truman was recently mistaken with regard to the improvement in Indian harvest but the position was corrected by his faithful representative in this country, Mr. Merrell. They have got their own machinery of information. And what I most dislike in this country where the constitutional position is still in the balance is this pinch-beck diplomacy and statesmanship which the front Treasury Bench arrogate to themselves.—"If India does this her interest will be prejudiced in this direction; if India does that her interest will be prejudiced in this other direction" and so on. Let us think of the actual position here. Before we put our hands in our pocket for such a large sum as my Honourable friend is proposing to give away now at a moment which is so singularly inappropriate, in the Standing Finance Committee unanimously we had this feeling that it would not be right this year to make this heavy contribution. I think I had also the support of my friend Mr. Tyson that it would not be very appropriate this year, at all events till we pass through the famine period. Until we get through the more acute distress and anxiety which is overshadowing all our thoughts at the present moment, it would not be right to bring this question or to offer to make payment. We have to consider this in a proper perspective. When my Honourable friend spoke—and I have read through his speech when it was done before in 1944—and when he grew eloquent over the dangers of the world and the call to India to be charitable and to relieve distress, he mentioned to us that there was going to be a once-for-all payment, namely, eight crores of rupees. This House may remember the tiff I had with the late Finance Member when I accused him of being in a hurry to pay out from this country and not being agile to collect the claims of this country from other people. I said he was in a hurry to pay Rs. 8 crores to UNRRA. But he promptly stood up and accused me of misrepresenting him, fully knowing what that was. He had debited in the detailed account Rs. 2,70,00,000 for that particular year and it was intended

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that these Rs. 8 crores should cover a period of three years. That was the understanding before this House and yet it is marvellous that the sum has not only been exhausted but the Government of India come to this House and do not explain that this once-for-all payment has faded and say that more money is wanted, though the payment would last for three years it has to be increased by a further sum of Rs. 4 crores.

Let us consider what eight crores is. Eight crores of rupees is almost the equivalent of the total yield of the salt tax which we want to be removed and in which we took great effort for reduction. My Honourable friend the Finance Member gave relief in taxes which delighted many parts of the House, and the total amount of that relief slightly exceeded 5 crores of rupees.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : In indirect taxes.

Mr. Manu Subedar : The total fresh reduction which my Honourable friend made in indirect taxes. Does that satisfy my Honourable friend's point of accuracy? This relief which delighted several parts of the House slightly exceeded crores of rupees. Let us look at these things in their proper perspective. For crores is almost the equivalent of what my Honourable friend gave by way of relief which delighted the people of this country. Is this a sum which we can lightly give away for the sufferings of other people? If the appeal is made to the sense of charity and humanity, as I say, the poor are always charitable. The House will remember the parable, which I acknowledge as coming from Islamic sources, in which it is said that one Emperor could not live with another Emperor in the same palace—only one Emperor could live there—but in the little hut of the fakir any number of guests could be accommodated and they were welcome. This, Sir, is the tradition of charity in this country and if my Honourable friend is appealing to that, I am sure that we shall not be found wanting. Were we found wanting in relief to refugees from Czechoslovakia and Poland? Did we not welcome them, give shelter to them? Did not this Government go far beyond its duties and did not this Government requisition the very best residential houses in Bombay and Calcutta for the refugees? Sir, in Bangalore each Czecho-Slovakian family was paid Rs. 500 every month as relief throughout the period of the war. Did we not give relief to Europeans who came from Singapore and other places and did we not give them employment in this country? Did not this Government run a special Bureau for the relief and employment? Nobody will accuse this country of lacking in a sense of charity and humanity. Why, this country is so charitable and so human that it keeps on even this front benchers of the Government with whom it is not fully satisfied. And if they show some slight courtesy to us, how quickly we are willing and able to drop the curtain over the past? Nobody can accuse this country for not having a sense of charity and humanity. But let us take these things in proper perspective. Let us realise what a sum of Rs. 4 crores means to this country. My Honourable friend has tried to compare the United Kingdom contribution and the contribution of the United States—a rich man can put his hands in his pocket and throw a ten-rupee note down and forget all about it. Is that the position of the poor man? This Government ought not to misrepresent by trying to go with the rich in all these rich organisations. Nobody is making a mistake about the penury and the struggle and the disease and poverty—these very enemies which the Finance Member related to us, with which he and we were jointly going to fight. Is this the way of fighting these very enemies of penury and poverty? Is this the way by which we expect to overcome those troubles, namely, part with the substances worth Rs. 4 crores more? Why, the Honourable Commerce Member mentioned the large amount which the United Kingdom Government parts with for this purpose. May I read to this House an extract from the writings of a very eminent man who is a member of parliament? He is Sir Stanley Reed, a member of parliament and late editor of the *Times of India*. He is saying this, mind you with regard to the richest country in the world as to its outlook on the UNRRA issue, the richest country in the world whose example my Honourable friend quotes without a flicker of his eye-lid: he thought he was making a very great point when he said that America has given 400 crores and England is giving 90 crores and will

do we not give away 4 crores? I am sorry my mathematician friend is not here; he would immediately put down that on that scale on which my Honourable friend mentioned, the contribution of this country may be 4 lakhs, and not 4 crores. Sir Stanley Reed says:

"We are contributing between 80 and 90 millions yearly to the UNRRA, much of which goes to Yugoslavia and more is earmarked for Poland. Here is the brutal fact that these countries are living materially on our own sacrifices; for whether we contribute in food or in goods, it exacerbates our own greatest needs. These countries are not even grateful for what they are getting; they are showering the most bitter abuse of Britain and the commonwealth and the empire."

The principal ground on which he throws very grave doubt on the desirability of continuing this sacrifice on the part of the British Government and the British people is that "it is at the sacrifice of our own needs: that it is our own acutest needs that are thereby exacerbated and we ought not to continue this in the same manner as we have done in the past."

Now, this question of relative suffering and sacrifice has to be gone into before we come to any relevant or definite conclusions on this issue. During the war period when the UNRRA was instituted, it is true that there was a wave of feeling and sympathy towards those who had been over-run and whose rehabilitation,—immediate and human rehabilitation—was the object which excited all round sympathy and pity, and which in India in spite of Indian difficulties evoked a response which Government got to the extent of 8 crores of rupees. But the passage of time has disclosed something new, something unexpected. What is new and unexpected is this: is the suffering really as great in the countries which are mentioned as being overrun by the war or is it greater in certain other countries like India? Is the suffering in countries which have lost in the war greater or is it greater in the countries which are supposed to have won the war? England is one of those countries which has won the war, and I read out to you a representative opinion of a British Member of Parliament which throws very grave doubt on the desirability and the wisdom of continuing this contribution and this burden. Let us take the other position. India is put down as a victor and in the flush of this victory a burden is thrown on us of a complete military, naval and air unit which will occupy Japan on our behalf and whose burden will be thrown on the finances of India. This is something against which we have protested; but these are some of the curious extravagances which have arisen in this Government's activities with regard to defence and with which I cannot reconcile myself. Here we are offering 4 crores for this relief; here we are pretending that we have won the war and we have an army of occupation in Japan—I wonder why they did not suggest an Indian army of occupation in Germany—that is what I have still to find out; but we have an army of occupation in Japan; and we are going to make 4 crores contribution for the relief of Czechoslovakia and Poland and so on; and in the meanwhile nearer at home we have this difficulty with regard to our own population.

My Honourable friend referred to the question of my friend, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang's amendment which was passed last time. By that amendment it was said that India would be made eligible for relief from the UNRRA; and that was accepted by the Government; and Government promised that they would send it up, and my Honourable friend just said that it had been passed. And yet, I have from the Deputy Director of UNRRA, Mr. Hendrickson, from whose recent statement my Honourable friend quoted, I have it from him that this country is technically not eligible. I have still further an appeal from that noble lady from America Miss Pearl Buck, an appeal from her to the UNRRA that in spite of the fact that India is not eligible for relief from the UNRRA, will not the UNRRA stretch a point and will they not do some servicing for India, which implies that servicing from other sources and by our Government's efforts were inadequate and unsatisfactory? If this is the appeal made by a well-wisher of India and of general humanity in the world, that India should still be made eligible for this relief at the hands of UNRRA, then what is my friend's claim that the rider which was sent from this country and which would have made this country eligible for relief—what is that claim, I do not understand. I have failed to understand the claim my friend has made, and I rely upon the more recent statements, both of

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Mr. Hendrickson, the Deputy Director of UNRRA, and of Miss Pearl Buck, who should know what they are talking about. I rely on the statement of Mr. Sen, the Food Secretary who told us repeatedly in this House, when we complained during the most acute famine in Bengal, not only food but medicines could not be sent to this country by the UNRRA, because India was not eligible. Medicines were sent to Greece; food was sent to Greece; Indian coal was sent to Greece; but we are not eligible even for medicines to save human life. It is not a question of value; we would have easily and readily paid for those medicines. It is a question of availability. The UNRRA did this because we were through the incompetence of this Government technically ineligible for this relief and why were we not? It has been suggested—I leave it to the Treasury Benches to refute it in whatever way they like, that this Government thought, for their own purposes, that UNRRA was administered by Americans and relief by UNRRA would bring us in direct touch with the Americans. It was for that reason that this Government chose deliberately that India should not be technically eligible for relief from UNRRA.

Sir, I do not want to raise controversial issues about this. I have not the slightest doubt that it is a noble institution. It has done noble work elsewhere and it will do noble work still in China. I will make one more appeal to the UNRRA through this Government because my Honourable friend brought a message from Mr. La Guardia that this inhuman suggestion reported to have been made by La Guardia had never been made. I am very glad about it, because I am saved the need of the harsh words which I would have used. Mr. La Guardia is one of the most famous men on earth. He is the most famous talker on broadcasting in the United States and as Mayor of New York he is a much talked of figure, almost as popular in America as Mr. Churchill is in the United Kingdom and when he was appointed to the UNRRA I was frightened whether the overwhelming prestige of this one individual will not to some extent queer the pitch for India, because from the Food Board, it was repeatedly told to us there were two competitors, namely UNRRA for the European countries and India went there for the Indian famine. The whole propaganda machinery of the United States was in favour of the American machinery which was working for relief of humanity through the UNRRA. The Americans had also paid the biggest sum. Therefore naturally it was the American bias in favour of what their own men were doing, accepting facts as they were stated by their own men. My fears have been fully realised, because notwithstanding the full efforts for which my friend the Leader of the House may claim credit, notwithstanding the full effort about which we were told by the Food Secretary at a press conference at Allahabad where Sir Akbar Hydari was also present, that figure of 10 million ton deficit in India was whittled down to a smaller demand and we got still smaller fraction of that smaller demand in the ultimate relief which we got. In other words, this UNRRA organisation is influential. Take the issue of the Argentine. Here the UNRRA through its organisations can reach quickly, can reach the shipping board and the shipping ministry of the United States and the committee can work quickly and I still see that there is a point in the appeal made by Miss Pearl Buck that in spite of the technical ineligibility of India for relief from the UNRRA, its organisation should be permitted to come to the relief in India. Will not this Government still, even at this stage, before the famine becomes acute, take this up and will they not come up with regard to the efficient relief which is wanted? It is not a token payment of a few lakhs which is involved. This large payment which we are called upon to make is something which it is not right and wise to decide at this moment. Why is it not right? Let me mention to you that because of the famine our exports have fallen. We are importing an enormous amount from outside, including food. Our balance of trade is entirely against us this year and it will continue to be so for the next two years. When the balance of trade is against you, we are carrying a heavy deficit in the budget this year, a very heavy deficit which is not a suitable deficit for a peace year. We are going on the theories of new finance by which the budget need not be balanced so long as you come out right at the end of five years but supposing you come out wrong at the end of five years, where will you be? After all there are certain considerations which have to be taken into account and amongst those considerations is one which indicates the desirability

of keeping down the gap between your revenue and expenditure as low as possible and not doing anything deliberately to increase that gap. Now, Sir, my Honourable friend mentioned that it is only in the form of commodities. They only take 10 per cent like this. Has he mentioned to us the commodities which they took last time. He mentioned groundnuts. Now, the question of commodities is like this. Food and clothing we need for ourselves. Other commodities we also need for barter agreements with countries from which we can get food. We need other commodities. We need dollars for certain purposes. This is the time when the whole situation has to be examined. You cannot lightly put it like the Nawab who said—"if there is famine, why don't they eat butter and sugar if there is no grain." We do not want this Government to bring proposals to us which are indigestible, which clearly have not been examined from the full point of view, from the point of view of all the factors which are involved here and we feel that this is not the time or the manner in which this particular matter should be brought before us.

I was saying that I am very glad that my friend brought this message from La Guardia with whom he claims direct relation. If he had not brought it, I do not know in what terms I would have characterised the UNRRA and its chief. I am very glad that that misunderstanding has been avoided by the timely contradiction which has been given to me but here is a practical issue and point. Will my Honourable friend undertake to compel the UNRRA or to persuade it in any other way to secure this 12 thousand tons. The Honourable Food Secretary has informed us that 12 thousand tons of food material which was a surplus to the American army in this country has been acquired by the UNRRA. It has been acquired by the UNRRA in virtue of the priority rights of the U. S. Government as to who should get the surplus, in what order and so on. The UNRRA is the absolute master of the 12 thousand tons of food material which was in the possession of the American army in India and which is a surplus. Now, is it or is it not a relevant question when we are considering this issue of giving 4 crores of rupees to this organisation whether we may not request the UNRRA to give this 12 thousand tons to us as a reserve provision in those provinces where famine has threatened to be used in order to save human lives if the occasion came. May I ask whether my Honourable friend or any other of my Honourable friends sitting on these Treasury Benches has even thought of doing this.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : May I ask whether my Honourable friend knows what is the nature of this 12 thousand tons of food?

Mr. Manu Subedar : Yes. I acknowledge that my Honourable friend the Leader of the House is always an extremely clever debator and lawyer. I know that. Now my suggestion is this. I agree that this is food which is suitable for the higher classes, suitable for certain persons with certain tastes and certain types. I quite agree but if all this was put down in the province of Madras and Bombay where famine is threatening, it would go to the superior classes in Bombay and Madras, who would consume this food and to that extent they would release food for the consumption of the poor man. Is not my Honourable friend aware that owing to the appeal made by Government, in many restaurants, while serving European food, the use of rice is interdicted. Does he not know that this adjustment, this substitution in food is constantly taking place. You increase the supply of one kind of food and those who prefer it will take it up and to that extent they will release for the consumption of the poor and for the consumption of the masses that which they would otherwise consume.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan : (Meerut Division : Muhammadan Rural) : Will they?

Mr. Manu Subedar : I think if a man has eaten some delicacy from a tin coming from America, I do not think he would have any room left for something else, which must then go to the poor.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan : For some other delicacy.

Mr. Manu Subedar : In fact my Honourable friend is supporting me in the suggestion I make. I admit, Sir, that ours is a desperate position. Owing unfortunately to the failure of this Government to receive from the Food Board all that they asked for, we are in this desperate position in which we must strive to

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catch every little thing. I do hold out on the issue of U.N.R.R.A. I do hold out that here is 12,000 tons of food which can serve as a nucleus and reserve and it can serve to help the release of that class of food which will save human lives. Will they not do it? Will not my Honourable friends on the Treasury Benches make proper approach? I do not want to be nasty in my remarks, I appeal to them, in the same words of common humanity which the Honourable the Commerce Member used to try to rouse our sympathy and support for suffering humanity elsewhere in the world, I am trying to arouse sympathy and support of the Treasury Benches for suffering humanity here under their very nose in this country who are their direct responsibility and will they not do it? Sir, in my opinion the position will be clear after a few months. Within a few months we shall have to find out which of the 24 countries which have not yet given or promised a second contribution, which of them will come in for more contribution. If all of them come in, then we are not the defaulters. We do not want to default on a case of charity above all. I entirely agree. Where is the harm? Will anybody tell me, Sir, what is the loss if a few months are passing in the operations of U.N.R.R.A. re-counted for by my Honourable friend. This sum is going to be flea bite. He mentioned 400 crores contribution by U. S. A. A rich country like U. S. A., if it is a question of charity it can put its hands into the pocket and produce another 200 crores. Nothing is lost if we wait for another four months, particularly if we watch the progress of this danger which is hanging over our heads, namely, famine. We shall probably need every rupee that we have got, we shall probably need most of the commodities that we have got. We shall need most of the shipping. U.N.R.R.A. cannot take anything from this country except in ships. We do not want to use those ships for U.N.R.R.A. transport. We want to use these ships for some other urgent transport for our own purposes. There are numerous considerations and nothing will be lost, in my opinion, if we waited for a few months in order to determine where we shall be.

Sir, I heard the Honourable the Commerce Member with some attention, the last thing I was told is, 'do not do anything which will make the problem of procuring food for this country more difficult than it is'. I think that is an appeal which is entirely all right. I think we are on common ground on that. We have no desire to do any such thing. It is because we have no such desire that I am deliberately suggesting that the discussion of this issue may be postponed till the beginning of the next term of the Assembly. Then, Sir, we shall be able to take a decision on this issue in its proper context and only emphasising those points which are relevant and proper to do. Today it is impossible for us to go away from the shadow of a great calamity which is hanging over this country of famine, and it is impossible for us to ignore that this issue has more facets to it than they are, and I certainly appeal to the Treasury Benches once again and impress upon them that America is a country which when it wants to know anything will know all the facts, you will not be able to throw dust in their eyes, you will not be able to mislead them on the real position and the real feelings which exist towards them or towards U.N.R.R.A. or towards any other organisation of the world. They are well informed people. They have got their own means of getting correct information. In my dealing with America, I should not like to be diplomatic, I should not like to be clever, I would rather lay all the cards on the table. I honestly feel that we would attract more sympathy, more attention in America and more consideration for our real plight, if we inform them of our plight, if we inform them of the delicate situation in which this country finds itself with regard to shortage of grain and with regard to the impending famine, with regard to water famine in certain parts of the country. I think we would draw their sympathy and attention and their consideration a lot more if we place all the cards on the table and if we then pleaded that for these reasons we are postponing the consideration of this issue till the following sessions of the Assembly. Sir, if that is not done we will be thrown to the necessity of opposing this grant and I want to know if that is the reason which the Honourable the Commerce Member said. He said, let us give this last blow to this opposition.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Asisul Huque : I am sorry my Honourable friend is entirely misrepresenting. A motive like the one suggested has never been behind my mind.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Well, if that is not the motive, why does not my Honourable friend accept an appeal from me to postpone the consideration of this Motion till the next session. What is lost? We shall be the givers of gifts in spite of our poverty. The U.N.R.R.A. will be the recipient of the gift. It is only a question of four months more, those very critical four months during which we have got the shadow of a great calamity hanging over us. It is because of the reluctance on the part of the Government Benches to accept a measure so simple and so universally acceptable which has been put forward that I say that it may be, if the cap does not fit my Honourable friend, he may say, no, it may be that the Government intends, "let us give the last blow to these men of the Opposition, let us show them up to America as impossible people, who do not realise the position of India in the context of the world". But is that a monopoly given to my Honourable friends on the other side. "Let us expose these people of the Opposition as irresponsible, otherwise inconsiderate and also cruel and also uncharitable". Sir, if that is the intention, I am sure the Government will fail miserably in their intention because I am sure U. S. A., the U.N.R.R.A. and all these organisations which are working are not working without their own means to get correct and proper information. Whatever attempts may have been made by propaganda which was carried on in U. S. A. during the war through the machinery of Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai or the machinery of the British Embassy or any other machinery, whatever efforts Mr. Churchill may have made to influence Mr. Roosevelt on the issue of India, Sir, was there a time at which America was not properly informed as to what is what. Sir, the disclosures of the Phillips report indicated very clearly that at all material times, America had the fullest information.

Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan (Meerut Division : Muhammadan Rural) : That is denied by the U. S. A. Government Department.

Mr. Manu Subedar : That may be a face saving device. In any case, I have reason to believe that Americans have a machinery for getting correct information and they have proper means of knowing what is what. I am not afraid of being misunderstood in America, or in any particular quarter when I urge in the common interest of this country and in the name of common humanity of the population of this country that the discussion on this particular motion may be postponed to the next session and that in the next session, after we have been through the worst that may occur, after we have known the extent to which it is necessary for us to husband our resources we may even go further than the sum of four crores. Or we may on the merits of the case at that time come to a decision that we may not be able to give 4 crores. But in the present context and the present atmosphere we are bound to be influenced by what is there, by the fact that this Government undertook to this House that this was a once-for-all payment. This Government undertook that India will be eligible and they have failed to make it eligible. We are also influenced by the fact that there are constitutional discussions going on which will probably make a very serious difference. I think in view of all these relevant and proper factors it would not be wrong for me to urge that the discussion on this motion should be postponed till the beginning of the next session.

Sir, my Honourable friend referred to the question of commodities. If these commodities are useful and in demand by other countries which are in distress, if they are genuinely surplus to us it may be accepted that these very commodities are marketable and that they are in demand by countries which have got something to give us that we want. Should we use these commodities for our own purposes or should we use them as free gifts? My Honourable friend is not satisfied what particular commodities UNRRA is wanting which he has after examination declared are a definite and final surplus. He has not mentioned all this. May I not ask which are the commodities which are coming into question? What is the list that my Honourable friend has received from the UNRRA? In what manner has he determined the surplus? Even this morning he mentioned that he determines the surplus from estimates that are received and that he does not modify the estimates later on in the light of what may be occurring in the markets or of later reports. He does not want to consult the Chambers of Commerce on the question of surpluses. These, Sir, are issues which do worry some of us on this side. It may

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be that we have not got these fuller reports and fuller opportunities which my Honourable friends on the other side have got. As I said to a friend of mine the other day, there are 14 Members and 40 Secretaries, and he could not expect any individual Member on this side to be equal to them in dealing with any particular issue. What I feel is this. My Honourable friend has got a surplus of these commodities which he thinks will go out to the U.N.R.R.A. and whose removal from this country will not hurt us in the use of these commodities in the acquisition of dollars therefor to exchange for food from other countries who may not want it. Also there is question of shipping space which is going to be used to carry away the U.N.R.R.A. goods from this country. Shipping should be conserved for things directly useful to India. In view of all this I advocate that the consideration of this motion be postponed till the beginning of the next session and no final decision should be reached today.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : Sir, we have every sympathy with this U.N.R.R.A. organisation and that was clear from the speech of my Honourable friend who spoke just now, and previous debates will also prove this. There is no doubt that the purpose of this international organisation is noble and as Mr. Manu Subedar just said, we have never turned down calls on our charity. But he proposes postponement while on our side we proposed a reduction. We thought we could give half the amount as there was some sort of commitment and we should not back out of it. Our party's amendment has not been allowed to be moved, and we find it difficult to agree to the payment of the entire amount of 4 crores. Charity must begin at home and just now we are faced with the prospect of a famine and we must muster all our resources to meet that situation. That being the position, we thought we could give only half the amount for the rehabilitation of other countries and with regard to the balance we could consider it later on. Our position has been made difficult by our amendment not being admitted by the House.

Another point brought out by Mr. Manu Subedar requires a little elucidation by Government, i.e., whether the demand from the U.N.R.R.A. in the Food Board was a rival demand as against the demand of Indian delegation at the Food Board and that we could have got more if there had not been this rivalry. By contributing to the fund last year we thought we were entitled to as much sympathy as other countries, but if there has been discrimination, as alleged by the last speaker, the position becomes complicated for us.

Then again with regard to the 12,000 tons of tinned food which this organisation is taking over from the U. S. A., the Leader of the House said that Mr. Manu Subedar did not know what kind of food it was. He probably meant that it was not to be used by people in this country who would be affected by famine or it could not be used as a substitute for food to which Indians generally are accustomed. But it may also be that there are people in India who would like tinned food and they can spare other kinds of food for those who may not like this. My personal feeling is that if that food were made available to us it would surely ease the situation to some extent,—to what extent I cannot say because I have no idea of the varieties of tinned food that they have got to which reference has been made.

As we have said, there is no doubt that this international organisation requires the support of all and perhaps even the group to which Mr. Manu Subedar belongs is not opposed to it. He asks for postponement; we wanted to postpone only half the amount so that we might bring to the world's notice that though we are ourselves faced with an acute situation we are not slow in giving charity to others. We could also tell our constituencies that at a time when we required all our resources for our own use we have not been philanthropic and reduced the amount of charity which could not have been postponed or delayed without loss of prestige of this country. Of course we could deny any sanction if we thought that we would not get reciprocal aid from that organisation. That is the important point which I wanted to make. The Honourable the Commerce Member referred to the contribution of the United States of America and the United Kingdom. It is no secret that the financial position of America can not be compared to the financial position of

this country. The United Kingdom has suffered a considerable amount of destruction during the last great war and probably she required huge finances for her rehabilitation, but in view of her great resources and her capacity she has probably thought that it would be in the fitness of things to contribute to U.N.R.R.A. 90 crores of rupees. But the point is, Sir, whether the United Kingdom is going to take any advantage in return for this contribution? For her rehabilitation the United Kingdom may get 200 crores or even more from U.N.R.R.A. That point cannot be ignored. Whereas in our case so far we have not taken any advantage at all. Of course we may not have faced the same acute situation as it exists in Europe, but certainly our position has also been serious. In this connection, Sir, I would only refer the House to the discussion which took place in this House in November 1944 on the adjournment motion in connection with the Bengal Famine when the Government was asked to state whether it was a fact or not that no help was received from U.N.R.R.A., and the Honourable Member replied that application was not made in time.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Application was not made because we were not eligible. That was the statement made by the Government.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : Later on in another debate the Honourable Member said that we were eligible....

Mr. Manu Subedar : I have got two recent quotations.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman :but today my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar says that we are still not eligible for any help which this international organisation is capable of giving. We have got to think seriously whether, by giving charity to others if we are reduced to a position where we need help whether we are eligible for it. Or, are we to be told that we are not eligible for any help? I am not suggesting that we should not be a party to this organisation but we have got to make sure that we will be entitled to the same treatment which is meted out to other member bodies, and that we are also considered eligible for all those things which some of those countries which have suffered during the last war are now getting from this Administration. It cannot be the ambition of any country to reduce itself to a position where she would have to go to U.N.R.R.A. for help, but if it unfortunately so happens, she should not be told at that time that she is not eligible although she has been making contributions according to her capacity. That is a very important point on which this House is anxious to know the views of Government.

Then, Sir, the House would like to know whether U.N.R.R.A. helped us in getting a bigger quota of food. The Honourable the Commerce Member paid a tribute to that Organisation and said that they did help us in securing food from the Combined Food Board.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque : I said that the Indian food situation is a matter which ought to be very widely known in America. In order to make America sacrifice a part of the surplus which they have, and public opinion being what it is, it is very necessary that everybody should know our needs. In that respect the U.N.R.R.A. authorities have not only supported the case of European countries but they also very strongly supported the case of India with regard to food.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : On the other hand, my Honourable friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, has said that they pleaded the cause of European countries, and they were rivals to the demands of this country.

Mr. Manu Subedar : We were definitely assured by the Honourable the Food Secretary over and over again that we could not go to the U.N.R.R.A. as U.N.R.R.A. itself is going to the Food Board for its own supplies and in that sense the U.N.R.R.A. is certainly a rival to the demands of this country. I admit that the demand had certainly grown up on account of the food situation, but the famine situation having arisen it was against the pleading of the U.N.R.R.A. on one side that India had to plead. I am very glad the Honourable the Leader of the House used his great

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talents towards that purpose, but I am disappointed that he did not come back with the very lowest minimum which we had estimated. He did not get it and he did not get it because U.N.R.R.A. was the rival.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman: It seems in the early stages U.N.R.R.A. was India's rival, but in the later stages, according to the Honourable the Commerce Member, she has been pleading for us also, and included our demand in her list as well. I do not wish to pursue this point any further.

We are prepared to support half the amount namely Rs. 2,00,00,000 immediately, if we are allowed to move an amendment to that effect. In that case we will not ask for postponement. But if that is not accepted and we are asked to either sanction the whole amount, i.e., four crores, or refuse the grant, I can say that we find it difficult to agree to four crores of rupees for which this demand for supplementary grant has been made.

With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal European): Although I must confess that when I saw this demand for a supplementary grant come before the House, and I recollected what had taken place in the Standing Finance Committee, I had not in fact intended to intervene in this debate until my Honourable friend, Mr. Mann Subedar, mentioned my name in connection with the view which the Standing Finance Committee took about this particular supplementary grant. I entirely associate myself with the view of the Standing Finance Committee, and I think that the way in which this matter has been brought before this House shows a considerable lack of co-ordination of Government action and, if I may say so, of Government utterances as well. The manner in which this transaction is sought to be dealt with is, in my view, unsatisfactory, and I will put it at no higher or lower level. I did not hear all of the Honourable the Commerce Member's speech, but what I did hear led me to doubt whether he had consulted his colleague the Honourable the Finance Member or whether he had in fact consulted the records of the Standing Finance Committee. That Committee was unanimous, Sir, in the view which it took about this supplementary grant for U.N.R.R.A. It was unanimous because we felt, after some examination of the matter—not a cursory examination, because we had a responsible official of Government before us—that the case that was put forward and what was asked of India was untenable in the context of an India, which is on the verge of a famine and in any case she has a large number of economic needs that remain unsatisfied. From my point of view, it was all the less acceptable because of some of the commodities mentioned by the Honourable the Commerce Member. In that part of his speech which I did hear, they were to come from the United Kingdom's quota for the purpose, and it seemed to me that however high-minded Britain's sacrifice in this matter was, it was a little illogical to ask that a lot of these things should go, as I understand from the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee, to a country which is notoriously inefficient in the distribution of commodities and foodstuffs which it receives for the relief of the poor. In these circumstances I was not then prepared to agree to the supplementary grant and if the matter is put to the vote of this House, I shall not, speaking as an individual and not on behalf of my group, be prepared to agree to it now.

Prof. N. G. Ranga (Guntur cum Nellore Non-Muhammadan Rural): Mr. Deputy President, I am wholeheartedly in sympathy with the ideal for which this UNRRA has been brought into existence. There was a time when the conquerors used to simply destroy and exterminate all the conquered people. Later on they used to turn them into slaves. Afterwards they used to keep them as serfs and recently, after the last war, they used to leave the conquered to their own fate and to shift for themselves without raising their little finger in order to protect them from the incidents of consequential famine and pestilence that followed a devastating war like the present one.

This UNRRA anyhow does not wish to countenance such bestial ideals of the past. It stands for the principle that once the war is over all the vanquished and

the defeated are in a helpless condition. The victors should recognise their duty to come to the rescue to save them from famine and pestilence, help them to get through their harsh times, feed them and clothe them and help them in every way to their rehabilitation and reconstruct themselves and thus bring them back to order and civilised humanity. This is a principle which I certainly accept and I welcome, and I am sure this country, too, has welcomed it, and that was why this Assembly, or the previous Assembly, had accepted the idea of UNRRA and also had granted the initial funds that were asked for by the Government. But my complaint is that the authorities, or the Government or the peoples who are behind this UNRRA, who were the sponsors of this organization, are not trying to do what they ought to, to all the vanquished and to all the defeated peoples. They are making distinction between one people and another, between one country and another, even among all these defeated peoples.

Not so long ago, we read from responsible American officers' statements about the callous manner in which they turned a deaf ear to the appeals being made by millions of Japanese in Japan for clothing and for food and they even had gone to the extent of saying, Americans anyhow would not be so chicken-hearted or soft-hearted to place these things at the disposal of these people, their erstwhile enemies and thus help to resuscitate them in order to repeat another havoc. I tried to give notice in connection with that and wanted to know whether the Government would protest against such statements to the United States of America. At that time the question was not allowed and therefore it could not be raised on the floor of the House on that occasion. Look at the solicitude that Anglo-Americans and other nations, who happen to be the victors have been showing towards the fallen people of Europe, and compare it with the apathy and callousness that they are displaying towards the Japanese. Does this not show that the very sponsors of the UNRRA are not really very keen in implementing the principles and the practice of UNRRA as between peoples of different countries and continents and colours. Therefore, Sir, I fear, that even now after having brought it into existence, these victors have not learnt the lessons of humanity as one would have expected them to do.

Yet I see some change. Soon after the last war I happened to be in England and various countries in Europe and I know how much the Germans and the Russians were suffering. They suffered so terribly that in several parts of Russia there was cannibalism and little children were sold away into slavery in return for a few morsels of food. Yet England kept up an economic boycott against Russia. So did America, and it was left to those two great men and servants of humanity, Dr. Nansen and Mr. Hoover, to raise their voices of protest against the callousness of the rulers of America and England and they organized a relief organization. Dr. Nansen organised the "Save the Children Fund" and he had the wisdom to borrow a phrasean immortal phrase from that immortal poet of ours, Dr. Tagore—and put it on top of those placards appealing for funds: "Every child that is born brings the message from God that he has not lost hope in humanity". With that he collected funds. So did Hoover also in America. They transported food to Russia and tried to save as many hundreds of thousands of people as possible.

From those days, we have marched a long way, so far as time is concerned. It is more than 25 years and yet today what do we find? Again the same Mr. Hoover has raised his noble voice of humanity and philanthropy and has again gone to Europe to save those people. But these Governments do not seem to be very much wiser and that is why they are showing this distinction against Japan and I am here in my place to raise my voice of protest against this partial treatment that these white peoples are showing towards these coloured and vanquished people.

Well, Sir, India is ready to place her funds at the disposal of such a great organisation like this. But is it being worked properly even as an organisation? The *London Times* has complained that politics is not being kept out of the UNRRA. Soviet Russia is out of it. Why? Is it not equally the duty of Soviet Russia to think of fallen humanity? There must be some reason behind it, and the reason can be only this, that Soviet Russia wants to look after those portions of fallen humanity

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which have fallen to her own lot and wants to conserve all her resources and spare them only for those people and leave the others to their own resources or to the resources of the Anglo-American and other victors, because she may be feeling whoever helps any particular section of the people can certainly be expected to have a sort of lien on their gratitude and these people in the Balkans excepting Greece can be expected to be her allies in later times to come, whereas if she were to extend her resources or spare her resources for other peoples she may be throwing all those resources merely in the name of philanthropy and humanity and not for political purposes. Similarly the Anglo-Americans too may not be free from similar motives when they offer assistance to certain people and when they fail to offer similar assistance to certain other people. To China they are making great gifts. China needs them. Yet China also holds the promise of future benefits that can be derived by Great Britain as well as by America. When we come to India we stand to gain nothing at all in future. Therefore any sort of grant that goes from India, any sympathy that is expressed by India for the fallen peoples, any succour that India extends to those people who are in need of it is an unalloyed gift of humanity, generously made to those people entirely in the interests of humanity and not at all in any way coloured with the ideas of self-interest. Under those circumstances the quota that India can be expected to contribute must certainly be very much less than what the other victors can be expected to contribute.

But what is the quota that India can contribute? That is the point. My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar has already told us that the poorer the man the greater is his humanity. The poorer the man the greater generally is his generosity and under such circumstances is it not the duty of the Government which necessarily has got to take into consideration rupees, annas and pies, which must necessarily be thinking about these things in a commercial manner, to save the poor people in this country from their own generosity and try to check these people to that extent as to let only that much of contribution from India to go to the UNRRA as they can bear it? My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar has already given sufficient facts to prove how India cannot really at this juncture spare all this money. I discussed this matter with a distinguished friend of mine in order to enlighten myself and he told me "After all four crores. What is it? India has got such a lot of it in London. Why not spare these 4 crores." I am not able to look at it in that way. I look at it in another way and that is what are the demands on India's finances that the present situation is making.

My Honourable friend the Leader of the House made an eloquent plea somewhere in America in which he said that there was the danger of India losing nearly 10 million people by starvation if this food famine was not properly controlled. If we were to try to save these 10 million people only for four months at Rs. 25 per month, the cost of their maintenance will come to 100 crores and in the budget there was no provision at all for this 100 crores. The Finance Member said that he was going to find it. He has got to find it. Are we to add these 2 crores to the 100 crores? 104 crores we have to spare to tackle this particular crises alone. Looked at that way these 4 crores make their evil financial impact upon one's mind and that is why we are anxious that this money should not be spared at this juncture, even though it is for such an excellent purpose.

Is this the first contribution that we have to make? Not so. This is a special contribution that we are asked to make. Why? Because this crisis in Europe and in other parts of the world has suddenly become more serious and therefore we are asked to make this special contribution. If the situation has become more serious in other countries, it has become ghastly here in this country. Already there are reports that streams of people are marching from rural Bengal into Calcutta city there to die like destitutes, to be thrown into hospitals afterwards to die there because of hunger. Some people have been saying that famine threatens our country. No. Famine is already at our very doors. I come from the famine-stricken area of Andhra. There are five districts there and 50 lakhs of people are living there. Today they are absolutely in the midst of famine and every day I am flooded with reports. Several of my Honourable friends have been generous enough to contribute large

sums of money for the relief of those people. Famine is stalking the land here. It is not merely famine borne out of failure of the monsoon but on top of it there is superimposed the food famine. Is it right on the part of the Government at this juncture to come forward with this particular proposal that four crores more should be placed at the disposal of other nations which are suffering but not so badly as we are suffering. I know that in the Balkan countries there are poor people. I can visualise their poverty but their poverty is rich as compared to our poverty. In England they consider it beneath their dignity to think of going about without being properly shod. Here in South India the soles of our people have become so hardened and have broken into so many cracks merely because they could not afford to wear any chappals or shoes. When I think of the poverty ridden people of Europe I naturally have got to think of their comparative prosperity, or shall I say lower degree of poverty on their part when compared to our own greater degree of poverty. That is why I hesitate a little and I think I am justified in hesitating before I hasten to agree with my Honourable friend Sir Azizul Huque in his motion for four crores. We want help from outside. We want food to be imported into this country. We are also in need of the sympathies of other countries. Therefore my Honourable friend was certainly right in laying stress upon the fact that we should not lose the sympathies of other people. I agree with him. If our case were to be properly presented there as eloquently and even more eloquently than the Honourable Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar has tried to present the other day, if our position is properly explained to them, that we are not opposed to this UNRRA, we are not inimical to its objects, we are not unwilling to place our funds at its disposal but we only want time, we cannot spare this money just at present. We shall spare all the funds that we can spare that the UNRRA in its wisdom can ask us to spare the moment that we are free from the present crisis in which we find ourselves. I do not think the Americans and other countries will be so foolish or narrow-minded or unwise as to find fault with us and refuse to export to our country the food that we want. I do not think they are so narrow-minded. If they were they would not have given this grant. They would not have given this allotment to us. If they were so narrow-minded the UNRRA would not continue to function a day longer. The UNRRA relies on the fact that those people certainly can be expected and are naturally more generous than they used to be at the end of the last war. Therefore let us not unnecessarily exercise our minds with this foolish thought, with this futile and indeed farfetched thought, that those people will be prejudiced against us and therefore let us place these four crores also at their disposal. One other thought comes to my mind. If only these people had cared to ask for 400 crores of rupees, this Government would have come forward and asked for the amount. That is the misery of this country. The gentlemen on that side are ready to stoop to or to step up with the demands that are made by other countries in the name of internationalism. The time has come when we must be self-confident about our own concept of internationalism. We are all internationalists. Let me recall what Tagore has given in his Gitanjali:

"Neither country nor race nor caste nor religion should blur my vision, should prevent me from stretching my hand in order to shake hands with all other people, of all other colours, of all other creeds, of all other countries and so on."

Such is the country from which we hail. And therefore it is not necessary that the idea of internationalism raised here on the bidding of other countries be our only standard here. To them internationalism must be having greater pull because nationalism is not. They must hang on to something or the other. They cannot hang on to nationalism because it will mean going to jails. They cannot join the company of those friends who have also taken to talk of revolution, who are contemplating the prospects of harsh treatment at the hands of governments-to-be. Therefore they must naturally grow eloquent about internationalism. I do not wish to go further into this greenish internationalism. That has no attraction for me. My internationalism is a robust and healthy one. It is a self-confident one. That springs and grows from out of my own nationalism, and as long as I am a self-confident nationalist in my own country and want to, can and do try to look after my own peoples, I need not be apologetic about this internationalism. With all sense of responsibility as an internationalist, as one who stands at all times side by

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side with every genuine internationalist all over the world, I recommend to the House to accept our suggestion that this Government should not press this demand now but on the other hand agree to our suggestion that it should be postponed to the next session.

Sgt. N. V. Gadgil: After having heard the speech of the Honourable Member in charge of the Commerce Department I just thought of revising my memory as to what happened in the Standing Finance Committee meeting on the 16th March 1946. Before that meeting the necessary memorandum was put up by the Department concerned, asking for a grant of Rs. 4 crores, and it is the same demand which is now being pressed here before this House. In the statement of the proposal and reasons that was submitted before the Standing Finance Committee the two points on which the demand was pressed were these: one was the humanitarian ground and the other was a somewhat mundane and a practical ground. Here are the words:

"Apart from humanitarian grounds it is considered that India's willingness to help other countries in distress might prove helpful in obtaining a larger allocation of foodstuffs from the Combined Food Board."

and then the statement goes on to say:

"Only such material and commodities as are surplus to India's own requirements will be procured for UNRRA and out of the proposed contribution"

Now, in the Standing Finance Committee Government was well represented. There were members of the other parties including my honourable friend Mr. Tyson of the European Group. All the points were duly considered. It was not that we wanted to belittle what UNRRA has done in connection with countries invaded by the Axis Powers, but we considered, and what was really the relevant thing to be considered, our position both financial and with respect to the supply of commodities that we needed. After a good deal of deliberation and discussion the Standing Finance Committee, unanimously came to the conclusion that this demand should not be accepted. I shall read to the House what the Standing Committee has recorded:

"The Committee recommended that the additional grant asked for should not be made in view of the present state of India's finances and the nature of her shortage of essential supplies."

Now, on two grounds it has been rejected. The first ground is the present state of India's finances and the second the nature of her shortage of essential supplies. We now know our financial position and the Budget has been presented. The Finance Bill has been passed. As the Budget was presented originally it showed a deficit of 42 crores. After some concessions that were accepted by this House the deficit now comes to nearly 48 crores. In the new theory of finance it may not mean much. But the fact remains that our finances are not as they ought to be in comparison with other countries. Only on the 16th March 1946 in the very meeting of the Standing Finance Committee, the Committee granted nearly 9 crores to the province of Bengal to meet its obligation arising out of famine. We are not yet out of the famine that was in the year 1943, when another famine is already on. There we discussed and tried to impress on the mind of the Finance Member, and with success I should say, that this grant should not be accepted. Now, it has been pointed out if we refuse this what will be the reaction in the United States of America. We want to make it clear so far as our party is concerned that we agree with the ideology of this international organization, but so far as our finances go they do not permit us to undertake such a big liability. I know that this is to be paid in terms of commodities, at the same time we have to see whether by rejecting this we are likely to have bad reactions as was suggested by the Honourable the Commerce Member. I respectfully submit that nothing of that sort will happen. When I found on the Order Paper an amendment to the effect that the grant should be reduced to 2 lakhs, our decision was to support it on grounds of economy, to show that we were in agreement with the ideology and the principle behind this international organization but at the same time to show that we were not in a position to pay this large amount. Somehow or other that amendment was not moved for reasons

which are now clear. But our point of view remains the same and that point of view is that we are not opposing it on any other ground except on these grounds which have been so well recorded in the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee. What is the position to-day so far as famine is concerned. Let us see what the American people have to say about it. I will only read what a high official of the UNRRA has to say.

Mr. Hendrickson said:

"Today's situation in India is even more tragic. Unless India can obtain four million tons of cereals, which it must have, from five to 15 million people will lose their lives in the months lying ahead. It is a mathematical certainty that without grain from the western hemisphere more people will perish in India in 1946 than died in the Bengal famine."

The very lives of scores of millions of men, women and children in the Far East depend utterly on actions taken by the food-exporting countries in the western hemisphere."

Now, Sir, people in America know what is the exact position with respect to famine in India.

May I stop here, Sir?

Mr. Deputy President: I think the Honourable Member can stop there.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 18th April 1946.

Thursday, 18th April, 1946

APPENDIX

SECOND* INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BRETTON WOODS
CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS.

1. The Committee considered the report submitted by Sir Chintaman Deshmukh on the proceedings of the inaugural meetings of the Board of Governors of the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development held at Savannah, Georgia, U. S. A. from the 8th to the 18th March, 1946.
2. We note that no clarification has been made by His Majesty's Government on the issue of sterling balances and we reiterate what we said on this subject in the last report dated the 26th February 1946, the relevant extracts from which are reproduced :
 - "(1) We strongly endorse the statement made in the course of the recent debate by the Honourable the Finance Member that India is not bound in any way by the terms of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement of December, 1945.
 - (2) In our view the final decision whether it would be to India's advantage to remain a member of the Bretton Woods institutions may be determined to a very considerable extent by the outcome of the negotiations which His Majesty's Government are committed to undertake with the Government of India on the subject of liquidation of sterling credits. If these negotiations are unduly delayed, it may be necessary for India to withdraw before these negotiations take place, because it may happen that India will be called upon under the Agreement to undertake commitments which she may feel unable to shoulder in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits."
3. As the whole question of India's constitution is under examination the Committee would prefer further action to be postponed until the outcome of such examination is known.
4. We accordingly recommend that Government should take advantage of every possible provision in the Articles to postpone payment of the subscriptions due to the Fund and the Bank till the last moment, but if after consultation with these institutions it becomes necessary to take a final decision before the Assembly meets again, Government should summon the Committee and a decision should be taken in consultation with them, the Committee being specially summoned for this purpose.

A. ROWLANDS.
GEOFFREY W. TYSON.
N. V. GADGIL.
M. ANANTHASAYANAM AYYANGAR.
MANU SUBEDAR.
YUSUF A. HAROON.
ZIA UDDIN AHMED.

NEW DELHI,
The 17th April, 1946.

* Vide page 4183 ante.

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. Lalgudy Swaminath Vaidyanathan, M.L.A. (Nominated Non-Official).

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(a) ORAL ANSWERS

POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1958. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state what are the plans, in brief, of the various Departments of the Government of India which have been finally adopted for execution?

(b) What is the period of time within which the execution of each such plan is likely to be completed, and what expenditure does each such plan involve?

(c) What is the brief description of the draft plans, if any, likely to be taken into consideration during the next six months?

(d) Do Government propose to go ahead with the preparation and execution of post-war development plans, or do they intend to await the formation of a New Government as the result of the endeavours of the Cabinet Mission?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a), (b) and (c). Plans have been prepared by various Departments as indicated in my reply to part (e) of question No. 635, by Professor N. G. Ranga, on the 4th March, 1946. Some of these have been approved in principle and others are being examined for such approval. The period of time within which the schemes are to be executed will be decided when final financial sanction is accorded but it is expected that the programme in view will be completed by 1952.

(d) We propose to go ahead. It will be open to the new Government to alter or amend the plans should they consider that necessary.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : May I know if the Honourable Member will lay the plans on the table or in the Library, so that we may know what are the prospective plans which the Government propose to go ahead with?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I have already in answer to Prof. Ranga's question placed a statement on the table of the cost of several plans but if the plans themselves are not in the Library, I shall consider the request.

Mr. Manu Subedar : In view of the fact that progress is being made in the case of some of these plans and some of them have not been finalised, will not the Honourable Member circulate to the Members of this House a statement of what has been done so far and a further statement after a month or two as to what may be done thereafter?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I shall consider the suggestion.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it true that efforts are being made to appoint I.C.S. officers in the place of technical experts in charge of several of these committees which are expected to prepare these plans?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I do not know why the bar sinister should be imposed on I. C. S. officers.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : In view of the fact that I. C. S. men are not technical men, is it not right to expect the Government to place only technical men at the helm of these technical panels which are expected to give technical advice to the Government of India;

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Will the Honourable Member give me any instance in which we have placed a non-technical man in a technical job?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Is it a fact that his Secretary is one whose only qualification was that he ran away from the fields of Burma?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I do not know whom he is referring to.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : General Hutton.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : He is leaving the department by the 20th of this month.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : Does the Honourable Member propose to take the Standing Advisory Committee into his confidence and to discuss with them the entire plans for development before he circulates them?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I will consider that.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon : May I inquire how many meetings of the Standing Advisory Committee were called this session for consultation?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Not one during this session. There has not been any time.

Prof. N.G. Ranga : Who is going to succeed General Hutton? Is he an European or Indian?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : An Indian.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Does the Honourable Member propose to convene a meeting this session?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I will consider that. There was no time to convene a meeting of the Advisory Committee. I attach great value to its advice but there has not been time and if during the summer occasion arises, when we can put a worth while agenda before it, I shall certainly convene a meeting.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that the standing committees of other Departments have been held more than once and this committee has not been convened even once?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Quite possibly.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that the Honourable Member did not consider it necessary to call a meeting, not that there was no time.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Quite honestly there was no time.

POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT PLANS OF SECTION 93 PROVINCES

1959. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan : Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Provincial post-war plans prepared by section 93 Governments have been finally approved by the Government of India, or whether these will be subject to revision and alteration by the popular Governments already formed in several Provinces and likely to be formed in others in the near future; and

(b) whether it is a fact that approval by the Central Government is a condition precedent to any financial assistance from the Central Government to Provincial Governments for the execution of such plans?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) The Provincial Plans have not yet been finally approved by the Central Government. It is open to Provincial Governments to revise or alter their Plans should they consider it necessary.

(b) Yes.

DUTIES OF STENOGRAPHERS ATTACHED TO CONTROLLERS IN MILITARY ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

1960. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the number of stenographers attached to Controllers in the Military Accounts Department and the number of Muslims among them?

(b) Is it a fact that orders regarding recruitment as provided in the Home Department Resolution of 1934 are not being observed in case of stenographers in this Department?

(c) Is it a fact that stenographers are not used by Controllers as such but are employed in office mainly on office typing work?

(d) Is it a fact that stenographers in this Department do not accompany their officers on tour and that in their place junior clerks are taken?

(e) If so, does the Honourable Member propose to issue orders to Controllers that stenographers should be utilised for their legitimate duties and not otherwise and that Controllers should make the best use of their stenographers?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : (a) The total number of stenographers employed in offices of Controllers of Military Accounts is 32; of them seven are Muslims.

(b) No.

(c), (d) and (e). There is no reason to think that stenographers are not utilised for the work for which they have been engaged but, in order to make the position perfectly clear, orders will be issued to all Controllers.

MUSLIM INSPECTING ASSISTANT COMMISSIONERS AND PERSONAL ASSISTANTS TO COMMISSIONER OF INCOME-TAX IN THE PUNJAB, N. W. F., AND DELHI PROVINCES

1961. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state the number of Inspecting Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax in the Punjab, North Western Frontier and Delhi Provinces?

(b) Is it a fact that there is not a single Muslim Inspecting Assistant Commissioner in the whole area?

(c) Do Government propose to take steps to appoint half the number of Muslims to these posts? If not, why not?

(d) Is it a fact that the post of Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Income-tax of the Punjab, North Western Frontier and Delhi Provinces has been held by non-Muslims for a considerably long time?

(e) If so, do Government propose to take steps to appoint a Muslim officer to this post? If not, why not?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : (a) Four.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax are appointed by promotion on the basis of selection from Income-tax Officers as they are posted to the Inspecting or the Appellate sides according to administrative needs and having regard to the suitability of the officers concerned to hold particular posts. The Government orders regarding reservation for communities do not apply to these posts. In the circumstances, while the claims of senior Income-tax Officers who are Muslims are considered for appointment as Assistant Commissioners, Inspecting or Appellate when vacancies arise, no particular proportion of these posts of either category can be reserved for any particular community.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : When these appointments of four Assistant Commissioners were made from time to time, were Muslims considered and by what process?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : As I have said, these appointments are made by promotion on the basis of selection of the senior-most officers on merit.

Mr. Muhammad Nauman : Am I to understand that there was no senior-most Muslim of merit to be considered when these promotions were made?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : I think that follows.

EXEMPTION FROM INCOME-TAX TO BUSINESS INCOME IN TRIBAL AREAS

1962. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state whether it is a fact that all general exemptions were incorporated in the Indian Income Tax Act as amended in 1939?

(b) Is it also a fact that the exemption of not taxing business income in tribal area is specifically incorporated in Section (1) of the Income Tax Amendment Act, 1939?

(c) Why is it that when such specific exemption has been incorporated in the Income Tax Act, 1939, exception is being taken with regard to business income in the Baluchistan Tribal area?

(d) Are Government aware that it amounts to nullifying the provisions Section (1) of the Income Tax Amendment Act, 1939?

(e) If the policy of the Government is to secure uniformity of legislation between the British India and the tribal area why has this special exemption been incorporated in the Income Tax Act?

(f) Is it a fact that Government did not want to apply the Income Tax Act to the tribal area?

(g) Do Government propose to issue instructions to the Income Tax Department not to tax business income in tribal area till such time as the exemption is withdrawn?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : (a) No;

(b) I presume that the Honourable Member is referring to sub-section (2) section 1 of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, and not to the Income-tax Amendment Act of 1939. According to this sub-section the Act does not apply to these persons in the tribal areas, who are neither servants of the Crown nor British subjects in the service of a local authority. Thus the income of these persons, whether from business or other sources will not be liable to tax under the Income-tax Act, 1922, if such income accrues outside British India. But as the Indian Income-tax Act has been applied to some of the tribal areas, business income as also other income in such areas will be liable to tax under the Act as applied.

(c), (d) and (e). I take it that the reference is to the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922. Under section 99 of the Government of India Act, 1935, the Central Legislature has no power to make laws to apply to persons outside British India, who are neither British subjects nor servants of the Crown. It is in view of the limitations imposed by the Government of India Act, 1935, that the scope of section 1 (2) of the Indian Income-tax Act, 1922, is restricted in its application to the tribal areas, which though they are in India are not part of British India. Uniformity of legislation is secured where necessary by the British Indian Act being extended to the areas concerned by the authority competent to enact laws for that area; and there is no question of any conflict between such application and the restriction of extra-territorial jurisdiction in sub-section (2) of section 1 of the Income tax Act, 1922.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) In view of the answer to parts (b) to (e) the question does not arise.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are we to understand that these people who carry on their business in tribal areas escape the necessity for paying income-tax either in India or in England if they happen to be English people?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : I think my answer makes it clear that Indian Income-tax Act has been extended to the tribal areas by the authorities which are competent to make laws for tribal areas.

APPLICATION OF INCOME-TAX ACT TO TRIBAL AREA

1963. *Mr. Ahmed E. H. Jaffer: (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member please state from what year the Income Tax Act has been applied to the Tribal areas in Baluchistan?

(b) If the act has been applied before 1939, why is it that Section (1) of the Income Tax Amendment Act, 1939, provides that the Act extends in tribal areas only to British subjects who are in the service of the Crown or local authorities established in the exercise of the powers of the Crown representative or the Central Government in that behalf and to all other servants of the Crown in the said area and not to business income?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar : (a) From 1922.

(b) I would invite the attention of the Honourable Member to the reply given to starred question No. 1962, on today's list of questions.

INDIANS AND OTHERS IN ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCES, THEIR PAY AND OTHER AMENITIES PROVIDED TO THEM

1964. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the total strength on the 31st March, 1946, in the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force showing, separately, under each head the number of Indians and non-Indians;

(b) the comparative scales of remuneration, food, clothing and other miscellaneous amenities for Indians and non-Indians; and

(c) whether Government have under contemplation an overhaul of Military personnel and expenditure policy with a view to immediate Indianisation?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) I lay a statement on the table giving the latest available information.

(b) I must refer the Honourable Member to Army Regulations (India), Pay and Allowance Regulations, the Royal Warrants for Pay, Appointments, etc., and to the relevant Orders and Instructions of the three services which have been issued from time to time.

(c) Every method of speeding up nationalisation of the armed forces is continually under consideration.

Statement

Total strength of the Indian Army as on 1st March 1946—

OFFICERS		
British (including British Service attached Indian Army)		32,484
Indians		15,210
*B. O. Rs.		53,308
V. C. Os.		38,270
I. O. Rs.		1,156,340
N. Cs. (E).		204,820

* Including those attached to the Indian Army.

Total strength of the R. I. A. F.—		
Officers, as on 31st March 1946		1,384
Airmen, as on 15th March 1946		21,740
Enrolled Followers, as on 15th March 1946		18,440
R.I.A.F. is purely an Indian Service and no non-Indians are serving in it.		
Total strength of R. I. A. F. as on 31st March 1946—		

OFFICERS AND WARRANT OFFICERS		
Indians		1,410
Non-Indians		682
		(+ 56 R. N. on loan)

RATINGS		
Indian		15,246†
Non-Indians		Nil.
† Excludes 4057 ratings in course of release but not yet written off.		

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : With reference to part (b), may I know whether Government are taking steps for putting the British personnel and the Indian personnel on the same basis ?

Mr. P. Mason : As I have explained a large number of times, there is at present a committee which is considering all questions of accommodation, pay, and similar matters and also allowances of all kinds. But as I have also made clear on a number of occasions, they do not contemplate putting British and Indian personnel on exactly the same basis for the reasons which I have explained which are that the pay of soldiers in all countries is related to the general level of wages in that country and that is why American soldiers are paid more than British.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Do the Government intend to place before this committee their own ideas about eliminating as far as possible the British elements in the army with a view to getting reduction of cost in the army ?

Mr. P. Mason : I do not follow the first part of the question ?

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : With reference to part (c) will the Honourable Member please state whether Government have under contemplation the bringing of discharged British army men from abroad in order to dump them on the Indian army as a process of what is known as secondment.

Mr. P. Mason : Certainly not. All plans for the future composition and size of the armed forces are necessarily fluid because they will be decided eventually by the future Government but the provisional plans on which we are working are for a distinct reduction in the number of British personnel.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : What is the policy of secondment ?

Mr. P. Mason : The policy of secondment has nothing to do with the number of troops in the country. That is a question which refers to officers. I have explained that also quite a number of times.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Will the Honourable Member give us some idea of the demobilisation of British troops. On a previous occasion he mentioned that it was not in the public interest to indicate what was their number in this country. Will the Honourable Member now mention the number of British troops in India ?

Mr. P. Mason : No, Sir. I am not allowed to give the number of troops in any theatre.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Is there any demobilisation going on ? Is it fairly rapidly ? Will the Honourable Member give us some idea of the pace ?

Mr. P. Mason : Of course demobilisation is going on very rapidly indeed.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh : Is it not a fact that British soldiers and officers get marriage allowance, children allowance, separation allowance and many other allowances, whereas Indian soldiers and officers get nothing ? If so, when will this distinction be abolished ?

Mr. P. Mason : As I have explained before for some time past these various allowances were given to British officers and soldiers but not to Indians. As regards Indian officers, the arrangements are now the same for both. In the case of soldiers there is a distinction to some extent, but the whole question is being considered by the committee to which I referred just now. I gave an answer to this specific question a week back.

Diwan Chaman Lal : In view of the reply to part (a) and his assurance that he laid a statement on the table of the House giving the total strength of Indians and non-Indians in the various services, how does it square with my Honourable friend's refusal to give the total number ?

Mr. P. Mason : What I said was I was not allowed to give the total number in any one theatre. It does not follow that all the troops in the Indian army are in India.

ANALYSIS OF PROF. VAKIL'S STATEMENTS BY GOVERNMENT

1965. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the statement of Prof. Vakil which appeared in the *Hindustan Times* on the 4th March, 1946;

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to another statement of the same Prof. Vakil which appeared in the *Commerce* on the 16th March, 1946;

(c) whether Government have examined the various implications of the said two statements; and

(d) whether Government have considered the question of analysing those points of the statements with which they agree and those with which they do not ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

(d) Government do not consider that any such detailed analysis would lead to useful reports.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable Member please consider the question of circulating these reports, and the statement of Prof. Vakil amongst the Members of the Standing Committee ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Honourable Members have already seen them in the Press.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are we to understand that the Government also have the same impression that has been produced in this country as a result of the statement of Prof. Vakil, that the Planning Department really does not want planning ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Economists should be on tap and not on top. Prof. Vakil has made certain statements. I have read them. I have considered them. I do not think any further time should be spent on them in any such detailed analysis as my Honorable friend suggests.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know whether any reorganisation department is being planned in view of the criticisms not only by Prof. Vakil but from many other quarters ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : What other quarters ?

Mr. Manu Subedar : From discussion in this House, from Honourable Members of this House.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I do know that some of the Honourable Members opposite have criticised the direction of the Department by my distinguished predecessor, but I do not think any of them criticised in any detail the organisation of the department nor have they made any constructive proposals to that end.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Proposals for the reorganisation of the Department have been made but are the Government of India content to leave the Department as it is now ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : We are never content with things as they are. We are constantly improving, subject to the limitation of personnel and so on.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that Mr. Vakil said that most of the planning is done more outside the Department than in the Department ? Is it true

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I have on various occasions explained that we have had assistance of considerable numbers of distinguished non-officials and experts who are not full time members of the Department, but who have given their services free in the national interest. To that extent the statement is certainly true.

Babu Ram Narayan Singh : What is that statement ?

Mr. President : That is going into some other details.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Has my Honourable friend considered the suggestion made by Professor Vakil for the appointment of a supreme economic council and a council for economic research ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : No, Sir.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of issuing a press communique at the instance of Government pointing out what suggestions and criticisms of Professor Vakil are accepted by Government ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : No, I do not propose to do that.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : May I know from the Honourable Member in particular whether there is any proposal to have any national planning commission as suggested by Professor Vakil in his newspaper article ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : How then is the Honourable Member considering the coordination of the various schemes that have been sent to the provinces? Is he bringing into existence any committee ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : The best method of coordination is to get into council with the popular ministries now being formed in the various provinces; and that I propose to do.

OBSERVATIONS OF PROF. VAKIL AND EXAMINATION OF POLICY RE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

1966. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal** : Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the desirability of issuing a communique setting forth their reaction upon the observations of Prof. Vakil;

(b) whether the question of policy with regard to the planning and development has been examined by the Executive Council after the said statements came out or after the recent budget debates in the Assembly;

(c) whether the Government are satisfied that the present Industrial Adviser and his Secretariat have got the required scientific and technical knowledge and experience; and

(d) whether the various aspects referred to in the foregoing parts of the question have been placed for discussion before the Standing Committee of the House; if not, whether they are going to be placed?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) No.

(b) I cannot disclose what transpires in the Executive Council.

(c) Yes.

(d) If the Honourable Members on the Standing Committee desire that this should be placed before them at one of their meetings, I shall certainly consider the suggestion.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : With reference to part (a), may I know the reasons ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : It is only my judgment, but I do not think that a communique is necessary in this case. Professor Vakil has made a statement and he has broadcast it in various journals; it is up to anybody to form his own judgment.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Is the Honourable Member sure that his judgment is not coloured by prejudice because of the fact.....

President : Order, order.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : With reference to part (c), has not Professor Vakil complained that in many cases these I.C.S. officers, who do not know the subject, make comments on reports of experts ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Yes, Sir, I have seen that allegation.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : To what extent is that statement correct ? Has the Honourable member taken the trouble to inquire in the matter ?

Mr. President : These are matters of opinion.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : There is an allegation that these I. C. S. officers interfere in the work of planning, in as much as experts are appointed to make suggestions and without knowing anything of the subject the I.C.S. officers comment on them. I want to know whether the Honourable Member has made any inquiries into the correctness or otherwise of this allegation.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I have made no inquiries because I happen to know the working of my own Department.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Are Government considering the desirability of calling a meeting of the Standing Committee for Planning now or soon after the close of this Session in order to consider the various schemes and evolve a central scheme ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : As I have said before, I shall call a meeting of the Committee as soon as it is feasible, but I think we all need a little rest after this Session.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will Government also consider the advisability of convening a conference of the Provincial Ministers concerned with planning for the purpose in conjunction with a meeting of the Standing Committee of this House for Planning ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : No, not in conjunction.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Independently ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Yes.

INCREASED PURCHASE PRICE OF SALT

1967. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava** : (a) Will the Honourable the Finance Member kindly state if it is a fact that Salt dealers used to purchase Salt directly from the Salt Department before the 1st March, 1946, and that now they are required to buy the same from departmental agents and to pay Rs. 0/1/6 per maund more?

(b) Are Government aware that this change is likely to result in increasing the price of Salt and is virtually an addition to the incidence of Salt Tax on consumers?

(c) What benefits do Government propose to derive from this change?

(d) What is the cost price of Sambhar Salt, and what is its present market rate?

(e) Are Government aware that every increase in the price of Salt, however so small, has a prejudicial effect upon the health of human beings and cattle in this country?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : (a) If by Departmental agents the Honourable Member is thinking of authorised traders, the answer is, Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir; not necessarily.

(c) Government is always anxious to give up controls necessitated by war conditions.

(d) The cost price of salt at Sambhar is Rs. 1/14/3 per maund inclusive of duty of Rs. 1/9/-. The market rate varies from place to place.

(e) I am sorry, Sir, I have not been able to consult the cattle; but, so far as human beings are concerned, the question is not likely to arise in the present case.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it a fact that a representation from the people affected has been communicated to the Honourable Member ? If so, has the Honourable Member come to any conclusion in regard to the complaint made by these people who are aggrieved by the rise of the price of salt ?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : I do not think the price has risen.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What about Sambhar salt ?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : No, Sir.

Mr. Manu Subedar : The Honourable Member said in his Budget Speech that some reorganisation of the distribution machinery of salt may probably result in a benefit to the consumer by bringing down the price. May I know if the department is looking into this subject and if any progress has been made in this direction ?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : Most emphatically, Sir. In fact I spent several months on studying the problem already.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava : Has Mahatma Gandhi advised the Honourable Member to abolish the salt duty and to allow free manufacture of salt ?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands : What passed between Mahatma Gandhi and myself must regard as confidential.

REFUSAL FOR RENEWALS OF ARMS LICENCE DUE TO ABSENCE OF WAR SERVICES

1968. ***Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava :** (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member kindly state if it is a fact that authorities regard the absence of War Services a specific disqualification for the yearly renewal of a licence for arms ?

(b) Is there any such circular in existence authorising authorities to refuse annual renewals of licence for arms on the ground of absence of War Services ?

(c) Is it a fact that information is asked for from licencees as to what War Services they have performed before licences for arms are renewed ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) and (b). There is no circular issued by the Central Government or current in Centrally Administered areas under which licensing authorities are required to refuse licences specifically on the ground that the applicant has not rendered war service. The absence of war service is not a specific disqualification for the renewal of a licence.

(c) I have no information as to the practice in each Province ; but I should doubt whether it is generally as suggested.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava : Is the Honourable Member aware that in the Punjab this is the practice ? And will he be pleased to issue a circular that such information should not be asked for and should not be considered against any people ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I am not quite certain which part of the question my Honourable friend is referring to,—whether it is that the absence of war service is a specific disqualification, or whether applicants are asked what war service they have performed.

Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava : I refer to part (c).

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I will certainly make inquiries.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will the Honourable Member communicate this question and his answer to all the Provincial Governments for their information ?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I have no objection to that, but I do not think myself there is any point in it.

EXCLUSION OF INDIANS FROM NEWLY FORMED ALL BRITISH SERVICE OF LANDS, HIRINGS AND DISPOSALS

1969. ***Shri D. P. Karmarkar :** (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that most British Officers of Cantonment Departments are shortly due to retire or have applied to retire prematurely and that consequently, Government are considering the winding up of Cantonment Departments by transfer of their British officers who desire to stay to the newly formed all British Service of lands, Hirings and Disposals ?

(b) When was this latter service first formed, and with what purpose ? Is it a fact that it took over from the Cantonment Departments, Lands Branch, most of their duties regarding Military lands, and that in the discharge of their duties, which are parallel, these two services often intrude into each others domain ?

(c) What are the reasons for the exclusion of Indians from this newly-formed service ?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) No, Sir. Two British Officers have been granted leave pending retirement. No decision to wind up the Cantonments Department has been taken.

(b) The Lands, Hirings and Disposals Service was formed in October, 1944 for the purpose of dealing with all lands and buildings acquired or leased for war purposes only, since the 3rd September, 1939. The duties taken over are quite distinct from the pre-war and present duties of the Lands Branch of the Cantonments Department, and they do not intrude on each other's domain.

(c) Indians are not excluded from this service.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : How many Indians are there in this service ?

Mr. P. Mason : They are 40 in number. There are at the moment 114 British of whom 51 are due for release in the next four months.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are Government thinking of appointing Indians in place of those Britishers who are to retire ?

Mr. P. Mason : Of course, Sir. The only thing is that it is very difficult to find any one at all, either British or Indian who has the qualifications or knowledge of the work of an Estate Agent.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Are any efforts being made to train Indians to enable them to take up that work ?

Mr. P. Mason : It takes six or seven years, and we hope to finish the work long before that.

SENIORITY OF BRITISH OFFICERS OF LANDS BRANCH, CANTONMENT DEPARTMENT OVER INDIAN OFFICERS

1970. ***Shri D. P. Karmarkar :** (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that all officers of the Lands Branch, Cantonment Department, though originally recruited from the Indian Army, are now Civil officers of a Central Service ?

(b) Is it a fact that these officers dress in Military uniform ? If so, why ?

(c) Is it a fact that all British officers dress as Lieut.-Colonels and that the Indian officers wear the uniform of captains irrespective of the years of service they have put in ?

(d) Are Government aware that in Local Military Circles this is taken to imply that all British Military Estates Officers are to be considered senior officers, while Indian Military Estates Officers, irrespective of their seniority in the Department, are treated as very junior officers ?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) Yes, Sir. Officers of the Lands Branch, Cantonments Department, are military officers in civil employ and form a central service under the control of the Central Government in the War Department.

(b) Officers of the Cantonments Department now wear mufti. During the War they were permitted to wear uniform appropriate to their rank.

(c) No, Sir. Whoever had military rank wore the uniform appropriate thereto.

(d) There are no grounds for any such impression.

RE-EMPLOYMENT OF LT.-COLONELS WELMAN AND GRAVESTON OF CANTONMENT DEPARTMENT, LANDS BRANCH, AFTER SUPERANNUATION

1971. ***Shri D. P. Karmarkar :** (a) Will the War Secretary be pleased to state if it is a fact that Colonels Welman and Granestone of the Cantonment

Department, Lands Branch, who retired from service in 1943 on reaching the age of 55, have still been retained in service?

(b) What salaries do these two retired re-employed British officers draw now?

(c) What is the maximum salary that is being paid to senior most Indian officer of this Department? What is the reason for the disparity between this salary and the salaries of the above-mentioned two officers?

(d) How are the two above-mentioned officers placed for the purpose of departmental seniority? Are they junior to all regular officers of the Department or only juniors to all British Officers of the Department, but senior to all Indian officers?

(e) Is it a fact that in 1945 these two officers were made to officiate as Deputy Directors of Military Lands and Cantonments over the heads of senior Indian officer till such time as certain other British officers returned from War?

(f) What are the names and years of departmental services put in by the officers who were Deputy Assistant Directors of the Commands and the Lands and Cantonment section, when these two retired officers were moved from Karachi and Ambala to Rawalpindi and Agra, respectively, to officiate as Deputy Directors?

(g) What pay did these officers draw when officiating as Deputy Directors, and for what periods did they officiate as such?

Mr. P. Mason: (a) Yes, Sir. During the war it was not possible to make any fresh recruitment from the Indian Army and the Cantonments Department is therefore extremely short of experienced officers. This shortage was partly made up by re-employing two retired officers, viz., Lt.-Cols. Welman and Graveston (not Granestone).

(b) They have been re-employed on the pay of the appointments held by them, viz. Rs. 1,950 p.m. less pension admissible to them. The net pay drawn by them comes to about Rs. 1,124 p.m.

(c) The pay at present drawn by the senior most Indian Officer of the Department who is a Viceroy's Commissioned Officer, is Rs. 880 p.m. The maximum pay admissible would be Rs. 930/- p.m.

The reason for the disparity is that the two officers mentioned are King's Commissioned Officers while the other happens to be a Viceroy's Commissioned Officer.

(d) They are technically junior to all regular officers of the Department, including the Indian officers, because they are re-employed, but they are naturally more experienced than the younger men.

(e) No, Sir. These two officers officiated as matter of administrative convenience in short leave vacancies as Deputy Director's, Military Lands and Cantonments, in short leave vacancies only because they had previous experience of the posts. The next senior officers, to whom the promotion might normally have gone were British.

(f) No full-time Deputy Assistant Directors were appointed at Command Headquarters at the time. The Military Estates Officers, of the two Circles, were carrying out the duties of Deputy Assistant Directors in addition to their own duties. These officers were Honorary Captains Khudadad Khan, M.B.E., in Northern Command and Rachpal Singh in Central Command and their departmental service was 17 and 18 years, respectively. They are both Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, and on the grounds of rank alone could not have held the posts of Deputy Director.

(g) They drew pay at Rs. 2,145 p.m. less their pension—Rs. 1,319 p.m. only. Lt.-Col. Graveston officiated for one month and 27 days and Lt.-Col. Welman for 27 days.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: With reference to his answer to part (a) of the question, will the Honourable Member say how long is it proposed to keep these officers in service?

Mr. P. Mason: Until the shortage has disappeared.

Diwan Chaman Lall: What are their special qualifications?

Mr. P. Mason: Years of service in the Department.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Are there any Indians with more years of service?

Mr. P. Mason: Not with so many.

Diwan Chaman Lall: The difference is merely the length of time?

Mr. P. Mason: It is a matter of shortage of officers and we want officers who are experienced.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Are there any Indian officers in the Department who are particularly experienced because of their length of service in this particular department?

Mr. P. Mason: Yes, Sir.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Why not appoint them?

Mr. P. Mason: They are appointed.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Are there no Indians working immediately under these officers who may have picked up the work and who have got years of work at their credit?

Mr. P. Mason: There are no Indians working immediately below them. As I have explained in my rather lengthy answer, and I must say, Sir, that I think the attention this matter is receiving is disproportionate to the importance of the question as it is an officiating vacancy for about a month in each case, all the officers immediately junior to them in length of service are British.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Do I understand that there is no age limit in respect of tenure of these officers, and are they to remain in service as long as they live?

Mr. P. Mason: I hope the shortage will come to an end before that.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Do they belong to the club for the 'superannuated, retired and re-employed'?

(No reply was given.)

WHEREABOUTS OF DR. J. C. DAS GUPTA, PH. D. (BERLIN) IN GERMANY

1972. *Sree Satyapriya Banerjee: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) the whereabouts of Dr. J. C. Das Gupta, Ph.D. (Berlin), in Germany;

(b) whether he is under arrest;

(c) whether he carried on business in Germany for a long time under the name and style of Dr. J. C. Das Gupta and Company; and

(d) whether he will be allowed to return to India if he so desires?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) to (d). No one of this name is among the persons reported to be under arrest in Germany; nor have the Government of India any other information about him. If fuller details such as his parentage and last known address are furnished, enquiries will be made.

EXECUTIVE POSTS IN AJMER-MERWARA TRANSFERABLE WITH POSTS IN UNITED PROVINCES

1973. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that a number of executive posts in the Province of Ajmer-Merwara have recently been made transferable with similar posts in the Province of United Provinces? If so, what are these posts, and what advantage have Government in view for taking the step?

(b) How do Government contemplate to fill up vacancies caused in such posts by retirement or otherwise?

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

(c) Are Government prepared to give an assurance that vacancies in such posts will be filled in only from local men and that the rights of the local men will not be prejudiced by such transfers?

(d) Are Government contemplating to adopt similar procedure in respect of transfer of posts of Judges also? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) A proposal is under consideration to include certain executive posts in the Ajmer-Merwara Civil Service in a joint cadre with the U.P. Civil Service. The object is to provide a wider field of appointment and experience than is afforded by a small local cadre.

(b) and (c). Vacancies in the Ajmer-Merwara posts borne on the joint cadre will be filled by officers drawn from that cadre.

The interests of residents of Ajmer-Merwara will be preserved by making them eligible for appointment to the U.P. executive Civil Service.

(d) No. The existing arrangements for staffing the judicial posts in Ajmer-Merwara are considered adequate and satisfactory.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is it not generally the case that the laws passed in the United Provinces are made applicable to the province of Ajmer-Merwara, and, therefore, will it not be just as convenient to apply the same principle of having the joint cadre as between the United Provinces Judicial Officers and Ajmer-Merwara Judicial Officers?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I am quite prepared to look into the matter again with special attention to that point. It was not a point, so far as I know, which had arisen in the previous consideration of the subject.

POST-WAR RE-CONSTRUCTION, PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT IN AJMER-MERWARA

1974. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava :** (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state how much amount Government propose to spend in Ajmer-Merwara in the year 1946-47 in respect of the post-war re-construction Planning and Development Scheme?

(b) Have any definite schemes been prepared so far? If so, what are these schemes, and how much amount do Government propose to spend on such schemes, separately?

(c) Have Government sounded public opinion in respect of the schemes under contemplation? If so, in what way? If not, why not?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) About Rs. 25 lakhs.

(b) Yes. A statement giving particulars of the schemes approved so far is laid on the table.

(c) Some of the schemes will in the usual course be put before the Standing Finance Committee. Most of the schemes will form part of Ajmer-Merwara's 5-years Development Plan to advise on which there is a local Reconstruction Committee.

Statement of schemes approved so far and their cost in 1946-47

	Rs.
I. Animal Husbandry—	
1. Sheep breeding	13,000
2. Animal Health	63,000
3. Training of staff	5,860
4. 10 year. Development schemes	21,800
Total	1,03,660

	Rs.
I. Marketing—	
1. Construction of Khaties and Godowns (for regulating the markets and marketing in Ajmer-Merwara).	25,000
2. Acquisition of buildings and purchase of apparatus (expansion and enforcement of Pure Food Act).	12,000
3. Purchase of carding and raising machines and certain materials and the training of the staff in connection with the utilization of graded wool.	13,000
Total	50,000
III. Co-operation—	
1. Acquisition of lands for sale and supply unions and 16 stores .	25,000
2. Training of three Inspectors and 22 Sub-Inspectors	3,360
Total	28,360
IV. Agriculture—	
1. Central Farm	83,000
2. Experimental Farms	96,000
3. Training of staff	37,480
Total	2,16,480
V. Forests—	
1. Propaganda work and detailed examination of waste Shamlat lands.	21,400
2. Additional staff	8,700
3. Construction of wall for extension of Pushkar Garden and Nursery	20,900
4. Cost of training of one Ranger and two Assistant Rangers . .	4,766
5. Cost of certain afforestation measures to be taken up in advance of Post-war schemes.	4,270
Total	62,366
VI. Medical and Public Health—	
1. Establishment of anti-malaria organisation in Ajmer-Merwara .	2,00,000
2. Ajmer-Water Supply Scheme	6,00,000
Total	8,00,000

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : In view of the fact that there is no Legislative Assembly in Ajmer-Merwara as in other provinces, will the Government consider the advisability of appointing an Advisory Planning Committee for Ajmer-Merwara?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I have just now said that there is a local Reconstruction Committee.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : As the Honourable Member has said Government propose to spend about 25 lakhs of rupees. May I know if the plans are so comprehensive as to include health and education plans also?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : All the plans have not been received, but they are comprehensive.

SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS IN ARMY AND OTHER WAR SERVICES FROM AJMER-MERWARA

1975. ***Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava :** Will the War Secretary be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers and officers in the Army and other war services recruited from the Province of Ajmer-Merwara during the last war;

(b) the number of soldiers and officers already demobilised or on the way of demobilisation, and the number of soldiers and officers who will be retained permanently;

(c) the number of soldiers and officers who joined the I.N.A.; how many have been released so far, how many are still in detention, and when they are expected to be released; and

(d) how many of them are likely to be prosecuted, and what their names are?

Mr. P. Mason : I presume, Sir, that the whole question refers to the province of Ajmer-Merwara.

(a) The number of other ranks recruited in the Indian Army from Ajmer-Merwara from the beginning of the war to the 30th of September, 1945, was 5,312. The total number of officers recruited during the period is not available. On 31st January, 1946, however, there were 27 officers serving in the Indian Army from that area. Four officers and 66 airmen were recruited from there into the R. I. A. F. during the war. Figures for the R.I.N. are not available.

(b) 1,063 soldiers and three officers of the Indian Army belonging to Ajmer-Merwara had been demobilised up to the end of February 1946. A further 733 soldiers and nine officers will be demobilised by the end of July 1946. Figures for the R.I.N. and the R.I.A.F. are not available.

It is not at present possible to give an estimate of the men and officers from this province who will be retained permanently.

(c) The information is not available and cannot be collected without a great deal of research and enquiry.

(d).None, Sir.

INDUSTRIAL ADVISOR TO GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1976. ***Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal:** Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether industrial planning is the only planning that has upto now been taken up by Government; if so, the reasons;

(b) the age, salary, past experience, special claims and special and general qualifications of the present Industrial Advisor to the Government of India; whether he got the appointment after it was advertised, and whether the Public Services Commission had anything to do with it;

(c) the qualifications, general and special, of the Industrial Advisor who just preceded the present incumbent, and why and under what circumstances he left the job;

(d) how many gazetted officers are attached to the Office of the Industrial Advisor, the general and special qualifications of each of them and the nature of work and salary of each of them;

(e) how many scientists, technicians and experts there are in the personnel of the Planning and Development Department; and the policy of Government in the matter of getting specialists and experts for holding the appointment of Industrial Advisor and important Assistants in the Department; and

(f) whether Government have any panel of specialists and experts and technicians, and whether Government have collected information from abroad as to how advanced countries man their Industrial, Planning and Development Departments?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) No. Planning of every important aspect of the economic life of the country has been taken up.

(b) Age 58 : salary Rs. 3,750 per month including his pension. Regarding his qualifications and experience, I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to part (b) of unstarred Question No. 176, of the 4th April, 1946. The post

Was not advertised ; but the concurrence of the Federal Public Service Commission for filling up the post by departmental selection was obtained.

(c) He was an officer of the Indian Service of Engineers, and had been the Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, in the Public Works Department, Buildings and Roads Branch. He left on his appointment as head of the India Supply Mission at Washington.

(d) and 1st part of (e). A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Second part of (e). The policy is to recruit the best talent available.

(f) As has frequently been stated in this House and elsewhere, 28 Panels have been appointed by the Planning and Development Department for investigating into and making recommendations for the planning and development of the major industries. A list of these Panels and the industries with which they are concerned is available in the Library of the House. Regarding other subjects each of the Departments of the Government of India concerned has a set of specialists, experts and technicians to advise and help them in their work. The Planning and Development Department are constantly collecting information on the work done in other countries and by other Governments in the same field. The utmost attempt is made to learn from the experience of others ; both, by sending our own men abroad for the purpose, and obtaining foreign experts where necessary ; and by studying the literature on the subject.

Statement showing the Gazetted Officers in I.A.'s Office and Experts in the Planning and Development Departments

Serial No.	Designation of Post	No. of Posts	Name of incumbent	Qualifications.	Salary P.M.	Work Allotted
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY						
[18TH APRIL 194]						
1	Industrial Adviser.	One	Mr. H. K. Kirpalani	I. C. S. (retired); lately Adviser to the Governor of Bombay.	Ra. 3,750 (including pension).	Secy. to Panels: Iron & Steel (Major) & (Minor) Ship Building & Marine Engineering.
2	Deputy Industrial Adviser.	Seven	(1) Mr. K. C. Cooper (2) Dr. M. K. Maitra (3) Dr. Aswath Narayana Rao. (4) Mr. C. S. N. Raju (5) Mr. T. B. Merchant	Lately Deputy Controller of Supplies, Bengal. D.Sc., Ph.D. (London), D.I.C., A.R.C.S., lately Joint Chief Controller of Explosives, Labour Dept., Government of India. D.Sc. (London); A.I.C., F.R.I.C., lately General Manager of the Mysore Govt. Industrial and Testing Laboratories; Technical Assistant to Director of Chemical Engineering and Chemical Industries, Mysore, Technical Secretary to the Mysore, Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. Graduate of the Madras University, M.Sc., in Mechanical Engineering in (Masechusetts); worked as apprentice Engineer with M/s. Balcock & Nilcox Ltd., U.S.A. As Test Engineer in the Steam Power Service Electric and Gas Co., of new Jersey. U.S.A. Inspector of Steam Boilers & Prime Movers, Government of Madras for 5 years; from May 1934 upto his joining incharge of the Power Systems of the Tata Iron and Steel Co., Jamshedpur. B.Sc. (Tech.) (Mansh.) A. N. I. E. (Ind.) A. Amer. I.E.E. (America), An Officer of the Indian Stores Deptt. lately Development Officer (Electrical) of the I. & C. S. Department.	1,450 1,450 1,500 2,500	Secy. to Panels for (1) Fine Chemicals & Pharmaceuticals. (2) Sugar Alcohol and Food Yeast. Secy. to Panel for (1) Heavy Chemical Industries (2) Electr: Chemical Industries (3) Soaps and Oil and Paints and Var. nishes, Secy. to Panels; Industrial Plant and Machinery Sub-Panel for Road Rollers.
3	Assistant Industrial Adviser	Three	(6) Mr. S. S. Iyengar (7) Mr. V. S. Krishna Swamy	B.E. (Bombay) A. M. I. E. (Ind.), A. M. I., Mech., E. (London); M. I. Brit. F. (Lond.) A.M.I., Loco E. (Lond) Lately Deputy Assistant Controller General of Inspection (Machine Tools) Civil Wing, Supply Deptt. M.A. A permanent Officer of the Railway Accounts, lately Under Secy. of the I. & C. S. Department.	2,000 1,300	Secy. to Panel for Machine Tool Light Engineering. Administration and Coordination.
4	Adviser on Mineral Development	One	(1) Mr. Anand Swarup Bhatnagar. (2) Mr. A. K. Dutta (3) Mr. Humayun Mirza Dr. D. N. Wadia	M. Sc., (Chemistry); lately convened Assistant in Messrs. Burma Shell. B.Sc. (London) Asstt. Editor, Eastern Economist. An Ex-officer of the Mysore Civil Service and ex-Dewan of Bargaupalle. M.A., B.Sc., F.C.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.A., S.B., F. N.I., President, National Institute of Science, India. Retired. Geologist, Geological Survey of India. Formerly Chief Geologist, Government, Twice appointed Chairman of the Indian Science Congress (Geological Section).	750 600 750 2,000	Secy. to Panel for (1) Paper, Pulp, Wood Pulp, Chemicals Cotton, Paste Boards, Straw Boards. (2) Plastic & Celluloid (3) Rayon and Artificial Silk. (4) Hosiery (5) Ready made clothing. Secy. to Panel for (1) Glass (2) Refractories and Ceramics, Leather, wool, Scientific Instruments. Secy. for Panel to—Silk, Coir rope and Cordage.

STARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the Government of India invites the Provincial Governments, asking the latter to suggest names of specialists who might be useful for planning and development?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : No specialists have been appointed in my time, and therefore I do not know what procedure was followed by my predecessor in appointing these specialists. I will find it out if the Honourable Member wants to know.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Since those experts are being retained during the tenure of office of the Honourable Member, it is his duty to see whether they are discharging their duties properly.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : That is a different question. Of course it is my duty and I am satisfied with those whom I have retained. Some of them I have dispensed with.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will the Honourable Member put himself in touch with Dr. Kumarappa who is conducting the All India Village Industries.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I could not follow.

Mr. President : Will he put himself in touch with Dr. Kumarappa from day to day?

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Will the Honourable Member put himself into touch with Dr. Kumarappa who is making a number of researches for cottage industries?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I think some of my officers are already in touch with Dr. Kumarappa.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether the Government of India invites the Science Congress to give their suggestions in planning and development?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I think what my Honourable friend refers to is the Council of Industrial and Scientific Research and not the Science Congress.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : I mean the Indian Science Congress.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : This only meets once a year for a few days. It is hardly a body which could advise us on our day to day problems.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : Will the Honourable Member consider the question of inviting information from the Science Congress?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I will.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Did he ask for suggestion from the Planning Committee of Bombay?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : It has not fallen to me to do so. But my predecessor sent Professor Vakil, who was then one of the advisers to assist the Planning Committee when his services were called for.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal : In view of the large number of questions that have been raised in connection with the Planning and Development Department on the floor of the House today and before, will the Honourable Member consider the desirability of immediately calling a meeting of the Standing Committee of the House either in the course of this month or early next month.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Yes, certainly.

SORTING OUT RATINGS WHO COULD ASSIST IN SUPPRESSION OF MUTINY

1977. ***Mr. Manu Subedar :** (a) Is any attempt being made by the War Secretary to sort out ratings on the basis that these could be relied upon to assist in the suppression of a mutiny by all means in future?

(b) Has a circular to this effect by the Flag Officer, Bombay, to the Commanding Officers of ships in his charge been issued?

(c) Have Government's attention been drawn to the paragraph in the *Blitz* of Bombay, dated the 23rd March, 1946, reading as follows:

"Is it true that Vice-Admiral Rattray of the RIN has circularised all officers to report as soon as possible the official numbers, names, caste, or religion and province of origin of all ratings who, they consider, would not take part in any future mutiny and who, if they could be isolated at an early date and concentrated, could be relied upon to assist in the suppression of a mutiny by all means"?

(d) Have any ratings been isolated and concentrated on the basis indicated above?

(e) Did the General Headquarters send any such instructions to the Flag Officer, or has the Flag Officer reported on the steps, which he is taking in the direction indicated above?

(f) What reports have Government received indicating the causes of the recent discontent amongst the ratings and the course of events?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir, since receipt of your question.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) I assume that the Honourable Member means Naval Headquarters. Naval Headquarters had issued no instructions to this effect and the Flag Officer, Bombay has now been instructed to take no further action in this matter.

(f) These, Sir, are for consideration by the Commission now sitting.

Mr. Manu Subedar : The Honourable Member said 'No' to (a). If that is so, how does he justify his 'Yes' to the further question in the sense that a circular to this effect was sent out? Information was collected, some ratings have been isolated from the others on the ground that whatever test they may have had for separating, some people have been separated from others. What is that test? I want to know.

Mr. P. Mason : The first question is how I reconcile my answer to (a) with my answer to (b). In that I refer to my answer to (e) in which it was said that Naval Headquarters had issued no instructions to this effect and that the Flag Officer, Bombay, has been instructed to take no further action in the matter. I trust that that satisfies the Honourable Member's uncertainty on that point.

The second point was whether any test was actually carried out, and as far as I know no test was carried out. A few of the commanding officers who were addressed gave their replies but they were based on personal opinions and that is one reason why we told the flag officer to go no further because a report based on personal opinion could have no value whatever.

Mr. Manu Subedar : I am anxious that there will be no victimization. I do not object to whatever proper measures the defence authorities take in the matter, but will the Honourable Member assure me that in the sort of action which was initiated by a local official in Bombay and not from Headquarters there will be no victimization of innocent persons who may be isolated arbitrarily from the others.

Mr. P. Mason : I cannot possibly be expected to give an assurance that every officer will always act in accordance with his instructions. I can only give you an assurance as to the instructions issued from here. As far as that is concerned, I have given that assurance before and in this case, as I say, we have told local officers to drop the whole matter.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : What steps do the Government of India take to see that the assurances they give here are actually brought to the notice of the responsible officers in their defence forces?

Mr. P. Mason : Constant tours.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Have the Government reprimanded any officers for going beyond the instructions given from the Centre and creating situations of the kind which we discuss here?

Mr. P. Mason : If that were the case, it would be a confidential matter and would not be disclosed.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT DEALING WITH STATISTICS FOR
PLANNING AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF COUNTRY

1978. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any Department or Section for statistics for dealing with planning and future development of the country, industrially, commercially and in agriculture;

(b) whether Government have any office or posts for dealing with statistics; and

(c) the methods adopted by Government in the matter of collection and maintenance of statistics?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) Yes; there are sections in the various Departments concerned; and the P. & D. Department have Research staff for co-ordinating all the information necessary for planning.

(b) Yes.

(c) Statistics relating to Central subjects are collected through the Administrative staff of the Central Departments administering those subjects; and those relating to other subjects are collected through Provincial and State Governments. The greater part of our statistics are collected on a voluntary basis.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member be pleased to state whether there is any machinery for getting the statistics of countries abroad?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Yes.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: What is the method of collection of those statistics?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I speak subject to correction. I think the Economic Adviser gets most of these statistics from abroad and supplies them to the various Departments of the Government of India. There is also a central administrative room which I would commend my Honourable friend to go and see where these statistics are exposed in a very suitable form.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: In view of the importance of the matter, will the Honourable Member consider the question of having a small committee of the House which can advise the Government on getting statistics from abroad and setting up a machinery of getting the latest and up-to-date scientific information all round?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: I do not consider that it is the function of the Legislators to advise on statistics and I do not propose to accept the Honourable Member's suggestion.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Honourable Member consider the question of having a Standing Committee of Scientists and experts in the matter?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: We have got these committees. My Honourable friend the Commerce Member has in prospect one such.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: I may say that in order to collect the statistics and other materials that are required by the different Departments, statistics concerning not only India but also other countries, a committee has already been appointed consisting of experts as also statisticians of the different departments to advise Government as to how in future statistics should be prepared and what plan should be adopted.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: May I know if on this Committee there is any representation from the Indian Science Congress, the National Planning and Development Committee and the Industrial and Scientific Research Bureau?

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque: No, Sir. It is a departmental Committee for the time being with an Economic Adviser at the head.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Will the Government consider the question of appointing an extra-departmental special committee on this matter?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: There is nothing for it to do at the present stage.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: Is the Honourable Member aware that in countries like the U. S. S. R. and the U. K. there are Standing Committees which are outside the departments of the Government and which consist of persons who are recruited from the Universities?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: Quite possibly. I am not saying that we will not appoint such a committee but the need for it has not at present arisen. If and when the need arises we will consider the matter.

ORDER FOR DEPOSITING HIS REVOLVER TO MAULVI MUAZZEM HUSSAIN
CHOUDHURY OF FARIDPUR, BENGAL AND APPREHENSION OF CIVIL WAR

1979. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the Press report in the city edition of the *Dawn*, dated the 3rd April, 1946, to the effect that Maulvi Muazzem Hussain Choudhury of Faridpur, Bengal, has been written to by the District Magistrate of Faridpur for depositing his revolver in the local subdivisional Malkhana;

(b) whether Government are aware that the said Muazzem Hussain Choudhury is a Member of the Bengal Muslim League Parliamentary Board, a Member of the Bengal Legislative Council and the President of the Faridpur District School Board;

(c) whether the press report is true; if so, the policy of Government in this respect;

(d) whether Government have formulated an All-India policy in the matter, or whether the different Provinces are free to formulate their own policies in this respect;

(e) the policy adopted by the different Provinces with regard to the matter, how many persons in each Province have been similarly requested to deposit their revolvers in Government custody, and how many of such persons in each Province are Hindus and Muslims;

(f) the different kinds of arms that are being required to be so deposited; and

(g) whether Government are apprehending a Civil War in the country in the wake of the Cabinet Mission's final decision on the constitutional issue India is faced with; if so, the nature of these apprehensions?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) I have seen this item.

(b) and (c). I have asked the Bengal Government for information on these points but have not yet received an answer.

(d) The Government of India have formulated no policy which would require action of the kind in question. The administration of the Arms Rules is, however, in the hands of Provincial Governments.

(e) and (f). I have no information on these points, and I do not think it necessary to obtain it.

(g) The Government share the hope and belief of the public that the Cabinet Mission will result in a settlement which will be generally acceptable.

AJMER BAR ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTATION RE REPLACEMENT OF SINGLE-
JUDGE JUDICIAL COMMISSIONER'S COURT BY CIRCUIT HIGH
COURT WITH TWO OR MORE JUDGES

1980. *Pandit Mukut Bihari Lal Bhargava: Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether Government have received any representation from the Bar Association, Ajmer, and other bodies proposing that Government may arrange for a circuit High Court consisting of two or more judges

in place of the present Court of the Judicial Commissioner consisting of a single judge? If so, what action, if any, has been taken thereon? If none, why?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : Representations were received in 1943 and 1944 for placing Ajmer-Merwara under the Allahabad High Court and for the disposal of judicial work by Judges of that Court on Circuit, but public opinion at the time was not in favour of the abolition of the Judicial Commissioner's Court at Ajmer and it was considered desirable to continue the existing arrangement, which is also cheaper to the public.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : May I know by what method was this public opinion ascertained?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I am afraid I cannot answer that.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : I am asking in what manner was this public opinion ascertained on which their decisions was based?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I heard the Honourable Member's question. I am afraid I cannot answer it without notice.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : How did the Honourable Member.....

Mr. President : The Honourable Member is unable to give the information without notice.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : After all the answer was that public opinion was opposed to the amalgamation. I want to know how this public opinion was ascertained.

Mr. President : The same has been supplied to him. He is not in a position to state how it was ascertained.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : I want to know which were the associations which were consulted and how this public opinion was ascertained?

Several Honourable Members : Order, order.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : On a point of order, Sir, am I not entitled to know....

Several Honourable Members : Order, order.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : On a point of order, Sir, the Honourable Member has answered that public opinion was opposed to the amalgamation. I want to know how was this public opinion ascertained.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member is asking about the machinery by which the conclusion was arrived at. I believe public opinion was ascertained years ago, perhaps in 1932 or 1934.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : 1943 and 1944.

Mr. President : The Honourable Member does not know the machinery and he wants to have notice of the question, if the Honourable Member (Mr. Mohan Lal Saksena) wants to know about it.

Miss Maniben Kara : Sir, I do not propose asking question No. 1981 but would ask the next question No. 1982.

BEARING OF TRAVELLING EXPENSES OF MEMBERS OF ALL-INDIA NEWSPAPER EDITOR'S CONFERENCE BY GOVERNMENT

†1981. ***Miss Maniben Kara :** Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state:

(a) whether it is a fact that travelling expenses of members of the All-India Newspaper Editor's Conference on certain occasions are borne by Government;

(b) when such an arrangement, if any, came into existence, and what the rates and conditions are under which such allowances are paid;

†Answer to this question laid on the table, the questioner having not put the question.

(c) the total amount paid by Government on this account since any such arrangement has come into operation; and

(d) whether, in view of the fact that a large number of newspapers for reasons of political views, have remained outside this organisation, Government propose to revise its attitude towards this organisation and cease to pay travelling allowances to its members from public funds?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I would draw the Honourable Member's attention to the reply already given by me to question No. 1777, on the 15th April, 1946.

BAN ON MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS NEAR COUNCIL CHAMBER

1982. ***Miss Maniben Kara :** Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state:

(a) if it is a fact that all meetings and demonstrations near about the Council Chamber have been forbidden by Government order;

(b) whether the order, if any, was promulgated after the demonstration and meeting of the Government of India Employees' Association held on March 28, 1946; and

(c) whether Government are aware that clerks and other employees of Government want to have adequate opportunity to bring their difficulties and grievances to the notice of the members of the Legislature?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) No.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Miss Maniben Kara : Is it a fact that both the Home and War Departments have given assurances to the Employees' Association that their activities will be considered and had agreed to give certain facilities to them?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : How does it arise out of this question?

Miss Maniben Kara : There was a demonstration outside the Council Chamber and I understand that certain assurances were given by the Home and War Departments to particular associations.

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I cannot say from memory and certain knowledge whether such assurances were given but if they were given they will certainly be honoured.

Diwan Chaman Lall : May I know whether it is a fact that a circular was issued by the Home Department to these Associations of Government employees saying that they could not hold any meetings in the ground outside the Assembly Chamber without taking permission from the Department?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : That is covered by the answer I have given. The answer is No. I should perhaps add that before this demonstration occurred there was a memorandum issued by the Home Department discouraging the holding of meetings of Government servants on the lawns outside the Secretariat, which is a different place.

Miss Maniben Kara : Is it not a fact that the Home Department have given the facility of a big room inside for the Association and does the Honourable Member not think that it will be the right of the employees of Government to hold meetings outside the compound?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : That is a dual question. The first part is whether the association was given a room in which to hold their meetings. I am afraid I do not know. As to the second part regarding open air meetings, I should have thought that they are not necessary if a room is provided.

Miss Maniben Kara : Is it a fact that the Secretary of this Association is being harassed by the police and enquiries are being made about him and he has been detained from his duty simply because he has been participating in activities of the

association which has got recognition by the War Department and the Home Department?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : I suggest that that hardly arises out of this question and it certainly is not a matter which I can answer from my recollection.

Miss Maniben Kara : Will the Honourable Member not consider revising their attitude in view of the fact that the Government is placing before this House a Bill recognising the trade unions and allowing the normal activities of the trade unions?

Mr. President : That will be a matter of argument and opinion.

EXPANSION OF CEMENT INDUSTRIES IN BIHAR

1983. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state whether Government have recently considered proposals for the expansion of Cement Industries in the Province of Bihar? If so, with what results?

(b) How many new factories are going to be installed within the Province under the proposed expansion scheme and at what places, stating also the name of the Firms or industrialists to whom licence has been granted?

(c) Is it a fact that several eminent businessmen applied for permission to put up new factories at Dalmianagar and that their claims were totally ignored, thus preventing the new comers altogether from entering into the industry?

(d) Do Government intend to extend opportunities to new coming businessmen of the Province to share in the expansion of the industry in that area?

(e) Do Government propose to give facilities to the existing smaller companies to extend their plant?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) and (b). I invite the Honourable Member's attention to my reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) of Starred Question No. 616, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar on the 4th March, 1946.

(c) No.

(d) Yes, when further expansion is contemplated.

(e) Permission to extend their capacity to three out of the four existing factories other than those under the control of the ACC and Dalmia, has already been given. The fourth did not contemplate any extension of production.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Can we have the assurance that it is not the policy of the Government to encourage any monopolies?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Yes. You can have the assurance.

Mr. Manu Subedar : May I know whether the Government's policy in the matter of cement production is one of restrictiveness by limiting the number of licensees or whether it is one of free expansion leaving it to the free competition of the producers to produce more.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : It is not a policy of free expansion. I would call it planned expansion.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Are Government unduly restricting the number of permits they give for the manufacture of cement to private parties, other than the A. C. C. and the Dalmia group?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : They are not unduly restricted.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Is it not a fact that an application was made from Rewa State to start a cement factory there and it has not been granted?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : It may have been but the allocation to the States of additional capacity was done in consultation with the Political Department and with their agreement.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : I want to know whether it is a fact that permission was refused?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : Quite possibly. Perhaps Rewa did not find a place in the additional capacity sanctioned.

(b) WRITTEN ANSWERS

DICTIONARY OF ECONOMIC PRODUCTS AND INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES OF INDIA

1984. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state:

(a) the date on which work was begun on the Dictionary of Economic Products and Industrial Resources of India;

(b) what portion of the work has been so far done;

(c) the approximate date by which the publication is expected to be completed;

(d) the expenditure incurred so far; and

(e) the total estimated cost of producing the work?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) On the 4th August, 1942.

(b) The compilation of subjects under the first two Alphabets 'A' and 'B' has been completed.

(c) About three years more.

(d) Rs. 2,51,218.

(e) Rs. 7 lakhs approximately, of which a good deal will be met from the expected sale proceeds of the Dictionary.

AUTHORITY FOR FORFEITURES, STOPPAGES, REFUSAL TO EXCHANGE JAPANESE CURRENCY AND RETENTION OF ARREARS OF ACCOUNTS OF I.N.A. MEN

1985. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the War Secretary please state if he is aware of the fact:

(i) that forfeitures of pay, allowance, non-effective pay, in the case of personnel of the I. N. A. for periods previous to the date of their apprehension and surrender have been effected;

(ii) that the Japanese currency in which the Indian Prisoners of War were paid by that Government and which is still in their possession has remained un-exchanged on the ground that the Japanese' currency was demonetized and that the I. N. A. personnel would not have the right to have that currency exchanged into Indian currency;

(iii) that family allotments payable and customarily due for the period in (i) have been stopped, reduced or discontinued; and

(iv) that arrears of their accounts have been retained or refused on the date of their release from the subjection to I. N. A.?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state the statutory authority for the forfeitures stoppages, refusal to exchange the Japanese currency and retention of arrears of accounts referred to in (a) with reference to Sections 48 (h) (v), 53-A and 47 of the Indian Army Act and Sections 44 (6), 136, 137 (3) of the Army Act?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) (i). Yes, Sir. But such forfeiture is being enforced only in the case of men who have been discharged or dismissed from the Army after a full enquiring into their conduct while in enemy hands.

(ii) Yes, Sir, but not for the reasons suggested by the Honourable Member. The position is that during captivity prisoners of war are entitled to receive pay from the Captor Power at agreed rates and a corresponding deduction is made in their accounts in India. Normally therefore exchange of foreign currency in the possession of recovered prisoners of war is permissible. Owing, however, to the abnormal conditions which prevailed in enemy camps in the Far East, the Government of India decided in 1945 to waive the recovery in Indian accounts of payments supposed to have been made to prisoners of war in Japanese hands and amounts already recovered in Indian accounts were accordingly recredited. Consequently,

there is no good reason to permit the exchange of Japanese currency in the hands of prisoners of war which incidentally has no recognised exchange value.

(iii) No, Sir. On the contrary orders have been issued to ensure that the families of all ranks of the Indian Army reported missing or prisoners of war were properly maintained.

(iv) No, Sir. Every effort has been made to settle men's accounts before release. As the accounts are maintained at Regimental Centres and Depots in various parts of India, a certain amount of delay in settling these accounts has been unavoidable. In view of this it was decided that if any men wished to be released before the settlement of their accounts they might be allowed to go, provided they signed a certificate signifying their wish to be permitted to be so released. In such cases any such sums due to them will be remitted to their home addresses.

(b) The sections of the Indian Army Act and the Army Act referred to by the Honourable Member are not relevant. Forfeiture of pay and allowances for the period spent as a prisoner of war is authorised by Pay and Allowances Regulations (India), Volume I, Rule 438, Indian Army Act, Section 50 (2) and in the case of Indian Commissioned Officers Ordinance XXXVI of 1943. So far as Japanese currency is concerned it has not been exchanged because, as I have said, it has no exchange value.

AUTHORITY FOR REDUCTION OF RANK OF NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF INDIAN FORCES

1986. *Prof. N. G. Ranga: (a) Will the War Secretary please state:

(i) whether it is a fact that the rank of the Non-Commissioned Officers of the Indian Forces has been reduced by an authority other than Court Martial on their being declared unfit for further service and on assessing their disability and family pension; and

(ii) whether "acting rank" in (i) during the wars have not been considered as substantive rank for the purpose of assessing disability and family pensions in the case of personnel in (i)?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state the statutory authority for the reduction of rank referred to in (a) with reference to Section 43 (g), of the Indian Army Act?

Mr. P. Mason: (a), (i) and (ii). Disability and family Pensions of NCOs of the Indian Army are assessed on their substantive rank, or a higher war-substantive or paid acting rank, if any held. There is no rule for assessing these pensions on unpaid acting rank, and no question of reduction in rank is involved in excluding this rank.

(b) Does not arise.

PROGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL PANELS AND PANEL FOR COTTAGE AND SMALL-SCALE INDUSTRIES

1987. *Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal: (a) Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development be pleased to state the progress of different industrial panels at work at present?

(b) What is the existing organisation in the Industrial Adviser's Office to co-ordinate the inter-related technological, economic and other problems of different industries?

(c) Is it a fact that no panel has been created for cottage and small-scale industries? If so, why?

(d) Is it a part of the duty of the Industrial Adviser to visit different Provinces, with a view to promoting the interests of regional planning and central co-ordination? If so, how many Provinces he has visited so far, and with what results?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: (a) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to question No. 91, for the 7th February, 1946.

(b) Joint meetings of the Panels appointed for the various industries are held whenever necessary, to secure co-ordination, particularly where the processes and products of one industry are connected with those of another.

(c) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to part (a) of Starred Question No. 1292, for the 27th March, 1946.

(d) One of the main functions of the Industrial Adviser is to guide the deliberations of the Panels. He takes part in the meetings held by the Panels and representatives of Provincial and State Governments. So far, it has not been necessary for him personally, to visit any province for this particular purpose. But if for any reason, this becomes necessary, he will certainly do so.

PROPOSAL TO SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS FROM GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1988. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether any proposal to separate the administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from that of the Government of India is under the consideration of Government? If so, what is the nature of the proposal, and why is such separation proposed to be effected?

(b) Will this Assembly be given an opportunity to discuss the matter before any decision is taken?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

MANUFACTURE OF BICHRIMATE OF POTASH

1989. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

- whether capital issue of Rupees one crore has been recently sanctioned to a company proposing to manufacture bichromate of potash;
- the proposed annual production capacity of the new company;
- the total annual production of bichromate in India at present;
- the pre-war annual consumption of bichromate in India; and
- the estimated annual consumption of bichromate in India for the next five years?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Annual production.	Tons.	Cwts.
1943	2,769	6
1944	2,882	0
1945	3,113	0

(d) The pre-war consumption of bichromates was about 1,200 tons per annum.

(e) The estimated consumption of bichromates in the next five years is expected to range between 1,500 and 2,000 tons.

PATENTS OBTAINED BY SCIENTISTS WORKING WITH COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

1990. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) the number of patents obtained by scientists working under or with the help of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for each of the years 1943 to 1945, both inclusive;

(b) whether the patents stand in the name of the Council or in the name of the scientists; and

there is no good reason to permit the exchange of Japanese currency in the hands of prisoners of war which incidentally has no recognised exchange value.

(iii) No, Sir. On the contrary orders have been issued to ensure that the families of all ranks of the Indian Army reported missing or prisoners of war were properly maintained.

(iv) No, Sir. Every effort has been made to settle men's accounts before release. As the accounts are maintained at Regimental Centres and Depots in various parts of India, a certain amount of delay in settling these accounts has been unavoidable. In view of this it was decided that if any men wished to be released before the settlement of their accounts they might be allowed to go, provided they signed a certificate signifying their wish to be so released. In such cases any such sums due to them will be remitted to their home addresses.

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(d) One of the main functions of the Industrial Adviser is to guide the deliberations of the Panels. He takes part in the meetings held by the Panels and representatives of Provincial and State Governments. So far, it has not been necessary for him personally, to visit any province for this particular purpose. But if for any reason, this becomes necessary, he will certainly do so.

PROPOSAL TO SEPARATE ADMINISTRATION OF ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS FROM GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

1988. *Mr. Tamizuddin Khan: (a) Will the Honourable the Home Member be pleased to state whether any proposal to separate the administration of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands from that of the Government of India is under the consideration of Government? If so, what is the nature of the proposal, and why is such separation proposed to be effected?

(b) Will this Assembly be given an opportunity to discuss the matter before any decision is taken?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne: (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

MANUFACTURE OF BICHROMATE OF POTASH

1989. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable the Finance Member be pleased to state:

- whether capital issue of Rupees one crore has been recently sanctioned to a company proposing to manufacture bichromate of potash;
- the proposed annual production capacity of the new company;
- the total annual production of bichromate in India at present;
- the pre-war annual consumption of bichromate in India; and
- the estimated annual consumption of bichromate in India for the next five years?

Mr. K. G. Ambegaokar: (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Annual production.	Tons.	Cwts.
1943	2,769	6
1944	2,882	0
1945	3,113	0

(d) The pre-war consumption of bichromates was about 1,200 tons per annum.

(e) The estimated consumption of bichromates in the next five years is expected to range between 1,500 and 2,000 tons.

PATENTS OBTAINED BY SCIENTISTS WORKING WITH COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

1990. *Sri S. T. Adityan: Will the Honourable Member for Planning and Development please state:

(a) the number of patents obtained by scientists working under or with the help of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research for each of the years 1943 to 1945, both inclusive;

(b) whether the patents stand in the name of the Council or in the name of the scientists; and

(c) whether the Council has any right; if so, what right in the said patents, if they stand in the names of the scientists?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) In 1943—43 ; In 1944—83 ; In 1945—74.

(b) In the name of the Scientists ; but they are assigned to the Central Government.

(c) As already stated, the Patents vest in the Central Government ; but the Council exploits them on behalf of the Government and the Inventors, 2/3 of the royalties going to the Council and 1/3 to the Inventor. If the work on the patents is done in any particular institute, then the Council normally gives half of its share of royalty to that Institute.

POSTPONED STARRED QUESTION AND ANSWER

Postponed from the 15th April 1946

RETRENCHMENT OF CERTAIN SENIOR MEMBERS OF TECHNICAL STAFF OF PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU

1786. *Raja Sir Saiyid Ahmad Ali Khan Alawee : (a) Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts please state the retrenchment policy, if any, followed in the Press Information Bureau?

(b) Is it a fact that certain senior members of the technical staff of the Urdu Section have been retrenched?

(c) How many junior members have been given preference for being retained in service, and what is the total number of these junior members, province-wise?

(d) What are the grounds on which senior members have been retrenched? Is there any adverse report against them? If so, of what nature?

(e) Who is in charge of the retrenchment scheme?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : (a) and (d). Temporary employees of the Press Information Bureau were classified on the basis of the record of their work and conduct into the following categories :

(i) outstanding and for whom every effort should be made to find permanent employment :

(ii) definitely fit for permanent appointment if a vacancy exists ; and

(iii) the rest.

Within these categories the temporary employees were graded according to their length of service. The procedure followed in retrenchment was to treat all persons in category (i) as senior to all in category (ii) and all in category (ii) as senior to all in category (iii). Retrenchment was effected by discharging persons in the reverse order of seniority as fixed on the basis of the classification referred to. All cases were examined by, and decision taken on the recommendations of a committee composed of senior officers of the Bureau, who also interviewed most of the persons concerned.

(b) Yes, in accordance with the procedure prescribed for retrenchment just referred to.

(c) If the Honourable Member is referring to seniority as determined by length of service, irrespective of the considerations referred to in clause (a), the answer is in two cases. In one case two juniors, and in the other three juniors were retained in both cases the persons retained happened to be from the Punjab.

(e) The Principal Information Officer.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BASIS FOR PENSION IN CASE OF INDIAN AND BRITISH ARMY PERSONNEL

223. Babu Ram Narayan Singh : (a) Will the War Secretary please state if it is a fact that in case of Indian Personnel, grade pay, trade pay, extra duty pay and allowance in the nature of pay, severally or jointly do not form the basis either for an ordinary pension or for a war pension payable for death and disablement sustained in His Majesty's Wars, whereas in the case of British Personnel, either these emoluments are included in the pay proper at inception or regard is had to the loss of a persons general earning capacity, in assessing disablement and death pensions?

(b) If the reply to (a) be in the affirmative, will he please state the disability and family pension of an Indian Clerk or Mechanic drawing on "Active Service" pay and allowance at Rs. 50, Rs. 75 and Rs. 100 and upwards compared with British Personnel similarly situated?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) Grade Pay, trade pay, and allowances do not govern the ordinary, disability, or family pensions of either British or Indian soldiers. The basis of pensions is rank. In assessing disability pensions, the degree of incapacity is also taken into account.

(b) Pensions of Indian clerks and mechanics are according to the rank held by them, with the exception that clerks or rank mechanics earning over Rs. 100 and over Rs. 200 are, as a special case, treated as jemadars or subedars for pensionary purposes and are granted pension appropriate to those ranks.

APPOINTMENTS TO INDIAN EVACUEES SERVANTS OF BURMA GOVERNMENT

224. Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava : Will the Honourable the Home Member please state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian evacuees who were servants of the Government of Burma are not eligible for permanent employment in India under the Government in preference to Indians ;

(b) whether any such evacuees have been employed under the General Headquarters, and the Army Medical Stores, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Lucknow and Lahore Cantonment ; and

(c) what steps, if any have been taken to repatriate the Burma Government servants, if they are not eligible for permanent appointments under the Government in this country?

The Honourable Sir John Thorne : (a) and (c). The Honourable Member's attention is invited to the reply I gave on the 7th February, 1946, to Raijzada Hansraj's starred question No. 94.

(b) Yes, except Madras where there is no Army Medical Store.

ORDER OF CENTRAL COMMAND RE GRAZING OF CATTLE IN AMBALA CANTONMENT

225. Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava : (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state if it is a fact that licences for grazing of cattle were issued for the year 1945-46 in Ambala Cantonment?

(b) Is it a fact that the Executive Officer of Ambala Cantonment forbade grazing of cattle in 1945 in Papp Park after the realisation of grazing dues?

(c) Is it a fact that the cattle of the military dairy farm were freely allowed to graze in the Military Grass Farm Area?

(d) Is it a fact that the Central Command has again asked the Cantonment Board, Ambala, to stop grazing during the rainy season?

(e) Is it a fact that the Cantonment Board, Ambala, has unanimously resolved to forward the report of the Health Officer of Ambala which favours allowing the grazing to take place?

(f) What are the formal orders of the Central Command in this respect?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) No, Sir. The grazing rights for 1945-46 were given on contract to the highest bidder.

(b) The grazing of cattle was forbidden in Paget Park, not Papp Park. The contractor was offered a refund, which he accepted.

(c) I have not got the information, Sir, but in any case it is quite irrelevant as the Grass Farm do not come under the management of the Cantonment Board.

(d) Yes, as an anti-malarial measure.

(e) Yes. The Health Officer has specified certain areas where grazing may be allowed.

(f) No orders have yet been received by the Cantonment Board.

**APPLICATION FOR SANCTION OF BUILDING PLAN BY SHRIMATI LEKHAWANTI JAIN,
Ex-M. L. C.**

236. Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava : (a) Will the War Secretary kindly state if it is a fact that Shrimati Lekhawanti Jain ex-M.L.C., applied to the Cantonment Board for sanction of a building plan on a piece of land in which the Government of India had granted her proprietary rights?

(b) Is it a fact that some other persons also applied for sanction of building plans on the same land?

(c) Is it a fact that the Cantonment Board referred the matter to the Central Command?

(d) Is it a fact that an elected member of the Cantonment Board was refused information about the contents of the order of the Central Command when he demanded it before the discussion of the relevant item in the meeting of the Board?

(e) Are such replies on references or orders confidential?

(f) What are the reasons for sanctioning two plans simultaneously in favour of two different persons in respect of one and the same piece of land? Do Government propose to consider the desirability of bringing the procedure relating to such matters into line with that prevailing in Municipalities?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the concluding part of the question, Shrimati Lekhawanti Jain has occupancy rights only in the site in question.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The letter in question was confidential. The contents were, however read at the Cantonment Board meeting when the matter was discussed.

(e) This depends on the subject matter of the letter and whether such replies are for general information.

(f) Government will look into the question of whether the procedure requires amendment.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

Information promised in reply to Parts (b), (c) and (f) of Starred Question No. 1212 asked by Sri K. B. Jinaraja Hegde on the 21st March, 1945.

GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTION TO INDIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY, ETC.

(b) Yes. The particulars are as follows :—

Names of Organisations other than those mentioned in part (a) of the question which are doing similar work	Amount of usual grant-in-aid from Government
	Rs. per annum.
(1) St. John's Ambulance Association	5,000
(2) Central Committee of the Indian Nursing Association	20,000
(3) Tuberculosis Association of India :—	25,000
(i) for the maintenance of the Tuberculosis Clinic, New Delhi	
and	20,000
(ii) for the maintenance of the Lady Linlithgow Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Kasauli.	

(a) The percentage of Indians among the Office bearers of the organisations mentioned in part (a) of the question is indicated below :—

Name of organisation	Percentage of Indians
	per cent.
(1) The Indian Red Cross Society :— (Headquarters including the Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund).	83
(2) The Countess of Dufferin's Fund	50
(3) Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau (which administers the Lady Chelmsford League Fund).	66

(f) None.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 27, asked by Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, on the 5th February, 1946.

INDIA HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN LONDON

(b) The strength of officers and staff (excluding Messengers, Cleaners and Labourers) of the office are as follows :

High Commissioner	1
Deputy High Commissioner	1
Private Secretary	1
General Assistant	1
Shorthand Typist and Assistant to Private Secretary	1
Chief Accounting Officer	1
Deputy Chief Accounting Officer	1
Assistant Chief Accounting Officer	1
Secretary, Public Department	1
Secretary, Education Department	4
Senior Educational Officers	4
Educational Officers	

(c) Is it a fact that the cattle of the military dairy farm were freely allowed to graze in the Military Grass Farm Area?

(d) Is it a fact that the Central Command has again asked the Cantonment Board, Ambala, to stop grazing during the rainy season?

(e) Is it a fact that the Cantonment Board, Ambala, has unanimously resolved to forward the report of the Health Officer of Ambala which favours allowing the grazing to take place?

(f) What are the formal orders of the Central Command in this respect?

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(b) The grazing of cattle was forbidden in Paget Park, not Papp Park. The contractor was offered a refund, which he accepted.

(c) I have not got the information, Sir, but in any case it is quite irrelevant as the Grass Farm do not come under the management of the Cantonment Board.

(d) Yes, as an anti-malarial measure.

(e) Yes. The Health Officer has specified certain areas where grazing may be allowed.

(f) No orders have yet been received by the Cantonment Board.

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(b) Is it a fact that some other persons also applied for sanction of building plans on the same land?

(c) Is it a fact that the Cantonment Board referred the matter to the Central Command?

(d) Is it a fact that an elected member of the Cantonment Board was refused information about the contents of the order of the Central Command when he demanded it before the discussion of the relevant item in the meeting of the Board?

(e) Are such replies on references or orders confidential?

(f) What are the reasons for sanctioning two plans simultaneously in favour of two different persons in respect of one and the same piece of land? Do Government propose to consider the desirability of bringing the procedure relating to such matters into line with that prevailing in Municipalities?

Mr. P. Mason : (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the concluding part of the question, Shrimati Lekhawanti Jain has occupancy rights only in the site in question.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The letter in question was confidential. The contents were, however read at the Cantonment Board meeting when the matter was discussed.

(e) This depends on the subject matter of the letter and whether such replies are for general information.

(f) Government will look into the question of whether the procedure requires a amendment.

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(3) Tuberculosis Association of India :—	
(i) for the maintenance of the Tuberculosis Clinic, New Delhi	25,000
and	
(ii) for the maintenance of the Lady Linlithgow Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Kasauli.	20,000

(e) The percentage of Indians among the Office bearers of the organisations mentioned in part (a) of the question is indicated below :—

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(f) None.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 27, asked by Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, on the 5th February, 1946.

INDIA HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN LONDON

(b) The strength of officers and staff (excluding Messengers, Cleaners and Labourers) of the office are as follows :

High Commissioner	1
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General Assistant	1
Shorthand Typist and Assistant to Private Secretary	1
Chief Accounting Officer	1
Deputy Chief Accounting Officer	1
Assistant Chief Accounting Officer	1
Secretary, Public Department	1
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Senior Educational Officers	4
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(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The letter in question was confidential. The contents were, however read at the Cantonment Board meeting when the matter was discussed.

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STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

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(3) Tuberculosis Association of India :—	
(i) for the maintenance of the Tuberculosis Clinic, New Delhi	25,000
and	
(ii) for the maintenance of the Lady Linlithgow Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Kasauli.	20,000

(c) The percentage of Indians among the Office bearers of the organisations mentioned in part (a) of the question is indicated below :—

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(3) Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau (which administers the Lady Chelmsford League Fund).	66

(f) None.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 27, asked by Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, on the 5th February, 1946.

INDIA HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN LONDON

(b) The strength of officers and staff (excluding Messengers, Cleaners and Labourers) of the office are as follows :

High Commissioner	1
Deputy High Commissioner	1
Private Secretary	1
General Assistant	1
Shorthand Typist and Assistant to Private Secretary	1
Chief Accounting Officer	1
Deputy Chief Accounting Officer	1
Assistant Chief Accounting Officer	1
Secretary, Public Department	1
Secretary, Education Department	4
Senior Educational Officers	4
Educational Officers	4

Secretary, General Department	1
Indian Trade Commissioner, London	1
Deputy Indian Trade Commissioner, London	1
Indian Trade Commissioner, New York	1
Indian Trade Commissioner, Toronto	1
Indian Trade Commissioner, Buenos Aires	1
Establishment Officer	1
Director, India Supply Commission	1
Deputy Director, India Supply Commission	1
Assistant Directors, Indian Supply Commission	2
Director-General of Stores	1
Director of Purchase	1
Director of Inspection	1
Controllers of Stores	4
Executive Officers	120
Seamen's Welfare Officers	5
Clerical Officers	289
Comptometers and Machinists	4
Technical Staff	59
Shorthand Typists and Typists	96
Total	609

(d) 116.

(e) No, Sir.

Information promised in reply to part (d) of Starred Question No. 90, asked by Mr. K. C. Neogy, on the 7th February, 1946.

ACCOUNTS IRREGULARITY RE DENIAL MEASURES IN BENGAL

The accounts are not yet complete but the latest figures are as follows :—

Items of expenditure	Receipts Figures			
	1942-43	1942-44	1944-45	1945-46. Up to Decr. 1945
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Boats	1,09,254 11 0 (in lump)	9,75,708 4 2 (in lump.)	1,26,779 2 6	1,72,260 12 16
Cycles	...	...	51,178 2 0	1,71,419 2 6
Motor	...	...	4,348 7 0	480 0 0
Miscellaneous Schemes	...	...	68,800 9 9	2 8 0
Elephants	...	...	...	7,150 0 0
Arms and Ammunitions	...	...	...	755 0 0
Rice Denial	...	...	1,81,896 0 0	...

The amount mentioned as having been recovered from the sale of boats in answer to part (d) of Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's starred Question No. 697 of the 7th March, 1945 was, it is regretted, incorrect.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 37, asked by Shri Mohan Lal Saksena, on the 18th February, 1946.

PUBLICATIONS BANNED UNDER SEA CUSTOMS ACT

List of publications banned by name under section 19 of the Sea Customs Act.

- (1) The Face of Mother India by Miss Katharine Mayo.
- (2) Old Soldier Sahib by Frank Richards.
- (3) The Land of the Lingam by Arthur Miles.
- (4) Hindu Heaven by Max Wylie.
- (5) Mysterious India by Moli Singh.
- (6) Scented Garden by Barnhard Stern

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 345, asked by Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, on the 19th February, 1946

RECRUITMENT OF STAFF IN G. I. P. RAILWAY

(a) to (f) The number of persons recruited by direct appointment during the year 1945 on the G. I. P. Railway to posts carrying a salary of Rs. 100 p.m. and over is as follows :	
Hindus	49 plus 165 (Temporary).
Muslims	4 plus 32 (Temporary).
Anglo-Indians	18 plus 29 (Temporary).
Other -Minority Communities	21 plus 44 (Temporary).

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 491, asked by Pundit Thakur Das Bhargava, on the 25th February, 1946.

NUMBER OF HOSPITALS IN CENTRALLY ADMINISTERED AREAS

There is only one Hospital in Baluchistan and it has library arrangements for indoor patients.

Information promised in reply to parts (a), (b) and (c) of Starred Question No. 503, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 26th February, 1946.

MISSIONS SENT OUT BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Statement giving particulars of Missions of Government of India officials, Delegations, etc. sent out of India during the years 1942-43, 1943-44, 1944-45 and 1945-46.

Serial No.	Department Concerned	(a) Particulars of Missions, Delegations, etc.	(b) Object	(c) Cost incurred
				Rs. A. P.
1	Railway Department.	Mr. S. M. Khurshid, Personnel Officer, N. W. Rly.	Training in labour matters Under the British Ministry of Labour and National Service.	11,761 11 0
2	Do.	Sir G. E. Cuffe, General Manager, B. A. Railway.	Supply of Garratt locos for the Hill Section of B. A. Railway.	7,164 4 2
3	Do.	Mr. E. C. B. Thornton, Traction Engineer, G. I. P. Railway.	Study of cyclic wear of Rails	1,143 6 0
4	Do.	Lt. - Col. R. B. Emerson, General Manager, G. I. P. Railway.	Supply of multiple unit stock for the G. I. P. Railway.	5,405 8 6
5	Do.	Mr. W. R. Maunder, Chief Engineer, B. B. & C. I. Railway.	In connection with taxation of Railway properties by local Bodies.	9,111 6 0
6	Do.	Mr. H. Ahmed, Assistant Personnel Officer, E. I. Railway.	In connection with the scheme for the training of labour officers in the U. K.	7,698 1 0
7	Do.	Sir Leonard Wilson, Chief Commissioner, Railways, Railway Board.	Procurement of Railway equipment for Indian Railways.	23,647 5 0
8	Do.	Col. H. W. Wegstaff, Member Staff, Railway Board.	Study of Labour question on British Railways in the Post War Period.	5,889 12 0
9	Do.	Mr. A. A. Brown, Director, Rail-Road Co-ordination, Railway Board.	In connection with Rail-Road Co-ordination.	2,008 5 0

Information promised in reply to part (c) of Starred Question No. 745, asked by Shri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, on the 6th March, 1946.

EXPENDITURE ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW DELHI AND ITS MAINTENANCE

(i) A sum of Rs. 33,683 has been spent on the staff employed on the maintenance of irrigation water supply for the period from April 1945 to January 1946.

(ii) Expenditure on work charged establishment employed on municipal services in New Delhi for the year 1944-45 amounted to Rs. 1,99,508. As the Divisions concerned also execute other works, it is not possible to apportion the expenditure on regular staff employed on these services. The figures in respect of the expenditure during the year 1945-46 (to end of January 1946) are not readily available.

Information promised in reply to supplementaries to Starred Question No. 781, asked by Shri Sri Prakasa, on the 8th March, 1946.

PUNISHMENTS TO ENEMY AGENTS

The following are the details of the case under the Enemy Agents Ordinance in which no communique was issued at the time :

N. K. Kanaran alias Unniran alias Gosh, Ratnam alias Murthi, Ramaswamy alias Muthuman and Sethu alias Krishnan were tried in 1944 in Madras by a Special Judge appointed under the Enemy Agents Ordinance. They were all convicted and sentenced to death. The conviction and sentence were upheld by the Reviewing Judge and the sentences were executed in March 1945. No communique was issued at the time on grounds of military security.

Information promised in reply to Starred Question No. 807, asked by Sardar Mangal Singh, on the 8th March, 1946.

INDIA'S MEMBERSHIP TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

Statement showing International organisation of which India is a member and amounts of subscription payable by India.

Organisations	Amount
International Monetary Fund	\$ 400 million.
International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.	\$ 400 million (share holdings of which \$ 320 million will be an unpaid reserve liability).
League of Nations	Rs. 14,20,000 (1946-47).
United Nations Organisations	\$ 1,097,750 (U. S.) to the Working Capital Fund. Contribution to the first budget has yet to be determined.
Inter-governmental Relief Committee on Refugees	Rs. 36,000 p.a.
International Meteorological Organisation, Switzerland.	Rs. 2,100 p.a.
Provisional International Civil Aviation Organisation, Montreal, Canada.	Rs. * 1,30,000 p.a. (Approx.).
International Commission for Air Navigation, Paris, France.	Rs. 6,000 p.a.
International Telecommunication Union, Berne, Switzerland.	Rs. 12,000 p.a. (approx.).
Universal Postal Union, Berne, Switzerland	Rs. 10,000 p.a. (approx.).
Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, Washington.	First Financial Year (Oct. 16, 1945 to June 30, 1946) 1,06,250 U. S. Dollars. Second Financial Year (July 1, 1946 to June 30, 1947) 1,86,800 dollars.
International Institute of Agriculture, Rome	No contribution has been paid since 1940.
U. N. R. R. A.	Rs. 8 crores.
Inter-Allied Reparations Agency	Not yet known.
United Nations Information Organisation, London	Rs. 6,667 p.a.
United Nations Information Organisation, Washington.	
Office of International d' Hygiene Publique	Rs. 11,980 p.a.
International Labour Office	£ 1,256-5-0.
	Hitherto the contribution in respect of this organisation has been included in the contribution to the League of Nations. The contribution to it as an independent organisation has to be decided.

* 25 per cent. of this is in the nature of a contribution to the Working Capital Fund and should be regarded as provisional.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 86, asked by Seth Sukhdev, on the 11th March, 1946.

SHORT WEIGHMENT OF SOAP SUPPLIED TO EMPLOYEES OF KARACHI DIVISION N. W. RAILWAY

(a) The reply is in the affirmative.

(b) and (d) In June, 1945, consequent on availability of a superior quality of washing soap of a uniform weight of $\frac{1}{2}$ seer per cake, the system of supplying 8 cakes equivalent to two seers was introduced. In view, however, of a complaint made by some members of the Food Advisory Committee in the middle of September, 1945, that the 8 cakes of soap weighed less than the standard weight of two seers, instructions were issued by the railway authorities that the soap should be supplied in accordance with actual weighment. Investigations made by the Railway revealed that 8 cakes of soap together weighed only 1 to 2 chhataks less than the standard weight of 2 seers and not $\frac{1}{2}$ seer less as alleged.

(c) The Railway administration consider that short weight was attributable to shrinkage and dryage while in storage.

(e) Government are informed that no refund has been claimed by any of the employees on the score of the alleged short weight and very few employees appear to have been affected.

(f) Railway administrations take whatever action is necessary in such matters when they come to their notice and Government do not consider that the issue of general instructions is necessary.

Information promised in reply to Unstarred Question No. 111, asked by Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, on the 12th March, 1946.

YIELD FROM LAND CULTIVATED DUE TO GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

(a) and (b) Accurate information is not available. But a statement is appended showing the culturable waste, the current fallow and the cultivated net areas in each of the four districts comparing the averages of the years 1936-39 with the averages for 1942-44. During the changes in the system of classification however the figures are of little value.

(c) A rough estimate by the Provincial Government of such averages : Murshidabad 24,000 acres, Nadia 50,000 acres, Khulna one lakh acres and Jessore 56,000 acres.

(d) There are schemes for reclamation of waste lands and provision of irrigation facilities under the Development Plan of the province. Exact details of these schemes have not yet been worked out by the Bengal Government.

(Thousand acres)

	Culturable waste				Current fallows				Net area sown			
	Mur-shid-abad.	Nadia.	Jess-ore.	Khul-na.	Mur-shid-abad.	Nadia.	Jess-ore.	Khul-na.	Mur-shid-abad.	Nadia.	Jess-ore.	Khul-na.
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Average 1936-39	90	332	208	466	129	104	305	27	866	945	791	811
Average 1942-44	12	...	30	102	30	186	137	60	921	1184	1062	1087

Information promised in reply to a Supplementary to Starred Question No. 918, asked by Mr. Manu Subedar, on the 13th March, 1946.

REDUCTION OF STRAIN OF MILITARY TRAFFIC ON RAILWAYS AND OF EXPENDITURE ON PROPAGANDA, ETC.

CEASE FIRE (JAPAN) BOOK

PREFACE

The main objects of the Central Government's Cease Fire (Japan) Book are—

(a) to record all important measures which Central Government Departments will have to take during the first seven to fourteen days following the general suspension of hostilities in the Far East with Japan;

(b) to ensure that the necessary decisions are taken in advance, where that is possible, and that plans are fully worked out ;

(c) to record in cases in which decisions are required but cannot be taken until the actual suspension of hostilities, and to ensure that steps will have to be taken to obtain such decisions ;

(d) to enable Central Government Departments to see how any action for which they are responsible is related to that or other Departments.

The Book excludes operational matters and all questions connected with the preparation and enforcement of armistice terms, which are mainly to be the concern of the Governments of the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

2. In the case of some items included in this Book decisions have not yet been taken, but could be taken in advance of the conclusion of hostilities. In such cases the Departments concerned should take steps to obtain the necessary decision at the earliest possible moment.

3. In addition to the Central Government's Cease Fire (Japan) Book, each Department has prepared, or is preparing, its own Departmental Book in which the matters of major importance dealt with in the Central Government's Book are treated in greater detail from the point of view of the Department, and in which other matters of lesser importance, not affecting other Departments, are covered.

4. It will be impossible to foresee whether there will be a clear cut end to hostilities such as the signature of a general armistice, but in any event the offices of the War Cabinet in the United Kingdom will make themselves responsible for notifying the position to the Central Government through the India Office.

It will also be necessary that orders of the Governor General-in-Council should be obtained for Departments to proceed with the more important action set out in the Book, more particularly the major announcements.

5. It may be that hostilities will come to an end gradually over a period, rather than on a definite date, and that it will be necessary to put different sections of the Central Government Book into operation at different times. For this purpose consultation with the Departments concerned and this Department will be necessary and when action is taken the Departments responsible will have to ensure that other interested Departments are consulted or kept informed.

6. In many cases the action recorded in the Book will involve sending urgent communications to Provincial Governments, Regional Officers and other local authorities and etc. In order to avoid congestion and delay resulting from the simultaneous issue of a large volume of instructions, often of high grade priority telegrams, Departments should consider whether any steps might be taken in advance, such as notifying action to be taken in various contingencies, which would have the effect of reducing volume of materials sent out at the time.

7. Departments should have constantly in mind the need for keeping the Book up-to-date, and any amendments, additions or deletions which are considered necessary should be notified concurrently to this Department Mr. KAIWAR by name. Corrigenda will be circulated by this Department to all Departments of the Central Government.

8. Provincial Governments should be informed well in advance of all actions contemplated wherever it is likely to have repercussions on Provincial affairs.

DEFENCE DEPARTMENT ;

August 1945.

CHAPTER I.—COMMUNICATION TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

NOTES

As soon as it has been decided that the time has arrived for the action set out in this Book to be taken it will be necessary, in regard to certain items, to send particulars to His Majesty's Missions and Consular Officers in neighbouring countries for communication to the Governments to which they are accredited. In regard to

certain other items, it would be desirable, if only to forestall numerous enquires to send information to them about the action being taken in India. The subjects to be covered in such communications are listed below.

Subject to be covered by the communication	Department responsible for its despatch	Reference if any to other Chapters : other Depts. likely to be concerned	General observations
1. Economic controls	External affairs Department.	Chapter II.—Section 5. Supply, Commerce and Industries & Civil Supplies Department.	
2. Contraband Control	External Affairs Department.	Chapter VII.—Section 8. Commerce Department.	
3. Aliens	External Affairs Department.	Chapter VI.—Section 1 (b). Home Department.	
4. Passenger Travel facilities (Shipping and Aircraft).	External Affairs Department.	Chapter VII.—Section 4. Commerce, Post & Air and Defence Departments.	
5. Civil Aviation	External Affairs Department.	Chapter VII.—Section 6. Post & Air Department.	

[N.B.—Communications to Provincial Governments wherever necessary have been indicated against the relevant entries in Chapter II-IX of the Book.]

Action to be taken	Departments of the Central Government primarily responsible	Other Departments or the Provincial Governments likely to be interested	General observations
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1. CURRENT PRODUCTION.

(a) Stopping production of those stores and materials, any further production of which would not be required.	Supply Dept. Food Dept. I. & C. S. Dept. Labour Dept. E. H. & L. Dept. Defence Dept. F. A. W. & S. Finance Dept.	War Dept. Political Dept. All Provl. Govts. War Transport (to stop unnecessary movement of stores and supplies).	Supply Dept. is concerned with stores and materials except foodstuffs and cotton textiles; Food Dept. is concerned with foodstuffs; I. & C. S. Dept. with cotton textiles; Labour Dept., with mica and mines; E. H. & L. Dept. is concerned with the production of survey maps and Defence Dept. with P. O. L. (P. O., D. D.) and Printing, Forms and Stationery for the Armed Forces (D. M. R. & F.).
(ii) To arrange the stopping or diversion of production of any raw materials of which no further supplies will be needed for their original purpose in consequence of action under (i) above.			
(iii) Not to enter into any fresh contracts or commitments whether for outstanding demands for 1945 (in respect of major items) or for 1946 (in respect of any item) until the demand has been reviewed by the indenter.			
(b) Arrangements for utilizing resources released under (a). To secure any adjustments needed in the issue of manufacturing, supply and raw-materials licences.	Supply Dept. Food Dept. I. & C. S. Dept. Labour Dept. Defence Dept. Finance Dept. F. A. W. & S. Supply Dept. Food Dept. I. & C. S. Dept. Labour Dept. E. H. & L. Dept. Defence Dept. Finance Dept. F. A. W. & S.]	War Dept., P. & D., I. & C. S., Political Depta. and all Provl. Governments.	
(c) Co-ordination of instructions to the attached and subordinate offices consequent on (a) and (b).		War Dept., P. & D., I. & C. S., Political Depta. and all Provl. Governments.	
(d) To arrange for public announcements as follows :—			
(i) Production of certain stores will cease completely.	Supply Dept. Food Dept. I. & C. S. Dept.	War Dept., P. & D., I. & C. S., Political Depta. and all Provl. Govts.	
(ii) While some programme adjustments may take place fairly rapidly, full adjustments must take time.	Labour Dept. E. H. & L. Dept. Defence Dept. Finance Dept. F. A. W. & S.		

(iii) Every effort will be made to control unemployment of labour released by termination of contracts; but there will necessarily be some breaks in production while factories are being re-organized.

2. BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION WORK.

To issue instructions to C. P. W. D. and the Military Engineer Services not to enter into any fresh contracts or commitments, to arrange for immediate review of all works in progress with a view to stopping work in as many cases as possible.

Provl. Govts. Political Dept.

All Depta. of the Central Govt. F. A. W. & S.

This building and construction work refers to works projects & should not be confused with de-requisitioning of lands and buildings—Chapter III. Please see also Chapter VII—Section 1, Road Building and Section 2, Ship Building. Where the project has got a definite post-war value, such as provision of amenities to seamen at Indian Ports or where the projects has been almost completed so that it would be more economical to finish the building or construction work than to suspend the same, the work may be completed with the sanction of the Central Government, but in every case prior sanction must be obtained.

[18TH APRIL 1946]

Action to be taken

Departments of the Central Government primarily responsible

Other Departments of the Provincial Governments likely to be interested

General observations

3. NEW FACTORIES AND BALANCING EQUIPMENT. I

- (a) To arrange for liquidation of new factories run by Govt. or handed over to contractors on agency or other basis.
- (b) To arrange for liquidation of Balancing Equipment and installations handed over to contractors.

4. OVERSEAS PROGRAMMING, PURCHASES AND LEASE-LEND REQUIREMENTS.

To give an indication of the size of future programme, if this has not already been done, and to terminate, or give notice to terminate, as appropriate, overseas contracts and requisitions for materials, animals and stores no longer required.

5. ECONOMIC CONTROLS.

To issue a statement that all controls will continue unchanged until an announcement to the contrary is made and that relaxation will be announced as and when possible.

Supply, War, Food, I. & C. S. Depts.
Finance Dept.
F. A. W. & S.

Labour Dept.
Defence Dept.
E. H. & L. Dept.
Political Dept.
All Provl. Govts.

All Depts. including Branch Secretariats, Heads of Depts. and Branches, etc.

Provl. Govts.
Political Dept.

Please see also—
Chapter IV, section 4.
Chapter V, section 5 (e).
Chapter VI, sections 1 (c), 5 and 6.
Chapter VII, sections 3 and 4.
Chapter VIII, sections 1 and 3.

The economic controls mentioned here refer definitely to industrial and commodities controls particularly those relating to trade and commerce and the supply, production and distribution of goods, entries 27 and 29 of the Provl. Legislative List.

(2) Co-ordination will be required.

CHAPTER III.—LANDS AND BUILDINGS

1. LANDS AND BUILDINGS.

- (a) Derequisitioning of lands and buildings wherever possible and surplus to requirements.
- (b) Protection of residual values of assets created by the Central or Provincial Governments on requisitioned lands and buildings.

*All Depts. of the Govt. of India, Defence Dept. being in addition responsible for obtaining decisions on major policy. F. A. W. & S.

*(i) Supply Dept., Director General Disposals, is responsible for the disposal of factories and industrial units.

(ii) Defence Dept. (executive agency, Lands and Hirings Directorate) will be responsible for the disposal of Lands and Buildings charged to Defence Estimates.

(iii) Subject to (i) above each Dept. will be responsible for lands and buildings in its occupation and not charged to Defence Estimates.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE

CHAPTER IV.—MANPOWER

1. RECRUITMENT TO ARMED FORCES.

Announcement regarding the rate of recruitment to the Armed Forces and corresponding Women's Services.

War Dept.
F.A.W. & S.

Labour Dept.
Defence Dept. in so far as European British Manpower requirements are concerned.

2. NATIONAL SERVICE (EUROPEAN BRITISH SUBJECTS) ACT, 1940.

Review position regarding conscription of European British Subjects under the National Service Act.

Defence Dept.

War, Labour, Supply, I. & C. S., Food, Commerce & War Transport Depts.

3. CIVIL PIONEER FORCE.

Necessity for continuance or winding up to be considered if it has not already been done and necessary action to be taken.

Labour Dept.
Finance Dept.
F.A.W. & S.

War Dept.
All Provl. Govts., except Assam, Sind and C.P. & Berar.

4. RELAXATION OF LABOUR CONTROLS.

To arrange for public statement to be issued on the continuance of Labour controls.

Labour Dept.

War, Supply and Railway Dept., Provl. Govts.

Action to be taken	Departments of the Central Government primarily responsible	Other Departments of the Provincial Governments likely to be interested	General observations
I. STAFF ACTION.			
(a) To issue Cease Fire (Japan) Orders to Commands in the India Command, congratulatory telegrams to the Forces, etc.	War Dept. F. A. W. & S.	All Depots.	Apart from this there are no general reference to operational matters in this book.
(b) To communicate the fact of cessation of hostilities to Provincial Governments.	Do.	E. A. Dept. Political Dept. for communication to Political Officers. Administrations. Labour Dept., E. A. Dept., Political Dept., Finance Dept., Provl. Govts.	
(c) Issue public announcement regarding recruitment.	Do.		
2. DEMOBILIZATION SCHEME.			
(a) To make a public announcement regarding demobilization.	War Dept. F. A. W. & S.	Defence Dept. Labour Dept. War Transport Dept.	
(b) To put into action demobilization plans	War Dept. F. A. W. & S.	Labour Dept. Defence Dept.	
3. PRISONERS OF WAR.			
Public announcement of plans for repatriation and rehabilitation of Indian Prisoners of War and Civil Internees.	Defence Dept. Commonwealth Relations Dept. F. A. W. & S. Finance Dept.	War Dept. Political Dept. Commerce Dept.	
4. SPECIAL MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY WAR DEPARTMENT SEPARATELY.			
(a) Release of requisitioned ships and crafts including I.W.T.	War Dept. F. A. W. & S.	Commerce, M. W. T. R., and Defence Dept. Finance Dept.	
(b) WAR WATCHING SCHEME.			
Discontinues	War Dept. F. A. W. & S.	E. A. Dept. Political Dept. All Provl. Govts.	

(C) RESTRICTIONS ON FISHING.

Necessity for continuance to be considered and announcements to be made.

War Dept. F. A. W. & S.	E. A. Dept. Political Dept. All Provl. Govts. Dept. of Agriculture. Dept. of Food. Dept. of Commerce. Dept. of War Transport.
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(d) METEOROLOGICAL REPORTS

(i) Remove restrictions on the provision of meteorological information to Shipping, All India Radio, the Press and General Public.

(ii) Review of meteorological services required by the Armed Forces.

War Dept.	P. & A. Dept. Commerce Dept. I. and B. Dept.
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CHAPTER VI.—HOME FRONT**1. INTERNAL SECURITY.**

(a) Action taken under Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944 (III of 1944). Release of such of the persons detained under the Ordinance as can be safely released on the cessation of hostilities with Japan.

To cancel formal orders of detention in respect of those persons who are to be released.

(b) ALIENS.

To review cases of civil internees with a view to release and repatriation.

Home Dept.	E. A. Dept. Political Dept. Provl. Govts. concerned.
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The case will be reviewed beforehand and detainees will be earmarked for immediate release at the end of hostilities with Japan where such persons can be safely released.

Home Dept.	War Dept. E. A. Dept. Political Dept. Provl. Govts. concerned.
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If at the time the war with Japan ends there are still non-Japanese internees or parolees in India, it is proposed to release such of them as would come under the category of those who would not be compulsorily repatriated. It is now proposed to release Japanese internees who have families in this country and others who are reported by Camp Commandant to have been anti-Japanese in their behaviour during their internment.

Action to be taken	Departments of the Central Government primarily responsible	Other Departments or the Provincial Governments likely to be interested	General observations
(c) Relaxation of controls over protected places and areas including relaxation of restriction on photography.	Defence Dept.	War Dept. All other Depts. Provl. Govts.	
(d) Review of Security measures in all three Services and order relaxations.	War Dept. F. A. W. & S.	Home Dept. Political Dept. I. & B. Dept. E. A. D.	
2. WINDING UP OF THE CIVIL DEFENCE AND THE P. A. D. SERVICES IF THEY HAVE NOT ALREADY BEEN WOUND UP.	Defence Dept., Civil Defence Branch if still existing otherwise Defence Dept.	Defence Dept. in respect of Labour Dept. A. R. P. Services and central buildings.	
3. DEMOLITION OF P. A. D. AND A. R. P. STRUCTURES.	War Dept. Defence Dept. F. A. W. & S.	Labour Dept.	
4. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST FIRE IN FACTORIES.	Labour Dept.	Defence Dept.	
To continue special arrangements made during wartime so long as it is found necessary to minimize the danger of fire.			
5. CONTROL OF LIGHTS AND SOUNDS.	Defence Dept. Civil Defence Branch.	All other Depts. except External Affairs Dept., Provl. Govts.	
6. POWERS REQUIRED DURING THE TRANSITION FROM WAR TO PEACE.	All Depts. of the Govt. of India including F. A. W. & S.	All Provl. Govts. and All Chief Commissioners.	The question whether they should be withdrawn as and when they become unnecessary or they should be allowed to lapse in the natural course of time to be taken up if not already taken up.
7. REQUISITIONED VEHICLES.	War Dept. F. A. W. & S.	War Transport Dept.	

1. ROAD BUILDING.

Review Road Building programme

War Dept.
F. A. W. & S.

W. T. Dept., Labour Dept.,
Finance Dept. All Provl. Govts.

2. SHIP BUILDING.

Review of Ship Building programme

War Dept.
F. A. W. & S.

Commerce Dept.
Finance Dept.
Planning and Development Dept.

3. RAILWAY TRAVEL FACILITIES.

(a) To review rail travel facilities for passengers and if necessary to arrange for public statement.

Railway Dept.

All Provl. Govts.

(b) To notify Regional Priority Officer, General Manager of Railways and Provincial Governments.

4. PASSENGER TRAVEL FACILITIES (SHIPPING AND AIRCRAFT).

To issue public announcement on the continuance of control of all civil passages by sea and air to the U.K.

Defence Dept. (C.P.C.).
Air Priorities Board.

M.W.T.R.
(Commerce, F. & A. All other Depts. All N. S. A. Cs.
All Provl. Govts.

To inform Depts., Provl. Govts. and N.S.A.Cs. on the continuance or otherwise of the Key Leave Scheme.

5. CONTROL OVER PORTS.

(a) EXAMINATION SERVICE AT PORTS.

Question of discontinuance to be taken up

War Dept.
F. A. W. & S.

Commerce Dept.
War Transport Dept.

(b) Notification under Section 68-B of Indian Ports Act.

War Dept.

C. B. R.

War Transport Dept., Commerce Dept.

(c) Rescinding of orders under Rules 60 and 62-C of the Defence of India Rules.

Commerce Dept.

Dept.

While there is a probability of an immediate and substantial increase in the demand for railway facilities it is unlikely that in view of the depletion of rolling stock increased facilities can be provided on the railways. It is doubtful whether any immediate increase in road travel facilities would be provided. Some public inconvenience and delay therefore is likely to occur and the question of issuing a public statement explaining the difficulties will be kept in mind.

Action to be taken	Departments of the Central Government primarily responsible	Other Departments or the Provincial Governments likely to be interested	General observations
3. CIVIL AVIATION.			
(a) Relaxation or removal of war restrictions on civil aviation.	P. & A. Dept.	War Dept.	In the interests of post-war reconstruction and development, the object should be to remove all obstacles to the revival of civil flying as early as possible.
(b) Modification of the routes, frequencies and security organisation of certain overseas Air Service to and from India.	War Dept. Finance Dept. F. A. W. & S.	E. A. Dept. Posts & Air Dept. Defence Dept. E. A. Dept.	
7. INTERNAL CENSORSHIP.			
Review Press and Posts and Telegraphs censorship and make a public announcement.	War Dept.	Home Dept. I. & B. Dept.	
8. CONTRABAND CONTROL			
	Commerce Dept.	Political Dept. External Affairs Dept.	

CHAPTER VIII.—FINANCE

1. EXCHANGE CONTROL MEASURES.

To issue 'a standstill' announcement that all exchange control measures will continue unchanged until repealed and that relaxation will be announced as and when possible.

Finance Dept., C. B. R.

Reserve Bank of India., Com-
merce Dept., Political Dept.

2. NATIONAL SAVINGS CAMPAIGN.

To arrange for publication of announcement on the need for the continuance of the campaign, provided the termination of hostilities does not induce an acute deflationary sentiment.

Finance Dept.

All Provl. Govts., Chief Com-
missioners, E. A. Dept., Poli-
tial Dept., Reserve Bank,
and D. G. P. & T.

3. CAPITAL ISSUES CONTROL.

To arrange for necessary revision of the basis on which the control is to be administered.

Finance Dept.

P. & D. Dept., Political Dept.

CHAPTER IX.—CIVIL SERVICES

1. Retranchment of temporary
ment entertained during the war.

Finance Dept.

All other Depts., Political Dept.,
All Provl. Govts., F. A. W. & S.

2. Re-settlement and re-employment of demobilized service personnel. Issue a public announcement.

Labour Dept.
Defence Dept.
E. H. & L. Dept.War Dept.
Home Dept., and all other
Depts.

3. Re-settlement and re-employment of temporary staff not covered by 2 above discharged as a result of shrinking of governmental activities.

Home Dept.
Defence Dept.

All other Depts.

4. OTHER PERSONNEL MATTERS

(a) Wartime Allowance

Finance Dept.
Home Dept.All other Depts.
F. A. W. & S.

(b) Dearness Allowance

Do.

Do.

(c) Leave Concessions.

Finance Dept.
Home Dept.All other Depts.
F. A. W. & S.

(d) Any other matters

Do.

Do.

Information promised in reply to parts (b) and (c) of unstarred question No. 137, asked by Seth Govind Das on the 14th March, 1946.

GROSS MISUSE OF TIMBER TRANSPORT PRIORITIES BY M. E. S. CONTRACTORS

(b) Yes Sir. The facts of the case are briefly as follows :

"The Secretary, Timber Transport Advisory Committee, Central Provinces and Berar received advice of alleged sale of timber at Itwari brought by a Military Engineering Service Contractor on a transport priority granted to him to Itwari for ultimate despatch to Pulgaon after sawing at Itwari. The wagon ex-Ramakona Nos. 00862 and 00608 were purchased by test purchase one wagon ex-Pandhurna No. 68857 was also similarly sold in the market".

(c) The case was enquired into and the Committee noted that the transactions amounted to an abuse of the priorities issued. The matter was reported to the military authorities. The Committee felt that at that stage as conclusive proof might not be available the matter was dropped after warning the M. E. S. Contractor.

Information promised in reply to parts (b) to (c) of starred question No. 1116 asked by Sri A. Karunakara Menon, on the 20th March, 1946.

HOWRAH SYSTEM OF BOOKING AT KARACHI BUNDER STATION

(b) I understand there was no transfer of staff as a result of the alleged mis-management referred to in part (a) of the Question.

(c) Rs. 2,600 per mensem.

(d) I am informed that all Associations except the Karachi Chamber of Commerce were against the scheme from its inception, but after the Scheme was abolished the Karachi Chamber of Commerce claimed that they should have been consulted before closure.

(e) In view of the reply to part (b) this does not arise.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1342, asked by Seth Govind Das, on the 28th March, 1946.

CHALLANS UNDER MOTOR VEHICLES ACT OF TRANSPORT COMPANY'S SERVANTS IN C. P. AND BERAR

(a) and (b). Number of prosecutions against servants of the Central Provinces Transport Services, Limited.

Name of District	No. of cases challan- ed	No. of convictions	No. of acquittals	No. of cases pending	General nature of complaints
1	2	3	4	5	6
Yeotmal	1	1	..	..	Not operating to scheduled timing.
Raipur	4	3	..	1	Driving goods vehicles without lights.
Chhindwara	7	5	..	2	Drivers on duty without badges, smoking in vehicles, overloading, carrying passengers with infectious disease, charging excess fares.
Betul	7	5	..	1	Leaving vehicle without driver (84), not taking steps to secure medical attention to person injured in accident (89), leaving vehicle in a dangerous position (81).
Chhindwara (Seoni Sub-Division).	2	2	..	..	Non-production of permit, driving with one head light only, driver's seat not in proper condition.
Mandla	2	2	..	..	Drivers without badges.

1	2	3	4	5	6
Wardha	8	6	..	2	Non-observance of timings, drivers without badges, carrying a passenger on foot-board.
Jubbulpore	12	3	..	9	No proper permit containers, no side mirror, no badge number, no time table, speedometer out of order, no rear light.
Khandwa	3	..	..	3	Failure to stop buses at the proper motor stand.
Amraoti	8	..	..	8	Failure to keep tools and accessories, refusal to carry persons tendering legal fare, conductor not wearing badge, running with single head-light, failure to issue tickets when legal fare was paid, fare and time-table not properly exhibited.
Nagpur	23	15	8	60	(1) Charging excess fare 1 (2) Breach of conditions of permit 19 (3) Driving at excessive speed 1 (4) Leaving vehicle in dangerous condition 1 (5) Failure to stop in certain cases 2 (6) Disobedience of orders, obstruction and refusal to supply information 1 (7) Breach of duties laid down under the Rules for drivers & conductors 11 (8) Drivers and conductors without badge while on duty 3 (9) Carrying more persons in goods vehicles than authorised 1 (10) Lamps, horns, communication bell and spares and accessories—breach of Rules 23 (11) Unauthorised painting or markings on a vehicle 2 (12) Speed Governors not properly fitted 18
Total	137	42	9	86	

Number of prosecutions against servants of the Provincial Transport Co. Limited.

Name of District	No. of cases challaned	No. of convictions	No. of cases pending	Nature of complaints
1	2	3	4	5
Yeotmal	6	2	4	Not operating to scheduled timings.
Chanda	2	..	2	Not carrying spare wheel and tyre.
Wardha	3	3	..	Not operating to scheduled timings, driving in drunken condition.
Nagpur	63	8	56	(1) Driving without licence (2) Driving without permit (3) Breach of conditions of stage carriage permit (4) Breach of conditions of contract carriage permit. (5) Leaving vehicle in a dangerous position (6) Failure to produce licence and registration certificate. (7) Failure to stop in certain cases (8) Drivers and conductors without badges while on duty (9) Failure to carry spares and accessories. (10) Driving without light and horn (11) Miscellaneous
Total	74	13	61	

No cases were withdrawn after being filed.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1394, asked by Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, on the 29th March, 1946.

RECRUITMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OF GORAKHPUR LABOUR IN COAL MINES

Report on the audit of the accounts of the Unskilled Labour Organisation (Coal), Dhanbad.

(i) Name and Designation of the auditing officer :—Mr. B. N. Chakravartty, Assistant Accounts Officer, Bihar.

(ii) Date of inspection :—21st May 1945 to 28th June 1945.

(iii) Names of administrative officers :—

- I. U. Alexander, Esq., I.C.S., Officer on Special Duty, Labour.
- N. Barraclough, Esq., O.B.E., Regional Coal Controller (P) Bengal/Bihar.
- E. Nestor, Esq., Chief Administrative Officer, Gorakhpur Labour.
- Major H. J. Walsh, Dy. Director of Unskilled Labour (Coal), Dhanbad.

2. Scope of audit.—This report embodies the result of audit of the Accounts records for period from the inception of the organisation to the 31st August 1944. Replies to detailed objections raised during the course of audit are still awaited.

3. Preliminary.—The labourers were supplied from Gorakhpur for employment at different work-site at different collieries in the Jharis and Raniganj Coalfields. All payments on their recruitment boarding and railway fares upto the time of their arrival at Dhanbad etc. were paid the Gorakhpur Depot. These charges have not yet been incorporated in the local accounts even their full details available.

On their arrival at Dhanbad and despatch to different camps; all expenses incurred on the for feeding, lodging, wages, medical attendance, supply of tools for works etc. were paid by Dhanbad Organisation.

Construction of camps for the accommodation of the labourers was undertaken by the Central P. W. D. and paid for by them.

Regarding recoveries of the cost of work done by the labourers, special rates were made out by the Mines Department and a committee of Colliery proprietors in accordance with Government of India Department of Labour's letter No. Coal 22/153 of 9th February 1944 to the Chief Inspector of Mines Department. Bills were prepared for works done by the labourers for payment by the collieries direct to the treasury. Details of assessment and realisation of the dues from the collieries for the period under audit along with necessary bills and measurement books could not be made available for audit scrutiny.

4. Drawal of fund.—Initially funds were provided from Gorakhpur Treasury on Mr. Alexander's accounts. Current account was opened in the Imperial Bank of India, Dhanbad Branch, with the amount thus obtained and was operated upon by Mr. Barraclough or Mr. Nestor. Sanction of competent authority for lodging Government money with the bank by opening a personal account does not however appear to have been obtained.

From the 10th July 1944 funds were drawn by Mr. Nestor on simple receipt from the Dhanbad Sub-Treasury as per Government of India's orders. The total drawals of funds are as follows:—

(i) From Gorakhpur Treasury :—

	Rs.
(a) During 1943-44	2,20,000
(b) From 1st April 1944 to 31st August 1944	7,40,000

(ii) From Dhanbad Sub-Treasury :—

From 10th July 1944 to 31st August 1944	3,19,382
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Total . 12,79,382

5. Classification and adjustment of receipts and charges.—The entire charges were debited to "47-Miscellaneous Department Labour and Emigration L-Labour-Co-ordination of Unskilled Labour Supply Scheme". The Deputy Director has however been instructed to allocate the charges between this head and "advance Repayable-Special Advances" as laid down in para 3 of G. I. F. D. letter No. D 2210 of 30th May 1944. He has also been specially directed to maintain separate accounts for each project and to debit all expenditure thereto "Advances Repayable Special Advances". Full particulars of charges incurred at Gorakhpur should also be obtained and allocated accordingly. Recoveries from Mine Owners should also be adjusted separately for each project as laid down in para. 4 of G. I. F. D. letter quoted above.

6. Details of Receipts and Charges.—Out of Rs. 2,20,000 provided for 1943-44 funds amounting to Rs. 97,761-11-0 were drawn, leaving a balance of Rs. 1,22,238-5-0 with the bank. The expenditure for the period was for Rs. 97,359-7-6, leaving a closing cash balance of Rs. 402-3-6 with the camps (Bermo=199-15-6, Chandkuniya=202-4-0). The cash books for the period do not show the entry relating to the drawal of Rs. 61-11-0 as per cheque No. 57003 of March 1944 and of its disbursement.

Out of Rs. 1,210-12-0 (representing the opening cash balance brought forward on the 20th June 1944 in Mr. Nestor's cash book, although there was no previous cash balance) and Rs. 11,82,022-8-6 (viz. Rs. 10,59,382 drawn from the Gorakhpur Treasury and Dhanbad Sub-Treasury from the 1st April 1944 to the 31st August 1944 and Rs. 1,22,640-8-6, balance with the bank and at camps) the expenditure was for Rs. 11,02,001-13-10 leaving a balance of Rs. 81,231-6-8 as detailed below :—

	Rs.	A.	P.
(a) Cash balance in hands of Mr. Nestor	9,959	1	0
(b) Balance deposit at the Imperial Bank	65,791	9	3
(c) Cash balance at the Camp	5,480	12	5

The total expenditure of Rs. 11,99,361-5-4 to the end of the 31st August 1944 (Rs. 97,359-7-6 upto March 1944 and 11,02,001-13-10 from April to August 1944) was incurred on the following items :—

(i) Payment of wages and repatriation charges (ii) Travelling allowances (iii) Purchases (iv) Postages (v) Imprest (vi) Advances (vii) Miscellaneous.

7. Cash Books.—The figures noted above are based on the accounts records furnished for audit scrutiny. It is however doubtful whether all records were made available. In this connection an extract of the report of the Dy. Director to the Director (vide his letter No. LSC-602/27 of 28th March 1945) is noted below :—

"I am not in a position to state definitely that the entire amount drawn and expended since Gorakhpur Labour came to the Bengal and Bihar Coalfields are recorded in Cash books nor can I confirm that all cash books are in this office, only those sent in from camps are available and whether these were the actual number of books originally maintained is not known".

No attempt appeared to have been made to locate all the cash transactions and to open a centralised cash book including all the transactions. It is essential that this should be done without further delay on the lines as locally instructed.

The cash books for the period as were available for audit scrutiny, were not maintained properly. There was no record to show that physical verification of cash was made. The entries therein in most cases were not attested by the holders of the cash books. In some cases, the entries of the cash transactions were not made in chronological order from which it may be inferred that transactions were not recorded as soon as they occurred. It was also observed that private loans, which were subsequently paid, were at times taken to meet current expenditure. The practice was irregular.

In Mr. Nestor's cash books, transactions relating to imprests and advances granted to Group Officers etc. for making petty payments or for disbursement of wages to labourers and other were shown as final charges. In some cases, the camps again showed their receipts and actual payments in their cash book. This procedure resulted in duplication in accounts without exhibiting the actual cash position. The unpaid wages, recoveries of advances, paid to labourers at Gorakhpur fines realised from them etc. were not always detailed in the camps cash book and returned back to Mr. Nestor but was utilised in making petty payments and thus in some camp, a regular and independent cash book was kept while in others, only imprest cash accounts were maintained.

The cash book maintained by Mr. Nestor did not show any entries relating to the receipts of funds from Gorakhpur Treasury nor their deposit into the Imperial Bank of India. Transactions relating to the withdrawal and deposit of Rs. 50,031-4-0, as noticed from the account of the Imperial Bank of India, were not also recorded in any cash book. Full particulars in this connection should be furnished, stating the circumstances under which these transactions were not entered in the cash book. The full circumstances under which Rs. 1,210-12-0 was brought forward as the opening cash balance on the 20th June 1944 in Mr. Nestor's cash book should be stated.

8. *Vouchers.*—The vouchers generally do not bear any pay order or certificate of disbursement. In any cases, the entries on the cash books were not supported by relevant vouchers. Where vouchers were available, necessary quittances of the payees (stamped where the amounts of disbursement exceeded Rs. 20) were not duly obtained in many cases. Full detailed information were not always available from these vouchers.

9. *Payment of wages and repatriation charges.*—In the payment sheets, showing details of disbursement of wages to labourers etc. the Group Commander and the Accountants did not generally sign necessary certificates to the effect that wages were paid in their presence and quittances duly obtained thereof. In some cases, the amounts disbursed as shown in the payment sheets did not agree with the corresponding entries in the cash books and require early reconciliation. In some cases, it was also noticed that the totalings in the payment sheets were not accurately worked out while in some cases, although no payment was made to the absconding or deceased labourers etc. these amounts were included in the totals of the wages disbursed.

The total amount of wages of labourers etc. for more than one camp were sometimes drawn on a single cheque and shown as final charges in the cash book without detailing the requirements of each camp. Comparison of these amounts with the total disbursement as exhibited in the corresponding payment sheets showed discrepancies. It is essential that the payment sheets should be checked and the details of actual payment entered in the centralised cash book furnishing full particulars.

A register should be opened to record the details of unpaid wages and of their subsequent payment, quoting names of the employees etc. and voucher Nos. and dates in both the cases.

Another register should also be maintained to record details of expenditure on account repatriation charges for each camp.

10. *Travelling allowances.*—These were paid on simple bill forms instead of obtaining full particulars of the journeys performed in proper bill forms. There was no evidence to show that these bills were duly checked and endorsed by the Controlling Officer. Charges for hiring of taxis, meals and tiffin etc. were allowed at rates higher than those permissible under the T.A. rules for mileage and daily allowances. Even a tip to the hotel waiter was met from Government fund. Necessary sanction to these charges should either be obtained or these bills should be checked and allowed only for the amounts permissible under rules. The excess payment, in this connection, should either be recovered from the persons concerned or written off under orders of competent authority.

11. *Purchases.*—Open competitive quotation, which should have been sealed, were not generally invited and orders placed with the lowest tenders. The bills for the purchases were not duly verified prior to their payment. Stock registers were not maintained properly to record all the receipts of materials and their subsequent disposal. Instructions have been issued locally to open immediately the following stock registers which should apart from the local purchases include the supplies made from the Gorakhpur Depot.

- (i) Stock Register for Stationery.
- (ii) Stock Register for Medical Stores.
- (iii) Stock Register for Rations.
- (iv) Stock Register for Furniture and other equipments.

As the balances of materials in hand were not duly verified these should be counted or measured. Discrepancies between the actual and book balances should be reconciled without further delay. Steps should either be taken to recover the cost of materials found short from the persons responsible for the shortages or sanction of competent authority should be obtained for its write off.

The ration issue registers did not always bear the attestation of the Group Commander, Unit Commander, Ration Officer and Supervisor. In some cases, the numbers of labourers as per ration issue book did not agree with the attendance register and should be reconciled. In a few cases Doctors etc. drawing a pay exceeding Rs. 200 per month were allowed free rations. The circumstances under which this was done should be stated.

12. *Postages.*—Prior to July 1944, ordinary postage stamps, instead of service postage stamps, were used. No account was maintained for these stamps to record their receipts and disposal.

Sanction to the purchase of ordinary postage stamps should be furnished. Necessary stamps account should also be opened showing their receipts and transfer to camps or final disposal.

13. *Imprests.*—In some cases, the receipts of imprests as shown on the camps cash books did not agree with the corresponding issue shown in Nestor's cash book and require reconciliation.

The present system of showing the grant of imprests as final charges should be discontinued, and replaced by the P. W. D. system, wherein the imprest transactions are recorded in red ink without any entries being made in the money column. This will simplify the recording of imprest accounts and will also facilitate in watching the amounts of imprests lying with each of the camps.

14. *Advances.*—Apart from the advances on account of T. A. and pay on transfer, other advances were granted to the employees. Sanction of competent authority to the grant of such advances should be obtained in support of these payments.

No register was maintained to record the issues and recoveries of advances. This should be opened without further delay and should also include the transactions relating to the advance granted to the labourers at Gorakhpur.

As all these advances have not yet been duly recovered, steps should be taken for their recovery at a very early date. Regarding recovery of the advances from the absconding labourers necessary action as laid down in sub-para 2 of para iii (b) (iv) of the "Instructions for recruitment and employment of imported labour" issued by the G. I. with their No. L. R. 91 of 10th April 1944 should be taken without further delay. As regards recovery of advances from the deceased and discharged labourers these amounts may be deducted from their arrear bills and the irrecoverable advances written off under order of competent authority.

15. *Miscellaneous.*—The cost of carriage charges, typing charges, bank charges for issuing drafts etc. were booked under this head. Regarding carriage charges of materials, details of materials and distances and whether these materials were duly taken into accounts were not recorded on the vouchers. Full particulars of the charges and sanction of competent authority for incurring them where not detailed in many cases on other vouchers.

16. *Financial Powers.*—Detailed instructions regarding delegation of financial powers to the local authorities do not appear to have been issued. Fines were imposed on the labourers etc. although there was no sanction of Government of India in this respect. As the subordinates are required to handle heavy cash the desirability of obtaining security from them may be considered.

17. *State of Accounts.*—From the remarks, made above, it will be observed that the accounts records were not properly maintained. It is desirable that immediate steps should be taken to set them right.

(Sd. B. N. CHAKRAVARTTY,

Assistant Accounts Officer, Bihar.

Memo. No. C-Labour-615.

Ranchi, the 27th July 1945.

Copy forwarded to Director, Unskilled Labour Supply, Anderson House, Alipore, Calcutta for information.

(Sd.) Accountant General.

Report on the audit of the Accounts of the Unskilled Labour organisation (Coal) Dhanbad.

(i) Name and designation of the auditing Officer.—Mr. B. N. Chakravarty Asstt. Accounts Officer, Bihar.

(ii) Date of inspection.—21st November 1945 to 22nd December 1945.

(iii) Name of administrative officers. :—

(A) I. U. Alexander, Esq. I.C.S., Officer on Special Duty, Labour.

(B) Mr. H. J. Walsh, Dy. Director of Unskilled Labour (Coal), Dhanbad.

2. *Scope of Audit.*—This report embodies the result of audit of accounts for the period from September 1944 to March 1945. Apart from this report detailed audit objections were raised locally during the course of audit and replies thereto are still awaited.

3. *Action taken on last report.*—Complete action has not yet been taken. Replies to detailed audit objections raised during the last occasion have not yet been given.

4. *Measurement Books.*—No register showing the details of the measurement book including the name of the Surveyor to whom issued and the date of its issue and return has been maintained. Pages of the book have not been numbered. Corrections in the entries made have not been attested by dated initials or the cancellation of measurement have not been supported by (i) dated initials of the officer ordering the cancellation and (ii) proper reasons for the cancellation. Pages containing measurements have not been crossed giving reference to the number and date of challan showing credit of the amount at the treasury by the respective colliery.

5. *Classification and adjustment of receipts and charges.*—In accordance with the instruction of the Deputy Director charges debitible purely to "Advance Repayable—Special Advances" have been allocated but there is a confusion regarding allocation of contingent expenditure as it is not understood from the entries in the cash book as to the portion which relates to expenditure of the Head Office debitible to the head "25—General Administration" and what relates to "Advance Repayable".

Details of receipts and charges. Receipts are composed of the following items:—

- (1) Amount drawn from the Treasury.
- (2) Drawings from the personal account opened at the Imperial Bank of India.
- (3) Refund of Advances.
- (4) Refund of unpaid wages.
- (5) Refund of unspent amount of the Imprest given to the camps.
- (6) Realisation of fines.
- (7) Adjustment of imprest money which was taken as final expenditure at the time of granting imprest to the camps.
- (8) Items (3), (4) (5) and (6) are treated as departmental receipts and should not be utilised towards departmental expenditure under Rule 7 of the Central Government compilation of the Treasury Rules Vol. I.

Item (2) The total expenditure of Rs. 64,460-17-3-1 to end of March 1945 was incurred on the following items leaving a balance of Rs. 177,950-13-3, viz. Rs. 3479-12-3 cash in hand and Rs. 1,74,476-1-0 with the Imperial Bank of India, as detailed below:—

	Ra.	As.	Ps.
Total draws			
Opening balance	6,636,858	4	3
	73,168	7	4
Less Refund	67,10,026	11	7
	86,028	11	3
Netdrawal	66,23,998	0	2
Expenditure	64,46,047	3	1
Total	1,77,950	13	3

- (a) Payment of wages.
- (b) Repatriation charges.
- (c) Travelling expenses.
- (d) Purchases.
- (e) Postage.
- (f) Advances.
- (g) Imprest.
- (h) Transportation charges
- (i) Recruiting expenses.
- (j) Miscellaneous.

The closing balance on 31-8-44 now found is Rs. 73,168-7-4, viz. cash balance in hand was Rs. 7,376-14-1 and the balance with the Imperial Bank of India is Rs. 65,791-9-3 and not Rs. 81,231-6-6 as shown in previous report.

6. *Cash Book.*—A centralised cash book has been opened as instructed previously but there is no record to show that physical verification of cash was ever made. This may be done immediately and record to this effect may be kept in the cash book. The entries have not been initially by the disbursing officer. The corrections in mistakes have not also been attested. In some cases full details of charges have not been recorded. It cannot be ascertained from the cash book what is the real cash position as the unpaid wages recoveries of advances from the labourers have been utilised in making petty payments instead of depositing those amounts to Treasury. It is also seen that some amounts have been classified as suspense pending adjustment. These amounts should be cleared off and the accounts with the party concerned should be settled. Items recorded in the cash book have not been properly classified

which makes it difficult to ascertain what relates to the expenditure of the Central Office and what to the advances repayable proper. If there is no sufficient space for recording classification, an abstract of expenditure may be prepared in at the end of each month. As one cash book has been maintained, it is desirable that the major head of account to which the expenditure is debitible should be noted invariably so that any confusion may not arise. Further it cannot be ascertained from the entries in the cash book whether imprest holders submit their monthly accounts regularly. To watch these it is suggested that some date may be fixed for sending monthly accounts with a certificate that the balance in hand is Rs. by the camps and the camp transactions may be recorded after the transactions of the central office are noted. The balance should be drawn up as follows:—

	Rs.
Cash balance in hand	
Balance with the Imprest holders	
Total balance	

The cash balance in hand should be verified by actual counting of the money in the chest.

7. *Vouchers.*—The vouchers generally do not bear any pay order or certificate of disbursement. In many cases abstract of expenditure has been prepared but no sub-vouchers in support of the expenditure shown in the abstract were available. Necessary quitance of the payees (stamped where the amounts of disbursement exceed Rs. 20) were not duly obtained in many cases. It is also observed from the vouchers that necessary check was not exercised, merely an abstract has been prepared and entered in the cash book. It is suggested that necessary check as prescribed in Art. 13 of C.A.C., Vol. I may be made before they are entered in the cash book. Full and detailed information was not always available from these vouchers in most cases. In some cases pie payment in respect of T. A. and establishment charges has been made which is in contravention of Article 10-A of C. A. C., Vol. I.

8. *Payment of wages.*—The rate fixed for the workers is Re. 1 per day viz. 0/12/0 for wages and 0/4/0 for bonus on account of good work done by the workers. As the payment of bonus depends only on good work done it implies that bonus is admissible only for the good work dependent on the output for the days they work at the worksite and no for Sundays and Holidays during which they do not work. Such being the case the payment of bonus for Sundays and Holidays as made in many camps seems to be irregular. To regularise it special sanction of the competent authority may be obtained. It is found in many camps that in the payment sheets, showing details of disbursement of wages to labourers the group officer and the accountant did not generally sign necessary certificates to the effect that wages were paid in their presence and quitance duly obtained thereof nor has any abstract showing (1) wages paid gang by gang, (2) wages remaining unpaid and action taken on the unpaid wages (3) wages due to the deceased and absconding labourers after deducting advances, if any due from them been prepared. Necessary instructions on this point may be issued to the camps. In many cases it is also found that amounts due to the absconders have been worked out up to the day the labourer left the station and not upto the date from which they are absent from the camp. It is seen from the Muster Rolls of some camps that workers have been allowed wages for holidays which they are not entitled under Item No. XIII of the instructions for the recruitment and employment in India of imported civil labour, etc. received with G. I., Deptt. of Labour No. L.A-91 dated 10th April 1944 special sanction may be obtained to regularise the charge.

9. *Absconding Labourers.*—A register showing the amount due from the absconders on account of advance paid to them at the time of their despatch and the amount due to them for the days they worked at the worksite has been kept. It is suggested that the outstanding advance may be set off against the wages due to them. The balance if any left after such adjustments may be written off with the sanction of the competent authority if it is found that such amounts are not recoverable from them. Under item No. IV of para. III of the Instructions, etc., laid down in G.I. Deptt. of Labour No. 91 dated 10th April 1944, if the advance is not fully recovered the employer should send accounts to the district officer of the district from which the person was recruited for making necessary recoveries. Necessary steps do not appear to have been taken. It is therefore, suggested that prompt steps may be taken to effect recoveries as contemplated in the instructions etc. before the Competent authority is approached for the write off.

10. *Repatriation charges.*—When the labourers are repatriated either on medical grounds or on completion of full term of service according to agreements, the following amounts are paid to them:—

- (a) Wages due to them before they leave the camp.
- (b) Railway fare for journey to Gorakhpur.
- (c) Diet money for 2 days journey at the rate of Re. 1 per day.

A register showing the amounts paid has been kept. In many cases full details of the charges and quitance of the labourers were not available. It is also noticed that labourers have been paid wages beyond the date of repatriation. Such payment may be justified. It is laid down in the G.I. Department of Labour letter No. LR. 91 dated 10th April 1944 that rations will be supplied

under Provincial arrangements. Diet money for 2 days journey paid to the labourers is in lieu of free rations. Accordingly diet money should be regularised under Provincial arrangement. It will be observed that ration money during transit by rail is at the rate of annas 12. It may be considered whether diet money in such cases should be restricted to the limit applied in the case of Provincial Civil Labour Units.

11. *Compensation*.—Rs. 13,230 has been paid for 8 men, at the rate of Rs. 1,300 to 7 men and Rs. 630 to one man under the Workmen's Compensation Act with due approval of the Commissioner during the period under audit. All the columns in the register kept for this purpose have not been filled in. This may be done now.

12. *Travelling Expenses*.—These were paid on simple bill forms instead of obtaining full particulars of the journeys performed in proper bill forms. There is no evidence to show that those bills were duly checked and endorsed by the controlling officer. Charges for hiring of taxis, *ekkas* and rickshaws, tiffin were allowed rates higher than those admissible under the T. A. rules for mileage and daily allowances. Necessary sanction to those charges should either be obtained or these bills should be checked and allowed only for the amounts permissible under rules. The excess payment in this connection, should either be recovered from the persons concerned or written off under orders of competent authority. Daily allowance is granted to Government servants under ordinary rules to cover the expenses of the day. It may be considered whether persons getting free rations will be entitled to both daily allowance and free rations for the days they remain absent from headquarters.

13. *Rations (Supply)*.—According to the terms of Contract the Deputy Director of Labour was to supply trucks to the Contractor for which the contractor was liable to pay hire charges at the rate of /12/- per mile. No recovery in this behalf has yet been made from the Contractor.

14. *Issue*.—On examination of some of the ration charts it appears that rations were issued weekly in advance on the basis of the attendance in last day of the week the labourers worked. This resulted in issue after the issue of the ration and not of the rations to the labourers who absconded and died. It is also free from doubt that all the sick labourers should get normal rations during their illness, i.e. some of them should get the normal rations and some hospital ration. Thus the labourers who got the hospital ration also took the normal rations. The better course was to curtail rations in the week to come. The rations were supplied on the strength of the last working day in the week in which sick and absent labourers were taken into account. The proper course was to exclude sick labourers who are not entitled to normal rations and labourers who are absent under item No. (f) of para. VII of the Instructions received with Government of India, Department of Labour No. LR. 91 dated the 10 April 1944 in case of voluntary absence a person shall be entitled to only half the rations otherwise admissible. It is seen from the attendance rolls that there were many labourers who remained absent from the worksite. To allow full rations instead of half as contemplated in the Instructions was the reform irregular. There is no provision for supply of sweetmeat with instructions referred to above. The supply of sweetmeats should therefore, be covered by special sanction which may be obtained. Under circular No. LSC-60 dated the 10 August 1944 of the D.U.L.S. the distributions of rations required the presence of these officers, viz. Group Officer, Unit Commander and Ration Officer, but in many cases these instructions have not been followed.

15. *Equipment*.—Major portion of the equipment except cane baskets has been supplied by the equipment centre. It is seen from the vouchers and entries in the cash book that some local purchases of crowbars and iron rods have been made from Jharia Market without any agreement and without any tenders being invited as required under rule 2 of Appendix VI of C. A. C. Vol. I. Local purchase was irregular under rule 4 of Appendix 4 to C. A. C. Vol. I, which lays down that important plant machinery and iron and steel work shall be obtained only from firms approved by the Chief Controller of Stores, Indian Supply Department and specified in the lists issued by him from time to time. The procedure laid down in the rules are, however, not being followed.

16. *Medical Stores*.—From the vouchers it appears that purchases of medicine in almost all the cases have been made from the Jharia Medical Hall instead of through the Indian Medical Stores Department. No records could be produced showing the inability of the I.M.S. Department to supply the medicines before making local purchases. This was irregular. Necessary sanction to such purchase may be obtained. There is no indication in the vouchers that articles were received in good condition and counted and entered in the stock register.

17. *Stock Register*.—Two stock registers have been maintained viz. one for general stores and the other for medical stores.

(a) *General Stock Register*.—It is found from the register that proper accounts in respect of receipts, issues of stores have been maintained and balances struck out. But there is no evidence to show that any physical verification of stock was made by a responsible officer. This may be done immediately. Proper action may be taken for the articles found surplus or short, as the case may be, after physical verification. With a view to maintain a collective account it is suggested that articles received direct by the camps may be brought into general stock. Unserviceable articles still borne on the stock may be disposed of by sale or destroyed if not saleable after taking the necessary orders of competent authority.

(b) *Medical Stock Register*.—Stores that are received from the Indian Medical Store Department or procured by local purchase have been entered in the register after the start of the central office. Medical Stores purchased prior to the start of the office of the Directorate have not found place in the register. Issue of Medical Stores to camps has been made generally from the central stocks, except in a few instances in which medical stores purchased locally have been issued direct to the camps without entry in the general stock register. These stores may be entered. It is noticed from the invoices that some articles have been received short and some broken. The invoice does not indicate that any action has been taken for shortage and breakage but full payment has been made. This point may be settled with the Supplying Department. In some cases articles have not been entered and issues have been made in excess of receipts. The invoices do not bear the endorsement that articles were examined and received in good condition. In some cases balances have not been struck. The register does not indicate that any physical verification of the stock was made since the inception of the organisation and this may be done immediately. Necessary steps may be taken for the adjustment of articles found excess or short. It is suggested that to have complete account of the organisation medical stores purchased direct by the camp before the start of the directorate may be brought to account of the Central Stores.

18. *Furniture*.—Two separate registers have been maintained viz. one containing the articles purchased prior to the start of the Directorate office and the other for the articles purchased after the opening of the office of the Directorate. Stocks may be verified immediately. Action may be taken for excess or shortage as may be revealed by physical verification. The following defects are noticed :—

(a) Source from which received—not stated.

(b) Voucher number—not quoted.

(c) Acknowledgment of issues—not taken.

(d) Articles of equipment such as blankets, pick axes, etc. have found place in the register which may be removed and entered into the proper register.

19. *Stationery*.—The register for recording the articles of stationery has not been maintained properly prior to October 1944 as the source from which articles were received was not stated, the voucher number was not quoted and issues not acknowledged. These defects may be removed. There are a number of cases, in which stationery worth more than Rs. 20 have been locally purchased in contravention. Purchases have been made by Group Officers who are not competent to do so without any power being delegated to them.

20. *Agreements*.—The following general observations are made on the agreements that have been submitted :—

(1) As the Director is not authorised to execute any deeds, contracts in excess of Rs. 2,500 the contracts deeds, etc. in respect of supply of rations equipment etc., which exceeds Rs. 2,500 should be executed by the Secretary to the Government of India.

(2) Rule (5) requires that no contract involving an uncertain or indefinite liability should be entered into. In some cases, i.e. in case of supply of rations and cane baskets it is found that the terms of the contract seems to be indefinite and not quite clear.

(3) Under rule tenders should be invited before contracts are placed. In some cases no tenders were called for.

(4) Rule (3) required that standard forms of contract should be adopted whenever possible and they are not used.

(5) There is no provision in some of the contracts for safeguarding Government property entrusted to contractor as required under rule (9).

(6) There is no provision for breach or failure of the contract in some cases.

(7) In some cases the deeds do not bear any date from which they will run. Signature of the party and witness has not been dated. In some cases witness has signed the deed long after the execution of the deed. The deeds have not been properly registered.

It is therefore suggested that the deeds may be executed in accordance with instructions contained in Appendix 8-G and 8-H of C.A.C., Vol. I.

A register showing the name and address of the contractors, articles in respect of which contracts have been placed, and amount of security deposit may be maintained.

21. *Stamps*.—It has been found from the vouchers that cash purchases for postage stamps have been made. As funds are obtained by drawing bills from the Treasury, there was no justification for such purchases. Even the Group Officers of certain camps have made such purchases which they are not competent to do. These charges may be regularised by obtaining special sanction of the competent authority. The instruction laid down in article 98-1 of the C. A. C., Vol. I, read with rule 12 of Appendix 5 to *ibid* may be followed in future. The stamp accounts submitted for audit have not been properly maintained as there are some mistakes in working out the balances. This may be reconciled. Receipts of service stamps may be entered in red ink and issues in black ink.

Advances.—Advances paid in the following cases seem to be irregular as they do not come within the category of those prescribed in Article 159 of C. A. C., Vol. I. They may be regularised under special order of the competent authority:—

- (i) Advance granted to the staff for purchase of warm clothing.
- (ii) Advance granted to a duftry at the time of going on leave.
- (iii) Advance granted to the staff against their pay to meet personal expenses.

In some cases credits or adjustments of advances are not traceable from the vouchers or the entries in the register maintained for the purpose.

Further it is seen from the voucher that the recruiting agent has also been allowed advances in connection with recruitment. The instructions etc. issued by the Government of India Department of Labour in their letter No. LR-91 of 10th April 1944 do not provide such advances. These may be regularised under the order of the Government of India.

Register maintained for watching recoveries of advances and clearance of suspense transaction

An examination of the register reveals the following defects:—

- (i) The credit entries i.e. recovery or adjustment of advances made on the receipt of the disbursement sheets from the camps have not been noted against the debit entries. Only date of adjustment has been recorded from which it cannot be ascertained whether the date relates to recovery or payment of the advances. The proper course was to note the credit entries beneath the debit entries by drawing a line.
- (ii) Credits have been noted independently without entering them against corresponding details.
- (iii) Balances have not been drawn.
- (iv) Entries have not been initialled.
- (v) Voucher number not noted in support of debit and credit.
- (vi) No action has been taken for the adjustment of advances outstanding for a long time.

The register was most advantageous to watch the outstanding and to watch whether advances have been recovered or not but it has been discontinued with effect from April 1945. As no authority for discontinuance of this register could be produced it is desirable that the register should be renewed with retrospective effect.

23. Imprest.—Imprest money ranging from Rs. 150- according to nature of transaction in the camp has been allowed out of the permanent advance sanctioned for the Dy. Director. The following defects have been noticed in the imprest account in the camps:—

1. The entries are not initialled.
2. Balances not struck out at the end of each month.
3. Imprest money not being recouped regularly.

It is suggested that in the case of transfer of charges and yearly on the 1st April each officer holding an imprest should send an acknowledgment to the Dy. Director of the amount due and accountable for by himself.

24. Leave.—Some leave accounts were checked. The following defects have come to notice:—

- (1) No formal order regarding the grant of leave.
- (2) Leave granted in many cases in excess of amount of leave due.
- (3) Leave on medical grounds on full pay was granted to temporary Government servants of less than one year's service under Rule 144 of the Revised Leave Rules such leave is not admissible. The period of medical leave may be converted to the extent of earned leave due and the rest as leave without pay.
- (4) Casual leave has been combined with other leave which is not permissible. Casual leave may be converted into leave due under rules.

(5) From the calculation sheet it is observed that officers took leave, but the nature, period of leave, the date of commencement of leave, the date on which they returned from leave are not traceable.

It is therefore suggested that leave accounts may be re-examined with reference to the rules and leave salary paid in excess due to irregular grant of leave recovered. There is no term as privilege leave in the Revised Leave Rules. The word earned leave may be substituted for privilege leave.

25. Recruiting Expenses.—Total expenditure in regard to the management of the Bureaux and debitable to the head "47 Misc. Deptt" to end of March 1945 is Rs. 20,407/7/6 against which Rs. 504/4/- only has been recovered during the year 1944-45 and deposited to the head "XXXVI Misc. Deptt. Miscellaneous". It has been decided that each colliery to which labourers are supplied will pay Re. 1 per labourer and only portion of the expenditure on the Bureaux which is not covered by the recoveries from the Colliery owners will be recouped from the Coal Administrative Cess Fund. Bills for recoveries are prepared in the central office and furnished to the owners of the respective colliery. A register has been maintained to watch the recovery. It transpires from the register that the amount due from the colliery is in course of recovery. The date of recovery has been noted but without challan No. which may also be noted.

26. Transportation charges.—Purpose of journey has not been fully detailed. The places from which the trucks took start and the places where these trucks went have not been mentioned for want of which no useful check can be exercised. It is suggested that the places where the trucks run should be mentioned in the Diary Register. In the case of trucks used by the Labour Food Supply Co. necessary certificate of going to the camp with the food staff should be recorded in the register duly signed with date and time. In case of trucks placed at the disposal of officers, it may be considered if the limit of mileage allowance should not be fixed and the mileage allowance should be charged for going beyond jurisdiction without the special order of the Dy. Director.

27. Miscellaneous.—

(a) Printing works of forms, etc., in excess of Rs. 150 have been done at the private press instead of at Government Press. Necessary sanction of the competent authority as required under Rule 26 of Appendix 5 to C. A. C., Vol. I, may be obtained.

(b) It is laid down in Rule X of Appendix 6 to C. A. C., Vol. I that all payments of amounts due by one Public Department to another should be made by book transfers. Cash payment for articles supplied to Government Departments seems to be irregular. This practice may be stopped.

(c) Undisbursed amount of wages have not been refunded promptly in some cases. Camps may be instructed to refund without delay.

(d) Disposal of gunny bags supplied with foodgrains and empty tins of kerosine oil, mustard oil and Ghee are not traceable. Their disposal may be explained.

28. Financial Powers.—Detailed instruction regarding delegation of financial powers to the local authorities are still awaited.

29. General.—It is suggested that registers maintained for several purposes particularly those mentioned for watching recoveries and adjustment should once a month be submitted to the Dy. Director or any Gazetted Officer subordinate to him for proper scrutiny.

30. State of Accounts.—The accounts records maintained are in order.

Sd. B. N. Chakravarty,

Assistant Accounts Officer, Bihar.

Information promised in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 1522, asked by Pandit Balkrishna Sharma, on the 3rd April, 1946.

OPERATION OF WAR RISK INSURANCE ORDINANCE OF 1940

(c) The number of appeals pending in the Provinces of Madras, Bengal and Bombay have already been furnished. As regards the remaining Provinces, the position is as follows:—

Central Provinces and Berar	10
United Provinces	24

No appeals are pending in any other Province.

Information promised in reply to starred question No. 1686 asked by Sjt. Seth Damodar Saroop, on the 9th April, 1946.

CLASSIFICATION OF PERSONS CONVICTED IN CONNECTION WITH DISTURBANCES ON MARCH 7, 1946

(a) 163 persons were arrested in connection with the disturbances on the 7th March 1946 of these fourteen only are believed to have had political connections.

(b) The jail authorities treat the under trial prisoners according to the classification ordered by the trial court. So far only 11 of the under trials have been classified as "better class".

(c) Khurshed Ahmed Kazmi is on bail. Jagat Singh although a small darzi by profession has been temporarily classified for "better class treatment". Shive Deo Vashist is a low paid employee in the office of the Mazdur Sewak Sang. He has not been given "better class".

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

BROADCASTS IN KANNADA AND MALAYALAM

Shri D. P. Karmarkar: Will the Honourable Member for Information and Arts be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the question of allotting more time to Kannada and Malayalee broadcasts on the Madras and Bombay Stations of the All-India Radio; and

(b) if so, what the decision is.

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari: As a token of Government's intention to establish Stations for Malayalam and Kannada listeners as soon as possible arrangements are in hand for weekly talks in Kannada and Malayalam for the Madras and/or Bombay stations of All-India Radio.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan : May I ask whether the Honourable Member will arrange for programmes of Malayalam and Kannada every day for a few minutes instead of once a week ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I will consider that.

Prof. N. G. Ranga : Is there any separate broadcasting station in Mysore or Bangalore ; if so, will the Government of India give it any encouragement in order that the same broadcasting station may serve the Kannada area outside Mysore, better ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I am advised that the best station for Malayalam is from Madras and for Kannada it may be from Madras or from Bombay.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth : Is my Honourable friend aware that for Tamil there are two stations, namely Madras and Trichinopoly and that both the stations are completely occupied for Tamil and Telegu with the result that Malayalam gets no chance. Will the Honourable Member order them to give at least a few minutes for Malayalam ?

The Honourable Sir Akbar Hydari : I have already expressed our readiness to help these two languages. I do not think I can at the present moment do anything more than consider the further suggestion made by the Honourable Lady opposite, namely, that instead of an hour once in a week it may be a few minutes every day.

DELHI POLYTECHNIC

Sri Mohan Lal Saksena : Will the Education Secretary be pleased to state :

(a) what progress has been made regarding the recognition of the Diploma and Certificates of the Delhi Polytechnic ;

(b) whether any students of the Delhi Polytechnic had applied for selection for studies in foreign countries ; if so, how many and whether any of them has been selected ;

(c) what other efforts, if any, have been made to secure employment to the students passed from the Delhi Polytechnic ; and

(d) what efforts, if any, have been made to recruit suitable staff for the Delhi Polytechnic and to remove other shortcomings thereon ?

Sir John Sargent : (a) The Chairmen of the five All-India Boards have been personally addressed on the subject of expediting general recognition of the All-India Diplomas and Certificates awarded by them. Satisfactory replies have been received and action is now being taken. A statement giving details of recent developments in regard to each Board of Studies is laid on the table of the House.

(b) It is not possible at such short notice to give the total number of all Polytechnic students who applied for Overseas Scholarships this year. As far however as it has been possible to ascertain, there were among the applicants five students of the Delhi Polytechnic who have taken an All-India Diploma and one who has taken a Delhi Polytechnic Diploma.

The Selection Board have not yet submitted their recommendations.

(c) *Employment and Training of passed students of the Polytechnic*
Commerce Students

The following firms have agreed to take students from the Commerce Department in Polytechnic for practical training :

	Number of Students
(1) The Central Bank of India, Delhi	2
(2) S. Vaidyanath Aiyer & Co.	2
(3) Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Society Ltd., New Delhi	2
(4) Simla Banking and Industrial Co., Ltd., Simla	2
(5) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi	2
(6) Comilla Banking Corporation Ltd., Delhi	1
(7) Calcutta National Bank Ltd., Delhi	1
(8) Modi Sugar Mills	1
	3 or 4

Engineering Students

(i) Employment has been secured for three students with the Central Public Works Department at New Delhi and Calcutta and in the Agra Electric Co. Other industrial concerns have been approached and their replies are awaited.

(ii) The Delhi Cloth Mills have taken on four students from the Engineering Department as paid apprentices on Rs. 75 p.m. to begin with, on three month's probation.

(iii) Arrangements have been made with the Central Public Works Department to accept students as unpaid apprentices.

It has to be pointed out that with one or two exceptions no students have yet completed the course which entitles them to receive the Diploma and so to become qualified for employment.

(d) The D. G. of Re-settlement has been asked to recommend any ex-army personnel with suitable technical qualifications for post in the Polytechnic. Advertisements for posts have not yielded many recruits so far and the posts not filled are being advertised again.

Sikar House has been secured for temporary use as a hostel and a second hostel is expected to be secured in the very near future.

Orders have been and are being placed for many of the necessary items of equipment and expect to receive some of these within next two or three months.

Statement giving details of recent developments in regard to Boards of Studies

The following are among the concrete results to date :

(1) Board of Commercial Studies—

(i) A number of Commercial firms have taken on or agreed to take on Polytechnic students for practical training and appear to be satisfied so far.

(ii) Exemption from the first part of the Registered Accountants Examination has been granted to diploma students taking certain specific subjects.

(iii) It is understood that the Accountants General have agreed to recognise the All-India Diploma for the purposes of recruitment and the formal recognition is expected in the very near future.

(2) Textile Studies—

Chairman of the All-India Board of Technical Studies has agreed to have the Polytechnic Textile Department inspected as soon as it is ready. He has been asked to arrange for students to be tried out in mills. He has expressed the opinion that industrialists will accept Polytechnic products in preference to others only where they are satisfied after trying out a few of them.

(3) Engineering Board—

The Bengal Government have recognised diplomas and certificates for employment in certain categories.

Board of Architecture—

An inspection Committee has visited the Delhi Polytechnic. Pending consideration of the Inspection Committee's Report the Chairman of the All-India Board has suggested that the Polytechnic should hold provisional examinations under a local committee. This will be done.

Board of Chemical Engineering Studies—

Sir Padampat Singhanian, Chairman of the Board, is taking up the question of recognition.

Recognition by the Federal Public Service Commission—

The Chairman of F. P. S. C. has suggested that the All-India Diplomas in Engineering should be recognised by the Institution of Engineers as equivalent to ordinary degrees. Leading members of the Institution of Engineers, who have been approached in the matter, are sympathetic and satisfactory results may be expected in the near future. In order to secure general recognition of the diplomas and certificates by Public Service Commissions as well as by Industry and Commerce arrangements are being made to link up the All-India Boards as closely as possible with the All-India Council for Technical Education, which meets at the end of this month.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Is the Honourable Member aware that the students of the Delhi Polytechnic when they applied to the Delhi Cloth Mills were offered only Rs. 75 while students from other Universities with the same qualifications were offered Rs. 150 ?

Sir John Sargent : With regard to these students it must be remembered that they are doing their year of practical training. It is part of the course. I understand that with one exception students of other Technical Institution when undergoing their year of practical training do not receive any remuneration at all.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Is the Honourable Member not aware that because of the want of a University Degree the Delhi Cloth Mills and other mills are not giving the same remuneration to these boys as they are giving to others ?

Sir John Sargent : I did not follow the question. Will the Honourable Member kindly repeat his question ?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Will the Honourable Member say whether the Delhi University is prepared to make arrangements for the recognition of this institute within a short time, if the Government desire ?

Sir John Sargent : As I explained to the House on previous occasions, it is the desire of the Government that the institution should be recognized as the Technological Department of the Delhi University. We have a big scheme which I am glad to say is now developing and at a reasonable stage recognition will be applied for.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad : Under the new scheme of reorganization of education, I would like to know whether the Polytechnic will be a Technical High School corresponding to other High Schools or whether it will be like an Engineering College affiliated to the Delhi University ?

Sir John Sargent : The Technical High School is one part of the organization of the Polytechnic providing technical courses of training for boys of the High School age. But in addition to that there are the senior Departments for students beyond that stage to which the terms of admission in many cases are the same as in Universities.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : In order to give a good prospect for the students qualifying from this Polytechnic, will the Honourable Member consider the advisability of applying to the Delhi University for recognizing the Diploma as a Degree ?

Sir John Sargent : I do not think that with the present standard the Delhi University is likely to receive an application favourably at the present moment. But as soon as we begin to implement the big plan seriously, from the conversations I have had with the Vice Chancellor, I think it will be sympathetically considered.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad : Do the Government contemplate to have a Polytechnic such that a part of the institution prepares for the Diploma course and part of the institution prepares for the University Degree ?

Sir John Sargent : At the moment the Polytechnic is providing courses on very similar lines to those possible in Polytechnics in Gt. Britain that is courses based on the Diploma system. In England these are regarded and recognized as equivalent to a Degree. Provision in the Polytechnic will in due course be for recognition by the University.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

FAILURE OF NEW DELHI POLICE TO EXERCISE VIGILANCE AND TAKE ADEQUATE STEPS TO INVESTIGATE CRIMES

Mr. President : I have received notice of an adjournment Motion for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely :

"To Censure the Government of India for the failure on the part of the New Delhi Police authorities to exercise adequate vigilance in respect of crimes against property and further failure to take adequate steps to investigate such crimes recently committed".

I do not see how it is a definite matter at all. And then I do not see how it is a matter of urgency.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar (Bombay Southern Division : Non-Mohammadan Rural): Sir, the area in which these crimes have been committed is near the quarters of the Honourable Members of the House. In a place like New Delhi continuous crimes have been committed by daylight. In one case a lady has been attacked. Yet none of these offences that have occurred in the last six months has been investigated. If these had occurred in an out of the way place that will be a different matter.

But in a metropolis like New Delhi where the inspector lives in the midst of these houses, it goes to the very root of the matter : it is not as if the police are away living at long distances away from these crimes : but if these crimes committed right under the nose of the police are left uninvestigated and neglected there is a possibility that the thieves concerned will take greater courage and bring matters to such a pitch that every member of this House will have to defend himself and to make arrangements for doing so. I will quote one instance—I will not tire the House by reading this long list which I have prepared of the Honourable Home Member as soon as I came here—these are specific instances on specific information.

An attempt was made to commit a theft on the 8th April, 1946, at about 9-15 in the morning in 13, Central Lane; the upper pane of the front door was broken but the timely arrival of the servant prevented the thief from succeeding. He made good his escape.

On 9th afternoon about 3 p.m. a man was seen in the rear court by the lady of the house of 20, Babar Lane. She challenged him about his identity. He hit her with a stone and she received minor injuries. Before she could gather help he made good his escape by throwing another stone at her. To intimidate her further he again turned up from the front door but finding the servant in, he fled away. Next day in the morning another stone was thrown in the court yard. When the police summoned all the servants of the neighbouring houses the lady identified one of them as the culprit but nothing has been done so far.

Mr. President : I want to know as to whether anything very grave or serious has happened immediately, so as to justify such a motion.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar : Yes, the last instance, I have, took place only two days ago and it was published in the press also and it also was not investigated. These cases seem to remain uninvestigated ; and if these things recur in the systematic manner in which they seem to be happening — without making any reflection at all on the police—I say it is worth while inquiring whether these police officers are active at all. It does not look as if they are active and I have got instances of about 20 cases during the last five months.

Mr. President : I think the Honourable Member's case has already been heard by the Honourable Home Member and he will take such steps as may be necessary. In any case this does not seem to me a motion fit to be admitted as an adjournment motion in this House.

Shri D. P. Karmarkar : Do I understand that the Honourable Home Member agrees with the Chair ?

Mr. President : It is for the Honourable Member to inquire and for the Honourable Home Member to make a note.

SUMMARY OF PROCEEDINGS OF EIGHTH MEETING OF STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE

Mr. S. C. Joshi : (Government of India : Nominated Official) Sir, I beg to lay on the table a Summary* of Proceedings of the Eighth Meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held at New Delhi on the 15th and 16th March, 1946.

* Not printed in these Debates. Copies placed in the Library. *Ed of Deb.*

INSURANCE (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL

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

"That Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 (Second Amendment).

Mr. President : The question is :

"That Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan be appointed to the Select Committee on the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 (Second Amendment).

The motion was adopted.

MESSAGE FROM THE COUNCIL OF STATE

Secretary of the Assembly : Sir, the following message has been received from the Council of State :

"The Council of State at its meeting held on the 17th April, 1946, agreed without any amendment to the Bill to give Hindu Married Women a right to separate residence and maintenance under certain circumstances, which was passed by the Legislative Assembly at its meeting held on the 2nd April, 1946".

DEMAND FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANT FOR 1946-47—*contd.*DEMAND No. 66—MISCELLANEOUS—*contd.*

Mr. President : Further discussion of the motion moved by Sir Archibald Rowlands yesterday—

"That a supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,00,000 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, 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

I have received new notices of three amendments. Of course they cannot now be said to be last minute amendments and they may be moved by the Honourable Members concerned.

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau : Indian Commerce) : May I inquire from the Honourable Leader of the House whether Government have not considered this subject and whether they would not now agree to have this matter postponed in order to enable us to go through the other items of the agenda ?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (leader of the House) : I shall be making a statement on this motion later.

Mr. President : Let the postponement motions be moved.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I move :

"That the consideration of the motion regarding Demand for Supplementary Grant in respect of 'Miscellaneous' be postponed till the next Session of this Assembly."

My Honourable friend, Mr. Gadgil, was on his legs : if you will give me an opportunity I shall speak after him.

Mr. President : What I would suggest is that this motion be first disposed of and in case it is accepted there is nothing to be talked over ; in case it is rejected, Mr. Gadgil will resume his speech.

Haji Abdus Sattar Haji Ishaq Seth (West coast and Nilgiris : Muhammadan) : What happens to the other amendments ?

Mr. President : In case this amendment is accepted the others fall through. If not, the other amendments will be given a chance of being moved.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : I have already moved the amendment. This amount of Rs. four crores is intended for payment to the UNRRA. We have already given them eight crores.....

Diwan Chaman Lal (West Punjab : Non-Muhammadan) : On a point of order, Sir, would it not be more convenient to the House that we should discuss the amendments and the Resolution together, because if my Honourable friend's amendment is lost, let us say, even then the arguments that will be advanced by him or by the other speakers in respect of the original motion will not be any different. I submit it will be duplicating the discussion on the subject.

Mr. President : The discussion on this amendment will be restricted only to stating in short the reasons as to why it should be postponed, and not on the merits of the question at all. This is a separate motion.

Diwan Chaman Lal : With due respect, may I make my point ? The arguments for the postponement are relevant to the main resolution also. Whatever arguments we advance now are arguments which, as my Honourable friend on my left in his speech advanced them yesterday so eloquently—namely those arguments and others of a similar nature will apply equally to the amendment as well as to the main resolution. Merely saying "I want to postpone" will not be sufficient : he will have to go over the whole range of the subject and I would submit, if you will consider it, that it would be merely duplicating the discussion and it would be better to take the whole thing together.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : I also agree that it is not possible for me to restrict myself only to one or two points but I will have to go over the whole course of events and carry the House with me as to why it will not be desirable to have it voted immediately but that it should be postponed till the next Session. My Honourable friends might have said that that motion was not before the House before ; but there is no hard and fast practice on this matter and my Honourable friend Mr. Gadgil also started off by saying that this is a matter fit to be postponed to the next Session and I am only embodying by way of an amendment what has already been suggested and started by my Honourable friends on my right. Therefore I would like that all these amendments may be taken together and the discussion should go on generally.

Mr. President : I do not know anything of the merits—I am not supposed to know it ; but if the discussion is going to be practically the same, then of course I have no objection to the amendments being moved. The other amendments may be moved.

Sir Cowasjee Jehangir (Nominated Non-Official) : May I point out that this is a postponement amendment and usually, so far as I can recollect, when an amendment is moved that this matter be taken to such and such a date, that has to be taken out of the way before any other amendment is moved or the matter is considered on its merits. That is the usual ruling—you must get it out of the way—unless you change it to suit the convenience of Members.

Mr. President : I do not propose to change anything ; but if the argument to be advanced on the main motion are identical to those on the postponement motion, then we shall be wasting the time of the House if we take up only this motion. In the beginning I stated that I would prefer to dispose of this on the assumption that the arguments will be shorter, but I am told by members who wish to discuss this matter that the arguments for both are the same.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : They will overlap.

Mr. President : They will substantially overlap, and therefore I am taking this course. Then I shall put this amendment before the House and then the other amendments will be moved.

Amendment moved :

"That the consideration of the motion regarding Demand for Supplementary Grant in respect of 'Miscellaneous' be postponed till the next Session of this Assembly."

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang (East Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sir, I move :

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,00,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous' be reduced to Rs. 2,00,00,000."

Mr. President : Amendment moved :

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,00,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous' be reduced to Rs. 2,00,00,000."

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil (Bombay Central Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I am not moving my amendment.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : Mr. Gadgil is in possession of the House. After he has spoken an opportunity may be given to me.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil : Before I begin my speech on the motion that has been moved, I want to take a few minutes of this House in paying a tribute to the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri the news of whose death we read this morning. Mr. Sastri was a member of this Assembly and he was also a member of the Imperial Council before 1921.

Mr. President : I may point out to the Honourable Member that in pursuance of the convention accepted by this House it is not permissible to have obituary notices except in the case of sitting members. The Chair yields to none in its respect for the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri. It is enough that the Honourable Member has made a reference and he may immediately come to the subject matter of the motion.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : May I give you the instance of Mustafa Kemal Pasha. On his death there was a motion. We had nothing to do with him. He was a great man, a leader of a great nation and therefore reference was made. So far as Mr. Sastri is concerned, whether he is a sitting member or not, it is only proper that we should make a reference to his death in this House. I am sure all members of the House will agree to this.

Mr. President : I was referring to a convention.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar : This convention was there and yet reference was made to Kemal Pasha's death. If any exception is taken by any Government Member, that is another matter but having regard to the personality of Mr. Srinivasa Sastri, I am sure all Members of the House will agree to pay their tribute to this revered man who was one of the greatest men.

Mr. President : Without creating a precedent, the Honourable Member can make a reference in as short a time as possible.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil : I said that I would only take a few minutes of this House in paying tribute to the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri. I am quite aware of the rules and I do not want to go against the rules. I will only say that the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri was a great statesman, a great patriot, a critic frank but without bitterness, a scholar, deep and brilliant, yet without arrogance, a statesman with vision but without vagueness. In him we lose a man who carried the traditions of his Guru, the Honourable G. K. Gokhale, a tradition of service and sacrifice and when I say that he leaves behind a void which it would be very difficult to fill. I will be only echoing the sentiments of this House.

When the House rose yesterday, I was referring to the possibility that if we reject this grant it might have unfavourable reactions in the United States of America. I read from the speech of Mr. Hendrickson, showing how America is well posted with the situation in this country. The same thing has been said by no less a personality than the great American author, Miss Pearl Buck. She says :

"Even though India does not technically fall under the jurisdiction of the U.N.R.R.A. could she not be serviced by U.N.R.R.A. in view of her desperate need and her generous contributions to the organisation's work."

She added that the situation may end in the death of from ten million to twenty million lives in the next few months.

We have further proof that America is well aware of the situation in this country. Mr. Herbert Lehman, the recently retired Director General of the U.N.R.R.A. declared last night :

"Food conditions in India, Burma and Ceylon appeal me.....It is deplorable that Government is still trying 'to get the facts'. They have got the facts—bushels of facts to prove their point—if you need any facts other than faces of starving women and children."

The Honourable the Commerce Member wanted to make the point that such a reduction will have bad reaction in America. I submit that when the Council passed the Resolution asking for further contribution, the Council knew that there might crop up circumstances and cases in which full contribution might not be paid and

I invite the attention of this House to the memorandum submitted by the Department to the Standing Finance Committee. It says :

"The Council, however recognised that there were cases in which this recommendation might conflict with particular demands arising from the continuance of the war or might be excessively burdensome because of peculiar situations (e.g. famines, cyclones, etc.) and that therefore the amount and character of the further contributions recommended must be subject to such conditions. India is one of such cases because of its low *per capita* income and also because it is faced with an acute food crisis".

What we are urging today is not something which was not contemplated but something which has been expressly provided for. This line of argument was accepted by the Standing Finance Committee and a recommendation was recorded which was read out to the House yesterday. In view of the poverty of this country which is such a patent fact known to every living creature under the Sun, if India does not pay these four crores, I am sure that this refusal is not likely to be misunderstood. To pay because payment means some international status, some doubtful advantage, is not the consideration that ought to weigh with us in the present peculiar circumstances. If things improve in the next three or four months, as the amendment of my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar suggests, nothing can prevent us from reviewing the situation. Not only we may contribute these four crores but if our funds permit we may contribute more but today if we were to contribute even the two crores as suggested by the amendment of my old friend Mr. Nairang, we will be doing injustice to our own people, especially those who are next door to Heaven. This international business has been a great obsession with us. Unless one is a good nationalist, one cannot be a good internationalist.

Charity must begin at home. As I said yesterday, we do appreciate the ideology and the principles that are behind this great international organisation, but at the same time, let me point out what does this organisation really mean. Is it a tribute to western culture? What has the west contributed towards the solution of this world problem of peace? Atom bombs. We have contributed something higher, nobler and constructive. The west has contributed U-boats, we have contributed the Upanishads. The west stands for death and diversity, India stands for life and unity. Therefore to say that India has not been doing anything in the international field is wrong, it is wide of the mark. We have contributed more spiritually and culturally than any other country in the course of the last many centuries. To be associated with such an international organisation is good to a certain limit but if we are asked continually to pay for this, that and the other, it means a great luxury beyond our financial means and therefore we must cry halt. Famine now is not a mere uneasy contingency. It is a cruel fact today. It is not a spectre, it has arrived. In many parts of the country, as I stated a few weeks ago, parents are abandoning children. Destitutes are dying in the streets of Calcutta. That only indicates how things are going to develop. If circumstances of this character subsist, may I know will it be prudence to part with four crores from our finances which are not as happy as they ought to be. I submit, Sir, that the House will be perfectly justified in rejecting this Demand.

Now, Sir, how have this Government handled the situation in 1943? It is possible that they may repeat those very mistakes again. It is said in law that every dog has immunity for its first bite but if it is done a second time, the law of tort is that worse consequences await the door. I may explain and apply that doctrine to the Government. Government consists of human beings although occasionally they do not act consistently with that character. They are perfectly entitled to commit mistakes here and there, but if they commit the same mistake twice, they are not entitled to remain a moment over there. I submit this Government has very badly handled the situation and I am afraid that this Government is not looking upon experience as a guide. It seems to discard it. It seems to have a different political philosophy, thinks blindness to be light, indifference to be wisdom and inertia to be action. I submit, Sir, such a Government is not competent to remain and before this Government leaves, let it not do such things as will add more difficulties to its successors. Sir, the Government which in utter disregard of the needs of the nation hankers after international status, is an enemy of the people

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A Finance Member who instead of catering to the needs of the people of the country spends finances on things of doubtful utility is hardly a financial genius, if genius at all. Legislators know that the country is in the throes of a famine. It is like an eclipse, *Rahu* grasping the sun and moon, both, because famine and death make no distinction between Hindus and Muslims, or even between man and man.

Sir, in this situation I submit that some thing more than considerations of expediency or party advantage should weigh with us. A sum of two crores is not a small sum compared with our appalling poverty, compared with our pressing needs and even compared with our unhappy financial position as disclosed in the budget. Sir, as I said, famine is already on. The country is fighting on one front and the second front, namely, civil war, is assiduously fomented. Knives and *lathis* are at a premium now. We do not know what is in store for us. It is time that every earnest man and the Government of the day act well and wisely and not make the country fight on two fronts the result of which nobody can foresee. It is not given to man to look much ahead, and therefore we must act in the living present, forgetting the past, howsoever bitter and bungled it may be. Let us therefore reserve every ounce of our energy, every copper of our currency, and every grain from our grainary we can get hold of for the teeming millions who look up to us. We are to disperse today. This is the last day of the Session. We do not know when we shall meet again.

"When we three shall meet again
In thunder, lightning or in rain,
When every hurly-burly is done
Lives' battle is lost or won."

These are very critical times. I want to repeat that this Government by its action should not subject the country to fight on two fronts. I say this in all seriousness and I hope and pray that the best in us, the wisest in us, the most practical in us will awake, assert and achieve so that when we meet again we shall meet as free men and women.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : Sir, I have heard the speeches of Honourable Members about this Resolution and if I intervene now, it is still in the hope that the proposition that has been placed before this House by Government will be understood in its proper perspective and that misunderstandings and suspicions that have been expressed so freely by some of the Honourable Members may be removed even at this late stage. I want to assure Honourable Members at the very outset that this proposition has been placed by the Government for their consideration not with a view to secure any pyrrhic victory over the opposition, that certainly is not the motive and has never been dreamt of, not with a view as it was alleged to give Honourable Members opposite a taste of defeat in the division lobby. That certainly is not our motive but because I personally and most of my Honourable colleagues are convinced that this is an issue on which the House should express itself as far as possible unanimously and in the way that Government wants the House to express itself in the best interests of the country.

Sir, before I explain the proposition as I see it, I should like to give the history of how this request for a further grant has been made by UNRRA on the member States. It is perfectly true that at the first occasion the UNRRA thought that a certain amount would be sufficient, and on the basis of that estimate the member States who were members of this Administration were requested to make contributions, generally of one per cent of their national income, and in any case, taking into view the considerations that were advanced by some of the representatives and notably by the representative of the Indian Government, whatever was possible for any State Government to contribute to this most desirable purpose. It was on that understanding that the estimates were made and on the last occasion when Government presented this proposition to the House Government came to the conclusion that the one per cent request that was made by the UNRRA was too heavy a burden on this country, that it would involve about 40 crores to be contributed, that in the economic condition of this country that was not possible, and therefore Government placed a proposition that eight crores was the amount that could be contri-

buted and this House agreed to that contribution. I shall later refer to the proviso which was added to that Resolution at the instance of some of my colleagues and how that proviso does not arise on the present occasion.

Now, Sir, it was the hope of every one, including those who met at Atlantic City to consider the amount that was required, that the amount would be sufficient; but unfortunately conditions in Europe and in the far east disproved that assumption. And in August last year when UNRRA met again, when this Council of 41 nations met again, they found that they had to continue this relief for sometime longer, and further funds were necessary. In August last year, therefore, they adopted a Resolution that a further one per cent should be requested from every State which had adhered to this organisation, and the appeal went forth from the organisation, the Resolution having been adopted by the majority that was required, that a further one per cent should be paid by each of the State Governments who were parties to this Administration. Several of these Governments paid that one per cent and several of them have promised it.

Mr. Manu Subedar : Is it not a fact that only seven States have given the second subscription? There were 24 States who contributed the first subscription who have not yet given the second subscription; and India is being pulled officially among those who are in a hurry to pay.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : If the Honourable Member will ask me a question I will furnish the information myself. It is not seven States; it is much more than seven.

Mr. Manu Subedar : I have got a definite press statement to the effect that out of a total of 47 States which were members 31 made the first contribution and seven alone have paid the second contribution. May I read it with your permission, Sir?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : What is the date of that?

Mr. Manu Subedar : It is the 3rd April. It runs thus :

"UNRRA headquarters have announced that contributions pledged to UNRRA by its 47 member nations as on February 28 this year totalled nearly 3,660 million dollars of which approximately 300 million or 80 per cent had been paid or made available. Thirty of the 31 non-invaded member-governments of UNRRA have paid or pledged payments on their first contribution. Seven of these countries—Australia, Canada, the Dominica Republic, Iceland, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States—have also made or pledged their second contributions. Every one of UNRRA's member governments whose territory was invaded by the enemy has paid its administrative contributions in full. In addition it was announced during the month that Denmark was planning to make a contribution of 10,000 horses and approximately one million dollars worth of fish, and Yugoslavia has offered as a gift 2,000 tons of cement which will be delivered immediately to Albania."

In other words, the second contribution which this country is called upon to make in addition to the eight crores which we gave last year is one which only seven out of 31 members have made; and we feel that we ought not to be in a hurry to fix up this issue this year at all events until the four months of famine before us have gone.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs : Muhammadan Urban) : Sir, I rise to a point of order, and seek your guidance again. The second speech that the Honourable Member made was neither a point of order nor allowed by any other rule of debate. This sort of interference and interruption is not I think allowed by the rules of debate.

Mr. President : It is not allowed by the rules or by the Chair.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : Sir, I was referring to the second Resolution adopted at Atlantic City by the United Nations whereby they requested a second one per cent contribution from all the member States. But some caution or proviso was adopted then and that is that if member States were not in a position to make the one per cent contribution they could make whatever contribution they can. The position was carried a stage further and this is what I should like Honourable Members to understand. I do not know whether these facts have been put before the Standing Finance Committee. At the time when the General Assembly of the United Nations Organisation met a Resolution

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was moved by the United Kingdom delegation that in pursuance of the Resolution that was adopted at Atlantic City by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Conference a special appeal should be made to all those States which had not yet made a further second instalment contribution and to other States which had not yet joined the UNRRA that in view of the excessively severe conditions that were prevailing both in the east and in the west in countries which have been liberated from the enemies this contribution was urgently required.

When this Resolution was taken up the American delegates intervened and wanted to make it more precise and practical. A representative of the United States at the General Assembly was Congressman Mr. Sol Bloom, a gentleman over 75 years old. He had a special interest and a special right to intervene in this discussion because Mr. Sol Bloom was the originator of the idea in 1943 itself of having this United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation. He had drawn on his experience of the last war; he had been associated with Mr. Hoover in that relief and rehabilitation at that time; he had seen how at that time large amounts were given as loans for this purpose, and therefore he felt that conditions were not merely similar to those that existed at the end of the last war but conditions were far more acute, far more difficult, far worse from the humanitarian point of view in the years at the end of this devastating war. And he was one of those who fore saw at that very early stage that this contribution was necessary. By his persuasiveness, by his most moving speeches in the Congress of the United States he was able to get every Government to subscribe, as my Honourable colleague the Commerce Member said, as the first instalment at that time 375 million pounds; and he was able to get a second instalment after the August Resolution of the same amount of 375 million pounds promised. And I believe the whole of that has been paid by the American administration. Mr. Sol Bloom both in the Committee of the General Assembly and at the General Assembly plenary session itself made a very strenuous appeal to all nations to contribute what they could towards this purpose, and went further and suggested that every State should make as much contribution as it was able to make, and a Committee of State Governments composed of eleven State Governments should be appointed so that these Governments should meet as early as possible to devise ways and means by which this matter can be brought to the notice of those Governments which had not made the second contribution to make what they considered was proper from their economic resources for the relief of those people. That Resolution was adopted and as a result of that a Committee of eleven State Governments was appointed by the General Assembly. India was not one of those State Governments that went into that Committee. And for this simple reason that India was not in a position to commit itself to a grant of the second instalment, that it knew that it had to consult its legislature as far as possible, and the Indian delegate kept a discreet silence over the whole issue though almost every other delegate got up at the time and said on behalf of their Governments that they would ask their Governments to do what they can by way of a second instalment. This Committee of 11 State Governments met in London on the 8th of April this month and I expect very shortly appeals, and most urgent appeals, will be made to every State Government that has not made the second instalment and to such State Governments as have not come into the picture at all. I may say out of those Governments which were invited there are very few indeed which have not come into the picture and paid their first instalment. I believe, Saudi Arabia is only one of the Middle East countries which has not come in and, I believe, Saudi Arabia delegation said at the Conference that they were prepared to come in and make their contribution. That is the position which has arisen today and this appeal is going to come to this Government. In accordance with the usual practice of placing such demands before the Legislature and getting its acceptance, the Government of India had also said at the next conference, which was held in Atlantic City about the middle of March that this proposition will be placed before its Legislature which is now in Session and the opinion of the Legislature will be obtained. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, who appeared on behalf of India as a delegate at this conference, made this statement in view of the fact that again an appeal was made at this conference that the proposition will be placed before the Legislature which is now in Session and its verdict taken. That, Sir, is the historical setting.

Now, let me speak about the merits of this proposition itself. A great deal has been said about famine conditions. I trust that this House will give me the credit at least of feeling as acutely as anybody else in this House on the question of famine for more than one reason: first, because in common with other Members we had the horrible experience of the Bengal famine; second, because it is my home lands, if I might say so, which are now threatened with famine I have felt it week after week this situation which is arising in Mysore, in Madras, in parts of Bombay, and I know how grave the situation is and I hope and I am certain that every Member in this Assembly at least whatever province he comes from, will realize the acuteness of the situation. In Southern India, that distance will not make any difference, that the fact that the people of Southern India rarely come in contact with people of other parts of the country will make no difference at all and that sacrifices of every kind will be made within this country and that every Member of this House will use all the weight and influence that he can to see that those sacrifices are made and we do everything possible to avoid that famine. I echo the sentiments of my Honourable friend who said that we cannot possibly face another situation such as we faced—we were taken that we cannot possibly face another situation such as we faced—at the last Bengal famine. It is unaware, both the people and the Government—because of that anxiety of mine that I come with all the more earnestness before this House to plead that matters like this should be discussed on their merits.

No, Sir, let me say this: Has the famine situation any direct bearing so far as our loss of assets which will be released as a contribution? There is a great deal of attempt made that somehow or other if we make this contribution we will be depriving ourselves and we will be depriving people in the famine stricken areas of things that they should require and that therefore the Government is guilty of taking away from the poor starving millions something so that they may help starving millions elsewhere. Even from the speech of my Honourable friend who has just sat down I saw that suggestion made indirectly. I want to assure any Honourable Member who has got any misunderstanding on this subject, if an assurance is really required and if there is any Honourable Member who is suffering from that misunderstanding, that nothing that we shall give away by way of these two crores will in any way prejudice seriously or otherwise the famine situation in any part of the country. What is it that we are giving away if we do agree to four crores, or, I shall come later to the suggestion, the two crores which my Honourable friends on the other side have made?

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena (Lucknow Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Postpone it.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: What is it that we are giving away, Sir? The things that we are going to give away are those things which will not directly or indirectly affect the famine situation—articles like gunny bags, which are required for the purpose of carrying the foodstuffs from elsewhere which UNRRA has got to send to places where they are required. By having more gunny bags in your country, you are not going to help the famine situation, and the gunny bags which are going to be spared and the hessian that is going to be spared will be that which the country is in a position to export and not any which we require.

Mr. M. Asaf Ali (Delhi General): We will sell it.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Let me go a stage further. I know I am treading now on a very delicate matter on which I am not naturally and normally qualified to speak. These exports will go on in any case. There will be a certain amount of exports of gunny bags, of hessian, of Burlop. Nobody suggests that there will be an embargo placed on the export of these things because the industry will suffer, the jute growers will suffer if there is such an embargo. Therefore, it comes to this: Are you going to export for value received or are you going to export without value being received? Because in the case of an export for the purposes of UNRRA it is for value not received, in the other case it is for value received. If you are going to export for value received—I trust my Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar, who is an expert in these matters, will pay particular attention to this—does it not merely mean that in the books of the Bank of England

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two more million pounds sterling is credited to us, and that in case if you export without value being received that entry does not find a place in the books of the Bank of England? Let us really

Mr. Manu Subedar : Will my Honourable friend give me a minute to explain?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : Let us see the practical side of this question instead of being carried away by mere sentiments or emotions.

Mr. Manu Subedar : What about dollars which you get from the United States of America if you sell these articles to that country?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : We will get the dollars, but it is not going to be America alone to whom we are going to sell it; sterling countries are there also. And, therefore, I venture to suggest that it is not really to going to be such terrible sacrifice as it is made out.

Shri Mohan Lal Saksena : Nothing is terrible.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : And in any case it has no direct bearing on the famine situation or how the famine situation is going to be affected by making this contribution.

Now, Sir, let me put another point before the House and that raises the whole question of how UNRRA is with reference to ourselves and with reference to the demand that we made. There has been a suggestion that UNRRA is a rival to us and UNRRA somehow or other is going to deny to us what we hope to receive from the allotments so far made. I am glad to find that within the last few days responsible officials of UNRRA, the very heads of the Organisation—the present head of the Organisation, Mayor La Guardia and the previous head of the Organisation, Mr. Herbert L. Homan—have in clear, categorical and unmistakable terms denied any such suggestion. On the other hand this House should be glad, should be gratified, should be grateful that both these gentlemen of such high eminence in American public opinion have come forward to support the demands of India and other countries. They have by no manner of means, by no suggestion direct or indirect, stood in the way of our getting these supplies. I should like to complete the picture by stating this: There have been suggestions that when we went to Washington we found ourselves against UNRRA's requirements, that there was a certain amount of competition and rivalry. Well, that is bound to exist in this sense. An official of UNRRA's executive comes before the Combined Food Board. He is to plead for his case, that is to say for the amount required to carry out their responsibility in the areas in which they have made themselves responsible. We plead for our case. In that sense there may be rivalry, but no suggestion was made even by that official—and it was a lower rank official—that what he required should be at the expense of India or any other country. In that sense there has been rivalry between us and Ceylon, between us and some other countries which wanted this relief—France, for instance, or Belgium. As a matter of fact the case for Belgium was struck out by the combined Food board and what was intended for Belgium has been diverted for us. It does not mean that we suggest that some people must starve while others may live. Each of us put forward our case in the best manner possible and after valuation of these cases the Combined Food Board comes to a decision. 1 P.M. Where we cannot come to an agreement ourselves, the Combined Food Board comes to a decision. Therefore, let us keep out of the picture altogether, the notion that there is some serious rivalry between ourselves and UNRRA.

Let me take another point. I was somewhat surprised to hear from my friend this morning, Mr. Gadgil, that he did not care for all these international organisations and that we were playing with this organisation.

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil : Beyond a certain limit.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : I am glad that a proviso has been adopted. I do feel that the time has come—whatever part we may have been playing in the past and that part may not be as good as we might have played, whatever that may be—and I say it with sincere conviction that we must play our part in most of these international organizations, that it will be to our benefit if we play that part, that we cannot isolate ourselves from the world as it is today, that we will be dragged in whether we like it or not, and let us play our part honourably and decently and in keeping with the dignity of this country and the prestige of a great nation. Others will come, I understand, who will play their part even better than any one of us has been able to, but let there be no mistake that the time has come when India has to play its part in all these international organizations and that the world is willing to wait for India to play her part, and that part will be no mean part at all.

Now, Sir, the contribution that we have to make, it has been suggested may be postponed. My friend, Mr. Ayyangar, has suggested that it might be postponed. My friend, Mr. Gadgil on the other hand suggested that at present it is not necessary at all to consider this payment. Later if we find it necessary we might think of it.

There is a difference between these two attitudes because the first implies that there is a recognition of our duty to make this contribution. The second implies that at present that duty is not recognised, but that in some future time that duty may come to be recognised, or that obligation may arise. I want to say that here and now the obligation has arisen, that we have to make up our minds and that we should do what we can towards fulfilling that obligation.

Let me incidentally refer to the Standing Finance Committee and to the unanimous decision of the Standing Finance Committee. It has been suggested that like the laws of the Medes and Persians, like the Draconian Code, the decision of the Standing Finance Committee must stand and it will be the unholy hands of anyone who tries to change that decision. I venture to suggest that if facts are put before the House, no decisions previously arrived at, except within the terms of the Standing Orders, should be beyond reconsideration by Members of this House, and I venture to think that I have placed those facts before the House which require reconsideration of this matter, and that merely for the sake of sticking to that decision there ought not to be any gentleman who can say "I have voted one way before the Standing Finance Committee and I do not see how I can vote in another way". A great statesman, a great leader, the greatest leader of the opposition that this House in its reform days has ever had—my friend Mr. Chaman Lal will realize whom I am referring to—once said that consistency is a virtue of an animal for which we have very little respect.

Diwan Chaman Lal : Great respect, I assure you! Looking in front of me!

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar : I trust that this Standing Finance Committee by having voted one way or a member of the Committee having voted in favour of a certain proposition cannot for one moment say that he cannot reconsider that vote and vote in a way in which.....

Sjt. N. V. Gadgil : Where is the justifiable consideration?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar :the circumstances require he should vote. I do not see how it can stand as an excuse or reason for sticking to that decision.

I said the reason for reconsidering the matter is this. This is an urgent matter. We go before the Combined Food Board. We go before the United Nations. We say our people are going to starve and we want so much of this food. This is an urgent matter: the next 75 days are important: the next 90 days are urgent: if relief does not come within those days, there is no use of sending relief later. Does not the same argument apply to that which the UNRRA is trying to do, that if they do not have these reserve allocations at their disposal within the next few days the situation will be so critical that relief next year will be no good. A timely grant, a grant made when it is required most when the relief organisation wants to spend it here and now,

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that is the thing that is required. And, Sir, may I add that the resolution which was adopted by the General Assembly was this that the UNRRA should be wound up so far as Europe is concerned by the 31st December, 1946, and so far as the Far East is concerned by the 1st April, 1947. The relief is required before the 31st December, 1946, for Europe, and before the 1st April, 1947, for other countries, and the sooner that relief comes, the sooner that amount is placed at their disposal, the sooner they can get what they want—cement from one, tea from another, administrative expenses for carrying out the administration of UNRRA in some other country; these are what are required apart from actual food, from wheat, barley and rice. Either we give them or we do not. Either we give them in time or our gift has practically no value and that would be my answer to those who have suggested that it should be adjourned. I prefer even an adjournment of the question to completely turning it down because that would be the most unfair thing that this House can do in the light of these circumstances. But I prefer far more than that that we may give even two crores. That we should give now and we might further consider the matter later, and as I have tried to assure the House on the only argument that it has been based on that somehow or other our famine conditions will be worse affected, by no stretch of imagination can those conditions be worse affected by making this gift. I venture to hope that this House which wants to play its part in all these matters and the administrations which want to play their part in international affairs will take seriously into consideration the real reason why this demand is put before the House and take that view which is in the best interests of the country and in the largest interests of the country and will be to the advantage and the prestige of the country as a whole. I do venture again to urge on all my friends on all sides of the House that I would not have taken up this question so seriously myself were I not convinced absolutely that our attitude in this matter would be a very great factor when anybody goes to an international organisation to plead for relief to us in any manner. The world is one, the people who are affected in one part have that reacted in other parts. We cannot isolate ourselves in these matters. We want a great deal of the sympathy and the consideration of other parts of the world and today we are in that position that we want that consideration. If we want that consideration from other parts of the world, shall we not equally be responsive in giving the same consideration in matters in which we can give and to the extent that we can give to others who are similarly situated?

Sir, four crores may be too much. If two crores is what the House thinks it can give now, and I venture to state perfectly frankly that it can do that, the Government will not stand in the way. They will accept the decision of the House and tell the administration that this is what we can give. Perhaps others who will come after us, or the same House in another mood later may increase it. That is another matter. But I want from this House, whatever the decision may be,—and I hope the speakers who follow me will make that quite clear—an assurance that they are in sympathy with the objects for which the UNRRA stands and that by no way will they put a doubt on that issue: nor will they by any argument put a doubt on the issue that we do not feel for those people as others are feeling for them because if we want others to feel for us we must also extend our sympathies to others and because there has been some doubt cast on that that I venture to make that further appeal that anyone who follows me will make it quite clear that the same feeling to which my friend, Mr. Ayyangar in another connection so eloquently gave expression to,—feelings of common humanity, feelings of brotherly regard of others—would be given. Charity begins at home but it is a very trite saying to say that it should not end there and when we are so much in danger some of us have been suggesting that charity should begin at home and should also end at home. I trust that the note will be that while charity must begin at home, while the Government of India must take every care to see that its own people are properly provided for if there is anything that can be given to others who are in similar circumstances or perhaps in a worse plight no Government should stand in the way of doing that and the legislature should give that authority to the Government to do what it can to relieve other people, provided it is satisfied, provided the Government is satisfied that relief will be forthcoming. And in the hope that at least two crores of rupees in the terms in which

I have pointed out in regard to the commodities that I have made reference to we can easily pay, I venture to commend this whole proposition to the attention and to the support of this House.

Diwan Chaman Lall: Mr. President, I must congratulate my Honourable friend, the Leader of the House on his performance and on having made a brilliant speech on a subject which is very near to his heart. Not only was it a brilliant performance but I venture to say and I hope he will not misunderstand me, when I say it—it was worthy of a better occasion, a more distant occasion perhaps, a speech which would have convinced other countries assembled at a meeting of the UNRRA probably in America, those countries which had so far not participated in the payments that other countries have contributed to this organisation and other countries which so far have not provided the second instalment. I have no doubt that his eloquence would have carried them off their feet, as it has certainly carried his colleagues over there off their feet but I am afraid my Honourable friend has completely misjudged the entire situation arising from the amendment tabled by my Honourable friend Mr. Ayyangar. What is it that he wants? He wants an assurance that we are not going to turn down a proposition of this nature. He has had the assurance. None of us is willing to turn down the proposition that if there is a country which needs the assistance of India in its dire need, India will stand by it. My Honourable friend talked about charity beginning at home. Charity as far as India is concerned has begun not at home but in other countries. My Honourable friend knows that we have at least 1,700 million pounds lying in sterling balances with Great Britain. That was not charity beginning at home. We are a most charitable nation. We feel for the distress of other countries. We feel for those countries as much as anybody else in this world, because we know that we are an impoverished country ourselves subject to all kinds of sufferings which are imposed upon us not only by the system of Government but by the economic structure and the calamities of nature and therefore it is but meet and natural that we should also feel for those other countries suffering equally as we have been suffering. But that is not the question. The question really at the present moment is: Is there any urgency for this particular grant to be brought before us practically on the last two days of this session? Is there any urgency for us to make this grant? Is there any necessity that this grant should be demanded of us? Or has any danger been pointed out to us that if this grant is not given there would be irreparable damage done to the international situation or to any country that wants assistance from the UNRRA? I submit that my Honourable friend has not met that proposition nor has he met that situation. We are not refusing this grant. We have no intention of refusing this grant. All that we say is this: This is not the time to come before this House and demand a single penny today when we ourselves are faced with a famine which may destroy the lives of 15 million people. It is hardly proper on the part of any man to suggest that this is an opportune moment for this purpose. This is the very moment, if my Honourable friend would look into the situation carefully, when instead of our paying out to any other organisation, we should be demanding assistance of the UNRRA for our own particular needs? Is that not correct?

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, I am sorry my Honourable friend who made such an eloquent speech on this question is not here in order to enable me to deal with his arguments. But he has passed the baby on to his colleagues on the Treasury Benches and they will no doubt in due course deal with my arguments when replying to me. One of the arguments used by my Honourable friend was that we should not disturb the amity of nations, that we should take the view from an international point and certainly not take up the attitude that in such international matters of relief and rehabilitation of devastated areas or of areas where people are suffering India has no part. My Honourable friend should know

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

that that argument cannot be addressed to us. We have already, by virtue of the action taken by the Government of India after the passing of the resolution on the floor of this House on the 5th April, 1944, exercised our discretion and given as much as was demanded of us, namely a sum of eight crores to this UNRRA organization. Today let it not be said that we are trying to refuse this grant. We are doing nothing of the kind. What we are doing is merely this: we are asking our Honourable friend over there to postpone the making of this grant during this critical period that faces us in the next few months. It is possible to argue that the needs and requirements of UNRRA may be of such an urgent nature that this paltry sum of four crores of rupees is absolutely essential. It is possible to argue that. But it is certainly not possible to convince anybody that this big organization in which seven countries have either already paid or have promised to pay their second contribution, is dependent upon a paltry sum of Rupees four crores being paid from our exchequer, and that they cannot wait for a period of four months, particularly as the needs are to be met towards the end of this year or in the beginning of next year. Why is it that I am asking my friend to take a larger view, a view of his own country and of his own countrymen, and to keep the needs of his own country and his own countrymen in the forefront rather than make a gesture, for it is merely a gesture, and ask this House to give him the money now instead of waiting for a few months? Why is it I am saying that? I am saying it for this reason that the next period of a few months is going to be a period of great disaster for us unless everything is done to avoid that disaster. The next period for us is fateful according to the Director of the UNRRA, Mr. Hendrickson, himself who said the other day:

"Today the situation in India is even more tragic. Unless India can obtain four million tons of cereals which she must have, from five to fifteen million people will lose their lives in the months lying ahead. It is a mathematical certainty that without grains from the Western Hemisphere more people will perish in 1946 than died in the Bengal famine."

Why can we not wait to utilise every inch of shipping to send out the goods in exchange for food and other commodities that are needed in this dire situation? Why should we be asked to utilise shipping space for a free gift made to the UNRRA at this juncture? Why cannot my Honourable friend wait for a few months? I get no reply from my Honourable friend. No argument has been advanced by my Honourable friend in refutation of the arguments advanced from this side of the House regarding the necessity of waiting for a period of few months. Let this matter come up a few months hence. What is my Honourable friend going to lose by that? I take it that my Honourable friend and his colleagues have made no commitment whatsoever in regard to this particular payment. I am glad to find that my Honourable friend the Commerce Member agrees with me that no commitments have been made. Then why this particular hurry?

My Honourable friend referred to the proceedings of the Standing Finance Committee. He knows perfectly well that in the Standing Finance Committee there was an unanimous verdict, and it is to be found in the proceedings of the Committee. It is to the effect that this grant should not be made at the present juncture. In the Standing Finance Committee we considered not only the question of this grant but we equally considered the financial situation of the country, and the needs of the country at the present juncture, and we came to the final conclusion after a full consideration of the matter, with my Honourable friend the Finance Member in the chair . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands (Finance Member): I was not a party to that recommendation. I will explain that.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My memory does not fail me in these matters.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I have got a full note of what happened at that time.

Diwan Chaman Lall: So have I got my note of what took place.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: The note was taken by the Secretary. I will explain that.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I daresay my Honourable friend will give an explanation. But let me give my explanation. He will have his time. Let him bide his time. The Committee recommended that the additional grant asked for should not be made in view of the present state of India's finances and the nature of her shortage of essential supplies. Do I take it that my Honourable friend was not in agreement with this? The reason was not only shortage of supplies but the present condition of India's finances. This particular report of the Standing Finance Committee was circulated to Members of the Committee with the request that if they did not agree with the precision with which the report was taken down they had an opportunity to amend it. I do not find in the proceedings circulated that my Honourable friend the Finance Member objected to it. My own note taken at that very moment says that we objected, and we objected very strongly to this grant.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: That was the view of you and your colleagues.

Diwan Chaman Lall: It was the view of every member there, Sir. I assert that if my Honourable friend had any other views he would not have abstained from stating his views. He had the other opportunity to correct that statement. If it was not done, what the note sent out by my Honourable friend's own Department said, will be taken as correct.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: My function as Chairman of that Committee is not necessarily to associate myself with the view of the Members. I will explain that later.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I see. That may be my friend's reading of the membership of the Standing Finance Committee.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: As Chairman.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I do not know whether it is membership of the Standing Finance Committee, pure and simple, or whether it is in the capacity of Chairman.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Pure and simple.

Diwan Chaman Lall: And simple, considering the views that have been expressed by him today.

Mr. President: Order, order. That issue is really immaterial.

Diwan Chaman Lall: I entirely agree with you, Sir, that it is quite immaterial. I referred to it because my Honourable friend the Leader of the House talked of the laws of the Medes and the Persians. These were written on stone or on iron. But unfortunately the laws of these Welshmen and Madrasis are written not on stone but in wind and water.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Why do you accuse all Madrasis?

Mr. President: Let us go on with the discussion.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend will realize that this matter was discussed at length in the Standing Finance Committee and we turned it down. Why did we turn it down? We turned it down because we were fully aware of the situation in the country, because each member had his responsibility to his own country and having discussed it, made up his own mind. The Committee itself came to the conclusion that this was not an opportune moment to make this particular grant. That is the situation that faces us today. I can object to this grant on technical grounds.

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

I submit, Mr. President, that the time has come when we should not indulge in any arguments in regard to this matter, whether it is necessary or not necessary to make a grant to UNRRA; that matter is settled once for all; we have already made the grant; we are not objecting to the grant; what we object to is the expediency of making another grant at the present juncture, and my Honourable friends must realise that in this matter, even if one mouth less is fed as a result of this grant, the responsibility will lie upon their shoulders. It is a most serious thing, even if a single Indian should die of starvation, as a result of shipping space not being made available for bringing food to the hungry and cloth to clothe the naked. If, as I say, a single death should take place, the responsibility will lie upon my Honourable friends.

Therefore I submit that my friends should accede to the demand we are making. Postpone this particular grant. You lose nothing. If this grant is taken to a vote, there will be not only national but world wide repercussions. I do not want to divide this House. My friend is forcing me to divide this House on this particular issue. Everybody in this House is united that this relief has to be given but at the proper time. Why is my Honourable friend insistent when everybody in the Standing Finance Committee has agreed that the amount should not be given now? My friend has no arguments with which to compel and persuade us to give him this grant in this manner. My Honourable friend will therefore be well advised at this juncture to listen to my appeal and postpone this grant for a period of four months. Internationally we stand by every stricken country in the world. We shall do our level best to help stricken countries wherever they may be. We are ready to open our cupboards bare as they are to feed the hungry populations of the world but we cannot see our own hungry countrymen die of starvation. If my friend wants to take this to a vote, he is taking upon himself a very heavy responsibility. I make this fervent appeal in the interests of amity, in the interests of the cause which he has at heart, that this grant should be postponed for a period of four months until the dark and sinister clouds of famine and disaster have lifted and hunger stalks the land no more.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: A word of explanation is necessary from me as to why I have tabled this amendment. I assure the House, the Leader of the House and the Commerce Member that it is not in the nature of a dilatory motion at all. Let not the impression go out from this country that those who have objected to make this grant now are against helping the needy and the poor. As far as I understand the principles of the Hindu faith, we do not believe in the principle of 'charity begins at home'. If one clothes himself and his wife and children there is no charity involved in it. It is only the instinct of protection. Charity comes in only when another man is needy. Our ancestors have done it even at the cost of their own convenience, even existence. I am not going back even by a hair's breadth from the principle so ably laid down. This country has always worshipped the guest as a divine being. I therefore reiterate the principles which we hold and cherish and we do not want to deviate from it.

When my Honourable friends refer to the Resolution of the Standing Committee, they are not sticking to any formality. They do not say that it is not open to any member to change his views on account of the changed circumstances. My Honourable friend Mr. Chaman Lall referred to the Resolution only to state that at that time both the Government member and the Chairman were of the opinion

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No, Sir.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I accept your statement. The majority in any case were of the opinion that this was not the proper time and we were not in a fit position to contribute four crores of rupees. After my friend the Leader of the House returned from the International Conference, it is certainly

open to my friend the Finance Member to change his views and say that in view of the altered circumstances it is necessary to make this contribution. With all respect I am not able to see how the circumstances have changed now. So far as our own position is concerned, there has been absolutely no change. The internal economy of this country at this moment requires that not a pie should be given away in this manner. The Commerce Member, when he was put a question the other day as to why sufficient cloth was not available in Bengal, said that there was sufficient stock of cloth but if people still went about naked it was because they do not have funds to purchase the cloth. Again during the adjournment motion moved by my friend Mr. Sanyal, it was pointed out that people were dying on the streets of Calcutta. After some time the Honourable Member for Government said it is not for want of food that people die but because people have no money to buy food with.

Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal (Presidency Division: Non-Muhammadam Rural): The deaths have increased since then.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Therefore if people die of starvation, it is not because there is no food but people are unable to purchase. We are prepared to contribute this four crores by way of charity. Is it not the duty of the Government to feed Bengal and other needy provinces? Open *langar khanas*, start feeding houses instead of leaving it to Dr. Mookerjee and other philanthropic gentlemen to even to members of the Muslim League. Don't start this when it is too late. Start it immediately. During the war we have learnt the lesson of lend lease. Feed and clothe these people. At the end of two years, if they are not able to repay, write it off. I ask my friend who is in the air to come down to this mundane world. I see my friend Sir Gurnath Bewoor laughing. Why does he laugh? Is it such an absurd proposition that I am putting forward, that you should feed the hungry and clothe the naked? Use this money first of all in this country before you think of other countries. In Madras the position is a serious one. When India, as one of the 31 countries which contributed, made the original contribution, we were better off than now. Even in the countries which were engaged in the war, reports have shown that their health has improved and they have been fed and clothed better. But our position is peculiar. Here we have to face famine and pestilence.

My friend Mr. Manu Subedar has been asked to read out *in extenso* a report from *Commerce and Industry* which is a very popular journal. He read out a list of countries which were not affected directly by the war and which contributed for the first time or which promised or pledged to contribute. It is yet to be known how much these countries, England, America, Australia and Canada and others have really paid. Even they are taking time to pay. Is it not therefore right that we should also ask for time. We are not lagging behind in our sympathy to the devastated countries. Let us wait and see how our conditions progress. The monsoon has failed in the southern parts of the Presidency. The months that are ahead are fraught with serious situation and they may develop into enormous difficulties.

The Honourable the Leader of the House said, you give money and it will be converted into gunny bags and other things. So far as purchase of external commodities are concerned, it may be that we have to sell our commodities and in return for them get the articles we want. The articles which are surplus for this country have to be sold outside and in that way alone, we can get goods from foreign countries. In this way alone, we can replenish our necessities. Let us not be hasty in readjusting our conditions. We want only some time to see how our condition will be in the next few months. After all the need of U.N.R.R.A. may be exaggerated. It may be that by 31st December 1946, the U.N.R.R.A. may be closed so far as European countries are concerned. The institution may be wound up with respect to eastern countries from 1st April 1947. Within that period, still there is time for us to consider whether we should contribute anything. In these circumstances, it is not as if all this amount is being spent on one day. It will be

[Diwan Chaman Lall]

I can object to this grant on several grounds. You will notice that in the note that was prepared for the Standing Finance Committee it was stated:

"The Council however recognised—(that is, the Council of the UNRRA which met in August 1945)—that there were cases in which this recommendation might conflict with particular demands arising from the continuance of war or might be excessively burdensome because of peculiar situations, e.g., famine, cyclones, etc., and that therefore the amount and character of further contributions recommended must be subject to such conditions."

The Council itself has recognised this particular fact, that if there are certain conditions, namely, of famine or of cyclone or economic conditions of any nature which are adverse to that country, then these conditions may be taken into consideration to discover not only the amount but the character of the grant that has to be given. I now lay emphasis on the word 'character', because we are not refusing the grant of two crores, we are not even refusing the grant of four crores; but we say, subject to the character of the grant. The character of the grant must be, not now, no grant now, wait for four months; come to us after this dreadful period of famine is over and we have dealt with it in a proper manner. That was the position. But I go a step further. Not only that, but I am in a position, in view of this, to demand from the UNRRA relief, instead of paying money to the UNRRA now; in the situation that faces India now it is up to the UNRRA to bring us relief.

My Honourable friend who has tabled this particular amendment, Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang, who has asked this House to give the UNRRA a sum of Rs. two crores, tabled an amendment on the last occasion on the 5th April, 1944. What was that amendment? It is very relevant to this particular issue, the issue that I have just now raised demanding relief from the UNRRA rather than making a payment to the UNRRA. It was in pursuance of an amendment which was moved in the House of Representatives and in the Senate in America on the 25th January. In expressing its approval of the joint resolution—it is the recommendation of the Congress, (the House of Representatives and the Senate) the amendment said that in so far as funds and facilities permit, any area important to military operations of the United Nations which is stricken by famine or disease may be included in the benefits to be made available by the UNRRA. That was the amendment. The words are 'may be'; but those words were altered here in our Assembly when the resolution came up and was tabled by my Honourable friend the Commerce Member: it was altered by my Honourable friend Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang into "should be". Not only that we may be in a position to get this relief, but that we should be entitled to this relief; and the example of Bengal was given by my Honourable friend at that time. My friend, the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party, speaking on this particular amendment on that occasion said, "When my Honourable friend the Commerce Member asked whether it will be consistent with our status in the international world to pass this particular amendment demanding relief from the UNRRA" my Honourable friend the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party said, "Yes, absolutely." The Commerce Member said that we should not plead for a particular case of charity abroad.....and the Nawabzada said "We are not pleading for charity; we are demanding it as a matter of right". My Honourable friend the Commerce Member completed his sentence by adding, "apart from the general enunciation of the principle" and the Nawabzada said "It is a definite recommendation, namely, that we should be entitled as a matter of right to demand relief from the UNRRA in these circumstances," and he quite rightly cited the example of Bengal and in citing the example of Bengal, he said no country under occupation had suffered as Bengal had suffered, where three million people had died of starvation. We are faced with a bigger disaster than that today, when, even according to the estimates of the Director General of the UNRRA himself we may be faced with a famine and a death rate of between five and 15 million people. This is not therefore the occasion when this grant should be demanded of us at the present

moment. I ask my friends on the left to stick to their guns which they mounted in 1944 here in this chamber.

Now, Sir, my Honourable friend has again stated in his speech that there was no serious rivalry between the UNRRA and ourselves in the demand that we put forward before the Combined Food Board. I take it that that was the statement made by my Honourable friend. I took down his words—"No serious rivalry between us and the UNRRA in regard to the demands we made." Not only could I raise this objection on technical grounds, not only could I raise this objection because the Standing Finance Committee has turned it down, not only could I raise this objection on the basis that our needs are so great that this is not the time to come to us to make this grant; but I could raise a serious objection and I am going to ask my Honourable friend a very serious question. At the meetings of the Cereals Committee, is it a fact—and it is a fact—that our representation consisted of Sir Sonti Ramamurthi and Mr. Nanavati—and I believe that Dr. Row was our technical expert—and that when India was pleading for more cereals in this committee, UNRRA at the same time was pleading for more for Europe and that is obviously at the expense of India? My Honourable friend says there was no serious rivalry

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: If I may explain, UNRRA was pleading for its charge, both in Europe and in Asia and it was pleading for what it considered was necessary to discharge its responsibility. We were pleading for what we considered was the minimum necessary for us. In that sense there was rivalry. I said so in my speech.

Diwan Chaman Lall: My Honourable friend therefore knows that every demand made by UNRRA in this respect had to reduce the demand made by India. Although as he said there was no serious rivalry, this rivalry has resulted in my Honourable friend not being able to get the demand that he put forward before the Combined Food Board: he has got less than he asked for, although he pleaded eloquently, with his usual eloquence, and with a good deal of authority; but he was not able to get away with it—why? because of UNRRA; and if I were to object to this grant, I would be within my rights in saying that in these circumstances "Not a penny can go to UNRRA any more"; I would be within my rights in saying that far from giving money to UNRRA, UNRRA should come and rehabilitate these stricken areas in India where famine is stalking and will be stalking throughout the land. But I do not go as far as that. My charity does not begin at home. I go beyond that. I say that in the interests of humanity at large I am prepared to agree to a grant but not at this present juncture; and nothing that my Honourable friend has said will convince me that there is any great urgency at the present moment compelling us to make this grant and not allowing us to wait for a period of four months. What is the difficulty that my Honourable friend is faced with? There is no difficulty at all. My Honourable friends over here who actually wanted relief from UNRRA, today are wanting to give this sum of Rs. two crores to UNRRA in spite of the fact that they themselves moved this amendment which brought it within the competence of this House to demand relief from UNRRA at a critical moment in our history. That critical moment is much more critical today in view of the situation throughout the country; and I would ask my Honourable friends therefore not to be a party to the passing of this amendment, asking that Rs. two crores may be handed over to UNRRA when the situation demands that far from giving a grant at the present moment we should demand something from UNRRA for our relief. I would remind my Honourable friends of what they themselves have stated on the floor of this House when they moved that particular amendment to the resolution tabled by my Honourable friend the Commerce Member. At that time they demanded and they got from the Government the assurance that in this particular situation India would be entitled, should be entitled, to relief from UNRRA; and this is the occasion when we must implement that promise given to us, implement the terms of that amendment moved by my Honourable friend on the 5th April, 1944, on the floor of this House.

[Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar]

spent only gradually. Let us wait and see. Whether these four crores are necessary will be known when we meet next. That is all the appeal I am making.

Let it not be said that Government was anxious to provide for other countries, whereas the Assembly threw it overboard or defeated the proposal thereby bringing calumny on the heads of 400 millions of people of this country. I am sure, Sir, if, instead of my Honourable friend the Leader of the House going to America with his ironed pant and lace turban, he had gone there in rags, it would have shown to America the real condition of the people of this country and he would have been hailed by India as our true representative. That was the attire in which he should have gone. People who are well clothed and well fed do not carry a correct impression of the conditions of this country. If only my Honourable friend had showed to the outside world the real condition of the country, he would have evoked much sympathy towards us. It is better that we do not go to foreign countries with false ideas of our own position.

It was said that America was not fully aware of the real conditions of famine in Bengal. Yet, three million men died in Bengal. The world does not take note of this appalling state of affairs. It is because the so called representatives who go abroad in the name of India are not depicting a true picture of the conditions in India. These representatives do the bidding of the Government and commit this Government to all financial undertakings which we cannot fulfill in view of the famine conditions in this country. Is it not proper for our representatives to say: we are not able to spare anything from India, we cannot get any help from any corner of the world. On the other hand we need all the help from other countries in the world until we readjust our conditions, until we rehabilitate ourselves, until then we can do nothing to help devastated countries in Europe by way of monetary contribution. I am afraid the Honourable the Leader of the House would not have put before America our real conditions. But fortunately there are other friends in America who proclaim from housetops that this country needs all the help from others. This is the last country from which any help could be expected during the difficult times ahead.

In these circumstances, Sir, we are not deceiving the world, the world knows too well our present position. Therefore, by our postponing the grant of this demand for three or four months, we are not going down in the estimation of the public, we will not be calumniated by the world by being not internationally minded. We are not isolationists. We are certainly prepared to help. No person who is alive to the circumstances prevailing in India will level such charges against us. I once more appeal to the Honourable Mover of this motion to postpone it for a few months, at least till the next Session. We are all agreed on principle, it is only a question of postponement for a few months. Sir, I commend my amendment for the acceptance of the House.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: Sir, may I make a suggestion. We are all most anxious that there should be a unanimous vote of this House on a matter of this kind and we are equally anxious not to divide the House on such an issue, because it has got a great bearing outside our own country. I understand from the speeches that there is no Honourable Member in this House who is against any grant to U.N.R.R.A., provided the circumstances of this country permit. Therefore, I suggest that the House may agree that a sum of two crores may be granted, if circumstances permit and that the Government on their part will watch the situation and make no expenditure out of this amount till the end of September when we would have known what the position of the country is. If that is agreeable to all parts of the House, it can go out as the unanimous Resolution that the House sympathises with the U.N.R.R.A.'s request and is prepared to expend up to two crores, but that the Government should not expend any portion of this amount till the end of September when the internal position of the country will be better realised.

Shri Sarat Chandra Bose (Calcutta: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, may I say that the Honourable the Leader of the House has given expression to the feelings on this side of the House as well? Though an afflicted nation ourselves, we are quite prepared, nay, we are anxious to give help to other afflicted nations. In between the discussions that have been going on in the House, we carried on talks to evolve an agreed formula and it has now been put before the House by the Honourable the Leader of the House. I hope it will find acceptance from all sides of the House. So far as we of the Congress Party are concerned it finds acceptance from us.

Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang: Sir, after the statement made by the Honourable the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, it is not necessary for me to say anything in favour of my amendment as such. On behalf of my Party, I accept the formula which has been put forward by the Honourable the Leader of the House.

Mr. P. J. Griffiths (Assam: European): On behalf of this Group, I also submit that we are prepared to accept the formula.

Mr. President: The only thing that remains to be considered is as regards the procedure.

The Honourable Dr. Sir M. Azizul Huque (Commerce Member). The amendment of Syed Ghulam Bhik Nairang may be put to the House.

Mr. President: The formula will remain part of the assurance.

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: It will go on record.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: Does 1st September synchronise with the summoning of the Assembly?

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar: No, I said end of September in the formula I proposed.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I beg leave to withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was by leave of the Assembly withdrawn.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the demand for a supplementary grant of a sum not exceeding Rs. 4,00,00,000 in respect of 'Miscellaneous' be reduced to Rs. 2,00,00,000."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That a reduced supplementary sum not exceeding Rs. 2,00,00,000 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, 1947, in respect of 'Miscellaneous'."

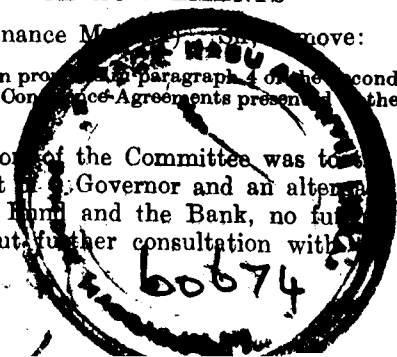
The motion was adopted.

MOTION RE SECOND INTERIM REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE BRETTON WOODS CONFERENCE AGREEMENTS

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

"That this Assembly do approve the course of action proposed in paragraph 4 of the second Interim Report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements presented to the House on Wednesday, the 17th April, 1946."

The House will remember that the first report of the Committee was to the effect that, beyond agreeing to the appointment of a Governor and an alternate and Executive Directors and alternates to the Fund and the Bank, no further action should be taken by Government without further consultation with



[Sir Archibald Rowlands]

Committee and, through the Committee, with the House. We had hoped that by the time the Governor, who has been to a sort of preliminary meeting of Governors in Savannah, would be back, we should be a little clearer as to what the position would be in relation to such things as the settlement of sterling balances, and so on. In point of fact, the relevant point the Governor has brought back with him is to the effect that there is likelihood that the Fund and the Bank will come into being as effective institutions in the next few months. That would involve, if India remained as a member of the Fund and the Bank, that she would have to pay the subscriptions. But the provisions of the Articles do make it possible to postpone the payment of the subscriptions for a period after three months of the date of the notification that the institutions are in a position to start operations. And, therefore, we will have four months' grace for payment under these Articles, which we propose to take. Quite apart from that, it is possible, through our representatives on the Fund, to explain that, owing to the changes in our constitutional position and uncertainty as to the sterling balances, we would like a little longer time to make up our minds finally whether to withdraw from, or to stay in, these institutions. It may be that the institutions will accept the reasonableness of that plea, in which case no further difficulty arises. But if they feel that it would be inconsistent with their constitution to accept such a plea, the proposal of the Committee is that Government, before deciding what further action they should take, should summon a special meeting of the Committee of this House which was set up for the purpose and take a decision only after consulting them. I think it is a reasonable and practical way out of what is a real difficulty, and I commend the proposal to the House for acceptance.

Sir, I move.

Mr. President: Motion moved.

"That this Assembly do approve the course of action proposed in paragraph 4 of the Second Interim Report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements presented to the House on Wednesday, the 17th April, 1946."

Mr. Manu Subedar (Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau: Indian Commerce): Sir, I should like to explain the outlook of the Committee on the subject which is now before the House. In the first instance we were all of the opinion that as constitutional changes of a major character might be brought about in the next few months, it was only proper that the final decision whether India should stay in the Bretton Woods Fund and Bank or whether India should go out should be taken by a Government responsible to the Assembly and not by this Government. We also felt that this is a new international experiment, and while expressing sympathy for everything large in the international field which is set up for a good and permanent beneficial object, we did feel that it is an experiment. It is an experiment which like the Hague Tribunal and like the League of Nations might end without fructifying; and in that case the question is whether it would be right and wise to make this country liable for a final contribution of something like 266 crores of rupees. This, Sir, is a major decision which only a responsible Government should take; and we also feel that this is an amount of such a large magnitude with regard to India that no decision on this subject could be taken until we were quite clear with regard to the sterling balances. And on this subject I want to say a few words, because when we are going to incur further liabilities we cannot separate the other question of how and when we will collect our assets which are outside.

Now, Sir, the House will note that both in the previous Interim Report and in this report there are various things stated with regard to this very important question which ought not to be forgotten. In this report we say,—and it should be noted with great regret,—

"We note that no clarification has been made by His Majesty's Government on the issue of sterling balances, and we reiterate what we said on this subject in the last report dated the 26th February, 1946."

This is what we said then:

"In our view the final decision whether it would be to India's advantage to remain a member of the Bretton Woods institutions may be determined to a very considerable extent by the outcome of the negotiations which His Majesty's Government are committed to undertake with the Government of India on the subject of liquidation of sterling credits. If these negotiations are unduly delayed" (and I want the House to note this)—

"it may be necessary for India to withdraw before these negotiations take place, because it may happen that India will be called upon under the Agreement to undertake commitment which she may feel unable to shoulder in the absence of a satisfactory solution of the sterling credits".

Sir, these are very clear words; these words were put down unanimously in the report of the Bretton Woods Committee on the 26th February last. We are now approaching the 26th April; and I am sorry that during these two months no progress has been made of any kind. Let me point out why this matter is very urgent and very acute. The House will remember that some of us at the end of the last Bretton Woods Report appended a short note in which we pointed out the desirability of making structural changes in the law in such a manner that His Majesty's Government may not be able to make use of and abuse the provisions of section 41 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, by which they pay sterling and receive rupees here to an unlimited extent. This is something which is rankling in our mind. It has been the unanimous demand of all sections of public opinion in this country, of all shades of the press, of every class of that economic press in the name of which my Honourable friend swore during the last debate on this subject

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I never swear!

Mr. Manu Subedar: I beg pardon. My Honourable friend respects the wishes of those sages in the economic press so much that he pointed out how they differed from me. I am now taking the opportunity to point out how they differ from my Honourable friend in this particular respect, namely, that it is the unanimous desire of every section of this country that not one pound should be added to the sterling balances. We have pressed it over and over again. This is not a question of quantity either. My Honourable friend tried to pass this off in his finance speech by saying that we shall have only about 40 crores. Well, 40 crores is 40 crores; and besides, it is a matter of principle. I will illustrate how when we get used to a wrong idea and an evil we go wrong in some other direction. Today my Honourable friend the Leader of the House said, "Why don't you let jute go unpaid? If you are paid for it, it will only add to your sterling." But two wrongs do not make one right. It is wrong in the first instance that anything which is the product of this country's activity and toil, anything in which our man-power has gone to the making of it should be taken away from here and paid for either by a credit in the sterling balances or by worthless pieces of paper. It was wrong for this Government to acquiesce in this system for the last four years. And my Honourable friend got so used to this wrong idea that he thought he would bolster up wrong opinion on this on the strength of this particular wrong which we have been protesting against. And he says, "What does it matter now? Why don't you let some of the jute go without payment? Because if you let it go for payment you only get sterling; you let it go free." In other words we have come to this that produce resulting from the toil and sweat of this country is free to be robbed and taken away in every possible way, in every possible manner, and to every possible extent. The argument is based actually by the Leader of the House on this wrong system which they have built up. Sir, I protest; I protest in the name of the people of India against this wrong notion which they have got and I say that it is extremely necessary for this Government to put an end to the system by which military or any other kind of expenditure on behalf of His Majesty's Government can be financed by the

[Mr. Manu Subedar]

issue of extra notes by this country and by addition to the sterling balances which are there. I am sorry to say that the Honourable the Finance Member when I asked him a short notice question on this and certain other issues refused to accept the short notice question. When I put in a long notice question and when the question came up he said that perhaps the Honourable Member would like to wait till he has seen the report of Sir Chintaman Deshmukh. We waited. I saw Sir Chintaman's Report. It does not give me the information which I am seeking and for which I am taking this opportunity of speaking. It does not give me the information when and how long are we going to have this agony of real value being taken from this country by His Majesty's Government against payments which they are not making and against merely a sterling credit at the other end? Why will not this Government stop it? What effort has my Honourable friend made since he has assumed office, what effort he has made since the first interim report of the Bretton Woods Committee, what communications have taken place on this subject, what are the difficulties, if any, and why has he not taken the instructions of this House, because in the normal course this House should meet some time in October although as a result of some political settlement the House may meet earlier—and I win my bet of hundred rupees against him—in what manner my Honourable friend has armed himself with any instructions with regard to the policy which he will follow in the interval with regard to the increase of this sterling debt, with regard to the change in the Reserve Bank sections? On a previous occasion my Honourable friend resenting the name London controlled Government, said that he never takes instructions from London! He decides himself. As he does not take instructions from us, and as he does not take instructions from London I must say that my Honourable friend is in the character of a greater Hitler than Hitler himself. The theory on which we are working is this:—if I am wrong the Law Member and the Honourable the Leader of the House are free to correct me—I want to know if these gentlemen on the Treasury Benches are not responsible to us and if they say that they are not taking any instructions from or giving any report to the Secretary of State, who are they responsible to?

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Slight exaggeration. Go on.

Mr. Manu Subedar: The theory is that it is British Parliament which is governing this country and these gentlemen are responsible to their master the Secretary of State who has come here, and not to anybody else—not to us. Therefore, when he turns round and says 'I do not care for your instructions' I can understand, and that is the sort of Government which we are here to pull down. We want a Government which will take instructions from the House and which will respect the wishes of the House. But when he said regarding the imposition of duty on bullion that he is not taking any instructions from London.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Nor from Bombay.

Mr. Manu Subedar: . . . nor is he reporting to anybody in London (Interruption) nor is he even informing his masters in London . . .

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I certainly did not inform Bombay.

Mr. Manu Subedar: . . . I cannot understand what he means by that. Any way I do not want to take up the time of the House in discussing constitutional matters which are being discussed at higher level and we all trust that the outcome of those discussions will be satisfactory.

The other point I wish to refer to is that the Honourable the Finance Member has not secured us the assurance which we were seeking, which we urged, namely that His Majesty's Government will not plead with us Section 10(1)(c) of the Anglo-American Loan Agreement when they come to discuss this matter.

Further there is no recent statement from His Majesty's Government or from any statesman connected high up or from the Chancellor of the Exchequer of the United Kingdom indicating what are Britain's intentions with regard to sterling balances. We know nothing. We are constantly hearing unofficial British press comments on this subject. We are expressing an anxiety of this House, which is a proper place where anxiety should be expressed, and it is the duty of my Honourable friend to have sent down all these expressions of apprehension and anxiety and to elicit from His Majesty's Government a clear announcement on the subject which would allay these anxieties in India, and I say that it is very necessary in the interest of good relations and goodwill between the two countries that a proper assurance should be forthcoming, and I regret very much that my Honourable friend has not been able to secure this right up to the last day of the Session, and I take this opportunity of reminding him that before the threatened departure, which he is constantly mentioning to us, I trust he will again press for this assurance and get it from His Majesty's Government.

With regard to the proposal for negotiations, there is a very clear anxiety on the part of all of us in the Committee unanimously that early negotiations should take place. My Honourable friend must have written to His Majesty's Government but I am sorry he did not take the opportunity to tell us what has happened, and I hope he will tell us when he begins to reply what has happened to these negotiations. Are these negotiations taking place at all? Why has not my Honourable friend come to this House for some instructions with regard to these negotiations? Who is going to do the negotiations and on what basis will these negotiations take place? Has my Honourable friend pressed on His Majesty's Government that early negotiations should take place? Has any date been indicated? Is the delegation coming here or is the delegation going from here to England? What will be the personnel of such a delegation, and what will be the terms of reference of such a delegation? May I know why my Honourable friend has not sought to take this House into confidence, and why he has not tried to ascertain the wishes of all the parties in this House? Why he has not armed himself with something which will indicate the intentions and desires of Members of this House which he may follow during the interval of three or four months when this Assembly will not be in Session?

With regard to sections 40 and 41, my Honourable friend mentioned in his last speech on Bretton Woods that he will take an early opportunity of informing this House in what form and when such changes as are required in sections 40 and 41 of Reserve Bank Act will be made.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I think not.

Mr. Manu Subedar: He has not informed this House. I asked him again, but he was not willing to inform. I do not want to embarrass my Honourable friend, but I trust he will appreciate the spirit in which I am asking. I feel, Sir, that these sections which permit the abuse of the currency machinery of this country cannot be permitted to go on very much longer in this manner. We are anxious to put this matter right, and it is the duty of my Honourable friend, if he claims as he has frequently done that he is the custodian of Indian interests in this respect, to try and put this matter right. I think it was his duty to come to this House for instructions on this subject and not to have the last day of the Session pass without some reasonable recognition by him as to what are the desires of the principal parties in this House in this very important matter both of the sterling balances and the negotiations pertaining thereto, and also with regard to the necessary amendment of sections 40 and 41 which is necessary to put right further accumulations. It is necessary also, if and when it is decided that this country will stay in the Bretton Woods Fund. If we stay in the fund, we have to fix the gold par of exchange. We shall have to fix it. Fortunately for us and fortunately for me personally. The difficulties of the International Fund and Bank authorities in the other country prevented

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them from starting the operations of this Institution on the 1st May as they were threatening to do. They have themselves shifted it to the 1st September.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: No fixed date.

Mr. Manu Subedar: I was told in a press telegram which came from the U. S. A. that no operations will start at least before the 1st September.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: At least not before the 1st September.

Mr. Manu Subedar: Very fortunately for us, a certain amount of breathing time has been secured by us without any effort, and I am glad because the task of fixing the gold par of exchange and the task of settling all the issues attendant thereto, and the task of financial sterling balances negotiations are all hanging upon us. These are all serious tasks on the head of this country which will have to be attended to with assiduity and these are not matters of complacency of the kind which my Honourable friend seems unfortunately to disclose. Any way, we have all these heavy tasks before us, and I was very glad that we got some time. I still trust that we shall get another three months before that, because what with the international issues, the trade balance and the other issues, it may not be possible for anyone in this country finally and very confidently to fix the gold par of exchange. Anyway, when that occasion comes, you will have to suspend the operations of those two sections and substitute therefor a suitable law which will give clear directions to the Reserve Bank authorities in their day to day operations.

Sir, in conclusion I would say that it is a great pity that the whole issue is left hanging. Here we have a delegation of this supreme status and influence. May I know, Sir, why this delegation has not been seized of this issue which is giving us trouble? This issue of the sterling balances which I mentioned before is equal to 18 years of net income of the Centre of India. It is equal to 25 years of the trade balance of India. Sir, these are not small sums. It is something of such a magnitude that it overshadows all our thoughts on the financial issue of India. May I know, Sir, why this delegation was not seized about it? If they have been, it will be for my Honourable friend to tell us. If not, may I suggest that after the first political and large issues have been dealt with, will not these august persons from the United Kingdom say something, give us the assurance which we have been seeking, allay the apprehensions which have been aroused in this country, and in doing this, they would be doing not only a fair and proper and just thing by themselves, and by India, but they will help very seriously the cause of mutual goodwill between this country and England which is assiduously being sought by all sections and parties and in which search I myself am joining my friends here. May I say, Sir, that nothing will create a fund of goodwill like a declaration or an assurance that in financial matters, justice will be done to India, that the apprehensions need not be felt, that there need not be any unnecessary anxiety of this subject. Sir, let me with all humility point out that any perverse wrong or grasping attitude in the matter of the sterling balances and the redemptions thereof, will on the contrary create a spirit of ill-will, will destroy a fund of good-will which it will not be proper in the interests of both the countries. Therefore, Sir, let me end with a note of appeal to my European friends here—British friends may I call them. To my British friends and to the Honourable the Finance Member, whose far-reaching influence I am fully aware of, let me make an appeal. Here is a situation which is worrying our minds. Will you not help us in the interests both of your country and our country to allay apprehensions and set them right, particularly now that those who decide these issues, those who have the final word, they are here, on our land, on a great mission. Will you not help us and yourself to that common and mutual understanding of a just foundation between the two countries, between England and the United Kingdom?

Mr. Geoffrey W. Tyson (Bengal: European): In rising to commend the report of the Bretton Woods Committee Second Interim Report just before the House, I do so with a clear conscience. This matter has been before the House almost the whole of this long and rather exhausting session, and I would like to say along with Mr. Manu Subedar that one of the reasons why the Committee has been able, after many sittings to produce two reports which have found acceptance of the House is because of the patience and tact and the skill which the Finance Member has shown in presiding over its deliberations. I say that because it is possibly the last occasion in this House when we will be able to say how much one has appreciated the wise counsel and guidance that Sir Archibald has been able to give this Committee in particular and the House in general.

When Honourable Members read the third interim report, they will realise that once again in this matter, as well as in other matters, a matter which we discussed a few moments ago, India has succeeded in obtaining the best of both worlds. We managed to adopt, thanks I think to the skilful presentation of his case by Mr. Manu Subedar, an extremely envious stand, which I feel some of the other nations would be envious if not jealous.

We have had the benefit of meeting the Governor of the Reserve Bank since he returned from Savannah and he has presented a long and interesting report to the Bretton Woods Committee. I do not think that any of us are in two minds at all about the question that we got in the person of Sir Chintaman Deshmukh the best possible Governor which India could send to this International Institution. When this subject was first introduced into this House, now nearly three months ago, I said on behalf of the European group that what we wanted was that India should exercise full responsibility as a member of the Fund and that it should be exercised on behalf of India by an Indian and in the interest of India. I would like to say that I repeat what was then said and I am quite sure that the report which Sir C. D. Deshmukh has presented to the Bretton Woods Committee endorses the very considerable confidence which the legislature, the banking community and the country at large has reposed in this distinguished officer of the Government.

My Honourable friend Mr. Manu Subedar once again introduced the question of sterling balances and the settlement of the outstanding debts between Britain and India. At the end of what must be a very brief observation I would merely say that we on these benches who are interested overwhelmingly in the field of trade and commerce realise that the nature of that settlement which is made between the two countries will affect our fortunes very considerably in the future. My friends on the other side of the House may therefore rest assured that we are interested in a just and realistic settlement of the debt. We are as much interested as they are, may be from a slightly different point of view. The delay in getting down to negotiating a settlement has not been under the control of the Government of India. It has not been within the capacity of the Finance Member either to indicate the lines of the settlement or to indicate how soon negotiations can be begun. Clearly they cannot commence until the final outcome of the Anglo-American loan negotiations and the agreement which is now before the Congress are known. But I feel sure that once that position has been cleared and negotiations have been taken up many of the apprehensions which my Honourable friends on the other side of the House feel about the sterling debts will dissolve in the certain knowledge that practical steps are being taken to see that India receives a fair and honourable settlement. Lord Keynes' words in this connection have been frequently quoted and I do not think I can do better than repeat them in bringing to a close my very brief observations on the report that is now before the House. Lord Keynes said at the Original Bretton Woods meeting: "It is honourably lent and would be honourably repaid." My Honourable friends on the other side of the House can disperse with that assurance firmly fixed in their minds. Sir, I support the interim report which is now before the House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar (Madras Ceded Districts and Chittoor: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, I will take just a few minutes. Sir I want that serious consideration to this resolution that has been brought forward has to be bestowed by the House. The first resolution that we passed already was that the Committee do consider and report to the House whether it is proper or in the interests of the country to continue its membership in the International Monetary Fund and in the International Bank. Without the consent of the Assembly legally we are members of the fund and the bank now because the Governor General and the Government of India entered into the membership and signed on behalf of the country. The only question now is whether it is proper and desirable for the country to continue its membership or not and pending decision with regard to that matter, the third clause of the resolution that was passed says, that no further steps ought to be taken in the direction of either sending a Governor or contributing financially by way of subscription to the fund. After the original resolution was passed, this Committee reported to the House and the Government to appoint a Governor and a Director was an inroad to that extent. Clause 3 of the original resolution said that pending final report as to whether we ought to continue to be member or not further action ought to be suspended but the previous resolution giving power to the Government to appoint a Governor and send a Director is an inroad. So far no financial commitments have been made by the time both the Governor and the Director went. The Governor has returned and he has not brought us any greater enlightenment than we originally had regarding our status and position. After he has come back our position has become somewhat dubious. Russia was not an original member. Five places were reserved for permanent membership and we got somehow in an interim manner a permanent membership on the directorate. But now the position has been challenged. If Russia comes in at any time we will have to vacate in favour of Russia. We will then be relegated to ordinary membership which expires in about 2 or 3 years. Whenever Russia may come in we will be assailed and we will be relegated to a subordinate position. The matter is being considered by the Governing Body but I am sure the interpretation lies in their hands and they are going to say that we are not entitled to a permanent Director there. For a couple of years we may continue but after that we must take our chance along with others whether we are to continue on the Directorate or not. That is the position. We have not gained after the Governor and Director have been sent. They have only raised doubts in us and confirmed the doubts we have already had and further doubts have come in. The activities of the Fund are proceeding. They may at any time call upon us to fix our par value and intimate to them the par value and if we contest and if we ask to be given time, we are given 90 days within which the matter must be settled. Utmost we will have three months. At the end we shall have to subscribe both to the Monetary Fund and the Bank to the tune of 266 crores. The money may not go away from the country. A large portion will remain in the Reserve Bank, not as belonging to the Government of India but as a contribution to the Fund of the bank. If the Bank

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: It is credit rather than contribution.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I suppose you are not contesting my proposition. He may not agree with me fully. If the Bank starts operations and begins to lend money to other countries the entire sum may have to be paid. Therefore we will have to think a hundred times before we undertake the responsibility of giving our subscription to the tune of 266 crores. That is the responsibility of the Assembly. This resolution empowers the Committee to send a report as to whether it is open to the Assembly to take a decision regarding its continuance as a member. If we are to continue to be a member that involves 266 crores. Now according to the interim report the Government will make its best attempt to gain time to pay off the subscription. If we are unable to succeed you must give power to the Committee to advise the Govern-

ment and if the Committee advises the Government may proceed with paying the subscription. You are now clothing this Committee to make a final decision if perchance the decision has to be taken before the next session of the Assembly. Therefore being aware of all the consequences I would request Honourable Members to vote for this. If they do not agree they may give a direction that until the next session of the Assembly we shall not subscribe whatever might be the consequence. In the committee I said that the consequences would not be too severe and I am reiterating the same position here. If we do not pay we can represent to the Directorate of the Fund and the Bank that owing to the impending constitutional changes we are not in a position to make up our mind and pay the subscription. They may refuse. Even if they refuse the articles both of the Monetary Fund and the Bank prescribe that they must give notice to us and ask us to withdraw from the Fund or the Bank. That will take a long time. In the meanwhile we may settle the question. Therefore even if the Assembly agrees to this proposition, viz., the resolution that has been moved, it must be on the understanding that the Government will take every possible step and write for getting time until the next session meets. Till then no financial commitments ought to be made. If perchance it had to be done we can intimate to them our withdrawal. Withdrawing after paying subscription is one thing but withdrawing even before paying subscription in case our sterling balances are not negotiated is a different matter Therefore unless the Honourable the Finance Member and the Government give an assurance that they would protract even if there be a call, they will put off contributing till the next session of the Assembly I would not advise that we should accept this. The Honourable the Finance Member gave an assurance of that kind

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Sir, the Honourable Member is trying to make an amendment to a report which he has signed, without moving a formal amendment.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I am not.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: Yes, you are. You are suggesting that no further steps shall be taken by way of subscription or otherwise till the next session of the Assembly takes place. The idea is by giving an assurance that you will take advantage of every provision of the Articles. We will write to the Bank for time and then we will re-enter after consulting the Committee. I am talking about the Government of the time—not myself. The decision may be taken by the Assembly. I do not see the Honourable Member is in order in trying, in effect, to introduce a new decision in the Report which is before the House.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: I do not want to go behind the Report I signed. All that I am submitting is this and I want to emphasize this point once again. It is possible for the Honourable Member and the Government to put it off till the next session of the Assembly. There are two ways in which the matter can be approached. One is with the confidence that we will have time. Another is that we cannot get time and then drop down both hands and feel helpless. I want the Government not to become helpless but to take courage and write to the Director to say that it must be put off for a period of five or six months. If in spite of all this we do not succeed we shall try to see in the Committee what the Assembly should do. I do not want to go back on what has been resolved. So far as sterling balances are concerned, my Honourable friend has been stating again and again, but my Honourable friend undertook to give us facts and figures regarding the manner in which the sterling balances could be adjusted. We are yet waiting for some such declaration in the House.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I don't know what you are talking about.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: The Honourable Member said he knows the assets, the various European assets, in the country and he said he would give an idea of them.

[At this stage Mr. President vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Sir Mohammad Yamin Khan)].

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I would like the reference to that speech. I will try to find out.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: So long as the Honourable member is in this Government he represents us and he must be interested in seeing that our sterling balances are not liquidated in a manner detrimental to our interests and in seeing that our claims are realized to the last pie. I am sure that so long as he continues to be in the Government here he will take every step and place the interests of this country over and above the interests of his mother country.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi (Calcutta and Suburbs: Muhammadan Urban): Mr. Deputy President, Sir. Three Members of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Agreement proposals have been telling tales outside the school. I do not understand their putting their hand and signature to this Report and then coming and tearing it to pieces in a thousand and one ways in this House. More than that, they have sold away the privilege of this House by recommending that they be granted the power to have the final say on the subject without consulting it at all, in case that peculiarly dangerous moment for decision, comes between two sessions of this House. Their consciences have perhaps, been disturbed otherwise I cannot understand how and why our representatives could put their signatures to this paper and then come and try to re-establish themselves in our eyes as the upholders of the rights of this House and the upholders of the rights of the Indian people.

Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar: We do not see any other way.

Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqi: They confess to their inability. All the arguments used in the speeches that we have heard to-day should have got into the Report. We have been passing through hours and hours of debate and discussion on this subject. Evidently we have two minds on every problem and we try to be tactical and yet in a most obvious manner it appears as if we have no mind at all and we have no opinions. The Honourable the Finance Member pulled his colleagues of the Committee one way while their consciences pulled them the other way. As we collapsed about the decision on the flabite of two crores—we did on this also, the whole future financial position of India so far as regards not only this wretched Bank and International Fund but also that aggravating malady, financially speaking, of sterling balances which are increasing from day to day. Whether the Honourable the Finance Member will now, under the instructions of this Committee when specially summoned, give them an assurance as to the amendment of the Reserve Bank Act, or whether he will induce the Secretary of State, during his remaining days of grace in India to tell us something about how the British Cabinet is going to deal with our money, are arguments which do not carry any weight or substance in my view. We have not got the courage nor, it appears, the confidence to declare our will. Making argument in this House in a debating way is one thing and standing by our constitutional and our financial rights is another. This is not a shopkeeper's business nor a matter of banya politics. I hope it is not the intention of the critics to walk over tomorrow to the other side and get kudos for bringing back millions and millions of sterling pounds into this country! It is so ridiculous on the face of it. I know there will be a scaling down. I do not know in what shape, whether in cash or in kind or in service, our money will come back. If the experience of the last war is any indication, we should wash our hands off the sterling balances. If I had my way, Sir, I would not touch the international Fund and Bank with the longest possible barge pole. As I said, on the First Interim Report—I hope there will not be half a dozen Interim Reports—I think we could come to a settlement on this

problem easily. Let us forget the thing altogether. India, with its raw material, is an important item in world economy. If we do not go into the International Fund and Bank, the International Fund and Bank and their supporters will come to this country to buy things from us, and pay as we demand. This country has been played with in regard to sterling balances and dollar pools. So long as we do not possess power we cannot control even our own destiny. What will actually happen I do know. The bet of an earlier date was repeated by the Honourable Member who has signed this report and criticised it. It will be difficult to find another instance of self-condemnation than this; but whether we go ahead with this, or we do not, I have always been of the opinion that in international affairs India will always have to play second fiddle. I have been forced to the conclusion to-day and I express the fear to you, Sir, freely, that even when there is a change-over in case the Secretary of State is really generous and kind, then too, with this double-mindedness and bania mentality, we shall not be able to play our proper role, so far as the rights of the poor man, whose money has built the sterling credits, are concerned. I am doubtful if we shall get anything back. Every representative of every party has signed this report. Therefore, under party etiquette and rules,

4 P. M. the Report will go through; but if these gentlemen had not developed the psychology of fear, I feel certain that the Honourable the Finance Minister will not have played with them as puppets in his hand. They dare not utter courageously their views in the committee; but here to make the reporters in the gallery come out in streamline headings that X the great nationalists stood up for the financial rights of India but only after they had sold them away under the towering frightening personality, persuasiveness and influence of the Finance Member. I am a bit surprised because it is difficult to place confidence in members of this committee who signed this report and who demand, against every principle for which we have been fighting for the last thirty or forty years—and of which they want to rob this House to take final decision: they want to be left alone and they want to be played with by a powerful finance minister to sign away every possible chance of getting back our money. If we cannot get that, then saving ourselves 266 crores, which statistically were declared equal to 18 years of our income at the centre and 25 years of the trade balances of this country—all this they want to hand over to him, and he says "I am going away; one of your own brothers will come and sit over the problem"—and then as we say in Urdu, *Garib ka pet kat kar* after starving the poor man, the funds accumulated will be thrown away. We shall not be able to rectify the blunder committed in this Report; and may I suggest that we too as members of this House would have preferred to read the words of—what the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India told them in committee, and whether his other fellow members and directors were prepared to look upon this country with some consideration or were we going to be used by British ministers and their economic advisers to help them build up their own plans and economies and we were to be left in the lurch in our own country, to fight for a flea-bite, as I said, of a mere 2 crores, and to hand over 266 crores. To find reasons to get out of this Report, now is something which is neither dignified nor worthy of our representatives on the committee. The Report will go through; but may I warn them that in case that special meeting is called in between this session and the next, they will have to behave a bit better than they have done so far. I hope the Report then will not be an interim affair; and I hope whatever decision they take, it will be not in a manner as if their brains were empty and their hearts full of fear. Let them go ahead; even if they make mistakes I shall be prepared to forgive them; but let them make those mistakes with courage and confidence and not with fear in their hearts.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad (United Provinces Southern Division: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, as soon as I go out from this House at the fag end of the Session, the gentlemen on the top in the press gallery will ask me, what has been the bogey of this particular session? Is it the I.N.A. or UNRRA, Food, or Bretton Woods? I will have no hesitation in saying that the bogey of the present session has been Bretton Woods. We discussed it in the beginning; we

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are discussing it in the end and we discussed it—I do not know how many times—in the middle of the session; and today we are in the same position as we were in on the first day. My friend Mr. Siddiqi pointed out that we did not know our minds when we signed the report; but the real question, as I pointed out on the very first day when this Bretton Woods Report was presented before the House, has been that we have been discussing the side issues and not the main report itself. We have all the time been using this international monetary fund and the international bank as the fulcrum for some subsidiary questions; and we did not take the problem as it should be, and it is on account of these subsidiary problems which we have been discussing all the time that the main issues were subdued by these subsidiary issues; and the conclusion was what my Honourable friend has just pointed out. Instead of thinking about the Bretton Woods Report, we were thinking of the subsidiary problems—we have been discussing quite a lot about our sterling balances. We all share the views expressed by my friend Mr. Manu Subedar that India is a poor country. We cannot write off the sterling balances amounting now over 1200 crores. We cannot settle this thing immediately and this is a question for negotiation. England is not in a position to pay. Even if England paid the amount, it cannot be in the shape of gold. It will have to be in the shape of articles and commodities but when this course is suggested, the representatives of industry say 'No'. They say that these things should not be imported from outside and that these things ought to be manufactured in the country itself. When I suggest that a large number of wagons and carriages and locomotives should be imported from outside, I was told by my friends 'No. We should manufacture these things inside the country. We must have our own workshops for this purpose'. So that when we suggest that these sterling balances should be repaid in the form of goods, the cry comes from the industries—please don't allow it. Otherwise our industries will suffer. Nobody has yet suggested the form in which these sterling balances will be paid. It is evident it cannot be in the form of precious metals, gold or silver because gold and silver are not available in the world. They have all been locked up by America. In the old days it used to be shut up by France. Now, the whole of the French gold has gone to America. As our saying goes: *Barai nihadan che sange che zar*. (This gold to us is no better than stone.)

When a thing is locked up, it may be stone or precious metal. So long as the gold is not in circulation, and is not available, these sterling debts cannot be paid in terms of the previous metals but only in terms of commodities. If it is not to be paid in terms of commodities, then the question will arise in what commodities it is to be paid.

No country can possibly manufacture goods worth 1200 crores and no country can possibly absorb them. It is a question of negotiation as to in what way it can be paid and this will extend over a long period of years. It cannot be done in a day or two. You cannot make a payment to order. You cannot ask the Finance Minister of the United Kingdom to write a cheque for 1200 crores in favour of the Finance Member of India, because that cheque cannot be cashed. Paper money from the United Kingdom will have no value in India. The only way in which we can deal with this is by means of negotiation. The Finance Member has convinced us, at least I was convinced, that he will take the earliest opportunity to have the question of sterling balances settled. Either he will send a deputation from this country to England or he will ask for a deputation from England to visit India. I see no other alternative. It cannot be paid by a cheque. The method of payment has to be discussed.

Then we have to get a part of our sterling balances changed into dollars and other currencies. If we wish to get the articles, we must get them not only from the United Kingdom but also from other countries and the exchange of other countries should be available to us. This is a matter for consideration and negotiation. None of my colleagues say that there should be no negotiation

but there should be immediate payment. We are not Shylocks and we do not insist on our pound of flesh. But India is a poor country and it cannot afford to lose its sterling balances and the danger in our minds that it may be ultimately written off should be removed. This is the only thing on which we wanted to be assured, as some members had the apprehension that the entire amount may be written off. As I have said, the negotiations will take time. The thing cannot be done all at once.

I shall deal with the bogey of sterling balances later on but in the meantime I have got a corollary. How have these sterling balances accumulated. My friend Mr. Siddiqi said and I repeat that it has been accumulated owing to the misery and sufferings and privations of the poorer people. There cannot be any two opinions about it.

Then, Sir, we have been talking of sterling balances but nobody is thinking of the rupee balances. Now, a large number of people have accumulated rupee balances by the same process; namely, the sufferings and privations of the poor people. When we consider the question of the sterling balances outside India, we shall also have to take into consideration the question of the rupee balances inside India. Though I do not want to raise this at the fag end of the session, I give notice that I will take care to raise it in the next session.

Mr. Deputy President: Too much talking is going on in the House and that makes it impossible for the Chair to follow the debate. I hope Honourable Members will not speak loudly.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Sir, about rupee balances, this is a question which is agitating the minds of leaders of the country at present. By the accumulation of rupee balances who are the people who suffered? It is really the poor people who have suffered most. I give notice to the Government now that I will take up this question during the next session and will demand a statement from the Government as to how much rupee balances have accumulated on account of the privations and miseries of the poor people in this country during the great war. What are the methods we are going to adopt in order to recover these balances. My Honourable friend might say that death duty is one of the methods by which he proposes to recover the rupee balances. But I say this method of recovery is very lengthy, more lengthy than the negotiations for recovery of our sterling balances. In our negotiations for recovery of sterling balances, one point has been overlooked. We should not utilise our sterling balances in order to bring what are called capital goods. Capital goods will be advantageous to those persons who are the custodians of our rupee balances and really they are trying to convert the sterling balances into rupee balances. The poorer people are not benefitted by this conversion of sterling balances into rupee balances in the manner in which it is demanded by some persons. They propose to purchase capital goods from England, America and other countries wherever they can get cheap. The problem thereby remains as it was. It has not been solved. I would like to utilise these sterling balances in order to lower the price level in order to raise the purchasing power of the rupee. If the sterling balances are to benefit the poor people of India, it ought to be utilised in a manner that the purchasing power of the rupee may increase, that we really get full value to the rupee. I raised this question in 1931 and I said then that great care should be exercised by the Finance Member in stabilising the internal price of the country. I raised this question on the floor of the House in 1931. I referred to the Macmillan report and to the speeches of the Lord Keynes on this particular question. I thought that probably the successors of Sir George Schuster will take up this problem. But no attention was paid. I trust that this International Monetary Fund and the International Bank will help us to solve this particular problem which is really a problem of all problems. The Finance Member is now tackling subsidiary questions like the dearness allowance, war allowance, this allowance and that allowance. But he has overlooked the main problem of which all these problems are corollaries.

Diwan Chaman Lal: I rise to a point of order. Is there no time limit for speeches on Resolutions?

Mr. Deputy President: There is no time limit for this. There is time limit only in the case of Resolutions.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: Then, Sir Jeremy Ransman came as the Finance Member. He concentrated his attention on the stabilisation of bank rate of interest. As I said very few people are interested in the stabilisation of bank rate of interest. How many people have got bank account? How many people really deal in bank shares. The average man is interested only in the purchasing power of the rupee. Now when the Bretton Wood report is under consideration, this is the occasion for me to emphasise on this question and urge that the Government should immediately take steps to stabilise the purchasing power of the rupee. There are two parallel issues before us, one the sterling balances and the other stabilisation of prices. I say whom does the sterling balance benefit? It will only benefit the multimillionaire. They will only transfer the sterling balances into rupee balances. The poor people will remain where they are. These sterling balances ought to be utilised to reduce the price level which alone will benefit the poor people. Therefore my proposition is that this Bretton Woods Agreement ought to be utilised in order to stabilise the purchasing power of the rupee. Then, people may ask what Bretton Woods agreement has got to do with the stabilisation of the rupee. That is a pertinent question. I say this is the only way by means of which prices can be stabilised. I have discussed this thing on the floor of the House repeatedly, but I am sorry that the Finance Members paid no attention to it. There are three important problems which I have been pressing. Probably I am in the minority of one, but I am of my theories. I am sure sooner or later the Finance Member and the House will accept my three propositions. The first proposition is the Railway Reserve, the second is to make labour business partner in the firms and the third is the method of the stabilization of internal prices in paper rupee. The only method by which you can stabilise the price of the rupee is to fix the value of the paper rupee in terms of gold and silver. Unless the value of the paper rupee is fixed in terms of gold, it is impossible to stabilise the value of the paper rupee in this country. You must fix and determine that when the present world price of gold is about Rs. 43 a tola. We ought to keep it within the limit of 2 to 3 per cent., and not more. At this rate we ought to be able to purchase gold in this country. If we achieve this object, we can fix the price of silver rupee in terms of gold at Rs. 45 a tola. Then and then alone you can make a beginning for stabilisation of price of other commodities, wheat, cloth and other things. In fact if you want to eradicate black market, the fundamental thing is the fixation of price. You cannot fix the price of wheat or cloth or any other article in terms of the paper rupee unless you begin with gold first and fix the price of your paper rupee in terms of gold. And that price according to the present value ought to be not more than Rs. 45 per tola. But if you allow gold to be sold at Rs. 100 a tola by the Reserve Bank and sold to the highest bidder you cannot stabilise the price of the silver rupee, and the seller of wheat also will claim the right to sell to the highest bidder and they will say you have no right to control them. The moment you fix it the customers will not get it because it goes to the black market. So unless you fix the price of the paper rupee in terms of gold you cannot stabilise prices in this country. And the Bretton Woods Agreement gives you an opportunity to achieve it. In this particular Bill they have fixed the purchase price of gold by the Bank, but not the selling price, the lacuna is there. I asked the Governor of the Reserve Bank to raise this question in the general meeting, which he unfortunately could not do, that in fixing the purchase price they should fix the sale price of gold also. Unless that is fixed in terms of the paper rupee by the International Bank it is impossible for any country to stabilise the internal prices; and the difficulty will arise not only in India but in every other country. And if for nothing else, only for this reason I will support the International Bank and Fund if they succeed in stabilising the value of gold. Gold has unfortunately got two positions—as a commodity and as a measure of comparing different currencies. As a student of mathematics the first lesson my Honourable friend must have learnt about a unit of measurement is that it must be fixed and definite. So

if you are to compare different currencies the price of gold must be fixed definitely, otherwise there will be chaos. This thing will not do. I pointed out while discussing it in the Committee that in the case of gold we will be led to the same conundrum to which Sir Bertrand Russell was led when he lectured on the philosophy of mathematics that a class of classes is at the same time a class and an individual. We will have the same conundrum if gold has a fixed value when used as a measure and an arbitrary value when used as a commodity. That is absurd; and all your talk about the International Bank will come to nothing unless you fix the purchase price and the sale price of gold and bring them on a par with one another.

Then we say the value of the rupee should be fixed in terms of gold, but how will you fix it? In India we get gold for Rs. 100 while in other countries you get it for Rs. 43. So if you have here two prices, internal and external, your measure changes. It becomes like an India rubber which may be extended to any length. You cannot compare the currencies of different countries when you can stretch it from Rs. 43 to Rs. 100. Then my Honourable friend makes further trouble by putting on it an import duty of Rs. 20 per tola, of gold which is not a commodity according to him. What I now suggest is that this International Bank should be the sole purchaser of all the gold that is produced in the world and at fixed prices and then it should be distributed at fixed prices all over the world. If your International Bank has got one value, Rs. 43 for instance, and the miner in South Africa sells it to the highest bidder at any price, the measure of comparing the values of currency in different countries is abused and the price is raised according to demand. There is no question of demand in the case of a commodity which is used as a measure. Therefore if you want to stabilise prices all over the world, whatever applies to India will apply to other countries also. You may manage prices by means of Ordinances and Regulations, but if you want to stabilise prices all over the world you must fix the purchase price and sale price in terms of the currency of every country. It is useless for the Finance Member or any one else or the International Bank to say that the price fixed for the rupee is so many dollars. But when the dollar is also measured in terms of gold it will be impossible for us to stabilise the purchasing power of the rupee; and if that is not stabilised in terms of gold it cannot be stabilised in terms of any other commodity. Attempts were made by my Honourable friends like Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar and Sir Azizul Huque and Sir Akbar Hydari to fix the price of wheat and cloth, etc., but they all failed. It is not possible unless you stabilise the purchasing power of the rupee in terms of gold. Therefore I impress on the Finance Member to tell the British Government that we should have a clear account of our sterling balances, that they should not be written off and arrangements should be made for their repayment. As a corollary to that I would press that the payment should be made in a manner that they stabilize and reduce the prices and not only change the sterling into rupee balances.

The other point is that all the arrangements would fail unless definite arrangements are made with the International Bank that the prices of every currency are fixed in terms of gold. If those prices are fixed only on paper but not in reality, then I am sure that this whole system will breakdown. Therefore I say that for the improvement of trade this thing ought to be done, but at the same time it is desirable that this arrangement should be made immediately.

And now I come to the main question—the Bretton Woods Committee Report itself. As regards this Report, if you take away all the subsidiary points which I and every one else have been discussing, then there is not very much left in the Report. There is a saying: *Khatmal ko mal mal kar bhainsa kha*. (We have rubbed the bug so much that it has become a buffalo). It was a small problem, but we have been talking and talking over it, with the result that it has become a buffalo. I put this question on the first day when this matter was brought before us, and I raise the same question again. Every country will have to trade with other countries. India will have trade with other

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countries of the world and other countries will have trade with this country. First of all the question is whether we should have restrictions on trade or whether there should be freedom of trade. I am sure there is only one answer to this question and that is there should be freedom of trade. If there is freedom of trade, we know that payments cannot be made in terms of currency notes because currency notes have got value in India but not outside India. You can make payments in two ways; One is that you have the barter system with other countries and see that imports and exports equalize because the difference cannot be paid by us in any other form. Such a system is exceedingly difficult. Germany had this system just before the war—from 1933 to 1939. They had opened accounts with each country separately. If anybody wanted to import a thing from India, they said all right find out a person in India who will purchase something from Germany of equivalent value. So that if I want to sell something I have got a double problem: Therefore this barter system is inconvenient. What is the other method? The other method is that you have some kind of clearance house, a kind of Central Bank which at the end of the year will clear off plus and minus against all the trading countries, and whatever may be the balance it should be paid in gold. Actual payments will be very small. It will be something like the game of Bridge. I am not a Bridge player of course, but I know if you play for two or three days, the net result after minus and plus points will not be much. Therefore, I say, Sir, that if this is done through an International Bank, we will find that the amounts to be paid actually at the end of the year will be very small.

Some one asked what will happen to our money? Well, the money that we are contributing will remain in India. It will be with the Reserve Bank. Some people are under the impression that we will be sending our money to the United Kingdom or America. No, it will remain in India. If anything goes wrong, the money will be in our possession, and not only our own money but of some of the neighbouring countries also. Our possession will be greater than our contribution. Therefore the chances of a loss are very small indeed. All these bogeys that we are losing have no basis.

Seth Yusuf Abdoola Haroon (Sind: Muhammadan Rural): Sir, there is too much noise in the House.

Mr. Deputy President: I have drawn the attention of the Honourable Members to that already that this is not right that they should go on talking between themselves so loudly as to disturb the proceedings of the House and I do not think that the Chair need repeat that.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: We are not losing any money as some people seem to think. The transaction will be only a paper transaction. The money—gold or anything—will be in our possession and then we have got a rule that we can give notice at any time and withdraw. At the time when we chose to withdraw, the money will not be in America or England; it will be in our possession and it will always be more than our own contribution.

If there is freedom of trade, there must be some method of payment by one country to the other. There are so many different countries that if this is left to them there will be many combinations. This is very difficult and therefore I say that this is the only way in which payments can be made and by means of which credit of each country will be established. They will not demand foreign credit from any country which they demand at present. The question of foreign credit will disappear altogether. We are all pooling on foreign credits.

We are in favour of freedom of trade. I can talk on this subject for two hours more but I will not take much time of the House. Finally, I would like to say that if any one wants to use this Bretton Woods as a fulcrum for our sterling balances or for stabilizing the paper value of the rupee, it is another thing but if you come to trade itself, you will find that it will be impossible

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In the future world to carry on the trade freely with all the restrictions from the Bretton Woods Member, who is really not the person who controls the trade. He kills the trade and we do not want the Government of India to kill the trade. We want the merchants to have freedom to carry on the trade with any country they like. If you have this freedom of trade, I ask any business man how can it be done. Either you establish a foreign credit in each country, which is impossible, or you have a barter system, which is just as impossible. This is the only method by which you can have freedom of trade in any country.

With these words, I support the motion.

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: This, Sir, is perhaps my appearance in this House. I listened with fascination and admiration to the wonderful feat of watering the capital of the international monetary fund by Dr. Zia Uddin Ahmad. He translated gold into silver and water into gin. I notice he also took my glass. Well, I do not drink water, though I believe it is very good for keeping the teeth healthy; yet I have not much use for it. But I could not follow him right through. He as an individual, is in a class by himself. He took us to Germany and said that Dr. Schacht used to exchange mouth organs for hides and skins. That is one very good method of trading.

I do not think I want to say a great deal about the able speech of Mr. Mansubedar. I have heard it several times before in the Session. I believe that if it were within the rules of this House to permit me to introduce an amendment to the Lord's Prayer, I would hear all about sterling balances, dollar balances, negotiations.

Dr. Sir Zia Uddin Ahmad: And rupee balances!

The Honourable Sir Archibald Rowlands: I had forgotten about the rupee balances. I am doing my best to get some of them but I regret to say that he or some of his friends are preventing me from taking all the steps. Beyond that brief reference, I will not make any mention of a certain Bill which they all know about but which has been put to death out of duty.

As for the negotiations for sterling balances, I have discharged my duty in this House. I have left His Majesty's Government under no illusion as to the strength of feeling in this country on that subject and today I have received an assurance, without going into details, that His Majesty's Government are as anxious to start negotiations as soon as they possibly can. More than one speaker this afternoon indicated, I think, the real reason why they have not started. Perhaps, speaking on behalf of the Government, I had better again not mention names. We all know why and we all appreciate it but until that one difficulty is out of the way, it is neither in the interests of the United Kingdom or India to enter into these negotiations. I can assure the House that we are using the time given to us to very good purpose, and I think whoever goes to England to negotiate on sterling balances will be provided with a brief which ought to enable him to deal with any question or any argument raised even by the ingenious and brilliant Lord Keynes and his very brilliant team in the Treasury. That is, if they go to London. The question whether negotiations will take place in India or London is still open. There is no final decision on that point and there is no final refusal on the part of the United Kingdom to send a team out here.

Some complaint was suggested or made that the Cabinet Ministers who are out here should have been given an opportunity to study the position of the sterling balances. I think that, with Hindustan and Pakistan in the balance, they have quite enough balances to deal with in addition to the sterling balances. I believe that they are deliberately refusing to be deflected from the main task with which they were charged.

With regard to the par of exchange, there again we have not sat idle. We have made two or three studies of it and we have had consultations with the Reserve Bank of India. I think it would be wrong to

[Sir Archibald, Islands]

We have reached. I do not think the conclusions will differ very much in six months' time from the tentative conclusions we have arrived at now.

As for Sections 40 and 41, there again, we are not set doing nothing. I have been discussing the matter with the Reserve Bank and also the question of financing the sterling purchases in India by different methods. I am not in a position to announce any final result. It is obvious that if India stays in the Bretton Woods Agreements, it will have to alter sections 40 and 41 of the Reserve Bank Act which, at the moment, compel the purchase and sale of sterling at a fixed rate. It may not suit India to follow sterling in the international fund at all and, as long as she is tied down by sections 40 and 41, she cannot do that. In any event, if India stays in the Fund, we shall have to change them.

There was one discordant voice. Mr. Deputy President. It was quite obvious that my friend Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiq, whose championship of the rules of the House I greatly admire, took the opportunity of being, what he normally is, a naughty boy. He believed no one was in step and he was the only one who was in step. I enjoyed his speech as I think he did himself. Among other things he chose to make a savage assault on two members of that courageous community, called the Muslims, which I think was a little unfair of him. However, he did not succeed in exhausting Dr. Zia Uddin. I pictured myself as a nurse with Mr. Manu Subedar on one hand and Dr. Zia Uddin on the other and with Mr. Tyson on one knee and Mr. Ayyangar on the other knee. I would have thought Mr. Ayyangar just about the right weight.

I do agree with the tribute paid by Mr. Tyson to the Governor of the Reserve Bank and I am glad to have the opportunity of saying that I have, from independent sources, evidence of the admiration which his dignity, his ability and his general handling of the situation evoked in Savannah in the recent negotiations. It was of the very highest.

I will not take any more time except to move the motion standing in my name.

Mr. Deputy President: The question is:

"That this Assembly do approve the course of action proposed in paragraph 4 of the Second Interim Report of the Committee on the Bretton Woods Conference Agreements presented to the House on Wednesday, the 17th April, 1946."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned *sine die*.

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