

CONTENTS LIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 1946

I Questions and Answers OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE II Voting of Demands UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ACT, 1935.

Volume II (Nos. 1-23).

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[Muhammad Raza Khan Sahib Bahadur] [2nd September 1946]

“Another difficulty of the members of the police force particularly in the lower cadre is the housing problem. Many a time some of the inspectors are transferred from one place to another, and when they come to the new places, they have to go about in search of residence, and sometimes they do not get it even for months. I am sure the Government will look into this matter. No doubt the Hon. Premier will say that the cost of construction has gone up and that it cannot be done. No matter what the cost is, proper housing arrangements must be made for them. As far as the City is concerned, we know that the police has been very vigilant in the matter of both prevention and detection, and we have really to pay a compliment to them.

“One other thing I want to bring to the notice of the Hon. Premier and that is about bucket shops. The other day we passed a vote that prohibition should be introduced in eight districts, because we know that people are getting ruined, and it is our duty to prevent them from drinking. Very great ruination is taking place particularly in the City of Madras on account of races. Whenever races take place in other parts like Poona, it is a common sight to see poor people earning one or two rupees a day losing their earnings at the bucket shops. I have to bring to the notice of the Hon. Premier that bucket shops are prevalent in the southern range. It is a common sight to see people betting one or two rupees and thereby losing all that they have with the result that it leads to their ruination. I want to know what proper steps are being taken by the police to put an end to this. In fact, acceptances are printed. I do not understand the necessity for printing acceptances, when the races take place in Poona. I want to know how it concerns the City of Madras. Of course, it is a sort of news item which the people can read in the papers. Therefore I feel that the Hon. Premier should devote his special attention to prevent these bucket shops, because they lead to the ruination of so many people. He might even pass an order that except for what is printed in the newspapers as a sort of news item, anything regarding races should not be published, because it is an incentive for the people to go to races. I am sure the Government will see that the bucket shops are completely banned. I do not know about the northern range. I am residing in the southern range where bucket shops are very much prevalent.

“One more thing and with that I will finish my speech. That is with regard to the representation of Muslims in the service. We feel that it is the duty of the Muslim members here to appeal for the proper representation of Muslims in the service, and it was rightly said by the Leader of the Opposition. Of course, the Premier will say that Muslims are there according to the communal Government Order. As far as the police force is concerned, you cannot apply the communal Government Order for reasons which are quite peculiar. When communal tension is there on occasions like this—not that I am casting reflections in any manner on the conduct of the police who have been fair to all communities—human nature being what it is, the composition of police force is questioned.

2nd September 1946] [Muhammad Raza Khan Sahib Bahadur]

If a police force is sent to a place, sometimes it contains a majority of Muslims, and sometimes a majority of Hindus, with the result that there is friction. As far as this question is concerned, I am sure that Muslims are taken more in the service, so that protection may be given both to the Hindus and the Muslims. Therefore I support the cut motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition.”

SRI T. S. PATTABHIRAMAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, while speaking about police force, I want to make it clear that I have absolutely no grouse against the underdog of the police department. Whatever criticism I am going to offer, it is only against the higher services of the police department. Sir, it is a common complaint to-day that the police administration has not changed its attitude towards the public, though a popular Government is in power in this Province. The police officials who occupy high positions are still arrogant and impertinent, and they feel that they are not subordinate to any one. I want to point out only one instance in this connexion. Recently a leading advocate of Salem, Sri N. S. Ramaswami Goundar, was openly assaulted and was asked to be dragged in the streets, when he was attending to his professional duties. In spite of the protest made by the Advocate, the Bar Association and the public concerned, I am sorry to say that the District Superintendent of Police has not taken action against the Deputy Superintendent of Police who was responsible for this. I want the Hon. Premier to see that the Deputy Superintendent of Police is properly punished for his arrogant attitude. Moreover, I am receiving complaints from the merchants of Salem that they are being ill-treated and put to a lot of shame. The law presumes that a person is innocent until he is convicted. But the police officials assume persons guilty even before conviction and heap indignities upon them. I request the Hon. Premier to see that these officers behave better, and they must be made to feel that they are servants of the public and not the masters.

“Sir, I have the greatest contempt for the Malabar Special Police Force. The Communist Member, Sri K. Ananda Nambiyar, referred to the Malabar Special Police Force. I have no hesitation in agreeing with him. They are recruited from a criminal class, the underdogs in the worst part of Malabar. They are recruited not only for Malabar, but for the whole administration. My Communist friends raise their voice only in 1946, but in the 1942 struggle, the Communists applauded them. I am glad that at least now every one of the Members of the House rose in condemnation of the Malabar Special Police Force. In 1942 atrocities were committed by the police in general and the Malabar Special Police in particular; many members of the Communist Party supported them. In 1942, these police officials committed excesses in the name of law and order. While heads of nations like Tojo are being tried as war criminals, what about these police officers who ordered wholesale arrests and torture in the country, and in Madras Province in particular? I want to cite only a few instances of the part played by the Malabar Special Police in Devakottai and Singanallur. I want the Hon. Premier to punish the man who was responsible to condemn Subbiah Thevar and his wife to

[Sri T. S. Pattabhiraman] [2nd September 1946]

unaccountable horrors. I cannot even describe them. It is too shocking for me to describe them. The District Superintendent of Police of Ramnad, who is now a District Superintendent of Police somewhere in a Tamil district, ordered the wholesale molestation of women in Devakottai taluk, and there was a Deputy who ordered a person to be put on a donkey and rode it down the roads of the village asking the people to beat him. I do not think that even the worst provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code will allow such powers to police officers. In Singanallur where barbarism ran amok, thousands of people in the villages suffered mostly at the hands of the police. In the name of these untold millions, I am asking that these police officials must be severely punished. I do not want the police officials to think that the Congress Government are going to fade away in a few years. The mentality of the police department has not yet changed. I want the Hon. Premier to take immediate steps to make the police officials realize that they are servants of the people, that they cannot commit excesses in the name of law and order and still live in this country. In 1942, I went to Singanallur. At 10 o'clock in the night, the Malabar Special Police halted there, and the police were allowed to loof, ransack and ravage and commit all sorts of horrors which even Hitler could not have thought of. I am sure that this Ministry will never tolerate whatever had been done. Whatever motive had been at that time, whoever had been responsible, those people must be condemned here and now. Then only the voice of the people would feel that justice had been done. So I request the Hon. Premier to institute an enquiry into the 1942 incidents. I agree with Mr. Hameed Khan that those police officers who discharged their duties according to law should not be punished. But I do want that only those police officials who arrogated to themselves the position of dictators in the Province and who exceeded the limits sanctioned by law should be punished. So I request the Hon. Premier, in the name of thousands of martyrs, men and women, who suffered at the hands of the Malabar Special Police, I want them to be tried and hanged if necessary.

"Finally, I want to make only one appeal to the Hon. Premier. The present police can never be trusted. Their blood is entirely saturated with imperialism. They cannot feel and move with the people. They can never act with the people. If you want our people's Government run with police administration, then make the police a people's police. For that there is only one solution. Create village police, the village volunteer corps. They can have police training, and they can be asked to run the police administration. You can retrench completely the police administration and have volunteer forces in every village. For example, prohibition is going to come. Blackmarketing has to be checked. The village volunteer force, with the help of I.N.A., will be a very good solution. I want those people who were harassed and blackmailed for taking part in the Congress movement and did their duty to their country should be rewarded. If a Cunningham can be promoted to an Inspector-General's place, there is no reason why men who have sacrificed everything for the cause of the country should not be rewarded?"

[2nd September 1946]

(After Lunch.)

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, when my hon. Friend, Mr. Nambiyar was frequently referring to the 'police,' I felt it rather sounded in my ears as if he was saying 'coolies.' And the psycho-pathology of our society is: the police are in the status of coolies.

"As I draw this picture I should only bring to the notice of the members of this House the London constabulary which has got an excellent and classic record. There every individual constable gets a salary equivalent to what a junior superintendent of police gets here. I believe we need not expect such wonderful standards of efficiency when we are affording niggardly emoluments for our constables. Mr. Speaker, after all it is a policy which cannot be gainsaid that it is pennywise and pound foolish to pay niggardly salaries and entrust them with the most sacred responsibility of preservation of peace. I say, this Black Monday, which has just witnessed the zero hour in our Indian politics, never was the preservation of peace so vitally important as now. And what is the force on which we have to rely for the preservation of peace? We want our constables to be adequately paid and to be safeguarded against the risks of the morrow. But wherever we go we see that these constables are drafted from the riff-raff in society and you cannot expect from them a high standard of morality. Offer them excellent emoluments, set a premium on educational standards for recruitment and then go into the country. And you will have an excellent police worthy of our Province.

"It is true that our Province enjoys a reputation for peace. Although in a few centres, quite recently, that peace was disturbed, still we are sure, with an excellent gentleman at the helm of affairs in our Province, we can expect the police to rise to the occasion and assure peace to safeguard the interests of the minorities.

"But I must say one thing: There are certain trivialities of paraphernalia to which I say the popular Government must cry halt. We would not welcome under the auspices of a popular regime that police authorities must still continue to be stiff-necked in appearance. We would not like the police authorities control the buses in the countryside as if they are monarchs of all they survey. Possibly there are other hon. Members of this House whose fate it was to go by buses in order to have contacts in the countryside and feel what a terrible agony it is to put up with the company of police officers. Quite often the police officer takes charge of an entire bus for private reasons. It may so happen that he would detain buses for hours together, notwithstanding the fact that the bus contains the tribunes of the people who have to voice their grievances here. I tell you, Sir, at dead of night, it was easy for us to have access to the Hon. the Premier during the recent riot at Vaniyambadi. But let me tell you this. How many of us can have that access even during the bright hours of the day if we want to report a matter to the police officer? The very look

[N. Muhammad Anwar Sahib Bahadur]. [2nd September 1946]

that he puts on, the very appearance that he has is so revolting and an anathema to our culture that a decent and responsible gentleman dare not go to the police station. I challenge any hon. Member who has gone to a police station to contradict me. Millionaires are horrified by the very expression that destiny should bring them to the police station. Sir, I must tell you there is one word which must be a priceless possession in our culture, a word which is conspicuous by its absence in the police vocabulary; the word is 'Please'. Has any police officer ever addressed you as 'please'? Has any police officer ever treated you as a gentleman? Has any police officer ever welcomed you with cordiality? When members go to represent the grievances of the poor there are no chairs placed opposite the sub-inspector. We must stand and be standing. Is it Tammany Hall? Is it Gestapo? And imagine the contrast when the Leader of the Opposition and ever so many members can gain access at dead of night to the Premier who was able to rise to the occasion, give the assurance that everything will be done in hours of need. But different is our story, on a lower plane, in regard to the authorities of the police department. These are things which go a long way to create the impression that there is still not a popular Government at the helm. Unless you eradicate these impressions from the authorities, unless you root out these paraphernalia, I do not think you have a right to expect that the people will feel that there is really a change in the administration. Sir, we miss the bus every time (laughter) merely because there is a police officer. There is a seat in the bus. It is reserved for the police officer. Heaven only knows when it will be occupied by the Police officer. I ask what right has the police officer to reserve the seat? It is a standing challenge to our self-respect. Apart from the sub-inspector, I was horrified once that even a head constable had the audacity to oust one legislator and occupy the seat. The other day it was so terrible for me that a leading member of the Congress party was disturbed from his front seat and the bus was taken over to the police station where the police officers seemed to have commandeered and then it took two hours before the bus left the headquarters. We do not see any popular regime in the country side. If the Hon. Premier wants to change the conduct of these people, it is easy. Most of these people are recruited from riff-raffs. You are responsible for them because you pay them niggardly emoluments. Give them a higher salary and status and they are bound to display a sense of culture in their dealings with leaders of public opinion. I want this ready assurance that the police department will conduct itself in a manner of cordiality with the public and let there be every assurance for the people that they can have a ready redressal of their grievances if they report any matter to the police.

"But there is one thing. You can increase the salaries of the police. You can augment the strength of the police. But for the preservation of peace every village must have a peace committee and that must be manned by the leaders of the village. They must be asked to give every co-operation to the police authorities in detecting crimes and in seeing that the undesirables are brought to the notice of the authorities."

2nd September 1946]

* SRI K. T. KOSALRAM : "Mr. Speaker Sir, எனது நண்பர் ஸ்ரீ பட்டாபிராமன் அவர்கள் 1942-ம் வருஷத்திலே போலீஸார் சட்டத்திற்குப் புறம்பாக நிச்சய அக்கிரமங்களைப் புறம் விசாரிக்க ஒரு கமிட்டியை நியமிக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார். அந்தக் காலத்தில் போலீஸார் என்னென்ன அக்கிரமங்களைச் செய்தார்களென்பதைக் கனம் பிரதமர் அவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவரவேண்டிய அவசியம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. போலீஸார் 1942-ம் வருஷத்திலே நடந்த போராட்டத்தில் பலரைத் தூக்குத் தண்டனைக்குக் கொண்டுவந்ததற்காக அவர் அல்லது சிறைக்கு அனுப்பியதற்காகவோ, அவர்களை விசாரிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் இப்போது சொல்லவில்லை. ஆனால் அவர்கள் மூன்றுமாத பெண்களைக் கற்பழித்தார்கள். பாமர ஜனங்களைத் தங்கள் வீட்டு அறையிலே பூஜை செய்துகொண்டிருக்கும்போது, அவர்களை வெளியே இழுத்துக்கொண்டு வந்து ரத்தம் கக்க அடித்தார்கள். அப்போது நடந்த சம்பவங்களைப்பற்றி நான் பல ஸ்டேட்மெண்ட்களை ரிக்கார்டு செய்திருக்கிறேன். அந்தப் போராட்டத்தை அடக்குவதின் பெயரால், சட்டத்திற்குப் புறம்பாக மக்களை ஹிம்ஸை செய்து, போலீஸார்—போலீஸ் டெபுடி சூப்பிரண்டென்ட் ராவ் பகதூர் அப்பாதுரை பின்னை அவர்கள்—பல லக்ஷக்கணக்கான ரூபாயைக் கொள்ளையடித்தார்கள். சட்டத்தைப் படுத்துகப்பதற்காக நாங்கள் செய்கிறோமென்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு மலபார் ஸ்பெஷல் போலீஸைக்கொண்டு ஒவ்வொரு கிராமத்திலும் வீடு வீடாகப் புகுந்து, சட்டிபானைகளை உடைத்து, அங்கேயிருந்த நார் கட்டில்களை 'பயனட்டால்' குத்திக் கிழித்து பெண்களைக் கற்பழித்தார்கள். இந்த ஹிம்ஸையின் காரணமாகப் போலீஸார் பல லக்ஷக்கணக்கான ரூபாய் சூரையாடி இருக்கிறார்கள். குறிப்பாக குரங்கணி என்ற கிராமத்திலே இந்த மலபார் ஸ்பெஷல் போலீஸார் ஒரு வீட்டிற்குள் புகுந்து, பல ஆயிரக்கணக்கான ரூபாய் மதிப்புள்ள நகைகளைச் சூரையாடியிருக்கிறார்கள். வீட்டிலேயிருந்த நவதானியம், அரிசி, கருப்புக்கட்டி, சர்க்கரை இவைகளின்பேரிலெல்லாம் மலஜலபாதை கழித்து மக்களை ஹிம்ஸை செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். இத்தகைய அக்கிரமங்களைச் செய்த மலபார் ஸ்பெஷல் போலீஸாருக்கு உடந்தையாகவும் அவர்களை இவ்விதம் செய்யும்படி தூண்டிக்கொண்டு பெரிய ஜில்லா அதிகாரிகள் இருந்தார்கள். அவர்கள் இந்த அக்கிரமங்களை யெல்லாம் பார்த்துச் சிரித்துக்கொண்டேயிருந்தார்கள். இந்த அக்கிரமங்களுக்காக மலபார் ஸ்பெஷல் போலீஸாரை விசாரிக்க வேண்டுமென்று நான் சொல்லவில்லை. ஆனால், அவர்களை எவ்விட்டு, அவர்கள் செய்த அக்கிரமங்களைப் பார்த்துச் சிரித்துக்கொண்டிருந்தார்களே அந்த அதிகாரிகளை நிச்சயமாகத் தண்டிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் பிரதமர் அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

"இராமானுதபுரம் ஜில்லாவில் என்ன செய்தார்கள்? அங்கே சப் ஜெயிலிலே பலபேர்களை அக்கிரமமாக அடைத்துவிட்டு அவர்கள் முன்னிலையில் அவர்களுடைய பெண்களைப் போலீஸார் கற்பழித்தார்கள். அப்படிப்பட்ட கொடுமையை எந்த அரசாங்கமும் சகித்துக்கொண்டிருக்க முடியாது. இந்த பிரிடிக் அரசாங்கத்திலும் இம்மாதிரி சாதாரண காலத்தில் சும்மா விருக்கமாட்டார்கள். அதிலும் இன்று பாபுலர் மினிஸ்டிரி அதிகாரத்திலிருக்கிறது. போலீஸார் சட்ட பூர்வமான காரியங்களைச் செய்ததற்காக, மக்களை சிறைக்கு அனுப்பியதற்காக, அவர்களைக் கண்டிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் சொல்லவில்லை. ஆனால், அவர்கள் சட்டத்திற்குப் புறம்பாக என்னென்ன செய்தார்கள், என்னென்ன லஞ்சம் வாங்கினார்கள், எவ்வளவு பணத்தைக் கொள்ளையடித்தார்கள். எவ்வளவு பெண்களைக் கற்பழித்தார்கள் என்பதை விசாரிப்பதற்காக ஒரு சரியான கமிட்டியை ஏற்படுத்த வேண்டும். ஒரு ரிட்டயர் ஜில்லர் ஜட்ஜ், இரண்டு அட்வகேட்களைக் கொண்டதாக அந்தக் கமிட்டி யிருக்கவேண்டும். அவர்கள் இந்த அக்கிரமங்களை, அநியாயச் செயல்களை யெல்லாம் விசாரித்து, உடனே சர்க்காருக்கு ரிபோர்ட் செய்யும்படியாகச் செய்து, அதன்பேரில் சர்க்கார் குற்றம் செய்தவர்களைக் கோர்ட்டு முன்னால் நிறுத்தி, அவர்களுக்குத் தண்டனை கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று பிரதமர் அவர்களை நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

"அடுத்தபடியாக மற்றொரு விஷயம் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். திருநெல்வேலி, இராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லாக்கள் போன்ற தென் கடைசி ஜில்லாக்களிலே சாதாரண போலீஸார், சப் இன்ஸ்பெக்டரையும், சர்கிள் இன்ஸ்பெக்டரையும், டெபுடி, ஜில்லா சூப்பிரண்டென்ட்களையும் 'எஜமான்'

[Sri K. T. Kosalram Nadar] [2nd September 1946]

என்று கூப்பிடவேண்டும். அவ்விதம் அவர்களைக் கூப்பிடவில்லையானால் அந்தப் போலீஸாரை, 'யாரடா நீ' என்று அவமரியாதையாக அந்த உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் கேட்கிறார்கள். மனித சமூகத்திலே இது எவ்வளவு கேவலமான செயலென்று பாருங்கள். நான் சப்-ஜெயிலிலே இருந்த போது அங்கே வந்த ஒரு சர்க்கின் இன்ஸ்பெக்டரை—சிவானந்தம் என்பவரை—ஒரு கான்ஸ்டேபில் எஜமான என்று சொல்லாமல் 'ஸார்' என்று சொல்லிவிட்டான். அவன் சென்னையிலேயிருந்து வந்த ஒரு கான்ஸ்டேபில். அதனால் சில நாட்களுக்குப் பின்னால் அவன் ஸஸ் பெண்டு செய்யப்பட்டான். இந்த மாதிரியான அக்கிரமத்தைப் படித்த போலீஸ் அதிகாரிகள் செய்கிறார்கள். 'பாபுலர்' அரசாங்கம் இருக்கும் போதாவது இப்படிப்பட்ட சம்பவங்கள் நிகழக்கூடாது. நிகழவில்லை பாது காத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டியது சர்க்காரின் கடமை. அடுத்தபடியாக, பொது ஜனங்களும், சப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டரையும், சர்க்கில் இன்ஸ்பெக்டரையும் 'எஜமான்' என்று கூப்பிடவில்லையானால், அந்த உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் கோபமாகத் திரும்பிப் பார்க்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் விஷயத்தில் ஏதாவது அநியாயத்தை இந்த உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் செய்துவிடுகிறார்கள். பொது ஜனங்கள் தான் அவர்களுக்கு எஜமானர்கள் என்று சர்க்கார் தெரியப்படுத்தவேண்டும். பொதுஜனங்களுடைய வேலையைச் செய்வதற்காகத்தான் நீங்கள் உத்தியோகத்திலே யிருக்கிறீர்கள். அவர்களுக்கு அவமரியாதையாக நீங்கள் நடந்துகொண்டால் 'நீங்கள் தண்டிக்கப்படுவீர்கள்' என்று அரசாங்கம் அவர்களுக்கு 'ஸர்க்குலர்' அனுப்பவேண்டும். அடுத்த மாகாணங்களிலே யிருக்கும் காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபைகள் இவ்விதம் செய்திருக்கின்றன. நம்முடைய மாகாணத்திலேயும் பிரதமர் அவர்கள் உடனடியாக இப்படிப் ஒரு சர்க்குலரை அனுப்பவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"அடுத்தபடியாக, நண்பர் கனம் ஷெட்டி அவர்கள், சர்க்கின் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள் எல்லோரும் தபால் பெட்டி ஆக இருக்கிறார்கள். சப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள்தான் அதிகாரிகளாக விருக்கிறார்கள் என்று சொன்னார்கள். சர்க்கின் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள் சப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டரிப்பிருந்து வரும் தபால் பெட்டி, ஜில்லா குப்பிரண்டெண்டுகளுக்கு அனுப்புவதைத்தான் செய்து கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். சாதாரண கேஸ் முதல் பெரிய கேஸ் வரையில் எல்லாவற்றையும் சப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்தான் "டிஸ்போஸ்" செய்கிறார். கிராமங்களிலே அமைதிக்குப் பங்கம் ஏற்படக்கூடிய விவகாரங்களிலெல்லாம் F.I.R. ஐப் பார்த்தவுடனே சர்க்கின் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்கள் அந்த ஸ்தலத்திற்குச் சென்று விசாரிக்கவேண்டுமென்று அவர்களுக்குத் தெரிவிக்கவேண்டும்.

"அடுத்தபடியாக, பஸ்களிலே போலீசார் செய்யும் அக்கிரமங்களைப் பற்றி யெல்லாம் எனது முஸ்லீம் நண்பர்கள் இப்போது சொன்னார்கள். இதுபற்றி எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். நமது பிரதமர், சட்ட மந்திரி அவர்களுக்குக்கூடத் தெரியுமென்று நம்புகிறேன். இதைத் திருப்பித் திருப்பிச் சொல்லவேண்டுமென்று நான் விரும்பவில்லை.

"அடுத்தபடியாக, போலீஸாருடைய சம்பளம் மிகவும் குறைந்ததுதான். அதைப்பற்றி சர்க்கார் கவனிக்கவேண்டியது அவசியந்தான். சம்பளம் குறைவு என்ற காரணத்தினால், அவர்கள் தப்பிதமாக நடந்துகொள்ளுவதை நாம் எந்த நிமிஷமும் அனுமதிக்கக்கூடாது.

"அடுத்ததாக, ஆங்கிலேய சார்ஜென்டுக்கும், இந்திய சார்ஜென்டுக்கும் சம்பளத்திலும், அவ்வன்விலும் பல வித்தியாசங்களிருக்கின்றன. ஒரு இந்திய சார்ஜன்ட் பி. ஏ. படித்திருக்கிறார். ஒரு ஆங்கிலேய சார்ஜன்ட் அதிகமாகப் படித்திருக்கமாட்டார். இருந்தாலும் இந்திய சார்ஜன்டைக் காட்டிலும் இந்த சார்ஜன்ட் அதிகச் சம்பளம் வாங்குகிறார். திருநெல்வேலியிலே ஒரு ஆங்கிலேய சார்ஜன்ட் Mr. மில்லர் என்பவர் என்னை எஸ்கார்ட் செய்துகொண்டு வந்தபோது, 'What is your qualification' என்று நான் அவரைக் கேட்டேன். 'Nil' என்று அவர் எனக்குப் பதில் சொன்னார். அவர் மிலிடரியிலிருந்து வந்திருக்கிறாராம். அவருடைய சம்பளம் ரூ. 225. ஆனால் பி. ஏ. படித்த ஒரு இந்திய சார்ஜன்டுக்கு ரூ. 75 தான் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. இந்திய சார்ஜன்டுக்கும், சப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டருக்கும் ரூ. 225 கொடுங்கள். நான் அதை ஆக்ஷேபிக்கவில்லை. ஆனால், மனிதனுக்கு மனிதன் வித்தியாசம் செய்யக்கூடா தென்று நான் பிரதமர் அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

[2nd September 1936] [Sri K. T. Kosalram Nadar]

"அடுத்தபடியாக, நமது தேசத்தின் ஒப்பற்ற தலைவர்களுக்கு மாலை போட்டதாக போலீஸார் சிலர் டிஸ்மிஸ் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதோடு, சமீபத்தில் கோவில்பட்டியில் நேதாஜி சபாஷ் சந்திர போஸ் படத்துக்கு மாலை போட்டதற்காக ஒரு கான்ஸ்டேபில் டிஸ்மிஸ் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறார். இது விஷயமாக அவர் சர்க்காருக்குப் பல பெடிஷன் போட்டிருக்கிறார். சர்க்கார் அவரை உடனே வேலைக்கு எடுத்துக்கொண்டு அதே கோவில்பட்டி ஸ்டேஷனிலே வைப்பதோடில்லாமல், அவருக்கு ஹெட் கான்ஸ்டேபில் வேலையையும் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* SRI NIVARTHI VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, 2-45 p.m.
Sir, within the short time of five minutes that is allotted to me, it would be difficult to deal with such an important and serious subject as the Administration of Police. Most of the members who have come over here and are sitting in this House have been the victims of the atrocities of the police at some time or other in their political career and therefore I need not labour on the point which I want to suggest, that the first step of this popular Government should be to 'nationalize' the police, that is to say, they should imbue nationalist spirit in the police and make the police, the People's Police. I do not find so far any indication that this thing is being attempted by the Ministry. The 1942 movement has brought home to us a number of lessons which should warn us against any sense of complacency. The Congress Government of 1937-39 failed to 'nationalize' the police and the patriots suffered during the 1942 struggle. We should not forget that we are still far from our goal of freedom and that that goal cannot be achieved unless we have the backing of all forces and of all the people in the country, including the Services. I know from history that the method of revolution has been adopted by some countries for the achievement of their freedom. The Services, if they are really imbued with a sense of patriotism and of righteousness of our cause, would easily throw themselves on the side of the people. But we have a different situation in our country. That is why I say that the 1942 movement has got a great lesson for us. That movement showed us how perfectly reckless and cruel our police force could be, how they could deal a heavy blow to our national prestige and how they could injure our national honour and human dignity. There have been many instances in the various districts where police officers have behaved in the most ruthless and atrocious and most inhuman manner, trying to inflict wounds on the patriots, not only on the body of the patriots, but also on their sense of honour and national self-respect and pride—which will take long to heal—and it is to this point that I should like to invite the attention of this House and this Government.

"In my own district of Kurnool, a number of patriots have been insulted and tortured beyond forbearance. I shall give a few illustrations of these things.

"One Mr. K. Chandramouleshwarau, B.A., an ardent Congress worker was severely assaulted by Mr. H. S. Krishna Ayyangar, who was then the Circle Inspector of Police at Patti-konda after he was arrested and he was subjected to all sorts of humiliations.

[Sri Nivarthi Venkata Subbayya] [2nd September 1946]

“Mr. C. Sivarangiah, another patriot was also very severely assaulted in jail by the same officer till he fell down. He was trampled upon under booted legs.

“I mention these instances, particularly, because of the inhuman and immoral conduct of the police officers. I submit that unless the police officers are made to realize the moral values in human conduct and in the conduct of the Government servants, it is impossible for us to control the police force. I therefore request the Hon. the Premier to go into these cases and see that those officers who were responsible for such wilful and immoral acts are properly dealt with, as the first step towards ‘nationalization’ of the police force.

“I shall give a few other instances. Mr. G. Hubboji Rao, Secretary, Kurnool Town Congress Committee and C. Ramiah, Congress worker, were beaten beyond endurance in the police lock-up. They were put in the lock-up for five days without remand and were not given food or water. They were tied hand and foot and beaten with sticks and kicked with booted legs and lest they should cry, their mouths were gagged with cloths when they swooned. The officers who were involved in this nefarious crime are Mr. Sundararami Reddi, Sub-Inspector of Police, Kurnool Town, Assistant District Superintendent of Police Mr. Subbanna, Circle Inspector of Police Mr. Sattar, Mr. Ramaswami Naidu, Circle Inspector, Mr. Venkoba Rao, Taluk Sub-Inspector, Mr. Ratnam, C.I.D. constable, Police constables Ranganna, Ramamurti Pillai, Chinnayya, Mohiddin and writer Mahaboob. There is no time to describe the various kinds of torture they were subject to.

“These police officers not only insulted and tortured them, but they slandered our revered leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Whenever they asked for water, they were offered urine or asked to go to Gandhiji and whenever he pleaded for mercy, he was asked to apply to Gandhiji. That is how atrocities were perpetrated upon our patriots in the 1942 August Movement.”

3 p.m. * BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I wish to strongly support the plea that has been put forward by the previous speakers with regard to increasing the pay of the lower staff of the police, namely, the constables, the head constables, the Sub-Inspectors and the Inspectors. Theirs, we all know, is a very hard task; hence it is very necessary that they should be duly remunerated so that they may be in a fit condition to carry on their onerous duties. Another point to which I wish to draw attention is that in these days it must be impressed upon the members of the police force in this Province, the necessity to be actuated by a spirit of impartiality in the discharge of their duties, irrespective of considerations of caste or creed and the policies of the political parties. Unless they do so, they will not be able to command the respect and the confidence of the people and maintain peace, law and order. In Britain, the members of the Civil Service are trained in traditions

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of absolute impartiality and neutrality to the political parties of the land, with the result that they serve the Labour Government to-day as faithfully as they served the Conservative Government. In a country like India where great divergencies prevail, it is of the utmost importance that all the officials and particularly the members of the Police force should be imbued with a similar quality. This is very necessary at the present time, because the bureaucratic regime is no longer in existence and power is vested not in a Coalition Government, but in a Government composed of members of one political party only.

“Another point that I should like to mention is that the members of the police force should learn to act as the friends and the servants of the people. We have had a number of speakers who have dilated on the arrogance of the police in the discharge of their duties. In Britain the policeman is most popular and is called by the affectionate name of Bobby for his readiness to help all—men, women and children. Likewise I want the police force here to earn the goodwill of the people and be their friend and helper. I also wish to emphasize that in a country like India it is undesirable to have the police force packed with members of one community only in any place. It is very necessary that a mixed force of police comprising members of different communities should be posted in as many places as possible, and particularly in regions where communal tension prevails or is likely to arise. To do so, it is evident that the number of Muslims in the police force should be increased; otherwise, it will not be possible to have mixed forces in the different areas.

“I now wish to advert to a grievance in regard to the police, namely, that the police force in this Province has failed to suppress the houses of ill-fame and gambling resorts. On coming to Madras, after residing many years in the mufassal, I was astounded beyond measure at the manner in which the houses of ill-fame had sprung up in the City and had been allowed to exist even in respectable localities and in important and conspicuous thoroughfares. The surprise is that the fear of the authorities does not drive the pliers of the nefarious trade into nooks and corners to evade detection. This speaks for itself about the lack of vigilance and interest on the part of the police to tackle the evil. This undesirable state of affairs has produced and is producing a most deleterious effects on the morals of the inhabitants of the City. I urge upon the Government to take stringent measures to eradicate the evil and also to sufficiently empower the police to tackle the problem, for the plea is often put forward by them that the Government have not given them sufficient powers to deal with the evil.

“The same holds good with reference to gambling resorts. These also have increased to an appalling degree. Since these gambling dens cause ruin to thousands of people it is urgent that the Government should take immediate steps to get rid of this evil also.

“I shall now refer to a recommendation that has been made by the Women's Sub-Committee of the Post-war Reconstruction

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Committee, viz., that women police should be appointed in this Province. Although over a year and a half has elapsed since this recommendation was made, the same has not yet been implemented.

"I wish to point out that it is necessary to appoint women in the police force as they would be very helpful in dealing with women criminals and juvenile offenders. It is a general complaint that the position of women victims of crime is often made miserable and intolerable by the men police; hence, it is desirable that the task of tackling the women criminals should be entrusted to the members of their own sex. The women police could take evidence from the women criminals, search them and accompany them to police stations. They could also be helpful in examining the age of girls. Besides, the women police is bound to be of great assistance in the working of the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act and the Children Act. In patrolling and raiding the houses of ill-fame, their co-operation would be invaluable. It is no longer novel in India to ask for women police. Since 1942, Bombay has had its women police force. Women have also been recruited to the police in the Punjab and Travancore. In each of these places, they are functioning very successfully, particularly in Travancore where women have made a mark in every department. I wish to point out that we do not desire women to be appointed merely as constables; we want women with due qualifications and a high standard of education to be appointed to the ranks of Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors as well to begin with.

"I understand that the Advisers' Government delayed appointing women to the police force because they were waiting for the members of the WAC (I) to get demobilized, whom they intended to absorb in the new department. These WAC (I) have now been demobilized. I am of the opinion that besides the WAC (I) there are many other women competent to be appointed to such posts. I hope the Government will be pleased to give due attention to this matter.

"With these words, I support the cut motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition."

* M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been mentioned by many of the previous speakers, this department has a very responsible and unpleasant duty to maintain law and order in this country and the constable who represents the main strength of the department is, as has been said, so niggardly paid and his pay does not stand a comparison even with that of the present-day postal runner.

"Sir, it has already been pointed out that the constable is serving under very different circumstances and very peculiar too. He has hitherto been serving the people through a foreign Government, but now he must be made to understand that he is serving a popular Government and a popular Government means, Government by the people and for the people. It is absolutely necessary that the police and the relationship between the police and the people must be reformed thoroughly. But this cannot be done

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by treating them in a spirit of unappreciativeness, not to speak of disappreciation. It should not be done by grudging them their legitimate due—I mean their pay and allowances and other emoluments, which they so richly deserve. To keep them above wants, they must be amply paid and they must be made honest. I would also request the present popular Ministry to devise ways and means to make the constable realize his position in a popular Government and to see that the crimes and atrocities which the policemen committed during the 1942-movement, and which many Members of this House described on the floor of the House to-day, are not committed any longer in the future.

"Sir, in other Provinces, the salaries of the constables, Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors, as also of the Deputy Superintendents of Police are far higher than those paid to the police officers in this Province. It is high time that this popular Government keep these faithful servants above wants by increasing their salaries accordingly. The Sub-Inspectors and Circle Inspectors are not provided with accommodation. The popular Government should consider this point at the earliest opportunity.

"Finally, Sir, let me once again appeal to the Government that the policemen who are supposed to be on duty for all the 24 hours in a day, and who are made the full use of, should be given a living wage, as has been urged even by our Communist friends here, to keep them above wants."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall content myself with stating what I consider to be an essential task of this Government, of reforming the entire police force of this Province on what I call a popular basis. I would not like, Sir, that either the morale or the efficiency of the police force should be impaired in any manner while this reform is in progress. If it is the function, as I assume it to be, of the police to protect the average citizen against everything anti-social from nuisance to crime, then, I say, Sir, that we should have an adequate police force in every area where the police is stationed, in order that the object may be achieved. I would, Sir, draw the attention of the Hon. Premier to this fact, that without increasing the number on the rolls, but with a careful redistribution of the entire force in the Province and of the reserves too, we can effect the change that I have in view. We have, Sir, it is true an inadequate staff in the rural areas. Very often when we visit a police station to make a complaint, we find that there is not even a constable to take note of the complaint. This arises because of the many exacting duties imposed on the policeman, such as guard and escort duty, treasury duty, express messages and the tardy manner in which their work is done is often the reason for few policemen being found at the station to attend to proper complaints.

"Sir, I would like this problem to be tackled in the following way. There must first be a redistribution of stations and every Sub-Inspector or whatever you may call him ought to develop a local sense. He must take the initiative into his own hands and

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p.m.

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not look for guidance from the centre as is often the case today. He thinks very often: "What will the Superintendent say if I take up this investigation? Or shall I allow my complaint book to be filled day after day so that my attention may be drawn at some stage by some officer or other and be told 'In your division or area crime is increasing and what are you doing all the time?' Or if few cases are booked he may come round and say that 'The public are not showing enough confidence in you, what are you doing my good friend?'" I want these two alternative positions avoided. We have multiplied our reserves three to four times during the last six years. I will invite the attention of the Hon. Premier to this startling development. There is the District Reserve, there is the Special Police Reserve—I want the name 'Malabar Special Police' should forthwith be abolished as it consists, as all other forces do, of the average men of our country—besides there is the Presidency Armed General Reserve. I want these reserves, Sir, to be redistributed so that each small police station may have a local reserve of 10 to 12 men, a more mobile reserve, each member of the staff being furnished with a motor cycle, so that the reserves can be thrown into any disturbance at the time when it is actually needed and may arrive there, and not as it often does today, arrive after the disturbance has started and much rioting has been gone through. That is my scheme for the redistribution of the reserves.

"There is another aspect that I would like to place before the Hon. Prime Minister. The numbers need not be multiplied at all as I said, but the standard of recruitment maintained must be very high. We must attract the best talent in this country to the police force. It is my opinion that this should be an educative force and not the present force that is engaged in the work of sometimes using too much force. Who would do a uniform, I ask, in the City on Rs. 22 a month and on Rs. 18 a month in the mufassal, if we insist that fairly high education should be the qualification for a constable or a head constable. I would like to see the day when the intelligent youth rush to police recruitment offices and ask for places in the force in order that they may guide the country along the proper path.

"Sir, the duty of a policeman whether he be an officer or a local petty servant, is to have a firm grasp of the crime potential of the area in which he serves and this you cannot get, Sir (Interruption) . . . Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan says it is right. Sir, this cannot be done unless you have the best recruits in the police force. We need have only local stations with adequate staff. We need not have all the post office officials, the Deputy Superintendents of Police, Inspectors, etc., multiplied indefinitely with their own offices. Sir, there is ample room for cutting down many of the high paid posts in the department. Give a good Personal Assistant to each District Superintendent of Police. This will solve many of the difficulties in the way of reorganization. This reorganization contemplates that the public and the police will act as one in any emergency. While I would ask the

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public not to impose too great a strain on the police force, I would like the police force to reciprocate in like measure by performing their duties and taking on their work as a truly educative one and win the confidence of the people and not rest merely on laurels won in the shape of police medals. I want, Sir, that confidence should be established in every police station. It should not be said, as it was very often said to me, that when a man went to register a complaint of theft at a police station, his wife refused to surrender her bangle for identification purposes lest the other bangle should be taken away and misused by the police. The test of a good police force is the confidence it inspires amongst the people. I want that confidence, Sir, which is sadly lacking today, to be restored in every police station, both in the urban and in the rural areas.

"One more sentence and I have done. There is a police maxim, I am told, that the country will get the police force it deserves. I agree. It is a trite saying. Even taking it to be applicable to this country, may I claim that we are on the average a very good and peaceful people and I feel that given high standards of recruitment and decent conditions of service, we will get an equally peace-loving but courageous police force, not a panicky one, which will take all the risks that come in its way, more often than not unawares."

* SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, போலீஸ் டிமாண்டை நான் ஆதரிக்கும் முறையில் நமது பிரதம மந்திரியவர்களுக்கு கிரிமினல் டிரைப்ஸ் ஆக்டின் கீழ் சில முக்கிய சமூகங்கள் பட்ட கஷ்டங்கள், கவுரமான ஜனங்கள் பட்ட அவதியைத் தெரிவித்து இச்சட்டத்தைத் திருத்த வேண்டிய அவசியத்தை வற்புறுத்த விரும்புகின்றேன். மதுரை, ராமநாதபுரம், திருநெல்வேலி போன்ற முக்கியமான ஜில்லாக்களில் சில குறிப்பிட்ட பிரதேசங்களில் வாழும் சில கவுரவமான சமூகத்தினர் அதாவது கள்ளர், மறவர் சமூகத்தினர் இந்த சட்டத்தின் கீழ் கொண்டு வரப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் ஏன் இந்த சட்டத்தின் கீழ் கொண்டு வரப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்களென்பதை நான் தெரிந்துகொள்ள முடியவில்லை. ஆனாலும் ஏகாதிபத்தியத்தின் சுரண்டல் கொள்கையைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களுடன் சூழ்ச்சியாக இருக்குமென்று நினைக்கிறேன். அவர்கள் பட்ட கஷ்டத்தைச் சொல்ல முடியாது. போலீஸ்காரர்கள் தாங்கள் இஷ்டப்பட்ட முறைகளைக் கையாளுகிறார்கள். சாதாரணமாக ஒருவர் ஒரு போலீஸ் காரனைக் கண்டதும் அவனுக்குச் சலாம் போடாவிட்டால் அவர் எவ்வளவு கவுரவமுள்ளவராயிருந்தாலும் சரி, பணக்காரனாயிருந்தாலும் சரி அதிகமாகப் படித்தவராயிருந்தாலும் சரி அவர் கிரிமினல் டிரைப் ஆய் விடுகிறார். அவர் ஸ்டேஷனில் வந்து படுக்க வேண்டும். இவ்வளவு தூரம் கஷ்டப்படும் நிலைமையிலிருக்கிறார்கள்.

"சமீபத்தில் மதுரை ஜில்லா திருமங்கலம் தாலுகாவில் நடந்த ஒரு சம்பவத்தைப் பற்றிச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ஒரு கிராமத்தில் சாப்ட்டுர் போலீஸ் ஆக்டிங் ஸப் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் மோட்டார் பஸ்ஸில் பிரயாணம் செய்ய வந்திருந்தார். அப்போது மோட்டார் பஸ்ஸில் கள்ளர் ரெக்ள மேஷன் ஸ்கூல் உபாத்தியாயர் முன் சீட்டில் உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டிருந்தார். ஆக்டிங் ஸப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் தான் முன் ஸீட்டில் உட்கார் வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லி உபாத்தியாயரை இறக்கிப் பின் ஸீட்டிக்குப் போகச் சொன்னாராம். அவர் தான் முன்னதாகவே வந்து உட்கார்ந்திருப்பதால் வேறு சீட்டுக்குப் போக மாட்டேனென்று சொல்லி விட்டார். அவரை அந்த ஆக்டிங் ஸப்-இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் அடித்து விட்டார். மேலும் அவரைப் போலீஸ் ஸ்டேஷனுக்குக் கொண்டுவர மூர்ச்சை போடும் வரை பலமாக அடித்து ஹிம்சித்தாராம். மேலும் அவர் பேரில் குடித்துவிட்டு கலகம்

[Sri R. V. Swaminathan] [2nd September 1946]

பண்ணினாரென்று பொய் கேஸ் போடுவதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள் என்று தகவல் வந்திருக்கிறது. இந்த சம்பவம் மதுரை ஜில்லா பூராவும் பொது ஜனங்களுடைய பெருந்த ஆத்திரத்தை உண்டு பண்ணியிருக்கிறது. இது என்ற சம்பவங்கள் C.T. ஆக்ட் உள்ள பிரதேசங்களில் எவ்வளவோ நடை பெறுகின்றன. எனவே இந்தச் சட்டத்தை அவசியம் அடியோடு ஒழிக்கவேண்டும் அல்லது குறைந்த பட்சம் திருத்தவேண்டுமென்று நாங்கள் பல காலமாகக் கிளர்ச்சி செய்து வருகின்றோம். சாதாரணமாக தனிப்பட்ட முறையில் திருடுகின்றவர்கள், வழக்கமாகத் திருடுகின்றவர்கள் இவர்களுக்கு ஒரு சட்டம் வேண்டும்; இவர்கள் திருடுவதிலிருந்து தடுக்கப்படவேண்டுமென்பதை நான் ஒப்புக் கொள்ளுகின்றேன். ஆனால் ஒரு சமூகத்தினரையே ஒரு கொடிய சட்டத்தின் கீழ் ஏன் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று கேட்கின்றேன். இதனால் கௌரவமுள்ள நிரபராதிகள் அநியாயமாகப் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். கள்ளர், மறவர் ஆகிய சமூகத்தினர்கள் முழுமையும் குற்ற பறம்பற்றையைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் என்று சொல்லி, அந்த சமூகத்திலுள்ள யாரையும் அந்தச் சட்டத்தின் கீழ் கொண்டு வரலாமென்று என்னுடைய மிகவும் தப்பிதமான காரியமென்று சொல்லுவேன். இதுவரை, கள்ளர், மறவர் சமூகங்கள் பேரில், மதுரை, ராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லாக்களில்தான் இந்தச் சட்டத்தைப் புகுத்தியிருந்தார்கள். இப்போது சென்ற வருஷத்தில் திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவிலும் மறவர்களிடத்தில் புகுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள். அந்தக் காலத்தில் ஜனங்கள் Backward ஆக இருந்தார்களென்றும் அவர்களை திறுத்துவதற்காக இந்தச் சட்டத்தைக்கொண்டு வந்ததாகவும் சொல்லலாம். ஆனால் இந்த 1946-ம் வருஷத்தில் இன்னும் இத்தகைய சட்டம் வேண்டும். அதன் மூலம் தான் அவர்களைத் திறுத்த வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால் இது மிகவும் பிற்போக்கான கொள்கையாக இருப்பதுடன் அரசாங்கமும், போலீஸ் டிப்பார்ட்மெண்டும் இன்னும் பக்குவமடையவில்லையென்று தான் சொல்வேண்டும். திருநெல்வேலியில் C.T. ஆக்டைப் புதிதாகப்புகுத்தியிருப்பதால் அந்த ஜில்லாவில் உள்ள எந்த மறவர் சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவரையும் இச்சட்டத்தின் கீழ் கொண்டுவரலாம். அப்படியானால் எனது நண்பர் துரைராஜ் பாண்டியன், M.L.A., திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவில் மறவர் சமூகத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர். எனவே இவர் கிரிமினல் டிரைபர் என்று கேட்கின்றேன். இவரைப் போலீஸார் இந்தச் சட்டத்தின் கீழ் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று நினைத்தால் கொண்டு வரலாம். போலீஸ்காரர் இவரை ஸ்டேஷனில் வந்து படு என்று சொல்லலாம். இந்தக் கொடிய சட்டத்தை ஒழித்துவிடும்படி. பிரதம மந்திரி அவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

“மதுரை ஜில்லா திருமங்கலம் தாலுக்காவில் கள்ளர் ரெக்ளமேஷன் வொர்க் நடந்து வருகிறது. அதனுடைய அவசியமென்ன. இங்கு குற்றம் செய்பவர்கள் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறார்கள், அவர்களைத் திறுத்துவதற்காகத்தான் இந்த ஸ்கீம் இருக்கிறதென்று சொல்லலாம். ஆனால் அதனால் இல்லையென்று நான் சொல்லமுடியும். நீண்டகாலமாக போலீஸ்காரர்களின் அக்ரமமான நடவடிக்கையின் காரணமாக அங்குள்ள கள்ளர் சமூகத்தின் பெரும்பாலான ஜனங்கள் ஜெயிலுக்குப் போகவும், போலீஸ் ஹிம்சையின் காரணமாக தலைமறைவாக இருக்கும்படியான நிர்ப்பந்தத்தில் அவர்கள் இருந்து வந்ததால் தங்கள் பறம்பரை தொழிலான விவசாயத்தையும் குழந்தைகளைப் படிக்க வைப்பது போன்ற குடும்ப காரியங்களையும் கவனிக்க முடியாத நிர்ப்பந்தத்தில் அவர்கள் பல வருஷங்களாக இருப்பதால், அங்குள்ள கள்ளர் சமூகத்தினர் Backward நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் இன்று இந்த நிலையில் இருப்பதற்கு, போலீஸ்காரர்களும் அரசாங்கமும் பொருப்பாகுமென்று சொல்லுவேன். Backward ஆக இருக்கும் இந்தச் சமூகத்தினர் வாழ்க்கையில் சகல துறைகளிலும் முன்னேற்றமடைவதற்குச் சவுகரியமான முறையிலே இந்தக் கள்ளர் ரெக்ளமேஷன் வொர்க் நடைபெறவேண்டும். C.T. ஆக்ட் நிற்பந்தத்திலிருந்து இவர்களை விடுதலை செய்த பின் சமார் மூன்று வருஷம் இந்தக் கள்ளர் ரெக்ளமேஷன் வொர்க் நடைபெற்றால் போதும். அவர்கள் அதற்குப் பிறகு அதை எடுத்து விடும்படியான நிலைமை ஏற்படுமென்று நிச்சயமாக சொல்லுவேன். இந்தச் சட்டம் அக்கிரமமான சட்டமென்று பலவருஷங்களாக கிளர்ச்சி செய்து வந்திருக்கிறோம்.

[2nd September 1946] [Sri R. V. Swaminathan]

பிரதம மந்திரியவர்களும் இந்தச் சட்டத்தின் கொடிய தன்மையை ஒப்புக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் காலம் தாழ்த்தாமல் உடனே சட்டத்தை எடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுவதுடன் அதற்கு முன்னதாகவே கள்ளர் மறவர்களாகிய பழமையான கலுவல் வாய்ந்த சமூகத்தினர்களை இந்தச் சட்டம் சம்பந்தப்பட்ட நோட்டீஸ்கேஷனிலிருந்து எடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்றும் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன். குற்றவாளிகளை தண்டிப்பதில் எனக்கு ஆகேற்பணியில்லை. 1942-ம் வருஷத்தில் ஆகஸ்டு கலவரத்தின்போது நடந்த கஷ்டங்களைப் பற்றி கனம் மெம்பர் கோசல்ராம் சொன்னார்கள், அந்தக் கலவரத்தில் நடந்த அக்கிரமங்களை சொன்னார். என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவிலே, குறிப்பாக என்னுடைய தொகுதியிலுள்ள திருவாலானை தாலுகாவிலே நடந்த அக்கிரமங்களைச் சொல்லுவதற்குக்கூட நாவு கூசுகிறது, அவ்வளவு அக்கிரமம் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். வீடுகளுக்கு நெருப்பு வைத்து கொளுத்தியிருக்கிறார்கள், பெண்களைக் கற்பழித்திருக்கிறார்கள், ஜனங்களைச் சுட்டுக் கொன்றிருக்கிறார்கள். அத்தகையவர்களைப் பொது ஜன சர்க்கார் வந்த பின்னர் குற்றம் செய்தவர்களை விசாரணைக்கிக் கொண்டுவந்து தண்டிக்க வேண்டாமா என்று கேட்கின்றேன். ஆகையால் விசாரணைக் கமிட்டி அவசியம் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this cut motion for the following reasons. In the first place, I would like to point out to the Government that it is the fundamental principle that loyalty of the subject is dependent on, and in consideration of, the protection given to the person and property of the subjects. It will also be realized by the Government that it was very unfortunate that soon after the present Government took up the responsibilities of Government we have had ever so many incidents which have shaken the confidence of the people both as regards security of person and property in this Province. No doubt people expected that when the Congress took the reins of the Government they would feel more secure as regards security of person and property than before this Government came into being. Whatever the reasons might be, it is quite clear now that there is a lack of confidence among the people as regards the security of person and property. In fact, on very many days when we get out of our houses we do not know whether we will be returning back safe. In fact, these remarks came from my mouth as I was thinking of my own personal experience. Recently when I was going to attend the Court and was travelling in a bus during one of those strike days, some stones were thrown at the but near the Pachaiyappa's College. One of my friends and myself very narrowly escaped being hurt. Sir, this is not the only occasion. There are so many other occasions when people find their position rather very risky. No doubt it might have been so under the previous Government also to some extent, but it cannot but be admitted that it has increased since the present Government came into being.

“One important matter, I cannot but refer to and that is the happenings in Vaniyambadi. It might be said that such things are occurring elsewhere also, but that was a very extraordinary happening and I say that that was due to the policy of this Government in regard to the food problem. I did not want to dwell on this question in speaking on this Demand, but still I cannot but refer to the reason for the things that happened there;

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that is, in the formation of the village committees the Muslims of Vaniyambadi demanded that having regard to the fact that 70 per cent of the population of that place are Muslims, they must be given 5 out of the 8 seats. The next day the Secretary of the Congress Committee came out with a list of 8 names, one of which alone was a Muslim, who was not a real representative of the Muslims, but some non-entity. That was the real cause of the trouble whatever might have been the incidents that led to it. What is it that happened? Properties, that is, tanneries worth not less than 15 to 20 lakhs of rupees were burnt to ashes all on a sudden and the pity of it was that the owners of the tanneries who were the residents of Vaniyambadi had to look at their properties being burnt to ashes, without not only being protected by the Police, but without their being able to raise their little finger to protect their own property. The behaviour of the Police on that occasion was really very deplorable, whether it was out of impotence or out of the idea that they were not bound to give immediate protection to the people concerned. Whatever the reason might be, the police failed in their duty to protect the property and person of these people, and that is very deplorable. Soon after this incident, we approached the Hon. Premier and I must express our appreciation of the readiness with which the Hon. Premier agreed to go and inspect the place and satisfy himself as to what had happened; many of us also went along with the Hon. Premier on that occasion to see how such valuable properties were burnt to ashes without being protected. The Hon. Premier has seen for himself what had happened there, no doubt, but I am yet to know what the result of that is. Sir, it is the bounden duty of the Government to protect the person and property of the subject and it is in return for such protection that the people owe their loyalty to the Government whichever the Government might be. Therefore I say that it is the bounden duty of the Government to enquire into this matter and to see what were the causes of such an extraordinary event. Has any such enquiry been made? Has the Government taken steps to see what were the causes of such destruction of property? Sir, not only this, but there have been subsequent incidents also of the same character in the same place even after the Hon. Premier's visit. Even very recently we have had accounts of private houses being burnt. Sir, this is not confined to Vaniyambadi. Similar disturbances have occurred also in some places like Ramnad. The Hon. Premier went to that place also and satisfied himself as to what had really happened. I would therefore request the Government to institute an enquiry immediately and see what were the causes and who were responsible for it and also see that the people whose properties have been so wantonly destroyed are compensated, because it is the bounden duty of the Government to protect the lives and properties of the people."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demand moved by the Hon. the Premier. In doing so, I want to bring to the notice of this House and the Government some atrocities committed by the Police department, especially in Salem

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district. In that district there are 70 Harijan constables but to my surprise these constables were not allowed to draw water from a well intended for constables for the simple reason that they happened to be Harijans. As a result of that, they have been transferred to various places and the police authorities—I mean the District Superintendent of Police—wants to provide them with water drawn from other places. But he will not allow them to draw water from the wells that were dug out of public funds. I request the Hon. the Premier to instruct the local police officials to see that all constables irrespective of caste, class or creed are allowed to draw water from one and the same well.

"As regards police officers, I do not see why they should be allowed to draw travelling allowance under the Madras Travelling Allowance Rules while other officers are given fixed travelling allowance. I should like to bring to the notice of the House that the Circle Inspector of Police and the Deputy Superintendent of Police have no work. They go out in the name of inspection of Police stations and stay in a place for 4 or 5 days. For work which can be finished in 5 or 6 hours they take 4 or 5 days. They do not do the whole work in one day. To-day the Inspector inspects drill, tomorrow he inspects kit, day after tomorrow he inspects rifles. I challenge, Sir, that no Circle Inspector knows how to do drill. So, Sir, the question of inspecting drill may be entrusted to the jamedars who will do the inspection much better than the District Superintendent of Police or the Deputy Superintendent of Police or any other Superintendent of Police. (Laughter.) Sir, these officers have been making much by way of travelling allowance for inspection. Sir, the Circle Inspector does not investigate cases at all. He is simply an inspecting officer. This work can very well be done by a Personal Assistant to the Deputy Superintendent of Police as my hon. Friend Mr. Varadachariar suggested.

"Sir, in this connexion, I repeat that the salaries of the constables and the head constables should be increased. A pay of Rs. 18 in the mufassal and Rs. 21 in the City is not sufficient and the pay must be increased. The saving which will accrue from the travelling allowance may be utilized for this purpose.

"As regards the District Intelligence Bureau, this came into existence in 1932. I do not know what it is doing now. The Bureau is spending Rs. 1,000 every month in every district. At that rate we are spending Rs. 3 to 4 lakhs for the whole Province. The people there have no work for more than two days a week. The strength of the Bureau may be reduced. It is enough if there is one head constable and a few constables. It is not necessary to have Sub-Inspectors and Circle Inspectors. They are mere appendages doing no work and they should be abolished.

"Now, Sir, in our country, people hate the police whereas in England the people like and love the police. What is the reason? It is because of the mentality of our police, that is to say, they behave in such a way as to create fear in the minds of the people

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and the people hate them in return. Though they are said to be the safeguarders of the law, they often take the law into their own hands.

"With regard to recruiting, I do not see any reason why the Harijan is in any way inferior or less qualified than others. I think they can very easily be recruited as police constables at least. What is required for recruitment as a police constable is that the man should be literate. But as the Harijans have no godfathers in the Police department, they are not at all recruited. Therefore while the Government are recruiting men for the police in future, they must consider the case of the Harijans and the I.N.A. people also.

"As regards promotions, as the Harijans have no godfathers they are not promoted at all. Men who are useful to the higher officials are promoted quickly. To-day one will be a constable, tomorrow he will be a head constable and in a very short time he will be a Sub-Inspector. Unfortunately the Harijan serves and serves and he will have to retire as a constable.

"Now Sir, as regards sub-jails, . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Sub-jails?"

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"I am not going to talk about jails now. I only want to refer to the mischief which the Police do in sub-jails. I speak from my own personal experience. These police officers go to the sub-jails during nights and try to make the accused there in the sub-jail confess or make some statements which they like. Such an incident happened in my own district, Sir, the Deputy Collector Mr. Prabhakara Rao and the police visited the sub-jail at about 12 o'clock in the night.

"Sir, the journalists are expected to report what actually take place. But for the simple reason that they report what actually took place, how are the police justified in assaulting them? . . ."

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p.m.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member's time is up."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was one important point urged by my hon. Friend, Mr. Town, viz., that the Government should not withdraw cases filed by the Police after due investigation till the Court delivers judgment. Lest this point should be lost sight of, I rise to emphasize that point.

"Sir, the Police investigate a case and on the evidence on record, they charge-sheet the accused. If the Government wants to interfere at that stage, you can realize how the police administration will be affected. Further, the people will lose their confidence in the work that is turned out by the Police. For some reasons of high policy, or where the offences are more technical offences, perhaps the Government, after the conviction is given, and on very rare occasions, may make the persons free or adopt

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such policy as they please. This is happening unfortunately in some districts where Members of the Legislature are trying to influence the Government before the conviction; even at the stage of investigation Members of this House try to bamboozle the Police officials. This is very very bad. I submit, Sir, that the Government should take a very serious view of this matter and adopt a definite policy of not withdrawing any cases at all when the Police have investigated into the matter and have filed the case up to the time the cases are about to go before the courts to be decided on their merits. Especially now, Sir, when we are separating the judiciary from the executive, there need not be any fear that the Police are likely to play ducks and drakes, that they would be doing the wrong thing.

"Now, Sir, intimately connected with this question is the necessity for impartiality on the part of the Police. As has been observed by some of my friends here, there are many political parties in the country. I belong to one of them, the Muslim League party. I know, that some gentlemen who call themselves members of the party to which this Government belongs, some office-holders of the Congress committees who are also members of the Legislature, actually terrorise and bamboozle the police officers and petition against them merely because those officers happen to belong to a certain community. Is that fair, I ask? Is that gentleman who is making an allegation against a police officer merely because he happens to be a Mussalman or a Christian or belongs to this or that party, say the Communist party, is it fair on his part that he should make an allegation of that kind? He should be a responsible man especially when he happens to be a member of the party to which the Government belongs. At the present time, this is the complaint made by the Communist party. In the past, some of the complaints made by the Congress party were well-founded; I now see that the Congress Government which complained in the past against the then existing Government that Congressmen were not treated well by the Police, are now taking advantage of the same thing, now that they are in power. I wish that every member of the Congress party realises his responsibility, especially because he belongs to the party in power. Therefore, Sir, the spirit of impartiality must be inculcated in the Police. They must be told 'You have no politics, you do not belong to this party or that party.' Let it be even the President of the Provincial Congress Committee, even in his case, you should not mind what he says, so long as you have got the evidence on record. I am sure, Sir, the Hon. the Prime Minister, as many people know, will certainly support the officer; it is his duty to deal squarely and fairly and with conscience, and I am sure he will not be afraid of this or that Congressman. That is very important. I only pray and appeal to the Hon. the Premier, we do not know what might happen in the future. The Congress party when they were opposing the then Government in power, wanted that that Government should be fair to all; that was when they were in the Opposition. I wish, now that they are themselves in power, they

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will be fair to others, they will be just to all other parties, even to parties which do not see eye to eye with them, even if they have to disobey under the orders of their High Command which may ask them to take steps which might not be legal or lawful."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion, so that we may elicit from the Hon. the Premier the policy which he wants to follow in regard to the Police department. As is evident to-day both in the streets of Madras as well as in many places in the Tamil Nad and other parts of the Province, everywhere the police atrocities are mounting up day by day. There are friends here who accuse the Communists for all kinds of trouble; even the Prime Minister has gone to the extent of saying that the Communists are responsible for all the strikes. I want to contradict this and to convey to the Prime Minister that the Communists are not at all responsible for the South Indian Railway strike and other strikes. It is clear that the South Indian Railway Manager wanted this strike because he wanted to crush the Union and to see that the workers were stranded permanently. It is the Manager that is responsible for the present strike and not at all the Communists. It is said from the League benches that Communists are responsible for the Postal strike. Sir, not that we do not support their demand; we do support the working classes and the low-paid Postal employees in all their efforts; but we did not give any trouble to the Government and the Ministry or take any political advantage of these things. We only wanted that their demand must be met. Suppose, Sir, the demands are not met; suppose the non-gazetted officers are not satisfied with the Government communiqué and go on strike, then is it proper for anybody to accuse the Communists, and say they are responsible for their strike? Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Prime Minister that utter injustice has been done to the Communist party in the name of the maintenance of law and order. Party members are arrested, repression let loose, our offices raided and publication of certain passages in our party organ in Malayalam prohibited. I would like to know in whose interest he wants to maintain law and order. Is it in the interests of the people or in the interests of the ruling class or is it in the interests of those who to-day have brought about the South Indian Railway strike and other capitalists? I would also like to know who has made this 'Law and Order'—is it the Congress Ministry? It is not the Congress Ministry, I know; it was British Imperialism which has created this law and order business, in order to keep us permanently under slavery. To-day we find the Andhra Kesari—some of my friends say he is now the Madras Kesari—is trying to maintain law and order for the sake of the British Imperialists, who are out to enslave us for all time, to smash every one of our attempts to free ourselves, and to see that British Imperialism reigns for ever and for ever in this country. I request, Sir, the Hon. the Premier not to indulge in such things, but to look into realities and see that justice is done to all parties alike. No doubt he may not agree with the Communist party, but at the same time, justice must be meted out to all parties alike; but

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unfortunately to-day it is nowhere to be found at all. If the Hon. the Prime Minister wants to maintain law and order, it is not at all in the interests of the people; it is more in the interests of Imperialism. We require law and order so that all our people should live decently and get a minimum living wage. To-day we see the municipal workers on strike; they are not treated properly; they are being given Re. 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 3; the police are set upon them and their heads broken. That is how things are going on to-day. I want the Prime Minister to maintain law and order and to see that the workers are not denied their right to live, that their right to existence is not curbed, and that they continue to have their right to strike. In these circumstances, when there is a strike, is it the duty of the Hon. the Prime Minister to help the Railway Manager with the Police? Sir, as I hear the incidents that are happening throughout the Presidency, I feel it is doubtful whether it is the Prime Minister that is ruling over the Presidency or it is the Inspector-General of Police or the Police Commissioner—it is really doubtful. I believe the Police are getting out of the hands of the Hon. Mr. Prakasam. I feel he has let loose the Police and to-day they are not under his control. If it is not so, can I expect the Prime Minister to order lathi charges so that the heads of women who are pregnant and of old woman are broken? A woman of 75 has passed away . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member say that a 75-year old woman is pregnant (Laughter)?"

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I do not know, Sir, whether a woman of 75 can be pregnant, but I said that a pregnant woman was beaten and an old woman of 75 years of age died, due to lathi charge.

"I would also like to bring to the notice of Government the action under section 144 on the general strike day. Even previously there were general strikes which went on peacefully without any untoward incident. But this time section 144 was promulgated. While peaceful meetings was being held in the beach, why should the Police interfere; why should the prestige of our popular Ministers suffer? What is there if people go on speaking at meetings? The meetings went on peacefully, there were no disturbances; then why should there be section 144 banning all meetings? There was a peaceful meeting, there was no stone-throwing; and yet where is the necessity for tear gas being used on them? League friends are telling us that formerly the Congress people were going against law and order and that to-day the Communists are following them. I am sure, Sir, even to-day the Congress people will not feel sorry for what they had done. For our part we are proud of it. But what I want to point out is that our Muslim friends have not had a taste of this law and order business. That is why to-day we see they have some sympathy for the Police. But if they have had even a bit of experience of the Police methods in regard to the maintenance of law and order, I am sure they too would have condemned the Police repression as Congress benches and we have done and condemned the Police using force against the public.

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"They feel some sympathy for the police people. Unfortunately, had they experienced a bit, they would have condemned them as every member of the Congress benches has done in regard to repression against the public.

"One more point and I am done. It is in regard to the expenditure that is incurred on this department. I do not know why the expenditure has increased so much. I find it has increased by 125 lakhs of rupees. It is not for increase in salaries of the ordinary police constable, it is mainly intended to increase the strength of the police staff unnecessarily. Some members speak as though they were doing in a free country. It must be remembered that we have not yet become independent. I presume this demand is not framed by the Hon. the Prime Minister—perhaps it has been framed by the Inspector-General of Police or the Governor. Where is the necessity for a mechanised police force? Let my hon. friends on the Congress benches please note that we have not yet become independent; still we are slaves. The Viceroy and the Governor are there; the Union Jack is still flying over our head. I submit that the expenditure spent on the Police department can be spent in the interests of the people in order that their demands are met.

"Coming to C.I.D. department, Sir, it was formerly intended for hunting the politicals and for harassing them. Even the previous Congress Ministry failed to remove this department. The previous Congress Minister has sermonised that there was some change of heart in the police, and people who have experienced the 1942 movement know what change of heart has been brought about in the Police department. After 1942 at least, it is known that there has been no change of heart in the Police; it is an imperialist machinery and we cannot expect any change of heart from them. In this connection, I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Prime Minister that a secret circular was issued—I do not by whom—that the whereabouts of the Communists must be known every time. If what I say is wrong, I request the Hon. the Prime Minister to contradict it and issue a statement to the effect that no such circular was issued in his name or in the name of the Government.

"The last point, I wish to touch is in regard to the Sergeants, because this point has not been dealt with by any of the previous speakers, and that is why I request you, Sir, to allow me some more time. I do not know why the Sergeant is on the scale of the Sub-Inspector. Whereas the Sub-Inspector is started on Rs. 75, the Sergeant is started on Rs. 275. After all, the duty that is actually performed by the Sergeant is merely that of standing as a traffic post and nothing more and why should there be a Sergeant on such a salary for this purpose, I cannot understand. Another point is some Indians are also appointed as Sergeants, but they are started only on Rs. 75, whereas the Europeans or the Anglo-Indian Sergeants are started on Rs. 275. Why this discrepancy? Why our own people are treated like this, I cannot understand. I therefore request the Hon. Prime Minister to look into this matter also."

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, on this important demand, speeches have been made both in favour of the Police and against them. This is the first Budget after we have taken up the office. The circumstances under which the last elections were held and the Congressmen were returned in a majority and the Government was formed four months ago are too well-known. There has been a confusion of ideas in the minds of some hon. Members of this House about the relationship between the Government and the Police department and this wrong impression naturally entered the minds of some hon. Members because of the conflict that existed between the party to which the present Ministry belongs and those who were opposed to it until the last elections. On account of that conflict and on account of the happenings after August 1942, it was felt on the one side that the Police had committed excesses in 1942, and on the other side, those who were in office and those who were trying to resist the rebellion, attempted rebellion or attempted revolution of 1942—the Government as it was then constituted—felt that the Congress Party was wrong in having started a campaign of such magnitude with a 'Quit India' policy and a policy that the last war was not people's war but a war carried on in the interests of certain countries that were interested in gaining supremacy. The Congress Leaders after their release from jails described some times the '1942 Struggle,' call it by any name you like, as a revolution or an attempt at revolution or a rebellion or an attempt at rebellion, although it was not a war, similar to the one that had been carried on from October 1939 between the belligerent countries of the world, a world war bigger than the first world war; although it was not a war of that type, for internal freedom it was a fight that had been carried on for a very long period culminating in the struggle of 1942. One side attempted to suppress the revolution or attempted revolution, and on the other side, people asserted for the first time with a violent force—after all Congressmen had been thrown into prisons—each side used force and violence. The Government tried to suppress the rebellion or attempted rebellion with all the force it could command, with all the weapons it could command—not the ordinary weapons but the extraordinary weapons, bombs thrown from above. On the other side, the general public, having risen, they joined issue as it were with the Government and they carried on a violent struggle throughout not only this Presidency, Sir, but throughout the whole of India. Excesses had been committed on the part of the Government in attempting to maintain their position; sometimes these excesses destroyed even villages wholesale and there was even a general massacre as it were. Excesses had also been committed on the side of the people who had risen in rebellion by setting Government properties, or anything that came in their way, on fire, destroying and interfering with the railways or other things. These were all signs of revolution. That is the picture of the 1942 struggle. During that period, properties of many innocent people who were not politicians, who were not Congressmen, had been destroyed; during that period, the

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Government properties or the properties belonging to those who supported the Government also had been destroyed or attempted to be destroyed. From out of that the general election came up and this Legislative Assembly and the Council had been formed and after their formation, this Ministry was formed. Very peculiar position it was, Sir, in the constitutional struggle of any country or any two countries or more countries in this world. Those who succeeded in the election came into office, took up the reigns of the administration; and they had to carry on the administration. The Police force and the other forces that were supporting the then Government were opposing and attempting to defeat the opponents who have now come into office—it is a very peculiar position for those who have come into office to carry on the administration and a very peculiar position for those policemen or officers or others who had been helping the then Government as against the Congress or other people who are fighting for freedom. We forget now and carry the wrong impression with regard to the relative position of the Government and the Police department or any other department connected with the Government. It is only natural that in the minds of the police who had helped the previous Government and who had tried to defeat the Congress and others who tried to defeat the then Government, it is only natural that some policemen should be thinking, 'they were the officers who under the then circumstances were obliged to fight those who have now come into office and support those who were carrying on the war against these people. How could these people consider us? Would they consider us fairly or would they carry a prejudice in their minds?' That is the sort of apprehension that entered the minds of some Police officers or those who were backing up the police officers. On behalf of us who constitute this Government, I declare as I had already declared—as some of my hon. Colleagues have also declared whenever opportunity occurred—that this Government, not even one in this Government, will carry any prejudice in their minds against any people (hear, hear) when they have once taken up the reigns of administration. All people living in the country, irrespective of the fact to whichever party they belonged and to what extent the fight was carried on, they are all people for whom this Administration has to be carried on. We have undertaken this task—we declared so in the past, other hon. Members also had been declaring—and I am declaring once again to-day, because a good part of the discussion turned round this feeling of suspicion or fear or doubt in the minds of some officers. No Government can be carried on as some of the hon. Members have stated, if they should think that the department of Police which is now serving after we have taken up office cannot be relied upon because they all once acted the other way on account of the discipline to which they had been subjected. In the same manner the opponents, the Congress people, had been subjected to a disciplined life in carrying on everything they had been ordered to carry on. We have been trained not for one or two years but for over twenty-five years—we had not known what was called

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discipline in this country before this new era commenced and before the Congress organized itself. Not only Congressmen who actually got their names enrolled in the Congress register but the general public as a whole had been disciplined and they had learnt the spirit of discipline. Obedience to discipline has been imbued(?) in the nation's mind and but for that, this struggle could not have been carried on for such a long time and in the manner in which it had been carried on with varying results and varying fortunes. Therefore, the police obeyed and carried on the directions given by the then Government. The police as disciplined people were carrying on their work under the same discipline even now. Therefore it has become a very difficult question for some of us to answer the question raised, in regard to the 1942 rebellion that when excesses and atrocities were committed by the Police, how can they be forgotten or forgiven? For my part, as one who has been thinking independently for myself without any violation of the principle laid down by the High Command, this has been a problem for discussion within myself and also with some other friends in other Provinces as to how we are to treat this matter of 1942. I am a man, Sir, who has been going up and down to see things for myself. Soon after my release from jail, I had been to the southern districts to attend some conferences. I had been taken by my friends to see places where damage has been done, and places where shooting had been done and the bodies had been left. It has been an anxious period for me. That is how I regarded this 1942 excesses. Years rolled by. Now we have taken up the administration into our own hands. What are we to do with the Police forces that had engaged themselves against the Congress in those days? How are we to carry on this administration? What is it that we have to do with those policemen who were obliged to act according to the direction and orders of their superior officers or the Government itself? On our side, to be more correct, for the side of the Congress to which we belong, the misery, loss of life, and the loss of property during that struggle caused either by the police or by the Military or by the Aircraft or whichever was behind that power, cannot be estimated and no action could be taken on the loss of life, on the loss of property or the other things that happened to the people of this Province. Can we now estimate the losses sustained by the Congress people and the Congress Party as a whole? Can we lay action against the opponents—the Advisers' Government or the British Government or the Viceroy's Government—to recover compensation for all the losses sustained by the people; a peculiar constitutional matter which has to be considered very carefully to decide these 1942 excesses. I had some little idea of how this question was being considered in other Provinces. I know something. Sir, from the present Congress President and I am not free to disclose it now. There was a funny incident that happened on the floor of this House. My hon. Friend, Mr. Salam gets information from various quarters on various points. He charged me with having received instructions from the Congress President, Pandit Jawarlal Nehru, as to how the Congress Party

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should be strengthened according to the instructions given by him. I contradicted the statement straightaway. I do not mean any offence against any newspaper; it was not a newspaper in this Province, but some newspaper published something in Upper India. The Congress President had reason to fear that I might have disclosed a letter which had been addressed to me. Then serious consequences might have followed. Hon. Members gather something here and something there and make a statement on the floor of this House, without knowing the consequences. That is why I am referring to this not because that anything serious has happened now but because the matter concerned is one of an all-India policy. We have to carry on our business in such a manner. We did not do anything wrong in understanding or in executing our own resolutions. Therefore, I tell hon. Friends from this side who pressed for investigation and enquiry that they should be patient. I cautioned one or two friends personally already but because they were vexatious of the happenings during that period and because they could not restrain themselves, they expressed their feelings in this House to-day. I appeal to them; the Government have not been idle; they have not been deaf and they have not been blind. The Government must have time to consider everything and decide matters. I fear we have digressed rather very much from questions raised during the Police demand.

“So far as Police officers are concerned—I mean those who have any impression that they might not have security at the hands of the Government because they are the people against whom they were obliged to take action in the past—I say to them that all such ideas should be dismissed from their minds. It is quite wrong on the part of anybody to imagine that this Government will have any ill-feelings or will be prejudiced against them. I give them the assurance that the Police department is not different from any other department of Government that has been attached to Government; and it is with that department that we now in Government are carrying on our administration. I appeal to the Police officers, whatever may have been their feelings at one time, not to give out anything doubting their security under this Government. I want to clear that position. But at the same time, it must be remembered that we are all human beings; the members of the Police force are human beings; members of the Congress organization are human beings and members of this Assembly and of the general public are all human beings and they naturally carry their feelings in their minds as they are neither gods nor saints. Some of our friends have been feeling that even though they had committed excesses at that time under discipline and under orders of the powers then ruling the country, they have not changed their hearts and that their treatment of people is just the same as it was when they were serving another Government and they ask in despair: ‘How are we to get along with such men?’ I have given them the warning and I tell them now that doubts and suspicions are not the things with which you can carry on any administration; but at the same time every

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member on this side of the House is bound to do his duty when he finds anything wrong done by any policeman or officer. It is not good cluttering up your minds with old feelings saying: ‘We could not trust these people and this department is not good’. If we proceed upon that basis, what is the alternative? The alternative will be to dismiss all the people who had served the past Government and were against this party at that time and to bring into being a new Police force—this at a time when you have no time to think of it and at a time when all the forces have combined against you and they have come upon you and you are obliged to depend upon this Police force. That is what has happened and we have been obliged to take the help of the Police—not by the Germans, not by the Americans, not by any foreigner but by our own people here who have been doing their best to put us in the wrong and to show to the world that we are not fit to carry on this administration. Therefore, I say it is neither possible nor proper for us to say that all policemen for their sins of the past should be sent out and a new force must be brought into existence. I say it is improper and it is an impractical proposition. Therefore, it is that we are obliged to deal with matters with the Police force as it exists to-day. The question will be in what way the policemen who had been acting against us in the past will do now, and whether they have been doing anything wrong in the struggles that we are getting through now. If there are any men in the ranks who commit anything wrong—I myself heard of a case where a policeman did not hesitate to declare that he was himself a Communist—we must not jump to conclusions but cause an enquiry to be made to see whether there is any truth or whether it is a myth like so many myths that have been created by individuals with fertile brains. Let me take the remarks of my two hon. Friends Mr. Nambiyar and Venkateswarlu. When they begin an attack, there is no end to it. (Sri P. Venkateswarlu: ‘That is due to repression.’) My hon. Friend carries my sympathy with him. What is the position taken by those two friends? They are two in a House of 215 and they represent the Communist Party. I do not know what the part taken by them had been and what their position has been, by which they had come into such conflict with the Police. I do not mean to suggest that when there are excesses, they must not complain. The rights that they espouse must not come into conflict with the rights of peace-loving citizens. I myself have a complaint—not my own personal complaint—which I am trying to investigate with the help of the departmental officers and so, I will not say that Communist members of the House or outside should not complain. I say to my friends of the Communist party that they can carry on their agitation and they can do whatever they like, but subject only to the rights of others. I have given some of them friendly advice because out of enthusiasm they did not understand the exact results of their utterances. When I was returning from the south, I stopped at Golden Rock with a view to see how things were going on. Communist representatives met me as also the Railway officers including the Government of India Commissioner of Railways and the

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General Manager of the South Indian Railway. They met me and I tried to find out everything from them and to make them understand the situation in the country with regard to food and I told them my mind. I did this in a purely individual capacity and did not attempt to play the part of an arbitrator or to take evidence. I thought that a settlement was very near at hand and suggested to them that if they could abide by what I said they might meet me so that we may follow up. But they quietly slipped away. That is what happened before this strike started. Regarding what was happening at Golden Rock, without entering into the attacks that have been made against the Police force and without repudiating any of the personal allegations, I might straightway say this that the Police force there was working so well. They found that they had adopted a new kind of strike, the stay-in strike. We have known other kinds of strikes and this is a new weapon taken from the Communist armoury of France. These gentlemen go to the workshops, sit there and make it impossible for the loyal workers to do their business. It will be impossible for any proprietor or for anybody to live peacefully in this world if the stay-in strikes are considered lawful strikes. The law of the land is there and no man is entitled to enter another man's property and make lawful work impossible, thereby trespass and challenge the whole order of society. This is the thing that Communists started in Golden Rock. Our duty is not to enter into a controversy between various parties. Our duty as a Government is to enforce law and order and to give protection to those who have to get their food. I do not wish to say more about the stay-in strike. The stay-in strike was continued for a time. Afterwards feeling that anybody would take exception to their course of action for lack of lawful notice, they went to Trichinopoly and notice was given and they started the South Indian Railway strike. The Golden Rock strike was left out and the South Indian Railway strike commenced. It was practically a challenge against us. The food position had to be managed. Food had to be taken and distributed to the various towns and villages. It has so happened in this country of ours that we are obliged to depend upon supplies from outside for our food and for our existence. Any responsible person will understand how people in distant country parts will be affected for want of food. Everything should come to a stop. That will be net result.

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“If food will not move about, if starvation comes out and if people die, it is all because of your wonderful activity, which makes it impossible for anybody to carry us.” (Laughter.)

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Were not your actions in the past the same?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Because freedom of speech is given, people indulge in all kinds of speech outside. For making speeches here, there is some excuse, but, Sir, outside, do you know what speeches have been made by these people? When the proper time comes, hon. Members will understand what

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speeches were made, what their position is, what their liability is, and what their duty is to their countrymen and here. (Hear, hear.) Sir, the strike broke out; the first day was over, the second day was over and the third day passed on and also the fourth day. All honour to those who started the strike who wanted to impress on the outside world that this strike is going to make this Government yield! It is for the railway men to understand that this Government have nothing to do with the strike. Because the railway runs within their jurisdiction they have to take cognizance of it. It is only by way of general goodwill that my good offices were requisitioned. Then what happened? Fish-plates were removed; and as reported in the papers, bombs were put on the line; of course, as to who put them nobody can say. All this comes out as a challenge. It is all the responsibility of the Communists. And how did this wonderful struggle of the Communists result? They found their way into Malabar. (Laughter.) Malabar, they thought, was a fertile ground for their activities. (Laughter.) They made their calculations, plans and schemes. But under Muhammadan leadership, the Mappilla population of Malabar carried on their avocations in a steady manner without being upset. In Malabar there is a Communist paper called *Desabhimani*. Through that medium they called upon the Mappillas to rebellion. They were reminded of the Malabar tragedy. But all attempts failed. Because of the activities of the Communists, we are not able to bring food to the people. There is no use of carrying on propaganda that they are out for wrecking this Police raj, they are out to break our back or they are out to break your back. People have taken up the whole cause in their hands in this Presidency, and so no one would countenance the proposed strike. Under such circumstances, the Police had to be sent up for giving protection to person and property. All along the line they were posted. It is not a small line; it runs to 1,500 miles. Without protecting the whole line, how is safety possible? I am saying this here, on the floor of the House that they cannot carry on this sort of campaign with a view to coerce the public and the Government. What is there at the back of these attempts? In every strike that is started there is a leader or general. Without him, no strike can come up. The unfortunate people for whom we have been labouring all these days, the working classes are the persons who are affected by this. With regard to the Madras strike two persons came to me this morning as the leaders of the people. I told them, ‘Why are you dragging these unfortunate men and women? I, as Prime Minister, assure you to go and tell them that we are considering the matter. You better take them home instead of dragging them here.’ One hon. Member who was present there to pacify them had not even the courtesy and decency with regard to the expression he used to such people. We have not been working against the interest of any of these people, who want an increase in salary or allowance. They say: ‘You say that you will give something which we have demanded, then we will call off this strike.’ Our Government is determined to do what is possible to do; the Commissioner is a heroic man; he has put up with these workers,

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men and women. You have also stated that on so many points he has yielded; there is only a small thing remaining; why do you want the Prime Minister to interfere? Government have got enough strength, enough knowledge, enough understanding; it knows for whom it is working; so it is no good of carrying on this sort of pretension that the Government is working against them. When I came out of jail I saw matters have gone adrift. It took me six or seven months to disillusion the people in the villages from the mischief caused by the Communists for full three years unchecked. I am not here to talk of politics at this distance of time. It is all past history. When we came to office we extended our hand of help and co-operation to the Communists, who did their best to bury the Congress during the last three years. (Sri P. Venkateswarlu: 'Not in the least.') It is on record, Sir; it has become a matter of record, not by word of mouth. You did everything to show that we have no following. Even persons who were sentenced to death and for transportation for life were released by us. What is the net result? The next day you turned the whole thing against us. There must be a limit for this sort of thing. We have to do things in a straight manner instead of doing things round and round and making it impossible for ourselves and others to do anything.

"I took some time to deal with this matter, because it has an important bearing on the position of the Police in the Government. There is an impression in the minds of the people that Government is different from the Police and the Police are different from the Government. Both are identical. Whoever breaks the law, be he a Congressman or non-Congressman, the Police will be up against him.

5 p.m. "The Hon. Mr. Muhammad Ismail, Leader of the Opposition, approached this question in a quiet and straight manner, and examined it dispassionately whether for a vast country like this, this strength will be sufficient and whether people can get protection for the person and property if anything untoward happened. Therefore, he suggested that it must be made very much stronger. My hon. Friends referred to the village Police officers. In due course, when the time comes when every man becomes a soldier in this country, when every man knows that he has to defend his own person and his own property, and when the village Police organization comes into being, there will be sufficient numbers in the country, and there will be no running about for this or that station. It is this Police force that has been doing the whole business, and has been standing by the Government and also by the people. There is no good of simply attacking the Government on old slogans or on new complaints. I tell hon. Members who have got new complaints that new complaints will be enquired into. If special references are made, they will be enquired into and will be remedied. But do not make yourselves impossible people in the world, and do not make any attempts to make it impossible for this Government to carry on the work in a peaceful manner.

"The Leader of the Opposition has said that Muslim representation has not been sufficient."

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* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir, I did not say that the Muslim representation such as was insufficient. My point was that the Muslim representation much be much more than what it is now and for very sound reasons. In this connexion, the communal Government Order is not to be taken into consideration. That was my point, Sir."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I am much obliged to the Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Sir. If he had not corrected me perhaps I would be wasting some time on this matter unnecessarily. When it is conceded that there is no question of communal representation in regard to this matter, I leave it there.

"One thing in this discussion that I would urge upon the members of the Opposition and all hon. Members of this House is this. For reasons beyond our control we have got into this state of mind not only in this Province but in other Provinces also, perhaps in the rest of the world also. It should be the aim of any people, any nation, any country, to minimise the divisions and differences that have come into existence on account of this drifting of this world. The main point has been missed, and as I have already stated on one occasion, Sir, by thinking that there is something in a particular office or in a particular set of offices, these divisions have arisen. I am appealing once again to all hon. Members of this House to remember that it is not round about those offices, whether they are High Court Judgeships or any other offices, from the top to the bottom, that the freedom of the country or the power of the people, in a constitutional sense, hinges. The power is that power which the people of the Madras Presidency to-day are exercising for the benefit of the five crores of people living in this Province. How will that be done? That will be done with regard to the various departments of life which have been embraced by the people who are not in this House, people who are not Ministers, Judges, Clerks or anybody. All these people are now living outside, doing some business, or trade or agriculture. It is those people that have to be protected. It is for that purpose that every one of us should aim as far as possible to make this country really self-governing. Therefore, I say that this communal representation or any of these things is a drop in the ocean. The big ocean is there. If you make a list of all the appointments that are existing under this Government and count them, you will see crores of people are outside. If the offices are filled by us for our own interests, we will become unpopular and lose this office in no time. Therefore, we must strengthen our position, we must strengthen our country, and see that differences between Congress and League also disappear. That is my desire. (hear, hear.) So often it was very near settlement, but it went off for some reason or other. It should be our aim to do that business.

"Mr. Town made a very great speech to-day dealing with this matter. Mr. Town has been sitting here to hear hon. Members of this House talk freely and express their opinions about the

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Police force. The Police must remember that they are the servants of the people, that they are the servants of not only the Ministry, but are the servants of the people. In the view of some hon. Members sitting behind me, the old strain has been going on when they were talking. That line of thought, the old prejudices could not be removed from the minds of some officials; not only the Police, but even the Revenue officials. Even to-day there are some officials who are counting upon what is called indiscipline. When an order is given by a recognized Government, no officer is entitled to disobey, and say 'I am thinking in a different manner. Therefore I would do it in my own manner.' The moment you think that you have that freedom you will have no place there. Whether it is the Revenue department, Irrigation department, Labour department, or any department, they are the servants of the people, and they have to carry out the orders of the Government in the way in which they have been ordered to do. That sort of indiscipline here and there appears, but we have to deal with that position also.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the question of payment to Police; various causes—cogent causes—were given. Some of the hon. Members very often state 'You have doubled your salary, why not you double the salary of others?' I do not quarrel with them for that prejudice. All these people have been working for at least 150 or 200 years under the British administration. To say suddenly that during the last four months after we have taken up office 'you have doubled your own salaries, you have been denying this right to others, every trouble is due only to your not having lifted them up to the same level to which you have raised yourself' is not correct. We have been struggling to find out how we can square up all these matters. It is not a matter that can be settled all at once. For 150 years the British administration has been built up in this country. It has been carried on from this Fort St. George over all the 24 districts. Are these salaries created by the new Government after they have come into existence? These salaries ought not to have been existing like this, Sir. I knew what the village officers were getting. Village officers had once the powers of a Collector. They were doing everything. All the powers they possessed. They were getting their income in a different manner in those ancient times. But ever since the British administration came, it has been put in quite a different manner. Let hon. Members look back into the whole thing and consider how these services on Rs. 6, Rs. 5 and Rs. 3, had been spread over the whole country. Even at that rate, it comes to crores of rupees. Therefore, I will repudiate the suggestion that things have been brought into existence by any of us. These are things which have been there for nearly 150 years. These are the salaries, a pittance, upon which these people were asked to live and they had lived. These people will have to be enabled to get their rations, their food, and their cloth.

"It is the duty of this Government to do all it can possibly do to bring about such a consummation. That is our aim. Therefore it is not proper to say that the police man's low salary is due

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to our having come into existence now. The policeman is after all one who was paid very small amount say Rs. 6 or Rs. 7. To have reached Rs. 18 is reaching heaven in the system of Government composed as it is in which we have to live. It is that thing that we ought to change. Let us not carry any wrong notion about the low salary of these people. If the policemen have been getting very low pay it is also because in those times with a single rupee they could purchase so much and live comfortably; a single man earning Rs. 8 could protect a family of eight members or seven members. Some suggestion has been made that these people have been taking bribes. A man drawing 18 or 19 rupees is charged of taking a two-anna bribe or four annas bribe. It is most unfortunate for the State as well as the people themselves. People should not be put under those impatient conditions. In any Government men should not be put in such a position. The Leader of the Opposition was referring to the Vettis and Talayaris. I know much about them and I would plead more for them than those people who get a voice to agitate and correct. We are endeavouring between the village Talayari and the helpless man. We are hoping, Sir, that even in the villages beggars have come to stay. Even that we will remove. I have no quarrel with those who criticise the low salary of the police officers.

"Now, Sir, one point was raised that some interference is caused by some Members interfering with the administration of justice and some people calling upon the Government Members to withdraw the cases that had been filed against them by the police. So many things happen in this country of ours on account of people not knowing law or procedure. Popular people and even hon. Members of the Assembly rush up to the Government and say: 'There is a popular Government without withdrawing their case and quashing the conviction. That is a false case.' Demands will be made like that. But they are made out of ignorance. I had to tell them that it was out of ignorance that they make that demand. Ordinarily cases launched in a court of law should not be interrupted or taken back here under ordinary circumstances. But I do not agree with the rule that is proposed by some of my hon. Friends that it must be a hard and fast rule. If it is a case, Sir, that cannot stand on its legs even for a second and if the facts are known then the case will have to go. Unless one ceases to be a human being one must know facts as they come. Administration must run in a proper way and when courts are exhausted, if there are other remedies they can be sought for from the Government. Therefore, I agree with those who stated that there should be no interference with the administration of justice or even with the administration of a Government.

"Lathi charges had been referred to. There are many friends who have been victims of lathi charges during the last 25 years. I must say here that lathi charges should not be resorted to lightly by Government officers. That is not a thing that would be recognized as a wholesome method of controlling. (Mr. Abdul Hameed

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Khan: 'Light lathi charges are impossible.') Mr. Hameed Khan says that light lathi charges are impossible. I am not sure whether he had a taste. I know he had a slap on the cheek sometime back and that was at Ottapalam in Malabar."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. Such a thing did not happen."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Perhaps it was not he. It was his associate who happened to be with him, the late Raman Menon. So the hon. Member could not have had a taste of lathi charge. Lathi charge should not be resorted to by police officers. If life becomes impossible to the police people and if they are compelled, it will be a recognized method, recognized in law itself for the sake of self-defence. So far as we are concerned ever since we came to this office it has been our endeavour to make our officers understand that lathi charges should not be resorted to for no cause. Firing also should not be started without proper cause and without proper notice. These things are general rules laid down in courts and constitutions themselves. Now, Sir, the hon. Members who have been opposing us as a party pointed out to us that ordinary picketing had not been allowed by the Police in the Madras City. That was the representation made to the Government. Our Government have made it quite clear what is ordinary peaceful picketing, when it will cease to be peaceful picketing and when it will become violent picketing? It is with that margin that these people have been making this complaint that lathi charges were used and that they were not allowed peaceful picketing. Rules are laid down there and if one goes on with hands folded to observe those rules not one man, not even the most violent policeman would be able to do anything wrong. We have been doing our best to maintain the position of the labourers' strikes. We never gave any room for any complaint. But, if they are created in such a manner that we are compelled to deal with them, we are obliged to deal with them."

"Various suggestions have been made with regard to police reconstruction and reorganization. We have noted with great care all the suggestions made and all the plans suggested and we will do our best, Sir, to understand the position and adopt the suggestions without doing any violence. From this the police departmental heads or officers should not understand that the whole thing would be revised by us in a manner that will not be conducive to the continuance of their duties in the way in which they have been trained. With regard to that, whatever suggestions have been made if they are reasonable even without disturbing the present order of things they will be carried out. As Mr. N. S. Varadachari said that is the way in which the suggestion can be carried out. That is the way in which we can understand and we shall try to give effect to that advice given by the hon. Members of the House. If there are any points omitted by me they will be looked into."

"We are now nearing the end and approaching the guillotine process. This is an important matter and two more demands will

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come now. If these three are carried on with a limited number of speakers coming up and without taking much time you will be able to finish your work. Before closing I must request hon. Member who moved the cut motion to consider whether he might not withdraw the cut motion and allow the demand to be passed."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XV—EDUCATION.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The House will sit till 8 o'clock and if necessary till 9 o'clock and finish the demand."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I submit, Sir, this is a very important demand in which most of the members of our community are interested. I may suggest we stop at 8 and continue to-morrow."

MR. H. S. TOWN:—"I agree with Mr. Hameed Khan. I must go away at 7 o'clock anyway."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from 1st of May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 6,59,12,700 in respect of the head "Education." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 10,38,454.'

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir. I have given notice of ten cut motions under this demand. In the first place I wish to state that the Muslims of this Province are very much perturbed over a new rule that 20 per cent of admissions in two types of professional colleges are to be on the basis of merit. This has created an alarm in the minds of Muslims as to what next is to follow. They fear that this is but the thin end of the wedge and that very soon even the communal Government Order in regard to appointments will be cast to the winds. The conviction is firmly rooted in the minds of Muslims and I may say also in the minds of non-Brahmins and the Scheduled Castes that the plea of merit has been advanced merely to benefit one particular section of the people. This conviction is amply borne out by the facts as is evident from the figures that were supplied to us the other day with regard to admission in the Engineering College. But I wish to ask: is it conducive to the well being, to the happiness and above all to the much-needed peace of society, and is it in consonance with the principles of true democracy that a section of people who constitute but three per cent of the population and who are already educationally advanced should be given all facilities, all advantages, in regard to education, while the remaining 97 cent languish behind, not because they are inherently backward but for sheer lack of opportunities to come forward?"

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It must be remembered that educational institutions are subsidized by the tax-payers comprising not one or two hence every community, and every community should be afforded facilities in regard to every branch of education. There is a bright future for the engineering profession as it is bound to play a prominent part in the coming era of industrialization of the land. Is it then proper on the part of the present Government to deny to Muslims, non-Brahmins and the Scheduled Castes the opportunity to play their part adequately in the industrial development of the country? The other day the Hon. the Minister for Public Works stated that the reason for the paucity of Muslims in his department was lack of qualified men. The Government on the one side place restrictions in the path of the Muslims who wish to get qualified and on the other side put forward the plea of lack of qualified men. Is this, I ask, a reasonable procedure, a fair procedure to adopt? It may be recalled that the last Congress Government abolished the College Selection Committee. In a like manner, one of the first acts of the present Government had been to curtail the facilities, and opportunities available to Muslims and Scheduled Castes in the matter of education. The Post-War Reconstruction Committee, of which I was a member, specifically recommended that the special concessions, and the special measures that were in vogue in regard to the education of the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes should not only be continued in the post-war era, but should also be increased. This is a wise recommendation, for it is urgent, it is imperative that the communities that are not educationally advanced should be afforded opportunities to come to the level of the others that are more fortunately placed. Social justice, I submit, demands this; the well-being of the country requires this, for no country, I wish to emphasize, can rise to the height of progress and prosperity until all the sections of its people are allowed opportunities to advance and until all the weak links of its chain are made strong. But what did the Congress Government do? Very soon after assuming power with one stroke of their pen they undid the above recommendation of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee and far from increasing the facilities for education of the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes, they have taken steps to curtail them. What is the reason that a Scheduled Caste College had been recently established in Bombay? It is not because the members of that community are imbued with sectarian motives; it is not because they wish to be exclusive and shun others; it is not because they are not animated by national ideals. It is simply because it is a vital necessity, it is an urgent desideratum for the uplift of that much-neglected community that sufficient opportunities should be afforded to its members for receiving higher education which are denied to them in other institutions (hear, hear) so that more and more members of that community might be in a position to fill high offices and serve the nation in the distinguished manner in which you, Mr. Speaker, are doing. (Hear, hear.) Just as the denial of educational opportunities to the Scheduled Castes has led to the establishment of a scheduled caste college. In a like manner,

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it is the withholding of educational facilities and opportunities from the Muslims that is one of the main reasons that impels them to demand separate institutions for themselves. Mr. Speaker, I wish to point out that it is not merely the Muslims who are opposed to the Government's new measure. As a matter of fact, the majority of the population of this Province comprising the non-Brahmins and the Scheduled Castes are also opposed to it. The Congress calls itself a democratic organization. I wish to enquire: is it democracy to flout the will, to disregard the hopes and aspirations of the majority of the people of the land and impose upon them a measure that is detrimental to their interests? I urge upon the Government to rescind their new order in regard to admission to the Medical and Engineering Colleges in due deference and in due regard to the principles of democracy.

“ Another matter which is considerably agitating the mind of the Muslims is the new rule in regard to instruction being imparted in the regional languages. This is a measure that will turn backward the hands of the clock of Muslim progress. (Hear, hear.) For Mr. Speaker, it is one thing to be taught through the medium of one's mother-tongue, but it is quite another thing to be taught through the medium of a regional language which is not one's mother-tongue. I wish to emphasize that in the large areas of this Province, the mother-tongue of the Muslims and their regional language are not identical. The other day I was amazed beyond measure to find the Education Minister insist on holding that the mother-tongue of the Muslims of Andhra Desa was Telugu, a notion which he seems to have formed from some representations made to him by certain non-Muslims. But I wish to ask: is the fate of Muslims to be decided by the opinions of non-Muslims? Is it for the Muslims to say what is the mother-tongue or is it for the Hindus to say what is the mother-tongue of the Muslims? I want the Education Minister to take a plebiscite of the Muslims of Andhra Desa and find out for himself whether their mother-tongue is Urdu or Telugu, and then decide upon the course to be adopted.

“ A glance over the pages of history reveals that one of the first 5-45 acts a foreign Government, in every country, has been to destroy p.m. the people's language and culture and impose its own language upon them. The present Congress Government who represent not all sections but only one section of the people of the Province, are pursuing the policy of a foreign Government in trying to impose their own language and culture upon the Muslims. This is bound to inflict deep wounds in the minds of Muslims, which will not heal easily, and which may give rise to undesirable repercussions. Is it proper, I ask, on the part of the Congress Government on assuming power to inflict such wounds on Muslim sentiment? I wish to point out, Mr. Speaker, that the Urdu language is the repository of Muslim culture, Muslim traditions, Muslim hopes and Muslim aspirations. Hence no attempt should be made to depose this language from educational institutions. Muslims desire that they should be taught in the Urdu language

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in all places where their mother-tongue is Urdu. In view of the fact that the new rule of the Government is going to produce request the Hon. the Minister for Education to urge upon the Government to ponder over the matter and make due provision for Muslims in regard to their education, firstly by providing them with separate institutions, and secondly by arranging parallel classes for Muslims in Urdu in all common institutions where the regional language has been introduced as the medium of instruction and which does not happen to be the mother-tongue of the Muslims. As a matter of fact, each district should be provided hereafter with a High school for Muslims.

" I now wish to deal with the subject of basic education which, I understand, is engaging the attention of the Government and which they intend to put into force within a short time. I wish to state that the Muslims are definitely opposed to the scheme, firstly because it is too craft-centred and involves the exploitation of the child and secondly because it is devoid of religion. According to Islam, no education is worth having unless it is animated by religious ideas. Hence I request the Government not to impose upon Muslim children this materialistic scheme which is entirely opposed to the notions of the Muslim boys. If they so desire, the Government can introduce the basic scheme in the non-Muslim schools but so far as Muslims are concerned, I request the Hon. the Minister for Education to leave them alone in this regard. Mr. Speaker, I may point out that Muslims are very particular about religious education. They know that the world has been brought to this present awful state of confusion because religion has been eschewed from educational institutions. Therefore Muslims want religious education to be imparted in their schools and even in their colleges. In this connexion, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister for Education to the fact that in district board schools due attention is not being paid to religious education of the Muslims. I would adverse effects upon the education of Muslims, I urge upon the district boards not to be neglectful in regard to this matter.

' Another matter to which I wish to invite the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Education is the inadequacy of Muslim representation in the Educational department. We need many more Muslim Educational Officers and, above all that we need not merely a Deputy Director of Public Instruction, but a Director of Public Instruction to be in sole charge of Muslim education, so that he may co-ordinate all future plans in regard to Muslim education and formulate proposals to accelerate the pace of Muslim advancement in the sphere of education. I do not see why there should not be a separate department for Muslim education just as there is a separate department for European education.

" In regard to posts in the educational services, I wish to point out that so far Muslim women are concerned, there is need to appoint more Muslim women as Sub-Assistant Inspectresses of

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Schools. I also wish to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that with the exception of but one Muslim woman who has been recruited to the Madras Educational Service in this Province, no other Muslim woman has so far been appointed to any gazetted post. It cannot be urged that this is due to the fact that qualified Muslim women are not available. I may point out that there are a good number of Muslim girls who have secured high second-class passes in the M.A. and have also undergone L.T. training. I may mention that one of the girls came first in the whole Presidency in her L.T. But, Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot about the paucity of educated Muslim women. What is the fate of this poor girl? In spite of her coming first in the University, she had been given a mere non-gazetted appointment in the new Muslim Women's College. So, I request the Government that when vacancies arise in the future in the gazetted ranks, they should employ a larger number of Muslim women to them.

" [With reference to Muslim education, there are many other to which I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Education. One of these is the need to increase the salary of the present Principal of the Government Muhammadan College, because with the introduction of the Honours course and the Science courses, the Principal of the institution has to shoulder a very heavy responsibility. It is therefore but reasonable that his salary should be increased. As the present Principal is one who is highly qualified and eminently suited for the post, I may inform the Hon. the Minister that the Government Muhammadan College to-day is not the same as it was during the days of the last Congress Ministry, who wanted to abolish the institution. This college is to-day a premier institution in this Province; hence it should be treated on a par with the Presidency College of this City.

" With regard to other matters, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Education, first and foremost to the urgent necessity of constructing at an early date a suitable building for the new Muslim Women's College. In order to give sufficient facilities for higher education to Muslim girls, which were not available to them in the Queen Mary's College and other institution in response to the request made by me to the Post-war Reconstruction Committee and in compliance with the wishes of the Muslim public in general, the Advisers' Government established a college for Muslim women at Madras. (Cries of 'Hear, hear.') This college is now located in the buildings of the Government Hobart High School as a temporary measure. The Advisers' Government had decided that a suitable building should be constructed soon for this college. But I am surprised to find that no definite provision has been made for this item in the Budget. You can well realize, Mr. Speaker, what a keen disappointment it is to the Muslim public to find that no specific and definite provision has been made for this purpose in the present budget. I note, however, that a provision of Rs. 1,70,800 has been made under the head 'Postwar Reconstruction' against the item 'Other Contingencies.'

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I have been told that this amount is really intended for the purpose of construction a building for the new Muslim Women's College. It will greatly ease the minds of the Muslim public if the Hon. the Minister for Education will state that this amount is really intended for putting up a building for the Muslim Women's College. If, however, no provision has been made in the present budget, I request the Government to make due provision for this purpose in a supplementary budget, because it is very urgent that this new college should be provided with a building without delay. At present both the Hobart School and the Muslim Women's College are suffering under a severe handicap, because they have to carry on the work of two institutions in the limited accommodation, intended for one institution only. I therefore request the Hon. the Minister for Education to take all possible steps to see that this college is provided with a new building of its own, before the next academic year.

"It is also necessary that the Government should increase the number of secondary and training schools for Muslim girls throughout the Province. In the Ceded Districts, despite the fact that the population of Muslims is fairly large, no provision has been made for high school education for Muslim girls. Although the Muslim public have been demanding a high school for Muslim girls at Kurnool, we find that only a middle school is provided for them even now. I request the Hon. the Minister to take immediate steps to raise the middle school for Muslim girls at Kurnool to the status of a high school.

6 p.m.

"I should also like the Hon. Minister to make enquiries about the middle schools for Muslim girls at Guntur and Bellary and see whether they also can be raised to the status of high schools immediately.

"Another point to which I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister for Education is that Muslim women teachers are suffering great hardships in the mufassal for lack of suitable residential quarters. Some of these teachers are at present allowed to reside in the hostels, but this is not proving a satisfactory arrangement, because most of the teachers have their families living with them. I therefore request the Government to take early steps to provide separate quarters for Muslim women teachers in all schools in the mufassal.

"Another matter to which I must refer is the urgent necessity to provide a suitable building for the Islamiah High School at Trichinopoly."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, on a point of order. I find that the Hon. Minister for Education is not listening to the speech, being delivered by the hon. Member."

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I was listening to some other person."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister is now listening."

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* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Sir, I was referring to the Islamiah High School at Trichinopoly and the urgent necessity to provide it with a suitable building.

"Since the Hon. Minister has visited the school, it is unnecessary for me to describe the difficult conditions under which the pupils of that institution are prosecuting their studies at the present time and have been doing so for the past quarter of a century. I understand that the Adviser's Government had selected a site for this school and had also given sanction to acquire it. With reference to the site I believe that some objections. . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has taken half an hour."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"But I have many points to cover."

(Voices: 'She is the mover of a cut motion.' 'We are surrendering our right to speak.' (Mr. H. S. Hussain Sahib: 'The whole time for the discussion of this Demand may be given to the lady Member to speak.)

"Sir, I understand that the Advisers' Government had given sanction for acquiring a site for the above school. In regard to this site, however, I believe certain objections have now been raised and the proposal is that a new site be selected. But my fear is that the effect of this proposal will be that the whole scheme will be shelved. Since the above school has been without a suitable building for the past twenty-seven years and since its need in regard to suitable accommodation is very urgent, I request the Hon. Minister to see that the scheme is not shelved but that, on the other hand, immediate steps are taken to push it through so that the school may be provided with a suitable building at an early date.

"There is another matter to which I wish to invite the attention of Government and that is the necessity for giving the above building grants to the Islamiah High School, Ambur, and for improving the status of the munshis. These items cost the Exchequer much. After all, the finances of this Province are very sound and satisfactory at present and the above items can well claim a small amount for satisfying the needs of the people.

"I now wish to deal with the question of the increase in the number of students that have been admitted this year in the various colleges. Mr. Speaker, I am one with those who hold that it is necessary to afford greater facilities to the youth of the land for higher education, because I am aware that an increase in the number of university students will serve, in the words of Newman, 'to raise the intellectual tone of society to purify the national mind, to cultivate the public taste and to give enlargement and sobriety to the ideas of the age.' It is a mistake to suppose that there are too many universities in this land or that there is a plethora of university students. As a matter of fact, in proportion to her population, India is perhaps the most backward of the advanced countries of the world in the matter of university education. In India the number of students in the various universities

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in relation to the entire population is 1 to 2,206. In pre-war days it was 1 to 837 in Great Britain; 1 to 227 in the United States of America and 1 to 300 in Russia. Thus it is a mistake to suppose that higher education has reached the saturation point in India and that the time has arrived to cry a halt to it as the last Congress Government were inclined to do. (A voice: 'Hear, hear.') Hence it is necessary that sufficient facilities should be afforded to the youth of the land for prosecuting higher studies. This the Government should do not by casting to the winds all considerations of efficiency and pressing upon the colleges to admit numbers beyond their capacity; this the Government should do not by throwing their own burden on the universities, but by opening more colleges and devising other ways and means of solving the problem. Overcrowded lecture-rooms, Mr. Speaker, and over-tired lecturers, are hardly conducive to the high standard which a university should maintain. I wish to point out that the existing institutions are already so over-taxed that one more straw will break the camel's back. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to devise suitable ways and means of tackling the problem of higher education and not to put off any further the scheme for the bifurcation of the studies, for, such scheme will serve to solve the problem of higher education to a certain extent by diverting many students from the university to other courses. The Government should also expand commercial and technical education.

"I wish also to draw attention to the urgent need to appoint at an early date a Deputy Directress of Public Instruction which post has been kept in abeyance for a number of years past. I brought forward a resolution on the subject at the Central Advisory Committee on Women's Education last year. That resolution was duly forwarded to the Government, but, although a year has elapsed, we do not yet know as to when the proposal will be implemented. I may point out that at a time such as this when the Government are expending elementary education not merely for the boys, but also for girls, there is urgent need to have a Deputy Directress of Public Instruction who could co-ordinate all future plans in regard to girls' education and also formulate proposals for the rapid advancement of women's education. After all it is a woman alone that can visualise the needs, requirements of girls and women. I may point out that at present girls' education is suffering much in the rural areas. I understand that 75 per cent of the school going girls in the rural areas are attending boys' school. What happens is this? When in a rural area there is a girls' school as well as a boys' school, the latter draws away pupils from the former. This is proceeding to such an extent that it is becoming exceedingly difficult for a girls' school to exist in a rural area where there is a boys' school. Therefore I urge upon the Government to make it a rule that in a rural area where a girls' school has been provided, the boys' school should not admit girls unless the headmistress of the girls' school declines to take any more pupils for lack of accommodation. There is also need to increase the inspecting staff for girls' school. I know that even this year, the post of an additional inspectress of girls' schools has been sanctioned, but even this is not enough. We want more sub-assistant inspectresses as a whole.

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"Now, with regard to the Sub-Assistant Inspectresses of Schools, I wish to suggest that their name should be changed into that of Deputy Inspectresses of Schools, because there is no intermediary between them and the Inspectresses of Girls' Schools. When men officers of the same rank are given the appellation of Deputy Inspectors of Schools why should the women officers be called by a name which connotes inferior status.

"I shall now turn to adult education which, I am sorry to note, has not engaged the attention of the Government. It is true that they are pushing forward elementary education, but that by itself is not enough. For the liquidation of illiteracy, adult education should form an integral part of any scheme of compulsory education. The pace at which literacy has advanced in this country during the past decade indicates that it will take at least 140 years for illiteracy to be liquidated.

"Even when compulsory education becomes the rule, I think it will take not less than 50 years to attain cent per cent literacy. Adult education is too vast a problem to be tackled by voluntary agencies. Unless the State comes forward to play its part and help voluntary efforts in a liberal manner the success achieved by the latter is bound to be negligible. It has been calculated that adult education throughout India for the next 25 years will cost something like Rs. 42 crores. This works out to Rs. 2 crores per annum for the whole of India. Now assuming that one-tenth of this amount would be necessary for our Province, the amount required for the Province of Madras to launch upon a wide-spread scheme of adult education would come up to about Rs. 20 lakhs per annum. I find Mr. Speaker, that the Government derive.

8-15
p.m.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has taken already 45 minutes."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"One more minute, Sir, and I shall finish. The Government derive an income of Rs. 116 lakhs from the Entertainment Tax every year. Just as the sales tax has been earmarked for the purpose of Prohibition I request the Government to earmark a portion of the proceeds of the entertainment tax for the purpose of adult education especially for schemes like visual education. Sir, before I conclude, I think it is imperative that I should draw the attention of the Government to the urgent necessity to increase the pay of teachers. The plight of the teachers, Mr. Speaker, is miserable and deplorable and their demands are just and legitimate. The minimum pay of a secondary grade trained teacher in a Government school is Rs. 30 per mensem, in a Board school Rs. 24 and in an aided school Rs. 18. The minimum pay of a Higher Elementary Grade teacher is Rs. 23 per mensem in a Government school, Rs. 20 in a Board school and Rs. 14 in an aided school. Thus we see that some of the teachers are paid even less than illiterate coolies. In this the manner in which the Members of an honourable profession should be remunerated in a civilized society. The

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teachers are the makers of the nation and the well-being of the nation and the well-being of the country demands that this valuable hand of men and women and they should no longer be neglected. Mr. Speaker, the starved, care-worn and dejected teacher cannot be expected to put forth his best into his work of training the future citizens of the land in the manner he should. I may point out that the Central Advisory Board on Education recommended that the pay of the teachers should be increased. If the Government accepted the recommendation of this Board it will cost them not more than Rs. 1½ crores. But as the Government are unable to accept this recommendation they can at least accept the recommendation of the Postward Reconstruction Committee of Madras in regard to this matter. The Government, Mr. Speaker, are expanding elementary education. The first requisite for this is that they should provide themselves with a large band of teachers. But due to the poor pay and prospects attached to the teaching profession, the youth of the land are not being attracted to that profession. It is because of this that there are a number of vacancies in the training schools and the training colleges, and it is because of this that the Government Emergency Training Scheme has proved a failure, and even the attraction of an enhanced rate of stipend has failed to evoke the necessary response. Sir, the enrolment of pupils in the secondary schools is proceeding ahead, but we are faced with the problem of paucity of teachers. I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that unless something effective is done for the teachers the time may come when the Government may be faced with a situation of having schools but no teachers to run them. Realizing the urgency and the importance of this problem the Government of Bombay have seen their way to better the lot of the teachers. I request the Government of Madras also to come forward to improve the pay and the prospects of those who are the maker of the nation. With these words, Sir, I move the cut motion that stands in my name, namely: *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,59,12,700 by . . . Rs. 100.*"

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"The House has been thinking rapidly during the last quarter of an hour. May I know how long you propose to sit to-day?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"We are going to sit till 8 o'clock."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Then I shall proceed with my speech, Sir."

"Sir, the first point that strikes one on reading the figures before us arises from the report on education for 1945 wherein expenditure is given as Rs. 366 lakhs. The demand now before us is for Rs. 659 lakhs and one wonders what is the necessity for this great increase. Let it not be thought that the members of my group begrudge one anna of this amount if it is properly spent. But our fear is that there has been in the past and there may be in the future a most terrible waste of expenditure of the wrong kind."

"In the Government Examinations we are told that 30,735 candidates *obtained* their S.S.L.C. Sir, how wisely the gentleman who drafted the report has used his medium of speech!

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You will notice that he uses the word 'obtained.' I suggest that the word ought properly to be 'qualified'. But then we know and our educational authorities know that to pass out a student with an average of 35 per cent of marks is certainly not to pass out a qualified person, so perhaps it is better to say 'obtained'.

"Again, Sir, we are informed that 26,487 candidates appeared for their public examination at the end of the eighth standard of whom some 11,486 passed; that is 44 per cent, about the same as in the previous year. If we could have been told the number who passed with under 51 per cent of the total marks possibly we should be better able to appreciate the appalling standard before us. This is not the fault of the students: it is the fault of the whole system. Sir, as the percentage of passes remains practically the same from year to year, I would ask, what is the system of marking adopted? Is the examiner told that a certain percentage of those sitting for the examination must obtain the certificate or is the standard of marking applied such that any student who does not reach a particular percentage will fail? I believe, Sir, that the percentage of candidates to be passed is the criterion. If so I submit that the S.S.L.C. is a most useless document as evidence of an educational attainment."

"The Prime Minister made one of the most important announcements in his budget speech when he told us plainly what he thought of the system of University education. It is one thing for the Prime Minister to make such a statement, but how and when is he going to implement it? We ask for information on this point. Sir, something more than a tightening of the University system is wanted. We must start at the bottom and make the S.S.L.C. something better than what it is. This will exclude a lot of unsuitable material from our Universities."

"Sir, in regard to Regional Languages, we can but stress our view that for the advancement of India's real interests what is required is not Regional but one language for the entire country. Now, Sir, I want to spend a little time on this question of regional languages; as it does not affect me personally perhaps, I can look at it from an outsider's point of view. Our Minister for Education may remember that he was recently rebuked for not asking a question of the Mahatma in Hindustani. I gather that he did not even ask the question in his own regional language, but perhaps he is not very good at that and anyway his hearer would not have understood, so he used the only universal language in India at present and he got a reply in that same language. The Premier in his budget speech stated that 'in the reorganization the proper place and importance will be given to the regional language.' Perhaps the Premier has not yet made up his mind as to what is the proper place for regional languages—perhaps he is waiting for the political fog to clear, but I can tell him here and now where the regional languages will eventually settle down if India does not become Balkanised. If India is to be one nation, the regional languages will settle down into the places now occupied by Latin and

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Greek in the English public schools. This is not to belittle the importance of the regional languages. I am simply stressing the necessity for one common language.

"Sir, if this country is to be one country and not many—and it is the earnest desire of the members of my group and the whole of my community that there should one united India—it must have one language common to all the people from the north to the south and from east to west, in the Indian States and in the territories which now go under the name of British India. I am fully aware that the Tamilian will not give way to Telugus and neither of them will give way to any of the Northern Indian languages, or even to a west-coast language. If agreement on one Indian language is impossible why not adopt an outside language—say Chinese or Burmese, but anyway have one language.

"Now, Sir, I most seriously suggest that this Presidency gives the lead to the rest of India and putting slogans and hatreds behind it, looks this question straight in the face. We must sooner or later adopt a language which all can understand; then let us adopt a language capable of expressing everything we need to express in this modern world without the necessity of coining a lot of new words. Just at present there is no Indian language capable of doing that.

"It won't do for me to suggest that English is a good language; so I go to the next best and suggest American. (Laughter.) It is quite a passable language with some wonderful expressions unknown in English but it will enable Indians to travel the world over and get along fairly well. It also has the advantage of enabling the student who has some remaining regard for English to read and understand the finest set of textbooks in the world.

"Someone, it may have been our Minister for Education, asked the question 'What is the place of English in the principles of 'Nai Talim'?' and the reply was, 'English is admittedly a world language. I would therefore accord it as a second optional language, not in the school but in the University course. That can only be for the select few.' This, Sir, is a dangerous thing to the masses in India. The select few are going to understand the world and the masses are to remain parochial for they will be taught only the regional language and they will not be able to speak to even Indians outside their own region. They will get back to the position they were rescued from some 150 years ago. (Laughter.) The substitution of English for Persian in the Courts and in Government records led to the rise of one community and the decline of another; this regional language business with a select few speaking English will have a similar result for English will be the one language which all India will speak.

"Further, Sir, the Education Minister, the Prime Minister and all in this House know full well that this regional language question is a passing stunt and cannot possibly work in the

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interests of India. I submit that whatever less able men in other Provinces decide to do, we here do not deprive our students of the chance of learning to think in their early school years in the language in which they are going to be taught in the University. Capacity to think in a language is the test of knowledge of that language and no man can possibly be educated in a language in which he is not capable of thinking naturally and without effort. If when you read a book in English you have to turn it all the time in your mind into your own regional language you do not really understand English. And when I attempt to read a French book if I have got to turn it in my mind into English I tell myself, 'I do not know French because I cannot think in French.' Unless you teach your boy or girl who is going to the University in his or her early school days English, teach him or her to think in English, when they get to the University they will be greatly handicapped and when they pass out of the University their standard will be much lower than what it is to-day.

"Turning now to the results of University education in this country I am glad that the Premier says that it needs much reform. I do not pretend to be fitted to say what reforms are necessary but it may be of help if I give the opinion of a businessman in India on the average product of our Universities. In common with many other employees I have from time to time tried employing B.As. of the Madras University and other Universities of Southern India. Also in common with other employers in India I gave it up. They were little better than S.S.L.C. I had little better results from B.A. Hons. B.A. Hons. should denote a good standard of education, but I regret to say that B.A. Hons. of an Indian University appears to denote nothing more than a capacity to absorb sufficient facts to pass an examination; it certainly, in the majority of cases, does not denote a capacity to apply the knowledge absorbed.

"Education, Sir, is the harmonious development of all our faculties. It begins in the nursery and goes on at school but it does not end there. It continues through life whether we will or not. As Gibbon says 'every person has two educations, the one he receives from others and one more important which he gives himself.' Sir, I submit that the average results achieved show that our system fails to give any real education—it fails to develop all the faculties, it merely imparts knowledge and learning which tell nothing of mental development apart from a capacity to acquire and remember. It tells nothing whatever of normal development which is included in the word 'education' in its fullest and noblest sense. Sir, if we are going to give up merely imparting knowledge and change over to education we have to start right at the beginning—start in the primary school or even in the nursery. It is no good taking a half-taught man who has been taught only to gain knowledge and trying to educate him. We have to start with a child and not in the University.

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"I am pleased to note that there are to be 4,000 more teachers; the number is small, but it is a start. We cannot do a thing like this quickly. I would however ask, 'What sort of teacher are we recruiting?' Also and perhaps even more important, have we the people capable of instructing our new teachers in the art of educating rather than in the science of imparting knowledge? I ask the Minister to be very careful in the choice of his new teachers and he must avoid filling up with unsuitable candidates. It will be much better for him to say plainly next budget, 'I have not got my 4,000 teachers, because the quality I wanted was not available.' This House will respect him much more than if he has merely filled up with useless men and women.

"Teaching, Sir, is a calling more than a profession, but that is no reason why the teacher should not be paid adequate remuneration for his work. He is a most important person and those of us who have been blessed in our youth with good teachers look back and remember with pleasure how they led us to use our minds to apply them to every-day problems. We have to be careful, Sir, that we recruit educators and not mere imparters of knowledge. Sir, we have to train our teachers. We have at once to recruit people who can train our future educationists in this Presidency. We have to see that the teaching profession is recognised as an important one and that the remuneration paid to our teachers is adequate. Sir, I support this motion."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a demand on which some of us in the Opposition and particularly the Muslims are very anxious to make the Government understand the amount of importance and sanctity we attach to education, for this is the basis of all the things that are built up for the citizens to-morrow.

(At this stage the Deputy Speaker occupied the Chair.)

"Madam, they will not forgive us if we do not lay the proper foundations from today in the matter of education. I do believe that when things have changed politically in this country people want a revolution brought about in regard to the education of our children. They have tried their utmost to find ways and means of bringing into existence a system of education which will be of help and use to the people in every respect. I agree with them thoroughly and I do agree with the Hon. Minister for Education in any endeavour that he may make to bring about that useful change in the system of education. But I must give expression to my great disappointment that in his desire to revolutionise the system of education and in his desire to make education really national he has given an indication of the fact that he is rather running too fast in that direction without looking around him in order to see what exactly he is doing to the people who are also anxious to see that they receive the education that they want.

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"In the first instance, Sir, I am one with him in any endeavour he would make in order to make literacy universal. I would ask him, before I proceed further, how long he will take to make literacy universal in this province. I will also ask him whether he will be satisfied with giving that meaning to literacy which has been given in this province and in this country all these years. If he is to be content with educating a child up to the fifth standard and allowing him after he leaves the school to lapse into illiteracy, as has been pointed out by Mr. Town, all the money that we are seeking to spend at least on elementary education will be a waste. Therefore, I will ask the Hon. the Minister for Education not to be content with giving elementary education up to the fifth standard, but to make elementary education of the higher type compulsory and to make the boys and girls of this Presidency educated to some real extent. Some reform has to be made in the matter of secondary education and some reform must be made with regard to College education also. Students have to be allotted to various fields of education. Bifurcation in the secondary education should also be made—all these things are there to be done. Many educational institutions and particularly the University of Madras have given a good deal of thought to these questions and they have produced a report which may be of very great use to the Hon. Minister so far as reform in education in this province is concerned.

"As a citizen of this province, I am very keenly interested in making education real and useful to all the people; and as a Muslim, I wish to tell my Hon. Friend, the Minister for Education and also the Hon. the Premier who is the custodian of the finances of this province, to see that Muslim education is treated as a definite charge on the finances of this province, as a definite and separate charge on the finances of this province. In the last Congress Government, representation was made to Gandhiji that large sums of money were not being allotted for Muslim education in this province; he evidently drew the attention of the then Premier to this matter and that Premier in one of his speeches told us, Muslims, that money would be spent like water. I do not know, Sir, whether he meant to do it or not; but the result showed that the water only flowed in the gutters of Madras. No real attempt was made to take into account the educational needs of the Mussalmans of this province, and it was given to the 'Advisers' Government to help Muslim education in some respect or other. And to-day, although we are not satisfied and all our demands have not been met, yet something has been done in the matter of the Government Muhammadan College and the opening of a College for Muslim girls in the Hobart Muslim Girls' School building. The amount that was allotted by the Advisers' Government for the Science block in the Muhammadan College and for the Girls' College has, I believe, been kept intact, and I want to know why all the amount that was so allotted by the Advisers' Government has not been included in the education budget this year by the Hon. Finance Minister for the construction of the buildings already planned. I believe

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something like Rs. 2 lakhs has been kept for the purpose of construction of the Girls' College building. That amount is not enough; the college will have to come into existence immediately, Sir. (Laughter.) I am reminded that the Deputy Speaker is presiding. I apologize to you Madam Deputy Speaker. We are so very much agitated about our education that sometimes we even forget who is presiding. (Laughter.) I hope the Hon. Minister will not take away the amount already allotted for the construction of buildings for the college for Muslim girls and he will not also try to go against the object for which the college has been brought into existence. Madam, rumour is thick that the Hon. Minister is going to convert this college into a general college and is going to change the percentages of Muslim girls and other girls. I hope that rumour is not true; that will be an undue interference and it will greatly agitate the Muslim minds and will certainly go down as an act of sacrilege in regard to Muslim education if the Hon. Minister does that.

"One thing more I would like to tell the Hon. Minister is this: if there is one thing more than anything else on which differences have arisen between the two important nationalities in this country in general and in this province in particular, it is education. We Muslims are very anxious and very particular that nothing should be done to interfere with our culture, with our language and with our education. Any interference on the part of any Government will not only be disliked, but will be resisted, resisted with all the power at our command and all the sacrifice we will be called upon to make. If any attempt is sought to be made to cut the real basis from our culture, from our language and from our education, with whatever good intentions, that will be a deliberate attempt to destroy us. I hope the Hon. Minister will not do it. I know the Minister has his own good wishes for the Muslims in this province; he believes that if the provinces of India are to be divided on a linguistic basis, the Andhra districts will be formed into a separate province having a separate Government and having a separate Legislature. The language of that province will be Telugu. Therefore, if the Muslims are to take an adequate part in the Government of that province and the legislature of that province, it is necessary that they should learn Telugu. That is what he believes. I agree entirely with him in that point of view, but if we have to learn that language for the sake of our bread, as we have learned the English language, we will learn the Telugu language also. We are learning Tamil, we are learning Malayalam; but these are the languages which we have necessarily to learn for the sake of our bread, not for the sake of our religion or our culture. We value our culture and our religion more than our bread; for bread after all, is not the thing for which a man lives. Therefore, Madam, I wish to state again and make an earnest request to the Hon. the Minister for Education and the Hon. the Premier not to do anything which will jeopardize our culture and our religion. To us, education

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is nothing if it is not based on religion. We are very anxious about it. I know that hon. Members belonging to other religions are equally anxious that their education should be based on their religion and that religious education should be imparted to their children also. Well, Madam, I shall be very glad if in the scheme of things that is going to be formulated by the Hon. Minister for Education, he will see that plans are made for imparting religious education to members of all communities and all religions if they want. Whatever difficulties there may be, they should make it compulsory that every boy and girl of every community should learn religion; for it is due to the absence of that spiritual basis for education that all the trouble has come and all kinds of differences have arisen not only in this country but all the world over. Therefore, man has come back to his religion. Man strayed for a very long time from his religion and his God. It is high time he came back to his God and his religion. We Muslims have never thought of education as separate from our religion. If any system of education is forced upon us which does not make religious education compulsory 7 p.m. from the primary stage up to the college stage, we will not be satisfied with that education, and that education will not be worth having. I, therefore, believe, Madam, that it is very necessary that the Hon. Minister for Education should take into account our feelings in the matter, and before he does anything with regard to our education, he should not only consult Muslim members in this House but also consult Muslim educationists in the province, as to whether that education would suit our genius and our requirements and would give all that is necessary to make a real man, a man who will be useful not only to himself but to society, a man who will not be a hindrance but a help to society. I request the Hon. Minister for Education to appoint a separate Muslim Board, a Board for Muslim education, consisting of Muslim members of this House and Muslim educationists outside, in order to plan Muslim education and to see that that is what we want and not what anybody else wants.

"There are very many other things, Madam, concerning Muslim education about which I wish to refer. Some of my hon. Friends do not seem to have realized yet what I have been trying to drive at. They are really trying to make a joke of the whole thing. I therefore wish to tell them most seriously, most earnestly and most solemnly that what I am saying is real and it is the bedrock of the future in regard to Muslims in this province. Madam, I would therefore earnestly request the Hon. Minister for Education to bring immediately into existence a Board for Muslim education so that we will help him in planning a kind of education that will be suitable to the Mussalmans from the elementary stage to the collegiate course.

"Madam, there is need for any number of high schools for Muslim boys and girls throughout the province, and especially Malabar which consists of a third of the Muslim population of the province has been neglected for a long time. Hence I wish to point out that the late lamented Sir R. M. Statham was responsible for

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a scheme for opening some high schools for girls and some for boys but unfortunately, before he could complete his scheme for the education of Mappilla boys and girls, he passed away prematurely. Therefore, I suggest it is the duty of the Hon. Minister for Education and the present Government to see that the scheme left uncompleted is completed within the course of at least the next five years.

"Madam, there is one thing more and I am sorry I have to repeat it because the Hon. Minister for Education in reply to questions put to him has given an indication that he is bent upon having his own way in regard to our representations. I hope that what he said in answer to questions was not what he actually meant because I believe that he is a gentleman with a heart although as Education Minister he must have more of the mind than of the heart. There must be harmonious intermingling of both head and heart for it is only then we can progress towards the right direction. One community in this province who are noted for harmonious intermingling of the head and the heart are my Andhra friends because they are the people who do not allow their head to take advantage over the heart. My hon. Friend, the Minister for Education who hails from Coimbatore—with regard to whose characteristics I am not aware—will, I hope, follow the good example of his Andhra colleagues by making his heart as big as that of his Andhra friends and seeing that the Muslims are not driven to the necessity of resisting anything that is forced upon them in the matter of education. I hope he will not make such a mistake.

"I would conclude, Madam, with making a reference to the salaries of the poor teachers. Representations have been made and I understand the Government have taken up the question. Governments in the past have not given due consideration to this matter all these years. I believe it should be possible for the Minister for Education to give an adequate increase to the poor teachers especially when the financial position of the province is satisfactory. A pittance of Rs. 2 will not certainly make them lead a contented and happy life. Unless the teacher is contented and is in a position to devote all his time and attention to the sacred duty which he has to discharge in building up the citizens of to-morrow—teachers are the people who make or mar the country—the Government will not be able to discharge their duty satisfactorily. I therefore plead on their behalf that they should be given adequate increases in their salaries—Rs. 18, Rs. 20 or Rs. 30 will not do. Nothing less than Rs. 60 for a teacher in the City and Rs. 50 in the mufassal will satisfy them in order to make both ends meet. I therefore suggest that the minimum salary of a teacher in the City should be Rs. 60 going up to Rs. 100 and that of a teacher in the mufassal should be from Rs. 50 to Rs. 75. That will be the minimum that will satisfy the requirements of a teacher.

"The last point I wish to refer, Madam, is . . ."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may please leave the other points to be dealt with by other Members."

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* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Madam Speaker, at the outset, I would like to state that as soon as I read in the papers that the Education Minister was thinking of introducing the regional language, I wrote to him a letter but I regret very much to say that the Education Minister had not even the common courtesy of replying to my letter. (Sri Kala Venkata Rao:—Too much delay in making the complaint.) I thought the Member knew better. I did not want to put a question on this but since this is the time I can bring to his notice such matters and expect a reply from him I am raising the point now. I was wondering whether when he thought of introducing a new change in the medium of instruction the Education Minister had reports from the Government officers who are in charge of education and was apprised of the circumstances prevailing in the province and if he had consulted the members of the Congress Cabinet and if he had given thought to the advisability of introducing basic language as the medium of instruction, he would have at once found that this regional language does not suit the various parts of this province. When I wrote this letter to him, I really wondered whether he gave sufficient thought to the recommendations of the "Wardha Scheme" which is otherwise called Zakhir Hussain Scheme, and whether he had considered the report made by the Central Education Board. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of all these reports. In the year 1937, the National Educational Board was formed and the Wardha Scheme was placed before it. It was referred to Zakhir Hussain Sahib to frame a scheme which was again placed before the Central Board of Education in 1938. If the Hon. Minister had really read these reports, he would have found that it has been definitely laid down that education should be given in the mother-tongue. I wondered whether the Education Minister was not hasty in telling the people who had gathered at public meetings that the regional language would be the medium of instruction. Is he not hasty in coming to such a conclusion? Even the Zakhir Hussain Scheme which is otherwise called the "Wardha Scheme" has recommended definitely that education should be imparted in the mother-tongue. Now the question is whether the mother-tongue is identical with the regional language. I hope some Members will think so. But I am definite it is not so. Regional language by its very connotation means the language that is spoken in an area but mother-tongue is one that is spoken in the house; it is the language of family and of the mother. If the Hon. the Education Minister had made a mistake and stated that the regional language of the Muslims of the Andhra districts is the same as their mother-tongue, I am here, as the representative of the Muslims—there are also other hon. Members who represent the Muslims of the province—to tell the Education Minister that Telugu is not our mother-tongue. What more my hon. Friend the Education Minister wants than our assertion on the floor of this House,—responsible men as we are and representing 100 per cent of the Muslims of this province—telling him that our mother-tongue is Urdu and not Telugu; and where is the justification on the part of the Education Minister to have come to such a conclusion?

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“ Even on the basis of the report of Zakhir Hussain's Committee which was considered by the Central Board of Education of which the Education Ministers of the Congress Governments of Bombay and United Provinces were members as also Mr. Zakhir Hussain, it was considered for very good reasons that mother-tongue should be made the medium of instruction. I can only attribute this hasty decision on the part of the Education Minister to his anxiety to do something revolutionary. A responsible person holding the portfolio of Education should have waited for a minute or two till he got reports from these educational officers before coming to a decision. My charge against him is that in spite of the fact, that we asserted that Telugu is not our mother-tongue, he persists on saying that it is. If he wants to compel us to have our education in a language which is other than Urdu, we are not going to allow that. That in spite of our assertion, he should still persist in saying he wants regional language, passes my understanding. As far as we are concerned, Madam, I can tell the Minister for Education, “ We will not have it; we will not have it; we will not have it.” (Hear, hear.) Already persons from different district have come to me and asked me what is going to happen to the education of the Muslim boys and girls in the Andhra districts. I told them that we are doing our best. I do not know whether it is true to say, as has been said by the Hon. Minister for Education, that no agitation was made by the Muslims of the Andhra districts. As a matter of fact, I have myself received copies of letters and telegrams which were sent by the Andhra Muslims to the Education Minister and in answer to a question asked by some friends, the Minister said, “ I am not aware of any such agitation.” I now ask, has he or has he not received telegrams and resolutions passed by the Muslims at their various meetings throughout the Andhra districts in regard to this matter? That is the position. In the first place, there is no justification for the introduction of the regional language as the medium of instruction especially in view of the fact that the Wardha Scheme which was approved by the Central Board of Education and the National Planning Committee which assembled in Bombay a few months ago made it very clear that education must be given in the mother-tongue.

(At this stage, the Hon. the Speaker took the Chair.)

“ I have been able to prove two things. One is that education even according to the Wardha Scheme must be in the mother-tongue. Secondly, if proof is necessary, we are here to assert that the mother-tongue of the Muslims is Urdu. (Sri A. Kaleswara Rao:—All Muslims or Andhra Muslims?) I am speaking of Andhra Muslims only. You can include the Muslims of some of the other districts also. As I said already, representatives of three or four districts came to me recently and we had a conference and I told them, “ You need not take any hasty action in this matter.” I assured them that with the weight of the Muslim representatives in the Assembly—that is the weight of five million Muslims of this presidency—with all the weight at our command, if we are not able to convince the popular Government—the popular Government as far as we are concerned, our popular representatives are

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the twenty-nine persons on this side—if we are not able to convince the Congress Government, it is time enough for us to consider what action we will have to take? When my Hon. Minister for Education has not given me a chance even by means of a reply to my letter, I hesitated even to have an interview with him in regard to this subject. Now, Sir, the only way how this Congress Government can satisfy the Muslims is, as I have put it in my cut motion No. 230, by constituting a Muslim Board of Education consisting of Muslim members of the Legislature and other Muslim educationalists for the purpose of safeguarding the education of Muslims. I am loath to believe that there is any motive behind all that. I would not like to believe that there is any plan behind the introduction of regional language to the detriment of the Muslims. I will not believe it, but if, in spite of our representations, in spite of our legitimate demands, in spite of our authoritative assertions and in spite of our desire, the Congress Government and the Education Minister should persist in pursuing this policy, one would be compelled to believe that there must be some plan behind it. I know the Telugu language; I do my business in Telugu; I am a lawyer; and I know how to conduct myself in the court; I now write my complaints also in Telugu, but my mother-tongue is not Telugu. I have learnt Urdu throughout my college life. The Hon. the Minister for Education who seems to be very solicitous in saying, ‘ If you are educated in your mother-tongue, how can you get on in courts, in Legislatures, etc.’ I can talk some sort of Telugu and can express myself in that language; I can cross-examine witnesses in Telugu. Did I learn all these things because I had my education in Telugu? No. It was on account of my association with Hindus I picked up the language for the purpose of my business. I would suggest a way out of that. You can make that a compulsory language and not the medium of instruction. I challenge my hon. Friends on the other side who are Andhra gentlemen to show us a single book in Telugu which contains its translation of Quran traditions and culture of the Muslims. An attempt was no doubt made by a friend of mine, the late Umar Ali Shah to translate the Quran in Telugu but unfortunately he had a lot of difficulties in doing it. Is there any bureau, I ask, any institution in the whole of Andhradesa including the Andhra University where you have got the translation of the Quran in Telugu? The culture and the traditions of Muslims are all in Urdu and Persian. I may state for the information of my hon. Friends on the other side that till recently, till fifty years ago, Persian was the court language. It was because circars and subsequently the Ceded Districts which were also under Nizam and even the Guntur district which was part of the territory under Salar Jangh, Nizam's brother, were all under the Nizam of Hyderabad and Persian was the language of the court. There are also many Muslims who know Persian very well even to-day. I heard some remark made by some hon. Member that the Musalmans of the Andhra district do not talk Urdu. They talk some mutilated Urdu and so on. Who is responsible for this? They do not know Telugu; they do not know Urdu. It is due to the lack of education and we fell on very bad

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days after the Mutiny. Nobody was more affected than the Muslims during the Mutiny of 1857. There we are. Our education was smashed; the Muslims were smashed. (A voice: By whom?) By the British Government. I am not afraid to state that. They, the Muslims, were the people who were more affected than anybody else. That is the real position of the Musalmans. If you want to create confidence amongst Muslims, the only way open to the Government is to leave the education of the Musalmans into the hands of their accredited leaders. What right have you, I ask, to impose a language on us, unless it be in the larger sense? I can understand the Congress Government saying 'We are ruling this Province.' Yes. You are entitled to take steps for the maintenance of law and order and for the running of the administration but this question of education is our own and nobody can be compelled to educate himself in a different way from what he wants. Sir, if you are introducing compulsory education, it is a different matter. But the education should not be in any language other than the mother-tongue.

"One thing more and that is this: I have been trying to get a book or a pamphlet which deals with this Wardha Scheme; I do not know how many of my friends have gone through and read the book on basic education scheme. For my part I was able to get a copy of it from Delhi where I had been some time back.

7-30 p.m. "That is not a full report. Regarding this basic education, we do not know what it is. We have seen criticisms by some authoritative bodies about it. It is said on behalf of the scheme that it is 'learning by doing.' We do not know what it means. On the other hand there are some who have frankly said that it is anti-spiritual. Zakir Hussain himself has dealt with this matter. What information we have about it is insufficient. There are only extracts available to us in the report made by the Central Education Board. I wish the Hon. Minister for Education makes all literature on basic education available to us. Before we give our final opinion about it, we wish to be fully posted with the details of the scheme. I have only to say one thing in this connexion. Before you take any steps of introducing a change in the existing system, is it not the duty of the Government to place the matter before the legislature, which is the accredited representative body of the entire country? I do not know why you are going to the press and are issuing communiqués. I am told that some training schools are being started in Coimbatore and other places. Where is the justification for the Government to do it? Have you brought the matter before us and have you taken our approval? Have you taken the sanction of this representative body? Is it democracy to do things over the head of this representative body? Should not this body be consulted before you embark upon the scheme? It is a departure from the past; it is an innovation; it may be very good and therefore you may think of going ahead. But I ask, 'How can you, an executive of a democratic body, go ahead with the scheme and take steps in that regard without placing the matter before us?' Supposing it happens that this

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legislature does not approve of it, what is to happen? These are some of the points that have occurred to me with regard to education and I request the Hon. the Premier and the Education Minister to give us a definite reply with regard to those matters so that we may be clear in our minds as to where we stand."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Will the hon. Member enlighten the House as to the language in which Quran was originally written?"

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Quran must be read and learned in Arabic only. As for Urdu, it is an admixture of Persian, Arabic and Burdh Basha."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Then, is not Arabic also a regional language?"

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Member knows all this and this is a mischievous question."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to a certain question answered during the present session of the House, the Hon. Minister for Education gave details of admissions to the Medical and Engineering Colleges. Total admissions number 336 for the Medical College and only 2 of this number belong to the Scheduled Classes. The number that applied is 1,029. As for the Engineering College, number of applicants is 1,080 and there were only 8 admissions so far as the Scheduled Classes are concerned. For the years 1943 to 1945, for these two colleges, the total number of Scheduled Class students is only 28. Going through the Administration Report for the year 1945, I find that the number of students undergoing instruction in all the public schools was 7,649,202. Of these, the number belonging to the depressed classes is 424,821. It has also been stated that the percentage of pupils to the total population is only 7 per cent. If you take the Harijan community, I think that the pupils receiving education in public schools will be very negligible and the amount of education imparted to the Scheduled Classes is meagre. When the Poona Pact was concluded with the caste-Hindus on the one hand and the Scheduled Classes on the other, it was agreed that a large amount in every year's budget will be spent on the education of the Depressed Classes. We see High schools maintained for Christians, for Muslims and for Anglo-Indians and Europeans. You do not find even one High school maintained for the Harijans. I do not blame the Government for giving facilities to all these communities. The Harijan community is an important minority community and I do not find even one High school in the whole of the Presidency for that community. Fortunately for us, the present Government has found it possible to grant a middle school under the auspices of the Nandanar Kalvi Kazhagam. When I say that there is no separate High school for the Harijan community, I do not mean to suggest that we wish to be isolated from the Hindu body. Already the Hon. the Premier has announced that he has set apart

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one crore of rupees for the uplift of the Harijan community in order to enable them to have an equal standard of living with other communities. I feel that to elevate the Harijan community and place it on a par with other communities, it is necessary to give them special schools, and also residential facilities must be afforded wherever possible to enable the students to satisfactorily go through their studies. I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the following sentence in paragraph 443 on page 82 of the Budget Memorandum:—

‘Expenditure on special education e.g., in forestry, medicine, agriculture, veterinary science . . . or for special sections of the community such as the fisher communities, communities eligible for help by the Labour Department

“I wish to draw special attention to the words ‘communities eligible for help by the Labour Department.’ I have already pointed out on the floor of this House that we, the Harijan members of this community, are nervous because we do not know where we stand. The 1935 Act says that the Scheduled Classes comprise certain communities and even under the previous Act communities regarded as untouchables are meant there. I do not know why this new innovation of ‘communities eligible for help by the Labour Department’ has been brought in here. Twenty-five members of this Assembly belonging to the Harijan community have already submitted to the Hon. the Premier a petition asking for elucidation on this matter and requesting an assurance from him that the amount set aside for the Harijan uplift and education will not be spent for any other purpose. I hope the Education Minister and also the Hon. Premier will give us the assurance that whatever amount has been set apart for the Harijan community will not be spent for the converts. I also like to know what the reason is for this innovation. This has been agitating the minds of the Harijan Members of this Assembly for the last two months and especially is it so after going through the current Budget. It is a new thing that has come up in this Assembly. If you take the proceedings of the old Council from 1926, you will see that this matter has been agitating the minds of both the Government and the Members concerned and then there was the definite understanding that Scheduled Classes or Depressed Classes or untouchables that are referred to there are Hindus and Hindus alone and not others. Another thing is the admission to the various schools or colleges, forestry, medical, veterinary science. There seems to be dual standards. A student who has passed all subjects except one in the intermediate examination with physics and chemistry as his optionals could not gain admission to the Veterinary College. When enquiries were made, it was stated that the case had been referred to the University authorities and the result was that he did not get admission though students of the Harijan community who have passed S.S.L.C. ought to be admitted. There is a provision in the Budget for Boarding Grants for Rs. 7 lakhs. I would like to know the details and whether it goes to Harijans or to other communities.

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I like to bring to the attention of the Hon. Minister for Education that Harijans in villages are illiterate and they are not in a position to know what is happening in the country. Education is the lever by means of which the social and economic position of any community is raised and so, I submit that it is high time that special provision is made for compulsory primary education to all Harijans in the hamlets where they live. Regarding college education, take the case of the Presidency College. Unless a student has taken a certain percentage of marks in special subjects, he could not be admitted though he has passed the S.S.L.C. examination and has been declared eligible for college course. I wish the Hon. Minister for Education gives more facilities for Harijan pupils who have passed the S.S.L.C. examination to go into colleges for higher courses of study.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this cut motion, first of all, I wish to refer to some of the specific grievances of the Mappillas before going to the general question. In the first place it is rather very disappointing to note that such provisions as have been made by the Advisers’ Government don’t find a place in the present budget so far as Mappilla education is concerned. For instance, Sir, we were made to understand, in the previous regime, that two lakhs for constructing hostel for the Malappuram High School was sanctioned. That school is the only institution for Mappillas on the West Coast. It is only after a great deal of agitation that we were able to bring that institution into existence. Even now, that school is not housed in a proper building. It is very difficult to get local accommodation there, and I hope the Hon. Education Minister will look into this and inform this House that the provision given by the Advisers’ Government has been restored.

“Another important factor is the necessity for providing proper accommodation for the Mappilla Girls’ High School at Tirur. It is after a great deal of agitation that the Mappillas were able to secure a high school for girls in Malabar. In fact that is the only institution for Mappilla girls in Malabar. Even now, that school has not got a proper building. It is not for me now at this stage to plead the necessity for imparting education to Mappilla girls. For it is agreed on all hands that the unfortunate happenings of 1921 was due to the want of education on the part of Mappillas; of course, there were other reasons also; but it was agreed then, that their backwardness was one of the causes for that revolt. From that time onwards, agitation for separate schools for Mappillas was going on. I hope that that high school will be located in a good building. Unless Government pay some special attention to the needs of the backward communities, things will go from bad to worse. I warn it is the duty of Government to provide special facilities for communities which are backward. It is a real charge on the revenues of the Government. And looking at it from the point of other communities, it is the duty of the other communities to take the backward communities along with them in the matter of education.

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p.m.

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“ Another point I wish to deal is about the Malappuram High School. It is conducted very efficiently. Out of it a large number of brilliant Mappilla boys go out educated every year. It is high time that steps are taken to raise that institution into a college. If that is done it will be a good gesture on the part of Government that they follow a proper policy so far as Mappilla education is concerned. I would also urge that the Tirur Muslim Girls' High School should be raised into a college. There is a great demand for it. The need for giving girls higher education is admitted by all. So I would very strongly urge that this Muslim Girls' High School should be raised into a college.

“ In this connexion I would also mention that these two schools are in South Malabar. There is a great demand for such schools in North Malabar. This year a girls' high school was sanctioned. It is located in a private building, as it has been found impracticable to place that building at the disposal of the Government. Steps should be taken to give that institution a separate building.

“ Another point to which I would like to make a reference is the immediate necessity for raising the Brennen College into a first-grade college. This college has been in existence for a very long time. It is there for the last so many decades. There is now agitation that that college should be made into a first-grade college. This is not an institution for Mappillas alone. That is the institution that stirred the Mappilla to a very large extent. That is the only college in North Malabar. I do not see why Government should not grant that request. Their demand is a reasonable one, and all communities are for it.

“ The next point I want to say is about the necessity for teaching Arabic. I wish to draw the attention of Government to the provision there is already for teaching Sanskrit in schools. Even though Sanskrit is not a spoken language, still as there is a demand for it, it is being taught in schools. Similarly, Arabic also should be taught, as there is a demand for it. In fact, Arabic should be placed on the same footing as Sanskrit. Where there is a considerable number of Muslim students, Arabic should be taught there. It should be made a second language in both schools and colleges. There are very few institutions in Malabar where Arabic is taught at present. It should be made one of the second languages for Muslim students.

“ I now proceed to another aspect of the education question. The way in which Muslim subordinates in the service are treated by the department is rather very unfair. I would say, there are, as a matter of fact, ever so many Mappilla Deputy Inspectors of Schools who have reached the maximum salary of Rs. 150 and are remaining there for a number of years. They have done excellent work and have procured excellent certificates. But you have ignored them in making promotions to the selection grade. We are told that they could not be given that, because there are other seniors above them. Sir, 'selection grade' means promotion on merit. But if promotion to selection grade is to take

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place on seniority, why should it be called selection grade? The legitimate claims of several Mappilla subordinate officials are ignored by the Government, particularly that of the headmaster of the Mappilla High School, Malappuram. He is the one person who is responsible for bringing that institution to its present high position. The Director of Public Instruction has referred to his work in glowing terms; his merit has been recognized; and it is greatest injustice to a man, who has been doing selfless and efficient work, to deny him his legitimate claim.

“ I would like to say one word on a point of general importance, and that is particularly with reference to basic education. We are told that basic education is to be the basis of the educational policy of the Government.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ The hon. Member may continue his speech tomorrow.”

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 3rd September 1946.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, with Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Complaints of police excesses during the 1942 movement.

* 134 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have received any complaints of police excesses during the 1942 movement, and if so, whether the Hon. Minister intends holding an enquiry into those excesses and taking action against the officers concerned?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ A few complaints have been received. The matter is under consideration of the Government.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I ask the Hon. the Prime Minister whether complaints were received after this Government came into office or before? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Complaints have been received after this Government came into office.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware that 25 officers are given Rs. 25 per month for having successfully repressed this movement? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ The hon. Member will throw more light upon it by telling us the source from which he got this information.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Government will take any action against the officer who shot down students in the Swaraj maidan on the 13th August 1942 at Guntur? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ The Government will consider any specific cases that might come to its notice.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know from the Hon. the Prime Minister that there are 25 officers throughout this Province who are receiving at the rate of Rs. 25 per month throughout their lives for having successfully repressed the movement? Of the 25 people three are in my own district.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Notice.”

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Whether in view of the fact that similar excesses are being committed, do Government propose to take any action against the Malabar Special Police in connexion with the recent excesses committed by them, by appointing an enquiry committee?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"That does not arise from this question."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Will the Government take any action against the Deputy Superintendent of Police who tortured and killed a man in jail in Guntur district and threw him afterwards into the well?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member must give notice and state facts, and put a proper question."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government will appoint a committee to enquire into such cruel cases?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Committees will not be appointed for everything, Sir. It depends upon the nature of the case and the complaint received."

Protected water-supply to Mangalore City.

* 135 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) the stage in which the question of providing protected water-supply to Mangalore City is at present; and

(b) whether any final decision has been taken in the matter?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (a) A water-supply scheme for the Mangalore City has been investigated.

" (b) A report on the investigation is being prepared by the Sanitary Engineer."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know, Sir, whether this matter will be expedited in view of the wide prevalence of water-borne diseases in Mangalore like enteric and filarial attacks?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether there is any plan or any scheme of something like five-year or ten-year scheme to be expedited?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"A compendium of provincial requirements has been drawn up for protected water-supply and drainage schemes."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Will that be followed according to the list of priority already drawn up or will Government go out of the way to provide water-supply to particular districts?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Wherever there is necessity, the priority order will be changed."

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Licences for guns.

* 136 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that in 1942 licences for guns in the Province were suddenly and arbitrarily cancelled by the District Magistrates without adducing any reasons; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to renew those licences if those licensees now apply for the same?

THE HON. SRI K. BASHYAM:—" (a) & (b) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to Starred question No. 13.

"In future gun licences will be granted liberally to such of the agriculturists as are in genuine need of such weapons. Persons whose licences were cancelled or refused renewal may apply for the issue of fresh licences and if the licensing authorities are satisfied that these persons are in genuine need of fire-arms, fresh licences will be issued to them."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Is the Government aware, Sir, that most of the rifles and guns that were collected from the licensees have been either destroyed or distributed among the officials themselves at cheap prices?"

THE HON. SRI K. BASHYAM:—"I am not aware of it. I would like to know more details."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister accord, as a matter of privilege for the legislators here, gun licences?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The question of issuing licences is a central subject, and, therefore, I cannot give any guarantee or assurance to Members without further consideration."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"Are the Government aware that the gun licences of all the M.L.Cs. and M.L.As. who offered individual satyagraha during 1939-40 have been cancelled, and even now they are in a state of disarmament?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I think, Sir, they had better remain so. I propose to address myself to the question raised by my hon. Friend which is to be done in consultation with the Central Government. Provincial Government cannot take action independently."

SRI V. I. MUNUSWAMI PILLAI:—"Will Government arrange to return the guns that were seized and surrendered during 1942, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The question will be noted, Sir, and action taken."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ Is Government aware that people who offered individual satyagraha in 1939-40 are all wedded to non-violence and as such they do not need guns and rifles at all? ”

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“ Very good news indeed. I should like to know all about it.”

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—“ Most of them are wedded to non-violence, but in matters of self-defence and protection of crops, even though they are M.L.As. and satyagrahis, they require guns and rifles.”

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“ My hon. Friend is answering the other hon. Friend.”

Committee to go into the question of service conditions of local boards.

* 137 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government propose to appoint a committee of officials and non-officials to go into the question of service conditions of the staff of the local boards?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ A sub-committee of Cabinet has been appointed to examine the question of the pay, allowances and service conditions of non-gazetted Government officers and other subordinate staff of the Government, and make recommendations to Government. The question of revising the salaries, allowances and service conditions of the employees of municipalities and local bodies, has also been referred to this Committee.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Committee has already announced Rs. 4 for people who draw Rs. 40 and above and Rs. 3 for people who draw below Rs. 40? ”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ I am not aware of any such announcement.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ Is the Government aware, Sir, that there is such a publication in the press as if Government has announced its decision? ”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ Neither the Minister for Local Self-Government nor the Government can hold themselves responsible for statements in the press.”

SRI V. I. MUNUSWAMI PILLAI:—“ Will the Hon. Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state, Sir, how long will the Committee take to finish its work? ”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ They will take as much time as is absolutely necessary for discharging their functions. It is hoped that before the beginning of the next month the Committee will be in a position to make some report.”

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N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Can the Hon. Minister predict the issue of his engagement at least after eight months? ”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ The future is always in the lap of God.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ Is it a fact, Sir, that the salaries of the menials of the local boards have been increased by 25 per cent? ”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ Yes, Sir.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware that this 25 per cent increase is not at all satisfactory to the menials, and whether the Government propose to increase the salaries further? ”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ It is a homely Tamil proverb ‘ஆசைக்கொடர் அளவில்லை’.”

SRI A. B SHETTY:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the representation made to the Hon. Minister by the district board employees last month have been considered and whether any orders have been passed on them? ”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ No orders have yet been passed. The suggestions are under the consideration of Government.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that dearness allowance that has already been sanctioned has not been paid yet to some local board employees? ”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“ So far as the Government is concerned, directions have already been issued.”

Reasons for reserving twenty per cent of the seats in professional colleges for merit.

* 138 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons that prompted him to reserve twenty per cent of the seats in professional colleges for merit;

(b) whether these reasons existed at the time of the last Congress Ministry also; and

(c) if so, the reasons for deviating from their policy?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“ (a), (b) & (c) In the report of the Health Survey and Development Committee of the Government of India, it is recommended that about one-third of the total vacancies in the medical training institutions should be filled by selection of candidates by pure merit only. Pending a final decision on this recommendation it was considered necessary that some percentage of seats in the Engineering Colleges may be reserved to be filled on grounds of merit in order to get the

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best possible candidates. Orders have been issued that for this year only 20 per cent of the seats may be reserved for candidates selected on grounds of merit. That the previous Congress Government did not do something, is no ground for this Government not doing it."

Salaries of Pandits and Munshis in Secondary Grade Schools.

* 139 Q.—SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government proposed to increase the salaries of pandits and munshis in secondary grade schools in this province?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 109."

Hindustani as a compulsory subject in secondary schools.

* 140 Q.—SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be please to state whether the Government intend to introduce Hindustani as a compulsory subject in all secondary grade schools in this province?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 32 at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 2nd August 1946."

ABDUL HAMID KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that the answers are too long, the answers may be printed and supplied so that we may ask supplementary questions to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall suggest this. I shall get this cyclostyled and circulated. During the budget discussion on the Medical Demand, hon. Member may say what they want."

ABDUL HAMID KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I submit to the Speaker that questions have a different place of their own?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"If you want to take my suggestion, do so. If you want to postpone, you may do so."

ABDUL HAMID KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"You may take up to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER:—"140 A and B postponed to to-morrow. In the meantime the answers would be printed and circulated. We will continue our discussion on the demands."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1946-47.

DEMAND XV—EDUCATION—cont.

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, I was referring to basic education yesterday. In this connexion, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister for Education what this basic education is. Nothing is known to us officially about this. I understand that one of the main features of this so-called basic

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education is the absence of provision for religious instruction. If religious instruction is to be eschewed from this basic education, I must say that the Muslims abhor it. We cannot think of any education for Muslims without instruction in religion. Basic education or no basic education, I urge upon the Government the urgent necessity for providing religious instruction for the Muslims at any rate in all schools and even in colleges. This is the fundamental basis on which the education of Muslims rests. They cannot conceive of any education without providing for religious instruction and in this connexion I would also request the Government not to pass any scheme of education, whether based on basic education or otherwise, without placing it before this House and getting the approval of this House. Education is a matter of fundamental importance and as such it is very necessary that this House should have an opportunity of discussing the question and giving its views on the subject. In this connexion, I would like to remind the Government that they are in absolute ignorance of the requirements of the Muslims. You cannot have any kind of acquaintance with the demands of Muslims, especially in view of the fact that there is not one member of the whole Muslim community in this province on the side of the Government, and we had no part or lot in the selection of members of the Government. So you have no knowledge of the requirements of the Muslim community. It is on this account that my hon. Friend on this side moved yesterday for providing a board of education so far as the Muslims are concerned comprising some members of the Legislature and prominent Muslim educationists so that they will give their views so far as the requirements in the matter of education are concerned. It is a matter of very great importance, and I heartily endorse the views expressed by my hon. Friend.

"I would like to mention another matter. It has been the tradition for some decades that one of the Deputy Directors of Public Instruction should be a Muslim. This practice has been followed so far. I understand that the present incumbent of the office, a Muslim Deputy Director, is about to retire. I would urge upon the Government not to deviate from this policy but to see that a proper Muslim is appointed to that post so that it may inspire confidence in the Muslims and also he may be able to communicate to Government the requirements of the Muslims.

"Now, Sir, I will refer to two other points of general importance and resume my seat. One of them is the question of regional language to which reference was made by many of the speakers. I would only make this observation that it has to be admitted by the Hon. Education Minister that he has issued a hasty order and a thoughtless order. He has not bestowed any previous consideration on the subject. If he has bestowed previous consideration on the subject, I am sure, he would not have issued that order. Also I do believe that if he had consulted all the members of the Cabinet before he issued that order, I am absolutely certain that he would not have issued it. I would appeal to the Hon. Premier to advise his colleagues that, before such orders of vital importance affecting the interests of various communities are issued, the matter

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should be placed before the whole Cabinet, and that no order should be issued before getting the approval of the entire Cabinet. I would like to mention that by this order hundreds and thousands of children have been prejudicially affected in the matter of education and you know that it is the children who are the future citizens and who are to be backbone of this country.

"Now, Sir, only one word more as regards this 20 per cent reservation of seats. I will only say that it is unbecoming of any impartial Government to have issued such an order. I say it is self-evident that it is an order which was issued to give effect to the partiality that the Government intended to show to one particular section of the Hindu community. Such an order ought not to be issued by any Government which has a sense of fairness and impartiality."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the expected questionnaire on the reorganization of education in the Province to be issued by the Ministry of Education has not yet been placed in our hands. I do not know whether the questionnaire will be issued at all. Whether it is issued or not, we are concerned with the vital problem of education. With regard to the special needs of the Muslims, the previous speakers of my party stated, and my hon. Friend Mr. Pocker very vehemently stated, our case (An hon. Member: 'very rightly.') and I am told by one of my hon. Friends on this side that he has stated it very rightly. I am glad to know that my hon. Friend Mr. Pocker has spoken rightly and we all associate ourselves with all that he has said. Then, Sir, the need for the formation of a special board for Muslim education has been reiterated by the members of my party on the floor of this House. I only take this opportunity for emphasizing that need.

"I would also suggest in this connexion that a Muslim may always be continued as Deputy Director of Public Instruction to be in special charge of Muslim education in addition to his other duties. As was suggested by one of the hon. Members of my party yesterday, it would be better if the Government find their way to appoint a Director of Muslim Education. But if that is not possible, I suggest the other alternative of always continuing a Muslim as Deputy Director of Public Instruction to be in special charge of Muslim education in this province.

"Now, Sir, coming to the question of expansion and reorganization of education, we have first of all to see that any scheme devised by this Government should reach the masses. Mass education and mass literacy should be the end in view. In this connection, I would like to suggest that spread of education in rural areas should be managed with forethought and, I must say, with skill, because the problem of spreading education among our people is a most important one. We know that the majority of our people are living in the rural parts of the country. Therefore, Sir, I would suggest that for a rural unit, say with a population of 15,000 we must have at least 15 primary schools, that is to say at the rate of one school for every one hundred children

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of school-going age. That should be the primary concern of the Government in any scheme that they are going to prepare for reorganizing the educational system in this Province. For this rural unit of 15,000 population, there should be a high school. If the whole province is divided into rural units and provided with educational institutions, I am sure in the course of ten years we can have mass education throughout the Province, and illiteracy will disappear. That is a suggestion that I want to make on this occasion.

"So far as Muslim education is concerned—and for the matter of that, the education of every other section of the people—attention should be paid to the special requirements of each section of the people. With regard to the question of medium of instruction, I would like to say that the Government have begun at the wrong end. Perhaps the Minister for Education in his enthusiasm, eagerness, or anxiety to achieve quick results, rather suddenly introduced the medium of instruction as being the regional language of the Province. It has not only dislocated and upset the system of education but has, in my opinion, done great harm to our students. I am sure this sudden introduction of the medium of instruction at this stage will in the long run destroy a whole generation of students. What is going to happen to the students when they go up for the University course where they have to study scientific subjects? Have you got the books translated into the regional languages? Can you do that? Unless you start a translation bureau and see that all books on scientific subjects are translated into the regional language, how are you going to help the students to prosecute higher studies? What about foreign studies? How are you going to equip the students for foreign studies by simply asking them to study something through medium of their regional language? I do not see how it will be practicable at all. Therefore, I say that the Government have begun at the wrong end. They could wait. There is time enough for the re-organization of the educational system of this Province. They can make provision for all these. Therefore, I urge that they should at once stop this muddle of what is called medium of instruction. Medium of instruction can wait. We must be prepared for many more things.

"Then, Sir, we want more colleges. That need has been emphasized by the numerous applications for admission in the several colleges but refused for want of accommodation. Therefore in any scheme that you are going to devise, increase the number of colleges. As I said, for a rural unit of 15,000 population you must have a high school and for every ten such high schools, you must have a college. These colleges must be located at convenient centres easily accessible to the students. We know that on the West Coast there are very few colleges. We know that one-third of the total Muslim population is concentrated in the West Coast in Malabar and South Kanara. We have got the Government Muhammadan College only in the city of Madras, and the Muslim students from the West Coast have to travel a distance of five hundred miles to seek admission in a

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college of their own. Therefore, I urge that another Muhammadan college should be started in Malabar for the benefit of the Muslim population there. That is a dire need, a need that needs no emphasis. It speaks for itself. Therefore, I strongly urge that the Government should make provision for starting a Muhammadan college in Malabar for the benefit of one-third of the Muslim population of this Province. In the same way, I would also put in a plea on behalf of the Scheduled Caste friends. I do not think their education received much attention at the hands of any Government so far. If the popular Ministry thinks that the Harijans are part and parcel of their party, I think they are sadly mistaken. There are some among the Harijans who feel that an injustice has been done to them especially in the matter of education. Therefore it is up to the popular Ministry to show in acts and deeds if they are really sincere in their professions that they want to uplift the Harijans. Provision of one crore of rupees is not of great importance, but only the translation of the pious wishes into action is of real importance. As was stated here the other day, a Harijan college has been started in Bombay. Why should it not be possible for this Government to start a similar college for the benefit of the Scheduled Castes? Therefore, I would strongly urge that the special needs of not only the Muslims but also of the Harijans or the Scheduled Castes should also be met by the Government, and I hope that before the end of the next official year, this demand of the Muslims and the Scheduled Castes will be met. So far as professional colleges are concerned, we know that this Government, when they took up the reins of office, started one or two engineering colleges and medical colleges here and there. But what about the West Coast? There should be at least one medical college and also one engineering college in the West Coast. That is really necessary and I urge that the Government will include in their programme for the coming year the establishment of these professional colleges on the West Coast. With these words, I support the cut motion."

MUHAMMAD RAFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I wish to join in the appeal made by my hon. Friend Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig with regard to the educational policy of this Government. Sir, I do not know whether the Government is really unaware of the apprehensions in the minds of the Muslims in general and Andhra Muslims in particular. Sir, in respect of the professions made by this Government, especially the Hon. the Prime Minister, to the effect that he is going to safeguard the interests of the Muslims also, there is no evidence of those professions being translated into action. Even in the short period in which this Government has been functioning there have been many instances in which this Government have acted to the detriment of the Muslims. To be relevant to the demand before the House this question of the medium of instruction is an instance to show that this Government is unscrupulous with regard to the interests of the Muslims. Sir, before I speak about the apprehensions of the Muslims, let me say a word with regard to anxiety caused not only amongst the minds of the

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Muslims but also the rest of the population. It is a retrograde step in the educational life of the country. They feel that the step is one which will promote disunity between one part of the country and the other. Common language is the one thing that binds the population of this Province with the population of the other parts of the country. When you take away the medium of communication between South India and North India is it not a step towards disunity in the country? After all there is nothing wrong about the language if the language serves a useful purpose. You may take away other vestiges of British rule. You may not teach British History or the other aspects of English civilization. However, what is the harm in retaining the English language? But if you want to do away with that vestige of the British Government also then introduce the language which can claim to be the lingua franca of India. That language is the Urdu language. Before the British Government came here the lingua franca was not Hindustani but it was Urdu. (Voices of 'No' and 'Question'.) The Hindustani and Urdu controversy is only a political controversy. If my friends will dispassionately examine the whole question they will come to the conclusion that the language which was spoken throughout the length and breadth of the country except perhaps in South India was Urdu. Urdu was not the language of the Muslim community. It is the language of the Indians. It was the common language of the Hindus and Mussalmans. It was a language born out of a comingling of Hindi Bhasha and Persian and Arabic. If there is a language that can be claimed as the language of the people it is Urdu. If you do not want English then normally and logically people will have to introduce Urdu as the medium of instruction. In this regard, Sir, I do not know if the Ministry is ignorant of the fact or pretends to be so that the mother-tongue of the Andhra Muslims is Urdu and not the regional language Telugu. In this respect Mr. Ali Baig has rightly pointed out the fact to the notice of the Government that the Andhra Muslims have Urdu as their mother-tongue and that they will stand any test made by the Government to find out what their mother-tongue really is and the Ministry will be only playing with fire if they were to pay no heed to the cry of the Andhra Muslims and go along with their policy which is detrimental to the interests of the Government. Before I conclude I would invite the attention of the Government to the question of the Muslim High School in Nellore. Nellore and perhaps Chittoor are the only two districts which do not have Muslim schools. I am corrected by my hon. Friends that there are other districts also which do not have Muslim High Schools. If that were so it is high time that Government open high schools in other districts also. In Nellore for a long time there has been an agitation for a Muslim High School. There is a Muslim middle school in existence which is run by the municipality but whose expenditure is met by Government. The pupils who pass out of these Muslim schools find great difficulty when they find that the medium of instruction is English. The difficulty will be felt all the more when Telugu is made the

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medium. Therefore, what is going to happen to the boys who are going to pass out of the various elementary Muhammadan middle schools in the district?

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"Sir, the Hon. the Minister for Education sometime ago told us that if he is assured that a sufficient number of Muslims have their mother-tongue as Urdu and that if there is a reasonable necessity for making separate provision for their instruction, he would not hesitate to do so. I should like to state, Sir, that Nellore is a place where 99 per cent of the Muslim population have Urdu as their mother-tongue and not Telugu. Therefore, Sir, if the Hon. the Minister is going to translate his professions into action, he should open a high school for Muslim boys at Nellore.

"Sir, I should like to draw the attention of the Hon. the Minister to a statement of Mr. Gandhi which is published in to-day's papers in which he says that, no doubt the Muslims are having genuine fears with regard to their interests; but if the Congress is sincere, if they want to pursue the path of truth and non-violence, let them do so by concrete action and not by merely expressing words of sympathy, as they have been doing so long."

*MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not propose to take much of the time of the House, as most of the important points have already been covered by members of my party, except to draw the attention of the House to one or two points. Sir, unfortunately the tendency among the members of the Congress Party who are occupying the Treasury Benches, is that they feel, of course strongly, that they are experts on every subject with the result that we find that the Hon. Minister for Education, as soon as he assumed office, thinking that he is a great expert on education, began making experiment after experiment, not knowing where it will lead to. Sir, it is really a wrong policy. The other day suggestions were made that the Hon. the Speaker should go to England; but I would rather wish that the Hon. the Minister for Education goes to England for higher education (Laughter) so that we may have the benefit of his experience. But, however, I am glad to see that there is a change of attitude in him, that after having received good attacks from the members of my party, he has kept himself silent and from to-day, he, I am sure, will become a very good, young and sporting boy that he looks. (Loud laughter.)

"Sir, our Deputy Leader, the hon. Mr. Pocker Sahib very rightly brought this point to the notice of this House. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as matters stand, we, the members of the Muslim League Party, or for the matter of that, we the representatives of the Muslims in this Province, have no share in the administration and governance of this Province. We are not sorry for it. But, on the other hand, we feel happy to sit on the Opposition benches. We feel, Sir, and the Members of the Opposition feel rightly, that we are here not only to serve the interests of the Muslims, but also to serve the interests of all people in this

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Province. We are here to point out the wrongs that the Government might commit and to see that they follow the right path. Therefore, Sir, particularly in the matter of Muslim education which is so important to us, I feel that it is our right that we should be consulted, and our leaders should be consulted before changes are made. But on the other hand, the Hon. the Minister for Education is going on passing executive orders as he pleases. As I have said before, this policy should change and the Muslim leaders should be consulted in the matter of Muslim education and that the past chapter should be closed and a new chapter of consultation should begin.

"Sir, I do not like to touch upon the question of regional language or the question of admission of boys to colleges on merit, there are however one or two points about which I should like to say before I finish my speech.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Ahmad Ansari, representing Nellore has brought to the notice of the House the condition of Muslim education in the Andhra districts, and he rightly stressed the need for establishing separate high schools for Muslims in Nellore, Chittoor and other districts. The question is asked as to why there should be separate schools for Muslims. As I have already pointed out in the general debate on the budget, the panchayat boards and the district boards do not take any interest in the education of the Muslim boys, and the result is that the Muslim boys do not make adequate progress in their education in these district board schools, and my information is that for certain classes there are no teachers at all. Therefore, Sir, our experience has shown that it is highly necessary to have separate schools for Muslims. I therefore request the Hon. the Minister for Education to go into the matter and see that separate schools are opened for Muslims in these districts.

"In this connection, I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Minister for Education, the necessity for opening a school for the Muslim boys in Choolai in the City of Madras. As hon. Members are aware, Choolai is a very congested area and there are a number of poor Muslim boys in that locality. They do not have any school for them in that part of the City and they have to walk about five or six miles to reach any Muslim school and it is very expensive for the students to go in buses and it also takes a long time to go to those schools. I therefore request the Hon. the Minister for Education to consider this question and see that a separate high school is opened for Muslim students in the Choolai area.

"The next point I should like to refer to, is the medical inspection of boys in schools. It is stated that as there were not requisite number of doctors, this was not attended to. Now that the war is over, it is time that the Hon. Minister for Education goes into the matter and see that the medical examination of boys is attended to. It is no use simply having it in high schools and not in elementary schools. Of course, I am not an expert in medicine, or an educationist, and therefore I cannot speak with authority on this subject, but from what I have learnt

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from my enquiries is that sufficient attention is not bestowed on the medical inspection of the boys. I am sure that the Hon. the Minister will bestow some thought on this matter also.

"Then, Sir, with regard to teachers, I do not like to say much. Justice demands that we must increase their salaries and see that they get a square deal, because they are the people who build up the education and character of the future generation of the country and they are entrusted with a very responsible and a very sacred duty. The return which they get is a paltry sum of Rs. 15, 16 or 17 and I am told that teachers placed in such a position do not do full justice to their class work, and they often go about for other work after school hours so that they may increase their income. I therefore request the Hon. the Minister for Education to go into this question and see that justice is done to them. I hope that the Cabinet Committee which is examining these questions, will also consider this particular question of the salaries of the teachers.

"With these words, I resume my seat."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the cut motion, I speak for the unfortunate people, the toiling masses, whose numbers are increasing every day and from that view-point, I should like to examine the present demand. Sir, I do not find any provision made in the budget for the education of the working classes. Most of these workers toil throughout the day and they have very little time to get educated. I would request the Hon. the Minister for Education to give special attention to the education of the working classes, so that they may be enabled to study during nights after they return from their work and in their spare hours during intervals.

"Now, coming to the question of merit, which has been debated for such a long time, I should like to express my view-point on that point also. As a matter of fact, I do not find any inconvenience or loss suffered by the Muslim community or the Muslim League Party due to the introduction of merit for admission to the educational and professional institutions. But they are raising this issue in season and out of season, to make a political capital out of it. In my view, the problem can be solved only by extending educational facilities by increasing the number of seats in the professional colleges, particularly the Engineering and Medical colleges. Even during the debate on the Irrigation Demand, I remember the Hon. the Minister for Public Works saying that there is a greater demand for engineers and that he is prepared to take up all engineers that are produced by the Universities. Our country to-day needs a great number of engineers and doctors, due to its backwardness.

"Now, I should like to take up the question of grants to the Universities which is really an important item, particularly for Andhras. In this connection, I would request hon. Members of the House not to attribute motives and I do not want to rouse any racial feelings. The fact is, that all the parts of this Province are not evenly developed. Particularly, the Andhra districts are backward both in education and industries. Here, let

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me bring to the notice of the House that the grant given to the Andhra University is only Rs. 5½ lakhs, whereas the Annamalai University is given Rs. 10½ lakhs and the Madras University Rs. 8½ lakhs. My request in this respect is that the Andhra University should also be given a larger grant, so that education in the Andhra districts may be raised to a higher level.

"Again, Sir, in the matter of giving grants to colleges, I find there is some disparity. In the Madras City, the Loyola College is given a grant of Rs. 2 lakhs. As a matter of fact, it is one of the richest colleges in this country. I cannot understand why Rs. 2 lakhs are given to this college, while there are no colleges in some of the districts, particularly Ramnad and Rayalseema.

"Then Sir, there appears to be also some discrimination between Government and Municipal institutions in the matter of grants. It seems that the Ellore Municipal College applied for a grant from the Government and that it was not granted, because there is a Government Order prohibiting grants to municipal colleges. Sir, the college is called the Municipal College only in name, but it was raised by public funds and the Municipality simply runs the institution. I request the Hon. the Minister for Education to waive the objection raised by the Government Order and see that a grant is given to the Ellore Municipal College.

"Then Sir, we find that preferential treatment is given to European schools in the matter of grants. I cannot understand why it should be so. The European high schools are given Rs. 12 lakhs, whereas the rest are given Rs. 27 lakhs. The number of students studying in the European schools is far less than those in other schools and I do not know why the Hon. the Minister for Education has given such a preferential treatment to the European schools. As a matter of fact, the Europeans are more educated than the rest of the population and I request the Hon. Minister to do away with this differential treatment and see that every institution is treated on an equal footing.

"Then, Sir, I want to speak on the question of the preferential treatment given to European schools. I cannot find any excuse for this preferential treatment. European schools have been given about 12 lakhs of rupees for boys who number about 1,300 in all. I do not know why so much money is given by the State for the education of so few students. As a matter of fact the European school boys do not stand in need of any encouragement. They are more educated when compared with the rest of the population. I request the Hon. Minister to do away with this preferential treatment and to treat everybody living in the Presidency on an equal footing.

"As regards the question of the regional languages, there is so much controversy raging around it. Our Muslim friends here claim that Urdu is their mother-tongue. I do not want to go into that question whether their claim is right or wrong. There is their demand and I know that most of the Muslims talk Urdu

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in their homes. Therefore provision must be made to give instruction to them in Urdu. Another thing is that the introduction of this system of regional language is likely to cause difficulty to one set of persons. Students coming from regions where the language is different will find themselves in a very disadvantageous position. Their interest also must be taken into consideration and facilities provided for them to study in their own regional language.

"As regards the organization for the selection of text-books, I find that there is only one S.S.L.C. Board for the whole of the Madras Presidency. There is a demand for a separate Board for the Andhradesa and this should be met. Again, in prescribing the text-books, we find that the concerned Board has chosen most of the books which begin with 'God Save the King'. I do not know why they should select such books as text-books. I should say that they should have any other thing than that. I request the Hon. Minister at least from next year onwards to see that 'God Save the King' is removed from the text-books and National songs inserted in its place."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir. The Communist Member has been saying that 'God Save the King' should be removed from the text-books. Is he objecting to God or the King?" (Laughter.)

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"What I say is that I object to both. (Renewed laughter.) Another comment I wish to make about these text-books is that, though the schools opened three months ago, the text-books have not been made available to students in many schools. I request the Hon. Minister either to make the text-books available to the students immediately or reduce the portions of these text-books for the boys who have not yet got the books."

"Regarding the provision for hostels, there is a great demand. On account of the absence of suitable hostel accommodation the students are resorting to choultries which are centres of trade and traders are making great profits. I request the Government to take over these choultries and convert them into hostels for students. The Law College students are complaining bitterly that the hostel promised to them has not yet been started. The Law College is a unique institution and therefore immediate steps should be taken for the construction of a hostel for the students thereof."

"I now come to the subject of religious instruction in schools and colleges. Of course nobody can object to religious education and if anybody ventures to raise any objection he will be called a communist. But why should this teaching be given in schools? As Sri C. Rajagopalachari, when he was Prime Minister, has stated, the home is the best place for imparting religious education. Circumstanced as we are, I do feel that home is the proper place for religious education to the youths. All the quarrels in our midst will disappear if we agree to give religious education to our children in our homes and not ask for religious education

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in the schools. I earnestly appeal to all parties to desist from this demand and request that no religious instruction be given in our schools and colleges. Let there be at least no compulsion in this matter, Sir. There are students among both Hindus and Muslims who do not like this religious instructions. (Voices: 'Question'.) I can adduce evidence in support of what I say." (N. Md. Anwar Sahib: 'God save the Muslims at any rate from the Communists!')

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Members go on interrupting Mr. Venkateswarlu, he will ask for more time." (Laughter.)

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Yes, Sir, one more minute on account of these interruptions, please."

"The next point I want to dwell upon relates to the salaries of teachers. There is a great agitation going on among the schoolmasters for higher pay. If their cry is not heeded to, they might resort to strike and then, as usual, the Communists would be blamed for that as well. I request the Hon. Minister to take the matter into consideration before that happens. Token sums of Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 cannot solve their problem. The Budget should provide for much higher pay to the teachers. There is no use shouting at us, the Communists, saying that we are responsible for this and that. The only problem to-day is that living wage should be guaranteed to each and every one in the country and the right to live assured."

"Then, Sir, the salaries paid to teachers in schools under committee management are very low. I have got experience of a school in Tenali where the salary paid is very low and even this salary is paid at irregular intervals. Even double M.As. are paid only Rs. 40 or Rs. 45 with the result the trained and experienced teachers leave the school at the earliest opportunity. If this state of affairs is not to continue, the Hon. Minister must see that the salaries are raised to decent levels. Our children should not suffer for lack of experienced teachers. So, both in the interests of the teachers and the taught, the salaries of teachers should be considerably raised."

"Sir, if the Hon. Minister is not here, what is the good of my criticisms under this Demand?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister is in his seat."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I want the Hon. Minister to see that the committee-managed schools are properly managed. With these few words I support the cut motion."

* SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, இப்பொழுது நமது தாய் பாஷையைத் தேச பாஷையாகச் செய்திருப்பதானது தமிழ் நாட்டுக்குச் சிறப்பு உண்டாக்கியிருக்கிறது. அதிலும் கல்வி இலாக்கா அமைச்சர் உலகம் போற்றும் உத்தம நூலாகிய திருக்குறளை எல்லாப் பாடசாலைகளிலும், கல்லூரிகளிலும் பாடம் வைக்கவேண்டுமென்றும், திருவள்ளூர் திருநாளைக் கொண்டாடவேண்டுமென்றும் உத்தரவு போட்டதற்கு அவர்களுக்கு வந்தனம் செலுத்துகிறேன்."

[Sri A. S. Sahajananda] [3rd September 1946]

“சென்ற ஆண்டிலே 1945-46-ம் வருஷத்திலே உயர்தர ஆரம்ப பாடசாலைகளிலே 8-வது வகுப்பு சர்க்கார் பரிசேஷ்யாக இருந்தது. இதற்காக டெக்ஸ்ட் புத்தகம் வைத்தும், பரிசேஷ பேபரைத் திருத்தியதும் சரியல்ல. 100-க்கு 100 மார்க்குகள் வாங்கக்கூடிய மாணவர்கள் 100-க்கு 25 கூட மார்க்க வாங்கவில்லை. சில ஜில்லா போர்ட் ஹையர் எலிமெண்டரி, ஸ்கூல் களிலே முழு சூனியமாக மார்க்கே வாங்கவில்லை. இதற்குக் காரணம் கடுமையான டெக்ஸ்ட் புத்தகமும், இந்த பேபரைத் திருத்துகிறவர்களுடைய நெஞ்சிலே ஈரம் இல்லாமலிருப்பதேயாகும். ஆகவே, அந்தப் பேபர் திருத்தியவர்களின் பேரிலே சர்க்கார் கடுமையான நடவடிக்கை யெடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும். அவர்களுடைய செய்கையினால் எவ்வளவு ஆயிரம் ரூபாய் அந்தப் பையன்களின் பள்ளிக்கூடச் சம்பளம், ஹாஸ்டல் செலவு, இவைகள் காரணமாகச் செலவழிக்கும்படி செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்பதை யோசிக்கவேண்டும். ஆகவே, இப்போது மறுபடியும் பரிசேஷ செய்து, அப்பேபர்களை விநித மனமுடையவர்களுக்கு அனுப்பி, பரிசேஷயின் முடிவை வெளியிடவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“சாமி வரம் தந்தாலும் பூசாரி வரம் தரவில்லை” என்பது போல ஹரி ஜனங்கள் விஷயத்தில் சர்க்காருக்கு மனம் வந்தாலும், அதன் கீழ் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் சிரத்தை யெடுத்துக்கொள்ளவில்லை. எடுக்கேனல் இலாக்கா டைரெக்டருடைய ஆபீஸ் மிகவும் மோசமாகவிருக்கிறது. ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்காக மிடில் ஸ்கூல் வேண்டுமென்றால், முடியாதென்று அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இப்போதிருக்கிற மாதிரி கல்வி இலாக்கா இருக்கும் வரையில் ஹரிஜனங்கள் ஒருபோதும் முன்னுக்கு வரமுடியாது. கல்வி இலாக்கா தலைவர் ஒரு ஹரிஜன் ஆக இருக்கவேண்டும்; அல்லது ஹரிஜன் முன்னேற்றத்தில் கருத்து உள்ளவராக இருக்கவேண்டும். அவ்விதம் இல்லாத கல்வி இலாக்கா உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களை உடனே மாற்றவேண்டும். 20 ஆண்டுகளாகக் கல்விக்காக நான் பாடுபட்டுவருவதால், அதைப்பற்றி நான் சொன்னேன். நான் படும் கஷ்டம், அலையும் அலேச்சல் எனக்குத் தெரியும்.

“மேலும் மூலாதார படிப்பு விஷயமாக அதிகாரிகள் கையாண்டுவரும் முறைகள் சரியாயில்லை. ஏனென்றால், முதல் வகுப்பில் இருக்கும் தொகைக்கு நாலில் ஒரு பங்கு நான்காம் வகுப்பில் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்பதும், மாணவர்களில் 25 சதவீதம் பெண்கள் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்பதும் தவறு. இவற்றைத் திருத்தவேண்டும். அதோடு, பகல் உணவு அளிக்கப்படும் இடமெல்லாம் கட்டாயப் படிப்பை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவரவேண்டும். ஊரில் உயர்தர பள்ளிக்கூடமிருப்பதாலும், அல்லது வேறு மிஷன் பள்ளிக் கூடம் பக்கத்தில் இருப்பதாலும், எலிமெண்டரி பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்கு அங்கீகாரம் கொடுக்காதது தவறு.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, விளக்கமான வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தில் 204-ம் பக்கத்தில் ரூ. 4,50,000 போர்டிங் கிராண்ட் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. 206-ம் பக்கத்தில் பிரைமரி பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்கென்று போர்டிங் கிராண்ட் ரூ. 8,900 ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. மறுபடியும் ஐரோப்பியரல்லாதாருக்கு ரூ. 7,91,600 போர்டிங் கிராண்ட் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இதைப்பற்றி ஷார்ட் நோட்ஸ் குவஸ்டன் ஒன்று போட்டிருந்தேன். அந்தக் கேள்விக்கு பதில் இன்னும் எனக்கு ரிப்பை வரவில்லை.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR :—“நேற்று தான் டைப் செய்து அனுப்பியிருக்கிறேன்.”

* **SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA :—**“இது விஷயத்தில் செகரடரி மேல் நடவடிக்கை யெடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இந்த மாகாணத்திலே 173 ஹாஸ்டல்களுக்குள்ளேன். அவைகளில் 157 மிஷனரி, 11 இந்துக்கள், 5 முஸ்லீம்கள். அவைகளுக்கென்று கிராண்ட்டில் 100-க்கு 92½ வீதம் மிஷனரிகள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். முஸ்லீம்கள் 2½ சத வீதம், ஹிந்துக்கள் 5 சத வீதம் கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஒன்றுமில்லை. ஆகையால், லேபர் இலாக்காவில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் தொகையில் ரூ. 259,300-ல் பங்கு கொடுக்க நாங்கள் சம்மதிக்கமாட்டோம். ஒடுக்கப்பட்டிருந்துவர்களுக்கு ஒரு நல்ல தொகை ஒதுக்கவேண்டுகிறேன். ஆனால், ஹரிஜன்

[3rd September 1946] [Sri A. S. Sahajananda]

பையன்களுடைய சோற்றில் கை வைக்கவேண்டாமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக இந்த மிஷனரிகள் எவ்வித உபகாரமும் செய்வதில்லை. இவர்கள் ஹரிஜன் பிள்ளைகளை தங்களுடைய பள்ளிக்கூடங்களிலே சேர்த்துக்கொண்டு கொஞ்ச நாளைக்கெல்லாம் அவர்களைக் கிருஸ்துவர்களாகும்படியாகச் செய்துவிரிகிறார்கள். யான் சிறுவனையிருக்கும்போது, 1902-ம் அல்லது 1903-ம் வருஷத்தில், எங்கள் ஊரில் அமெரிகன் ஆற்காடு மிஷன் எலிமெண்டரி பாடசாலையில் படித்து வந்தேன். என்னை மிஷனரிகள் திண்டிவனம் அமெரிகன் ஆற்காடு மிஷன் போர்டிங்கில் சேர்ந்து படிக்கச் செய்தார்கள். ஒரு வருஷமானதும் என்னைக் கிருஸ்துவ மதத்தில் சேரும்படிச் சொன்னார்கள். நான் மாட்டேனென்று ஊருக்கு வந்துவிட்டேன். பாதிரிமார்கள் அந்த ஒரு வருஷத்திற்கு ரூ. 60 எனது தந்தையாரிடத்தில் வசூலித்துவிட்டார்கள். ஆனால், வெளிநாடுகளிலிருந்து கொண்டுவந்து தாங்கள் பணம் போடுவதுபோல நடித்துகொண்டு, அர சாங்கத்தின்பிறந்து போர்டிங்குக்காக இந்த மிஷனரிகள் பணம் வாங்குகிறார்கள். சர்க்கார் கொடுக்கும் போர்டிங் கிராண்ட் ரூ. 8 லக்ஷமும் மதம் மாற்றத்திற்குப் பயன் படுத்தப்படுகிறது. இதனால் ஹரி ஜனங்கள் தொகையில் குறைந்து, ஹிந்துக்களின் எண்ணிக்கையும் குறையும். ஆகவே, ஹரி ஜனங்களின் பணத்தில் கைவைக்காதிருக்கும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, காங்கிரஸ் ஹைகமானும் எங்களைக் கைவிட்டிருக்கிறது. மத்திய இடைக்கால அரசாங்கத்தில் எங்கள் ஜனத்தொகைக்கு ஏற்றவாறு எங்களுக்கு இடமளிக்கக் குறைந்தது இரண்டு ஸ்தானங்களேனும் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கவேண்டும். இவ்விதம் செய்யத் தவறிவிட்டனர். சென்னை மாகாணத்திலேனும் இரண்டு மந்திரி ஸ்தானம் கொடுத்திருக்க வேண்டும். இவர்களும் இது விஷயத்தில் தவறிவிட்டார்கள். போதாக்குறைக்கு எங்களுக்கு உதவி செய்ய வைத்திருக்கும் போர்டிங் கிராண்ட்டில் “கான்வர்ட்”, “நான்-கான்வர்ட்”, என்ற பதஞ் சேர்த்து எங்களைக் கிருஸ்துவராகப் போகும்படி அரசாங்கத்தார் செய்கிறார்கள். மகாத்மா எரவாடா சிறையில் பட்டினி கிடந்து எங்களை இந்துக்களோடு சேர்த்தார்கள். ஆனால் இன்று சென்னை அரசாங்கம் எங்களைக் கிருஸ்துவ மதத்தில் சேரும் படி செய்கிறது. அப்படியானால், நாங்கள் முஸ்லீம்களோடு சேர்ந்து எங்கள் உரிமையைப் பெற முயல்வோம்! கிருஸ்துவ மதத்தில் சரியான கடவுள் இலக்கணமும் இல்லை. ஹிந்து மதத்தில் கடவுளுக்கு இலக்கணமும், இவ்வுலகத்தை யுண்டாக்கி, இரகசித்து ஒடுக்குபவர் என்பது. இஸ்லாத்தில் குரானில் கடவுள் இலக்கணம் உலகத்தையுண்டாக்கி, இரத்து, பூர்த்தி செய்பவர் என்பதாம். அம்மதத்தில் சகோதரவரமும் இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால், லேபரிலிருந்து இந்த ‘கன்வர்ட்’ பதத்தை யெடுக்கா விடில், நாங்கள் முஸ்லீம் ஆவோம். நாங்கள் சண்டை போட்டுக்கொண்டு, எங்களுக்கு வேண்டியதை வாங்கிக்கொள்ளுவோம்.

“எடுக்கேன்” மினிஸ்டருக்கு இன்னொரு விண்ணப்பம். தமிழ்ப் பண்டிதர்களாக இருக்கிறவர்களை தெய்வ வழிபாடு செய்கிறவர்களாகவிரிக்க வேண்டும். தமிழ்ப் பண்டிதர்கள் சைவம், வைணவம், அத்வைதம் முதலிய சமய நூல்களைப் படியாமையால், இன்று சிதம்பரத்தின் பக்கத்திலெல்லாம் நாஸ்திகத்தைப் பரப்பி வருகிறார்கள். இலக்கணம், இலக்கியம்படித்த பிறகு கட்டாயமாக தமிழ் மறையாகிய திருக்குரள், மற்று முன்ன சமய நூல்களைத் தமிழாசிரியர்கள் படிக்கவேண்டுமென்று சர்க்கார் உத்திரவு பிறப்பிவிக்கவேண்டும். சமயநூல் படியாதவர்களைத் தமிழாசிரியராக யெடுக்கக்கூடாது. மற்றும் அவர்கள் தங்களது மதச் சின்னத்தை ஷெற்றியில் தரிசு வேண்டுமென்றும் சர்க்கார் உத்திரவு போட வேண்டும்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, பி.ஏ. ஹானஸ் படிக்க 5 வருஷங்கள் காலேஜில் சேர்ந்து படிக்கிறார்கள். தமிழ்ப் பண்டிதர்களும் 5 வருஷங்கள் காலேஜில் சேர்ந்து படிக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால், ஆங்கிலம் படித்தவர்களுக்குள்ள மதிப்பு, ஊழியமும், தமிழ்ப் பண்டிதர்களுக்குக் கிடைப்பதில்லை. பண்டிதர்களுக்கு, உயர்தர மூலாதார கல்லூரியிலும் மிடில் ஸ்கூலிலும் ஆசிரியத் தொழில் செய்பவருக்கு செகண்டரி கிரேட் சம்பளமும், IV பார முதல் ஸ்டீ.டி. கிரேட் சம்பளமும், காலேஜில் ஆசிரியராயிருப்பவருக்கு ஆங்கில

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புரோபஸர்களுக்குள்ள சம்பளமும் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இன்று தமிழ்ப் பண்டிதர்களின் குறைகள் மிகவும் அதிகம். அவைகளை சர்க்கார் உடனே கவனித்து நிவர்த்திக்குமாறு நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“காலேஜ்களில் எப்.எ., பி.ஏ. படிக்கும் மாணவர்கள் ஒரு பாடத்தில் தவற நேரிடில் அடுத்த ஆண்டில் அதே பாடத்திற்கு மாத்திரம் தேர்வுக்குச் செல்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் தமிழாசிரியர்கள் ஒரு பாடத்தில் தவறினால் எல்லாப் பாடங்களிலும் மறுபடியும் தேர்தலுக்குச் செல்லவேண்டும். இது பெருங்குறை. இவ்விஷயத்தில் அவர்களுக்கு சலுகைக்காட்டும்படி கல்வி இலாகா அமைச்சரைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

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p.m.

* SRI P. NATESAN:—“Mr. Speaker, hon. Members have all been talking about education and their demands seem to be that more and more colleges should be opened in this Presidency. As it is, I think, our universities are turning out thousands of graduates, both boys and girls, and I do not know what these people are doing or are going to do. Are they going to be clerks? The other day the Hon. Premier said, ‘that all the trouble about the communal Government Order is due to the fact that more and more people ask for Government jobs.’ Sir, the education given to-day is only intended to fit them for clerical work. (Interruption.) Even there I disagree, because I know of hundreds of girls who come out of the Queen Mary’s College have to wait for husbands, because they want M.A. and B.A. husbands. I say, Sir, that this education is absolutely misplaced. There is no need for collegiate education except for a certain type of people. What is wanted in this country is more of skilled and unskilled workers. Immediately the boys leave the school final class they should be taken on to what we call the polytechnic schools. I am glad to note that the Government of Madras have arranged for the opening of four polytechnic schools. So far so good. But I would like more polytechnics to be established. Sir, such of those boys who are going to be artisans in the future—I am talking of the working class people, such as the man who is a carpenter by profession—must be given free compulsory primary education. The Government’s policy is to have primary education compulsory. Right. But after they get the primary education, every boy must follow the avocation of his father, the carpenter will go to carpentry, the blacksmith’s son will become a blacksmith and so on. Sir, there are industries which need these men. (An hon. Member: ‘Without any change in his profession.’) Yes. The carpenter will not only be a mere carpenter, but he will be an engineering carpenter and will know the technique of carpentry. An Engineer cannot do what a labourer can do with his hands. The engineer may have the skill and the knowledge gained from university education, he may know the technique and he will put the artisan in his way. Therefore my hon. Friend Mr. Baig is making a mistake in thinking that I want a carpenter to be a carpenter all the time. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib: ‘He is against the caste system.’) I am not suggesting any caste divisions, but this is division of labour. The artisan course must start with the elementary school boys. They form the backbone of every industry. I want our boys to be trained, just as we sent a lot of Bevin boys to England for workshop training. Look at the

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industrial countries like Germany and America. These artisans who are skilled workers form an important limb of industrial activity. Training of these boys is the first thing that we should do. Such of those boys who can afford to go in for secondary education, will take to the polytechnic where I would like them to be given education in shorthand, typewriting, the lower grade lessons in mechanical engineering and electrical engineering, etc. The student with a university degree takes higher engineering education. Sir, this is how we will have to divide the education of our boys. The artisan course must embrace every conceivable industrial activity, such as spinning, weaving, dyeing, carpentry, smithy, etc. It is not necessary to have all the course of training in one single institution. The polytechnics must be so spread in the province that it will be useful for the boys in particular localities. Taking a place like Coimbatore where there is a lot of textile mills, the polytechnic may make the textile industry as the important subject of education there; and in a district like South Arcot where there is good production of groundnut, you may teach something which will be useful for that trade. That is the policy on which you must proceed in the case of these boys.

“Sir, the collegiate education of to-day does not serve any useful purpose. What is the object of education? One must get happiness. You do not want misery. You want to live a comfortable life. That is the ambition. What is the use of being graduates and then hanging on for jobs for years and years. This is a vicious circle. The graduate boys say that they do not know what they do. We ask them ‘Why did you take to the Arts course? Why didn’t you take to some other sideline.’ They say, ‘My father had no idea of it.’ The parents of the boys proceed without any definite idea after their boys pass the school final. Parents must make up their minds before they send their boys to school as to what they are going to do. Otherwise you will always have the trouble of having these B.As. and B.Ls. competing for Government jobs and this communal question will always be there. Everybody will ask for a job, and the Hon. Premier will have to find job for every man with a double degree or a single degree in accordance with communal Government Order. I have known cases in the Madras High Court where people with double degrees, i.e., B.A., B.Ls., hanging on for jobs on Rs. 30. I am speaking of some cases in the year 1926; when we ask them why they take up jobs on Rs. 30 they say that there is the ultimate chance of their becoming Bench Clerks or District Munsifs. That is all their ambition. Is it for this purpose that you are going to spend money particularly at a time when you are talking of basic languages, and a National Government. What is the idea of spending more and more money upon collegiate education now? You stop for a minute. Wait a year or two and see what the Central Government which is now being manned by Indians is going to do and then come up with your policy. Sir, I want people to learn the art of living, because it is an art by itself. It is no good being fed up. Take for instance my hon. European friends. How many of them have had collegiate education? Are

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they not a success here? The real truth is that they try to apply their brains and try to learn their work. A European comes over to India and runs the show here on behalf of the European principal in London. Do you think one of our countrymen can go to London and carry on a business on behalf of one here? (Interruption.) I want my countrymen to emulate their example. We must understand what life is. We must try to adapt ourselves."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members need not interrupt."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Why should we not emulate our European friends and make life a success?"

"Why should everybody ask for a Government job? Why should everybody try to become a graduate? What earthly use is it to become a graduate unless it be that one wants to go in for research in some field or higher branches of engineering and so on? I think, Sir, that something should be done to prevent these people from trying to become graduates. I want the Hon. Minister for Education or the Cabinet to look to this matter. How many graduates are we turning out year after year? Can we provide jobs for all these people?"

"There is another thing which I want to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Education, and that is with regard to the admission in the colleges in Madras of the boys who have passed their School Final Examination. What do these students do after passing their examination? They register their names in various colleges. Why? Because, otherwise they are afraid they may not get a seat in any one of them. When a student gets 280 or 290 marks in the S.S.L.C. examination he is supposed to be fit to sit in the Intermediate class. But the various colleges have their own standards for admission of these students. The Loyola College for instance would admit only students who have got 350 or 400 marks and the Vivekananda College would admit only students who have 400 marks. What are these institutions for if they are going to confine their admission to boys with merit only? I think, Sir, that even boys who have got the minimum number of marks required for passing the examination should be admitted into these colleges. On the other hand, these colleges pick the best type of boys who have got 400 marks and so on. Then, the Loyola College, for instance, says that 90 per cent of their students have got through the Intermediate Examination! I say, Sir, that is no credit to their staff. I told the Principal so when I happened to go and see him on behalf of a Brahman boy who had got only 290 marks. Now what is that boy going to do? If you think that that boy is no good, don't give him a pass mark, don't say he is eligible for college education. Once he is declared to be eligible for college education, don't say further that he should get 400 marks, otherwise he would not be admitted into this college or that college. It all depends on the Principals of these Colleges and they should be made to take all these boys. But they would turn round and say, 'Where shall we go for accommodation? Our accommodation is limited.' If the accommodation is limited I ask why do you produce so many graduates year after year? Stop the production of graduates."

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"Sir, there is one more point on which I want to say a few words, because I have given notice of a cut motion to raise this question. I refer to the aided and privately managed institutions. Sir, it is a most scandalous thing that goes on in some privately managed schools. I know there are schools and schools and some of them are hopelessly mismanaged. If anybody in charge of Education visits the school, the manager or the correspondent takes him round, makes him write something in the report book, and puts a garland round his neck and the Education Minister or whoever it is who is in charge of Education forgets all about that institution. Sir, I know that in some of these institutions, gross mismanagement takes place. If there are women teachers, the poor women teachers are made to work very hard. They are made to collect funds for some benefit show of the institution, because the private management is not able to run the institution without the aid of somebody else's charity. They put up some drama and make the women teachers go about and sell tickets. I have had occasion to come across some of these women teachers going about collecting funds. I don't want to call them by any bad name, for I have myself given donations. I have asked sometimes: what about the donations collected last year, and I have been told that last year the donations were collected for some purpose and this year they are collected for a different purpose. Sometimes the manager or the correspondent tells the teacher, 'You are responsible for Rs. 50 worth of tickets.' I ask, Sir, where is she to go and sell the tickets? It is just like the War Fund collections, Sir. I am not exaggerating. It is a fact. So much about the private managed institutions. Then what about the salaries of these teachers? They are not paid cent per cent. If the teacher is to get a salary of Rs. 30, he is made to sign a receipt for Rs. 30 but is actually given only Rs. 20. You may turn round and ask: Is not the teacher an educated man and why should he give a receipt for Rs. 30? But the poor man has to make a living and he has to sign a receipt for Rs. 30 while actually getting only Rs. 20."

"Then about dearness allowance. A number of these small institutions do not pay dearness allowance. To whom are they to make a complaint? And how is the Education Minister going to be satisfied? He may say: 'You bring all sorts of things on the floor of the House; will you take me to some place and show me?' I say, Yes, but the Education Minister should not put too many questions to the poor teachers because their livelihood depends upon the managers. In these circumstances what can he or she do?"

"Let us leave alone the question of pay and dearness allowance. Take the question of supplies to these institutions. These institutions buy furniture for Rs. 100 but take a receipt for Rs. 200. The Government make a grant of 50 per cent or 100 per cent of this expenditure. There is no question, Sir, that there is such a great waste of public funds in aiding these small private managed institutions. You are thinking of nationalizing the bus transport business and electricity. Why not think of nationalizing these

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institutions? Why not the Government or the Corporation and the various municipalities take up these institutions? What I want to know is whether there is a need for these small private managed institutions. I am not an expert in this matter, but if there is a need, let the Hon. Minister for Education have an eye on them and see who is who, because there are good people also. Invariably, the correspondents of these schools start as managers and make money out of them. Sir, now that we have got a popular Ministry, I only want that whatever proposals they bring forward in this department must be thorough to ensure complete success."

M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir . . ."

* Mrs. C. AMMANNA RAJA:—"On a point or order, Mr. Speaker. May I suggest that one Member from each side be called?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I must first call those who have given notice of cut motions."

* Mrs. C. AMMANNA RAJA:—"Cannot any mutual arrangement be come to, instead of . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"First of all I will call those who have given notice of cut motions."

* Mrs. C. AMMANNA RAJA:—"Instead of calling people on this side at the fag end of the day and giving them two or three minutes, is it not better that you follow the previous practice?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The practice was that I should call first those who gave cut motions before I give opportunities to those who have not given cut motions."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I suggest, Sir, that you may at least give chances to lady Members?" (Laughter.)

SRI T. S. PATTABHIRAMAN:—"Members of the Congress Party cannot ordinarily give notice of cut motions."

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members who have spoken on this demand from this side of the House have given expression of their deep and profound feelings with regard to the question of merit and regional language. Sir, I do not propose on this occasion to expatiate on those expressions but only to make an earnest appeal, particularly to the young and enthusiastic heart of the Hon. Minister for Education to deeply and profoundly consider those expressions, because we feel strongly—when I say we, I mean all the Muslims of this Province, because the Hon. Minister for Education knows that all the hon. Muslim members here are the representatives of the Muslims of this Province—and therefore when they give expression to their feelings they are giving expression to the feelings of the whole of the Muslims of this Province. Therefore, Sir, I make the appeal to him earnestly and plead that he gives his deepest and most earnest consideration to the points raised with regard to the questions of merit and regional language."

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"Another important point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Education and also to the notice of the hon. Members of this Assembly is this. I went through the figures of the Administration Report of 1944-45 and I find that only seven per cent of the population is literate. That is, nearly 93 persons out of every hundred are ignorant. Therefore, it has become the duty and responsibility of the Hon. Minister for Education to see that this stupendous illiteracy is liquidated as early as possible. As soon as the Reforms came in England leaders of the community and the leaders of the nation went about the country saying that their masters should be educated. Their slogans were 'Close your jails and open a school' and 'Educate your masters.' As long as you keep vast masses of the people in illiteracy I tell you, whatever reforms you may introduce, whatever good you may do to these people, they will all be a mere waste. Sir, you are aware that in this country, particularly in this Province, the poorest and the lowliest have not been given the opportunities of education. Even elementary education they have not been given. Sir, there are gems, there are flowers in this country. I want to bring to the notice of the House the famous lines of Thomas Grey where he says:

'Full many a gem purest ray serene
The dark unfathomed caves of the ocean bear:
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen,
And waste its sweetness in the desert air.'

"Sir, there are gems in this ocean of illiteracy, there are flowers blooming, flowers in the depth of the forests of illiteracy and it must become the duty of the Education Minister to see that illiteracy is liquidated as early as possible, that he brings light and happiness to these people who are living in utter Egyptian darkness."

"Another point I would like to bring to the notice of the House is this. Opinions have been expressed in this House that the present educational system is wrong and that it must be entirely changed and that a new orientation must be given to the policy and the methods of education. As far as I am concerned I am not here to condemn outright the educational system. Sir, I may point out that the Hon. Premier, the Hon. Minister for Education and all the hon. Gentlemen in this House are the products of the present educational system; it is the educational system which has brought forth a Tilak, a Gokhale, a Jawahar or a Jinnah and I think there is nothing wrong with the educational system. It may have shortcomings. It may have weaknesses. It may have certain drawbacks! And it is up to the Education Minister to find out those shortcomings and rectify them."

"I want to tell the Hon. Minister for Education not to create an educational system resting on the political philosophy of a particular party. Sir, it was tried once upon a time by a man named Hitler. He tried to change and reshape the policy of his country on the cult of 'Nazism.' His educational policy strutted

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across the stage of history and proclaimed to the world the supremacy of brute force, the supremacy of low cunning over reason and it had tried to suppress freedom, it had tried to suppress individuals, who were tolerated only to the extent they supported the leaders in their lust for unlimited power, it had tried to break down established religion as an expression of a despised civilization. Sir, it had tried to use the genius of an enslaved nation for the propagation of its own cult, in order that it may gain its end, namely, the rule of Satan over the children of God. Therefore, in the name of humanity, in the name of the souls of this country and this Province, I must make this particular appeal to the Hon. Premier—I make an appeal to the Hon. Premier because, his heart I know, if I may use a Shakesperian expression, is full of the milk of human kindness—to see that the educational policy is not based upon any political philosophy of any party. Sir, as you know, this country, nay, this sub-continent, contains peoples of different ideals and different ideologies and different cultures and therefore it is the duty and the responsibility of the Ministry to see that they create an educational policy which suits every one occupying this vast Presidency. With this appeal, Sir, I support the cut motion."

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p.m.

* SRI W. S. SRINIVASA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to make a few suggestions in regard to the Education department. The whole system of education that is existing at present in our Province is rotten to the core. It was planned by the previous alien Government to rule over us and to manufacture clerks and their obedient servants who are only slaves. Now the time has changed; the whole Indian Government is changing; to-day we have got popular Governments throughout the country. (Voices: 'No'.) Even if my friends say 'No', it is there; there is no use saying 'no.' We will get along with the facts. (A voice: 'No.' I say 'Yes'; so both the 'no' and the 'yes' are there and 'he' is only one of the two. To-day, as I said, the whole of India is under popular Governments . . ."

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Let him state the facts, Sir, otherwise, we will oppose."

* SRI W. S. SRINIVASA RAO:—"I repeat, Sir, that to-day India is being governed by popular Governments. (Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur: 'No'.) You may say 'no'; I am not going to be cowed down."

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Mr. Speaker. Does the hon. Member mean by 'popular government', Congress Government or really 'popular government'?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I am not here to ask him for the meaning of the words. I shall give you an opportunity, if you want, and you may contradict him. He is giving expression to his own opinion. Mr. Srinivasa Rao will continue his speech."

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"That is a wrong opinion, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"That is your opinion."

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* SRI W. S. SRINIVASA RAO:—"Sir, I request you to extend my time (laughter) so that I may speak for a little more time which I have lost now by these interruptions. I have got full confidence that the Governments both at the Centre and in the Provinces are going to make a complete change in the system of education. With that hope in view, I want to make certain suggestions. A friend said that before the British came, Urdu was the language here. I want to point out that if you take any record from the Taluk or Revenue offices, you will find that Marathi was the language. It is, therefore, very reasonable and very proper that only the regional language should be taught to our children in schools. As for the children of the minority languages, some provision may be made for them for private study. In this connexion, I wish to say that there are thousands of Marathi people in this Province who should also be provided for. If the other people talking other minority languages are to be provided for, the Mahrattas have also got to be provided for. If, however, that cannot be done, we shall be quite content with the regional language, and we are not afraid that our individuality will be lost without it."

"In this connexion, Sir, I wish to congratulate the Interim Ministers who have taken charge yesterday at Delhi and I hope . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"They have nothing to do with our provincial education; you please continue your speech on the Demand."

* SRI W. S. SRINIVASA RAO:—"Sir, the brightest day dawned yesterday (Voices: 'No'.) when real education of Indians began and it has actually begun yesterday. (A voice: 'Question'.) All right."

"So far as elementary schools are concerned, the teachers recruited for giving elementary education are not the type of persons who ought to be recruited. They do not have the necessary educational qualifications, nor have they the physical qualifications even. Most of them are not efficient—I speak with due respect to those few who are really efficient—and people who have no other avocation, take to his line. Recently, Sir, the eighth class examination also has been introduced in elementary schools, which is chiefly intended for producing more teachers and nothing else. Those who have studied the eighth class and have passed the examination are not fit for being admitted directly into the fourth form or into the service of Government or of private bodies; they are fit only to become teachers, and they have to go into the training schools. The system of training that is given in such schools is itself very bad and the material that is being produced by these training schools is equally very bad. I, therefore, suggest that this eighth class examination be abolished altogether and that higher grade training schools themselves be abolished. Sir, young children are the seeds of our future generation; they are to enjoy the full fruits of the independence that we are slowly gaining. If these raw people, immature people are

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put in charge of the children, our children can never develop on right lines. I suggest our children should be put in charge of M.As. and B.As. and even people who are educated to a high degree in Tamil and Telugu, as it is only they who can understand the psychology of the children and improve the moral standard of the children. It is only then they can make a better citizens of the children.

"In this connexion, Sir, I object to separate schools being started for separate communities. I object to it strongly. (A voice: 'No.') My friend says 'no'; I never objected when he said something else; it is now my turn and I am voicing forth my opinion; and it is my definite suggestion. If I am giving out his suggestion, then he can say 'no', but not when I am giving out my opinion. Sir, it is these separate schools that have brought the police bandobust to-day throughout the country. If these separate schools had not existed all these years, the police bandobust would not be there. On account of these separate schools, the children develop separatist tendencies and bring hatred among themselves while at school, with the result that when they grow up, they begin to quarrel and cut each other's throats. I, therefore, object to these separate schools, Sir. All our children should be put in the same school; they should be taught the same language; if, however, any number of people want their children to be taught in their mother-tongue which is not the common language, one or two periods can be set apart for such children. It is only that kind of training which will bring all the communities together, and it is only then that they will all grow as children of the same motherland and can become very good future citizens of our country.

"Then, Sir, the moral standard of these young children in the schools, both elementary and high schools, are very much deteriorating in these days. They are not given good company; they are not given good surroundings for their proper development. I have personally seen in many schools a teacher with a cigarette in his mouth and a boy with another cigarette in his mouth, both being lit by the same match-stick. (Laughter.) They call it equality or such something—new words are being coined nowadays—and that has created a lot of deterioration in their moral standard. Nowadays the boys are being very much spoiled. I suggest that legislation should be brought before this House to see that juvenile smoking is prohibited. It has done great havoc among the younger boys and, therefore, this question should be treated as a very important one.

"Then, Sir, the Scout movement, the Bratachari movement and such like movements should be actively encouraged in all our schools. In the high school department, provincialization of teachers should be brought about. Teachers, to whichever school they may belong, whether to the municipal or Government or private aided schools, should be put in the same scale of pay. They should all have the same chance of going from one corner to the other corner of the Presidency and they should thus be encouraged.

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"Again, Sir, the teachers supplement their pay nowadays with what is called private tuition. We know that in the General Hospital we have first to go to the doctor's houses and pay them Rs. 20 there and then come to the hospital, be admitted there and then get special treatment; if not, we do not get proper treatment. Just like that, here also boys who get private tuition, get certain special privileges such as promotion, getting answers to questions beforehand, etc., whereas the other boys do not enjoy such privileges. So, I say the private tuition system should be abolished. There is, however, no use in your simply abolishing it; the teachers should be sufficiently compensated. They take up private tuition only because they are not able to earn sufficient money to pull on in this world; they should, therefore, be given sufficient pay and then only you can expect qualified men to take to the teacher's profession. I know there are many teachers who are not fit to be teachers at all, who do not know what it is to be a teacher. They are, of course, there purely because of so many considerations which I do not want to detail here."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I am sorry, you have exceeded your time."

* MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our time and in our clime, the noblest of professions is the corriest of trades and that is the tragedy of our country. I must offer my sympathies to the Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiyar for being entrusted with the torch of learning with the weakest battery of finance. How can we expect him with that torch to dispel darkness and spread light? Really, he is entrusted with the most sacred mission of nation-building and I believe it will be his motto 'Suffer thee unto the children, for theirs is the Kingdom of God'. But when he looks around, what does he find in the army of teachers that have sprung in the countryside? Great educators have said: 'Give me the child, I shall make a new heaven and a new earth'; but to whom are we called upon to entrust our children? Oh! if we only look around our army of teachers—no doubt I see there are teachers and teachers and this reminds me of that couplet of Goldsmith:

'Puppy, mongrel, whelp and hound
And curs of low degree.'

That is indeed what we see among the teachers; a preponderant percentage of them belong to the category which can best be described as 'curs of low degree'.

"I say, I need not be contradicted, Mr. Speaker. I speak 1 p.m.
with a wealth of experience and thousands and thousands of teachers I have seen in my life, but let me tell you what is it that we must have to do with such an army of teachers. You must know that public opinion has not got patience even in regard to the proposals for a forty-year plan under the Sergeant Scheme. Do you then expect us, particularly the most enlightened section of the House, the Muslim League Party, to reconcile with the long-term plans for the liquidation of illiteracy? I want this

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Government to realize that only on that day we shall have freedom when the last child has been educated and never until then, we should rest content with the feeling that we have attained freedom. It is a sham. We must train up and educate every child.

“What is it that we see to-day? This Ministry has started the fantastic principles of merit. I am very sorry that they should have ignored the urgent claims of liquidation of backwardness. They should have been that backwardness is wiped out and the sooner it is done the better for all concerned. The Scheduled Class child, the Muslim child and the non-Brahman child must come in for higher priority in all matters of education. Now that the Government has been elected by millions and millions of the people of the land, you want to condemn the system of education and make it only a close preserve for the 20 per cent by virtue of merit. What is it that you mean by merit? Do you mean to condemn the other 80 per cent as not possessed of merit? That is surely a very poor sense of proportion. You have no right to condemn 80 per cent of the applicants and deny them opportunities on considerations of ‘merit’, as you call it. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, it was the lot of an examiner who has described his misery in a text called “The Examination of Examinations” and that when by a mistake, his own set answers got mixed up with the answers of the examinees, he himself could get only 20 per cent (laughter). Who is, then, to decide merit? That is a relative expression. The Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiyar may describe that Mr. So and So is possessed of merit; I will never accept that. We have no absolute standard for that; we have no universal tests or criteria for this and let me expose this fallacy of the Minister for Education that although they should sit in judgment and decide things on considerations of merit, most of them do not possess such considerations themselves.

“Now, I speak for backward communities. I say this without fear of contradiction that unless and until you are going to relax all rules and regulations and see that you extend the facilities under the Grant-in-Aid Code and come forward with proposals for running institutions, you are not going to help them at all. For instance, in my own district of North Arcot, ever so many Muslims have come forward with proposals and with princely designs for putting up buildings for high schools and colleges at Vaniambadi, Ambur and Pernambut. In regard to the Muslim High School, Ambur, when I approached the Minister for Education, he said ‘this Government is a பிச்சைக்கூர் (pitchaikura) Government’. What does he mean by it? He has no right to dangle before us prospects of freedom and literacy, and then, after he steps into office turn down the proposals on account of financial difficulty and say that we must wait till Doomsday. I am very sorry that such should be the mentality of the powers that be. I should consider that they have really duped the electorate when they said that they would have peace and plenty the moment they were elected to office. Actually, whereas the Adviser Government could give us excellent grants and subsidies towards

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the cause of Muslim education, for instance, Government Muhammadan College, Madras, and Muslim Girls' College, Madras, I challenge this Ministry, notwithstanding the greatest regard that my community is having for the Hon. the Prime Minister, notwithstanding all that regard, this Minister, the Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiyar has given us little proof of sincerity to safeguard the interests of Muslim education.

“I want to see that this Minister realizes that Mussalmans have it as a birth-right to see that what they have inherited from their mother's womb, their mother-tongue, should be preserved at all costs. We will rather die than see that our mother-tongue is obliterated. You should know, Mr. Speaker, that our community, hundred millions in India, has gone into oblivion because this mother-tongue was tried to be uprooted. (A voice: ‘By whom?’) By the British, the moment they set foot on this soil, and we have suffered the consequences . . .”

* SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—“On a point of order. Sir, can an hon. Member when he addresses the Minister, call him by his name without adding the word ‘honourable’?”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“He has referred to him as Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiyar.”

* MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I want a clear assurance from the Hon. the Minister for Education that Muslim education will not suffer at his hands. Let him take it from us that it is the unanimous opinion of the Muslim spokesman here representing the five million Muslims of this Province that they will prefer death to surrender when it comes to the question of mother-tongue and I feel that we shall claim this mother-tongue as our birth-right and every provision should, therefore, be made that this mother-tongue which is our birth-right is guaranteed to us.”

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise in the first place to raise my voice of protest against the ordinary favourite pastime of people who cannot find other arguments and that is ‘Brahman-baiting.’ Although the western countries it has been the fashion of some people whenever there is any evil, to take up the pastime of Jew-baiting; and so far as this Presidency is concerned, we find people who are at the end of their tether and argument, finally bring in the ‘fear of the Brahman’ because that seems to be their favourite pastime. After all the Brahmans are only 3 per cent of the population. Why this 3 per cent should, as a matter of fact, frighten the other 97 per cent including my heroic friends on this side who threaten with all kinds of disaster I cannot understand? Why the peaceful Brahman is brought in here, I am not able to understand. (Interruptions from the Muslim Group.) Now, I have got a voice sufficient to drown all the 29 hon. Friends of the Muslim League Group. Here I may tell you there was a favourite King Charles the Second in England who was sent out of the country; after that, some people always used to say that whenever it did not rain and whenever the cattle died, it was all due to the fact that the poor

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King Charles had been sent away. So, whenever there is anything good or bad, it is now said that the Brahman is always responsible for it and is at the bottom of it. On account of certain exigencies, the previous regime put in what is called communal representation even in the matter of admission to the temple of learning. Though this principle of communal representation may be adopted in the matter of dividing the leaves and fishes of office in the public services, if this principle is adopted in the matter of entry into the portals of learning, people should have, as a matter of fact, to hang down their heads in shame. However, it was allowed to persist till recently in regard to admission into the Law College and the Engineering College. Sir, I may point out that those persons who learn in the Engineering College have to become subsequently Engineers for constructing our buildings, our bridges and other structures and for transport services. In their cases also admission was put not on the ground of merit but on the ground of communal rotation. Things went on like this and now when our popular Ministry came into office, they thought that this was bad enough and that it should be revised because they considered that in the matter of technical education, the capacity and ability of the persons alone should be the criteria for entry into those Colleges. The Hon. Minister for Education wanted to give merit also a chance, chance to the extent of 20 per cent was given whereas merit should have been cent per cent chance. Now, what do you find? I find our friends complain that by this the Brahman community alone will come in. I say, you must learn what all you have done. For years obstruction to merit was there. If by merit, some persons of the Brahman community come in, what does it indicate? It really means that you are trying to keep out merit and keeping out a desirable number of persons of a particular community by using this communal privilege. I thought it was time that they should look at the figures; we have committed so much of injustice in the past. Let us agree that. This attitude of obstruction to merit, I submit, is more unjust. I would ask the Hon. Minister at as early a time as possible to remove the communal rotation with regard to admission into professional colleges where merit alone is required. My hon. Friends think that they can enter the portals of education and rule the country by means of communal rotation. I ask what this 3 per cent of Brahmans did when the Company came, when the Muslims came to rule and afterwards when other dynasties ruled? Was there any communal rotation at the time? Did the 3 per cent claim protection weightage against the 97 per cent communities. The Brahman took it as it came. As a matter of fact, he qualified himself by merit. Now, by means of the communal rotation, a bar has been raised. It is all a kind of artificial restriction that has been placed on him. As a matter of fact, the best man gets in first, should be the policy. This communal representation has been tried for over twenty years for bolstering up certain communities. My advice, is, 'do take it on merit.' This kind of artificial support is really weakening yourself as well as others. ('Question.') You may go on questioning

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till the end of your life; that is not going to improve matters. My hon. Friends on the Muslim side say that they are the most enlightened and they therefore want all kinds of safeguards. I could not see any enlightenment or light when on a bright Monday, yesterday, they saw only a black Monday, etc., when we have got a beautiful popular Ministry which has just begun to function at the Centre. Is it in the light or in the sun or in the popular ministry or in your mind, you think there is darkness. Obviously it is in the last. My hon. Friends of the Muslim group want that they should be given a kind of Muslim Directorate of Education or something like that. I may tell them as a matter of fact, that among the Hindu community, there are many more differences. For instance, there are Advaites, Dwaites and Visishtadwaites and you will see that there is a greater difference of culture among the several sections of the Hindu community than even between the Muslims and Hindus. If you want a Directorate of Muslim Education, why not the Scheduled Classes have a separate directorate? Why not the Ayyangars, why not the Smarthas have a separate Directorate? One of my hon. Friends of the Muslim group said, 'We would die rather than accept it.' I say to them you need not die but 'Go to Pakistan'. There will be no strike by Mr. Venkateswarlu there on any question of regional language. What do you say about Hyderabad where there are 85 per cent of Hindus? The whole thing there is carried on in Urdu and not in Telugu though it is the language of a large proportion of the population. In the Madras Presidency, there are several communities, for example, among the Scheduled Castes, some talk Telugu and some Kannada. Among the Harijans, there are also the Arundathiyas. Can they say, we should have a Telugu or Kannada college, simply because the particular language is predominant among some of the people in that locality? Having regard to regional languages is the way in which provinces are likely to be created in the future. For a political administration to function normally, you must go on regional languages. No doubt for the whole of India you have got Urdu or Hindi. It is no good saying that we must have Muslim Colleges or Muslim Directorate. I cannot say where all this will lead you on. If you go to villages, there is no separate school for Muslim boys; all the children there including Muslim boys, study in street pials and they are all on good terms. Education, as a matter of fact, should be non-religious and non-sectarian but the moment this encouragement of separate education is brought in, that brings along with it poison. People raise objection to European schools and why should there be schools separately for Muslims. Even in regard to Urdu, my hon. Friend claimed that it was the national language before. Was there any such thing put up before this Government came? Urdu was adopted as the camp language by several dynasties and Arabic was adopted by some others, and some others adopted Persian. Mahatma Gandhi tried to solve the problem by introducing Hindustani as the national language. Therefore, I say, give up this fantastic idea; if you start this idea, the result will be what is happening in

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Calcutta would probably be a precursor here also. (Voices from the Muslim League Group: 'No, No.'). One thing I may tell you, Sir, is this. The Hon. Minister for Education is bearing all the attacks. You want separate schools for Muslims in every district; you want separate Muslim directorate and you want this and that. How far is this consistent with the policy of the Party on whose behalf you are now talking. You say from your League platforms that there shall be a scorched-earth policy in surplus Punjab, and that in provinces where the Muslims are not in a majority, you threaten that there will be starvation."

MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"He is inciting the people."

MR. SPEAKER:—"No, he is not inciting."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"What we want to place before the Hon. the Education Minister is give normal facilities in regard to education to all. Pandits as a matter of fact should have the same status as Professors. (A Voice from the Muslim Group: 'What about Moulvis?') Why I said Pandits because I consider that a Moulvi is also a Pandit. With regard to Government schools, now that we are having a popular Ministry, I would ask that at least during the summer season, the hours of work in the schools should be changed to cooler hours in the morning and evening. The next point I wish to address the Minister for Education—though the answer to this has to be given by the Hon. the Premier—is in regard to the holiday on Sunday. Sunday is a relic of the past European administration. The two of the main communities, both Hindus and Mussalmans, observe Friday as an important day and there is no reason why the holiday should not be shifted to Friday as it is done in Indian States like Pudukottah. One other difficulty, I wish to point out, is, that the teachers are the most frightened of all Government servants. They are afraid of asking for increments in their salaries. It is necessary that the teachers should be encouraged to place their grievances as other people."

"There is another point, Sir, and that is just as in all other departments, there is no reason why we should not revert to our ordinary national dress without being compelled to wear a particular kind of dress. For instance, the teachers are compelled to have turban and long coat whereas the simple national dress would seem sufficient."

"With regard to one other matter, namely, necessity for buildings and furniture for schools. I should think they are a legacy of the past administration. Education is not necessarily correlated to benches and other furniture. There could be a good school without all these paraphernalia for imparting education."

"Then with regard to the distinction made between S.S.L.C. and Matriculation. I may point out that in the case of a candidate appearing for Matriculation Examination, he need not attend the school, whereas an S.S.L.C. has to attend the school and put in a certain percentage of attendance. It does not seem reasonable."

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"Hindustani may be made compulsory and English may be relegated to the position of an optional subject."

"I close with referring to one other subject. Perhaps the Hon. Minister knows that there is also corruption among the Deputy Inspectors of Schools with regard to their yearly visits for instruction of the poor teachers. I understood from the principal of a leading college in Madura that in cases of scholarships for Scheduled Castes, even the slightest change in the name, such as Pallar for Pallan, the application is rejected. If you want proof of this, I would refer to Mr. Ranjitam, the Principal of the American College. On account of this a large number of scholarships of the Scheduled Classes have been turned down on absolutely trivial reasons."

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming as I do at the tail end of the Speakers on this demand, I find that many of them, chiefly my friends of the Muslim Group, have already touched at considerable length upon matters on which I intended to speak in support of my own motion. I will not, therefore, waste the time of this House by covering ground that has already been covered; suffice it to say that I heartily echo their views on such fundamental matters, as first basic education with its repercussions. First: On the teaching of religion in Muslim and Christian schools. Sir, religion is given due prominence in these schools for very good reasons. We want God-fearing men, citizens who fear God and who respect authority and law and order and not Godless citizens. That is why such prominence is given to the teaching of religion in schools: second: On the question of imparting instruction in the regional language; the order made recently by the Hon. Minister has caused an upheaval among the pupils in the province. I feel that ultimately, it will react to the detriment of the school-going population. Third: That vexed question of admission of students into professional colleges on the basis of merit. It has rightly provoked trenchant criticism from all the members of the Muslim League. We do not know where this policy will lead us to. I am rather surprised at the way in which my hon. Friend Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar spoke in favour of that order. The result of that order is to practically shut out all other communities from colleges, Brahmans being given as many seats as Government wish. Government should see that all communities have adequate representation and sufficient facilities are afforded to them so that they may be able to train themselves for future careers. I may mention here, without any intention to cause any ill-feeling, that some of my non-Brahman friends have expressed surprise that a non-Brahman Minister should have, so soon after assuming office, passed an order showing that he was extra solicitous about the Brahman community."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"On a point of information. May I know, Sir, whether he is referring to any order of the Minister or of the Government which has prescribed priority to Brahmans."

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* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“This reservation is not for Brahmans.”

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—“It is very clear that the twenty per cent basis is for the benefit of the Brahman community. There is no good trying to go behind that. That is what I understand from it. I do not at all deny or object to Brahmans being given admission into colleges provided the other 80 per cent belonging to other communities are also given chances for training themselves for careers in life. Non-Brahmans expected that the Minister would at least safeguard their interests if not promote them. On the other hand, we find the very first action of the Minister was to their detriment. I trust that the Minister will not smile away all the objections raised by hon. Members who rightly fear that this order might affect all. I hope their remarks will be construed not as one put forward for the sake of objecting, but with a genuine feeling that it affects the interests of a large body of people. I hope that the Minister will give the matters raised the weighty consideration that it deserves and see that the order is rescinded at the earliest possible moment.

“My main reason in giving notice of the cut motion was to urge on the Government the desirability of providing more seats for Anglo-Indians in the Engineering Colleges. One Hon. Minister complained that he cannot get on with his schemes for increasing irrigational facilities for want of qualified men. How is it possible for members of other communities to fit themselves for service in the Engineering department unless they are provided with facilities for training themselves. It is rather amusing Sir that in answer to a supplementary question, asking how many Anglo-Indians applied for admission and how many were admitted to this College, there was no reply. Though the question put by the Leader of the Opposition was definite and he asked definitely about the number of candidates from the various communities who applied, of which the Anglo-Indian community was one, no mention was made in the reply about this community.”

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“If the hon. Member puts a separate question on this, I will give an answer.”

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—“A definite question was put by the leader of the Opposition and an answer was given. What I submit is, the question put by the hon. Leader of the Opposition, namely, ‘Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state how many applicants from the Brahman, non-Brahman, Muslims, Anglo-Indians, Indian-Christians’ is clear—the Anglo-Indian was one of the communities referred to therein and why no reply was given I cannot understand. I hope when the next opportunity occurs, the Hon. Minister will give the information required.

“One point more and that arose from the speech of my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswaralu. He referred to the fact that twelve lakhs have been given for European education. Let me remind him and the Members of this House that these European schools are not exclusive; that there are about 30 per cent Indian students

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attending these schools who are children of officials and non-officials who send their children for training in these schools so that when they go to England it will help them. I do not therefore think that anybody is justified in grudging this small grant for the European schools.”

The House then adjourned for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I have fixed five minutes for Members who wish to take part in the further discussions on this Demand. We have already devoted two hours and a half to the Demand and there are other important Demands which hon. Members would not like to be disposed of by means of the guillotine procedure. Mr. Seethi Sahib.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Five minutes is too short for the hon. Member. He has to cover the points raised by Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.”

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“This is an important Demand and I think Members on this side of the House also may be given enough time.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The Leader of the House will reply to the points raised by Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar. Hence on that much time need not be taken.

“There is no objection to giving time. But I would like to remind the Leader of the Opposition that at 5 o'clock to-morrow, Demands that have not been reached will have to be put from the Chair and carried. If long speeches are allowed now, it will only mean that hon. Members would have no opportunity of discussing other Demands which they would very much like to do. Does the Leader of the Opposition agree?”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Yes.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Mr. Seethi Sahib. The hon. Member can take ten minutes.”

K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I rise to support the cut motion moved by my hon. Friend Begum Amiruddin. In doing so, I have to enter an emphatic protest against the tone and tenor of speeches made by some Members on the other side of the House. The point of view put forward by them is so startling, shocking, novel and revolutionary that I was tempted to think of the state of things that will obtain in this country if the advice of those good friends is taken heed of and followed by the Ministry to whom the destinies of this Province have been entrusted. We rely upon the sense of fairness and impartiality of the Hon. Premier and the Minister for Education, whose very existence as the Premier and Minister for Education is due to the rejection of the advice of such members who adumbrate in this House principles of free competition in the matter of admission to colleges. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Speaker would not be occupying his Chair and the Minister for Education would not be in charge of the Education portfolio if the saintly advice tendered by Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar had been followed by the persons in charge of the

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education destiny of this Province. We, for our part, do not believe that the Brahman community which forms 3 per cent of the population of this Province has any special virtues which cannot be attained or dreamt of by other communities. But still the consciousness on their part is there that the voice of 97 per cent of the population of the Province can be drowned by one stentorian voice. The consciousness is there that the voice of the 29 members on this side of the House can be drowned. That really symbolises the mentality of the monopolistic attitude of the section of the body politic which is represented by persons like Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar. My friend reminds us of the repercussion of Calcutta in this Province. But coming as he does from Madura we need not be reminded of Calcutta. In regard to the facilities to be rendered to Muslims and other backward communities in the matter of education, he puts forward the plea that in education there can be no sectarianism or communalism and there should be free competition. I submit it is the height of absurdity and is the very negation of sound principles which have guided educationists in the past. What is the basis of merit and what is it due to? Merit is the result of centuries of monopoly exercised by one community to the exclusion of others. Traditions can be built up, heredity can be improved if opportunities are given to all sections of the people. In fact some of the brilliant men among the Non-Brahman community and the Muslim community would not have come to the lime light if the monopoly exercised by certain sections of the community had been perpetuated. The healthy Non-Brahman movement started by Dr. T. M. Naik and Sir P. T. Chetti was responsible for at least a section of the Non-Brahman community to come forward and manifest their talents. They would have continued to be the hewers of wood and drawers of water had it not been for this movement and they would be wallowing as Sudras according to the Manusmritis had the philosophy of the hon. Member from Madura been followed. This philosophy of free competition is a dangerous one and it should not be followed. The separate arrangements that exist for the Muslims and backward communities for education must be given the consideration they deserve and there should be no curtailment of the concessions given to them. It is not for separation that we want separate schools. On the contrary it is for the spread of education. It is for attracting pupils of these communities to their own schools that we want separate schools. It is a confusion of ideas to say that separate schools breed separatism and it is a misrepresentation and has no relation to the real situation. I shall explain my position with reference to the observation made by Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar about the Communists. They are the enemies of God and man on their own showing. (Laughter.) They do not want a king, that is a person to exercise authority and they do not like people holding different opinion from them. Had they their schooling in separate schools? Is religion responsible for these troubles that they start? It has nothing to do with separate schools, it is a confusion of ideas. It is a mere shibboleth—brought in to cloud issues and to create confusion in the minds of the people. On the other hand some of

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the best talents of the land are the product of separate schools. According to the view of my friend sectarianism could not be expected in a general institution. But the most intolerable narrowness of outlook we see in products of general institutions and on the other hand you will see the most broad-minded treatment and fraternization on the part of Muslim and Hindu students in a separate institution. You will be surprised to hear that Hindu students welcome admissions that are given to them in institutions like the Muslim University at Aligarh or coming nearer home in the Muhammadan College in Madras. The spirit prevailing there is not one of narrowness or sectarianism. In spite of education and the liberal ideas and outlook engendered therefrom and preached by advocates of liberalism and non-sectarianism, they are not able to get over it even within their own community and how can they accuse that sectarianism and narrow outlook are due to separate schools? The fact is this. But for separate schools, the Muslim community would not have made one-hundredth of the progress that it has made in point of education. That is equally applicable to other communities including the Harijan community and other backward communities. It is on account of special facilities that were afforded to them that they were able to come forward in the field of education. To deny that is to deny history. If we trace the growth of education amongst these communities ever since the formation of separate schools that will give us an indication of the necessity for separate schools. The existence of the schools attracts students to them. But for their existence they would not have cared to study. Let me give my experience of my district of Malabar. A separate Mappilla school was started in Malappuram in 1936. The education authorities were saying that there were a number of mixed schools and that numbers sufficient to make a class were not forthcoming even in those institutions. But what happened when a separate school was started? Students began to stream in from different parts of Malabar and more than one division had to be opened in several classes and the classes were overfull. But for the opening of a separate school where religious and cultural instructions was given, this result would not have been produced. Would my hon. Friend dispute the result and would he have any reason to doubt that the Muslim community has come forward in the field of secondary education owing to the provision of such facilities? I appeal to the Hon. Minister for Education not to listen to the siren song of people who speak of merit or cosmopolitanism and all that sort of things as these only result in monopolizing of learning and knowledge by one community keeping in the darkness the vast majority of the rest of the community. For God's sake, do not listen to it.

“ If you want to elevate all classes, you should give to the backward communities all facilities. Multiply schools and colleges and give them facilities to come forward and avail themselves of the opportunity. If you do that, we will create tradition and create history for ourselves. Then let us see how we are competing with Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar in all fields of activity.

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But in this present unequal fight you cannot speak of merit. If you give us sufficient opportunity, I assure you, we will be creating history, and then the angelic virtue of a particular section will disappear. You will find gems in all classes. You will find gems coming from the depressed classes. If the depressed classes were not given the facilities that are now given them, they would have been remaining all along only as toilers and Panchamas; and they would not have made the contribution they have made now. So give us opportunity, and then alone we shall be in a position to compete with you.

“There are one or two matters about which I wish to speak. Mr. Pocker was referring to the special needs of the Mappilla education in Malabar, and he particularly referred to the necessity of converting the Muslim Boys' High School at Malappuram and the Muslim Girls' High School at Tirur into a college and for providing a necessary hostel attached to the Malappuram High School. As Mr. Pocker said, provision had been made for that, and we expected that provision will be made for building a hostel this year; but unfortunately it has not been done. So I would request at least by a supplementary demand provision be made for the construction of a hostel this year. The other point Mr. Pocker referred to was about the raising of the Government Brennen College, Tellicherry, into a first-grade college. Sir, this college has been in existence for the last 55 years as a secondary grade college. From the education point of view that college should be raised into a first-grade college. There are 22 high schools in North Malabar. Of these, in Tellicherry itself, there are four high schools, of which two are girls' high schools. For all these high schools, the nearest first-grade college is one hundred miles off; one is at Palghat and the other is at Mangalore. Especially for the lady students, who are about forty in number at present in the second-grade college at Tellicherry, it is difficult to go to those far off places.

“One other matter which I would respectfully urge is the necessity for reviving the convention of having at least one Muslim educational officer in Malabar. In fact one-third of the population of that district are Muslims, and in the interests of Muslim education, the appointment of a Muslim educational officer either in North Malabar or South Malabar is necessary as he would be useful in propagating education among Muslims. That was the healthy convention followed by the Education Department for a long time, and that has to be revived and continued hereafter.

“Then the necessity for Arabic and religious instruction in schools is a matter on which the Education Minister should certainly concede. Mr. Venkateswarlu does not want religious education at all. He does not believe in God. In fact, his religion is irreligion, and he wants that to be propagated. In Russia it is being done. Atheism is taught there, and that is their religion. We believe in ethics and morality and God. I have no quarrel with him in his Atheism and irreligion. I would urge on

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the education authorities to impart religious instruction to our children in schools. I am only sorry I have not been given sufficient time to deal with other points. So I resume my seat.”

* SRIMATHI C. AMMANNA RAJA:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very shy by nature, and unless I feel I should speak, I do not get up at all. Still I am supposed to represent the women of the Northern Circars. So to do them justice I feel I must speak and speak on their behalf. I was looking for a chance, but somehow I could not get it till now. (A voice: ‘Is it your maiden speech?’) I shall speak about women first and then about the general points later. I wish to say that the women who are attached to girls' schools are mostly widows and unmarried women having no houses to live in. They are not able to live separately, because it is very difficult for single people to do so, as they are open to so many scandals. So I request the Education Minister to make provision for women teachers to live in hostels. I am not asking like Begum Amiruddin to give them family quarters, but only to give them minimum room in hostels. Wherever there are girls' high schools there must be a hostel attached to them; and you will find that there is not even one girls' high school for each district. There is no girls' high school in my district though I have been fighting for it since the last Congress Government came into office. Still nothing has been done. You may say, there is a Mission high school there; and so there is no need for another high school. The Mission high school, we cannot claim for ourselves. They do not establish schools for the sake of educative people but only to convert them to their religion. People belonging to other religions do not like to go there if they can help it. I have a daughter only four years old. I want to send her to school. As there are no other schools nearby my house I have to send her to the San Thome convent and she starts reciting Xian prayer at home. In this way we are forced to do things in spite of ourselves, and not out of our willingness. To prevent this sort of thing, you should provide for one girls' high school at least in every district. I am told there is a high school for girls in Angalur, which is only a small village near Gudivada. I am surprised to learn how that school came there, when there is not one like that in a big town like Ellore. Probably there are influential people there, who can approach the people concerned and bring pressure on them. Unlike West Godavari people, who are not in a position to get anything for their district. I feel my district is not treated properly in any respect. (Interruption by Mr. Kala Venkata Rao.) Somehow we cannot get what we want; and thus we have not even got a high school for girls.

“Then, I wish to offer a suggestion to the Minister for Education, and that is, that while pleading for enhancement of pay to the teachers, I want him to give more work to them, especially to those who are attached to colleges and to University professors. They do not have enough work, because their activities are confined to their colleges alone. This is what one of the professors told me. I suggest that you ‘give them more work

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இப்படி இரண்டு மிஷன் ஸ்கூல்கள் இருக்கின்றன. நம் ஸர்க்கார் பள்ளிக் கூடம் இதற்கு முன் வேறு ஓர் இடத்தில் இருந்ததை ஸர்க்கார் கட்டிடமாகிய ஓரிடத்தில் இந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டு பள்ளிக்கூடத்தை வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். கொஞ்சநாள்க்குமுன் நம்முடைய மந்திரி டேனியல் தாமஸ் அவர்கள் அங்கு வந்திருந்தபோது இந்த ஸர்க்கார் கட்டிடத்தை முனிசிபல் ஆபீசுக்கு இன்னும் இரண்டு வருஷங்களில் இந்த ஸர்க்கார் பள்ளிக்கூடத்திற்கு வேறொரு இடம் கட்டிக்கொண்டு அதைக் கொடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று அவர்கள் ஆர்டர் போட்டுவிட்டு வந்திருப்பதாக நான் கேள்விப்பட்டேன். அது நிஜமாக இருக்குமானால் செய்து டவுனுக்குள் குழந்தைகள் நடந்து வருவதற்கு செளகரியமும் இட வசதியுமுள்ள இந்த சர்க்கார் கட்டிடத்தை மாற்றக்கூடாது என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது ஸர்க்காரால் நடத்தப்படும் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தை கூடிய சீக்கிரம் ஹைஸ்கூலாக ஆக்குவதுடன் பெண்களுக்கென்று அவ்வளவு பெரிய ஊரில் B.A. வரையில் காலேஜ் ஒன்று அவசியம் ஸர்க்கார் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டுமென்று நான் அதிகத் தாழ்மையாகவும் வற்புறுத்தியும் கேட்டுக்கொள்கின்றேன். பெண்களுக்கென்று தனியாகக் காலேஜ் இல்லாததினால், அங்கு ஒன்று அமெரிக்கன் காலேஜும் இன்னொன்று மஜுரா காலேஜ் இருக்கின்றன. ஆனால் மஜுரா காலேஜில் பெண்களை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுவதில்லை. அமெரிக்கன் காலேஜில் மாதிரி பெண்களைச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். அதில் இடமில்லையென்று நேர்ந்துவிட்டால் பெண்கள் ஒன்று பானையங்கோட்டைக்கோ அல்லது திருச்சினாப்பள்ளிக்கோ போகவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் பெண்கள் அவசியம் படித்துக்கொண்டு வரவேண்டுமென்று ஓர் ஆவல் இருக்கிறபடியால் மதுரைப் பெண்கள் B.A. படிக்கவேண்டுமென்றால் அதற்குக் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். உயர்தரக் கல்விக்காக இந்த ஸர்க்காரால் நடத்தப்படுகிற பள்ளிக்கூடத்தை கூடிய சீக்கிரம் காலேஜாக ஆக்கிவிடவேண்டும் என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக ஏழைப் பெண்கள் எஸ்.எஸ்.எல்.ஸி. வரையில் படிக்கும் பெண்களுக்கு இலவசமாகப் படிக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டுமென்றும் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இந்தக் கட்டிடம் அவசியம் அதை மாற்றவே கூடாது. முனிசிபல் ஆபீசுக்கு வேறு எதையாவதொன்றைப் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது கவர்ன்மெண்டு பள்ளிக்கூடம் இருக்கக்கூடியதை பெண்கள் பாடசாலையாக இருக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் மறுமுறையும் மந்திரியவர்களிடம் தெரியப்படுத்திக்கொள்கின்றேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக மெரிட் 20 பர் சென்ட் வைத்து இதுவரையில் இல்லாத ஒரு வழக்கத்தை இப்பொழுது ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கின்றார்கள். அது பிற போக்கான பெண்கள் மெடிகல் காலேஜுக்குப் போகிற சமயத்தில் அவர்கள் அதிகமாக முன்னேற முடியாதென்று நான் அபிப்பிராயப்படுகிறேன். ஒருவருக்குமே கூடாதென்பதுதான் என்னுடைய சொந்த அபிப்பிராயம், இருந்தபோதிலும் பெண்களுக்கு அவசியம் அது இருக்கக்கூடாது எடுத்து விடவேண்டுமென்று நான் மந்திரியவர்களைத் தாழ்மையுடன் கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக உபாத்தியாயர்களுக்குச் சம்பளம் கொஞ்சம் கூட்டிக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களுக்குச் சம்பளம் கொடுப்பதற்குப் பணக் கஷ்டமென்றிருந்தால் குழந்தைகள் கொடுக்கக்கூடிய சம்பளம் இப்பொழுது 5½ ரூபாயாக வைத்திருக்கிறதை பீஸ் கொடுக்கக்கூடிய பணக்கார பின்னை கனிடமிருந்து 6½ உயர்த்தியாவது உபாத்தியாயர்களுடைய சம்பளத்தை உயர்த்தவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு முடித்து கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, apart from political questions, to my mind, the most important reason for the communal bitterness that prevails in this Presidency is the inequality between the various communities. The best solution of the communal problem to-day is to bring forward those backward classes and communities and place all the communities on the same level. It is only when all the communities have reached the level of equality you can apply all these ideas of merit, etc. ('Hear, hear.') My hon. Friend from

[3rd September 1946] [P. P. Hassan Koya Sahib Bahadur]

Madura, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, has asked a question as to how the Brahman community has been enjoying merit. That question, I say, must be answered by himself alone. After one thousand years of persecution of the backward communities, after claiming that learning is the monopoly of Brahmans, and after prohibiting that learning to all other classes, the Brahmans have been able to maintain their position. ('Hear, hear.') Taking the role of a man who wants justice and fairness to all, the real purpose of his idea is to maintain that Brahman caucus, that Brahman monopoly of education. The necessity and the usefulness of encouraging the backward community education has been accepted by the authorities like the late Director of Public Instruction (Sir M. Statham). He has written a very long note on it saying that the backward classes must be given very special privileges. In fact, but for the special privileges that have been granted to the Muslims and to the Scheduled Classes, we would not have had to-day to preside over our function a great man in our Speaker. If you say that the backward communities need not be given any facilities, then you are putting the backward classes in the same position as they were years back. By not giving the privileges you are relegating the backward communities, and as long as you have this inequality between the various communities, you can have no communal salvation and the communal problem would be there.

“Referring to the needs of my community in Malabar—Mappilla community—various grievances have already been stressed by representatives in this House. May I once again point out the very great attempt that was made at Malappuram, with the assistance of the late Director of Public Instruction (Sir M. Statham), in starting a Government Muslim High School to improve the educational condition of Mappillas. That experiment has succeeded. You find in all the forms Mappilla-students hailing from all parts of the district. The dire need of the institution to-day is a hostel. I understand that estimates were prepared last year for the construction of a hostel. But I find that no provision has been made in the budget for its construction. I would request the Minister for Education that in all kindness to the poor Mappillas of the West Coast, a community from which I am coming, the construction of the hostel for the Malappuram High School must be taken up immediately. On behalf of the fifteen lakhs of Mappilla women, there is just one High School at Tirur. That must be given the best encouragement possible, and it must be the ambition of the Education Minister to see that it is very soon raised to a first-grade college. One distinct feature of Malabar is, except one for two, all high schools are controlled by our Hindu friends. I would stress the necessity of opening high schools in all parts of Malabar and particularly where Mappillas are predominating.

“My communist friend has thought it wise to express his opinion on religious education. He said that he does not believe in God. He is the least competent person to speak on religion. He is totally irreligious. If you want an advocate on atheism he would be the competent person, but he is not entitled to speak on religious education at all.

[P. P. Hassan Koya Sahib Bahadur] [3rd September 1946]

“One other point that I would like to bring to the notice of the Education Minister is the provision of midday meals in our schools. At least, to start with, all the elementary schools must be given sufficient grants to give free midday food to children. That is particularly needed in Malabar, where schools are distantly placed, and the poverty of the country does not permit the students to go back from the schools to their homes for their midday meals. In fact, because of the absence of this provision, the attendance in these schools is rather poor. Representations have been made regarding this but in vain.

“The few Mappillas who, on account of the encouragement given to them by the former education authorities, have graduated and have been able to get jobs, and they are rotting in their present jobs literally, because there are no seniors in the service to encourage them, and bring them forward. I request the Minister for Education to see that so far as Mappillas—the most backward community in education, and who have taken to modern education very, very recently—are concerned, sufficient encouragement is given to them so that they may be an example for future generation. With these words, I support the cut motion.”

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p.m.

SRI M. S. PATTABIRAMA AYYAR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said in this House about teachers and other educational policies. Unfortunately, nothing has been said about the present day conditions. In omitting completely the students we are only staging Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark. Unfortunately, students are not considered even as citizens. I am bringing to the notice of the Hon. Minister that the condition of the students in the various colleges and hostels is worse than that of the labourers. It will be no surprise, Sir, that representations have been made against the authorities. I would only request the Hon. Minister for Education to visit Trichinopoly where there is a wonderful hostel which goes by the name of a hostel to see whether it is fit for human habitation or whether it is fit for a stable. Unfortunately it is used as a hostel, and it is recognized by the authorities. The students have to pay beyond their capacity, but their needs are not properly attended to. They are merely crowded in small rooms. They are not given any protection from either mosquitoes or bugs that haunt Trichinopoly. Unfortunately these students have to pay a lot, and yet they are not able to get the amenities that are absolutely necessary. So I request the Hon. Minister to institute a committee of enquiry to go and inspect all the hostels throughout the Province and make a report on the living conditions in them, and to say whether they are better than jails about which so much has been said. I am not exaggerating things. I want the Hon. Minister to go and see whether my accusation is right or not. For every four persons only one tumbler is allowed. How can one tumbler be shared by all the four people? Though the students are paying heavily, they are treated so badly. So I request the Hon. Minister to institute a committee of enquiry to inspect every hostel in the presidency and make a report on the minimum living conditions in hostels so that the principles may be adopted.

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“Secondly, Sir, I come to the principals. We talk about Hitlerism. Unfortunately the principals of colleges are Hitlers in their own colleges. I am not exaggerating. As a student I have suffered heavily in the 1942 movement. I know what the principals are and what their attitude towards the students is. They think that the students are absolutely at their mercy. If they wish I can be chucked out from one hostel to another. Immediately the warden phones to the other hostels saying he is a dangerous man. The only danger is that I am a Congressman. A number of students of the Loyola College, St. Joseph's College and other colleges were dismissed even without appeal for merely believing in Gandhism. Is it a crime in these days of democracy? Is it right that the principals of colleges should be invested with so much power over the lives and fortunes of the students? It is really a tragedy that the principals should be behaving in the manner in which they are doing. There must be some check, they must be made responsible to somebody. There must be some appeal against the orders of the school and college authorities who, for trivial reasons, harass the students. If the principal does not like one man, he can get his certificate cancelled and he is prevented from going to other institutions. The condition of such students is pitiable. So I request that provision be made to see that facilities that are given to criminals—the right of appeal—should be given to the students, and to see that they are treated properly. As a student who has suffered, I know most of the students will share my views and sentiments, though hon. Members might have forgotten. Again, Sir, the principals should not be the custodians of the entire right of the students. For example, in the Salem Municipal College, because the students did not share the political views of the principal, the whole hostel was ordered to be vacated in 24 hours. Then the students wrote to the Principal, and he said: ‘This is my institution. This college is mine. You shall have no right. You shall immediately quit the hostel in 24 hours.’ They were simply stranded in the streets and unfortunately no one took care of them. That happened during the Advisers' regime, and I am sure that those things shall never occur in the popular regime of the Congress. So I suggest a committee of the members of the legislature and parents should be there to advise the Ministry of Education in seeing that proper check and control are exercised over the principals and administrators of colleges.

“Finally, Sir, I want to make one appeal. The hon. Mr. Natesan said that only people getting five hundred and more marks were admitted in the colleges. It is a tragedy. You say that 180 marks are sufficient for entering the portals of the University. When I apply to the Loyola College or the Christian College, the authorities ask: ‘Have you got 400 or 500 marks?’ Those who do not get the maximum number of marks are the unfortunate victims, because though they have got a pass, they are not recognized as qualified for entry into colleges. Those who do not get admission in the Loyola College or such colleges are crowded in one mufassal college, and the result is bad. You

[Sri M. S. Pattabirama Ayyar] [3rd September 1946]

have not distributed merit equally. So I request the Hon. Minister to intervene in this subject and see that there is some selection committee for selecting from among the applicants to the Intermediate and B.A. classes, and that committee should be the final authority in selecting the candidates.

“ Finally, I want to make one request. That is with regard to literacy campaign. There is the Indian Students’ Congress, which is a predominantly students’ organization. It is most representative of the students. You please recognize that as the sole spokesman of the students. In it you will find the best propagandists for the adult education campaign. In this sphere the Indian Students’ Congress will be of very great service.”

* M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ While I rise to support the cut motion moved by Begum Amiruddin, I wish to supplement a few more remarks to Mr. Rafeeudin Ahmed’s speech regarding the lingua franca of India. May I Sir, with your permission, ask the hon. Members on the Opposite benches, when they remark that Urdu was not the lingua franca of India how many of them are in possession of facts and figures? May I submit to them that as late as 1919, when the question of lingua franca was talked about at Lucknow, it was agreed that whatever language was most prevalent in India must be the lingua franca. When it was found out that Urdu was the most prevalent language, it was agreed that Urdu should be the lingua franca of India, when we get Swaraj. Mr. Gandhi then gave the colour of Hindustani or Hindi. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is no use going over facts and figures and have them contradicted because you are in a majority, but the facts remain as they are. It is no use harping upon regional languages and that the Mussalmans can cope up with the regional languages and get through the schools. I may tell you my own boy failed. He was studying in the fifth standard. He could not go higher up, and recently I had to send him to Montfort School only on account of the difficulty of the medium of instruction. The idea behind this seems to be to crush the little or nothing, that we have of our mother tongue. Well Sir, this is not what we expected at the hands of a popular Government. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar from Madura said: ‘Go to Pakistan; there it is ready for you.’ If it is their wish, we are ready to go to Pakistan. We know how to go on pilgrimage or make *Hijra* and move from place to place even as our Holy Prophet himself had to do. He had to leave Mecca for Medina in 622. If it is their desire that we should go to Pakistan, we never hesitate for a while and as Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar knows, we will be glad to have our Pakistan and then we will go from here to there.

“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, this basic education, with the regimentation of schools, is nothing short of Hitlerism or Nazism as has been rightly pointed out by my friend, Mr. Abdul Majeed, and it is nothing but to crush our cultural and religious literature. Members on the Opposite benches are not the authorities to say what is our mother tongue. They say that regional languages are our mother tongue. Well it should be admitted at this late

3rd September 1946] [M. S. Ataullah Sahib Bahadur]

hour that most of us have forgotten our literature. But it is your desire to crush it and bury it altogether. We have got our own culture, our literature, and we want to have it, and it is just and proper that this popular Ministry agrees to it. Sir, it is our sincere desire that this popular Ministry should make arrangements, wherever it is not possible to have separate schools for Muslims, for imparting instruction to the Muslim population through the medium of Urdu.

“ It is very very long time since the colleges and schools have been opened. But the Government have not developed them. If they really want to educate the Indians, they must open immediately a number of schools and colleges, and wherever possible provide separate schools for Muslims, and wherever it is not possible, have munshis or make some such arrangements to impart instruction through the medium of Urdu.”

SRI B. GOPALA REDDI :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I begin my catalogue of grievances let me congratulate the Hon. Minister for starting two engineering colleges in the Telugu districts. Against great many odds, he has pushed through the inauguration of these colleges. I am particularly thankful to him for the inauguration of the Anantapur College. I know the difficulties. I know it is an Anantapur College in name and that it is not at Anantapur. I am sure every effort will be made to take it to Anantapur soon. I know from the Minister that aeronautics and marine engineering are going to be taught at Vizagapatam. There seems to be a little confusion about it that the experts, who sat in a committee are against specializing of these subjects in the Vizagapatam College. I am also glad that a medical college was started at Guntur and a medical college at Madura also was started. I am not satisfied with the progress of our technical or professional colleges. There is a provision for a forest college to be started at Coimbatore. It is misnomer to call it a forest college. It is a ranger’s course misnamed as forest college. I want the Government to make it a degree giving college so that our people may not go to Dehra Dun to qualify themselves as District Forest Officers. Is it not high time to have a military college of our own in South India? Recommendations have been made by the Universities that the numerous military buildings could be availed of and proper steps may be taken to have a properly equipped military college in South India. I know that the military authorities have been addressing the University authorities to tell them why the Indian graduates are not fully equipped to take up the captaincy of small teams. They addressed a letter to the University authorities. But I do not know what they have replied. But the fact is there, that our graduates are not taking up the captaincy of small teams. I do not know which Minister is in charge of it. He can press upon Sirdar Baldev Singh to have a military college in South India ere long. I am glad the Minister is very busy with pre-basic, basic, secondary and college education. He has taken steps and a stir is already created in the department, so that everybody is talking about re-organization of our education so that our

[Sri B. Gopala Reddi] [3rd September 1946]

Muslim friends are alarmed as to what happens to their education. I am sure the Education Minister will answer them. I want to lift him from this basic business to lofty height, not to post-graduate education, but lift it to post-masterate education leading up to a doctorate course. With reference to sending a good many students to foreign countries for engineering, medical and other departments to England, America and other countries, should not our Universities like the Madras, Andhra, Annamalai cease to be feeding centres for all time to come and should they not give post-graduate courses? The M.Sc.s know what is already in the text-books. I want the young students to know something more instead of learning what is already in the text-books. I vainly searched for any grants to our universities for such a course. All the three universities have sent up research schemes. They have submitted them to the Government, but I do not know what will happen to them in the near future. It was not in the interests of the previous administration, viz., the British Government in India to train our students for higher researches. They wanted our graduates to be mere clerks for small jobs and they wanted efficiency in subordination for that purpose. They did not want efficiency in the higher researches and had to depend upon the results in foreign countries. It is very good to depend upon the contributions of other countries also. But is it not high time that we must contribute to the general pool of researches in the field of natural sciences and physical sciences. So I want our Universities should be given such grants."

* MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In supporting the cut motion, what I have to say is that the only way to improve the education of the backward classes in the backward area is by enforcing compulsory primary education in those parts. In the Kasaragod taluk of South Kanara district, almost all the people especially the Mappillas are backward and uneducated. Therefore I press the necessity of introducing compulsory education in Kasaragod taluk, especially in the coast line villages which are thickly populated. After their studies in the lower elementary schools, the poor people are not able to continue their studies for want of higher elementary schools in the villages. Rich boys can afford to go to far away places where there is higher education. But what about the poor people? They must discontinue and idle away their time. Therefore, I press the necessity of starting higher elementary schools in important coast line villages in the Kasaragod taluk."

"The Muslim boys are not sent to schools before completing their Quoran studies. The parents send their boys to schools only where there is teaching of Quoran and religious education. Therefore, if the Hon. Minister wants to improve the education of the Muslim boys, it is necessary to make arrangements for religious instruction in these schools. Also, a separate school is necessary for the Muslim boys because in a Muslim school, there ought to be taught Quoran and other religious matters, which are not necessary for the Hindus. The Muslim students require a

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holiday on Friday. According to Quoran all business should be stopped during Fridays and during Jumma prayer time. Besides the Muslim schools require to be closed during Ramzan, because the boys cannot go to schools with empty stomachs. Besides the nature, ways, culture and manners of Muslims and Hindus are quite different. In every respect, there is much difference. It is not possible for Muslim boys to mingle with others whose religious methods and ways are quite different from theirs. Therefore, it is quite necessary to start separate schools for Muslims if the Hon. Minister wants to improve the education of Muslims.

"Another difficulty of the Muslim students in South Kanara to continue their studies in college classes is the want of an Arabic teacher. The students take Arabic in the S.S.L.C. class. After completing their studies there, they are not able to continue their studies in the district, because Arabic is not taught in any of the colleges in the South Kanara district. Only the rich boys are going to Madras, Malabar and other places. What about the poor boys? They are compelled to discontinue their studies, because they cannot afford to go to Madras and reside there spending hundred rupees a month. Therefore, it is a real necessity to have an Arabic teacher in the college at Mangalore. This is all that I have to say."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this demand. In doing so I would like to bring to the notice of the House the fact that out of one lakh and odd teachers sixty thousand teachers are paid Rs. 30 and below. I wish the elementary school teachers are paid equally. For instance the municipal school teachers are paid differently from the scale given to the aided school teachers. This again is different from that paid to the elementary school teachers in district boards. Some method should be devised by which local bodies could pay better attention to these elementary school teachers. As regards the 46 students that were sent for foreign studies there is not even one single Harijan student. There is one Rama Rao, B.Sc. (Agr.) who has not been selected for foreign studies."

"We have been wasting six years in high school education. You can increase the working days to 250 and finish the education in a shorter period than what we are doing now. The high school education can be reduced from 6 years to 4 years by increasing the number of days from 180 to 250 and college education to 2 years by raising the number of days from 150 to 200. Formerly, before the 14th year we were expected to finish our high school education. Now it takes 25 years to complete education. What is the average life of an Indian? If we spend most of our life in education we will be simply wasting our life. I hope the Hon. Minister will tackle this question and also improve the lot of the Harijans. Then with regard to scholarships, the Advisers' Government granted Rs. 33,800. Now this popular Government which is a Congress Government and which has committed itself to Harijan uplift, has given Rs. 40,300. An increase of Rs. 7,000 is not enough for 81 lakhs of Harijans. Further the allotment includes other communities also such as Christians and Anglo-Indians. They no longer

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move with the Harijans. So, are you going to give it to others? If it is for Harijans it must be given to Harijans alone. As regards exemption from payment of examination fees in 1945-46 it was Rs. 2,000. There is no difference now, the same Rs. 2,000 continues.

"I cannot say that the Congress Government is helping us much in the matter of education. I request the Hon. Minister for Education to see that facilities are given to the Harijan community in the matter of education. Without education it is not possible for us to come up to the level of other communities.

"Now take the question of the S.S.L.C. text books. They are published very late. The teachers have to hurry up and the boys have to hurry up. How can you expect the boys to pass the examination, if the lessons are rushed through in such a haste? I think that the present system requires a thorough overhaul.

"As regards selections, I think that the teachers must be given a place in the S.S.L.C. Board.

"Now on the question of secondary education, I wish to point out that the Government have done very little indeed for the Harijan community. The Harijan boys in this respect are under a very serious handicap. They have to compete with boys of other communities and especially the Brahman community. These Brahmans have been the intellectual people ever since the world began. These people do not allow the Harijan boys to go up. In fact, they prevent the Harijans from getting education. It would be sheer injustice if the Harijan boys are asked to compete with the boys of other communities in the field of education. I may again submit, Sir, that it is the Brahman community that has stopped the progress of education among the Harijans. Even the Sastras are not allowed to be learned by us. That is our present position. I request the Government to take steps to see that the present system of secondary education is changed to suit the needs of the Harijan community and that more allotment of funds is made for that purpose.

"So far as compulsory elementary education is concerned, I think it is only a piecemeal reform. I submit, Sir, that compulsory education should be introduced throughout the province at a single stroke. The present progress of compulsory education is very slow and it will take some ages, before we can bring the whole province under the compulsory education scheme.

"Then what about adult education? Nothing has been done in this respect also. I request the Hon. the Minister for Education to see that adult education is introduced as soon as possible."

* SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, after one hundred and fifty years of foreign education, the country has been so reduced and has become so denationalized, that we have been thinking only in terms of sections and sub-sections, tribes and sub-tribes and so on. There is no talk about a unitary ideal. It is a very pitiable and sorry plight indeed. But now at least, after we have learnt the lessons from other countries, we should see that this country also progresses on sound lines and in the proper direction.

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It is a pitiable thing indeed that Members are speaking only in terms of sections. Of course, every one should have opportunities and equal opportunities should be given to all. Of course, every one should become a good citizen not only to advance his own interests, but also to serve the interests of the society as well. That should be the aim of education and with that ideal in view, our education should be imparted only in the mother tongue, which is the most natural and easy way and which is being taught to us even from our very birth. Unless the whole system of education, from top to bottom, from the elementary education stage to the University education stage and even in the post-graduate stage, is thoroughly reformed and taught in the mother tongue, there would not be any progress or any healthy improvement in the country and we cannot compete with other countries also. I therefore appeal to all hon. Members to give up this sectional bias and see that we are all unified. We have to see that our system of education is directed on proper lines, so that the whole country shall progress simultaneously and as a whole. Hon. Members have criticized that our present system of education has been mainly responsible for enslaving us and making us fit only as clerks and that we are no better than hewers of wood and drawers of water. So the present method of education has to be thoroughly changed to suit our conditions and our genius. In our country, most of the people are living in villages and agriculture is our main occupation. So, in any future reform of education, agriculture and cottage industries should find a prior place and should form the foremost plank. If a boy is given education from childhood on the above lines, that is to say, centering his education round a craft or a cottage industry, and if this kind of education is encouraged, surely in course of time he will become an independent and self-reliant citizen and he will have no need to depend upon others for his daily needs.

"One point I want to say regarding University education. I personally feel that as far as possible University education must be free and the State must aid it. It should have an independent bias. It should be liberal and eschewed from all party politics and sectional bias. We cannot hope to have healthy citizenship and a healthy all-round progress in our society and in our country if we have University education which is not liberal, free and independent. I therefore suggest that the University education should be entrusted to a Special Board which will go into these matters carefully and see that education is directed upon right lines.

"Lastly, I want to say a word regarding pandits. These pandits are now relegated to the background. Their claims have been ignored and they are placed in a distinctly inferior status. I request the Hon. Minister for Education to see that their claims are considered and that they are placed on an equal footing with the English educated degree-holders, both as regards pay and status."

* SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the very fighting speeches that have been delivered on the floor of the House and when the whole atmosphere of the House has been

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saturated with communal virus, I shall try to make my matter-of-fact speech and place before this House and this Government a few grievances concerning educational matters in the Ceded districts in the hope that they will receive the early attention of the Government and also plead for certain special concessions in view of the admittedly backward state of these districts. I am encouraged to put forward this plea, because in his Budget speech the Hon. the Premier was good enough to make a special reference to the Rayalaseema districts and point out how they have been neglected in the past. I hope that such neglect will not be allowed to continue in the future.

“Sir, in the matter of education, Rayalaseema is very backward when compared with the other districts. I shall begin with elementary education. Quite recently in Anantapur more than a hundred elementary schools were closed down at one stroke of the pen and in my own district of Kurnool also, I hear some forty or fifty schools are to meet with similar treatment. I wonder how the Government can claim that they are encouraging primary education, by introducing compulsory elementary education on the one hand, but at the same time ordering the closure of a number of elementary schools on the other. This has led to a very absurd and ludicrous position and we are not able to give any sort of explanation to the people whose educational progress has thus received a severe blow. I have particularly raised this question with a view to draw the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Education and to request him to see that the orders closing down the schools are cancelled. Besides doing this, I would also request him to explain why these schools have been ordered to be closed down and also to see that such irregular and absurd things do not take place in future.

“Sir, the spread of elementary education in the districts depends upon the availability of funds in the district boards and for this purpose the district boards are levying an educational cess based on the land revenue that the district derives. In poor districts like the Ceded Districts, we get very little land revenue as the land is poor and the taram rates are low and consequently very little educational cess is derived by the district boards. If the Government adopt the present rule that they will contribute only an amount equal to the amount of educational cess derived by the district boards, then our districts are bound to suffer. That rule amounts to this, that richer districts which derive larger educational cess will receive greater contribution from Government and poorer districts which derive less educational cess will get less contribution from the Government. This policy is very wrong and very bad. The educational needs of the backward districts like the Ceded Districts can never be met with, if the Government continue the present policy. I would therefore suggest that for the backward districts like the Rayalaseema, the Government should give a special subsidy on the per capita basis, that is to say, that the Government subsidy should be based on the number of students actually going to the schools. That, I think, would be an equitable way of solving the problem of elementary education in backward districts.

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“The same reason, namely, paucity of funds, is again responsible for the poor growth of secondary education in the Ceded Districts. In my district of Kurnool very few high schools have been started by the district board. The people of the district, poor as they are, have been making herculean efforts to start some more high schools out of their own private enterprise and initiative. In certain places they have been able to pool their slender resources together and start a few high schools as for example at Dhone, Nandikotkur, Giddalore and Allagadda. But that is not sufficient. If the educational needs of the district are to be fully satisfied, there should be at least three high schools in every taluk. I would therefore suggest that at least some more middle and high schools may be started either by the Government or the district board as at the following places:—

High school at Pyapally in Dhone taluk.

Middle school at Maddikera in Pattikonda taluk.

Middle school at Velgode in Nandikotkur taluk.

Middle schools at Kodumur and Gudur in the Kurnool taluk.

Middle school at Chagalamarri in Sirvel taluk.

Middle school at Owk in Koilkuntla taluk.

Middle school at Panyam in Nandyal taluk.

Middle school at Yerragondapalem in Markapur taluk.

“If these middle schools are started in these areas, they would later develop into high schools and go a long way towards the spread of secondary education.

“I now come to the colleges. The same sad story obtains in regard to collegiate education also. Sir, we have a Government College at Anantapur where the accommodation is very limited and students going to this college are not able to secure admission because there is no room for Science courses. We have another college started by private enterprise at Bellary, but its funds are very limited and it is not able to meet the needs of the Ceded Districts. I would therefore suggest that the Government would be pleased to take steps to start two more colleges, one at Kurnool and the other at Cuddapah for meeting the collegiate education of the Rayalaseema.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member has exhausted the time allotted to him.” ⁴ p.m.

* SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“One more minute, Sir; I come from a backward district.” (Laughter.)

“Sir, before the present academic year began, the members of the Rayalaseema district presented a joint memorandum to the Education Minister and pleaded for more seats in the Engineering and Medical Colleges for students from their districts. I do not know what the Hon. Minister has done with that petition. I should like to remind him about it and request him to see that more seats are made available to the backward districts in future at least. I make this particular request because I know that after we gave this

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memorandum a number of students who, even on merit—yes, merit has been widely discussed here—could have been given admission to the Engineering and Medical Colleges have been turned back, the principals not being even courteous enough to grant interviews to the students and their parents.

“ I next come to another small but none the less important point relating to the granting of scholarships for foreign studies. A press report stated that 44 candidates have been selected by the Madras Government. There was one brilliant B.Sc. student who got a second class and narrowly missed a first class. He was the only boy, so far as I know, who applied from Rayalaseema. His name is Mr. C. V. Subramaniam from Nandyal. In spite of his pleading before the Education Minister in person with some Members of the Legislative Assembly he did not get a scholarship. I think that some small mercy could have been shown to him and he might have been selected. I find from press reports that there are six more seats to be filled. I should be glad if one of the six seats could be given to this boy.”

*MR. SPEAKER:—“ The hon. Member will please resume his seat. There are other hon. Members eager to speak. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition will speak now.”

*SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“ Sir, I have only one more point.”

*MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have already called upon the Leader of the Opposition to speak. The hon. Member Mr. Venkatasubbayya will please resume his seat.”

*M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, so much has been said about the desirability and necessity of imparting religious instruction in the schools and colleges and about the study of religion forming part of the education given to the boys and girls of this province, particularly the Muslim boys and girls that there is hardly any need for me to take up the time of the House by dwelling on the subject. I shall only give a quotation from the most important organ of the country from which our friends in this country want to take examples of democracy and from which we want to learn many things. Referring to the argument against making provision for religious instruction by the State that paper says:

‘ It is mischievous because it encourages the fallacy that essential education can be completed by secular education alone and that the teaching of religion is merely a kind of optional supplement. The truth of course is that religion must form the very basis of any education worth the name and that education with religion omitted is not really education at all.’

“ Again, Sir, the same paper says:

‘ Again and again the obvious fallacy recurs that education is one thing and religious education quite another. It is the right purpose of national education to produce men and women with healthy bodies and intelligent minds and the immense sums devoted to this purpose are well-spent. The highest educational aim is to produce good citizens. The basis of good citizenship’

*MR. SPEAKER:—“ The hon. Member should not read continuously. He can read something here and there.”

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*M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ One sentence more, Sir. This is a very important quotation. The paper says:

‘ The basis of good citizenship is character and a man's character depends upon his beliefs.’

“ If this is so, Sir, how can the State afford to ignore these simple principles and take the view that the teaching of religion is a task with which it has no direct concern. Amongst other things, this is what that paper, ‘ The Times ’ of London wrote on 17th February 1940. This is not an ante diluvian idea expressed by somebody years ago or decades ago. This view was expressed after the Second World War broke out. This is the truth expressed now so forcefully by the ‘ Times,’ to which the Muslims have been clinging all along. It is not only for producing good citizenship according to Islam that religious instruction is required. But even to produce proper intelligence and proper physical results, religious instruction is required. Any way, Sir, that is the idea of the Muslims. The Muslims cannot be forced to give up this fundamental idea and ideal of theirs. If they have to progress in education, then this fact has to be recognized. And the Government have already recognized that education must take religion as one of its essential parts at least so far as the Muslims are concerned. It is also for this purpose, Sir, that the Muslims have been asking the Government for separate schools for Muslims.

“ Sir, some of our friends have spoken against this idea of separate schools for Muslims. But I say this country of so many diversities it is harmony that we should strive at, and not unification, physical and visual unification of things and men. Therefore, if you want to produce harmony, you have to recognize the differences between the various communities and you have to afford them facilities to develop according to their differential methods. I do not want to say anything disparaging to the other friends and communities. I am only speaking of the requirements of my own community. Sir, for the maintenance and development of harmony between the various people, I say the maintenance and increase in the number of separate schools are a vital necessity. As it is, these mixed schools, joint schools, cause friction. There we find that the Muslim sentiments and the Muslim rights and privileges are not being respected not only by the pupils but also by the teachers at times. I know, Sir, schools innumerable in number do not give a holiday to the Muslim boys and girls even on Id day. Not only that. Even examinations are being held on such Id days so that the Muslim boys are put in a dilemma. What will be their feeling? When others are having their holidays whenever they want, the Muslim boys and girls are denied even the very few holidays that are recognized by the Government. This and similar things produce bitterness among them and this bitterness they carry in their after-life. So I say it is better to have separate schools so that this bitterness may be eliminated at least from the minds of as many as possible and they may be enabled to contribute to the harmonious life which they have to lead in the after-life along with the members of the other communities. There

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are other arguments also in support of the existence of the separate schools. But I need not go into them. It is too late in the day, in the year of grace 1946, to be put to the necessity of justifying the existence of such schools.

"Merit, Sir, has been mentioned very frequently in debates in this House because of the order issued recently by the new Government. One of our friends was very angry with the Muslims. Of course he is justified in trying to protect his interests, but at the same time he must also know that others too have got their rights to protect and their privileges to protect. While they are speaking of those rights and privileges, it was not proper on his part to invoke Calcutta and other places and ask us to learn a lesson from that. I want to tell him, and also other people of his way of thinking, that of all peoples, Muslims are not the people who will be cowed down by such threats and coercion. Muslims have seen such coercion in the past. They have always been in a minority in many parts of the world and yet their privileges and rights would not be crushed and they are existing to-day and they will exist always."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I rise to a point of order, Sir? I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Speaker to the rules which have fixed a certain number of hours for each Demand."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member is referring to the rule which prescribes four hours for each Major Demand, I may repeat here, what I have already said, that those rules were made several years ago."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"I thought until the rules are changed they hold the field."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"We are also working out of hours. That also the hon. Member should take into account."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"See, Sir, how this question of merit has reacted on the several communities. You should compare the figures of admission into the two professional colleges made this year with the figures of admission which the different communities should have secured under the communal Government Order. Then you can realise the extent of the grievance felt by the various communities affected adversely by this merit order. Already this merit business was there. Even in the past, students were being admitted on their merit. Certain standards had been fixed and only those that came up to those standards were being admitted into the colleges. The first-class men among the various communities were preferred first and then those who had secured next best marks were admitted from among the various communities. After all is said and done, these institutions are meant for the creation of merit among the various communities. If you are going to debar the students of certain communities from being admitted into these colleges even at the outset, how are they to develop their merit in their after-life? Therefore, even in the name of merit, it is necessary that the old communal Government Order should be restored."

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"Coming to the much vexed question of the regional language, 4-15 I think the Hon. Minister for Education would have done well if p.m. he had bestowed more thought upon this before he passed the order or gave instructions to the educational institutions to switch over to the new system thoroughly different from what had been obtaining only a few days ago. This order regarding the regional language has been, I am sorry to say, a very hasty one and it has already affected the interests of various communities. It is beyond question, that situated as we are, instruction in the regional language or the mother tongue as the medium of instruction without allowing for a preparatory or transitory period is producing and will produce various difficulties, which will work as a setback to the educational advancement of the whole of the Province. In the first place a number of Muslims in the Tamil districts, almost all the Muslims in the Madras City and all the Muslims in the Andhra districts have got Urdu as their mother tongue. This is a question of fact which I have repeated again and again. It is not a mere matter of opinion. If anybody says that the hall wherein we are meeting is not in the Fort St. George nobody will treat it as a matter of opinion. He who makes the statement will be asked to refer to somebody who knows Fort St. George. Sir, this question of Urdu being the mother-tongue of all the Muslims whom I have mentioned is a matter of fact and if the Government would not care to ascertain even this very evident fact, then I do not know how to characterise the order passed and the ideas expressed before this House. Sir, it will not be in the interests of education that these large sections of the population should be forced to take their instruction through the medium of a language which is not their mother-tongue and which is an alien language for them."

"Secondly, Sir, when the regional language is made the medium of instruction the managements of schools ought to be given time to make sufficient arrangements for carrying out these instructions. They must find out text-books on non-language subjects, they must find teachers for teaching the various branches of learning in the regional language and they must also make provision for the teachers who are already existing in their institutions. The Government, so far as we know, have not given any satisfactory indication of what is to be done in all these matters. Though there are text books in the Urdu language on non-language subjects, I do not think there are text-books in the other languages on these subjects. Text books have to be produced and teachers have to be trained in all these text books."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Leader of the Opposition may be as brief as possible."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Yes, Sir. Once again I want to make it clear that the Muslims cannot be forced and would not allow themselves to be forced to give up their mother-tongue. This has to be recognized and sufficient provision has to be made for imparting instruction in Urdu for those whose mother-tongue is Urdu."

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"I learn that the S.S.L.C. Board has been reconstituted and recognized into a Secondary Education Board for the entire Province. The Board, it is said, consists of 25 members. Of these 25 members there is not a single person who is a Muslim. At least four of them, if not more, must be Muslims. The Muslim Educational Association of South India which represents the intelligentsia and includes eminent educationists from amongst the Muslims of this Province has made representations on this and various other subjects. Our complaint is that those representations have not been treated in the way in which they ought to be treated. That Association by itself is entitled by virtue of its status to representation on this Board. Now, I understand that 11 more Members have to be nominated to this Board by the Government. At least in nominating these Members I hope the Government would somehow see that the Muslims get their proper representation on this Board.

"The Muslims have got various grievances that their educational interest has not been cared for. Now we have to be thankful to the Government for having made a provision of Rs. 4 lakhs for opening science groups in the Government Muhammadan College. There are rumours in the City that the Government is trying to cry a halt with regard to the progress of the scheme. I do not think that there is any basis in them; but however, in view of the anxiety felt by the Muslims I have mentioned this. The Muslims are anxiously awaiting the day when these science courses will be opened in the new buildings which are to be built very soon.

"Again I hope that the buildings for the new college for Muslim women will also be expedited. Not only that; I hope that a suitable hostel will also be provided for that college. My hon. Friends who spoke before me have mentioned the Malappuram and Tirur high schools and the great necessity for having hostels attached to them and also of the necessity of raising them to the status of colleges ere long. I hope Government will pay due attention to these requests of the Muslims. Then, Sir, the Islamia High School in Trichinopoly was taken over by the Government about 25 years ago, and until to-day it has not been provided with a building. Now, I am told that the Government is paying attention to the matter and I expect that very soon it will be housed in its own building. Ambur has come forward and Pernambut has come forward with requests for building grants for their respective schools and I expect that the Government will mete out sufficient encouragement for them and will give them the grants so that they may have their much-needed buildings in the very near future.

"Sir, my hon. Friends have put forward a request for the constitution of a Board of Muslim Education consisting of Muslim members of the Legislature and other Muslim educationists. This is a vital matter concerning Muslim education and it is essential for giving the proper stimulus and proper direction to the course of Muslim education. Muslims feel very strongly on the constitution of some such board as that and the Government should not think that it is merely as a piece of rhetoric that that demand has

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been put forward but should take it in earnest in the interests of the education of the Muslims of the Province. Apart from that, I would also suggest, that in view of the confusion that is existing in the field of education to-day and of the conflicting views that are being expressed about Muslim education and for other important reasons, a Commission or Committee be appointed to go into the matter thoroughly and make recommendations to the Government so that all these questions of opinion and facts can be laid at rest finally and the Muslims might feel that they are secure in their right of having their education according to their requirements, according to their culture and according to their needs and religion. I would request the Government to seriously consider this matter and appoint at a very early date such a Commission or Committee to go into the whole matter.

"I would refer to one or two items of general interest in the budget. I find in the budget an item concerning the contribution payable to the Government of India for investigation of the mineral resources of India but I do not find any provision made against that item. I do not know the reason for the omission. I do not know whether the Government think that such an investigation of the mineral resources of India is not necessary or whether sufficient investigation has already been made. I do not think the latter is the case, as the investigation already made is not sufficient. That has not brought to light all the mineral resources and the amount of mineral wealth our Province possesses. That is a very important matter concerning the economic well being of our Province. This item has been included in the demand for Education. Therefore it is that I refer to it now. There was an idea sometime ago. I do not know from whom it emanated that the whole Province should be mapped from the point of view of the mineral resources. I thought it was a good idea and it would contribute towards the material progress of our Province. Even now it is not too late and I think that the Government will take it up in all seriousness.

"Again, Sir, a very small amount of Rs. 600 has been provided for stipend to students going to Dhanbad to study in the Indian School of Mining. That school is an important school. It is the only one of its kind, I am told, east of the Suez, apart from some similar education that is being giving in the Benares University in the B.Sc. Courses. The Dhanbad school is unique in its character and it has been imparting useful instruction in mining and mine-engineering. Therefore many more students of our Province must be enabled to take advantage of that institution, if we cannot constitute a similar school in our Province. The Government, I hope, will give proper importance to this subject also.

"Finally, I want once again to emphasise that all that we have said about our education is really a very very serious matter; we all feel very seriously and earnestly about matters educational. It is a cry, Sir, from our heart and it should not be treated as a mere rhetorical representation which has to be answered in the usual way. Our very existence depends upon education and the

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type of education which we have pictured before you. Our culture and our religion are more than life to us. Therefore, the Government must recognize these facts and enable us to progress on lines on which we want to progress. I also want to impress upon the Government that such recognition of the Muslim's rights alone will be conducive to the harmonious relationship of the various communities in this Province. There is to be no ignoring of this fact and that too at such a late stage as this."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister for Education will now reply. As the Hon. Prime Minister also wants to make a reply, the Hon. Minister for Education may be as brief as possible."

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the numerous members who have taken part in this discussion and evinced their great interest in matters educational. While I am grateful to them, I must at the outset, say that many of their statements have proceeded out of some misunderstanding. To cite one instance, such a very respectable hon. Member as the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition, spoke about the reconstitution of the S.S.L.C. Board and said that there was no Muslim on that Board. But in fact, Sir, that Board has not been reconstituted at all. I do not know from where he got that idea that there was no Muslim on the Board. Unless it be by the logic that as there is no Board there is no Muslim in it, there is no other way in which he could have come to that conclusion."

"I shall now proceed to deal with some of the points which have been raised by the various members of the House. In doing so, I would like to impress upon the House the few words, which came from the mouth of one of the hon. Members on the Opposition, Mr. Majeed. If I do not mention the name correctly, it is not due to any wanton mistake but due to the fact that I don't know it properly. The hon. Member said that we should keep out politics from education. May I repeat that request and may we consider education from the point of view of the greatest good of this great country. Let us look at it from a greater angle of vision free from petty partisan point of view and consider the question on its own merits. With this introduction, Sir, I should like to deal with the objections raised to basic education. Many hon. Members have said that they do not agree with basic education. Unfortunately, Sir, they have not cared to study the subject. Sir, all the people condemn the present education; they all want a change including Mr. Town who said that this education does not succeed in producing good human material, and that it produces only clerks, and efficient subordinates. They say that we want a man-making education, an education which will make people independent, bold and straightforward. We have been saying it for decades. But may I ask hon. Members whether they have got any constructive scheme? As far as I see, no constructive scheme has been proposed except the one scheme which has come—unfortunately from the other side—from Mahatma Gandhi. Sir, I request them to examine the scheme on its merits,

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forgetting for the moment that it has come from Wardha and forgetting for the moment that it has been proposed by Mahatma Gandhi. Let it be considered on its merits. Let me assure hon. Members that the Government of India, especially in those years when we were 'out in the woods' and 'ploughing the sands' were not pro-Congress; the Government of India were the last people who could be accused of any partisan feeling towards the party led by Mahatma Gandhi, and it is that Government—and an Englishman who considered the question on behalf of the Government, a distinguished educationist by name John Sargent—who had approved the scheme. Very eminent Mussalmans have approved of the scheme. May I just read a few lines from that report of the eminent educationist, the Central Board of Education, which though oft quoted, has been little understood? If only that report had been really understood, there would have been no misgivings about basic education. This is what is stated on page 7 of the report:

"Basic primary education as envisaged by the Central Advisory Board embodies many of the educational ideas contained in the original Wardha Scheme though it differs from it in certain important particulars. The main principle of education through activity has been endorsed by educationists all over the world (including Russia). At the lower stages, the activity will take many forms leading gradually up to a basic craft or crafts suited to local conditions so far as possible. The whole of the curriculum will be harmonised with this general conception."

I do not want to read any more from this report. I will only say this: that to-day education is bookish. It is not only in this country but everywhere in the world that people want to correlate education to activity and to local conditions. I have heard it said over and over again by eminent Muslims and members of the Muslim League, but when the thing is sought to be done, they object to it. Sir, we seem to have got into a habit of objecting to anything that is being done. (Hon. Members from Muslim League Party: 'No, Sir. Question.') Take any educationist, anybody who has studied about education and he will say that book-centered education is the worst education that can be given to the children of any country. What is needed is the training of the heart, the hands and the eyes of the students and that can only be done through activity. Project methods and many other methods have been born out of this conception of education through activity. What Mahatma Gandhi has done is only one thing; instead of having various projects which will be too costly and which cannot be afforded by this poor country, let there be one constructive craft through which you can impart education. Not only that, while learning other things, the pupil will be learning a craft also and at the end of the period of basic education, there will not be any necessity for him to go to a craft school separately. By the end of the senior basic school course, the student will be useful to the society as a craftsman in various ways. Is this wrong? Nothing of the sort, Sir.

"I now come to the opinion given by a distinguished Muslim educationist to whom I have no doubt the Members of the Muslim League will have great regard. I am referring to Professor K. G. Saiyadain, who was Professor of Education in the Aligarh University."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Minister is not able to pronounce his name properly."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"It should be pronounced as Saiyadain."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I stand corrected, Sir. This gentleman is a B.A., T.D., M.Ed., and was Principal of the Training College and Professor of Education in Aligarh Muslim University for twelve years before he took up in 1938 his present position as Director of Education, Jammu and Kashmir State. He is the author of many books such as 'The School of the Future (1935)'. Let me point out what he says about basic education. He is a Muslim himself."

* SRI B. GOPALA REDDI:—"Is he a member of the Muslim League?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I do not know, Sir. Education must be above party. This gentleman says:

'The scheme of Basic National Education, with which is associated the name of Mahatma Gandhi, is perhaps the most significant and radical attempt so far made to reconstruct primary education from this point of view.'

* * * *

This education is to be *basic*, i.e., related to the basic interests of the child mind and the basic occupations of community life. And as the mind of the child is an active, pragmatic and social organism and the life of the community is sustained through various types of craftwork, education, too, must centre round some suitable *basic craft*, chosen with due regard to the occupations of the locality.' (pp. 16-17 of Oxford University Pamphlet No. 15—The Educational System.)

I do not want to read more from this pamphlet, but I would like to reply to one statement which has been made by some hon. Members on the other side of the House . . . "

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"On a point of information, Sir. May I ask whether there is not a minute of dissent to the Sargent Report put in by some Muslim members of the Sargent Committee?"

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"That relates to want of religious education in the scheme. I shall deal with that point later on, Sir."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir, does the Hon. Minister know, Sir, that the National Planning Committee has very recently stated that teaching through handicrafts will be spiritually harmful to the children?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I shall deal with the point later on, Sir. A statement was made that the children were sought to be exploited by the system. It is entirely wrong, Sir. It is the craft which is sought to be exploited

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for the education of the children. Let me tell the House, Sir, that of all the constructive schemes which have been put forward during the last twenty years and more, there has been no scheme which has been so universally accepted, not by one party alone, but by all educationists throughout the country, as this scheme. If it is opposed anywhere, it is due to political reasons, because they do not agree with certain nomenclatures, they do not agree with . . . " (Some hon. Muslim Members: 'No, no.')

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Not universally accepted either."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I would like to say this, Sir, that it is this education which will develop the best in the individual child. And if I were not well inclined towards the Muslims and if I were badly inclined towards them, I would have agreed to allow the Muslim children to continue to be educated under the present type of education, and all the other children to be educated under this new method of education. Do you think it will be good for the Muslim children? It will be very bad for them. Therefore in their own interest, I should not allow such a thing."

"I shall now deal with the question of the pay of teachers. To put into practice any system of education well-trained teachers are very essential. Much has been said about the need for raising the status of the teachers. I do think, Sir, that their status does require improvement and their pay does require enhancement. It is not intended to stop with the two rupees that we gave on the last occasion. It is only a token of our earnestness in the matter. I hope the Committee which has been appointed recently will go into the matter and do justice to the teachers."

"Sir, in this connexion I would like to refer to the statements which have been made to the effect that the present-day teacher is not of the best quality. It is quite true. We must improve the quality of the teachers. Statements have been made that the general qualifications of the teachers are too low. It is quite true. The Government are not satisfied with the quality of the present teachers, but as practical politicians we have to remember that we want a number of teachers, we want them in thousands, and when we want them in thousands, it is not always possible to insist on quality. While we would like to have the Higher Grade Training course abolished when the time comes, we will have to wait for that day, we will have to wait for some time till we can produce a better type of teachers to man our schools."

"Now, Sir, while on the question of teachers, I would like to say a word about the status of pandits and munshis. Certainly, Sir, they require improvement in their status and the Government will consider the question."

"Now I come to the much vexed question of 'regional language'. I appreciate, Sir, the anxiety of some of the Members of the Opposition to have the teaching of their children in the mother-tongue. The question has been put to me—and I shall

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not specify the persons who put me the question—‘will the Muslims be taught in Urdu or in English?’ I cannot understand that question, Sir. If they are for teaching only in Urdu, I can understand it.”

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“I may point out, Mr. Speaker, that so far as Muslim girls are concerned, it is very difficult to get teachers for the present who will teach in Urdu; we are not having sufficient staff for the purpose; and therefore, in some schools, it is necessary to have English as the medium in the high school classes.”

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“It is exactly to that I am referring, Sir. So, they will prefer English to the regional language. It was the Leader of the Opposition who used this unfortunate expression—I use the word ‘unfortunate’ advisedly. He said he would prefer English; he said the regional language is an alien language for them. He used this expression and I have quoted him from the notes I have taken. He said that Telugu, to a Muslim in Andhradesa, is an alien language. I am sorry for his attitude. It is an attitude of mind which is not good to anybody which is not one that will cement the various communities together.”

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“On a point of explanation, Sir. When Urdu is the mother-tongue of Muslims, any other language is surely alien to them from that point of view.”

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“While thanking the Leader of the Opposition for his explanation, I am sorry for that unfortunate attitude which would call the regional language an alien language. Hon. Members on the other side would prefer English; they would prefer to be taught through English rather than be taught through the regional language when Urdu is not obtainable. Is it a fair attitude, I ask? I do not want to take up more time on this point; I will leave the House to judge for itself.

“I have been asked the reasons why we have made the regional language the compulsory medium of instruction. The hon. Mr. Town very jocularly and nicely and very seriously, if I may say so, said that American and English should be taken with benefit as the *lingua franca* of India. I would first make it clear to this House why the Government have said that the medium of instruction should be the regional language. To-day, higher education in the higher standards and in the high school is through the medium of English. That is the reason why there is such a big gulf between the educated and the uneducated in this country. Go to any country in the world; you will find that the gulf between the educated and uneducated is not so wide; because in those countries the teaching is through the language of the country itself. In those countries, anybody who has had some education in his own language can easily follow up the higher courses of study

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because that knowledge is available in his language. He may be a woodcutter, but still if he has some education he can acquire the highest knowledge in his own language.”

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know from the Hon. Minister what is the report which he has read just now. Was it a report of the Central Board or the Wardha Scheme, that he read about the medium of instruction?”

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“It is like the Scotchman’s humour, Sir. The Scotchmen, Sir, do not understand humour. He heard a joke in his office. He could not understand it then. When he was in bed the joke dawned upon him and he started violently laughing and his wife asked him what is the matter. He said somebody made a joke while in his office. I have finished referring to the book a long time ago. I shall be glad to tell my friend wherefrom I read the passage afterwards; but I won’t like to be disturbed now, Sir, while I am on this subject.

“Why we want the regional language to be the medium. It is most necessary in this country that the masses should be educated. It would not serve the purposes of this country if only a few people were educated. After a hundred and fifty years of herculean effort, what is it that has happened to-day? You find that not even 1 per cent, not even .001 per cent of the population knows proper English. And people talk about graduates. What is the standard of even their knowledge?”

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, may I know why he is talking of the ‘regional language’ and not the mother-tongue of the people?”

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“I am coming to that. The real reason is, as I said, there is a great gulf between the educated and the uneducated in this country; there are only a few people who can be counted on the fingers, a few hundreds at the most, who have obtained higher knowledge; and the ordinary man, in spite of the so-called English education, has not attained any high standard of knowledge. For a long time we have kept our masses at a very low ebb; they ought to come up. If as hon. Members say our masses should be educated, our masses should be and can be educated only in the regional language.

“Now, Sir, I shall answer the question which the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has put. He said ‘Why not use the words “mother-tongue” instead of the words “regional language”?’ That is for a very good reason, that is a reason which anybody will accept and a reason which will weigh with any Government that may be in power. Suppose we say that education should be in the mother-tongue. My friend the Leader of the Opposition, of course, speaks in Tamil. Supposing an order is issued that education should be given in the mother-tongue, there may be half-a-dozen Muslim boys in a school speaking a language which is not the regional language of the area; they may

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claim as a matter of right that they should have a separate set of teachers to teach them through that medium. It is not possible. I do not think any Government can accept that proposition. We want to be quite fair; we do not want to deceive anybody, nor say one thing and do another. So, Sir, I say, advisedly and for reasons which any Government and any fair-minded person will accept, we have used the expression 'regional language'.

"While saying this, I must come to the statement made by some Members that all Muslims in the Andhradesa have Urdu as their mother-tongue. Let me honestly confess, Sir, I do not know much about the mother-tongue of the Muslims in Andhra; I may know something of Andhradesa, but not about the mother-tongue of Muslims there. But I will say this: I shall read from a book which was certainly not written by me or written at a time when we have been discussing these questions; it was written many years back. I refer to the 'Castes and Tribes of Southern India' by E. Thurston. Let me read a few lines of what he says: There is a set of Muslims who are called Dudekulas:

'The Dudekulas are described by Mr. W. Francis as a Muhammadan caste of cotton-cleaners and rope and tape-makers. They are either converts to Islam, or the progeny of unions between Mussalmans and the women of the country. Consequently they generally speak the Dravidian languages—either Kanarese or Telugu.'

* ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"For the information of the Hon. Minister, I may say that the percentage of Dudekulas is very very insignificant and they are found only in certain areas. He cannot apply that principle to all the Muslims of the Andhradesa."

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"But this is quite enough for me to prove that all the Muslims of Andhradesa cannot say that their mother-tongue is not Telugu."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it mere logic that the Minister is indulging in or does he take into account the facts?"

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Now, Sir, I come to another aspect of the question. Supposing I concede that the Muslims may be taught through Urdu wherever their mother-tongue happens to be Urdu. I know claims have been made at question time that all the Muslims in Andhradesa should be taught through Urdu. I am glad, Sir, that that position has now been given up and it is now said that such of the Muslims as have Urdu as their mother-tongue should be taught in Urdu. Supposing, as I said, the Government concedes the point that all the Muslims in Andhradesa be taught through the medium of Urdu, what will happen? Let us now examine the question seriously. What is their population in the Andhradesa? Their population is 958,071, according to the 1931 census. (Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur: 'It is 13 lakhs'.) It may be so, now and what is the population of Andhradesa? It is 116,932,200. What is the proportion, I ask? It may be 5 or 6 per cent. It may be to-morrow, we are going to divide our provinces according

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to linguistic areas. We are looking forward to that time when this will be done. From some of the questions put by some members of the Muslim League Party, it looks as if they are also equally anxious to have such a division of provinces on linguistic basis. If that comes about, the administration of Andhradesa will naturally be in the Telugu language. I ask, what is going to be the position of the children who are now to be taught in Urdu in such a province? The administration will then consist mostly of men and women who have had their education and training in their regional language, excepting the few who have had it through Urdu. Already the question has been taken up by some friends—I won't like to disclose their names—that boys who have passed out of the colleges with language other than Telugu, have not been able to get a decent job. In fact, a representation was made to me by a respectable member of the Opposition, belonging to the Muslim League Party—I shall not give out his name—that because a boy could not appear and pass in Tamil, he has been ejected from his post; and similarly representations have been made that Andhra boys who were educated through the medium of Urdu could not be employed. I understand that during the Advisers' regime, an order was passed laying down that Urdu should be taught only in municipal areas where the Muslims were found in a fairly good number. If the difficulty has already arisen to-day, I ask, what will happen to-morrow. I say tomorrow the difficulty will be felt all the greater. People who are qualified are jealous that they are not having a share in the administration of the country. It may be quite right, but, I say you will be disqualifying yourself for the public administration by this method, if the Government agree that the medium of instruction shall be Urdu. Government have therefore, in drawing up a plan for education in the Province, have kept in view this particular aspect of the matter. We have to look after the interests of everybody and every community; we shall not be parties to issuing orders which will create eternal quarrels in this country between communities and communities, we have already got too much of them to-day. We won't like to be parties to increase their number. So, I say, advisedly, after deep consideration and after deep thought, the Government have come to this conclusion.

"Again, Sir, even if my friends from Andhra say that Telugu is alien to them, I cannot say that Urdu is alien to me. But Hindustani is a language which we want to make the *lingua franca* of India. It is a language which has two different scripts the Nagari and the Persian. If it is Nagari, it is called Hindi and if in Persian, it is called Urdu. So, it is not as if we have any prejudice against Urdu; it is not as if we do not want our young men and women to learn it. But looking ahead, looking to the important problems that we may be faced with in the future the Government have issued the orders they have, advisedly, as I said.

Now, Sir, I come to the next big plank of the Opposition. I 5 p.m. have been grateful to the hon. Members for the strong language

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. In order to make us decide as to our course of action, we should know clearly what the Hon. Minister's decision is so far as Urdu in Andhradesa is concerned."

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Also in the City of Madras."

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I have already answered that question. Now, I come to the question of twenty per cent reservation. Let me assure this House, when that decision was made, nothing was farther from our minds than to reserve anything for any particular community. I say as one who believes that there is merit in every community and as one who believes that the best in one community is equal to the best in any other community. In regard to this question it is true that one particular community got many seats. It has been represented to me that marks should not be the sole criterion by which merit can be judged. Neither did we say so. So far as the Government is concerned, it does not matter to what community or religion a particular person belonged but Government insists on having a certain proportion of the best men. The Tungabadra waters and the Godavari waters do not wait for the name of a community. We want our best men. We thought this was the best means by which the best men could be got. Suggestions are forthcoming that the best men need not be judged by marks alone and that the other communities should be preferred. Government will certainly consider the matter and as you know, Sir, this order is only for this year. We shall give the deepest consideration to the points raised by various Members of this House in this matter. Here, I must point out one thing. Mussalmans have not really suffered very much as will be seen from the fact that out of 44 applications for the Medical College, 43 have been selected; and out of 44 applications for the Engineering College, 33 have been selected. I speak subject to correction."

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Twenty-two according to my information."

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The number of applications was 44 and the actual number selected is 32. There are other communities, mainly the Non-Brahmins have suffered, it is true. I shall not say anything more about it just now in regard to this."

"Coming to the question of religious education, Sir, religion, if it is to be real (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'Very sacred.') must go to the fundamental nature of man and it must succeed in cementing men rather than forging hatred amidst them. Real religion should be a uniting force between the various diversities of human nature. Real religion will make for a nobler and higher life of man, and such a religion is no doubt welcome

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"Now, Sir, I come to the problem of Education of the Muslims. The Mussalmans are like the great community to which my hon. Friend Mir Amiruddin and Ammannna Raja belong I mean women. They want, like women, special colleges for themselves and carriages reserved for them though all of them have a right to go into other people's carriages which are not reserved to them—men's carriages. Though Muslims want separate colleges they also want all other colleges to be open to them."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Because they have not got sufficient number of colleges."

* THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I heard from some member of the Muslim League side that they should have separate colleges for Harijans. Let them not drag in the Harijans here—God forbid that—when they do not want separate colleges for themselves, why do you want them? While on this problem, I must point out that claims have been made and rightly too, that backward classes should be given all encouragement in the matter of education and that Government should spend more funds if necessary for the education and uplift of these backward communities. The Government agree to that proposition; that is very different from saying, give me everything separate so that my community will not have anything to do with other communities. In this matter, I would like to tell you of the view of the Government in regard to this matter. The Government of India was in correspondence with this Government even before the Congress came to power. At that time Mr. Sargeant, a sound educationist, was at the head of affairs ('question.') There are people who are always questioning but we cannot be noticing these questions. When this question of a college for Muslims was mooted, he said, do not have separate colleges communally. When this Government came to power, it did not care for that. The announcement was made. We thought we shall not stop it. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'You could not stop it.') If the Government wanted, they could have stopped it but they did not do so. I do not want to say anything more about it at present except this. Educational institutions should

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not be intended for Hindus alone or the Mussalmans alone. Separate institutions are the bane of this country. From the very young stages, children are trained with a certain amount of suspicion in denominational institutions and the result is they get a lopsided view of things. If there is a separate school for Muslims, the students who are taught in those institutions do not come in contact with the Hindu boys and so even from the start, they begin to have a peculiar notion that the Hindus are a very bad people. Some politicians are no doubt interested in keeping up these differences and the result is these differences have continued to remain. (A voice: 'What about the Pachaiyappas College?') It is a private college. So, I say, Sir, advisedly that separate institutions are not good in the interests of this great country and may I say, they are not also in the interests of the Mussalmanoans themselves. (A voice from the Muslim group: 'We know it better.') Politicians' opinions are very doubtful. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'What are you?') I am something more than that. Separate institutions, I have seen and I have moved with those connected with such institutions. In those institutions, Sir, where Hindus and Muslims from their childhood have moved as friends, going arm in arm and with a common thought; they are without any suspicion in their minds. I would therefore request my hon. Friends on the other side to think over the matter. I do not want them to come to a decision now. If need be, let them ask for any increment in the funds allotted for the education of Muslims, for the enhancement of funds for backward communities. (A voice from Muslim Group: 'We are not going to beg.') But if it is to be for separate communal education, I say that this country has already ruined itself by it; let us not be a party to greater tragedies.

"Now, Sir, I would like to say something about adult education. As my hon. Friend pointed out, it is true, adult education has not received the attention in this country as much as it ought to have. This Government have called for practical proposals from the Director of Public Instruction and on receipt of those proposals Government will try to do what they can for adult education.

"About the conditions of schools and colleges, much has been said by some of the hon. Friends; they also stressed the need for more colleges in view of the rush that is obtaining in High Schools and Colleges at present. I hope this House and the Public know what the Government has done in this matter by asking the authorities of the schools and colleges and the Universities to permit students for working a fourth batch in the laboratories of the Colleges. By this, it enabled the admission of about 1,500 students in the Madras University area and of about 600 or 700 students in the Andhra University. I do not say that this is a matter for satisfaction. That these colleges are crowded is a matter which is engaging the serious attention of Government, and they are considering how this rush could be avoided in the future. While on this, I may say that Government have got certain plans for the future in which, I hope, it will get the co-operation of all

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hon. Members of this House and of persons outside in devising ways and means to bring out a satisfactory solution of this question. My hon. Friend, Mr. Pattabhiraman, gave certain expressions about the sufferings of students in hostels and that certain facilities should be given to them. It is true that while the number of students in the City are increasing extraordinarily, the hostel accommodation has not correspondingly increased. Government are seized of the matter and are giving due consideration to it. Though they cannot do anything at present, at least in the next year, it is hoped, that more accommodation will be made available.

"Now, I come to the question of Ceded districts. In the Rayalaseema there are about 53 high schools and there are some colleges. As the hon. Member for Kurnool told us, there is a college at Bellary, there is a college at Anantapur and two colleges in the Chittoor district—one at Madanapalle and the other at Tirupati, but Kurnool has no college at present. (D. Abdul Rawoof Sahib Bahadur: 'The Bellary college is likely to be closed at any time.') I am not so pessimistic as my hon. Friend. While on this matter, I would like to refer to the question of closing of certain schools which was raised by some Members. It was stated that some schools have been closed in the Rayalaseema districts; the reason for that is that funds did not permit the running of those schools. Government wanted to give a fresh fillip for education and have offered large sums of money to local bodies so that they can go ahead with education. But unfortunately, they started so many schools but they could not cope up with the expenditure involved. In fact Government have received certain suggestions from the presidents of district boards in regard to this matter to get over the difficulty. Government ordered that the funds allotted to them for the opening of new schools for this year may be utilized for running of the old schools. I do not know what has happened to this suggestion of Government, and how far the presidents of the district boards acted upon those suggestions. If any further representation is received from the presidents of the district boards, Government will certainly consider the matter sympathetically.

"I now come to the matter of University education. There was a suggestion from my hon. Friend, Mr. Gopala Reddi, for the strengthening of the higher aspect of education. That question also will be considered by Government.

"The other question raised by another hon. Member in regard to medical inspection in schools is also under the consideration of Government.

"Now, Sir, I am glad that an hon. Friend referred to certain portions prescribed in text-books, for instance, 'God Save the King' and such other things. I am sorry that they were there, even before we came in; the Congress Government would not prescribe these books. Next year this House will see these things will go and such things which will give strength to the mind of the youth of this great country will be in the text-books.

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Now I must also say a word to the friends who speak about the uplift of Harijans. I was sorry to hear from my hon. Friend Mr. Sahajananda—I know he has been doing great service to the Harijan community—that he has not been receiving proper encouragement from the authorities in his district. I have also received similar complaints from Trichinopoly and from some other districts and even in the City itself where certain Harijan boys who came from Calicut found difficulty in getting admission into colleges. I am glad to be able to tell you that if they contact the Educational Officer, they would certainly get them admitted, if their difficulties were pointed out to them. If cases of particular hardship of Harijan boys are brought to notice, Government will only be very pleased to come to the aid of these persons and do what they can for them.

“ My hon. Friend, Mr. P. Natesan, said certain words about training for artisanship. The Government have started many polytechnics and two Engineering colleges this year. That proves that Government is anxious to give technical training from the lowest to the highest grades, because industries require more trained men in the future.

“ He said certain words about corruption in private-managed institutions. I may tell him that Government are prepared to put down corruption with a heavy hand whoever the person may be. In fact, the public would have seen from the papers that we have taken suitable action even against some of the higher officials if they have been found guilty of corruption. In this matter, I hope the public will co-operate and give us all help that is necessary. No action can be taken on mere allegations, but they should be supported by proper evidence. There is no use of merely sending unsigned letter or letters under pseudonym. It is unfortunate that people have not yet learnt to represent properly and directly and if that is done and proper evidence is forthcoming, Government will certainly be prepared to take whatever steps are necessary to put down corruption either in the officers of the Government or in any private-managed institutions.

“ Certain remarks have been made about the liquidation of illiteracy, but before I deal with that subject, I should say a few words about Mappilla education. Many hon. Members referred to Mappilla education. Now, with reference to the Malappuram Government Secondary Training School, I may say that a site has been acquired for the construction of a hostel. In March last year the Director submitted the proposal for the construction of the hostel at an estimated cost of Rs. 2,25,000. It was decided that the proposal might be deferred for the time being in view of the high cost of materials. Government will be prepared to construct this hostel as soon as possible. With reference to the High School at Tirur, the High Schools Committee submitted proposals; the Director of Public Instruction reported that the revised plans and estimates have been called for and that they will be submitted to Government on receipt. These plans and

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estimates have not yet been received. There are now the following institutions maintained by Government specially for Mappillas. Government Secondary and Training Schools for Mappillas (Men) in Malappuram; the Government Training School for Mappilla Men, Cannanore; Government Mappilla Girls' School at Tirur and Government Middle School for Mappilla Girls, Tellicherry. There is also a Government Muslim High School for Boys at Kasargod and a Government Secondary School for Muslim Girls at Mangalore. There is also another Government School for Mappilla Girls at Tellicherry. (D. Abdul Rawoof Sahib Bahadur: ‘ There is no such school.’) I shall enquire into the matter. It will thus be seen that Government are trying to do what they can to raise the level of literacy among the backward classes of this country. (Sri P. Venkateswarlu: ‘ What about grants to universities?’) This matter also will be considered by Government.

“ Now I come to the most important aspect of the educational problem. Government have taken on hand the question of reorganization of education in this great country. Illiteracy must be liquidated and shall be liquidated. If that is to be done, it can be done only through the co-operation and with the help of all the parties in the country and of all the men and women in this country. In doing so, Sir, in rebuilding the educational policy, let us approach the problem in a truly prayerful spirit. Let us plan ahead, look ahead, think about the future of India, a strong and only respecting country; respected throughout the whole world. If that is to be done, we must as time goes on, lay stress on our unity and not on difference. While every community shall be free to protect its own culture, and is free to develop its traditions, it should not be inconsistent with the goodwill with the other communities; let us have the common wellbeing of this great country and of the people at large. If that is coming, there is great work ahead of us; and I hope, not only the Members of this House but all the thinking men and women of this country will co-operate with the Government in this great task ahead of us.”

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ On a point of explanation, Sir. The hon. Minister has not answered satisfactorily the several points raised by my party. He is insisting on sticking to his own views on this fundamental question of Muslim education. I am sorry that the Muslims cannot leave this thing here. I hope at least the Hon. the Premier, when he speaks, will give us a categorical assurance on the several points raised by us because I want to impress on the Government that this is a matter which touches the very existence of our community and that we cannot leave it there.”

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“ No answer has been given about the construction of a college for Muslim women in Madras.”

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* **MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR**:—"Not only on the question of a College for Muslim women, Sir, but on the various other concrete items which myself and other friends have mentioned, no answer has been forthcoming, but above all on the fundamental questions, the Minister for Education seems to differ from us and he has not been able to meet our point of view. I want to know from the Hon. the Premier whether that is the attitude of his Government."

* **SRI K. VARADACHARI**:—"May I ask whether any Member is entitled to question the answers of the Government Members?"

* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"He does not question the answers of the Hon. Minister; on the other hand, he wants an assurance from the Hon. Minister."

* **THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR**:—"Twenty-seven hon. Members have raised several points during the course of the discussion. If I am not able to answer all of them, it is not on account of any discourtesy to hon. Members but it is only for want of time, I could not reply to all of them. When another opportunity comes, I will be able to reply to them."

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, education is a subject which is very essential for all the people that live in any country under any system of Government in the world. Controversies in the past had arisen in other parts of the world at a particular stage; but in this country political agitation for freedom has been carried on for the last sixty years. Out of these 60 years, 35 years were spent in what is known as constitutional agitation. There were new leaders like the late Ali Brothers and a new chapter was opened. I need not take the House into details of how it worked as it is all within living memory. After the British Government established themselves in this country, they started educational institutions—institutions that produced educated young men who would serve them by enabling them to carry on their administration. Their educational system had been introduced here in the place of the prevailing system which had been in existence for a very long time. Before the British came, the Muslims were ruling this country for good time. In the course of the discussions we have been asserting and stating facts as if there is no record and as if we have been the witnesses ourselves. On the contrary there are records to show the things existing in this country for centuries and thousands of years and for *yugams*. You can look into them and see what the system of education was even under the Muslim rule. The old educational institutions that had been serving the young ones of this country did not become extinct under the Muslim rule. No, not at all. Ancient educational institutions, ancient administration of villages, ownership of properties and the governance of people under the village administration, it must be said to the honour

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and credit of Muslim rulers, did not change, however unlike they may have been in point of temperament. Therefore, it is that to-day even after the lapse of so many centuries you have got records maintained with regard to people living in this country, their system of government and their land tenure and other things. I may tell hon. Members that before the ryotwari system was introduced in this country for revenue purposes and before the zamindaris were carved out and the zamindars became collection agents to enable the British company and their successors to collect revenue efficiently, quite another system existed. If you look back on past history, these are written on stones and there are inscriptions to bear it out—you will know what was the nature of the lands in the country and the nature of the people however diversified they may have been by castes, sub-castes and subdivisions. There was the village rule; there was the village administration. Before the ryotwari system was introduced according to which a man was given certain number of acres to be called his own, the land was attached to the village. Say to a village of thousand persons, and extent of ten thousand acres would be attached and the rule was that the lands belonged to the village. The people were Hindus, Muslims and Harijans and others. But they did not know that one was different from the other; they lived as one community as it were. They had to cultivate the property jointly; they had to live jointly and enjoy their properties jointly. They had even adult suffrage under their constitution. Now friends may forget these things because of the various changes that have come upon us. Hindu friends may forget their own history. It is well to remember how our ancestors lived and how we are living to-day. Because of the change that has come over us, all troubles have come. Muslim Leaguers, non-Leaguers, whoever they are—non-Hindus I will call them—they must know that in the past they lived jointly, enjoyed their property jointly and there was no question of one man being a prince and the other man being poor and there was no question of one man having cloth and the other man not having it. Who were the people in those days who were owning the lands and enjoying them? Hindus, Muslims, Harijans and others—call them by whatever name you please—they all lived as members of one family, enjoyed the property as a joint property and shared them. Look at their educational system. It was common to all. There was no question of distinction between one community and another. It is not proper to say that the language of the people was Urdu. Urdu or Arabic came into this country during the Muslim period and even during that period, if you look into history, you will find that the distinctions that we have now created and are banking upon did not exist. Muslim rulers carried on their administration with the help of the best of the Hindus. Look at the Revenue Code and the revenue system; you will find how Muslim rulers were carrying on with the advice of Hindu Ministers. All this is a matter of history, not speculation. Hindus who gave everything to the rest of the world when the rest of the world was in the wilderness, went down and I do not wish to take hon. Members into the various stages of their decay

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and downfall. Now politically, we have come under one rule. Even under that rule for a good period, there was no such thing as intolerance. When so much of heat was introduced into this controversy, I interested myself in a study of the simple facts and matters which formed the background of the present position. When hon. Members on the other side got up and said that in Andhradesa, Urdu is the mother-tongue of the Muslims, I could have got up and said 'No'; but I did not do so, for, I wanted to know what the whole data for that proposition is; where it came from and how it came about. I was born in that land, I have lived in that land, in that Andhra country for a very long time; my connexions with that area have not yet been cut off; and perhaps, living as the oldest people here, I can speak with authority. I have witnessed the Urdu schools that were started by the local boards. In the village you will find there is no distinction between Hindus and Muslims. The Urdu which the Muslims had picked up there, is not Urdu. If you probe into that subject you will find, Urdu was taught in the Muslim period, but that Urdu disappeared altogether after the British came into India and established their rule here. It took a long time for schools to be established here; I know the nature of the instruction given there. But still, you say, you speak with authority, that all Muslims in Andhradesa are Urdu speaking people. What shall I say to you? We are now at this stage, and I think, we have to go through certain stages during our lifetime and then we shall be able to see how far we can say that the Muslims in Andhradesa are Urdu-speaking people. (Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur: 'Why not a Commission be appointed to go into this question?') After we have settled down in life here and begun to do our business, perhaps there will be time then, but by that time all the materials which are not available now, will become available. Mr. Baig is a great advocate. Give him any case, any worthless point; even a little point he can develop, argue and make it appear as plausible; for he can put the case so well. I have known him very well. I am not talking about him disparagingly. When Mr. Pocker said that Urdu has been the mother-tongue of the Muslims in Andhradesa Mr. Nagaraja Manigar put the question, 'in what language was the Holy Quoran, when it came into India?' He knew it was in Arabic, and he admitted it straightaway, and said Arabic is not Urdu; Urdu is a mixture of Arabic and some other language. From that one point stated and admitted by my hon. Friends there, the question of Urdu could not be upheld. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'You cannot dispose of it so easily.') I can understand it. There are facts and figures in this country to show how in this land, a long time back, medical institutions flourished and how learned professors of those institutions were taken across the seas to serve in Arabia and other places where Arabic was taught. There were Muslim experts then who made their contribution in that connexion. Therefore we should not labour that point that Urdu was their language. Urdu could have been their language if the Muslim rule had continued; but it was not so. Muslim

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rule always respected other beliefs, their institutions and their customs. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'Hear, hear, that is what we want.') They did, and that is why my friends here say, 'apply that policy'. I may tell them even now, just as the British tried to get out of their troubles after introducing this English language in this land of ours on the lines laid down by Lord Macaulay, just as they tried to manage the whole thing, we in our country have to manage, whatever differences, political, social and others may be here. To-day we are in office; to-morrow some others may be in office; Mr. Ismail and his group may be in office. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'Oh, No, that is not possible.') They say, it is not possible. (Laughter.) Why, Sir; why does he say vehemently; why does he assert it? Some Members contended about Hyderabad Ruler. How many Muhammadans are there in that State? The whole population is non-Muslim; but Muslims are the rulers there. Are you saying in the same way, can't we become rulers here. (Laughter.) That apart, I do not know why this Andhradesa was chosen by my hon. Friends to say that in that area Urdu was the language of the Muslims. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'That is a fact.') It is not a fact. I do not want to enter into any great controversy now. We shall be solving that later on. Is it because Andhradesa is on the border of the Hyderabad State? Is it so? (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'No.') If it is not so, why did they not point out to the Tamil Nad and say, 'these are also Urdu-speaking areas'? (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'It is not a fact.') Sir, when the time comes, I am sure, my hon. Friends will see what I say is correct. I have known Muslims of almost all districts, and I can never say, their mother-tongue was Urdu. There are so many families in the districts, who do not know even a single alphabet of Urdu or Hindustani. If you ask them to talk, they will talk some language, which you cannot recognize. I was on the top of the plantations in Ceylon. There were several Indians domiciled there; they were talking the same language I talk; but I could not understand even a single syllable of what they said; because they have gone there a very long time back. Therefore on that ground I cannot say, it was their mother-tongue and that should be their regional language; it cannot be. (Mr. Abdul Rawoof: 'Sir, what we have been saying is, not that Urdu should be the medium of instruction; but the mother-tongue should be the medium of instruction.') I have not yielded. He has attempted to correct me. Regional language is the language belonging to a region. It is for that purpose I took hon. Members to the previous history of our land. Region is region; of course, no confusion can arise because that word is used. Region is a particular area, where a particular people lived. Take any region in any part of the district. Everywhere the regional language depended on the property the people owned and how they enjoyed. It is in that way the whole of this Presidency, which appears big on the map of India, has been divided into four linguistic areas. To-day Andhradesa has no doubt become so small. There was a time, Sir, when, according to history, Andhra Kings ruled not only over 12 districts but also over the whole of Tamil districts

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in Southern India. During the zamindari enquiry, documents and sanads given to zamindars in the south in former times were received by me. But on that basis I do not want to put forth a claim to all the Tamil districts now. Therefore, Sir, I say about the regional language there is no question. Muslims have ruled at one time in particular areas. Their numbers in the southern Presidency are only 6 or 7 per cent. These so-called Brahmans, who have made a hell of the whole world (laughter), are only 3 per cent. I am only longing for a day when these Brahmans will cease to be after any appointment under any Government. They ought not to be anywhere in the neighbourhood of any office. They have done the greatest disservice to this land by abandoning their noble and honourable profession in the past by taking to the wretched education given to them by the British Government and by becoming clerks and accepting similar jobs. This word 'merit' has become a big subject of discussion in this House. What is the merit which this Brahman has acquired—passing the examination and applying for posts that fall vacant on Rs. 15 or Rs. 10 or to any post which Mr. Town might be good enough to give. All people of this land must note that to become a free people they should have a clear idea of what education in its proper sense is. It is only then we can become a real nation and become real rulers of our land. Until that is done, it is not possible. I am appealing to my hon. Friends not to have any trouble about the meaning of this expression 'regional language.' Although Urdu is spoken, and is the mother-tongue of the Muslims, whose proportion in population is so small, the regional language is the language that belonged to the region originally. That continues to be so, and evidence can be produced to show that Urdu-speaking Muslims are living there and others speaking other languages are also living there. The language of the people who live in that land and who enjoy the land attached to these villages should be the regional language. My hon. Friends are contesting not only in the Province of Madras but in the whole of India—I do not wish to go into that position because it will create trouble in our own days. . ."

N. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. Do I understand the Hon. Prime Minister to say that the language which was originally the language of the territory must be recognized as the language of all the people inhabiting that territory? To-day there are a number of Tamilians who claim that Tamil was the language of all the territories included in the Southern India. Therefore, will the Premier say that Tamil only is the recognized language of all people in Southern India? What we had been saying is that you must have facts to show which is the mother-tongue of the people, and let that be called the regional language. That is our point."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I do not lay down any hard and fast rule, Sir. The Andhra area, in which the Muslims are only 6 or 7 per cent, and all the rest are non-Muslims, may cease to be in that position if to-morrow all the non-Muslims

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should embrace Christianity or Islam. The population itself might change. So it should not be contended that because they were once Hindus, their language should be the regional language. You should not go into such things because, as hon. Friends pointed out, conditions change and circumstances also change. Taking a commonsense view of the position, how are we to understand the position to-day? That is the question. Even granting that the Muslims are very few in number, and Muslims are people whose mother-tongue is Urdu or Arabic, whatever you may call it, what is it that has to be done? We are living to-day and we are attempting to govern this country. Are we going to say that a few handful of Muslims claim Arabic or Urdu as their mother-tongue and so we must legislate even in regard to their education? Such a thing would never happen and should never happen in any part of the world. Wherever men of sense ruled in the past, and whenever they were in charge of the destinies of the people, they had never laid down something like this. We have to manage our things in such a manner as not to establish separate educational institutions. By insisting upon separation for each community, they have divided themselves, and they have brought this state upon the country. A new form we are trying to develop. I am longing to see the day when Muslim educated ladies would be presiding over educational institutions in Madras City not only for teaching Muslim girls and Muslim students but also all others. For that we have to work and mould ourselves without causing bitterness and without ill-feeling. It is because of the divisions that we have taken 25 long years of struggle when we could have got the whole thing within five years at the most."

MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Why did you not get it earlier?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Town questions me. He is a very happy man. He will never be disturbed. Any trouble may come and he will not be affected. I only wish that all of us are like him. The first battle, let me tell you—several of my hon. Friends must have been children at that time—was given, under the new movement, when Lord Reading was the Viceroy. I knew Lord Reading as ordinary Mr. Rufus Isaac, practising in English Courts. When he came here, he came as Lord Reading, the Viceroy. When the Prince of Wales wanted to come here, the Congress said, 'Do not come here please, a tragedy has occurred in India, let not that Prince be brought here.' They thought that they had the power, they had the Army, they had everything at their beck and call and said, 'let us see what these fellows will do.' So they came here. They came and when the whole thing was started here—I do not want to go into details, because it is a long story—what Lord Reading said I will tell for the benefit of Mr. Town and other friends who were not here at that time."

MR. H. S. TOWN:—"I was here."

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"If so, you may recollect. Lord Reading said that the whole country knows no distinction between Muhammadan and Non-Muhammadan. Those two stalwarts Muhammad Ali and Shaikat Ali were there in jail for longer periods than other Congress workers. Lord Reading's words were these: 'What is this? How has this come up in this country? What is it that India wants? I am puzzled and perplexed. I am not able to understand how this Indian situation has arisen.' If that had been sustained we would not have taken so much time to succeed in our effort. Because we are in so many lakhs and crores, we became divided and we were obliged to fight over and over again and at last we have come to this stage. It will take some time for us to get over these matters. I am confident that my hon. Friend (Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiyar) who had been attacked so mercilessly from all sides tried to justify his position. He did not wander about. He was to the point. He quoted chapter and verse on the basic system of education. It was said there was no religion in it. We agreed to have all the schools attached to the religious endowments, to have schools established by the religious endowments wherever surplus money was available, and that all these schools should give not merely secular education but also religious education. People should not be allowed to become Godless. I cannot agree with my Communist friends who say 'no religion.' On closely going into the history of all religions, you will find that all religions relate to one God, and to one worship including the worship the Hindus are carrying on in the form of idol worship in temples and other places. It is a mistake that regarding music in front of mosques, law courts have decided cases in different ways when the custom had been going on in some other ways. I am personally of opinion that in the worship of God no one should be disturbed. ('Hear, hear.') It should be my endeavour with the co-operation of all the hon. Friends to see whether, and how far, we can settle such matters wherever it is possible. Things have been allowed to drift on for a very long period. In basic education, Sir, there is nothing to quarrel about. This system had been examined by educationists. It is a system that had been examined and found quite correct and necessary by that great man and educationist Sargent. Let us not decry anything merely because of the people who were associated with it because of any weak points that might exist. Let us correct the mistakes if there are mistakes in it. Before seeing the whole thing and before examining, to say the whole thing is against us is a great wrong. By the system of education the student must be in a position to know, by the time he leaves the college or even a high school, what aptitude he has got and what profession he can choose for higher studies. That was a rule laid down. Owing to basic education you will find from beginning to end these boys who have lost mind, head and everything, they are taken from stage to stage and by the time he enters University he feels strong in mind and body about religion and everything and fit to know that he will be fit to carry on particular profession and earn money for himself and his family. Let

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us not make a mistake about that. We are used to this civilized system of education. Let us not mistake it. Sargent is not an ordinary man. He is a great educationist. Nobody must speak lightly of it, even hon. Members here. We have taken so many degrees not being able to know what to do ourselves after the whole thing is done. It is with a view to remove that weakest part of the whole system of education that the basic system of education has been made ready. We shall examine that and we shall know how the basic system of education works. It should not be discarded by my hon. Friends merely because there is no religion in it. The author Mahatma Gandhi is a peculiar gentleman. He is of his own type. What is his religion? What is his prayer? Anybody may go and sit there. It is not merely the Hindu religion which people quote in other places. The Hindu religion, the Christian religion, the Muhammadan religion, all these prayers are repeated there night and morning. He will not be a man to say, because you have got a Muslim prayer we shall not take part. No such thing will come. I feel strongly on that one point that we should try to have one system of education in which all these religions can be taught to the young boys in the manner in which these boys are taught in Gandhi's Ashramam and that will be the beginning of the end of all this trouble. I am hoping for that period.

"On behalf of Mr. Avinashilingam, I have to request hon. Members not to have any idea that their points have not been conceded by us. Nothing will be done in a hurry. We are taking steps to re-open a new University in the name of Tirupati in this Province of ours when we shall be able to evolve and establish our own system without bringing us into any kind of clash. That is my explanation. I therefore appeal to hon. Members . . ."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What about the Muslim Board?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member Mr. Pocker perhaps is not here. 'What about the Board' he says. Don't insist upon a separate Board for Muslims and separate Board for the Harijans. Mr. Nagappa will become vehement straight-away and say we must have a Board. I hope he will not say that. Let us not be thinking of separatist action. Let us try as some hon. Members conceded the system of education wherein all religions might be taught and the children will be able to understand from the very beginning without any effort that the whole thing was one business and for nothing these quarrels have been going on."

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will that system be formulated in consultation with the Muslims?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member should not feel free to hurl something in the face of this Government even after hearing so much. This discussion has enabled us to understand one another. However strongly a reply may be given

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by Mr. Avinashilingam and myself we have to carry on everything in a friendly spirit with a view to understand the spirit of it without attempting to deceive each other. That will be the aim of the Government."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"May I remind the Premier about the question of the Leader of the Opposition?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"There will not be a separate Board for any community, Sir. That position was made clear by the hon. Member in charge of the portfolio. That will be our aim. I have to appeal to hon. Members along with the hon. Member for Education that there is nothing wrong in the basic system of education. It is a thing that must be adopted by all of us. With regard to that matter after such a discussion as this that a question should be put whether a scheme will be thrust upon the country without any knowledge of them and without discussing the provisions is strange. I for my part can say that all of us have been trying our best not to do any extraordinary performance. Therefore I can assure hon. Members of not only the Muslim League, not only the independants, not only the Anglo-Indian section but also the European group that all of us can put our heads together."

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the reply given by the Minister which is not satisfactory, I am sorry I am unable to withdraw."

The cut motion was put and lost.

The Demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of explanation, Mr. Speaker, I wish to make a short statement. This is a very vital matter affecting our community touching the honour as well as the existence of our community. We have not received satisfaction from the Government on the several questions raised by us and in spite of the earnest representations we made to them. Therefore as a matter of protest we do not propose to take part in the further proceedings of to-day and we propose to walk out of the Assembly."

DEMAND XVI—MEDICAL.

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 1,87,72,600 in respect of the head 'Medical.' The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rupees 11,46,058."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Sir, in moving that the allotment of Rs. 1,87,72,600 for medical be reduced by Rs. 100, I would like to make a few comments. The Government have allotted in my opinion a very miserable sum under this head. It is no use saying they cannot afford more for we know that they have thrown away

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a large amount of revenue by introducing prohibition in eight districts, money which might well have been used for improving the medical establishments of this Province.

"There are in this Province not less than 50 million people and all that Government can spare is a pittance of six annas per head per year to meet the cost of maintaining our hospitals and dispensaries, training our doctors and nurses and giving the people attention in sickness. This, Sir, is insufficient. We are suffering from the niggardly treatment of the past and judging from this budget, we are expected to go on suffering.

"We have far too few hospitals and those we have are generally not as modern as they should be. Hospitals and their equipment are like motor cars; they get out of date very quickly. Much has been said in this House about the overcrowding of the trams in this City and I had hoped that my Friends of the Muslim League Party would support me in condemning the criminal overcrowding of our hospitals. I use the word 'criminal' intentionally. It is not altogether the fault of this Government. It is the fault of the past Governments. I hope this Government will take steps to see that this overcrowding ceases.

"My Group feel very strongly on this subject and I think the Hon. Minister in charge is very fortunate indeed to have so meek and mild a man as I am to speak. We had hoped to put up Mr. Ferrelley who is particularly well informed thereon. He comes from Malabar where everybody takes things very seriously and they are inclined to be very outspoken if their district is, in their opinion, neglected. Unfortunately, owing to labour trouble, he cannot come here. He has sent me a note and so before I go any further I must mention the Calicut General Hospital. It has now 170 beds and 250 patients. Eighty sick people lie on the floor, and some are placed under the beds in order not to obstruct the nurse in her work. West Coast monsoon rains are monsoon rains and not the drizzle that we in Madras call monsoon rains. In the Calicut General Hospital, the monsoon rains on to the floor of the wards. The place was condemned ten years ago and sanction given for a new hospital but nothing has been done. The tender, loving, motherly heart of this Government has been touched at the deplorable conditions and Rs. 30,000 has been sanctioned. Sir, if a hospital has 250 patients, it should certainly not have less than 275 beds, for whole wards have to be cleared for renovation and fumigation from time to time. Rupees 30,000 cannot provide 275 bedded hospital. So Calicut is being asked to do without the new hospital it was promised ten years ago.

"The story, however, is the same all over the Presidency. Hospitals are overcrowded, many of them are hopelessly out of date and few of them, if any, have all the facilities demanded by modern standards of medicine, surgery and nursing. I would like to take the case of the three Mental Hospitals at Madras, Waltair and Calicut, all grossly overcrowded with Madras leading by a short head with an average population of 50 per cent above the

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sanctioned accommodation. I want to read from the Report. It is dated 27th February 1946. 'As pointed out in previous Administration Reports, the strength of Mental Hospitals is steadily increasing. Improvements required for the existing Mental Hospitals had been held up.' 'For want of sufficient accommodation, the practice of locking a large number of patients in the General Block in a single room of the Mental Hospital, Madras, is still being continued in spite of the possible risks to the safety and welfare of the patients.' Anyone who has had anything to do with sick people who are unfortunately insane will realise what a terrible indictment this is of the position. I cannot say anything against the Government for this. This is the fault of the past. This must be remedied. But yet, Sir, we find no special allotment in the Budget to relieve the situation. The Report comments on the conscientious work of the administration. But how can these men produce results if they are working under conditions such as the report shows. Now, Sir, if hospitals are inadequately equipped, it is impossible to give that complete training to young men and women who wish to become doctors. There is no other profession which requires such complete training as the medical profession, and you cannot give them that complete training which is necessary if they are to be competent doctors in the future, if you train and educate them among standards which were abandoned years ago in all progressive countries.

"We are far from satisfied with the standard of medical practitioners turned out by our medical colleges. Their professors are so occupied with battling against the odds of trying to be modern with antiquated equipment that it is greatly to their credit that they give that precise attention to teaching which is vital if the student is to grasp fully every aspect of his subject. But if a student is trained in a poorly-equipped hospital, he cannot fully comprehend the niceties of modern medical practice.

"Then, Sir, we would like to see more attention paid to post-graduate courses. A graduate from any University on any subject immediately he passes out thinks that he knows everything. He very soon realizes that all that the University has taught him is how to increase his knowledge by experience. Now, Sir, a lawyer may pass out and set up practice at once. If he comes up against a very serious proposition in early days, it is just too bad—his client loses his case. If a young doctor who comes up against serious propositions is not careful, it may also be just too bad, but in this case his client or patient is cremated or buried. Sir, the general public are the doctors' clients or patients as they prefer to dub us. I like that word 'patient.' It is particularly applicable to the client of an inexperienced doctor, for 'patient' one has to be while the doctor tries this pill, that dope or mixture. If you are lucky, you recover.

"This, however, is a small digression. We want to see more post-graduate courses. We want to see the young man who has become a doctor attend our hospitals under a senior doctor, gaining experience from time to time. It is the only way for a young

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man to become a really efficient doctor. But yet, Sir, we see many young men get their medical degrees and set up practice at once. We fear this is not good for the nation. But we know the reason why. Many of our young doctors have been a heavy drain on the resources of their family, and once they have passed out, it is made very clear to them that it is up to them to earn sufficient to make sure that his younger brother can go to the engineering college. The terms offered for service in our hospitals are so poor that the average doctor has no other choice, if he is going to send his younger brother to the college or the University, but to set up private practice himself, and even to descend—as many unfortunately do—to the grant of bogus certificates. I would like the Minister to take up this question of bogus certificates very soon. I have no doubt that if anyone in this House goes out tonight, with ten rupees, he can get a certificate saying that he had been under treatment for a week for dysentery, pneumonia or anything like that. I have these certificates in my office safe. We collected any number years ago, when I once raised this question in another place.

"Throughout the Madras Administration Report for 1945, we read of a dearth of qualified staff in our medical institutions. Why is this? Is the task of healing the sick repugnant to the Indian mentality? Does the suffering of the people raise no feelings of humanity in the young Indian heart? 6-15 p.m

"Neither of these two causes are at the root of the shortage of qualified men and women in our medical institutions, but the economics of living gives the answer. You must give better terms of service to the young doctors in the hospital. Then you will get really qualified men.

"Now, Sir, I am afraid that a number of people may be upset by the rest of my remarks. That is unfortunate but the life and health of fifty million people are at stake.

"I refer to the provision of Rs. 5 lakhs to develop the practice of Ayurveda and its sister systems. I am not going in any way to belittle Ayurveda, but I am going to tell you that I consider it hopelessly out of date and before many years have passed, they will all be proscribed.

"Everything in this world changes and the Rishis who between 4,500 and 2,500 years ago created bulky literature in compiling the Samhitas were no doubt worthy men but they lived in the days of bows and arrows and we are just entering the atomic age. They knew nothing of the circulation of the blood. The life cycle of the malarial parasite was unknown to them. They certainly had remedies for this or that complaint, but they were woefully ineffective.

"This, Sir, is not belittling their achievements. The advance in modern medicine and surgery between World Wars I and II makes the best efforts of our men of 1914 look rather feeble when compared with what is done to-day, but this is not belittling the men of the past.

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"The discovery of the cause of malaria was made by a brilliant member of the Indian Medical Service in 1897 and he soon afterwards gave the world an antidote which caused an immediate drop in the mortality rate from this particular complaint. Over 4,000 years of Ayurveda had failed to produce any real treatment for this most terrible scourge. However, the antidote of Sir Ronald Ross which was until recently considered a specific has had to give way before the relentless research of modern medicine and a more modern drug has taken its place and human suffering has been reduced.

"Plague, typhus and similar diseases were rampant in India for centuries and decimated whole populations, yet Ayurveda was helpless against them, but modern medicine has all but stamped them out.

"The quiet and often self-sacrificing work of the research student and chemist working in modern laboratories has relieved the sum total of human suffering and has given to every man, woman and child in this world a greater chance of recovery than he had but twenty years ago. Our soldiers, Indian and British, were able to save India in the jungles of Burma almost solely because of the advance of modern medical science. Ayurveda could not have made this possible. Those who were wounded were fortunate in that modern medicine and medical practice had so reduced the hazards of sepsis that many who to-day would be dead or at the best limbless are in the normal health. Ayurveda could not do this.

"Sir, as I know something of modern medical practice, I have recently been appalled to read in the weekly publication of a very well-known Indian that in his scheme for the cure of illnesses, the microscope, quinine and penicillin can find no place. Sir, this statement is not a joke. It is a serious answer to a serious question. Sir, I feel confident that no one in this House subscribes to these ideas.

"Sir, before Government expends large amounts of the people's money on developing Ayurveda, I ask them to call together the chief exponents of the system and ask a few very pertinent questions:

'How would they treat a septic appendix?

'What would they do in the case of a perforation of a duodenal ulcer?

'How would they handle a case of Empyema?

'Would they recognize and if so, how would they treat a case of tumour of the brain?'

"A dozen more similar questions could be asked and if they insist on relying on Ayurveda, they will have to admit that the patient would soon be cremated or buried.

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"I expect to be told that there is no intention of replacing modern medicine by Ayurveda, but, Sir, the exponent of Ayurveda will be in practice and in very few cases will he be willing to pass on his patient to the exponent of modern medicine or he may do so too late. This being so, the patients of such a practitioner are not likely to receive the treatment they are entitled to.

"Sir, let us be honest to ourselves, let us be humane to the 50 million people of this Province. I suggest that no man should be allowed to practise Ayurveda until he has become fully qualified in modern medicine. Let Ayurveda be a subject for research, but the research must be carried out by men fully qualified in modern medicine. Then and then only can Ayurveda take its place in the field of medical science.

"In closing, Sir, I have just one little remark to make. I would ask the Government to take the greatest care to see, that in making appointments in its medical establishment, only the best and most qualified persons are appointed to important posts. Nepotism, communalism and favouritism are reprehensible in any department, but in this case if you place a wrong person or a less efficient person in a post, you are risking the lives of somebody. You must ensure, that as far as medicine is concerned, only the very best shall be given the best post. Sir, that is all I have to say. I trust that my strong attack on Ayurveda will not be misunderstood. There is nothing personal about it. I do believe that we have to be careful, lest in the name of Ayurveda we get into a mess of quackery.

"Sir, I move my cut motion namely:—

To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,87,72,600 for Medical by Rs. 100."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have to inform hon. Members that I 7 p.m. have fixed five minutes for each speaker."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the cut motion and, in doing so, I wish to bring to the notice of the House how inadequate the medical facilities are in our Province and how in consequence diseases are rampant in our midst. The situation is such that other countries are afraid of permitting their citizens to our country because of the infectious diseases here. We do not have proper medical facilities. We have not got a sufficient number of trained midwives and the villages are without doctors. As a matter of fact our people are dying for lack of medicine and treatment. In civilized countries there is one doctor for every 900 of the population. Our aim should be to provide one doctor for at least 1,000 of the population, say within a period of 25 years. To reach that target we should produce about 9,900 every year. But what are we doing now? We have only got 250 doctors taking up practice every year. At this rate we can never hope to reach the target at any time nor can we hope to make much headway in the matter of improving medical relief.

"Now I wish to say a few words about Ayurveda. Sir, Ayurveda is being boosted throughout the Province and a big controversy is going on about its merits and demerits. I do not

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want to pit Ayurveda against Allopathy. I do not like the glorifying of quackery in the name of Nationalism. However nationalistic we are, we have to admit the fact that the science of Ayurveda is imperfect and is inadequately developed. Development of this system of medicine stopped long ago. Now we cannot have schools or colleges in Ayurveda. It will do no good to our people to boost this undeveloped system now. At best we can have research institutes in Ayurveda so that at some future time, when the results of the researches are known, people may benefit by it. I say that there should be no Ayurvedic colleges unless and until scientific research is carried on in Ayurveda.

“Sir, on the whole about Rs. 196 lakhs, including the expenditure on capital outlay, are being expended on medicine and I think this sum is very insufficient. I am afraid out of these Rs. 196 lakhs about two-thirds would go to meet the administrative charges. Administrative charges must be cut short and the whole of the balance must be spent on medicine and on the care and treatment of patients. I notice, Sir, that this Grant of Rs. 196 lakhs is considerably less than the last year's figure. Last year for diet charges they had provided for Rs. 12 lakhs, but this year this item has been allotted a smaller sum of ten lakhs. I do not know why this is so. Again, as regards medicine also, the allotment is less than that of last year. For mufassal hospitals also, whereas last year the provision was Rs. 24 lakhs, this year it is only Rs. 16.8 lakhs. I do not know why under these items there has been reduction.

“Then I wish to say one word about the Medical Colleges. I congratulate the Hon. Minister for Medicine for starting the two medical colleges, in Guntur and Madura. I request the Hon. Minister to see that these colleges are fully equipped so that the appropriate authorities might recognize them. Some time ago there was a controversy about the recognition of the Medical College at Vizagapatam. I hope the new colleges will be properly equipped in order to merit recognition.”

* SRI A. B. SHETTY.—“Mr. Speaker, the hon. Member who opened the debate on this Demand criticized the new scheme in the Budget for the development of Indian Medicine. I feel disposed to agree with several of his observations. I wish to ask what the necessity is for opening separate colleges for teaching Ayurveda, Unani and other indigenous systems of medicine. There can be only one medical science with the objective of studying the cause and the cure of all human ailments by whatever method that is found good and effective in any country or in any age. The modern system of scientific medicine has developed from the ancient system. It has been incorporating into it everything that is of value in any system of medicine and in any country. It corrects and enriches itself by progressive observation and experiment. It pools the experience of practising doctors all the world over. According to the Bhore Committee, it can be called neither western nor eastern. It can be regarded as a corpus of scientific knowledge and practice which belongs to the whole world and to

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which every country is making its contribution. The science of medicine has made great progress in recent years. Our knowledge of the causation of disease has advanced. We have made great progress in improving the methods of diagnosis and treatment. Wonderful new substances such as the sulpha drugs, penicillin, etc., have been discovered and used with remarkable success. Specialists in medicine and surgery are coming into the field. It seems foolish to stick to old theories and practices just as Mr. Town pointed out it would be foolish to continue using bows and arrows in modern warfare.

“The indigenous system of medicine is no doubt comparatively cheap. It has got a great hold on the minds of many people in this country. We have the accumulated wisdom of centuries in regard to the medicinal use of herbs and minerals. There are no doubt very good medicines in the indigenous system, though they are unstandardized. We must preserve all that is of value in this system. We must investigate the efficacy of the drugs we are using, improve upon them and incorporate them into the present scientific system. I would say that it would be proper to have a chair established in our medical colleges in Ayurveda and Unani systems. Let us make them additional and optional branches of study or have them as subjects for post-graduate studies and examination. The results of varied researches in the world of science are contributing to the advancement of medicine. Vast strides are being made in surgery as the result of war experience. Public health organizations have made immense development. If we want to keep ourselves up to date we must send our medical men for study and training in foreign countries. The previous Government committed a great mistake in refusing study leave for medical officers to go abroad and specialize. These are days of specialists in medicine and surgery. There is one great complaint made against the doctors practising the western system of medicine. The injections they give and the patent and proprietary medicines they prescribe are very costly. Medical relief cannot be spread in rural areas under these conditions. In order to meet this difficulty, the Government should give every encouragement for the establishment of pharmaceutical and allied industries. This will enable us to produce drugs and other medical requisites in our own country at a cheaper cost.”

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ.—“Mr. Speaker, I have given notice of a cut motion under this Demand in order to raise the question of admission of students to the Madras Medical College and the Stanley Medical College. Sir, until about two years ago, a dozen Anglo-Indian lads were being admitted every year into these colleges and trained as Military Medical Students. Many of these boys have passed the M.B.B.S. examination of the Madras University and have served as Military Assistant Surgeons so that we are able to have in our midst a good number of Anglo-Indian doctors. But about two years ago recruitment to the Military Department was stopped and simultaneously, admission of Anglo-Indian students to the colleges was reduced to two or three.

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Probably this was done with a view to give all communities a chance to study in the colleges. If that is so, I have no quarrel with the arrangement. All that I wish to ask the Hon. Minister is that if it is possible to admit a few more Anglo-Indian boys into the Medical colleges in Madras and give them a chance to qualify for the medical profession we shall be thankful indeed."

* SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, I rise to make a few observations about the lack of medical facilities in the Ceded districts. It should not be considered an exaggeration when I say that for want of adequate medical relief hundreds and hundreds of people are dying in the neglected villages of my district. For even 30 or 35 villages there is not a single hospital to meet their needs. Some of these villages, being situated in black cotton soil areas which are impassable during the rainy seasons, on account of the bad condition of the road, the people are unable to go to the hospital at great distances. I shall furnish presently statistical proof of the deplorable condition of our people, and how the entire villages are being wiped out of existence. I happened to be connected with Resettlement Survey in 1934-35 and have made extensive journeys from village to village. Mr. D. I. R. Muir, Additional Settlement Officer, has made repeated references in the courses of his Scheme Report to the lack of medical aid and the enormous death rate among the people of the Kurnool district. Here are some figures which must convince the Hon. Minister for Medicine about the urgency for providing more medical aid. In Koilkuntla particularly in Owk sub-taluk, there are a number of villages where the people have become extinct. I will give the names of these villages, their population in 1871 and 1931 and the decrease between those years. From the figures I am giving you will notice that while there is a general cry that there is increase in population in the country and that food shortage is due to this increase, here in my district the story is the other way about. People—famine-stricken and ill-fed, easily become a prey to disease but there are no medical facilities at all and literally people are dying in hundreds, without being least cared for. The matter is very serious, Sir, and I may warn the Government that unless they take immediate measures to provide more medical facilities most of the villages I am mentioning may actually become extinct.

7-15 "The following are the figures taken from the Census Statistics:—

Villages in Owk sub-taluk.	Population in		Decrease, per cent roughly
	1871.	1931.	
Abdullapuram	1,160	733	40
Chintalayapalli	1,241	935	25
Thimmanayanapeta	2,251	913	60
Thollamadgu	903	594	33
Perusomula	2,207	1,439	37
Erragudi	805	534	30
Hanumathgundam	1,507	367	75
Kalyatala	998	649	35

"Sir, these statistics are I think sufficient to impress upon the Hon. Minister the urgent necessity for providing more hospitals in my district and locating them within the easy reach of the suffering population."

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* DR. U. PADMANABHA MALLAYYA:—"Sir, first of all I would like to point out that the amount provided under this demand is too meagre. Expenditure on public health and giving medical aid should be the first charge on any Government revenue, because if we have a perfectly healthy public, that will add to the potential wealth of the country. Judging from that standpoint I should think that that should have been the first charge on any Government revenue as I stated just now. I do not know whether with this meagre amount the condition of our hospitals which give medical aid is going to be improved.

"Sir, I would like to make certain suggestions. The first is with regard to teaching of medicine. We are told that there is going to be an increase in the number of medical colleges, but we are too poor I should think in the teaching staff. I do not know how the Government can meet the demand for teaching staff both qualitatively and quantitatively. I would therefore urge on the Government the necessity for having a different cadre for the teaching staff and in order to compensate their loss of practice—because I think the teachers should not practise—they should be paid very good salaries. Sir, teaching, as somebody stated while speaking on the education demand, is not a profession, but an art; if that is conceded, I should think that it is the more so in regard to the teaching of medicine.

"Then, Sir, a word about the Ayurvedic system that is proposed to be introduced. I do not want to decry that system, but under the modern advancement of medical science, I do not think that Ayurveda can compete if allowed to be a parallel system for medical profession. I do not want that there should be different classes among the medical practitioners. It was therefore that the last Ministry thought that there should be no such classification and abolished the L.M.P. course. Now if one set of people were allowed to practise medicine under the head 'indigenous medicine' I am afraid it is going to be a very bad thing. Some speaker before me said that treatment under Ayurveda was cheaper. Let me say at once that it is not so, because from personal experience I know that good Ayurvedic practitioners charge more and often their treatment is more costly than that of Allopathic system."

Dr. M. J. SAMUEL:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting this demand I would like to say a few words on this very important portfolio of Medical and Public Health. Sir, the Government has provided nearly Rs. 3 crores for both medical and public health and we are grateful. But it is not sufficient to meet the needs of the whole Province. The hon. Leader of the European Group Mr. Town has made a very exhaustive speech on the inadequate arrangements made in the hospitals. Yes, Sir, not only in the Madras Province, but in the whole of India, medical treatment and other facilities afforded in the hospitals are very meagre. Another hon. Member from the Communist Group also stated that there is hardly one doctor for 10,000 people, whereas in the western countries they have a doctor for every 1,000 people. I quite agree. Sir, our National Government are just now coming into existence and I hope all these things will be improved by and by.

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“ Mr. Town made a reference to the certificates issued by some of the doctors without any discretion. The Madras Medical Council has been tackling this problem very carefully. The Madras Medical Council goes into these irregularities and mistakes committed by the medical profession and so many doctors were hauled up before this Medical Council for disciplinary action. Therefore I do not think there is any trouble on that score. The officer concerned, or a private business firm, has the right to report to the Medical Council any act of professional misconduct committed by the doctors.

“ Another remark made by Mr. Town was that the Ayurvedic system had no specific pharmacopœia as they had in the Allopathic system. Sir, I do believe that the Allopathic system is an advanced system and it has been recognized by the western world. We get so many new remedies now-a-days as Mr. Shetty has enumerated, the sulphanamide group and penicillin is the latest drug which works wonders. In this connexion I would also like to point out certain instances where the Ayurvedic system has gained the upper hand. In my own practice I have been treating a number of cases. I had been tackling a case of leprosy which took one year for me to retard the progress of the disease, but an Ayurvedic friend of mine stopped the progress of the disease within six weeks. Therefore, instead of brushing it aside and saying that the Ayurvedic system is an old and antiquated system, we must realize that there are certain remedies in it also. It has not been able to improve itself because it was not recognized by the past Governments and the British Government in India. I hope that under the present Government the Hon. Minister for Public Health will give all facilities for the Ayurvedic doctors to get regular training in a college and I would even go to the extent of saying that the Government should open a Chair for Ayurveda in our University and also a medical college and make these M.B.B.S. undergo an extra course of training for one or two years in this system not on parallel lines but . . . (Mr. Speaker indicated that the hon. Member was exceeding the time-limit.)

“ I am very sorry, Sir, that the Hon. Speaker has given me very little time. This is the only demand for us doctors where we can express our views and give constructive suggestions.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ It is already 7-30 and there are a number of hon. Members wishing to speak.”

* DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—“ Sir, I have not so far given my constructive proposals. The Hon. Minister in answer to a question stated that the Government had a scheme for training 200 midwives this year. What are these 200 midwives for a population of 50 millions. This is quite inadequate. There is not even one midwife for every 10,000 of the population in the Province. I would therefore request the Hon. Minister to consider and evolve a system of training for the local indigenous barber midwives. There, one or two women in each village, catering to the needs of the maternity cases. I would request the Hon. Minister to evolve a scheme to

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train these women by giving them a short course of training for six months under an able doctor in a taluk headquarter or a district headquarter hospital.

“ I shall refer to another point, Sir, and I have done; and that is with regard to the provincialisation of the Sub-Assistant cadre. We have already made mention of this in the general discussion of the budget. We all know that the L.M.P. course has been abolished and where is the necessity for this class of men still existing in service. In the recent war these diploma holders were taken on temporary commissions and they were paid emoluments equal to others and equal work was exacted from these men. I therefore request the Hon. Minister to kindly consider the provincialisation of the cadre of Sub-Assistant Surgeons and I specially request her to absorb the temporary Commissioned doctors and diploma holders in the Provincial cadre and not send them back to the village. They may be taken to some big hospitals and their services and experience may be utilised as was done during the war.

“ Sir, the statistics given in the Administration Report are not satisfactory. I was having a cursory glance at this report and found that in 1944 there were 18 lakhs of malarial patients in this Province and the number of deaths is reported to be only 950. I do not think this is the correct figure. When there are one million deaths in the whole of India, I have to doubt the truthfulness of the statement that there were only 950 cases of death due to malaria in this Presidency. Sir, there are so many inaccuracies in these statistics. I therefore request the Hon. Minister to send out a note to all the institutions to give correct figures about these statistics.

“ I also request the Hon. Minister to encourage our indigenous drugs by starting more chemical and pharmaceutical laboratories in this Province. We have plenty of raw material in our hills, the Nallamallies and other forests, and the pharmaceutical laboratories will be a success if given liberal grants.”

* SRIMATHI A. V. KUTTIMALU AMMA:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really surprised that I have been called . . . ”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have called the hon. Member to speak because she has given her name to me by sending in a chit.”

* SRIMATHI A. V. KUTTIMALU AMMA:—“ Sir, I say this because we have been so long neglected. Our district representatives have been neglected throughout the budget session and none of us has been able to catch your eye. We have to thank the hon. Members of the Muslim League and the Leader of the European Group for representing some of our district's necessities. Sir, while supporting the demand, I wish to bring to the notice of the Health Minister certain things that have been neglected for a long time, that the people have begun to feel that nothing is going to improve their conditions. The people in Malabar feel that whatever change might take place in the government of this Province the headquarters hospital at Calicut will have no change. Sir,

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every one knows that the sum of Rs. 30,000 that has been allotted will not be sufficient even to improve the sanitary conditions of the hospitals.

"The public of our district were eagerly looking forward to the visit of the Health Minister of our Province, but thanks to the Communist Party and the strike in the South Indian Railway the tour had to be cancelled. Sir, the improvement of our hospital is urgently necessary. I again thank Mr. Town for supporting and saying that the hospital does need very many changes if not the whole. If the whole building cannot be changed there are a lot of things that have to be changed. Sir, the condition of our hospital is such that it is not even fit for cattle to be kept in. The monsoon in Malabar as every one knows is so heavy. The temporary sheds which are there for the tubercular patients and for the ophthalmic patients are insufficient so that people have to lie on the floor or on a mattress or sometimes on a plain mat with nothing to cover them from the full blast of the heavy showers which we have to undergo for nearly six months in the year. Especially this year the monsoon has been very heavy and the conditions in the hospital are such that any person with a civic sense could not go into it.

"The women and children's hospital is also in a deplorable condition. If the improvements suggested by some of the representatives of the people of Malabar are accepted those hospitals could be converted into first-class hospitals situated in the heart of the City and easily accessible to all the people.

"When talking about medicine they say that Malabar has specialized in Ayurveda and ask why it wants hospitals in the western system. But when it comes to the establishment of an Ayurvedic College, the college has to be only in Coimbatore and not in Malabar and it is said that Malabar is very near Coimbatore. In this way by faint praise the district is neglected. I would therefore request the Hon. Minister for Public Health and the Hon. Premier to see that something is done for those hospitals at least in the next budget. I thank you again, Mr. Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to speak."

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—"There are only four Members more who want to speak. After they finish their speeches, I will call upon the Hon. Minister to reply."

* **SRI K. VARADACHARIAR:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was touched by the opening remarks made by Mr. H. S. Town that we were losing a good revenue by introducing Prohibition. If he had simply examined the question a little further, he would have found that the medical relief that we have to administer is largely to that class of people who contribute to this excise revenue in this country. Not only the addicts but all their families, their children, their grandchildren and whole generations have become so diseased in body that medical relief is really necessary for that class of people and for that class of families. Therefore it is not a correct thing to state or the correct way of looking at it, by simply deploring the loss of revenue, when you find that you get the revenue from

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the diseased body itself and then apply the revenue to the cure of the disease of that body. Therefore my hon. Friend would give up harping upon this introduction of Prohibition in the Province and opposing it on the ideologies based upon western habits. The western drink is normally a very mild one. Our people do not know . . . (Mr. H. S. Town: 'I was talking about the eastern drink and its prohibition.') Sir, our people drink themselves either to ill-health or in some cases to death. Therefore it is not a thing upon which our European friends are competent to talk so far as our difficulties are concerned.

"The next thing I should like to address myself to is the amount of vehemence which my hon. Friend Mr. H. S. Town showed in talking about Indian medicines. He does not understand that we are a population of 400 millions, and that our average income per capita is less than Re. 1 per month. Therefore it is not practicable to apply the Allopathic system wholesale to this country whatever the advantages of it may be. Sir, our people are in need of urgent relief in many ways. In the rural areas you cannot have a hospital, or even an ordinary dispensary per 20,000 of the population. This is the state of affairs in this country.

"I particularly appreciate the remarks of my friend Mr. Samuel when he said that all these groups of registered medical practitioners, not only the Allopathic ones but also the B group, the C group and so on, all these people may be asked to settle down in the villages. This must be a condition precedent to the grant of certificates to them. Not only that, I would request that all these Allopathic doctors who think so much of their profession to settle down in their villages after retirement from public service, their pensions being payable to them only on their agreeing to settle down in the villages, and cater to the needs of the poor. Not only the medical practitioners, but all retiring public servants must be paid their pensions only when they consent to do their piece of work in the villages as they used to do before in the department. Sir, that is my suggestion, a very serious suggestion which the Government should consider. (Interruption.) The Hon. Speaker has allowed me only a very short time and therefore I do not want to be disturbed.

"Sir, then I wish to refer to the paucity of equipment including bed and furniture. People have to squat on the floor. People with serious diseases cannot find beds in the hospitals. There is no proper equipment by way of beds or any other amenities even in our district hospitals. Then, Sir, a nurse is asked to look after about 100 patients in a hospital. (A voice: 'Including male nurses?') Even the male nursing staff is inadequately manned. In the nights we are not able to get a nurse to attend on a crying patient (Laughter) who wants relief immediately by way of injection or a sleeping dose or some mixture which will relieve pain. Whether a male nurse or a female nurse, one nurse cannot look after 100 patients. This is the way in which our hospitals are getting on.

"The position regarding maternity cases is worse and wretched, monstrous and scandalous. The maternity wards attached to our

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district hospitals are too small and there are no facilities in the village dispensaries to attend to maternity cases. One midwife has to serve about 20 villages. Sir, it is physically impossible to do so. When such is the state of affairs, we cannot talk of the Allopathic system being the best system. Sir, it is the costliest system. In our country for some time at least we have to encourage other systems of medicines for affording relief.

“There is one other important matter on which I want to say something. That is with regard to affording relief to the tubercular patients in this province. We have neglected this aspect of medical relief which could be done by creating sanatoria in suitable places which are available in plenty in our province. In my own district, Madanapalle division is an ideal area in which sanatoria may be established. Of course there is a missionary institution running. This institution is not suited for the poor. Sir, thousands of tubercular patients are left adrift on the country without any relief whatsoever. Sir, there is a military hospital which was created for ordinary medical relief in Madanapalle area. It is just near the railway station. A very big colony with numerous huts has been established there, and a hospital has also been established. The premises and the huts are all available now. If only the Government will take it over and make it a Government sanatorium it will give good relief to the poor people. Let all the rich men go to the missionary institution and let all the poor people be taken care of by the Government in this area.”

* SRI K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER:—“Mr. Speaker, it has been pointed out by various speakers who preceded me that medical relief should receive the foremost consideration. But I should say, Sir, that if proper attention is paid to public health, the necessity for medical relief will be reduced to a great extent. If we take into consideration the requirements of this Presidency, we will find that scarcity of medical men is a matter which should receive our immediate attention. Fortunately for us this year, the Government have opened two medical colleges this year, one at Madura and the other at Guntur. But the unfortunate part of it is that at present all the students are confined to Madras and they are not able to get adequate accommodation and proper facility for study. Hence I urge upon the Government to provide them with sufficient facilities. Furthermore, Sir, the Government should undertake to open some more medical colleges. At present, we find that a number of dispensaries have been closed for want of medical men to run them. For instance in Salem, out of 34 dispensaries 17 have been closed for want of medical men. It is therefore very necessary that we should produce more medical men. The Government have drawn up a post-war programme in which they have proposed to open a number of rural dispensaries so that there may be one rural dispensary for a three-mile radius. To put this scheme into effect, we require a number of doctors and we have to proceed even from now to produce them.

“Again, Sir, I must point out the doctors are not attracted at present to the rural dispensaries because they are not given sufficient emoluments. At present a doctor in a rural dispensary

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gets Rs. 500 by way of subsidy for a whole year. It is difficult to get on with this amount in these days. They are not given any dearness allowance even as it is being done in other departments. When the case was put before the Government, they did not treat it with sympathy, so much so, many rural medical practitioners were obliged to leave their stations. That is why many of the rural dispensaries are now without doctors. I would therefore urge on the Government to increase the subsidy paid to these rural medical practitioners or pay them at least a dearness allowance also.

“The hospitals were generally run by local bodies and with a view to achieve efficiency, there was a scheme by which the taluk headquarter hospital in each district would be taken over every year, so that the district board might be left with only one hospital which it can manage efficiently with the help of the meagre finances at its disposal. In Salem district, three headquarter hospitals have been left with the district board. They are the hospitals at Hosur, Harur and Omalur. I think the Government should take them over and run them and thereby give relief to the district board, so that the board might run the other hospitals efficiently. I would also add the Yercaud hospital which should receive special consideration as it is in a hill station.

“Sir, in many of these hospital compounds themselves the post-mortem sheds have been built. I suggest, Sir, that they should be shifted out of the compounds so that the wards and other parts of the hospital may not be affected.”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, 7-45
Perhaps I am the last speaker” p.m.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“No, there is one more speaker.”

* SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“Anyway, I rise to support the Demand moved by the Hon. Minister for Medicine and Public Health. In doing so, I wish to say a few words which I believe will be considered by the Minister.

“I request the Government, first of all, to spend more money in the rural parts than in the cities for this reason, that in cities it can be said that people are generally rich and there are also private institutions which can come to the help of the people. I mean that more money should be spent in the rural areas than is spent now. In the rural parts, for a radius of 15 to 20 miles I can say there are no doctors at all. One or two doctors who existed here and there have gone to the War and they have not yet returned. How can we expect doctors who qualify themselves after studying for six long years and after spending about Rs. 8,000 to Rs. 10,000 to stick to the villages with a pittance of about Rs. 600 for the building, for the medicine, for the peon, the doctor and everything, all told? I am unable to understand why the L.M.P. course has been abolished. In a country where we do not have medical help of whatever kind, we were satisfied with the L.M.Ps. all those years. It is said that fully qualified men in Medicine must be there. But for that reason are we to let go the

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people in our rural parts practically without medical men at all? I would request Government to provide each taluk headquarter hospital with a nurse. I am led to understand that nursing has much to do in the curing of diseases. In places where there are 15 to 20 beds without anybody to look after them, it is really a great want. If possible, I would also request Government to electrify the hospitals and provide lighting and fan facilities wherever possible.

“One more point, Sir. I understand there is a paucity of compounders; perhaps their pay is not attractive and in my own place a post has been vacant for a long time now. I learn that originally people used to attach themselves to taluk headquarter hospitals and get trained as compounders. Now, it is not so. Therefore, I request the Hon. the Prime Minister to arrange to continue the system of getting compounders trained in large numbers in the taluk headquarters hospitals as before.”

* SRI M. A. EASWARAN:—“Mr. Speaker and hon. Members of this House, I want to refer to the question of doctors in jails. When the doctors enter the jails, they begin to think they are also officials of the jail. The prisoners are not cared for by them. The medicines supplied to the jails are not used for the benefit of the prisoners; medicines are taken away for use somewhere else outside the jails. The Hon. Minister must give necessary instructions to the doctors to do their duty as doctors in the jails and not consider that they are also jail officials.”

“As regards the Erode hospital, it is in a very bad condition and needs much improvement. There are more patients there than beds. The Hon. Minister recently visited Erode and the hospital there and she knows it needs much improvement. There are vacant sites available by the side of the hospital; land must be acquired and the hospital must be extended. With these words, Sir, I support the demand.”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel that I am absolutely unequal to the task of having to reply to the most vehement criticism that has been levelled against Indian Medicine. At the same time, I am thankful to some of the members for having given certain helpful suggestions. Several members have referred, and very rightly I should say, to the most inadequate and insufficient and hopelessly poor medical relief that is given in this Province. I do admit, Sir, that sufficient attention had not been paid to the question of affording adequate relief to the people inhabiting this Province by the previous Governments, particularly during the last Government by the Advisers. It must be admitted that there had been a definite dereliction of duty on the part of the Advisers' Government.

“Now, Sir, having regard to the manner in which medical relief had been neglected in the past, a very onerous duty of attending to people who suffer from several diseases has devolved upon this popular Government. It is all the more onerous because the people of this Province expect a great deal from this popular

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Ministry. People of this Province, when elections took place, gave their votes in an unstinted manner; they profusely gave their votes to the Congress party, for they felt that it is only a popular Government that can do them justice. Hence it is that the task of the popular Ministry is very very difficult, particularly in the matter of health and particularly of the people living in the rural areas. It is true, Sir, that adequate provision for medical and public health services could not be made in the Budget for the year 1946-47, because moneys had to given for problems far more serious than perhaps medical and public health services. It is hardly necessary for me to point out on this occasion that in view of the fact that famine has become the order of the day, in view of the fact that millions of people in this Province are starving for lack of proper food, adequate food and nutritious food, in view of the fact that people have not got much clothing to clothe themselves with, moneys had to be provided for these essential needs of the people, and therefore for the year 1946-47, though I would very much have liked much more money provided for this department, and I would have indeed welcomed—of course it is an ambitious wish—but still considering the importance of public health, considering the importance of giving medical relief to the people, I would have liked that nearly 50 per cent of the revenues of the Province had been given to this most essential and important department. It is most regrettable indeed, Sir, that much provision could not be made for the improvement of district headquarters hospitals and taluk headquarters hospitals and rural dispensaries. Mr. Town rightly referred to the hopeless condition in which the Calicut hospital is found to-day. Not merely the Calicut hospital but it is so all over this Presidency. Therefore, what is most needed is to draw a most comprehensive scheme by which all these hospitals, all these anti-diluvian and old fashioned hospitals, could be demolished altogether and new hospitals built up, equipped with the most modern and scientific equipment, with the result that all the hospitals that would be constructed under the post-war scheme, under the post-war plan and the post-war programme, could boast of lining up with hospitals in the western countries. I hope, Sir, a day will come ere long when this Province—I cannot speak for the whole of India—but I could give this assurance for this Province provided the Premier gives me the funds I ask of him—can boast of and claim to its credit hospitals which can be called hospitals indeed. Srimathi Kuttiamma said that the hospital at Calicut is not fit to house patients but a place appropriate for housing cattle. It must be admitted to our shame that the past Government had allowed such a state of affairs to continue in this Province. I pass on to the next point. Mr. Town, as also several other members, referred to the conditions under which the patients have got to live. They said that sufficient number of beds are lacking to make the patients use cots. I have visited some of the City hospitals and also some of the hospitals in the districts. Supposing in the district headquarters hospital there are about a hundred or a couple of hundreds of beds, one very often finds about 300 or 400 patients being housed. You find

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patients lying all over the hospital not merely on the cots but underneath the cots. (A voice: 'Some are in the shade of trees.') I am not so sure of that but anyway, that information has not come to me. It is indeed regrettable that patients should be kept in the shade of trees. I have seen patients lying on verandahs without any bedding or mattress whatsoever. Supposing there is a case of pneumonia in which case a great deal of precaution has got to be taken because patients particularly suffering from lung diseases or chest diseases have got to be protected against wind and rain.

"Then again, reference was made to the fact that there are no medicines in hospitals and that there is no adequate equipment so far as personnel is concerned. It is true, Sir, that hospitals have been ill-equipped so far as nursing staff is concerned. Very often, in very many hospitals, there are qualified medical men to look after the patients because of the lack of nurses. I do admit that well-trained and well-qualified medical officers are very very essential if proper and adequate medical relief is to be given to the patients. Perhaps it will be appropriate on my part if I am to bring to the notice of this House that six medical officers who are in service have been deputed abroad to qualify themselves in certain special subjects. Some have been sent for training in ear, throat and nose. One has been sent to qualify himself in social medicine while others have been sent for different special subjects. Therefore, what is required is personnel. We want men and women, qualified men and women, to man these hospitals. Besides qualified medical people, we do require a large army of men and women to go out into the districts and rural areas to render service to people suffering from many a disease. At the same time, taking into consideration, the absolute inadequacy of maternity and child-welfare, we do require a large number of midwives to be trained. I had many an occasion to go into the villages and wherever I went, the people used to come forward with petitions, with memoranda after memoranda, complaining to me about the lack of midwives. In rural dispensaries, there is no provision for maternity wards. We see that there is a large incidence of maternal and child mortality. In the villages, not only there is too much maternal and child mortality but there are a number of cases of morbidity. Therefore we want to reduce the incidence of maternal mortality. Provision has been made in the Budget for 200 midwives. We want hundreds and thousands of midwives because the maternity and child-welfare is a national service. The child forms the very basis of society; unless the child's health is looked after, there is no prospect of this nation thriving and no prospect of this nation having a good physique about it. Therefore, the child is the very basis of the national health of this country. So also the woman has got to be protected. During the pre-natal stages, in the interim period and also in the post-natal period, the expectant mother has to be not only looked after carefully but her health interests should be safeguarded so that the mother would be a pride to the nation.

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"Reference was made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Town, with regard to the provision of a lump sum of Rs. 5 lakhs for encouragement of Indian medicine. Sir, it has become a vexed question and a most controversial question, which, I fear, I would not be in a position to meet all the arguments that Mr. Town has put forward in a most vehement manner, rather in a destructive manner in criticising the Indian system of medicine. I quite understand the mental attitude of the hon. Mr. Town, as he said, how can it be possible for the antiquated, centuries old system of medicine to line up with the western system of medicine which has been able to develop itself to a very high degree. The object of developing Indian system of medicine is this, Sir. The system cannot possibly develop with the mere starting of a college here and a school there. What intended under this scheme is, not to have various systems of medicine, Siddha, Ayurveda, Unani or for that matter any other system of medicine. We must have one unified system of medicine; it would be neither western system of medicine nor Indian medicine. The purpose of this scheme is to develop the Indian medicine and it is our avowed object to train Allopathic physicians, to train medical graduates qualified in the western system of medicine by giving them courses of instruction in Indian medicine. It is very very essential to train the Allopathic doctor in Ayurveda. I do admit that it is superfluous to have hospitals set apart for Indian medicine and hospitals set apart for western system of medicine. So, if we can possibly develop a synthetic system of medicine in which we can have both Indian medicine and Allopathy. I think it would be a proper solution of the trouble obtaining here. It is true that so far as Surgery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology are concerned the western medicine has been able to make far greater progress and it has been able to make much headway but so far as medicines are concerned, the medical aspect of this question is concerned, there is a great deal that can be achieved by way of research in investigating the Indian drugs. A research department can be started where each drop can be analysed, its therapeutical and clinical properties could be ascertained and medicines manufactured according to standardized pharmacopœia. It is true we have not got standardized pharmacopœia because the Ayurvedic physician has a recipe of his own and he prepares the medicines according to the recipes handed down from father to son, from his ancestors. Therefore, the intention underlying the scheme is to have standardized pharmacopœia so that medicines according to standardized recipes would be prepared without any danger.

"A suggestion, Sir, was also made that pharmaceutical works should be started. Certainly it should be done because the encouragement and development of Ayurveda is an economic question. Sir, I do not understand and it passes my comprehension why we should import prepared medicines, manufactured medicines and patent drugs, the recipes of some of which we are not aware. Our drugs are taken away from India, manufactured in the United Kingdom and the United States of America, bottled up with fine-looking and beautiful labels, and dumped on us ten times or hundred times, as the case may be, of the price of raw

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products taken away from this country. Therefore, if we want to stop this exploitation—India unfortunately has been the victim of exploitation, we have been exploited in every department and exploited in all manner of ways and I do not see any reason why we should be exploited in this respect also because India is full of resources and plenty of material and plenty of man-power which could be easily exploited—I say, that all those drugs which we now import from abroad should be manufactured here; they could be far cheaper than any of those manufactured drugs coming from abroad.

“During the war, Sir, you and I had occasions to feel the rigour and the stress of the situation because many of the hospitals which had been accustomed to administer western medicines could not get those medicines in sufficient quantities because they were not available. What did they do then? They naturally had to fall back upon the Indian drugs. There are several drugs here which can be utilized for several of the diseases here. My hon. Friend, Mr. Town, said that malaria was unknown in this country and that there was no antidote for malaria in those good old days. For the information of the House, Sir—of course I am not an expert woman to dilate upon medicines and their properties—I can say this much, that there is a drug, besides quinine, known as Chiraka which is a most efficacious drug. Therefore my hon. Friend Mr. Town will understand that malaria was treated by our ancients; otherwise people would have died in hundreds if no antidote was discovered for the cure of malaria. True, quinine has been discovered, but in Chiraka there is a more powerful drug than quinine for curing malaria. It may be said that out of blissful ignorance many of the Allopathic physicians came forward to condemn outright this Indian medicine. I ask you, Sir, what authority have they to condemn systems of medicine of which they have no knowledge and of which they are in blissful ignorance. In fact, they are not competent authorities to pronounce an opinion on the efficacies of Indian medicine. (Dr. M. J. Samuel: ‘There is Chiraka preparation in Allopathy also and so it is not exclusive to Indian medicine alone.’) It was borrowed by the westerners; therefore it is an indigenous drug. Truth is universal and it is not applicable to any particular community or any particular country. Therefore, search for truth is not the monopoly of any one country and the westerners can thus make use of Chiraka if they find it more efficacious than their own drugs.

“Sir, when I was referring to the Indian system of medicine, what we want is one unified system; as the Communists say we want a classless society, even in the medical world, we do not want numberless systems of medicine to operate, but we want only one system which will be a synthesis of both the systems. After all, what does a common man want? We judge the efficacy of a system by the result it produces. The common man determines the value of a particular system of medicine by the result it produces. I can tell you and also for the edification of my hon. Friend Mr. Town that if to-day a census is taken, nearly 75

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per cent of the people would rather resort to Indian medicine than to western medicine. The reason why Indian medicine has gone into disuse was lack of State patronage. If the previous Governments had only given a fillip for the encouragement of Ayurveda, or Siddha, or for that matter Unani, I am sure the Indian system of medicine would not be in the sorry plight that it is to-day. I am sorry I cannot go on for a long time in discussing this most vexed question. Then, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Town put me a certain question. He asked me whether the Indian system of medicine could boast of microscope. I may tell him, it can boast of anything.”

MR. H. S. TOWN:—“Excuse me, Sir. I did not say any such thing. Mr. Gandhi made reference to it in the *Harijan*.”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“I do not know who made the reference. Anyhow it was asked how could the perforation of deodonal ulcer and tumour of the brain be cured. I can only say categorically and unequivocally that no system of medicine can cure tumour of the brain. (Mr. Town: ‘Certainly it can be done.’) Unless it be by operation, it cannot be done. Then so far as septic empima is concerned, I can tell Mr. Town for his information that it cannot be cured by an Allopathic physician or surgeon. I know it was absolutely cured by a medical practitioner in Ayurveda (‘hear, hear’). An incision was made on the side of the chest by an Allopathic surgeon, and a little tube was inserted and through that pus used to ooze out. No doubt the patient had a temperature running up to 105 or 106 degrees. The poor patient who is a friend of mine is still living strong, hale and healthy. He tried all sorts of medical men, physicians as well as surgeons and finally he came to an Ayurvedic physician. He administered a simple drug, namely, the juice of garlic. The cavity was filled with the juice of garlic. Garlic is said to be a potent drug even by western physicians to-day. Well, my hon. Friend, Dr. Samuel, is nodding his head. I am glad he corroborates my statement. (Dr. M. J. Samuel: ‘This was done before Sulphanamide came into existence.’) I may tell you that even the application of Sulphanamide has done harm in many cases. Of course, it is a potent drug for pneumonia but it cannot be put in the hands of people who are unskilled or untrained in administering it. Even medical men practising the art of western medicine have gone wrong and even surgeons have gone wrong in administering this. I know Major Niblock who was attached to the General Hospital while operating on a patient, cut a blood-vessel in the arm and the patient died in the hospital as a result of that. What do you say to this, Sir? He was supposed to be one of the best surgeons attached to the hospital. Therefore, what counts is experience. As Mr. Town said, a raw medical graduate cannot go straightaway into the world and claim to treat patients. He must gather plenty of experience before he can think of practising the art of medicine.

“Mr. Venkatasubbayya as well as others referred to the inadequate manner in which medical relief is given and they referred to the lack of nurses, midwives and medical relief in the

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rural areas. The Government of Madras hope to implement the several items of work that have been drawn up under the Post-War Reconstruction Scheme; there is an idea too, I expect, under the firka system, to start about hundred—I am not quite certain about the exact number—rural dispensaries. Therefore, under that scheme, questions relating to nursing staff, diet, equipment, medicine, reconstructing taluk and headquarters hospitals in particular localities will all be looked into and if defects are noticed, they will all be remedied."

MR. TOWN:—"In view of the kind remarks made by the Hon. the Minister, I am pleased to withdraw my cut motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 4th September 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, with Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVA-SHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Students for foreign study in Medicine.

* 140-A Q.—ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state the names and the communities of the persons selected this year by Government for foreign study in medicine, the period of foreign study prescribed, the age of the applicants and the number of years they would be called upon to serve after they return and before retirement?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Thirteen persons were selected by this Government. Details are given below:—

Serial number and name of the candidate selected for foreign study.	Period of foreign study.	Community and age of the applicant.	Number of years they will be called upon to serve before they retire.	Subject for which the officer was deputed for training.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
1 Dr. P. Venkat Rao (Civil Assistant Surgeon).	2 years	Brahman, 47 years.	Till the date of retirement i.e., 55 years.	Chemistry of Foods and Drugs and Forensic Chemistry.
2 Dr. R. E. S. Muthiah (officiating Civil Surgeon).	8 months	Christian, 43 years.	Do.	Ophthalmology.
3 Sri A. N. Ratnagiriswaran (Research Chemist and Lecturer in Pharmaceutics).	2 years	Brahman, 43 years.	Do.	Pharmaceutical Chemistry.
4 Dr. S. T. Achar (officiating Civil Surgeon).	Do.	Brahman, 44 years.	Do.	Pediatrics.
5 Miss T. R. Ford (Nurse)	10 months	Anglo-Indian, 32 years.	Do.	Nursing.
6 Dr. P. Ratnaswami (Civil Assistant Surgeon).	About years.	Christian, 44 years.	Do.	Social Medicine.
7 Dr. K. S. Sanjivi (officiating Civil Surgeon).	Do.	Brahman, 43 years.	Do.	General Medicine and Chest Diseases.
8 Dr. R. Bhasker Rao, (Regional Malarialogist).	Do.	Brahman, 46 years.	Do.	Malarialogy and Mosquito borne diseases.
9 Dr. T. S. Adisubramaniam (Municipal Health Officer).	Do.	Brahman, 44 years.	Do.	Industrial Hygiene.
10 Dr. V. R. Thayumanaswami (Civil Assistant Surgeon).	Do.	Non-Brahman, 44 years.	Do.	Surgery and its branches Orthopaedic.
11 Dr. (Miss) C. M. Leelavathi (Civil Assistant Surgeon).	Do.	Non-Brahman, 38 years.	Do.	E.N.T. Diseases.
12 Dr. (Miss) Subadra Devi (temporary Civil Assistant Surgeon).	Do.	Non-Brahman, 26 years.	Till the date of retirement, i.e., 55 years, if regularly appointed.	Proposed for Maternity and Child Welfare.
13 Dr. (Miss) C. Kalavathi, (private candidate).	Do.	Brahman, age not known.	Do.	Maternity and Child Welfare.

Remarks.—The first five were selected by the Government during section 93 situation."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir whether the ages given, particularly of Mr. Venkata Rao as forty-seven is correct and whether it is not 52?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am not aware of it."

Medical graduates for foreign scholarships.

* 140-B Q.—ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in response to a notification by the Government of India inviting applications from medical graduates for foreign scholarships abroad, a number of applications were sent direct to the Government of India;

(b) whether it is a fact that these applications were returned to be forwarded through the Local Government, and that the Local Government declined to forward these applications and returned them to the applicants concerned; and if so, why such applications were not forwarded to Government of India;

(c) whether the Government are aware that it was quite possible that such applications might have been considered by the Government of India on their merit and some of the applicants might have been selected by Government of India;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government of India notified that they proposed to send a maximum of 50 students abroad and that they would bear the whole cost in respect of students sponsored by them and 50 per cent of that of students sponsored by Provincial Governments;

(e) whether it is a fact that the Central Government stated that they reserved the right to allocate 20 places of the 50 for students sponsored by them;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Government of India stated that they would constitute a Central Selection Board presided over by a member of the Public Service Commission to review the suitability of candidates selected by the Central and Provincial Governments;

(g) whether any similar Provincial Board was constituted for selecting the Provincial Government's nominees;

(h) whether it is a fact that on a similar occasion when foreign scholarships were awarded by Government of India and the Provincial Government to a large number of Indian students, the then Government functioning under section 93 appointed a special selection board with a member of the Madras Public Service Commission on that body;

(i) if the answer to (g) is in the negative why this was not done; and

(j) whether it is a fact that the persons selected by the Provincial Government are permanent employees of the Government?

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THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (a), (b), (c) & (d) The Government have no information regarding such a notification.

" (e) & (f) The Government cannot give any information about matters which are the concern of the Central Government.

" (g) The present Government did not constitute any board for selecting candidates for medical or Public Health training.

" (h) The answer is in the affirmative. This special selection Board did not relate to Medical or Public Health.

" (i) The Government called for proposals from the Surgeon-General who constituted a Committee of his own accord.

" (j) Six of the proposed candidates are permanent employees, one temporary and one was a private candidate. Six persons have been chosen by the Government of India. (One is kept in the reserve. He has also been chosen.)"

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is stated in answer to clauses (a) to (d) that 'the Government have no information regarding such notification'. I submit that is not an answer to the various points raised in the question. May I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister to say what exactly is the information so far as the part played by the Madras Government is concerned?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"No notification was received from the Government of India. A Memorandum was sent by them asking for certain recommendations to be made by this Government."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know how this Government reacted to that Memorandum?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Memorandum asked for the names of eight people to be recommended by the Provincial Government to the Government of India. That Memorandum is not for the information of the House."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask whether the Provincial Government was not asked to forward the applications so that they may be considered along with other applications?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"No, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In clause (e) information was asked whether 20 out of the fifty will be students sponsored by the Central Government. May I know, Sir, whether it is so?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"That relates to the recommendation made by the Education Department and does not relate to the Medical Department."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask whether this Government has not considered applications that were sent direct to the Government of India by the local applicants?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Provincial Government cannot consider applications sent direct to the Government of India."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact that applications that were sent direct were returned to the Provincial Government to be considered by them?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Only one such application was returned to the Madras Government and that was sent beyond the date on which applications ought to have been made."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir what exactly was the reason for the Provincial Government not sending the applications of those candidates who had applied to the Government of India and why they were not considered by them and why they did not send them so that those candidates also might be enabled to have a chance of being selected?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The fact was that the Provincial Government was asked to recommend eight names to be deputed to qualify themselves in certain special subjects. Accordingly, the Surgeon-General considered applications and recommended eight names to the Provincial Government and those names were recommended to the Government of India. Out of these, the Government of India have selected only five and one was kept in reserve and I understand subsequently that that name has also been selected."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Was it not intended by the Government of India that such of the names as were not selected by the Provincial Government should also have been sent to them, so that they could also have a chance of being selected?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Provincial Government was not asked to do so. They were only asked to recommend eight names."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Then, Sir, why did not the Government of Madras return the applications to those candidates in time in order to enable them to send their applications once again to the Government of India, instead of keeping them back deliberately with them till the whole thing was over?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The applications were not intended to be sent to the Government of India for their consideration."

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SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Arising out of the answer to clause (i), may I know the composition of the Committee constituted by the Surgeon-General?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Surgeon-General constituted a Committee of his own accord. I am not aware of the names."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know whether there was any applicant of the scheduled classes involved in the selection?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am not aware of it, Sir."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Will the Hon. Minister find out the reason for their rejection?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"It will be considered."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Why is it, Sir, that there are no applicants below 46 years of age?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Only those in service were to be selected. The Government of India had specified that the age of the candidate to be selected should not exceed 40. Unfortunately, we could not get candidates who were forty and below."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Does the Hon. Minister consider that these people will be fit enough to carry on after their period of training, in view of the fact that they are now 46 years of age?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"That is a question to be addressed to the previous Government."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I observe, Sir, only the first five were selected by the previous Government and there are eight others selected now who stand on the same footing?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"May I draw the attention of the hon. Member to column (4) which says that they are to serve till the date of retirement, i.e., till they attain fifty-five years of age."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know why out of four women selected, not even one was a Muslim?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"No one was recommended by the Surgeon-General."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what the justification is for the Government not constituting the Board as was done on the previous occasion and why they referred the matter to the Surgeon-General, who is the servant of the Government?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Government found no necessity for constituting the Board."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I inquire, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the Muslim applicant possessed the highest qualification, namely, the M.D. degree, whereas the other applicants possessed only the M.B.B.S. degree? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The matter must be considered by the Surgeon-General."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I inquire, whether as a matter of policy, it is desirable to send unmarried women doctors overseas for training? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Marriage or no marriage, it is no concern at all."

A. K. KADER KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Was the committee constituted by the Surgeon-General representative of all communities? "

(No answer.)

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" As regards the 13th candidate in the list, it is stated, ' age not known ' I want to know from the Hon. Minister for Public Health, whether she has satisfied herself that the candidate was under-aged or over-aged? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Surely she is not under-aged. She must have been about 25 years." (Laughter.)

Shadowing of political workers.

* 141 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the practice of shadowing political workers is still being continued;

(b) the number of political workers in each district against whom Special Branch men are being sent; and

(c) the number of Congressmen, Communists and others among such political workers in each district?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) to (c) The Government must decline to answer the questions as it would be against the public interest to answer them."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Will the Hon. Prime Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that secret instructions have been issued to the Police Department to watch the movements of important Communist Party leaders and Communist Party members? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The answer given already covers the point."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Is this also a point that can't be revealed, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Quite so."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the staff employed for this purpose has been increased? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Notice."

Opening of specialist departments in district headquarters hospitals.

* 142 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state whether in district headquarters hospitals Government propose to open specialist departments or improve them where they exist?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The answer is in the affirmative."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, which are the specialist departments which Government propose to open? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Notice."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, if the district headquarters hospitals are to be provided with specialists and extra specialists, while the taluk headquarters hospitals are starved for even essential equipments? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" It is not the intention of Government that taluk headquarters hospitals should be starved. If the district headquarters hospitals have the services of a specialist, the patients of the taluk headquarters hospital should be sent there for treatment."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether specialists in the district headquarters hospitals are considered to be more necessary there than in the taluk headquarters hospitals? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" District headquarters hospitals are expected to cater to the needs of the taluk hospitals also."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—" May I know, Sir, whether tuberculosis is included in the category of specialists' treatment in headquarters hospitals? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Yes, Sir, in all district headquarters hospitals, wards are set apart for the treatment of patients suffering from tuberculosis."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—" May I know whether the specialists there had any special training in the tuberculosis sanatoria? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" They must have had it."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know whether the specialists appointed in the district headquarters hospitals will tour in the taluk areas or visit each hospital in the district

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so that facilities may be afforded to the patients in the taluk hospitals? ”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ I am afraid the specialists appointed will serve in the district headquarters hospitals only. They are not expected to tour.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ Sir, in view of the fact that a medical college is to be opened shortly at Guntur and also at Madura, do Government propose to increase the staff as well as the equipment in the specialist department? ”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ There is absolutely no connexion between the opening of the medical colleges at Guntur and Madura and the question put by the hon. Member.”

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“ Will Government be pleased to consider the proposal to offer facilities for clinical observation of the tendencies of diseases in patients in taluk dispensary areas also, for diseases like tuberculosis? ”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ Perhaps the hon. Member means, facilities should be afforded for diagnostic treatment of patients suffering from tuberculosis. That may be considered.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ May I know, Sir, what exactly the proposals of the Government are; whether they propose to equip district headquarters hospitals only or the various other hospitals in the taluks also? ”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ The post-war reconstruction scheme contemplates equipment of district headquarters hospitals in a most modern fashion.”

Applications from Harijans for licences to deal in cloth and yarn.

* 143 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of applications received from Harijans for the grant of licences to deal in cloth and yarn;

(b) how many of them were granted; and

(c) whether it is a fact that applications from Harijans were rejected by the Provincial Textile Commissioner on the ground that such applicants were not dealing in cloth or yarn during 1939-42?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“ (a) The number of applications received from Harijans for the grant of licences to deal in cloth and yarn cannot be given as the prescribed form of application for licences to deal in yarn or in cloth does not provide for the furnishing of particulars regarding the community to which the applicant belongs. The District Textile Control Officers in charge of cloth control are the licensing authorities in respect of cloth and the Provincial Textile Commissioner is the licensing authority in respect

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of yarn. From the records available in the Provincial Textile Commissioner's office he has been able to trace only two applications for yarn licences received from Harijans.

“ (b) The answer to question (a) applies to this question also. The two applications received by the Provincial Textile Commissioner for the grant of yarn licences were rejected.

“ (c) Licences to deal in yarn are granted only to persons who have been continuously in the business for not less than three years immediately prior to 1st August 1942. As regards mill-made cloth, licences are given only to those who had been doing such business from a date prior to 1st January 1943 in the case of wholesalers and from a date prior to 1st January 1944 in the case of retailers. The two applications from Harijans referred to in the answer to question (b) above, were rejected for want of the prescribed qualification of prior business in yarn.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ Will Government consider the desirability of granting licences to Harijans as they are professional weavers and spinners? ”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“ That matter will be considered.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ May I now, Sir, is it not unfair to insist on a separate licence for cloth and yarn during the basic period? ”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“ Government do not consider so.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know, Sir, whether it would not be better to give at least some concessions to the Harijans with regard to qualification as was given to many people, who had some influence and who were rich millionaires? ”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“ If the hon. Member will give any suggestion, we will consider it.”

MR. H. S. TOWN:—“ Is it not a fact, Sir, that many people who know nothing of yarn or cloth have applied for licences in the hope of making profits available at the present moment? ”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“ I take the information from the hon. Member.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ Is it not a fact that the present Government are interested in the upliftment of Harijans, and so will not Government be doing justice to Harijans by giving them more licences for cloth and yarn so that their social and economic disabilities may be removed? ”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“ The hon. Member knows much better than myself what interest Government take in the upliftment of Harijans.”

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SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware, that in respect of several people who are dealing in cloth and yarn, several conditions under which licences are issued were overlooked and there are a number of complaints on that score at present? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" If those complaints come to the notice of Government, they will inquire into them."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not put questions whose answer I know. May I ask the Minister, Sir, by granting licences to Harijans, will it not increase their social and economic status? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" I have replied to that question already."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Will Government consider to relax the rule in cases of genuine applications? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" Certainly."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR:—" Is the Government holding fast to the policy of the Advisers' regime in granting licences which has led to so many abuses like black-marketing and other things."

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" We are considering this question."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that people who had no such business during the basic period have been given licences? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" I have no information. If there are any cases, I will call for them."

P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it a fact, Sir, that I.N.A. men have been given licences? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" No."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—" May I know whether there is any charm in the basic period? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" It is necessary because we have to limit these cases."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister will go into the question of giving concessions? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" I need not, Sir."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—" Are Government aware that there are 5,000 weavers in Kurnool and Cuddapah districts belonging to the Harijan community who have not been supplied with yarn? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" I take the information from the hon. Member. I shall enquire into it."

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M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Does not the Hon. Minister know that in the normal course of business new men come in and some old people go out? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" Yes, Sir."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is not the Hon. Minister aware that basic considerations are not held in the issue of ex-gratia permits? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" Notice."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, if the Government is prepared to cancel the licences that were inordinately granted by the previous Advisers' regime? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" If there are any cases, they will be enquired into."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Hon. Minister admit that new men come in and old men go out in the normal course of business? Will he consider the advisability of not strictly adhering to the system of basic period? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" Not at present when there are any number of applications."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know, Sir, whether the headmaster of a High school, though he was not a merchant during this period, was given a permit? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" I know nothing about it, Sir."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—" Will Government be pleased to consider the equity of allowing everybody to hoard and pile up profits? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" I am not in a position to answer that question."

Socialization of land.

* 144 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government have under contemplation any scheme to socialize land?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" No."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I ask, Sir, what is it that prevents the Government from socializing the land, as by socializing the land we will be solving the food problem to-day? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" It is very difficult to answer."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" When will the Government be pleased to consider the socialization of zamindaris, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" It is another question, Sir "

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister what is the exact difficulty which he feels in socializing land, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" It is the difficulty of the question itself, Sir."

SRI V. I. MUNUSWAMI PILLAI:—" In view of the conditions in India, will the Government insist upon a minimum holding of the land? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" The matter will be considered. Socialization is a very big question of abolishing all private property."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" For the benefit of the House, will Mr. Nagappa explain what he means by socializing land? " (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—" It is not possible for him to do so."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" Do Government intend to socialize zamindaris item by item or wholly? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" The question is not under the consideration of the Government at present."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister where he feels any difficulty in socializing all land, and whether it is his intention to allow absentee landlords in this Province? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" The question of absentee landlord is a much smaller question and will be dealt with in due course."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—" Is the Government aware that it is very difficult to decide questions on theories on which members are allowed to interpellate from time to time? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I am unable to answer the question."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" In view of the fact that there are a large number of landless people in this country, is not an equitable distribution of land necessary in the economic interests of the people? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I have already said in my speech on the Revenue demand that the settlement of the landless will be one of the questions to be considered by this Government."

Grant for rubber plantation.

* 145 Q.—SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI: Will the Hon. Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether one individual in Guntur district was granted about Rs. 70,000 by the Agriculture department under the Advisers' regime for plantation of rubber;

(b) whether any and what progress was made in that direction; and

(c) if not, whether the Government intend to recover the amount with interest from the individual?

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THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" (a) No grant was made by the Agricultural Department to any individual for the plantation of rubber in the Guntur district.

" (b) & (c) Does not arise."

Donation for starting a women's college in Madras City.

* 146 Q.—SRI M. A. EASWARAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Sri V. L. Ethiraj, Bar.-at-Law, gave as donation Rs. 10,00,000 to the Government to start a women's college in the City of Madras; and

(b) if so, whether the college is going to be started?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

" (a) No. Mr. Ethiraj deposited certain securities with the University of Madras to be kept in trust for the proposed Women's College Endowment Fund.

" (b) It is stated that for want of suitable accommodation for the college, it has not been possible to push through the scheme. He has approached the Government recently for help to secure a building and the matter is under consideration."

SRI P. NATESAN:—" May I know, Sir, what is the value of the security deposited with the University? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"If I remember aright, it is about Rs. 1,80,200."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I enquire, Sir, why it has not been possible for the Government to secure some building for the purpose of starting this Women's college? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

" Mr. Ethiraj suggested one or two buildings, in one of which the Public Service Commission is located. This building has been specially remodelled for the office of the Public Service Commission, and so it could not be spared. We asked for another building which has been recently given up by the Military and we are trying to get this building."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I enquire whether the Government are aware that many offices are located in big buildings whereas smaller buildings would be sufficient for them? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

" It is difficult for me to go about the buildings of the City. If Mr. Ethiraj or the Hon. Lady would suggest a suitable building, the Government will be prepared to do whatever they can do in the matter."

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N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that this Barrister promised substantial financial assistance if only Government fulfilled their obligation by providing an equal amount for starting a women's college?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"I am not aware of any such contract."

Publication of the message of Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan in "Swadesamitran."

* 146-A Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that in *Swadesamitran*, Tamil Daily newspaper, dated 31st August 1946, 1/2nd September 1946, page 4, column 2, the message of Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan asking Muslims to "Pray to God" has been translated as "Pray to Satan" thereby maliciously insulting religion of Islam and outraging the feelings of Muslims;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the said publication has deeply wounded the feelings of the Muslims; and

(c) whether the Government propose to prosecute the Editor, Printer and Publisher of the said newspaper for an offence under section 295-A, Indian Penal Code?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"This short notice question causes some trouble at times, because a proper reply could not be made ready. This is a peculiar case in which the question has been put, and since this question has been put, it has been brought to my notice that it was a mere slip in the print, and that it was corrected soon after it was noticed by the Editor. The correction is in Tamil. The translation is as follows:—

'In the news item published in the *Swadesamitran*, dated August 31, 1946, second column on page 4, under the heading "silent protest against Interim Government" the wording "invoking the help of Hell" should read as "invoking the help of God". We regret for this error which occurred due to a telegraphic mutilation. (Editor.)'

"This correction was made in the paper immediately afterwards. Therefore, under these circumstances, it will be for the hon. Member who put the question to say whether he will insist upon answers being given to other clauses (b) and (c) of the question. After hearing him, I shall be able to say."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want to bring to the notice of the Premier that this was the only paper which published these words in this manner, and moreover one cannot know how the words 'help of God' became mutilated into 'Hell.' The word used in the paper is 'pray to Satan' and not 'pray to help of God.' Therefore, Sir, some thought seems to have been bestowed upon this subject. However, I want to know

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from the Hon. Premier whether he has ascertained that it is a *bona fide* mistake."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I took it from the contradiction note in that paper that it was a mistake, and it is stated that it was a *bona fide* mistake, and they expressed regret, which is an apology for the mistake."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want to know clearly whether the Government is satisfied that that is a *bona fide* mistake?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Government is satisfied that it was a very bad mistake, but it was a *bona fide* mistake. There is no doubt about that. The English word used is 'Hell' for 'help' and the translation was made wrongly. It is for that that regret is expressed, and the matter should be closed at that point."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We agree to drop the question, Sir."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Recommendations of the Muslim Educational Committee.

40 Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: "Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) what were the recommendations of the Muslim Educational Committee appointed by the Government of Madras with the late Mr. Yakub Hassan and others as members;

(b) which of those recommendations were accepted and carried out by the Government; and

(c) when they were enforced?

A.—(a) & (b) Attention is invited to G.O. No. 1371, Education, dated 1st June 1934,^a in regard to the various recommendations made by the Muslim Educational Committee, and those which were accepted by Government to be carried out. Chapter XI of the Report on Public Instructions for 1944-45, recorded in G.O. No. 258, Education, dated 6th February 1946,^b sets out the position of Muslim education at the end of that year.

(c) It is not possible to indicate the date for each item of development.

The number of licences for fire-arms granted before 1942 in Kurnool district.

41 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) the number of licences granted for guns, revolvers, rifles, etc., before 1942 in Kurnool district talukwar;

(b) In the year 1942 and after;

^a Printed as Appendix I on pages 1238-1245 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix I on pages 1245-1249 infra.

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- (c) how many were refused renewals;
 (d) how many were withheld;
 (e) how many were cancelled; and
 (f) what are reasons for withholding, for cancelling and for refusals of renewals?

A.—(a), (b), (c) & (e) The information is furnished in the statement^a laid on the table of the House.

(d) No licences were withheld during the years 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945.

(f) The papers in the Kurnool Collector's office, relating to arms licences for the years 1941-44 were destroyed due to efflux of time and no information is, therefore, available in respect of these years.

During 1945, seventy-six arms licences were cancelled due to the death of the licensees and renewal of licences was refused in seven cases due to old age, in five cases as the character of the licensees was reported to be not good, in eighteen cases for inability of the licensees to hold and use weapons, and in two cases for other reasons.

Diversion of Thalamadugu Vagu into Siddapuram tank in Kurnool district.

42 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any investigation was done in diverting Thalamadugu vagu tributary of Galeru, into Siddapur tank, Nandikotkur taluk, Kurnool district;

(b) if so, at what stage the investigation is; and

(c) when it is expected to be completed?

A.—(a) Yes. The proposal to construct a dam across Galeru river (otherwise known as Thalamadugu vagu) and for cutting a channel to divert its water to Siddapuram tank was considered in 1934 and found neither promising nor worth further investigation for the reason that besides the heavy cost involved in cutting the diversion channel about a mile long through a ridge, the catchment area of the diversion channel being not more than a fourth of that of Siddapuram tank, was not likely to benefit the tank appreciably.

(b) & (c) No further investigation was made since 1934 for the above reasons.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1946-47.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to make to the House a suggestion. That is, I propose to give, for very Demand, 15 minutes for the Muslim group, 5 minutes for the Communist group and 15

^a Printed as Appendix II on pages 1250-1251 infra.

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minutes for the Ministers to answer, so that we can finish the Budget to-day. Mr. Town told me that he would speak only on the Highways, and the Independent group also wants 5 minutes for that Demand. May I know if it is acceptable to the Leader of the House?"

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Does it mean that the other Members have not got a chance to speak in the matter?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It means that."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Will it not go by default, Sir?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No. To-day is the last day."

DEMAND XVII—PUBLIC HEALTH.

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 1,11,20,600 in respect of the head "Public Health." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 3,68,422.'"

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. 11-45 Speaker, Sir, for very good reasons we were not here yesterday a.m. when the Hon. Minister for Public Health moved the Demand in respect of the head 'Medical.' The Hon. Minister for Public Health is new to this department. As such we can say that she does not know much about the requirements of the people of this Province so far as this department is concerned, and therefore with regard to the requirements of the rural areas of this Province regarding protected water-supply and drainage. It is a most deplorable state of affairs that in the year 1946 we have to contend against many epidemics prevalent in the rural parts and also in towns where water-supply is not organized properly and is most antediluvian and antiquated. The same is the case with regard to drainage also. The first concern of the Public Health Department of this Province should be to see that these two very important requirements of public health are provided. Otherwise public health will deteriorate and epidemics will spread. Protected water-supply is in great demand, and it should be the first charge on the finances of the Province. Protector water-supply goes side by side with drainage. I know it will cost a good deal if drainage and water-supply for all the towns of this Province alone are considered. The Government will have to allot large sums of money to meet both the capital and the recurring expenditure on protected water-supply and drainage schemes. I have gone to some of the important towns in the Province and have seen to my great dismay, disappointment and disgust, that ladies have to go and stop at a public fountain, even where there is water-supply for hours together in large numbers, so that they

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may take a pot of water from that pipe. That is the case even where protected water-supply is provided.

"In this connexion, I should like to say that it is too much for this Government to expect small municipalities and unions to find the necessary money to give adequate water-supply to the people in their areas. That has been the deplorable policy in the local administration of this Province. The Government have been going about asking small municipalities to meet the entire cost or at least a portion of the cost of maintenance of these big projects and provide water-supply. I would ask the Government to revise that policy so far as these requirements are concerned. I wish that the entire amount spent on water-supply is met from the coffers of the Provincial Government. Unless the Government take a larger view in these matters, I do not think it will be possible for the various municipalities to provide water-supply and drainage in the manner in which it ought to be done. I do not think I need take up much of the time of the House except to say that for want of assistance from the Provincial Government, the Kurnool Municipality has not been able to give adequate water-supply to the people. Till recently on account of faulty machinery, the water supply was ineffective. I move the cut motion, namely,

to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,11,20,600 for Public Health by Rs. 100.

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan emphasized the necessity for water-supply. I will confine myself to drainage. I know, Sir, that according to the rules framed by the Government, they make half contribution and ask the municipality to bear the other half. I also know that the Government advance loans to municipalities on certain conditions. The Government should take into consideration the capacity of the municipality to repay the loan. As a matter of fact, I know the case of Bezwada where there is drainage only in the western half. For the eastern half, a scheme and the estimates were prepared, but the Government have been asking the municipality to increase the rate of water tax. The water tax in Bezwada is already very high, and therefore the municipality could not further raise the tax. So, for the last twenty years the thing could not take effect. I submit that the rules framed by the Government may be relaxed and, if necessary, the Government may make a greater proportion of contribution, and grant a loan for the rest. The Government may grant two-thirds contribution, and the municipalities may be asked to meet the remaining one-third. Otherwise many a scheme would come to nothing. I think the health of the people will certainly come to grief if the Government do not urge the municipalities to execute the works by making liberal grants or by meeting a larger proportion of the cost than the rules permitted in the past."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In supporting the cut motion under Demand XVII—Public Health,

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I want to bring to the notice of the House that the public health of this Province is not very satisfactory. At pages 127-28 of the Administration Report for 1944, it is said that maternal and child mortality has increased. For 1944, the maternal mortality figure is 9.98 per thousand, and the infantile mortality figure is 92.4 per thousand. My suggestion to this House is that the Government should devote more care to this matter and see that this increase in maternal and child mortality is arrested. One reason for this increase is what of properly protected rural water-supply schemes and sanitary housing accommodation. Due to want of maternity hospitals in rural areas, also, this increase has come about. Under these circumstances, I urge the Ministry to tackle this problem. One more satisfactory feature of this Budget is that the Ministry has provided Rs. 30,00,000 to the fund specially created for the development of rural water supply. But they have made provision to spend only about 25 lakhs and odd this year. As the question is a very very important one, the Ministry should allocate more funds for the development of protected water-supply especially in places where the condition is very very deplorable. As illustrations, in Calicut and Ponnani municipalities, drainage and water-supply schemes have not been prepared at all. Then in rural areas, more maternity facilities should be afforded. Protected water-supply should be developed especially in Peranampet and Visharam in North Arcot district and Nellore town.

"So far as the vaccination of Muslim ladies is concerned, great difficulty is experienced. This difficulty can be resolved by the Government appointing more lady vaccinators wherever possible, and suitable amendment to the rules may be made in the matter. Thereby infantile and maternal death-rate may be put an end to or at least put down to a certain extent. With these words I support the cut motion."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"In supporting the cut motion I would like to bring to the notice of the House that practically there is no public health existing in our country. Of course our country is having the highest infantile mortality and the lowest expectation of life. But in the Budget we do not find sufficient provision to remedy the position. In 1939 the Public Health Act was passed and the health officers had been appointed with fair salaries only to create more troubles in the municipalities. They did not care to maintain the health of the towns and municipalities. I will bring to the notice of the House the quarters in which the workers are dwelling. There, there is no public sanitation and there is no drinking water-supply. Most of them are made to walk very long distance to fetch water. In Tenali and Guntur specifically there is no public drainage. Another point I wish to draw the attention of the House is the condition of the working-class quarters of the suburbs and towns where the tanneries are situated. The industry is such that round about the tanneries there is very bad odour emitted. But the managers and others are not interested in the public health and they are practically neglecting public health and doing a great

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injustice to humanity. The health officers do not go there to see that proper sanitation is maintained and proper action is taken against the tannery merchants. As regards drainage I will confine myself to Andhra towns. There is no drainage system worth mentioning nor a protected water-supply system. Out of these Guntur is very bad. Even though its population is highest of all the Andhra towns there is no drainage system worth mentioning and there is no water-supply there. In the summer people will be pining for a drop of water and there will be regular quarrels over that. That is so in Vizagapatam also. I would also bring to the notice of the House about the water-supply system in Chodavaram. Long ago Rs. 15,000 had been allotted but the work has not been started. The Minister should take steps to overcome the delay. Particularly I would request the Minister concerned to see that the people have at least water which is very essential."

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very thankful indeed to the hon. Members for having made some constructive suggestions with regard to the improvement of water-supply and drainage in this province. It cannot be gainsaid that the public health of this province is indeed in a most deplorable and unsatisfactory condition. I do admit, as some hon. Member said, that water-supply and drainage schemes should be the first charge on the revenues of this province. I won't mind if large sums of money are expended on the promotion of these two very important services of the Government of Madras. A man can live without food for some time, but he cannot live for more than a few hours without good drinking-water. Therefore I do admit that drainage and water-supply schemes are very very essential to which attention should be devoted. I believe water-supply and drainage have to go together; they have to be treated *pari passu* or simultaneously. I hope the hon. Members are aware of the compendium of provincial requirements prepared by the previous Government. Schemes for different places in the order of necessity were made in that compendium. The Post-war Reconstruction Scheme contemplates that within a period of twenty years the places mentioned in the compendium of provincial requirements should be provided with protected water-supply. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'It must be reduced to ten years.') Yes, if funds are forthcoming, it might be possible to complete all the schemes not within a period of twenty years, but within a period of ten years according to the suggestion of Mr. Hameed Khan. I do hope that the Government of Madras will be able to expedite the schemes as much as possible. I would even go to the extent of suggesting that, though these works are not productive like the Tungabhadra and the Ramapadasagara or any other irrigation project, any amount spent on the public health services would not go in vain or that the money is wasted, because public health is a very important activity of the Government of Madras. Unless and until the people of this province have good physique, they will not be in a position to carry on their profession or to pursue any other walk of life they may resort to."

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"A more essential subject that has got to be examined is the care of the child and the mother. One hon. Member of this House has very rightly referred to the fact that in rural areas adequate facilities have not been provided to look after the interests of the expectant mothers. The mother has to be cared for not only at the time of confinement, but a great deal of attention has got to be paid during her ante-natal period, during the intra-period, and also during the post-natal period. The health of the mother should be the first consideration of any Government and therefore facilities have to be provided for her."

"It is true that in many of the dispensaries, there are no maternity wards. Of course, there are maternity wards in the district headquarters hospitals and the taluk headquarters hospitals, but in the dispensaries no provision has been made so far. It is the intention of the Government, when implementing the post-war reconstruction schemes, to provide in all rural dispensaries maternity wards to the extent of four beds. When the post-war reconstruction schemes are given effect to, I am sure many of the women will be benefited."

"Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig has referred to the question of drainage in Bezwada. I have myself lived there for some time, though not continuously, and I know in what state the drainage of that town is, particularly the drainage in Governorpet, where my friend is living. In fact long ago the Municipality of Bezwada had been asked to submit plans and estimates, so that the drainage scheme could be carried out. Unfortunately for us and for every one else, the war intervened, and the work had to be stopped. Now that the war is over, now that the conditions are getting more and more relaxed, and with the availability of more personnel and more material, I hope that this scheme will be executed, so that most of the diseases which arise from lack of proper drainage will vanish. It must be remembered that due to lack of protected water-supply and proper drainage schemes, diseases like malaria occur. Fifty per cent of the diseases which are the result of inadequate protected water-supply and absence of proper drainage are preventable not only in rural areas, but also in urban areas, if adequate protected water-supply and drainage are given to the people."

"Besides malaria, here are certain other diseases which are known as water-borne diseases. These diseases such as the guinea-worm disease are prevalent in rural areas where there are step-wells. Draw-wells are far better and far more sanitary than step-wells, for a person who draws water from a draw-well need not go down and fetch water. But in the case of step-wells, when a man goes down and takes water from the well, his feet touch the surface of water and the guinea-worms, which may lie between water and the steps, may enter into his body and infect him. Therefore draw-wells are far better from the sanitary point of view than step-wells. When the present Government is able to implement the post-war reconstruction schemes,

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I expect that many of the diseases which are known as water-borne diseases will be eradicated and people will be relieved of the suffering.

“Under the post-war scheme, 81 schemes are to be carried out during the first quinquennium and during the first year of the first quinquennium 41 water-supply schemes will be taken up and 25 out of these 41 have already been taken up. Some water-supply schemes are already in execution, while for the others, plans and estimates are being prepared. When the plans and estimates are got ready, we expect that in the course of a year or two, these schemes will come to fruition.

“Besides the question of water-supply in municipal and urban areas, the question of affording protected water-supply to rural areas is more important and urgent. Perhaps hon. Members are aware that a sum of Rs. 35 lakhs is provided for rural water-supply in this province, and that a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been added to the already existing sum of Rs. 25 lakhs, thus making up Rs. 35 lakhs, which go to make up, what is known as the Rural Water-Supply Fund. Under this Fund, the Revenue Board apportions the amounts required for implementing the rural water-supply schemes in the districts. It goes into the entire question of rural water-supply in the Province and gives the required amounts to the Collectors and the Collectors carry out these works. The rural water-supply schemes could have been expedited much earlier, had it not been for the fact that we have not got the necessary personnel to carry out the schemes. We want a number of overseers for the purpose. At present all the available overseers have been taken away for the purpose of sinking wells for irrigation in view of the food crisis. And therefore for protected rural water-supply, we have not got as many overseers as we require. Materials also are not easily available. For boring wells, a large number of pipes and pumping sets are required. The Industries Department has only a limited number of pumps for boring wells and only a limited number of pipes. So, many of these schemes in fact have to be held up for want of materials. Take for instance the water-supply scheme for Pollachi. This scheme has been in existence for several years, but could not be taken up for want of materials. In fact, many of the water-supply schemes in the urban areas and in municipal areas have been there, for several decades. The Guntur water-supply scheme has been there for the past 40 years. I know of many places even in Panchayat areas, where water-supply schemes have been held up for want of finance, for want of proper attention, for want of materials and so on.

“One hon. Member referred to the difficulties that women have got to undergo in getting water from a distance of several miles. Perhaps it would be appropriate on my part if I draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that in certain places like Kayalpatnam in the Tinnevely district, which is inhabited mostly by Muslims, water scarcity is very keenly felt. There are also a number of other villages—about nine

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I think—which are closely linked with each other, near Kayalpatnam, where the situation is worse. Petitions have been sent to me drawing my attention to the fact that water-supply should be provided for those villages, that the women-folk, particularly Muslim women who are in purdah, have got to go long distances during nights to fetch water. I visited Kayalpatnam myself and saw with my own eyes the difficulties and hardships that these purdah women had to undergo, in those places. My heart simply melted at that sight and immediately on my return, I ordered that proposals should be put up for the immediate execution of the water-supply scheme at Kayalpatnam and the Sanitary Engineer had been asked to look into that matter very urgently. I may also state that in Kayalpatnam some philanthropic-minded people, Muslims in particular, have come forward and collected some thousands of rupees and are prepared to spend them on this contribution work. Similarly, if Muslims in other parts are large-hearted enough to come forward with their contributions, I am sure, it will strengthen the hands of Government to execute the schemes more quickly.

“Reference has also been made to the dearth of women vaccinators. I am also aware of this fact and the Government will certainly consider the suggestions made by hon. members in this respect.

“I forgot to mention one particular matter in connexion with water-supply, and that is in relation to the Vizagapatam Municipality. Perhaps hon. members are aware that to augment the water-supply in Vizagapatam, the Military had set up what is known as the Gosani Water-Supply Scheme and the Government has received information that the Military is going to abandon the Gosani Scheme. The Vizagapatam Municipality is seriously considering the proposal to take over the Gosani Water-Supply Scheme, in case the Government proffered its help.

“Various other suggestions have been made and I hope the Government ere long will be able to implement all the suggestions that have been made. They are very helpful suggestions and they will be borne in mind by the Government and will be carried out, so that people might live in peace, prosperity and happiness.

“I request the hon. Member who has moved the cut motion to withdraw the same.”

* P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—“On a point of information, Sir. While the Hon. the Minister for Public Health referred to Bezvada and Vizagapatam, she has not made any mention about Calicut. The Calicut Water-Supply Scheme is all ready but for pumping sets and we have been waiting for them for the last four or five years.* Would the Hon. the Minister give us some assurance that this matter would be looked into urgently?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“I have already said that 81 water-supply schemes are going to be taken up in the

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first quinquennium and I have already given the information to the House that 41 schemes will be taken up during the first year. Calicut will certainly be included in these schemes."

* P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—"This is a scheme that was sanctioned long ago. All the preliminary work has been finished, except that we have no pumps, for which we have been waiting for the last five years."

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I have already told the House that there is great difficulty in securing pumps and as soon as pumps are available, the water-supply works at Calicut will certainly be carried out."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Before we consider the withdrawal of the cut motion, will the Hon. the Minister give an assurance to us having regard to the two or three philanthropists who have already given their contributions to the Visharam and Pernamput Water-Supply and Maternity Hospital Schemes, that those schemes will be taken up even in spite of the fact that they do not find a place in the compendium of which so many of the hon. Members of the House have no knowledge and for which especially we make an appeal to her that every member should be given a copy of the same, and that we will soon have water-supply in Visharam and Pernamput in the North Arcot district?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"So far as the maternity hospital is concerned, there is no such scheme in the compendium. The compendium has been prepared only with regard to water-supply and drainage schemes. The schemes referred to by the hon. Member will certainly be borne in mind and will be executed as early as possible."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister has taken a lot of trouble to acquaint herself with all the information connected with this subject and also has given very great consideration to the demands from this side of the House and the readiness with which assurances were given and especially in view of the fact that the Hon. the Minister is a class-mate of mine (laughter), I withdraw my cut motion."

The cut motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XVIII—AGRICULTURE.

12-30 p.m. THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 1,69,10,900 in respect of the head Agriculture. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 3,36,707.'"

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* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I rise to move the cut motion standing in my name, namely, 'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,69,10,900 for Agriculture by Rs. 100' and, in doing so, I want to draw the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture to the needs of the agriculturists of my district. Of all the departments that require the special attention of the Government, the Department of Agriculture has to take the first place. But what we find is that it is the department that receives the least attention. The officers of the department are simply idling away their time, doing nothing. If things cannot be improved, I would suggest the closing down of this department."

"One direction in which the department could be improved lies in co-ordinating its activities with those of the Veterinary Department. As the activities of these two departments are interconnected I would strongly urge their amalgamation. If this is done they could work under one head."

"Sir, the profession of agriculture has become unprofitable in our province and if the position is not to deteriorate further, the Government should devote its special attention to improve the facilities given to the agriculturists. One way of improving the methods of cultivation is to open model agricultural farms in every taluk if not in every village. What happens now is that the officers of the department who are entrusted with the work of selling agricultural implements in the taluks are making money by selling these implements in the blackmarket. The Government should see to it that these implements really reach the cultivators."

"Another matter to which I want to refer is the lack of representation of Muslims in this department. I am told that there has been an insistent demand for the appointment of a Muslim Deputy Director of Agriculture and that it has been turned down many times. I want the Government to see that in this department also communal justice is done."

"Another suggestion I want to make is that propaganda vans should be sent to the villages to educate the villagers in the matter of production and cultivation of short term crops so that we may to some extent solve the food problem."

"The question of the improvement of livestock is another thing that should engage the attention of the Government. In addition to urging the need for the improvement of livestock I would ask that the deserving cultivators be given free supply of livestock. In many villages the provision for stud-bulls is absent and people find it very difficult to get the cows served. I want the Government to see that this difficulty is removed by the free distribution in deserving cases of stud-bulls and also implements such as pumps and other things needed for cultivation."

"Another difficulty which the agriculturists feel in these days of rice scarcity and ration is in the matter of getting suitable and sufficient seeds. As the ration authorities take away from the cultivators even the paddy seeds stored for sowing, the cultivators experience great difficulty in obtaining suitable and sufficient

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seeds. I want the Government to pay special attention to this grievance of the agriculturists."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will please move his cut motion."

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I have moved it."

* K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, in rising to support the cut motion moved on behalf of my party, I have to bring to the notice of the Government the impression prevailing in the country that the Agricultural department, as far as the Malabar district is concerned, is more a consolation department than a 'utility department'. In fact, this department, except for its appearance in the Government records, is not known in the district and is not utilised by the ryots in the district for the simple reason that the department is not properly advertised among the ryots and is not bringing its special knowledge and expert skill to the doors of the ryots. In fact, there is an agricultural research station within my constituency at Pattambi. Except for the publicity given to it as a research station situated in Pattambi in the Government records this station is not known in the taluk in which it is situated or in the neighbouring taluks of the Malabar district. What are the researches conducted in this research farm; are those results made known to the ryots; whether the ryots have benefited by the researches, etc. These are matters least known to the public and deserve careful investigation by Government. The villagers are following their old methods of cultivation. They are not in any way helped by the expert or scientific knowledge which this department is believed to be in possession of. So what I suggest is that there must be a strong propaganda section attached to this department which should be working vigorously and more workers should be recruited to the department for carrying on the propaganda work.

"Then, the supplying of scientific manures and implements to the ryots is a matter to which greater attention should be paid. In several parts of the district the lands are subject to what is called the law of diminishing returns. Therefore, unless scientific manures are supplied and the defects of the soil are remedied by special scientific manures the produce from the land will be below normal and extremely poor and the fate of the ryots will be very hard indeed. In fact, the Agricultural department should work in co-operation with non-official agencies which exist in every village. Now there are the Congress committees and Muslim League committees in every village. The employees of the department should contact these non-official bodies and public workers and enlist their co-operation for bringing their special knowledge and experience to the doors of the ryots. The realities in the villages are not known to the expert employees of the department. They do not know the practical difficulties of the ryots and they do not make an investigation of the peculiar condition of the villages, with the result that there is at times

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the risk of misapplication of the knowledge which they seem to have to conditions where such knowledge would not be applicable. This results in more harm than good. So I submit that the department has to do ten times the work which it is now doing both in the matter of propaganda and in affording assistance to the ryots. They have to work in co-operation with non-official agencies and the Government will have to exercise a sort of check on the quality and the volume of work done by the department instead of leaving it to function as a consolation department which at present it is."

* MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is an undisputed fact that agriculture is the most important avocation of our people on which the health, the wealth and the very existence of all depend. It is therefore, Sir, I add to what the Hon. the Minister for Public Health, said, viz., that any amount spent on the Health department will not be a waste, and it is equally true in this case. That is to say, whatever amount is spent on the improvement of agriculture in our country will not be a waste. Sir, in improving agriculture, the most important factors that have to be attended to are, first, supplying the necessary implements, and second supplying the most suitable manure and other accessories in adequate quantity. As regards implements, the cultivator is badly in need of them to enable him to wring out of the soil the foodgrains which we are eagerly looking for. Sir, in helping the farmer and the cultivator to carry on his avocation most successfully we will be solving the most critical problem of the day.

"Sir, I understand that the supply of agricultural implements through the Agricultural department is being abused. It is not properly supplied to the deserving people. It seems that some of the officials are even trading upon the facilities given to them for distribution to the deserving ryot. I would therefore request the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to pay particular attention to this and see that these implements which are now being distributed, such as iron tyres for carts and plough-ends, etc., reach the needy and deserving men.

"I would also request the Hon. Minister for Agriculture to see that proper manure in adequate quantities is also made available to the cultivator. Sir, the wastes that are being collected by the panchayats, municipalities and the corporation are heaped in a place and then they are destroyed. Instead of doing that if they are kept like the nightsoil and given to the cultivator they can be used as manure and as the richest food for the crops. This will also in a way help to solve the scarcity of manure.

"Secondly oil-cakes, especially groundnut oil-cake, which proves to be one of the most essential and rich manures to the crops, may also be made abundantly available to the ryots and cultivators at cheap prices. Since the price of all commodities has risen the price of groundnut cake also has correspondingly and in some places more than correspondingly risen, and therefore it is beyond the reach of the cultivator. As one of my friends said there is a diminishing return from the most fertile fields of

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our country. It is therefore necessary that this aspect of agriculture, namely the prices of necessary materials, is attended to with greater care.

"I also request that even artificial manures should be made available to the cultivator so that the rate of present production may be increased. Whatever amount may be spent on this will not be a waste.

"Thirdly, Sir, my Friends have already given expression to the view that propaganda work must also be carried on. While in other countries in one acre there is a production of about 40 kottas and 50 kottas of paddy, we here have only 8 or 9 kottas. Is this not a very deplorable state of affairs in a country which is mainly agricultural? Therefore special and immediate attention must be paid to see that the production of our fertile lands is increased. I request the Hon. Minister to pay more attention to propaganda work so that every cultivator may know the nature of the soil which he is cultivating, the necessary steps which he should take and also to impress upon him that it is a duty which he has been called upon by the country to carry on. I therefore hope that the Hon. Minister who himself hails from a family of agricultural landlords will pay much more attention to this aspect of the problem and that within a short period the production of our province will be doubled and trebled. With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I won't take more than half a minute. Sir, I want to say one or two words about this Agricultural department which has been in existence for a number of years at a cost of several lakhs and millions of rupees. But what is the result? If you go to a field and stand there and see you will find that it is being cultivated in the same old way as it was being done a thousand years ago. (Interruption.) Sir, I shall correct myself by saying in the words of the Hon. Premier, not even so well as they were cultivated a thousand years ago. All the researches and other activities of the department are not benefiting the ryots. The complaint of the department probably is that they are not able to establish proper contact with the ryots; but whose fault is that? Sir, for how long is this going to continue? If that is the complaint, then how are we going to justify the existence of this department? Sir, this is what I wanted to point out. Even to-day, this country which is predominantly an agricultural country, gets Haifa oranges, Californian apples and even Malayan pine-apples, all from foreign countries. Sir, this country which is poor is made to consume oranges grown in foreign countries at very high cost, where the wages are ten times what they are in this country. I want Sir, that some attention must be paid to this aspect of the thing. This I put before the House and the Government as a layman would do."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am supporting the cut motion. We have to take up such an important department as the Agricultural department at the far end of the session after having devoted so much of our

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time to discussing other less important matters. Sir, the amount provided for this department is only Rs. 169 lakhs whereas a much larger sum is provided for the Police Department. I therefore request the Hon. Minister to see that this amount is expended with proper care so that our agriculture may not lag behind.

"Sir, regarding manure, it is good that the Government have taken control over this matter, but it is not being managed efficiently. Sir, in Guntur itself there is not sufficient amount of manure, but we have been made to export manure to other places from Guntur. Therefore Guntur has become deficit in manure and its agriculture has been affected.

"With regard to the free distribution of manure, I suggest, Sir, that it should be done in the interests of the poor agricultural labourers who take the land for cultivation. Priority should be given to them.

"As regards marketing, up till now only maximum prices have been fixed for agricultural produce, but minimum prices have not been fixed. This enables the merchants to cheat the agriculturists and buy their agricultural produce at very cheap rates. Therefore, I suggest that minimum prices also should be fixed.

"In this connexion, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House to one of the great injustices perpetrated under the Defence of India Rules. Whenever the Defence of India Rules are applied, it is against the interests of the people and in the interests of the capitalists. In the matter of fixing the area under sugarcane, there is no guarantee that all the sugarcane produced will be taken up by the merchants and the mill-owners. Hence the tenants are put to great difficulty. They are not allowed to manufacture jaggery and the capitalists refuse to purchase all the produce of the land. I request the Hon. Minister to go into this question and see that the poor peasantry are protected by allowing them to manufacture jaggery or by insisting on the capitalists purchasing all the sugarcane produced by the peasants.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the Grow More Food campaign, I have to point out that tobacco is still being grown on the tank-beds and the peasants are put to great difficulty. Even though there are orders that tobacco should not be grown on tank-beds, these orders are being violated by the zamindars. This matter must be looked into and no tobacco should be grown on the tank-beds.

"With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion."

* THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members for the many helpful suggestions which they have made regarding the work of the Agricultural Department in this Presidency. Most of the criticisms levelled against this department are that generally it is not working properly. In this connexion, I want to bring to the notice of the House certain things which this department has been doing.

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"The general policy of this department is well known: it is to grow two blades where one is growing. The main aspects of the Government's policy as regards Agriculture are research, education, demonstration and propaganda, engineering, marketing and other miscellaneous activities.

"The research work of the department is concentrated mainly at the Agricultural Research Institute, Coimbatore, where most of the Research sections are located. It is supplemented, to a certain extent, by research conducted in the various regional agricultural research stations located all over the Presidency. The work of the research sections is co-ordinated by the Research Council consisting of research officers as its members. At the Research Institute there is the Paddy Specialist, the Cotton Specialist, the Millets Specialist, the Pulses Specialist and the Old Seeds Specialist. Besides these, there are the Mycologist who deals with the diseases of plants caused by the fungus diseases attacking crops, and the Entomologist who deals with the insect pests of the crops; the Bacteriologist, the Agricultural Chemist and the Soil Physicist who carry out the biological and chemical analysis of soils. A Meteorological section has also been formed and more research officers such as Cyto-Genetecists, Plant Physiologists, etc., have of late been appointed. Research is also done on irrigation, on fruits, sugarcane, pulses, vegetables, etc. Among the many vital problems tackled by them are plant nutrition, hybridization and soil sanitation, insect pests and plant diseases. Discoveries on account of research in the main institute at Coimbatore are tested in the district experimental stations and when they are successful they are demonstrated to ryots either on demonstration plots or by exhibitions, distribution of leaflets or through the medium of exhibition vans. The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research helps the Research Institute not only by financing many research schemes but also by expert recommendations on the various aspects of research. Research is, in fact, the foundation on which the whole public and the Agricultural Department rests. The primary aim of all research work is the acquisition of scientific knowledge. The ultimate aim is to translate the information into a definite recommendation which the cultivator can adopt resulting directly or indirectly in a higher return from the land.

"The successful results of research are made known to the ryots by propaganda, by means of demonstrations, public exhibitions and fairs, lantern lectures, free distribution of pamphlets, bulletins, etc. It is not at all easy to teach the ryot a new method and persuade him to adopt it. The experimental stations do not by themselves impress him. The ryot is to be shown personally how things could be done economically with maximum benefit. This is carried out by repeating the successful experiments on the ryot's own holdings which are called for the purpose 'trial plots.' Practical demonstration on the various methods of collection and preservation and storage of cattle manure are done in the village by agricultural demonstrators.

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"The departmental Grow More Food journals in Telugu and Tamil are intended to take home to the ryots timely hints on crop productions, crop husbandry, nutrition and good farming. About 10,000 copies of the above journals are distributed free of cost to ryots and associations and they are very much appreciated. In order to make effective the Grow More Food campaign, which in other words means increase of production by improved methods of agriculture, special officers have been appointed to issue takkavi loans to poor and deserving ryots. Improved strains of seeds, manures and agricultural implements are sold in all agricultural depots at controlled rates to *bona fide* ryots. In order to benefit the remote villages which are far away from the taluk agricultural depots, Government have recently sanctioned a scheme by which one depot for every two firkas will be opened and placed in charge of a store-keeper. A demonstration maistri will also be attached to each depot. The work of the demonstration maistri attached to the depot is to hold demonstrations and do propaganda. In this manner the ryot is educated in the use of the improved machinery and is impelled to adopt scientific and more productive methods of cultivation, manuring, etc.

"With regard to the distribution of manure, complaints were made that the demonstrators were not doing it properly. To avoid these complaints we have recently issued a Government Order directing the distribution of all the available quantity of manure and implements through the village committees that have been recently formed. So, the whole responsibility for proper distribution of manure lies on these committees which have been formed recently. I think this will satisfy our non-official friends who have levelled complaints against the department.

"With regard to manure, Sir, last year, the department procured nearly 1 lakh of tons of groundnut-cake and distributed it throughout the Presidency. This year, instead of procuring 50 per cent from the millers, we have passed a Government Order to procure the whole quantity that is being produced both by the millers and the other expellers and we are going to distribute the whole quantity. Up till now, for these four months, we have procured nearly 32,000 tons of manure and at this rate we hope to procure 2 lakhs of tons and have it distributed satisfactorily throughout the presidency. At present our ryots require more of cake manure but the quantity available is only 2 lakhs of tons. Previously our Presidency was importing cake manure from Kathiawar and Hyderabad and other States, but now we are not able to get any quantity from those places, because, while the price that we can pay is Rs. 80 per ton, the Kathiawar and Hyderabad people are able to dispose of their stock to other needy provinces like Bengal at Rs. 120 per ton. So we are unable to purchase this manure and distribute it free or at a lower price to our ryots. Anyhow we have prohibited the export of any quantity of cake from our Presidency. We were exporting kernels to foreign countries and that also we have stopped for the last two or three years. Even by conserving like this we are able to procure only 2 lakhs of tons in our Presidency. Not only that,

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there is a reduction in the extent of cultivation of groundnut by nearly 30,000 acres and that is another difficulty for us in getting more manure for distribution.

"With regard to artificial manure we have to depend upon the Government of India for its allotment. Last year though they allotted a certain quantity, it was not fully supplied. This year they have promised to give 70,000 tons of phosphate manure. If we get the whole quantity allotted we can distribute it satisfactorily and satisfy the needs of the ryots in our Presidency."

* MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. Is the groundnut cake manure going to be distributed through private agency or by Government itself?"

* THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"We will have it distributed through the department with the help of the Committees.

"With regard to iron implements even, we have to depend upon the Government of India. Last year they allotted 25,000 tons for our Presidency. But they did not supply the whole quantity and a balance of 13,000 tons is still outstanding. This year we had a Conference of the representatives of the Government of India and the Secretaries of our departments. On the assurance of the Steel Controller, we hope to get a larger allotment this year than last year. If we get the whole quantity promised, to a certain extent we will be able to satisfy the needs of the ryots in this Province.

"I now come to the question of communal representation raised by some of our hon. Friends, especially with regard to the representation of Muslims. In the Madras Agricultural Service out of 134 officers, 10 are Muslims. In the Madras Agricultural Subordinate Service out of a strength of 1,014 members, 45 are Muslims. And in the Madras Ministerial Service out of 585 members, 16 are Muslims.

"Recruitment to the posts in the Madras Agricultural and the Madras Agricultural Subordinate Services are made on a Presidency basis and it is not possible to post officers to maintain the communal proportion in each district. It will not be possible to increase the number of Muslim officers in the Malabar district without causing a corresponding decrease in some other districts. There seems no special reason why the number of Muslim officers in Malabar should be increased in preference to others.

"Recruitment to the Madras Agricultural Service, the Madras Agricultural Subordinate Services and the Madras Ministerial Service is done by the Madras Public Service Commission which selects persons according to the communal rotation prescribed in the service rules. The Agricultural Department is a technical department and the officers recruited to it should possess special technical qualifications. There is a paucity of qualified candidates from the Muslim community for appointment in the department."

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* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. If I am not mistaken, is there not a highly qualified Muslim officer in this department who is working as Deputy Director?"

* THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"He is on leave preparatory to retirement, Sir.

"On account of the paucity of qualified Muslim candidates, it has not been possible to give full representation to the community in the department. With a view to encourage Muslims to qualify themselves in agriculture free scholarships of the value of Rs. 30 per mensem have been reserved for Muslims in each of the two Agricultural Colleges at Coimbatore and Bapatla. It is hoped that Muslim candidates will take up the course and qualify themselves for the posts in the Agricultural Department.

"Where appointments are made without reference to the Madras Public Service Commission and whenever appointments are made under the emergency provisions, due consideration is always given to candidates of the Muslim community. In fact all the Muslim graduates who passed out of the Agricultural College, Coimbatore, this year have been appointed."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. On this question of communal representation I want to ask the Hon. Minister again whether the highly qualified Muslim I referred to was treated properly by the previous Government or whether he was given his due even after the new Government came into being, and why he is retiring now."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"On account of age perhaps."

* THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"I do not know about his high qualification or low qualification. There was a Deputy Director of Agriculture, a Muslim in the service. Now I remember to have passed an order granting him leave preparatory to retirement. That is the only thing that I can say.

"With these remarks, I request the hon. the Mover of the cut motion to withdraw his cut motion."

* P. K. MOHIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Hoping that things will improve in the Agricultural Department ere long and reminding the Hon. Premier about his promise of free distribution of manure in the Ponnani taluk, I beg leave of the House to withdraw the motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XIX—VETERINARY.

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May

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1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 30,93,100 in respect of the head Veterinary. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 1,56,004."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"I am going to allow only two Members to speak on this demand."

1-15 p.m. "Mr. Hussain, please move your cut motion; be brief; we shall finish this Demand before we adjourn for lunch."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have the honour to move the cut motion, namely:—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 30,93,100 for Veterinary by Rs. 100'.

'In doing so, I want to say that this is a department which does not care for the animals of which it is put in charge. At the same time, we also do not care for this department. This department has been going on like the proverbial self-opinionated buffalo. Sir, we all know the importance of cattle for our country which is an agricultural country. We have to improve the breed of our cattle not only for getting milk and milk products, but also for agricultural purposes. That being so, what is it that this department has been doing? It has no attraction at all for the public; no provision has been made for attracting a large number of students, especially from among the agriculturists, to the veterinary college in this Province. Therefore, a good deal of attention has to be paid to this matter by at least a popular Government like the one we are having to-day. If the Government attaches any importance to the agricultural life of the people, it should see that the cattle wealth of the country increases and is also improved. This is a vital question which affects the economic prosperity of our country and also the future of our country. I may say that on our economic independence depends the real independence of our people. What is it, Sir, that this department has been doing? There is lack of sufficient staff in the districts. When a cattle disease breaks out in a remote village, where are the veterinary assistants? They are not to be found anywhere nearby and the people have to wait for months together for the arrival of the veterinary assistant for giving some relief to the cattle that have been attacked by the disease. The difficulty is, that cattle used for agricultural purposes are attacked by diseases at a time not only in hundreds but in thousands, and by the time the veterinary assistant reaches the place, the disease spreads and agriculture is greatly handicapped. For these reasons, I suggest that the number of veterinary assistants in all the districts should be increased. We have got very few veterinary hospitals in a district now. In my own district, so far as I know, there are only two veterinary hospitals, one in Mangalore and another in Puttur. What about the other taluk headquarters in the district. Are there any veterinary hospitals there? None. Therefore, it is necessary that we should have a veterinary hospital at every taluk headquarters in each district of

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the Province. I would also urge that the Government should institute scholarships for attracting more students to the veterinary college for giving them the necessary training to take care of the cattle wealth of our Province. At the same time, I would say that the Government should grant more liberal stipends to students coming from all communities and especially from the agricultural community. They should see that the agricultural community comes forward to undergo the necessary training and to qualify themselves for veterinary work not only in the department itself but also in their private capacity as agriculturists, so that they may render first aid to their cattle pending the arrival of the veterinary assistants from another place. I commend to the Government that they should take proper and speedy steps immediately to see that this department is made more useful and more helpful, so that by that means not only the production of our crops can be increased and accentuated, but the cattle wealth and the breed of the cattle can be improved, and everything that is essential for the economic welfare of the people may be made available as early as possible."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting the cut motion, I would like to bring to the notice of the House one or two points. Regarding the development of the veterinary college, I suggest that stipends should be given to students and employment should be guaranteed to them so that most of the students who enter our college may become useful to our country in due course. Another thing that was just brought to my notice, Sir, is that veterinary assistant surgeons are now asked to pass a second language test, i.e., that Telugu-speaking veterinary doctors should pass a Tamil test and vice versa. I think it is unnecessary, because for the Telugu-speaking people particularly, it is very difficult to pass a Tamil test, even though I cannot say the same thing about the Tamil-speaking gentlemen. I therefore request the Minister concerned to see that this is not insisted upon. I am told that if the test is not passed, promotion is stopped. This system was brought into existence some two years back during the Advisers' regime. I request the Minister to abolish this system."

"As regards veterinary hospitals, every taluk must be provided with one hospital at least, and it must be strictly enforced that the doctors should not take any bribes from the poor peasantry, which is a very common thing nowadays."

"About the sheep-rearing industry during war-time, a leather tanning industry was started in the Anantapur district but I have come to know that it is going to be closed. I request the Hon. Minister to see that this is not closed down and that it is encouraged."

"With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion moved."

* THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Taking first the question of the second language test, I may say that not

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only in this department but in other departments also, persons who want to qualify themselves for a gazetted post have to pass a second language test; that is, a Tamilian should pass a test in Malayalam or Telugu and a Telugu should pass a test in Tamil; the idea is that the officer should know any two of the three languages of the district. So long as we are in a composite province, we have to follow this rule. We cannot dispense with that rule until my friend Mr. Venkateswarlu gets a province of his own, viz., the Andhra Province. Now, Sir, certain people speak both in Tamil and Telugu, but if I know only Tamil and not Telugu, I cannot understand what the people who speak Telugu are speaking about. In the same way, when any officer happens to be transferred, if he is a Tamilian, to a Telugu district, he should at least have some little knowledge of Telugu, otherwise, though as Government servant, he may not find too much of difficulty, at least for his own personal reasons, he must necessarily know something of the language.

“ With regard to the question of attracting more students to the Veterinary College, we have done much better this year than last year. In order to attract more students to the college, it has been ordered that tuition fees in the college be abolished for a period of five years from 1946-47. Scholarships of the value of Rs. 30 per mensem each have also been awarded to 50 per cent of the students subject to a maximum of 30 in each class. The value of the scholarship will be Rs. 40 per mensem when held by a member of the backward class. The scholarships are distributed among the students according to communal rotation. On account of these concessions, over 900 applications for admission into the college were received this year. The number of students from this Province that can be admitted into the college has been raised this year from 60 to 70 and 10 per cent of these seats were ordered to be reserved for ex-service men. The number of students coming from outside the Province that can be admitted into the college is 10.

“ Veterinary aid is being given to the ryots in the Province through veterinary hospitals and dispensaries and through touring billets. There are at present about 165 touring billets and about 136 veterinary institutions in the Province. A qualified veterinary assistant surgeon is in charge of each. Stockmen compounders are attached to a few touring billets for assisting the veterinary assistant surgeons. Animals are ordinarily treated in hospitals and dispensaries. The main work of the touring assistants is to tour constantly within their jurisdiction and render veterinary aid to the ryots' animals. They should also control the spread of contagious diseases such as rinderpest, anthrax, etc., by preventive inoculations, perform castrations of animals and do propaganda work among the ryots. The ultimate aim of the Veterinary department is to provide a veterinary institution for each taluk. On the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, the policy of the Government for opening new veterinary institutions is that such institutes should be opened only if

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local bodies or large landholders contribute not less than 50 per cent of the initial and recurring expenditure of the institutions. By adopting this policy, the number of veterinary institutions in the Province was being increased year by year according to the availability of men and money. It is now proposed to provide every taluk in the Province with one veterinary institution and one touring billet at Government cost and these are being treated as a post-war scheme. These schemes have been deferred owing to the acute shortage of veterinary assistant surgeons. There is also a post-war scheme under consideration to provide each touring billet with a stockman compounder for assisting the veterinary assistant surgeon in his work.

“ Then, Sir, with regard to the improvement of livestock, the livestock section was transferred from the agricultural to the Veterinary Department in 1938 and since then the improvement of livestock has been one of the principal functions of the Veterinary Department. The Livestock Development Officer is in charge of the improvement of livestock in the Province and he will be assisted in his work by the Poultry Development Officer and the Sheep and Goats Development Officer who will be appointed very soon. The policy of the Government is to provide as many breeding bulls as possible for improving the cattle and several schemes are being worked for this purpose. Under the premium scheme premia are paid by the Government for the maintenance of approved breeding bulls owned by private persons. Contributions are paid, to some district boards for the purchase and distribution of breeding bulls to ryots. But only a few district boards have taken advantage of this scheme. Breeding bulls are also purchased by the Government and distributed to ryots free of cost, including buffalo bulls, every year under the Livestock (Bull Distribution) Scheme and there is a post-war scheme for incurring an expenditure of Rs. 2 lakhs per annum for this purpose. Breeding bulls are also stationed in certain veterinary institutions for the benefit of the ryots. The Madras Livestock Improvement Act, 1940, provides for the castration of scrub bulls and this Act has been extended to a few taluks in the Province, in the first instance. There are two Livestock Research stations, one at Hosur and another at Lam in the Guntur district. The latter farm is proposed to be extended by the purchase of the adjoining plots of lands. Several heads of livestock are maintained in these stations and breeding bulls are supplied to those who need them from the Livestock Research Station, Hosur. The principal cattle breeds of this Province are the Ongole, the Kangayam and Hallikar. There is a scheme for the payment of subsidy to owners of heifer calves in the Ongole, Kangayam and Hallikar areas and another for the payment of subsidy to owners of calves in Madras City. In order to prevent cows from being slaughtered during their dry period, a scheme for the salvage of dry cows in Madras City during their dry period is being worked by the Government in Kancha No. 40 of the Kambakkam Reserved forest in Ponneri taluk. Stallions are stationed in some veterinary institutions for grading up local ponies. Breeding rams are also purchased by the Government and distributed to

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ryots for improving their stock of sheep. A scheme for the purchase and distribution of Bikanir rams for improving the woolly type of sheep has been sanctioned. A sheep farm has also been ordered to be opened in one of the greatest sheep breeding tracts of the Province, viz., at Karikuppi village in Bellary district. There are two Sheep Demonstration Units with special staff, which move in the villages of the Province and demonstrate improved methods of shearing, dipping and cleaning the wool to the ryots. There is a post-war scheme for the opening of a livestock farm in each district and also for the production of one lakh of cows and one lakh of bulls of each of the Ongole, Kangayam and Hallikar breeds. Contributions are paid for the conduct of cattle shows which go a large way to encourage the improvement of livestock. A Provincial Livestock Improvement Board consisting of some officers of the Veterinary Department and also non-officials with experience of livestock has been constituted. The Board meets once in a quarter and advises the Government on the improvement of livestock.

“A Poultry Development Officer has been appointed to be in charge of the entire poultry improvement work in the Province. There is a Poultry Research Station at Madras, and birds of exotic breeds are also maintained at the Livestock Research Station at Hosur and Lam. The opening of a poultry production centre and three district poultry farms has been sanctioned for increasing the production of poultry. Poultry Demonstration Units are attached to several Veterinary institutions in the Province to demonstrate poultry breeding to ryots and to sell them setting eggs and chicks. Contributions are paid to the American Arcot Mission, Katpadi, and the Mangalagiri Egg Marketing Society which work for the improvement of poultry.

“One of the greatest impediments to Poultry improvement in the Province is a contagious disease known as Ranikhot Disease. A vaccine to combat the disease is being manufactured at the Madras Veterinary College under an officer specially trained for this purpose.

“Research schemes which are partly or wholly by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research are also being worked out by the Veterinary Department with separate officers and staff for each.

“I hope, Sir, I have met all the important points raised by the Mover and seconder of the cut motion. I request them to withdraw the cut motion, on the assurance that their suggestions will be duly considered.”

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the hope that the assurance given will be translated into action, I withdraw the cut motion.”

The cut motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

The House adjourned for lunch till half past two.

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(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

DEMAND XX—CO-OPERATION.

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move—

‘that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in the course of payment during the period from 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946 will amount to Rs. 53,37,000 in respect of the head Co-operation. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rupees 2,60,404.’”

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, I rise to move the cut motion that stands in the name of my hon. Friend, Mr. Seethi Sahib, namely—

‘to reduce the allotment of Rs. 53,37,000 for Co-operation by Rs. 100.’

“In doing so, I do not want to take up the time of the House for a long period. I want only to bring to the attention of the Government one matter that has been agitating the minds of all sections of the people of Malabar. The House is aware, Sir, that in the scheme that was sponsored by the Government for the procurement of foodgrains in the Malabar district, the work was entrusted to the Co-operative Department and a Special Officer was appointed to carry out this scheme and in working this scheme that officer—I am sorry I am even angry when I refer to that man, because this officer has a reputation of being not only an anti-Muslim Leaguer, I can understand that, but he is even anti-Muslim—that officer has been going about setting at naught even the unanimous decisions of the share-holders of those societies. In the matter of the formation of these societies, I can only cite instances regarding my own taluk. Sir, my taluk consists of about seven firkas and I know personally in almost all those places where Directors were unanimously elected simply because some Congressman approaches this officer and he goes about and upsets the whole thing and appoints his own nominees disregarding even the unanimous decision of the share-holders. The Hon. the Prime Minister was kind enough the other day to give me an assurance that he would tour Malabar and set right all these matters but as the mischief is being done and has already been done, I want the Hon. the Prime Minister to expedite his tour programme to prevent further mischief being done in that area. I am not giving this as a piece of warning or threat but as a piece of advice. I want to tell this Government that it is very dangerous to have this man there. The Kapoor regime must go; otherwise we will have to meet it. I know you have sufficient strength and military power to crush the people there, but you must remember that you can never crush the spirit of the Moplahs in Malabar. This Special Officer has created much mischief among the Moplahs. The Government itself knows that we have an inflammable material and in spite of all its strength the Government cannot crush the spirit of the Moplahs. I again say that with all the force at my command. I request

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the Government to replace this undesirable officer and remove him from that district because he is creating many difficulties for the Moplahs. We want to save the people; we want to co-operate with this Government in the matter of this food question; but this officer is going on saying, 'I am not here to please the Mussalmans but I am here to carry out the orders of the Government.' Sir, several orders of the Government are by-passed. Muslims, particularly in the Malabar district, are not nominated to directorship in co-operative societies, even where the majority of the share-holders are Muslims. In one firka, out of 3,000 share-holders, there are 2,000 odd Moplah share-holders. When the Special Officer finds that Muslims will get the majority on the Directorate, he comes with the names of some Congress friends and appoints his own nominees. I am told that instructions of Government have been disregarded and even the by-laws and the rules and regulations have been disregarded."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"When the hon. Member admitted that I have promised to go there and look into the matter, he could have spared himself without going into all those details; matters stated by others should not be accepted wholesale and should not be made the subject of discussion here especially, when I undertook the task of going there and setting right matters . . ."

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am very thankful to the Hon. the Prime Minister for this assurance, but when things are being done."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"There is no 'but' here; so far as this Government is concerned, it would never be too late to attend to anything."

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am again thankful to the Hon. the Premier. I had only this matter to be brought to the notice of the Hon. the Prime Minister. I request him once again to set right matters there. The sooner the better."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, thanks to the recent war, this movement of co-operation has begun to develop, but even though this Congress Government has been in office for the last four months, they have not done anything to sustain this progress. This co-operative movement is thriving only for the purpose of dealing in controlled articles and for doling out official favours. When there is competition, nothing has been done by the Government to help this co-operative movement to continue its useful work even after the relaxation of these rules. You know, the co-operative societies are manned by Directors who are elected without any reference to representation of various communities. Sir, this Presidency contains so many castes, communities and nations and in the Co-operative Act no provision has been specially made to elect such Directors as represent the various communities in spite of the fact that the very Assembly which governs this Province is constituted of the various elected representatives of the communities and nations. When there is such a provision for Muslims to be elected

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to govern this Province, I ask, why not bring in a measure to see that a Director from each community may be elected to the various co-operative societies. You may think, Sir, that from this side of the House, we have always been clamouring for communal representation but you will concede that here it is quite necessary to safeguard our interests. For instance, recently the Firka Development Scheme has been launched and under that scheme for every district in Andhradesa, Firka Development Officers from the cadre of Deputy Tahsildars have been appointed. I am told throughout the Andhra area eleven Deputy Tahsildars have been appointed as Firka Development Officers and all of them, I understand, are Brahmans. They have been appointed only this week. If this sort of thing is continued, I am afraid, the movement cannot progress. One would expect that at least in the co-operative movement, there should be safeguards in such matters. You also find that Directors either belong to one or other of the communities like Kammas, Reddis, Brahmans, and they do not take even on their staff members of any other communities, for example, if a Reddi is the President of the Society, all the members of the staff are Reddis; if the President is a Brahman, he takes in only Brahmans on his staff and so on. Hence, Sir, I suggest that the communal Government Order should be applied to these co-operative societies also. When it is possible to apply this communal Government Order to semi-official bodies like the district boards and municipalities, it should certainly be possible to apply this communal Government Order to the co-operative societies because the Government is directly helping them and in the giving of special favours, Government should see that they encourage all communities in this matter.

"Again, Sir, as if these rules and regulations are not sufficient and as if this Government is anxious to give encouragement to particular communities, the so-called popular Government is only prolonging this Government Order. The purpose of the Government Order is somewhat to this effect. No special co-operative stores, or society shall be organized specially for Mussalmans. The Government Order does not actually say so, but in effect it comes to this that no special organization will be started on communal basis. There are in existence societies for Kalavanthulus, dancing class community; there are some special societies that have been specially exempted to organize themselves. But when people come forward to open Muslim banks, Muslim co-operative societies, etc.—I can say from my own personal experience of having been a Managing Director for two or three district co-operative banks—the District Officers are so backward in not giving information properly. For instance, they first give permission that money may be collected and shares may be allotted but later on the information comes from Madras that because it is purely a Muslim concern, permission will not be granted. I personally appeared before the Registrar, an I.C.S. Officer, and represented to him what has happened. He said, I do not know what the Government is going to do; I am personally against this communal Government Order so far as Co-operative Department

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 is concerned. He is not aware of the firka development and all these things. The Officer-in-charge of the Co-operative movement has gone to the extent of saying that I am personally against these communal business in the co-operative societies and that if Government persists in this, I may even resign. I do not know whether Government are going to continue such 'old school of thought' officers. I suggest that these should be put an end to. In this connexion, I wish to bring to the notice that I have not yet received an answer to a question which I put nearly three months ago wherein I specifically asked why that communal Government Order should not be rescinded but no answer is forthcoming so far.

"Again, Sir, the Government have not done anything in the matter of co-operative manufacture. When they have given permission to the manufacture of ghee, dalda, etc., to landholders, like the Maharaja of Bobbili and Chellapalle, Birlas and Tatas who are Managing Directors of big concerns, who have given large sums to Congress Association, I do not know the reason why they have not given permission to the co-operative societies for the purpose of manufacturing certain articles which may be useful to the progress of the country. Only a few days ago, permission was given to a certain landholder in this Presidency to start a dalda factory. I ask, why did they not come to some arrangement with the co-operative movement to work this factory?"

"Again, Sir, we all know very well that there are very few houses available for occupation. The Government come forward with a Bill that if there is any vacancy in any house, they want first preference for themselves and then only others will be given permission. I ask, why not use the Co-operative Department in building more houses? What is the Government doing? When many of the Members on the Treasury Bench are the votaries of the co-operative movement—they are Presidents and Secretaries of Societies and Stores—I ask, why not use this department for starting a house-building scheme. I hope the Government will take all my remarks in the right manner."

* K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the cut motion moved on behalf of my party and in doing so, I emphasize and support every word that has been said by my hon. Friend, Mr. Moideen Kutty, about the food administration in the Malabar district. I do not wish to narrate before this House the various irregularities committed in the matter of formation of the co-operative societies and the election of the Directors thereof in Malabar, but I would invite the attention of the Hon. Premier to the fact that if the present state of affairs is allowed to continue in Malabar, it is inevitable that the hopes and expectations that the Government have about the food administration in the district should be frustrated owing to the way in which things are being carried on there. So far as the Muslim League party is concerned, they are never averse to co-operating with the Government in their schemes meant for public good. When Mr. Kapoor was put in charge of the food administration in the district, he wrote to me about the scheme that was introduced there and I told

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him that the Muslim League organization would be prepared to co-operate with him. Though I did not share the optimism of the officer about the success of the scheme, yet, I told him we were prepared to extend our hand of co-operation. This offer was not taken advantage of and in every possible and conceivable way, he tried to show his hostility to our points of view and managed to see that people representing the Muslim League group were not taken as Directors in any of the newly formed co-operative societies. Even from the beginning, we wrote to him that if in open election Muslim Directors would not be returned, he might exercise his power of nomination so that some Muslims may be appointed as Directors and the efforts of the Government in manning the food administration might prove more popular and successful. He did not accept the suggestion but issued a Press statement saying that nominations of Directors would not be made and that Directors would be elected by share-holders. The Moplah community was not averse to co-operation with the Government; they came forward and took a large number of shares in several societies with the result that in those societies there was an overwhelming majority of Muslim share-holders. When this became known to this officer, he discarded the principle of election in the case of such societies and resorted to nomination, though in the initial stages when we asked him to adopt the principle of nomination in order to prevent inequality and inequity to Muslims, he refused to do so. The result is that there are complaints from all parts of the district about irregularities committed in the election; and duly elected representatives have been replaced by nominated members and so on and so forth. I think, my hon. Friend Mr. Moideen Kutty's fears about the possibility of dangers and discontent continuing in the district on account of the attitude of this officer should be given due consideration by the Government and they should redress the same.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Pocker, drew the attention of the Hon. the Premier to a circular issued by this officer to retail shopkeepers, complaining that propaganda against Government's food policy was being carried on by a 'reactionary party' meaning thereby the Muslim League party. In fact, the Muslim League party does not want to create difficulties for the Government in the matter of food administration even though it has got serious differences with the Government about their policies and measures. On questions of food administration we are not going to create any difficulties and we are not prepared to do so. In spite of that, we are looked upon with suspicion and we are not enabled to co-operate with the authorities at least so far as Malabar is concerned. The Hon. Premier has kindly promised to go and set right the irregularities. The experiences narrated by my hon. Friend, Mr. Moideen Kutty, are not the result of any hearsay information but they are matters of our own personal knowledge and experience and therefore should certainly deserve serious consideration by the Government.

"Then with regard to the general policy of the Department, I wish to tell the Government that instead of trying to multiply

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credit societies, you should give greater encouragement to producers' societies; and propaganda should be carried by the Department to popularise the co-operative movement in rural areas just as the Agricultural Department is doing or ought to be doing. At present, the Co-operative Department is lacking very much in propaganda. They should try to bring home to the people in rural parts the benefits of co-operation; so, I would respectfully urge upon the Government to issue instructions to the Co-operative Department to see that more propaganda is carried on in the rural areas by explaining the advantage of the producers' societies more than the credit societies. It will also be greatly advantageous if the Co-operative Department could work hand in hand with the Agricultural Department and bring home to the minds of the people the benefits of both co-operation and agriculture."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, while supporting the cut motion, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Minister for Industries the following suggestions for being given effect to. For instance, as suggested by my previous speakers that if industries are started and run on co-operative basis including stores, banks, etc., it will go a long way to improve the condition of the people. Of course the activities of the department are at present very limited and if at all, there is any department which is highly corrupt, I can say it is the Co-operative Department. Moreover, in the Co-operative Department, the officers can do anything and everything and they can even override the powers vested on them under the Act. I have not got the time to deal with the things in detail except to make mention of that fact that if there is to be any change in the Co-operative Act to be brought about, the Minister will, I hope, take this point into consideration and see that the defect is rectified.

"In regard to procurement of food-stuffs, I would like that both procurement and distribution should be entrusted to co-operative societies; because they will run more efficiently than any other agency. Of course, I have to point out that the administration of most of the present day co-operative societies is not satisfactory; they are only run on party basis. However, since the co-operative societies are already working in many places, if the food procurement business is also entrusted to them, I am sure it can be done more effectively than by anybody else.

"In this connection, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that a co-operative society in Kistna district which was certified by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies that it was a well-conducted one and that no misappropriation and things of that sort were noticed in it, when it applied for licence for trading in foodgrains, it has been refused the licence, whereas a black-marketeer was given the licence. I would suggest, therefore, that such a practice should be discontinued and whenever any co-operative society applies for trading in food-grains, it should be permitted to do so.

"Then, one word about Weavers' Co-operative Societies. Nowadays most of the weavers are anxious to carry on their business in life with the help of these co-operative societies.

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I know the existence of a Government Order discouraging such co-operative societies on the plea of lack of yarn. When the weavers themselves want to run co-operative societies, I do not know why there should be any objection on the part of Government to grant their request. I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister for Labour to see that this rule is amended and whether there is proper supply of yarn or not, if people apply for the formation of co-operative societies for weavers, they should be encouraged to do so; this will also put an end to black-marketing to a greater extent and help in the distribution of cloth also. I suggest the rationing of hand-loom cloth also. If this also should be introduced along with the weavers' co-operative societies, they will go a long way to carry through the rationing system.

"I find that a sum of Rs. 6.9 crores has been provided for State Trading Schemes. I suggest that the activities regarding this should be entrusted to the Co-operative Department so that it may be carried on effectively."

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Mr. Speaker, I congratulate ^{3 p.m.} you on giving me this opportunity to move this Demand and reply to the points raised during the course of the debate. I felt almost nervous and unhappy that this Demand may not be reached at all. You must realize that the greatest demand in this country is for co-operation not only among all the people of this country but all people on the face of the earth. You may remember that between 1937 and 1939, when the Congress Government was in power, they went into the condition of the co-operative movement and a Committee on Co-operation was appointed to go into it. You were a distinguished member of that Committee. That Committee submitted a very edifying report but it was subsequently shelved as we had to go out of office. I may tell you that this Government will take up the thread and proceed from where we left and we hope to see that many of the recommendations of that Committee will be put into effect. In fact, the Committee had drafted a Bill recommending it to Government. With the co-operation of hon. Members of this House, especially those who took part in that Committee and who were appointed to that Committee as experts of the movement, and with their advice, we shall very soon consider in the first instance whether the recommendations can be put into effect without enacting any legislation and whether a bill for the purpose is necessary. This matter is engaging the attention of Government. Not only this Report is before us. Hon. Members might be aware of the Report of the All-India Planning Committee—it was not a Congress Planning Committee but it was a Committee in which not only Congress and Non-Congress Governments took part but also State Governments—we shall have the benefit of that report in shaping the destinies of the co-operative movement in this country. Hon. Members have made many suggestions during the course of the debate and several improvements have been suggested. I thank them for their suggestions and I assure every one of them that they will be taken into active consideration. My hon. Friend Mr. Maideen Kutti referred to matters in Malabar.

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I hope that when the Leader of the House replies, he will feel satisfied. So far as the portfolio is concerned, I can assure every hon. Member that every measure will be taken to see that the co-operation of all sections not only in this House but the co-operation of all people will be taken in shaping the future of the co-operative movement in this country. But I may tell you that unless there is real co-operation—not merely paying lip service to it, not merely thinking in a sort of way about it—unless there is active co-operation, the movement cannot succeed. My hon. Friends referred to the fact that there is not much Muslim representation in co-operative societies. I say that the endeavour of all of us is to see that each family whether it be in the towns or in the villages should be represented in the co-operative movement. Such a step would be a solvent of most of our ills that emanate from communalism. Communalism and co-operation can never go together. The success of the movement is assured provided you in the Opposition, we and all agree to work the movement and see that every family has a part in it. If it is so, we shall very soon forget communalism, as co-operation runs on anti-communal lines, not for party benefit but for the benefit of all people in the country. My hon. Friend Mr. Salam said that there were not many Muslim Co-operative Societies. I would like to name a few of them whose names I can find in my papers. They are the Anantapur Better Living Co-operative Society, Cuddapah Municipal Muslim High School Students' Co-operative Society and others and there are altogether fourteen of them. I hope I have already made the position clear that our endeavour should be to see that every family is represented in the co-operative movement. It has been said that the co-operative movement has not made much progress and that the Congress Government has not taken any steps to improve the condition of things. I have already said that we mean taking up the Report and on the basis of that Report and the Report of the All-India Planning Committee and the suggestions that have been offered, action will be taken. There is not much room to flatter ourselves with in regard to our progress in the co-operative movement. We have only accomplished 5 per cent and yet 95 per cent requires to be done. I take some credit for having been the Minister in charge of Co-operation in the last Congress Government. Our ideals are high; our idea is that in India there should be a sort of co-operative state. I am sure with the co-operation of the leaders of this country, it will be possible to achieve that objective. Regarding the suggestions of my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkateswarlu, I assure him that I am a great believer in co-operative societies; I am not a believer in middlemen; I am not a believer in Marwaris—be they of the town or the village—I am not referring to Mr. Town (laughter)—wherever they may be. I do believe personally in socialism and nationalization. Personally I feel that the co-operative movement is a half-way house between capitalism and socialism. I believe the time may come when, just like the zamindaris are sought to be liquidated, people may say that all the great capitalists must be liquidated and make way for socialism."

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MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, may I ask if the views of the Minister on nationalization are his own or that of the Government?"

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"That is the opinion, Sir, of my humble self and I do not wish to say anything about the views of the Government. But I may tell that this Government or any other Government that may come into existence will sooner or later tend towards nationalization and socialization."

"It has been said that the co-operative movement has devoted much attention to credit side and not so much to non-credit activities. Mr. Salam referred to co-operative housing and so forth. I have here solid facts and figures to prove that that assertion about too much attention to credit activity is not correct. I have got details in my possession which will prove that what we began in 1937, the spirit of it, has been to some extent put into operation by the Adviser Government and I can assure you that we can grow from strength to strength and the time will soon arrive when the co-operative movement will be of the highest benefit to the people of this Province. In the matter of procurement and distribution of food I believe and I think the Government also believe that distribution and procurement should be in the hands of co-operative societies. But here too there is great need of associating the people with the movement and hence everybody should make it a point to be in the co-operative movement. This cannot be done by means of compulsion; nobody can be compelled to take interest in co-operative affairs; it must be done by propaganda and persuasion. Therefore, I am appealing to all on both sides of the House to see that the movement spreads."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Minister has been making frequent reference to every family being interested in the co-operative movement by being represented in co-operative societies. The question has been mainly about representation on the directorate."

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"If every family has a member in the co-operative society, the question of representation on the directorate is solved. With due respect to what has been stated by Mr. Moideen Kutti, I may say that in co-operative societies in Malabar where Muslim population is in a majority, there will be a majority of Muslim directors and there the Hindus will be in a minority. Similarly also if the Muslims take interest and every family is represented in the co-operative society, they will also have a place in the directorate. It is the purpose of the Government to broad-base the movement. They have therefore introduced the principle of multi-purpose scheme in the co-operative movement and that aspect will be looked after with very great care."

"Sir, I shall now give some figures which will show that these co-operative societies are doing something. There are fourteen fruit growers' co-operative societies in the Province. The total value of fruits marketed by them during the year 1945-46

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amounts to Rs. 16.27 lakhs. There are 26 land colonization societies, of which 23 are under the administrative control of the department. Then there are again co-operative land reclamation societies, under which 1,000 acres in the Cauvery-Mettur project area have been reclaimed. So also there are 13 sugarcane growers' co-operative societies and five unions in the Province. They help the sugar factory situated within their jurisdiction to get adequate supplies of cane. There are co-operative milk societies; today their membership is about 18,000 and odd; their number is 272, and the business done by them during 1945-46, comes to Rs. 69.60 lakhs. Then I come to the co-operative weavers' societies. The Madras Provincial Handloom Weavers' Association is the central organization. The number of weavers' societies in 1941-42 is 336; the value of goods sold in 1941-42 is Rs. 30.34 lakhs and that in 1945-46 is Rs. 344.14 lakhs.

"Then, Sir, so far as co-operative societies of weavers are concerned, I can assure my friends who referred to it, that this Government is most anxious to see that all the weavers get into the various co-operative societies. For instance, our desire is to see that all the five lakhs of weavers who possess ration cards should get into their co-operative societies, so that we may be in a position to deliver the yarn to the co-operative societies and take cloth from them and give them to the co-operative societies for distribution. That is our desire. Today there are 50,000 weavers in this co-operative society. If we can get all the five lakhs of weavers into these co-operative societies, it is indeed a great work that we shall be achieving.

"As regards housing, to which Mr. Salam referred, I can assure him that the Congress Government have been trying to push up the co-operative building societies. There are 115 co-operative building societies in the Province with a membership of four thousand, and their paid-up share capital is seven lakhs. Government are trying to help in building a number of houses which are necessary at present; but unfortunately materials are not available. But if we get the materials, I can assure the House, there will be a number of co-operative housing societies throughout the length and breadth of this Province. So also, we are trying to see that we have co-operative societies for industrial purposes, as well as societies for industrial workers. I am sorry I have no time to deal with other aspects. As regards consumers' co-operative societies I may say in 1945-46 there were 1,300 co-operative stores with an equal number of branches and depots which distributed food-grains and other essential articles to the value of 25 crores as against 25 lakhs turnover on the eve of the world-war. So in every aspect of the movement I beg to submit that there has not only been improvement, but the improvement has been so good that it is encouraging. I am a great constitutionalist, and so I do not want to encroach on the time of the House, and so I would appeal to the members of the Opposition, particularly Mr. Moideen Kutty to withdraw his cut motion. I can assure him that his suggestions will be considered."

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* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, in view of the satisfactory and eloquent reply of the Hon. Minister for Labour and Industries and the assurance from the Hon. Premier, and since we do not want to non-co-operate on co-operation (laughter) I withdraw my cut motion."

The cut was by leave of the House withdrawn.

The Demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXI—INDUSTRIES.

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

'that on the recommendation of His Excellency the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 1,16,59,400 in respect of the head Industries. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 2,64,074.'"

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the cut motion standing in my name, namely—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,16,59,400 for Industries by Rs. 100.'

"Sir, we have just now heard a very eloquent address from the Minister for Industries and Labour on Co-operation. He has, in his own eloquent manner, appealed to all parties of the House for co-operation as far as co-operation is concerned. But I am here to ask for his co-operation so far as the proper administration of the Industries department is concerned. I know that over this department presides a gentleman who has a lot of experience, who knows not only the work but also the conditions prevailing in this Province. He is not a visionary, who will speak on nationalism and breathe the air of non-co-operation at the same time. He knows, as he himself stated, that in the matter of elected directorate in co-operative societies the majority community in an area will constitute the majority. I think things are not so similar so far as the Industries department is concerned. What happened in the past, before he took up office, is a tale of woe indeed. During the Advisers' regime most of the Advisers happened to be non-Indians. But the Adviser who was in charge of this department was an Indian. I suppose he is a patriotic Indian. During his regime, what happened is that no Muslim was recognized to have any claim for any industry so far as industrial development is concerned. All attempts of Muslim enterprise were rejected and it was manoeuvred to keep them out. That was the state of affairs then. I hope in the industrial development that is taking place here under this Government the

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Minister will remember that every community should have a proper share, as only then there will be equal economic development.

"The Hon. Minister has under his portfolio the production of khaddar. We have said something about it in the recent debate. I want to know from the Minister, how much money the Government of Madras will have to pay and what sum the wearers of khaddar will have to pay? For I do not know whether all the people of this Province will have to pay for it or whether the wearer of khaddar only will have to pay to a large extent. I want to know how the entire cost of khaddar is to be met; I want to know whether those who do not believe in it will be asked to bear the cost of production. I leave that point there.

"So far as the development of other industries are concerned, I want to know whether the Hon. Minister has been a party to certain by-laws which would come up before this House to-morrow. Has he considered to what extent it will affect the plywood industry now working in the West Coast? I ask the Hon. Minister what he has done and what he seeks to do by way of providing raw material, technical personnel and also machinery in order to see that plywood industry is encouraged and developed in this Province. Already certain industries in this Province are in the hands of multi-millionaires from outside, instead of being in our own hands. I understand the Government of Madras has been responsible for giving licence for starting an industry in Kurnool. There ought to be some amount of morality in this respect. Economic morality is an important thing. If Northern India people like Birlas could take away the trade and commerce and industry of this Province, there is no meaning in our saying that the Europeans have been exploiting us. If we say that Europeans have been exploiting us, we have in the same way to object to the exploitation by Birlas and others of the industrial sphere of this Presidency.

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"I will next refer to the labour in this Province. On account of labour difficulties, there have been many strikes in the Province. My Hon. Friend, who has been a champion of labour, knows how best to help labour in this Province, and I am sure, he is thinking of ways and means of solving the labour problems. I have put before him the need for legislation. I should like him to give a helping hand to labour in this Province which is very adversely affected on account of the conditions under which they have to work. I know, Sir, that he is an experienced gentleman, who has a correct idea and correct value of the position, and I am sure he will soon see that all these things are attended to. Of course, he may reply to all these points and the eloquence will be there. But taking away all the words, the reality will be behind that."

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, it is rather unfortunate that an important Demand which affects the industrial and commercial prosperity of this Province as a whole should be assigned such a meagre quota of time. I wish that it had come up for a full-dress debate when not only members on this side, but also members on the other side, could have taken

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part in it. However, speaking on the Demand as such, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour a very important matter, namely, the question of employment of child labour in beedi factories and hotels. As long ago as 1930, on the floor of the Council, an amendment to the Factory Act was brought in with a view to bringing under its operation the beedi factories and other hotels of this Province, so that child labour might be prevented therefrom. I wish that the Hon. Minister takes up that question and see that children of tender ages are prevented from going into beedi factories, and that they are sent to schools.

"Secondly, Sir, another important matter on which I would like to invite the attention of the Hon. Minister is with regard to the hides and skins trade of this Province. The Hon. Minister must know that this industry is the premier industry of this Province. Although it does not actually come under the jurisdiction of his portfolio, I would, in the interests of the Province, request him to see that so far as the exports of hides and skins are concerned, only manufactured leather is permitted to be exported from this Province, because only if that is done it will help the industry, and also the trade. Otherwise the industry will languish and die in this Province.

"Thirdly, I would refer to another important question, namely, the supply of yarn to the handloom weavers of this Province. I have already, on this very important question, spoken on the floor of this Assembly, when there was discussion with regard to the statement of the Hon. Premier. Have the Government instituted an enquiry into the statement of productions submitted by the mills working in this Province? I wish that Government makes an enquiry into this and see that all the yarn that is produced in the mills is actually brought out and distributed to the starving and poor handloom weavers of this Province. This is a very important matter on which, I hope, the Minister-in-charge will devote his full attention.

"Fourthly, I would invite his attention to the recent Madras Handloom Cloth Price Control Order, 1946. I was one of those who have been urging for the introduction of price control of handloom products in this Province. But I never thought that that control would come in the form as is adumbrated in the Madras Handloom Cloth Price Control Order, 1946. Producers have been given a very big margin. So long as you are not going to control the wages of the weavers, which is a very important problem, I do not think that this order is going to bring down the price of handloom products in this Province. Therefore, Sir, provision should be immediately made to see that control is introduced on wages also, so that we may get handloom products at reasonable rates. Secondly the 14 per cent profit shown to the producers—at present producers are the weavers themselves—is very great. That is being given in addition to the wages that are already paid to these weavers. It can be reduced to some extent and that may be added on to the

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wholesale dealers. When I met the Hon. Minister, he said, he was determined to abolish all the middlemen, because they are the people doing black-market business. I quite agree with him. I would at the same time say that the profit that is given to the wholesalers is very limited; and secondly trade cannot be carried on without wholesalers. I am sure that this order is going to paralyse the handloom trade of this province, and the handloom industry on which the prosperity and happiness of nearly 5 lakhs of weavers—I must say families—depend. Therefore, you must see that this industry is carried on to prosperity by allowing the handloom trade also to prosper. If you are not prepared to have a number of wholesale dealers, at least make provision for two wholesale dealers. As long as you are going to limit the margin of profit with regard to wholesale trade, there is no meaning in saying that you must have only one wholesale dealer or two wholesale dealers. You can limit the margin of profit for the wholesalers, and as I said, you may increase the 4 per cent to any reasonable percentage, and allow more than one wholesaler to carry on the trade.

“Lastly, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister the question of export of handloom products of this Province. Though this order has exempted the exporters of handloom products to Ceylon, it has not exempted the exporters of handloom products to countries like Burma and to provinces like Bengal and Bombay. Secondly, no indication has been shown in the order as to where these handloom exporters could purchase their goods. Provision should also be made to see that these handloom exporters are allowed to purchase these goods at reasonable rates so that the industry and the trade may go on. The Hon. Minister is aware that the handloom industry of this province has prospered and has grown in importance chiefly because of the handloom export trade. If you are going to strangle free export, you are strangulating the trade and thereby strangulating the industry on which the entire prosperity of more than 5 lakhs of families of this province depend.

“With this appeal to the Hon. Minister to reconsider his order, I support the cut motion.”

* P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In supporting the cut motion moved by my party I would impress upon the Hon. Minister for Industries the very serious yarn situation that prevails in Malabar. Representations were made to him, deputations waited upon him and memorials were sent to him, but with no result. I am afraid they have not been looked into by the Hon. Minister for I cannot expect him to be so silent and inactive. He has not even cared to visit my district after he took up the responsibility of office to find out the truth of so much that has been stated in all those memorials. I beg to submit, Sir, that the position is very serious. Two years ago on a representation made to the Provincial Textile Commissioner, he was pleased to visit my district and an account was taken of the requirements of our districts. It was fixed at 3,000 bales of yarn per month

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by the Provincial Textile Commissioner as the quota for Malabar district. But when he came back to Madras only 1,600 bales of yarn were actually allotted to the district. Ever since that allotment, Malabar district has not been receiving more than 800 bales. Out of a total requirement of 3,000 bales we have not received anything more than 800 bales per month all these two years. Even in the distribution of this limited quota that has been allowed to Malabar, there is a discrimination in favour of the bigger against the weaker. There are about 5 handloom factories, 3 of which are in Calicut and two in Cannanore and these factories are given all that they want. Their requirements are supplied in full and supplies are made to them direct by the Harvey Mills at Madura. But the smaller factories and the other weavers who require yarn are asked to take whatever is left as balance. Out of the 800 bales that are given to them, these five factories in Malabar consume nearly 300 bales or so and only very little is given to the other factories. This discrimination in favour of the more important factories and against the smaller factories must be put a stop to, immediately. The scarcity must be shared equitably and proportionately between all. It cannot be a scarcity that affects the poor and does not affect the rich. This scarcity has created labour problems of a very great magnitude in Malabar. The weavers have worked only for 4 or 5 days in the month, and this is adding very greatly to the already prevalent labour unrest in our district.

“A further community that has been affected by this yarn scarcity is the fishermen community, and that is a very peculiar community in West Coast. I understand from the textile authorities of Malabar that a small quota has been allotted to them, but as in the case of most weavers this quota is also not supplied to them regularly. The pitloom weaver is the third-class of people who are also affected. The pitloom weaver has been left uncared for by the Textile Department. I should like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that the entire textile administration is the most corrupt administration in this province. Sir, in the Textile Department there is a peculiar feature. In all other departments you find corruption is highest at the lower level but in the Textile Department it is peculiar in that corruption is highest at the top. (Hear, hear.)

“With regard to the development of industries in Malabar there was a proposal published in papers before the Ministry took charge, for a vanaspati factory, to be started at Calicut. But I find no provision is made here for the vanaspati factory. A vanaspati factory with an initial outlay of sixty lakhs of rupees should be started in the capital town of Malabar district. I would urge upon the Hon. Minister that Malabar is a place that can be very easily developed industrially and that every effort must be made for the industrial development of our district. In fact, being far away from the centre of administration, my district has been neglected in almost everything so far and I have been compelled to get up here every time to speak about the requirements of my district regarding food and industry, etc.

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"I will be failing in my duty if I do not say a word about the poor beedi workers who are also not receiving their minimum requirement in yarn. I would request the Hon. Minister to take the earliest opportunity to visit my district and study the situation."

3-45 p.m. * SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this most important demand comes at a fag end of our discussion and the time allotted also is very limited. First of all I must congratulate the Ministry for starting the Industrial Finance Corporation and I hope that through this Corporation there will be full-fledged development of industries throughout our Province. Throughout our country, there is no industry worth mentioning. The industrial development of our country is very unsatisfactory and it is particularly so in Madras. For instance, take the Andhra area. There are only one or two factories worth mentioning in Nellimarla and other places, and all the rest are very small factories. It is really a pitiable state that there is not one big factory, and not even a single industry has been developed in the Andhra. The possibilities of developing industries in Andhra are very great. I request the Hon. Minister for Industries to see that there is proper development of industries throughout our Presidency. For instance, in Rayalaseema textile industry can be developed. Up till now no attempt has been made, and I request the Hon. Minister to develop through co-operative societies the textile industries both weaving and spinning. Moreover, there is not even a single drug industry in our Presidency worth mentioning, and the Government must take steps to see that this industry is also developed. I stand for the industrial development of our country, but at the same time I request the Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour to see that the workers in industries are paid living wages. The grant of at least a minimum living wage must be insisted upon before giving permission to start new industries. The Government must make a provision that, only if a specified living wage is given to the worker, permission will be given to start industries. Unless this is done, I am sure no amount of repression or threats can suppress the unrest. It is not the creation of an individual or a party. It is the economic situation that has created this unrest. I request the Treasury Benches to note this fact and chalk out their policy, instead of shouting against individuals or parties.

"As far the Khadi scheme, two crores have been allotted. I have got my own doubts regarding the successful working of the Khadi scheme. I prefer that these two crores are utilized for the industrial development of our Province. It can much better be utilized to improve the supply position of cloth.

"As regards the policy, it is high time that there is nationalization of industries. Most of the hon. Members here are advocating the nationalisation of industries, and everybody has voiced his opinion regarding that. There should be nationalization of industries particularly at a time like this when we see that there is too much labour unrest and when the people are put to very great

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difficulty. There are members who accuse the labour for all this trouble. They are simply accusing the working classes. I say that they have not studied the problem deeply. As a matter of fact, the strikes are due to the economic situation. When the demands of the strikers have not been complied with, the strikes go on and the people suffer. What is the solution? I suggest that the Government must boldly come forward and take over and run the industries themselves, see that the workers demands are met and that there is industrial peace throughout the province. That is the only way of ensuring industrial peace. Particularly in our province, all the textile mills must be immediately taken over and run by the State. Then only we can solve the problem of yarn shortage. Members who have already spoken have referred to the scarcity of yarn. The yarn supplied is not at all sufficient. How are you going to solve this problem? Not by the Khadi scheme. If the mills are taken over by the State and made to work properly and if proper wages are paid to the workers, we can solve this problem. To supply enough cloth to our people, for the payment of proper wages to the workers, and to augment the revenue of the State, the industries must be nationalized. The railways also must be completely nationalized in the sense that their full control is in Indian hands.

"Everybody is agreed that there must be a proper supply of electricity for industrial development. In our province, electrical projects are particularly few, though there are possibilities for developing electricity. Not a single possibility has been availed of. The Government must see that electricity is fully developed. Then only we can supply cheap electric power to the people, and there will be proper industrial development.

"Only one more point, and with this I will close my speech. In Madura district, there is the Kallar Reclamation Scheme which is being run today under police guidance. The police should not be put in charge of this scheme, but it should be handed over to some other department. The Criminal Tribes Act must be removed, and the people must be allowed to go free. With these words, I support the cut motion."

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Within the short space of time that I have at my disposal, I will be able to do only bare justice to the subject on hand. So far as the policy of this Government in the matter of industrialization is concerned, I can only say that this Government, along with the other Governments, as a member of the All-India Planning Committee wherein experts representing all interests are there, will follow its programme. I may just give a short history of the organization in a minute. It took nearly two years to go into every aspect of human life in India—industries, labour, education and so forth—and establish 29 sub-committees to deal with all matters. I will only say that very soon you will have the benefit and the privilege of reading not only the 29 reports of the sub-committees, but also a consolidated report of the National Planning Committee as a whole. At the first meeting of the Conference of Ministers

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of Industries held in Delhi on the 2nd and 3rd October 1938, the first resolution passed was as follows:—

"This Conference of the Ministers of Industries is of the opinion that the problems of poverty and unemployment of National defence and of the economic regeneration in general cannot be solved without industrialization. As a step towards such industrialization, a comprehensive scheme of national planning should be formulated. This scheme should provide for the development of heavy key industries, medium scale industries and cottage industries, keeping in view our national requirements, the resources of the country, as also the peculiar circumstances prevailing in the country."

"The National Planning Committee has defined its objective, and it is the objective of this Government as well in the matter of industrialization. The object of a comprehensive national planning is to improve the well-being of the community principally by intensifying the economic development of the community concerned on an all-round basis in an orderly, systematic manner so as to observe a due proportion between the various forms of producing new wealth, its equitable distribution among the members of the community and to secure such adjustment between the interests of the producers and the consumers, individuals and the community collectively, the present and the successive generations, and maintaining a proper balance between these several interests. No doubt, Sir, it is impossible to build up a plan for a country where there is subjection, where there is exploitation in favour of foreign interests. I hope very soon, with the co-operation of all co-operative and non-co-operative elements that this country will be in a position where they will be able to build up industries suited to the genius and traditions of all the communities in this country of ours."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir, the Hon. Minister speaks of production and equitable distribution. Does he also have in view the catering of consumers goods to the other nations of the world; I mean exports."

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I do not wish to speak about that big subject. I am sure that, when the National Planning Committee comes out with its report we will find that. I do not wish at the present moment and in the short space of time at my disposal to commit myself to anything about that problem. But I am sure that problem will be given due consideration."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I wanted to know whether it is the ideal of this Government to make this province only self-sufficient. That is to produce only articles that are required for this province or to produce articles required for other provinces and counties also."

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Certainly, Sir, I agree."

"First to make this country self-sufficient and then to export if necessary. So far as India is concerned certainly it is the ideal."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I wanted to know whether it is not desirable in the interests of this province to develop export trade also?"

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* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"As I have already said it is a big subject. That is a matter to be considered. I shall read only a few more sentences from page 16 of the Handbook of the National Planning Committee. The Congress has laid down in its Karachi resolution on fundamental rights that the State shall own or control key industries and services, mineral resources, railways, waterways, shipping and other means of public transport, I merely read some of the quotations in order to explain to you, Sir, and through you to the members of this House the objects, views and principles that this Government are having in the matter of industrial planning."

"I am glad my friend Mr. Venkateswarlu referred to Finance Corporation. That will soon come into being. I am sure that will help to a great extent in the regeneration of industries. This Province has great mineral resources for exploitation and I do hope that we shall take time by the forelock and exploit the various minerals in the interests of the people of this Province. There are greater possibilities for starting mica industries, ceramic industries, encouraging and furthering the chemical industry, leather industry and so forth. The department of planning is going into the details of all these and very soon I hope to present to the members of this house and the public of this Province an industrial brochure which will contain all the information that will be of value in improving the industries of this Province. I must make it quite clear that merely starting large industries, key industries and medium industries will not be enough. I have estimated that even if India were to become self-sufficient especially in the matter of big industries, it will only provide employment for a crore of families that is five crores of people among the forty crores of people of this country. If India is to be developed in a proper manner we will have to provide food for the forty crores of human beings that exist in this great country of ours. We have to develop, not only to encourage but develop, cottage industries and village industries in an active manner. Agriculture may be a paying proposition today but five years ago it was not paying. Therefore I am referring to things five years ago in order to ensure against such a condition being repeated. Agriculturists must have something subsidiary to fall back upon for purchasing other articles of value. It can only be done through the organization of village industries. Wherever it is possible to have electric power we should provide it so that the village industries would be in a position to compete favourably with the big industries and thus the agriculturist should be provided with a subsidiary occupation for additional income. With this motive we are trying to explore all possibilities and in fact we are thinking in terms of industrial research of cottage industries. We are also thinking in terms of licensing industries so that they may not crop up like mushrooms and destroy the industry in the end. We have today as many as twenty industrial schools. We are going to establish polytechniques and we may produce a number of young men who know the technique of industries."

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"I must refer to a charge that had been levelled against this Government for granting a licence to Birlas. It is not we that got them the licence. They got it through the Government of India. Afterwards they approached the previous Government here and they wanted to build up an industry in Guntur. The previous Government suggested to them that they should erect their factory at Nandyal or at Kurnool. But thereafter these people went away. They were about to start a factory at Sandur. I am merely giving general facts because I have no time to go to details and state the conditions which led us to permit them to start this factory. It is my duty and the duty of this Government to explain the circumstances. They were about to establish a factory at Sandur which is only 30 miles from Bellary. There was a protest that if that factory was started at Sandur there would be difficulty for the Bellary factory that was about to start. We said to the Bellary people that it does not lie with us to protest and obstruct the building of the factory at Sandur. We did realize the loss which this factory was sure to incur. And further we also realized many other matters which made us feel that it will be more profitable for us to permit the factory at Kurnool. Otherwise they will be in a position to take away our raw material and compete with us in every possible manner without any conditions. In this connexion I would like to refer to the considerations which weighed with the Government in ultimately allowing Birlas:

(1) that there is no law to prevent Birlas from using the produce of this Province and competing with the Vanaspathi factories in the Province, if the factory is located at Sandur;

(2) that if, on the other hand, they are allowed to remain in the Province they can be persuaded to work with the other factories in regard to matters of common interests such as organization of sales;

(3) that the location of a factory in the state would deprive the Province and the British India of a large part of the income-tax payable by the company;

(4) that the Province will lose every year over a lakh of rupees in the shape of sales tax;

(5) that the Province will lose the benefit of employment which the factories' location in the Province especially in a poor tract like Kurnool will result in;

(6) that the Ceded districts were not able to raise sufficient capital inside these districts for the Karnatak Vegetable Oils and Refineries, Ltd.;

(7) that it is in the best interests of the Province to establish a large Vanaspathi industry and export hardened fat instead of groundnuts.

(8) that Messrs. Birla Bros. should start a new Joint Stock Company for the establishment of the factory and give a preference to applicants of this Province in the allotment of shares. In fact we insisted on 40 per cent of the shares being raised in the Province if not in the Ceded districts themselves;

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(9) that they should assist the smaller factories by technical assistance or in the organization of sales.'

"These are the various considerations which weighed with the Government in allowing Birlas to locate their factory at Kurnool. I think that an explanation is necessary because my esteemed friend Mr. Hamid Khan has raised this question. I know the seriousness with which he raised the question.

"Now I come to labour conditions. I do not think it is necessary for me to labour hard on the labour matter. The policy of this Congress Government is only a continuation of policy of the previous Congress Government. We believe in internal settlement of disputes. We believe that the right course to settle the disputes is by the employers' and the workers' representatives coming together. If they fail in their attempt to secure settlement of their differences, there is the Labour Commissioner who travels almost 28 days in the month throughout the length and breadth of the Province. He goes about and tries to settle a dispute. If even that fails, in fact I myself put my hands sometimes and try to see if I can use my influence with my comrades to settle the dispute. Even if this fails we have recourse to the section of the Trade Disputes Act by appointing Boards of Enquiry and Boards of Conciliation. If the employers and the workers would not agree with the Boards of Conciliation we felt that an arbitrator should be appointed and we have been doing so. About 95 disputes were settled during the last three months and we have to settle in an amicable manner the disputes that still exist. I would only say that the decisions were generally accepted by the parties. This is all that we can do. But at the same time the Government hope to introduce labour legislation and I can assure you, Sir, that I and my Government are equally interested in the condition of workers. We have to see that the workers secure their fundamental rights. Otherwise no capitalist has a right to exist. It is better this fact is realized here and now. Unless the employers realize this hard fact, that unless they consider the workers as partners in the industry, and unless they are in a position to give best service conditions to the workers, no industry can get on today. The sooner the employers realize this the better. But at the same time I must tell my comrades and friends to be very careful in the way in which they run their trade unions. There is no use of exasperation. They are exasperating themselves or exasperating the employers. They must be in a position to sit at a common table and settle the differences. I should even say that when a popular Government is there prepared at all times to effect every settlement why should they talk of strikes, I do not understand. I want my friends to know, Sir, through you that this Government stands for the workers, that this Government stands for the poor. Otherwise this Government has no business to exist. This much I can assure you, Sir, and through you the members of this House and the public of this country. We are thinking in terms of labour legislation—legislation in regard to shop assistants, beedi workers where they do not come under the

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Factories Act, and Agricultural labourers. We are thinking in terms of minimum wages about which my hon. Friend Mr. Town referred. We are indeed thinking in terms of comprehensive legislation and Trade Union Legislation. I may state in this connexion that now that the national government has come into existance we shall be very glad if they themselves take up labour legislation both for the Provinces and the centre as labour is in the concurrent list, so that there may not be any difference between province and province. These are some of the things that I wanted to tell the House and I can assure the House that we are alive to our sense of responsibility both in the matter of industrial regeneration of the country and the safeguarding of industrial workers. I request the mover of the cut motion to withdraw."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I enquire whether the Hon. Minister has to say anything about the development of the west coast Industries—plywood, etc.?"

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" Certainly. Those matters will be gone into and most probably there will be perhaps two plywood industries."

ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know the qualifications of the new Deputy Director of Industries?"

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" I only say that his qualification is excellent. During the last congress ministry he was deputed to Japan to study village and cottage industries, for about six or eight months. On arrival he presented a report which was not published. Subsequently he was put in jail. With the experience that he has he will be useful in developing the cottage and village industries of this Province."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I may add that before this House adjourns, the scheme of cottage industry will be placed before this House. From that it will be known what that gentleman is like."

* P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will there be any improvement in the yarn position in Malabar?"

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" We shall see what could be done."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXII—CINCHONA AND FISHERIES.

4.15 P.M. THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I beg to move—

'that on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 47,91,600 in respect of the head Cinchona and Fisheries. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 2,22,098.'

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" This demand is made up of two items and the particulars of each are given in the Budget Memorandum."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Mr. Venkateswarlu will now move this cut motion. I hope he will finish his speech in three minutes."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving the cut motion standing in my name, namely, *to reduce the allotment of Rs. 47,91,600 for Cinchona and Fisheries by Rs. 100*; I should like to say only three sentences and would not take up even the three minutes allotted to me. Sir, proper attention is not bestowed upon the development of fisheries. There are so many tanks in this Province in which we can develop fisheries, but they have not been looked into. By developing fisheries, the problem of food can be solved and the problem of the mosquitoes can also be solved at the same time.

" Secondly, Sir, the development of fisheries will also help to solve the problem of manure which is at present so essential for agricultural purposes. Hence I request the Government to see that fisheries are developed on sound and proper lines."

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member has made my task very easy. All the useful suggestions which he has made will be deeply considered by the Government. The Government are aware of the importance of fisheries, particularly in its relation to the food problem. The several improvements which are proposed to be effected have been stated from time to time. Some commitments have already been made by the previous Government. We shall also look into them. The present Government will be able to announce a more definite and a more comprehensive policy when they get into the matter. In the meantime, I request the hon. Member to withdraw his cut motion."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Sir, I beg to withdraw my cut motion."

The cut motion was, by the leave of the House, withdrawn. The Demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXIII—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

'that on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sums as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 94,61,700 in respect of the head Miscellaneous Departments. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 5,17,781.'

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving my cut motion, namely, *'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 94,61,700 for Miscellaneous Departments by Rs. 100'*. I should like to bring to the notice of the House that under this demand a provision of Rs. 1.7 lakhs has been

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made for scholarships for Backward classes and communities. I think, Sir, that this Rs. 1.7 lakhs is not at all sufficient. Scholarships must be given to all those who are really poor and deserving, to whatever community they belong. That is why I want to suggest that this should be named as 'scholarships for the poor and deserving', so that all those who are poor and deserving can have proper educational facilities. Even though we may give scholarships to them, unless facilities by way of free food and free books are given to them, the boys of the Backward communities will not have any temptation to attend schools.

"The next thing I want to refer to is Harijan uplift. Of course, I know that a sum of Rs. 1 crore has been set apart for this purpose. Everybody knows that the Harijans are very backward both in their education and in their economic status. No doubt, they should be given educational facilities. But the more important thing, viz., to elevate them from their present state and make them realize that they are in no way inferior to other communities is to give them facilities to improve their economic position. For that purpose, the Government should come forward and distribute all their waste lands, porambokes and all cultivable lands to the Harijans and they must be encouraged to form co-operative societies and co-operative colonies for cultivating and developing those lands. In that way their economic position can be improved. The Government should also see that they do not distribute lands to big landholders and to members of other communities and that those people should not be allowed to stand in the way of Harijans getting such lands. Applications from those people for porambokes and other lands should not be considered. Unless this is done and unless their economic status is raised, the Harijans will not feel that they are on a level with other communities and their present backwardness will always be there. Therefore our first aim should be to improve their economic condition.

"Moreover, Sir, in the matter of spending the one crore of rupees set apart for the Harijan uplift, the Harijans are bracketed with other Indian Christians. Of course, there are people in other communities who are also equally poor, but this sum of one crore of rupees is specially allotted for Harijan uplift and should be spent for the Harijans only. I do not find any necessity why there should be a change of attitude on the part of the Government. Of course, we know that this sum is not at all sufficient for the improvement of the economic condition of the poor people belonging to other communities. Under those circumstances, what is the need for bringing in other communities and bracketing them with the Harijans? I submit Sir, that this sum should be spent for providing scholarships for the Harijans and for giving them facilities for higher education. That is why I request the Hon. the Minister not to bracket the Harijans with the poor people of other communities. I know there are poor people in all sections of the community. Separate funds could be created for that purpose, if necessary, but this sum should not be utilized for them.

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"Then, Sir, there are a number of Harijans who are working as agricultural labourers and as domestic servants in our houses. There are so many working as butlers and cooks in the houses of Europeans. All these people have no facilities for education. They work throughout day and night without any sort of rest. There is no protection for them in their terms of service or in their hours of work. There is no legislation protecting the rights and interests of domestic labour. Hence I request the Government to take up the question of introducing labour legislation protecting their rights and interests.

"Then, Sir, I want to say a word or two about the housing scheme. A sum of Rs. 1.68 lakhs has been provided for this purpose. I think this is very insufficient and I do not know how many houses are going to be built out of this amount.

"The next suggestion I want to make is that the Criminal Tribes Act should be abolished. I know, particularly in Chirala, labourers who are classed as criminal tribes, have to walk seven or eight miles to reach their work spot. They will have to be running up in the morning to reach there in time. It is a very horrible sight to see how these people are made to work. That is why, I suggest that Criminal Tribes Act should be abolished without any delay.

"Then Sir, I submit that there is no need to spend about Rs. 80,000 on the Indian Women's Civic Corps. It is a waste of money and it may be utilized for some other useful purpose.

"Lastly, Sir, there is the Publicity department. I do not know how it is working and what work it is doing. Probably there is no work at all for this department. I submit that this department can be dispensed with."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has already exceeded his time. He has been speaking on almost every cut motion. He may resume his seat."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Please give me one minute more, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Please resume your seat."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I am just finishing, Sir . . ." (Interruption.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Order, order, I now call upon Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai to speak."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find in this Demand the following allotments have been made for the amelioration of the conditions of communities eligible for help by the Labour department:—

		RS.
Scholarships and stipends including scholarships of other departments.	Converts	33,800
	Non-converts	1.25 LAKHS.
Clothing for boys and other schooling charges.	Converts	1,300
	Non-converts	5,200
Exemption from payment of examination fees.	Converts	2,000
	Non-converts	2,800

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"Sir, this House has come into existence and the various members of this Assembly have been elected to this house under the Government of India Act, 1935. Going through the Government of India Act, we find that it is clearly stated who are the Europeans, the Anglo-Indians, the Indian Christians and Scheduled Castes. 'Scheduled Castes' means, the Government of India Act says 'such castes, races or tribes or parts of or groups within castes, races or tribes, being castes, races, tribes, parts or groups which appear to His Majesty in Council to correspond to the classes of persons formerly known as the depressed classes. It has already been defined by His Majesty's Government who are the depressed classes and in the Madras Legislative Council Manual, it is clearly stated who form the depressed classes. The Government say that 'Parayans, Pallans, Valluvans, Malas, Madigas, Chakkiliyan, Thottiyans, Cherumas and Holeyas come under 'Depressed classes'. Now, Sir, I do not know what reason there is for the present Government or the Advisers' regime for making a new innovation in regard to the classification of communities under 'Scheduled classes'.

4-30 p.m. "Sir, the very formation of the Labour department under Sir George Paddison who was called the Protector of the Depressed classes was, as the very designation implies, for the protection of the interests of the Depressed classes. But, unfortunately, as the years went by, the names of various communities were brought in under the category of Depressed classes. And now, the entire community going by the name depressed classes has been put into the background. I do not know what makes the present Government include also the converts among the Scheduled castes. We find at page 408 of the Civil Budget Estimates for 1946-47 under the head 'Scholarships and Schooling Charges' a provision of Rs. 33,800 for scholarships for converts and Rs. 2,000 under 'payment of examination fees' for converts. Sir, the non-converts or Harijans are to get only Rs. 2,800 on account of payment of examination fees. The members of the Harijan community in this House have discussed the whole thing and have presented a memorandum to the Hon. the Premier stating clearly that the term 'Scheduled Castes' means only such of the communities that are 'Untouchables.' Sir, in these days when there is a nationwide agitation for showing sympathy for the depressed classes, it should not be necessary for me to stand up in this House and say who are Harijans and who are not Harijans. As you know, Sir, sympathy for the Harijans has been expressed by all quarters of this House and opinions expressed that the amount earmarked for the Harijans should not be spent on others.

"Sir, provision has been made in the Budget for the Labour department for grants for the relief of other sub-castes and communities than Harijans. We do not object to it. What we strongly object to is that from the Fund meant for the Harijans nothing should be given to the converts. Those who know the history of all these sub-castes and others will realize the handicaps of the Harijans as compared with the others and understand the

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great difference that exists between the ceremonials of the Harijans and the ceremonials of the converts and so on. We belong to the Hindu culture and it has been accepted by Mahatma Gandhi that the Harijans are Hindus. That being the case I cannot understand why anyone should include converts among the Scheduled Castes. All the Provinces of India have considered it necessary that the Depressed Classes must be given all facilities for their amelioration. Our Prime Minister has thought so and has made provision of one crore of rupees for the community's uplift. Those who have doubts whether this sum could not be given to communities other than Harijans may keep their doubts to themselves. We have no objection to Muslims or other communities getting any help they can from the Government. But what I say is that when long ago the Department of Labour was started, the object was the improvement of the social condition and the amelioration generally of the position of the Depressed Classes. Why that wholesome object should be departed from, I cannot understand. I request the Hon. Minister to make a declaration and relieve us of the anxiety that we are having in our minds. Most of the members of the Harijan community have expressed this feeling."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Premier will make a statement now."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, this Demand for Rs. 94,61,700 consists of various items. It includes, Labour—Direction, District staff, etc., Rs. 4,09,300; Court of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act, Rs. 12,000; Communities eligible for help by the Labour Department—Education, Rs. 30,63,300; Public, Rs. 3,58,000; Reclamation of Kallars and Koravars, Rs. 5,14,400; Criminal Tribes Settlements, Rs. 3,41,400; Labour Supply Committees, Rs. 12,200; Inspector of Factories, Rs. 1,44,500; Inspector of Steam Boilers Rs. 86,900; Examinations—Village Officers' Tests—Government Examinations by Commissioners Rs. 5,31,300; Provincial Statistics (Registration of Births and Deaths), Rs. 20,600; Administration of Indian Partnership Act, Rs. 5,300; Miscellaneous Statistics—Ceded Districts—Economic Development Board, Rs. 25,300; Indian Women's Civic Corps, Rs. 1,98,700; Publicity Department, Rs. 1,15,500; Fire Services—Direction City section and Mufassal, —Central Region, Northern Region and Western Region, Rs. 36,43,300; Charges in England, Rs. 35,200.

"These items, excluding the one crore of rupees, constitute the Demand for Rs. 94,61,700. Under this head 'Communities eligible for help by Labour Department—Education' a sum of Rs. 30,63,300 has been provided. The details for this provision are given in the Budget.

"The point raised by the hon. Member Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillai and other friends who have given a memorandum in writing as well, is that what is earmarked for the Harijans, viz., the big amount of Rs. 1,00,00,000, should be exclusively used for the benefit of the Harijans and not of the other classes or persons

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defined by the Labour Department. All the sub-divisions come to nearly 112. There should be no mistake made in understanding the position now. The Fund is set apart for the Harijans. When the word 'Harijan' is used, it should not be understood that that Fund is meant for distribution in any form whatever among all the 112 sub-divisions, the names of which have been given under head 'Scheduled Castes'. I am defining the Harijans just now. So far as the one crore of rupees earmarked for the Harijans is concerned, Harijans mean not all those 112 sub-castes mentioned in the list of the Labour department. There are a few who should be exclusively defined as Harijans and they are the Adi-Dravidas of Tamilnad, the Adi-Dravidas of Malabar, the Adi-Dravidas of South Kanara and the Adi-Andhras. These four constitute the Harijans and the amount earmarked is for their benefit and their use only, and not to any of the other names mentioned out of the 112 sub-castes."

SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—"On a point of information, Sir . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the Hon. the Premier resume his seat?"

Sri A. Vaidyanatha Ayyar rose.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"When I am on my feet, the hon. Member on the other side who was seen to rise in his seat must be made to sit by you, Mr. Speaker, before I yield."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"I crave the Hon. Premier's . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will not allow exchange of words here."

"The Hon. the Premier will resume his seat. As the hon. Member on the other side has got a doubt to clear, the Hon. the Premier should sit."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, we are all new to these debates in the Legislatures, and you are trying to tell us the parliamentary procedure which we are trying to learn. I did not mean any offence to the hon. Member (Mr. A. Vaidyanatha Ayyar) when I did not yield to him. I only wanted to tell the hon. Member . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I request the Hon. the Premier . . ."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Please hear me, Sir. As I was on my feet, the Speaker must tell Sri Vaidyanatha Ayyar, who rose to interrupt me, to sit down until I yield. He should rise only after I sat down. Now I am yielding to Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar." (Loud laughter.)

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"The Hon. Premier said that the Adi-Dravidas of Tamilnad are Harijans. It is well known that the Harijans called Adi-Dravidas both in the list of Scheduled Castes with the Labour department as well as throughout Tamilnad constitute only one of the several Harijans. There are what are called the Devendra Kula Vellalas, the Kallars

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and others. And there are the Arundhateeyas otherwise called the Chucklers and also Kuravas. There are several more of them forming part of the Harijan community. I do not know what is in the mind of the Hon. Premier when he says that this one crore is earmarked for the Harijans and that this sum is intended for the Adi-Dravidas of Tamilnad, the Adi-Dravidas of Malabar, etc., and the Adi-Andhras. It will give a very wrong impression if the Hon. the Premier's definition leaves out the other sections of the Harijan community. I want to know the exact position."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"May I tell the Hon. Premier one thing? Under the Corporation Act, Adi-Dravidas include Pariahs and Valluvans, and Adi-Andhras include Kudumbans, Deva Vellalas and Chucklers."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"And then there are the Vellala Adi-Dravidas. There are a number of others also coming under the term 'Harijans'."

* SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDAM:—"On a point of information, Sir, ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கென்றால், தீண்டாதவர்கள் மாதிரித்தான் ஹரிஜனங்கள் ஆவார்கள். மற்றபடி கர்ணம் போன்ற ஜாதியாரெல்லாம் வெள்ளாளர்கள். அவர்களிலே பெரிய ஜமீன்தாரர்களெல்லாம் இருக்கிறார்கள். தீண்டாதவர்களை மட்டுந்தான் ஹரிஜனங்கள் என்று சொல்லவேண்டும். ஆகவே, 108 ஜாதியார்களை யெல்லாம் ஹரிஜனங்களிலே சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளக் கூடாது. திருட்டுத் தொழிலிலே ஈடுபடுகிறவர்களை யெல்லாம் ஹரிஜனங்களிலே சேர்ப்பது நியாயமில்லை."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Is it right, Sir, for an hon. Member to interrupt the reply of the Hon. the Premier?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It was only to clear a doubt about the names included under the head Adi-Dravidas that an hon. Member rose. There are so many names included in the list of the Labour department."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"But could it not be cleared by means of an interpellation regularly put in the Assembly instead of rising now interrupting the reply by the Hon. the Premier?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"This is an important matter and Members of the community want to have their doubts cleared."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"The Adi-Andhras of Andhradesa mean Malas, Madigas and others who are treated as untouchables and Adi-Dravidas, Chucklers and Valluvans. These people living in Andhradesa are called Adi-Andhras and those Depressed Class people who live in Tamilnad are called Adi-Dravidas. These are the only people who should be called Scheduled Castes."

"People living in Karnatak are called Adi-Karnatakas and people belonging to the communities living in Kerala are called Adi-Keralas. So, only those that were considered as untouchable all these days are alone to be members of the Scheduled Classes."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, the hon. Member Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar has raised the point. I should have been obliged to take it without further examination of the same, 4-45 p.m."

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but, Sir, the knowledge of the hon. Member, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, my own knowledge and the knowledge of most of the hon. Members here with regard to the definition of 'Harijan' is rather limited. I am learning every hour and every minute from hon. Members who know more about this. The hon. Member Mr. Nagappa has defined the 'Harijan' so far as the Province to which he belongs is concerned. Sir, the term Adi-Andhra is not confined to any one particular sub-division. All the sub-divisions come under that definition. In a similar manner, in Tamilnad all the different sub-divisions by whatever name they may be called, all of them come under the definition of 'Adi-Dravida', and so also with regard to the Kerala and South Kanara. That is the meaning which I thought should be applied to the word 'Harijan' and it was in that sense we understood it when we earmarked the amount and if there should be any technical difficulty of any definition which will make us correct it, that may be done later on. So far as this definition of 'Harijan' is concerned we will have to take it up, because so much confusion has been created in the minds of friends ever since this one crore of rupees was earmarked, and it is only right that on behalf of the Government, I should make the position clear. I have tried to make it plain. Under this demand a sum of Rs. 30,63,300 has been provided for helping communities who are eligible for help by the Labour department. Scholarships and other kinds of help have been granted by the Labour department from time to time. Some of us who are in this Government have been feeling some difficulty with regard to the young men who are very poor, who are unable to pay their school fees or even for their food and who have made some applications to this Government for help. I was wondering how this Government could help this class of people also. In this connexion, we were obliged to examine this list of 112 sub-castes coming under the administration of the Labour department. Sir, I am trying to make it plain that not only the Harijans as defined by me just now, but all the other 107 or 108 sub-divisions also deserve the help and support of the Government. It was for this reason that some distribution was made through the Labour department. Sir, there is a poor Kshatriya boy saying 'I have no parents; I have nobody to support me; I have studied up to S.S.L.C. and there I am stranded and I have to go a-begging; can your Government help me?' and some other boys belonging to other castes also have come up for help from this Government. Having regard to such cases, we have considered it necessary to make provision for meeting such emergent cases. In view of the demands of the poor students I have referred to, we have decided to allot an additional sum of Rs. 50,000 to meet such cases. This is the one point which I wanted to make clear.

"Sir, something was said about converts and non-converts. I have known converts as hon. Members of this House and others have known them. Merely because they embraced Christianity and became converts, they have not become rich people. They continue to be poor; I know some people who continue in poverty

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even as converts. For such people, along with so many others, some provision was made. About that point the hon. Member, Messrs. Muniswami Pillai, Nagappa and other hon. Members need not be troubled. That distinction does not in any way obstruct the programme laid down for action just now. There are as many as 112 sub-divisions made out and I can say that almost all the sub-castes, by whatever name they may be known, deserve the support of Government and I hope there will come a time when we will be able to make sufficient provision for all these people without confining ourselves only to Harijans as at present defined. I have tried to explain the position and I request the hon. Member who moved the cut motion to consider whether he can reconcile himself to withdraw it and help this Government."

The cut motion was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXIV—CIVIL WORKS—WORKS.

THE HON. SRI M. BAKTHAVATHSALAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 3,24,15,200 in respect of the head "Civil Works—Works." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 8,22,565.'"

* A. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What clock are we going to follow, Sir? The one on the northern side or that on the eastern side?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"We will follow the clock on the western side. That gives us more time."

* SRI PILLAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Sir, I formally move the cut motion that stands in my name—

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,24,15,200 for Civil Works—Works by Rs. 100.'"

* THE HON. SRI M. BAKTHAVATHSALAM:—"I have already stated the policy of the Government in reply to questions. I request the hon. Member to withdraw his cut motion."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXV—CIVIL WORKS—ESTABLISHMENT AND TOOLS AND PLANT.

THE HON. SRI M. BAKTHAVATHSALAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May

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1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with
the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount
to Rs. 2,64,33,300 in respect of the head "Civil Works—
Establishment and Tools and Plant." The expenditure
incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 6,90,251'."

No cut motion was moved. The demand was put and carried
and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXVI—CIVIL WORKS—GRANTS-IN-AID.

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Sir, on the recom-
mendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

*'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come
in course of payment during the period from the 1st May
1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with
the expenditure already incurred in April 1946 will amount
to Rs. 49,06,200 in respect of the head "Civil Works—
Grants-in-aid." To my knowledge no expenditure has
been incurred on this item in April 1946'."*

As no cut motion was moved, the demand was put and carried
and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXVII—ELECTRICITY.

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Sir, on the recommendation
of His Excellency the Governor, I move that—

*'the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in
course of payment during the period from the 1st May
1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with
the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will
amount to Rs. 63,05,900 in respect of the head "Elec-
tricity." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is
believed to be Rs. 6,91,066'."*

As no cut motion was moved, the demand was put to the House
and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXVIII—FAMINE.

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI (on behalf of Hon. Sri. K. R.
Karanth):—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the
Governor, I move that—

*'the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in
course of payment during the period from the 1st May
1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with
the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will
amount to Rs. 1,00,88,300 in respect of the head "Famine."
The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be
Rs. 72,508'."*

No cut motion was moved. The demand was put and carried
and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXIX—PENSIONS.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, on the recommenda-
tion of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

*'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in
course of payment during the period from the 1st May*

4th September 1946] [Hon. Sri T. Prakasam]

*1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with
the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will
amount to Rs. 1,31,45,200 in respect of the head "Pen-
sions." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is
believed to be Rs. 8,87,069'."*

No cut motion was moved. The demand was put and carried
and the grant was made.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"As it is 5 o'clock, I will put the other
demands from the Chair. Demand XXXI—Miscellaneous has
already been granted.

DEMAND XXX—STATIONERY AND PRINTING.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that—

*'the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in
course of payment during the period from the 1st May
1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with
the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will
amount to Rs. 44,11,400 in respect of the head "Stationery
and Printing." The expenditure incurred in April 1946
is believed to be Rs. 2,84,751'."*

"This demand for a grant is made on the recommendation of
His Excellency the Governor."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXII—CIVIL DEFENCE.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that—

*'the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in
course of payment during the period from the 1st May
1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with
the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will
amount to Rs. 42,75,600 in respect of the head "Civil
Defence." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is
believed to be Rs. 5,08,328'."*

"This demand for a grant is made on the recommendation of
His Excellency the Governor."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXIII—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON IRRIGATION.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that—

*'the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in
course of payment during the period from the 1st May
1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with
the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will
amount to Rs. 1,35,20,400 in respect of the head "Capital
Outlay on Irrigation." The expenditure incurred in April
1946 is believed to be Rs. 1,14,437'."*

"This demand for a grant is made on the recommendation of
His Excellency the Governor."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

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DEMAND XXXIV—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND CIVIL AVIATION.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that—
'the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 18,15,400 in respect of the head "Capital Outlay on Industrial Development." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 1,46,500'.

"This demand for a grant is made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXV—CIVIL WORKS OUTSIDE THE REVENUE ACCOUNT.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that—
'the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 17,10,500 in respect of the head "Civil Works outside the Revenue Account." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 1,464'.

"This demand for a grant is made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXVI—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON ELECTRICITY SCHEMES.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that—
'the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 2,53,92,600 in respect of the head "Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 80,089'.

"This demand for a grant is made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXVII—COMMUTED VALUE OF PENSIONS.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that—
'the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 100'.

"This demand for a grant is made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

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DEMAND XXXVIII—CAPITAL OUTLAY ON PROVINCIAL SCHEMES OF
STATE TRADING.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that—
'the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 100'."

"This demand for a grant is made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XXXIX—INTEREST-FREE ADVANCES.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that—
'the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 14,14,300 in respect of the head "Interest-free Advances." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 48,762'."

"This demand for a grant is made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XL—LOANS AND ADVANCES BEARING INTEREST.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is that—
'the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 2,06,83,300 in respect of the head "Loans and Advances bearing Interest." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 15,33,692'."

"This demand for a grant is made on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor."

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Before we disperse I wish to thank all the hon. Members for the kind co-operation they have given me in my work.

"The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day."

[4th September 1946]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 40 asked by K. M. Seethi Sahib Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 4th September 1946, page 1179 supra.]

G.O. No. 1371, EDUCATION, DATED 1ST JUNE 1934.

In G.O. No. 1727, Education, dated 22nd September 1933, the Government have issued orders on the recommendations of the Muslim Education Committee relating to the provision of religious instruction for Muhammadan pupils. They are now pleased to issue the following orders on the other recommendations of the Committee.

2. *Separate schools for Muhammadans.*—The Committee advocates the opening of a large number of separate schools for Muhammadans in all stages of education. As pointed out by the Director, the recommendations of the Committee are pitched much higher than what the educational needs of the community would justify and they aim at setting up a parallel and separate system of education for Muhammadans only. The Government consider that such segregation is more likely to retard than help the educational progress of Muhammadans. Apart from this, the Committee's proposal is impracticable on financial grounds. The policy hitherto adopted has been for Government to maintain separate schools for Muhammadans only in centres having a large Muhammadan population. The Government agree with the Director of Public Instruction that there is no reason to depart from this policy. They consider that in places where there are no separate schools it would be sufficient if facilities are given for the education of Muhammadans in non-Muslim schools, by providing for the teaching of Urdu and the employment of a fair proportion of Muhammadan teachers. The Director is requested to make specific proposals in this regard for the consideration of Government.

3. *Teaching of languages in elementary schools.*—The Committee recommends that the local vernacular should be taught as a second language in all Muslim schools where Urdu is the medium of instruction. The Government accept this recommendation and also agree that Urdu, Arabic or Persian may be taught to Muslim pupils in vernacular schools where there are a sufficient number of Muslim pupils.

4. *Opening of higher elementary schools for Muslim boys.*—The Committee considers that separate higher elementary schools for Muslims should be started in localities containing a Muslim population of 1,000 or more and that in other places facilities should be provided for the teaching of Urdu and for religious instruction for Muslims in higher elementary schools intended for all classes. For the reasons explained in paragraph 2 above, the Government are unable to accept the proposal that separate higher elementary schools should be started for Muhammadans.

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They, however, consider that higher standards might be opened in existing Muhammadan schools in centres with a large Muslim population. Local bodies are requested to take action in this direction so far as funds permit.

5. *Text-books for elementary schools.*—The Committee suggests that text-books for use in elementary schools should include stories from Islamic literature and that non-official Muslims should have sufficient representation on the Text-Book Committee. The Director is requested to take the necessary action to give effect to the Committee's suggestions.

6. *Formation of Muslim Education Committees.*—The Committee recommends that local committees should be formed to advise local bodies on questions relating to Muslim education. At present there are Muslim Educational Associations in some districts; it is open to the community to organize similar associations in other districts also.

7. *Provision of funds for Muslim education.*—The Committee recommends that larger funds should be made available for Muslim education either by increasing subsidies and grants-in-aid or by earmarking a portion of the funds of local bodies for such education. The question of giving larger grants for Muslim education cannot be considered under present financial conditions. The suggestion that a portion of the funds of local bodies should be earmarked for the education of Muslims is impracticable.

8. *Representation of Muslims on the Education Committees of local bodies.*—The Committee's suggestion that the Madras Local Boards Act and the Madras District Municipalities Act should be amended so as to make it obligatory on the part of local bodies to provide for larger representation of Muslims on the Education Committees of those bodies cannot be accepted.

9. *Provision of midday meals and clothing to poor Muslim boys.*—The Committee suggests that local bodies should be allowed to incur expenditure from the Elementary Education Fund on the provision of midday meals and clothing to poor Muslim pupils. The Government are unable to accept the suggestion, since the concession, if granted to one community, will have to be extended to others.

10. *Consolidation and concentration of elementary schools.*—The Committee has expressed a qualified approval of the scheme for the concentration and consolidation of elementary schools formulated by Mr. H. Champion. The Government agree with the Director of Public Instruction that as the scheme is actually put into operation it will be found that the difficulties apprehended by the Committee are not insuperable, especially in areas where the mother-tongue of the Muhammadans is the local vernacular. In G.O. No. 1639, Education, dated the 9th September 1933, relating to the consolidation and concentration of elementary schools, the Government have directed that Muslim schools should be brought within the scheme of consolidation, wherever practicable.

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11. *Elementary schools for Muslim girls.*—The Government are unable to accept the recommendation of the Committee that separate schools for Muslim girls should be opened in every locality containing a Muslim population of 500 and above. They agree with the Committee that in places where there are no separate schools, girls may attend boys' schools up to a certain age. They are, however, of opinion that the age-limit of nine suggested by the Committee is low.

12. *Facilities for the secondary education of Muslim boys.*—As stated in paragraph 2 above, the Government cannot undertake to establish more separate secondary schools for Muslims nor can they compel private agencies and local bodies to introduce religious instruction for Muhammadan pupils in schools under their control. The other suggestions made by the Committee for the provision of additional facilities for secondary education for Muslims are—

(1) that Urdu sections should be attached, where necessary; to schools intended for all classes;

(2) that a reasonable proportion of teachers in these schools should be Muslims; and

(3) that provision should be made for the teaching of Urdu and Persian in schools where there is a demand for such teaching and the number of Muslims justify the expenditure involved thereby.

The Director of Public Instruction is requested to examine these suggestions in detail and submit specific proposals in respect of such of them as are practicable.

13. *Modification of the grant-in-aid rules.*—The Committee recommends that the rules regarding grants to secondary schools should be modified so as to make it obligatory on schools to admit Muslims and to arrange for instruction in religion and Urdu. The Government consider that no such modification is necessary at present. The question will, however, be considered further on receipt of the proposals called for from the Director of Public Instruction in the previous paragraph.

14. *Fee concessions in secondary schools.*—The Committee's recommendation that half-fee concessions should be given to Muslim pupils irrespective of the financial position of the parent or guardian cannot be accepted.

15. *Additional higher elementary and secondary schools for Muslim girls.*—The Committee refers to the policy followed by Government of taking over under departmental management elementary schools for Muslim girls in centres with a large Muslim population and recommends that it should be continued. The schools taken over are intended for use as model sections of Government Training schools newly opened in the centres referred to. Though there has been no change in the policy of Government in this matter, it has not been possible, owing to the financial stringency, to open more schools of this kind either in the last year or in the current year. The question of opening

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such schools will be considered when the financial situation improves and when there is a sufficient supply of qualified Muslim women teachers.

The Committee also recommends that the higher elementary schools which are attached to the training schools in certain centres should be converted into middle schools and that it should be the aim of the department to start a higher elementary school for Muslim girls in every centre having a population of 2,000 Muslims and over. The conversion of higher elementary schools into middle schools will result in the establishment of separate secondary schools for Muslim girls in the places referred to. As already stated, the Government are not in favour of the establishment of such separate schools. The number of Muslim girls who continue their education in the first and higher forms of secondary schools is small and the Government consider that the demand for secondary education for these girls can be met for the present by the employment of Urdu teachers in secondary schools open to all classes.

As regards additional higher elementary schools, these are not opened under direct departmental management. The Government hope that local bodies and private agencies will raise the elementary schools under their control to the higher elementary grade in places where there is a real demand for higher elementary education.

16. *Teaching of Urdu in schools intended for Muslim girls.*—The Committee recommends that provision should be made for the teaching of Urdu in all schools intended for Muslim girls and that a qualified Muslim woman should be recruited from Northern India for teaching Urdu in the Government Hobart Training School, Royapetta. The Government accept generally the first of these suggestions; the Director is requested to give effect to it in Government schools by employing in existing sanctioned posts in these schools persons competent to teach Urdu. Local bodies and private agencies which maintain schools for Muslim girls are requested to adopt the suggestion wherever practicable.

17. *Conveyance for gosha pupils attending Government schools.*—The Committee's recommendation that motor vehicles should be substituted for bullock carts for conveying Muslim girls to school cannot be accepted.

18. *Facilities for the training of teachers.*—In paragraphs 62—74 of the report, the Committee has made several suggestions for increasing the output of trained Muslim teachers. As pointed out by the Director, the number of qualified Muslims applying for admission to training schools is small and all these are generally selected for training. The supply of Muhammadan teachers will gradually increase as more Muslims complete their education in higher elementary schools. The Government do not, therefore, consider that there is any need at present for taking special measures for providing facilities for the training of men.

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teachers. As regards women teachers, however, the question of opening additional training classes will be considered when funds become available.

The suggestions that Muslim students admitted for training in all grades should be granted stipends and that the rates of stipends should be increased cannot be accepted as the Government do not consider that any special treatment which is not accorded to other backward communities is called for in respect of Muhammadans.

The Committee's recommendation.

The Committee's recommendation that the pay of trained Muslim teachers in elementary schools should be raised is one primarily for consideration by local bodies and private managements.

As regards the suggestion that the staff of Government secondary training schools should contain a fair proportion of Muslim teachers, the Director is requested to give effect to it in schools where there is an appreciable number of Muslim students. In the case of training schools for women the Committee suggests that attempts should be made to replace non-Muslim teachers by Muslim teachers recruited from outside the presidency. The Government agree with the Director of Public Instruction that this will not be a satisfactory solution of the problem of finding qualified teachers for girls' schools.

The suggestion of the Committee regarding the teaching of languages in training schools may be adopted wherever practicable. With regard to the recommendation that admission of training colleges should be given to all Muslim applicants irrespective of whether they possess any teaching experience or not, the Government understand that this is already the case.

The question of opening more sessional schools for Mussaliars and preparatory classes for Muslim women who do not possess the prescribed qualifications for admission to training schools will be considered when funds permit.

19. *Muhammadan College, Madras.*—The Committee recommends that steps should be taken to develop the Government Muhammadan College, Madras, on the linguistic side and in history up to the Honours standard, the ultimate object being to make the college self-contained in all subjects. In view of the fact that the Presidency College, Madras, which is open to all classes including Muslims teachers up to the Honours standard in all subjects except Islamic languages, the Government consider that it will be sufficient if Honours courses in these languages alone are instituted in the Muhammadan College. The question of instituting these courses will be considered when funds permit.

20. *Admission of Muslim students to Professional colleges.*—The Committee urges that preference should be given to Muslim candidates in the matter of admission to Professional colleges.

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The small number of students now admitted into Professional colleges is apparently due to the fact that a sufficient number of candidates from the community do not apply for admission.

21. *Representation of Muslims on University bodies and Selection Committees for Government colleges.*—The Committee observes that the Muslim community is not adequately represented on the University bodies. The Universities Acts contain provision for the representation of backward and minority communities. The Government do not consider that any amendment of the Acts is called for so as to provide for the increased representation of Muslims.

The Selection Committees of all the Government Colleges contain Muslim representatives.

22. *Scholarships and fee concessions for Muslim girls in colleges.*—The Committee suggests that every Muslim girl admitted to college classes should be awarded Government scholarships and that there should be provision for full fee concessions to all Muslim girls. In the award of Government scholarships the claims of backward communities including Muslims receive preferential consideration.

As regards fee concessions the existing rules provide for the grant of only half fee concessions to poor students. The Government do not consider it necessary to alter the rule.

23. *Arabic institutions.*—Paragraphs 87 to 93 of the Committee's report contain its recommendations in regard to Arabic institutions. These recommendations are under consideration separately in connexion with the report of the Committee appointed to frame syllabuses in secular subjects for adoption in these institutions.

24. *Compulsory elementary education for Mappillas.*—The Committee recommends—

(1) that compulsory elementary education should be extended to all municipalities and taluk board areas where Mappillas are found in large numbers;

(2) the expenditure on midday meals for Mappilla children should be recognized as a legitimate charge on elementary education funds;

(3) that the hours of school work should be changed to suit local conditions; and

(4) that provision should be made for adult education among Mappillas.

The Government have under consideration the question of amending the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, so that Government may have the power to call for schemes of compulsion in areas under local bodies. If the proposal materializes, the feasibility of introducing compulsory education in all areas where there is a large Mappilla population will be examined.

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The suggestion for the provision of midday meals for Mappilla children cannot be accepted for the reason given in paragraph 9 above. Rule 15 of the rules framed under section 41 of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, requires managements of schools to adjust school hours to local conditions. Orders have also been issued advising local bodies to follow this rule.

The suggestion regarding adult education can be considered only when the financial position improves.

25. *Secondary education for Mappillas and facilities for the training of Mappilla teachers.*—The Committee recommends—

(1) that one high school and three incomplete secondary schools may be established in Malabar for Mappillas; and

(2) that a training school for Mappilla teachers may be opened in North Malabar, another school for these teachers being opened later.

As observed in paragraph 2 above, the Government are generally averse to the opening of separate schools for Muhammadans. They, however, recognize that an exception should be made in the case of Mappillas. In their opinion the present requirements of the community will be met if a high school in any of the chief Mappilla centres and a training school in North Malabar are established. The Director is accordingly requested to submit proposals for the opening of these schools, which will be carried out when funds permit.

26. *Elementary schools for Mappilla girls.*—The Committee considers that there should be a sufficient number of girls' schools within the reach of Mappilla girls. The question of opening additional girls' schools will be considered when funds become available.

27. *Facilities for secondary education for Mappilla girls.*—The Committee suggests that provision should be made for religious instruction and for the teaching of Urdu for Mappillas in secondary schools for girls in Malabar. As stated in paragraph 12 above the Government cannot compel local bodies or private agencies to provide religious instructions for Muslims. Managements of schools are however advised to employ Urdu Munshis in schools where there is an appreciable number of Mappilla girls who desire to study Urdu.

28. *Training in handicrafts in girls' schools.*—The Committee suggests that provision should be made for the teaching of handicrafts which will have a direct bearing on the lives of Mappilla girls after they leave school. This suggestion will be adopted wherever practicable, when funds permit.

29. *Religious instruction in training schools.*—The Committee suggests that the religious instruction imparted in the Government Training School, Malappuram, should include training in the methods of imparting such instruction. The Government have no objection to this suggestion being adopted if the religious instructors already employed in the school can undertake the training.

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30. *Training schools for Mappilla women teachers.*—The Committee recommends that training schools for Mappilla women teachers should be opened in Ponnani and Tellicherry with preparatory classes attached. In connexion with the proposals called for in paragraph 25 above, the Director of Public Instruction is requested to consider the question of opening a training class for Mappilla women in North Malabar.

31. *Teachers in Mappilla schools.*—In paragraph 111 of the report the Committee has made certain suggestions in regard to the staffing of Mappilla schools. The Government trust that managements of schools will employ Mappilla teachers in these schools wherever possible, but beyond this they consider that no instructions are necessary.

32. *Scholarships and fee concessions for Mappillas.*—The Committee recommends an increase in the number of scholarships for Mappilla pupils and the grant of half fee concessions irrespective of the financial position of their parents. The question of providing additional scholarships can be considered only when the financial position improves. The suggestion in regard to half fee concessions cannot be accepted.

33. *Inspecting agency.*—The Committee recommends—

(1) that there should be three Inspectors of Muhammadan schools, one of them being a special officer for the West Coast; and

(2) that there should be a Muhammadan Inspectress of Muslim girls' schools.

The suggestion for the employment of a separate superior inspecting staff for Muhammadan schools has been considered in the past and rejected on the ground that the chief inspecting officer of a local area should have general control over educational progress throughout the area. The Government do not consider that there is any case for reconsidering this decision.

34. *Village Committees to look after Mappilla education.*—The Committee suggests that Deputy Inspectors of Schools may be asked to help village associations formed for the purpose of popularizing education among Mappillas. The Government have no objection to Deputy Inspectors rendering help to these associations.

35. In conclusion the Government desire to thank the members of the Committee for their valuable report.

(By order of the Government, Ministry of Education and Excise)

D. H. BOULTON,
Deputy Secretary to Government.

CHAPTER XI OF THE REPORT ON PUBLIC INSTRUCTIONS RECORDED
IN G.O. No. 258, EDUCATION, DATED 6TH FEBRUARY 1946.

XI. Muhammadan Education.

1. *General Statistics.*—The number of public institutions intended for the Muhammadans increased from 3,102 last year to 3,179 during the year and their strength from 265,887 to 281,216. The

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number and strength of private unrecognized schools for Muslims was 155 and 5,659 respectively compared with 155 and 5,960 last year.

2. *Collegiate*.—There was an appreciable increase in the number of Muhammadan students reading in the arts colleges for men and women from 967 including 57 women last year to 1,105 including 68 women during the year under report. The strength in the Government Muhammadan College, Madras, rose from 197 to 267 and that in the Islamia College, Vaniyambadi, from 96 to 128. The Intermediate Natural Science course and the Honours course in Islamic History and Culture were opened in the Government Muhammadan College during the year under report. One hundred and fifty-five Muhammadan scholars as against 129 last year were reading in the three Arabic Colleges at Kurnool, Vellore and Omerabad during the year. In the professional colleges there were 193 Muhammadan men and 20 Muhammadan women as against 156 and 18 respectively last year.

3. *Secondary*.—The number of secondary schools intended specially for Muslim boys and girls increased from 18 and 8 to 20 and 10 respectively during the year due to the opening of two secondary schools for Muslim boys and two schools for Muslim girls. The strength in the boys' schools increased from 4,719 to 5,432 and that in the girls' schools from 939 to 1,674. The total number of Muhammadan pupils reading in all the secondary schools for Indians further increased considerably from 19,305 (17,504 boys and 1,801 girls) last year to 21,473 (19,245 boys and 2,228 girls) during the year under report.

4. *Elementary*.—There were 2,582 elementary schools for Muhammadan boys with 230,003 pupils on rolls as against 2,530 schools with 217,595 pupils last year, while for Muslim girls there were 541 schools with a total strength of 42,713 pupils as against 524 schools with 41,471 pupils on rolls in the previous year. In all the Indian elementary schools for Muslims and non-Muslims there were under instruction 337,031 pupils (215,038 boys and 121,993 girls) at the end of the year under report compared with 332,233 pupils (212,705 boys and 119,528 girls) in the previous year.

5. *Special*.—The number of training schools specially intended for Muslim men remained the same as last year, viz., 7 and the total strength in them was 287 as against 344 last year. The Viscountess Goschen Training School for Muhammadan Women, Trichinopoly, was kept in abeyance during the year and hence only 6 training schools as against 7 last year worked specially for the benefit of Muhammadan women during the year. The strength in all these 6 schools was 176 compared with 156 pupils under instruction in the 7 training schools last year. The total number of Muhammadan men and women under training in all the training schools was 469 and 186 respectively as against 608 and 203 last year.

There were 5 industrial schools for Muhammadans under the control of the Director of Industries. The total strength of these schools was 233.

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*Mappilla Education.**Boys' schools.*

Malabar North.—There were 465 elementary schools specially intended for Mappilla boys as against 469 last year. The strength of these schools was 47,067 (29,269 boys and 17,798 girls) as against 46,009 (28,793 boys and 17,216 girls) in the previous year. In all the elementary schools for boys in the district, there were 29,253 Mappilla boys and 17,211 Mappilla girls, under instruction as against 29,229 and 16,801 respectively last year. The total number of teachers employed in the Mappilla boys' schools was 1,790 including 350 untrained teachers as against 1,785 including 369 untrained teachers last year.

The two secondary schools specially intended for Mappilla boys reported last year continued to work during the year under report with an enrolment of 546 pupils on rolls, 378 in the Mayyalavia Madrassa High School, Mahe, and 168 in the Madrasathul Muhammodaya Middle School, Calicut, as against 274 and 170 respectively in the previous year. The number of Mappillas reading in all the boys' secondary schools in the district was 1,087 (1,078 boys and 9 girls) compared with 1,128 including 10 girls in the previous year.

The separate section and the hostel attached to the Government Training School, Cannanore, for training Mappillas as teachers continued to work during the year. The number of Mappillas under training in all the training schools in the district was 105 during the year. The trained Mappilla teachers continued to be employed in the Mappilla schools to give both secular and religious instruction to pupils in these schools during school hours.

Malabar South.—There were 781 elementary schools specially intended for Mappilla boys in 1944-45 as against 794 in 1943-44. The decrease was due to the closure of 13 inefficient aided schools. The total strength of these schools was 80,557 (48,111 boys and 32,446 girls) as against 81,150 (48,880 boys and 32,270 girls) last year. The number of Mappilla pupils reading in all the elementary schools for boys in the district was 75,813 (45,842 boys and 29,971 girls) as against 76,030 (46,306 boys and 29,724 girls) last year. The decrease in the number of Mappilla pupils under instruction was attributed to the closure of inefficient schools, high cost of living and the prevalence of epidemic diseases throughout the district. Out of the total number of 2,923 teachers employed in the Mappilla schools during the year under report, 2,119 were trained as against 2,882 teachers, of whom 715 were untrained last year.

The Government Secondary School for Mappillas at Malappuram continued to work during the year with Forms III to VI with a total strength of 290, the number of Mappilla pupils alone being 192. The grant of 20 per cent free places sanctioned under G.O. No. 179, Education, dated 14th September 1940 and G.O. No. 1079, Education, dated 11th July 1941, enabled 39 pupils of the school to receive free education during the year.

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Besides 18 pupils of the schools were granted military fee concessions. The total number of Mappilla pupils reading in all the secondary schools in the district was 1,137 (1,078 boys and 59 girls) as against 1,049 (982 boys and 67 girls) last year. There were 29 scholarships specially intended for Mappilla pupils reading in the secondary schools in the district besides 16 scholarships tenable for certain special classes of Muhammadans and 4 for all classes of Muhammadans during the year 1944-45.

The Government Training School for Mappillas at Malappuram, worked with 6 sections during the year, 3 Junior Higher Elementary Training classes with a strength of 108 Mappillas and 3 Senior Higher Elementary Training classes with 104 Mappillas. The number of Mappilla teachers undergoing training in the different grades in all the training schools in the district was 218 as against 244 last year. The fall in the number of Mappilla pupils under training in the training schools was due to a large number of literate young Mappilla men joining the defence services.

Religious instruction was, as usual, imparted to all pupils reading in the schools by Mullas.

South Kanara.—The number of elementary schools for Mappillas in the district remained the same as last year, viz., 72. The strength in these schools slightly increased from 6,432 (3,760 boys and 2,001 girls) to 6,467 (4,194 boys and 2,273 girls). The total number of Mappilla pupils under instruction in all the elementary schools was 7,138 boys and 2,736 girls as against 7,177 boys and 2,781 girls last year. The decrease was due to the prevalence of famine and to poverty. The number of teachers employed in the Mappilla schools was 182 including 10 untrained teachers as against 184 including 11 untrained teachers last year.

Girls' schools.

Malabar.—The number of elementary schools specially intended for Mappilla girls increased from 138 to 144. One Board elementary school was closed while the recognition of two aided schools was withdrawn during the year. Nine schools were opened by private agencies specially for Mappilla girls. The number of pupils under instruction in these schools was 7,652 girls and 5,175 boys as against 7,387 girls and 4,583 boys last year. The total number of Mappilla girls reading in all the elementary schools for girls in the district increased from 7,383 to 7,573 during the year. The total number of Mappilla teachers in all Mappilla girls' schools was 164 of whom 107 were trained Mappilla women and 40 trained Mappilla men. Religious instructors were continued on the staff of the aided Mappilla girls' schools in the South Malabar for imparting religious instruction.

The number of Mappilla girls reading in all the secondary schools for girls in the district increased from 272 to 284. Besides, 68 girls were reading in the boys' secondary schools as

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against 77 last year. There were 226 girls on rolls of the Government Mappilla Girls' High School, Tirur, at the end of the year under report.

In the secondary training class attached to the Government Mappilla Girls' High School, Tirur, 47 women were under training during the year of whom 26 were Mappillas. In all the training schools, there were 34 Mappilla women under training, 20 in the secondary grade and 14 in the higher elementary grade.

Fifty-five special scholarships for Mappilla girls in the girls' elementary schools and 13 scholarships of the value of Rs. 8 each per mensem were awarded to Mappilla girls reading in lower and higher elementary schools. Besides these, 11 Government scholarships were awarded to Mappilla girls reading in secondary schools and 9 scholarships in higher elementary schools. Sixty-six residential scholarships of the value of Rs. 6 each per mensem tenable in Forms IV to VI and 58 of the monthly value of Rs. 3 each in Forms I to III were also awarded to Mappilla girls reading in the Government Mappilla Girls' High School, Tirur.

The Special Assistant to the Inspectress of Girls' Schools, Malabar, continued to do propaganda work for the improvement of the education of Mappilla girls. During her tour in the district, 21 special meetings of Mappilla parents were convened and they were advised to send their girls to schools. Teachers were also given instruction to pay house to house visits to secure better attendance and increased enrolment of Mappilla girls in schools.

South Kanara.—The number of elementary schools specially intended for Muslim girls was 12 as against 11 last year. The number of Muslim pupils under instruction in these schools was 725 girls and 213 boys as against 656 and 243 respectively last year. The number of Muslim girls reading in all the girls' elementary schools in the district was 781 as against 826. Twenty-five teachers were employed in the Mappilla girls' schools of whom 9 were trained Muslim women.

The number of Muslim girls reading in all the girls' secondary schools in the district was 109 as against 91 in the previous year. The Government Middle School for Muslim Girls at Mangalore became a high school consequent on the opening of IV Form in it during the year and the strength of the school increased from 69 last year to 85 during the year.

Nine general scholarships, 25 special scholarships and 3 widow scholarships were awarded to Muslim girls in secondary schools and 1 scholarship of the value of Rs. 8 per mensem and 6 other Government scholarships to those in elementary schools during the year under report.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 41 asked by Sri S. Nagappa at the meeting of Legislative Assembly held on 4th September 1946, page 1180 supra.]

Name of taluk.	Year.	Number of licences granted.					Number of cases in which renewals of licences were refused.					Number of cases in which licences were cancelled.					Reasons for cancelling or for refusing to renew licences.
		(1)	(2)	(3)					(4)					(5)			
		B.L. guns.	M.L. guns.	Revolvers.	Pistols.	Rifles.	B.L. guns.	M.L. guns.	Revolvers.	Pistols.	Rifles.	B.L. guns.	M.L. guns.	Revolvers.	Pistols.	Rifles.	
1 Pattikonda	1941	103	19	10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	1	..	..	(a) Renewal refused in three cases as the character of the licences was reported to be not good and in the remaining cases due to old age and unfitness to hold the weapons.
	1942	95	19	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	2	..	..	(b) Licences were cancelled due to death of the licensee.
	1943	90	18	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	..	..	..	(c) Renewal refused as the licensee was reported to be too old.
	1944	84	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	(d) Cancelled due to the death of the licensee.
	1945	75	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	(e) Licences were cancelled due to the death of the licensee.
2 Kollunkula	1941	42	6	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	(f) Renewal in one case was refused as the licensee was reported to be not in a position to possess a firearm. In the other case licensee was reported to be too old.
	1942	37	6	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	(g) Licences were cancelled due to the death of the licensee.
	1943	31	5	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	
	1944	31	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	
	1945	29	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	
3 Sirvel	1941	58	5	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	1	..	..	
	1942	54	5	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	1	1	..	..	
	1943	51	7	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1	4	..	..	
	1944	45	7	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1	..	..	..	
	1945	47	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12	1	..	..	..	
4 Dhone	1941	183	20	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	..	..	..	
	1942	135	21	10	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	4	1	..	..	..	
	1943	127	22	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1	..	..	..	
	1944	116	20	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	0	..	..	..	
	1945	119	22	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11	0	..	..	..	
5 Cumbum	1941	78	26	4	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	2	1	..	..	
	1942	74	26	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	3	1	..	..	
	1943	74	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	3	..	..	..	
	1944	79	19	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	2	..	..	..	
	1945	103	21	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	3	..	..	..	
6 Markapur	1941	60	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	1	..	..	
	1942	58	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	
	1943	57	15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	
	1944	53	13	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3	..	..	..	
	1945	60	14	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	3	2	..	..	

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(a) Renewal refused in three cases as the character of the licensee was reported to be not good and in the remaining cases due to old age and unfitness to hold the weapons.
(b) Licences were cancelled due to death of the licensee.
(c) Renewal refused as the licensee was reported to be too old.
(d) Cancelled due to the death of the licensee.
(e) Licences were cancelled due to the death of the licensee.
(f) Renewal in one case was refused as the licensee was reported to be not in a position to possess a firearm. In the other case licensee was reported to be too old.
(g) Licences were cancelled due to the death of the licensee.

7 Nandkotkur

1941	99	10	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
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(h) Renewal in one case was refused as the character of the licensee was not good. In other cases they were reported to be unfit to hold the weapon.
(i) Cancelled due to the death of the licensee.
(j) Renewal in three cases was refused as the licensee was reported to be too old to handle the weapons. In one case it was refused as the licensee was not known how to handle it.

(l) Cancelled due to the death of the licensee.
(m) One licence was not renewed as per Government's instructions issued in 1943. A fresh licence has been issued in the above case as per instructions of Board of Revenue.
(n) Renewal in two cases was refused as the licensee was reported to be too old to handle the weapons.
(o) Renewals in nine cases were refused as the licensee was reported to be too old to take care and handle the weapons. In one case the character of the licensee was reported to be not good.
(p) Licences were cancelled due to the death of the licensee.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 5th September 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Members of the Indian National Army.

* 147 Q.—SRI D. DORAIRAJA PANDIAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number of persons resident in this Province who were members of the Indian National Army;

(b) whether their activities are being watched by the Police;

(c) whether the skilled workers available among them will be provided with work; and

(d) whether Government propose to employ all the others also suitably?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

“(c) & (d) The policy in regard to the employment of Indian National Army personnel in the public service is under the consideration of Government.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Are the Government aware that the I.N.A. personnel are employed as ‘Home Guards’ in the United Provinces?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I have no information about it. I have taken note of it now.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I ask the Government whether they are aware that the I.N.A. personnel consists of a good number of skilled workers who will be useful to this Province?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I presume there must be.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“In view of the fact that these I.N.A. people remain unemployed just now, how long will it take for the Government to come to a decision in the matter?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I do not think it will take a long time, Sir. It has been considered by the Government but the matter has not been finally concluded; now that the Interim Government have come into office, we thought we might wait till the policy of that Interim Government is known.”

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I request the Hon. Minister to make use of the skill of these men for the development of our province in every respect? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The skill of every one would be availed of by this Government."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know if the Government have any proposal to have a Home Guard service in this Province also? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The matter will be considered."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—" May I know, in as much as the I.N.A. men are supporters of the Congress Government and are under its discipline, if the Government will make enquiries whether the C.I.D. police are unnecessarily shadowing them? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" This question does not arise at present."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—" Sir, is the Hon. Premier aware that some of these demobilized I.N.A. men are actually starving in the villages of Kurnool and Cuddapah districts, without any help from anybody? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I have taken the information from the hon. Member and he will be requested to give particulars about these persons, their names, addresses, etc."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know from the Hon. Premier whether there has been any definite policy enunciated as regards these people known as I.N.A. and what exactly is their job now in this country and which party they are supporting? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I do not believe, Sir, they are supporting any party. If I could gather information from them aright, they were under orders not to be under any party."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—" Are the Government aware that large sums of money belonging to these I.N.A. men have been confiscated by the Government? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The Government have no information about it, the hon. Member is welcome to supply the information if he has any with him."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBIAH:—" With reference to the answer to clause (a), may I ask that the information should be collected and supplied to this House, as it is easy, particularly because the I.N.A. have been recruited to the Indian Army originally? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" All available information when it is ready will be furnished to the hon. Members."

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MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Are the Government aware that many of these people who go under the cover of 'I.N.A.' who are not really I.N.A. are soon becoming lieutenants and captains and other officers; will the Government investigate into this matter? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The Government have not been aware of it. The Government request the hon. Member to supply the information, if he has any, about anybody."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether this Government is going to make any distinction between the I.N.A. men and persons who served in the War? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" That is a question which is under consideration."

Vacancies reserved for war personnel.

* 148 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many vacancies reserved for the war personnel in all the departments of this Government have been filled and how many still remain to be filled?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The information has been called for from heads of departments and other appointing authorities and will, on receipt, be placed on the table of the House."

ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether this Government will follow the recommendations of the Post-War Development Committee in regard to the employment of War personnel? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" This Government will not commit itself to any such position."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether this 'war personnel' includes I.N.A. men as they were originally recruited by the Recruitment department? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The question must be explicit, the hon. Member may try to put it clearly."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether this war personnel includes I.N.A. people also as they were originally recruited by the War department from our country? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" They might have been included, Sir, because it has been stated that some persons on regular service had gone over to the other side."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it not a fact that I.N.A. men are those who are called the Indian National Army; whereas the war personnel are called British Indian Army? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The hon. Member may please repeat the question."

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MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not correct to say that war personnel are called British Indian Army personnel and Indian National Army people are those who no doubt were recruited to the British Indian Army but having gone over to the other side, they are called Indian National Army? There is a distinction between I.N.A. men and the British Indian Army."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The distinction I have been able to understand is this: The regular army has been recruited here by the British Government. With regard to the Indian National Army, those who were not in the regular army here but were recruited on the other side of the seas constituted it; and the allegation has been made that some men of the regular army had gone over to the other side and joined that army."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does this Government make any distinction and will it give preferential treatment to one set of personnel as against the other?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"That is a question which has been under consideration."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know if it is a fact that the Government are modifying the policy of employing the war-returned personnel, and if so why?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Government have been considering the question itself; there is no question of having laid down a policy and revising it now."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBIAH:—"May I ask, Sir, if it is right for a national Government or a popular Government to reserve seats in the Government for military men who have served in an Imperialist War and not in a national war?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"That is a matter which has been under the consideration of the present Government."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"From the answer given by the Hon. Premier, may I ask whether the same preference that is given to war personnel will be given to I.N.A.'s also?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"That question has been answered already."

Employment of ex-I.N.A. personnel in the Government services.

* 149 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM NADAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any instructions or circulars against the employment of ex-I.N.A. personnel in the Government services; and

(b) whether Government propose to absorb them in Police, Jail and Local Board departments?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) No.

" (b) The matter is under consideration."

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SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Is the Government aware, Sir, that many I.N.A. men are employed already in the Police Department of the U.P. Government?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"This Government is not aware of it, yet."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"If it is true, will the Government consider the question of appointing them in the Police and other departments under this Government?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"That is a question which has been under the consideration of Government."

Health Survey and Development Committee.

* 150 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the report of the Health Survey and Development Committee; and

(b) whether they have decided upon any health programme for this Province based upon the recommendations of that Committee?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (a) The report is under consideration."

" (b) Not yet."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, when and by whom the Committee was appointed and what are its recommendations?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Committee was appointed by the Government of India. A copy of the recommendations of the Bhore Committee is in the Library, and I request the hon. Member to refer to that volume."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. the Minister is aware that the health of the people has deteriorated much under the control of the District Boards and the Municipalities, which do not observe the rules of the Public Health Act, and whether she knows that the Municipalities and District Boards are required to earmark 30 per cent and 12½ per cent, respectively, of their income for public health purposes, whereas Municipalities spend only 15.6 per cent and the District Boards only 7.2 per cent on this account?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The long supplementary question put by my hon. Friend Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin does not arise out of the main question."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Does the Hon. Minister mean that the report of the Committee concerning this Province would not be placed on the Table of the House?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"It is a report published by the Government of India and I have already said that for the edification of members, that copies will be available for reference in the Library of the Legislatures."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know which other provision of this report this Government have adopted besides provision of admission to the Medical College on the basis of merit? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" This is one of the recommendations made by the Bhore Committee, namely, that one-third of the admissions should proceed on the basis of merit; that recommendation has been given effect to though not in full and even in regard to the suggestion of one-third, this Government considered it advisable to adopt only twenty per cent for this year. Therefore it cannot be said that the recommendation of the Committee with regard to admission to the Medical and Engineering Colleges has not been given effect to."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" My question, Sir, remains unanswered. May I ask, besides accepting this wholesome or unwholesome recommendation, which other recommendation has been accepted by the Government? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The recommendations made by the Bhore Committee will be considered at the forthcoming Conference of Health Ministers at Delhi or Simla, and after full discussion takes place their recommendations may be implemented."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Do I understand, therefore, that there was no other recommendation of this important Committee which was as important as the recommendation which has been accepted by the Government? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The hon. Member can draw his own inference."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" What was the special reason why this one particular recommendation which will have the result of helping some particular section of the Hindu community was given effect to and no action taken as regards the other recommendations of this Committee? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The Government felt that having regard to the efficiency of the services, merit should be taken into consideration."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know whether the Hon. the Minister is aware that this particular recommendation of the Bhore Committee regarding merit was based on the proposed expansion of colleges to the extent of 200 per cent which has now taken place? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The Committee that sat over the question of admissions considered all the applications that were sent to them; it was not with reference to any particular college."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether there is any recommendation in the report of the Committee in order that

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public health and medicine may be combined in one department as there is only one Minister for these two departments? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" There was no such recommendation made by the Committee."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister what steps Government have taken on the recommendations of this Committee to improve the sanitary condition and the health of the aborigines and also Harijans? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The suggestion of the hon. Member will be taken up after the Conference of Health Ministers is over."

MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" While the Government thought it was necessary to give deeper consideration to the other recommendations of the Bhore Committee, did they not also think that this particular item of recommendation of the Committee also requires such deep consideration at the hands of the Government before it was given effect to? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" If it was the policy of the Government of Madras to give full effect to that particular recommendation relating to admissions, it would have done so; but it did not give effect to that recommendation at all in full, but only 20 per cent of the number of seats was put up on the basis of merit."

MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Therefore, shall we take it that it is not on the recommendation of the Bhore Committee that this action of the Government has been taken but on their own initiative? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" In view of the fact that there was very little time to go into the question of admissions, a sort of interim arrangement was made."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether this report was discussed, debated upon and conclusions arrived at in the Cabinet? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" No, Sir."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I take it that this recommendation regarding merit was made on the sole responsibility of the Minister in charge of this department? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The matter was not discussed so far as I remember, at any of the Cabinet meetings, but it was discussed by the Prime Minister and myself."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it not a fact that some of the non-Brahman members of the Cabinet differed from the Hon. Minister? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" Cabinet secrets cannot be revealed."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I beg to submit, Sir, that I am not asking for any Cabinet secret. The Hon. Minister stated categorically that it was not considered in the Cabinet and so what I am asking is whether any other Minister differed from her or this particular question of merit was her own initiative?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Hon. the Education Minister also agreed to this percentage."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether any other Minister did not agree to this?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"No other Minister was consulted in the matter."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"As my previous question has not been answered, may I know, Sir, whether Medical colleges in this Province have expanded to the extent of 200 per cent as has been proposed by in the Bhore Committee as a preliminary to the rule of merit coming into force?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"No, Sir."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, if the Government proposes to consider the increase of Medical colleges by 200 per cent next year?"

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In spite of all these volley of questions and agitation in this House on this point, is the Government bent upon giving effect to this 20 per cent principle?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"This 20 per cent matter is just for one year. The Government may consider it or may not consider it in regard to its continuance in the succeeding years."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know Sir, from the Hon. Minister for Health that in view of the serious nature of the departure made from the usual method of recruitment, she did not think it necessary to consult the entire Cabinet so that all the pros and cons of introducing the new method of recruitment may be considered, especially as this innovation affects the life of several communities?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Sir, the 20 per cent is based only on merit; the rest of the 80 per cent is based on the communal Government Order. However, this matter will be placed before the Cabinet."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Why should she not think it necessary to place the matter before the entire Cabinet before taking a decision?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Then, the matter was not felt to be so important as to be placed before the Cabinet."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I ask the Hon. the Minister for Public Health whether she is aware of the sanitary conditions

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in Harijan quarters and whether there is any recommendation in the report in order to improve their condition?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The hon. Member may very readily refer to the recommendations made by the Bhore Committee. Therefore the question need not be answered here."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"As the House is very much alarmed at the passing of executive orders making innovations from past practice, may I request Government henceforth no such executive orders will be passed without joint consultation of the Ministers of the Cabinet?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am afraid an assurance cannot be given to the House straightaway. However, as I have already stated, in future, such matters will be placed for the consideration of the Cabinet."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The communal Government Order, Sir, is an executive order. The Government that is in office to-day is entitled to consider it as an executive order."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"That part of my question remains unanswered. My question is whether the Hon. the Minister for Public Health is aware of the sanitary conditions prevailing in Harijan quarters?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Yes, Sir."

Registration of Dalmia Cement Labour Union.

* 151 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Manager of Dalmia Cement, Ltd., Dalmiapuram, had asked the Registrar of Trade Unions, Madras, in a letter, dated 29th September 1945, not to register the Dalmia Cement Labour Union;

(b) what reply the Registrar of Trade Unions has given to the Manager; and

(c) what action the Labour Commissioner has taken on the memorandum of grievances submitted by the Dalmia Cement Labour Union?

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary on behalf of Hon. Sri V. V. Giri):—" (a) Yes, Sir.

" (b) No reply was given to the Manager in writing; but when he met the Registrar, he was told that if the union satisfied the requirements of the Indian Trade Unions Act, it would be registered.

" (c) The memorandum of grievances was fully gone into by the District Magistrate of Trichinopoly and the Commissioner of Labour and no action was considered necessary."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" May I know if the employers have got a right to interfere in the registration of trade unions? "

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary):—" No, Sir."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" May I know, Sir, if the Government proposed to this any action to see employees do not come in the way of registration of trade unions? "

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary):—" We will consider it, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—" Since the hon. Member (Sri K. S. V. Krishnan), is not in his seat, the answer to the question 152 will be printed in the official proceedings."

Dearness allowance to employees of District Boards and Municipal Councils.

* 152 Q.—SRI K. S. V. KRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to order the payment of the difference of dearness allowance for the period from July 1944 to December 1944 to employees of municipal councils; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to revise the scales of pay of the ministerial establishments of district boards and municipal councils so as to bring them on a par with those in Government Departments?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" (a) Arrears of dearness allowance for the period from July to December 1944 have been sanctioned and paid to conservancy menials of local bodies. The payment of arrears of dearness allowances to non-conservancy staff is under consideration of the Government and orders will be passed very soon.

" (b) The proposal is under consideration by the Government."

Eradication of rinderpest.

* 153 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have appointed any expert committee to examine and report on the measures to be taken for the effective control and ultimate eradication of rinderpest as recommended by the Provincial Veterinary Conference held in Madras in April 1945?

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" As necessary action was being taken to control and eradicate rinderpest, it was considered that the appointment of an expert committee was not called for."

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SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, whether the present system of inoculation against rinderpest has been found ineffective or unsatisfactory in any way? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" No, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether the Government is aware that rinderpest is more prevalent in the Ceded districts? "

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the Provincial Veterinary Conference recommended the constitution of an expert committee to go into the question and why Government have not accepted the suggestion made? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" When there are better experts in the department itself, there is no need to consult any other body."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—" Is the Government aware that the Veterinary Assistant Surgeons are not able to cope up with the rinderpest epidemic in the mufassal? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" No. They are able to cope up with the work."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—" Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of stationing travelling Veterinary Assistant Surgeons in taluk headquarters so that they may treat these cases efficiently in the villages around the headquarters? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" No. In almost all headquarters, there are hospitals to look after these cases."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—" Will the Government be pleased to note that there are so many taluk headquarters without veterinary hospitals? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" Yes. There are certain places; we are keeping them vacant for want of men."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that there are experts in indigenous veterinary system and whether their services would be utilized? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" Notice, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" In view of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, will he assure that he will increase the number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons by at least 50 per cent in the Ceded districts in order to cope with the work? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" Not only in the Ceded districts but throughout the Presidency we will increase the number of Veterinary Assistant Surgeons as and when candidates are available."

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SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Arising out of the answer, Sir, may I know from the Hon. Minister what steps Government propose to take to get more men into the Veterinary department?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"If the hon. Member had been present yesterday when I replied to the debate, he would have known my answer to the question."

Admission to colleges.

* 154 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state the number of Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Muslims, Scheduled Classes and Christians admitted this year and during each of the last three years in each of the following Colleges: Medical College, Madras, Presidency College, Madras, and Engineering College, Guindy?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"A statement showing the information is laid on the table."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I ask whether the large increase in the number of Brahman students is not due to the application of the new rule regarding merit?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is quite possible."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I ask, Sir, whether in view of the considerable opposition that this matter has aroused in the country the Government intended to rescind their new order?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The matter will be reconsidered."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Bhore Committee upon which the rule is based have defined the word 'merit'?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I would like the hon. Member to refer to the Bhore Committee report."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I enquire whether the Government will be pleased to revive the College Selection Committees which worked very satisfactorily in the past?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It will be considered."

MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What is the Hon. Minister's definition of the word 'merit'?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Merit as understood by that order means marks."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I enquire whether the Hon. the Minister is aware that so far as some professional colleges like the Medical and Engineering Colleges are concerned, it is not mere mental dexterity but also manual dexterity and aptitude that go to constitute merit?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I thought the hon. Member would have understood the point of view of the Government when I explained it under the Education Demand."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If marks are considered as constituting merit, may I know whether the Minister for Education has more merit, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I have very poor merit as judged by the hon. Member."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether it is a fact that applications sent by two Harijan students for admission into the Presidency College were summarily rejected without assigning any reasons?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"As far as I understand, all the Harijan boys who applied for admission were admitted."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the Government are aware of the fact that two students from the Kurnool district who were recommended by me were not admitted?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am sorry. If the hon. Member had brought that to my notice, I would have helped him and got the students admitted."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Prime Minister stated that the communal Government Order was an executive order. Quite true. I ask when any such innovation is made in executive orders, whether the entire Cabinet will take the responsibility and decide? That was my question. Can we have an assurance in future that the entire Cabinet including the Governor—will consider and decide on policies to be adopted as a joint responsibility and not to issue such orders merely on the authority of a single Minister?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"When this 20 per cent was decided upon, by some of us, it was also intended that the matter should go before the Cabinet and considered. It will be considered."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask out of Muslim students admitted into the Presidency College, how many of them were admitted into the Honours Courses in Science?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am sorry I have no information ready at hand; if the hon. Member puts a separate question, I will give the answer."

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the Government is prepared to see that the communal principle is applied in regard to admission to colleges, particularly the Presidency College, having regard to the fact that the community which is only 3 per cent gets 381 while the non-Brahmin community which is overwhelmingly large, gets only 283 seats? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

" As far as Presidency College is concerned, 20 per cent merit was not enforced. I must make it clear to this House that the old procedure was being followed in the matter of selection of students. Here also I must say that the selection from the point of view mentioned by hon. Members is not satisfactory and the Government is taking up the matter."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—" May I know how many Yanadis and other Scheduled Class students have been admitted into the Medical and Engineering Colleges? "

SRI B. S. MURTHI:—" I may tell my hon. Friend that Yanadis do not belong to Scheduled Castes; they come under backward classes."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

" If the hon. Member gives notice of a separate question with regard to backward classes, the question will be answered."

Harijan candidate for studies in medicine abroad.

* 154-A Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state why a Harijan by name Sri Ethiraju who is serving as Assistant Surgeon at Chirala, Guntur district, was not selected for further studies abroad?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" He did not apply for selection for further studies abroad."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know, Sir, whether these candidates were selected direct by the Government of India or whether they were recommended by their departmental head? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" He never applied."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" I am asking the general question whether such of the candidates as were selected by the Government of India direct or were recommended by their departmental heads? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" But that does not arise out of the question."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I enquire what means were employed by the Government in order to give wide publicity to the question of inviting applications from qualified persons who wished to apply? "

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THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" In fact these scholarships should have been advertised by the Government of India. I do not think there was any such notification."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Is the Government aware that the application of Mr. Ethiraju, an Adi-Dravida, was not forwarded by his departmental head? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" No application was submitted."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" As a subordinate, he has to send his application through the proper channel. Therefore, the application was sent through his departmental head but that application has not been forwarded to the Government."

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" I am not aware of it."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—" May I know whether the Government feels that there is really any necessity for deputing people to foreign countries for study and whether the Government by that means are wasting a lot of poor people's money on that purpose? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" It is a matter of opinion."

MR. SPEAKER:—" The other day, the House passed a motion to send me to England." (Laughter.)

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—" That stands on a different footing. It is a thing which is very useful to the country."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to call for a report from the officers concerned? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" I do not think it is necessary to call for a report on such a simple matter."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" At least in view of the fact that had the application been received, he would have stood some chance and he was not selected as his application did not reach Government, will the Government consider the desirability of selecting him now at least? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" No, Sir."

Appointment of Fourth Presidency Magistrate.

* 154-B Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether applications were called for with reference to the recent appointment made of a Fourth Presidency Magistrate; and

(b) whether the Public Service Commission was consulted with reference to the above appointment?

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THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“(a) No. The appointment was of a temporary character and for a short duration till such time as the list of Deputy Collectors was prepared by the Madras Public Service Commission. The appointment was made under the emergency powers.

“(b) No. Not necessary in view of what has been stated above.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I know why applications were not called for by means of an advertisement in the Gazette or the newspapers?”

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“The reason is that the appointment is of a temporary character until such time as the list of Deputy Collectors was prepared by the Madras Public Service Commission.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I enquire how long the appointment is likely to continue?”

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“Until the Madras Service Commission draws up the list.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, if it is the policy of the Government not to call for applications whenever the appointment is of a temporary character?”

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“It is not worthwhile calling for applications for temporary appointments as the best men would not offer themselves for temporary appointments.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I enquire whether, in regard to future recruitments to the magistracy consequent upon the separation of judicial from executive functions, the appointments will be made by the Public Service Commission or by the Hon. the Minister himself?”

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“It is too early to say anything because the Committee is sitting on it and their recommendations will be considered before a final decision is arrived at.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I suggest the desirability of such appointments being made by the Public Service Commission?”

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“I shall communicate the views of the hon. Member to the Committee.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In answer to a supplementary question earlier the Hon. Minister stated that the gentleman who has been appointed is not the best man. Is he not satisfied with the appointment?”

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“He was the Assistant Crown Prosecutor appointed by the Commissioner of Police having been selected from a number of applications. I take it he is the best man.”

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[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS ESSENTIAL ARTICLES CONTROL AND REQUISITIONING (TEMPORARY POWERS) BILL, 1946

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I introduce the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1946, and move that it be referred to a Select Committee with instruction to return the same with their report to-morrow. The names of the members of the Select Committee will be settled later. I would like to say a few words in introducing the Bill so as to enable members to understand how this came about as an emergent measure. Matters relating to the control of essential articles have been carried on under the rules framed under the Defence of India Act. When that terminates, there must be some provision under which matters relating to food and other essential articles can be carried on. It is for that purpose that this Bill is introduced as a temporary measure. If we do not introduce the Bill now and have it passed by the House, there will be no provision for continuing food control and the control of other essential articles which have been carried out until now under the Defence of India Rules. It is in that way that the matter is emergent. After approval by this House, it will have to be taken to the Government of India for their approval as well and that is the urgency of this measure.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, I have known that in matters of legislation under consideration in a deliberative Assembly, on questions affecting the rights and responsibilities of members, it is the desire even on the part of the sponsors of the measure to give full time to the House and particularly to those occupying the Opposition benches, so that they could consider the pros and cons of that measure and come to a decision. I regret to say that in the last Assembly that wholesome rule was thrown to the winds; legislative measures were brought forward and they were hustled through on account of the fact that the Government had, what is called, a steam-roller majority behind them. With that steam-roller majority they tried to hustle legislative measures, although occasionally measures were referred to a Select Committee. Never was any measure referred for eliciting public opinion for that Government did not consider it necessary to find out what the public thought of the measure. They believed that they were the representatives of the people and they had every power to act on their behalf without consulting them from time to time. That I am afraid is the method adopted by this Government. This Government has also got a steam-roller majority. I am not questioning them for it. These are things which have come into existence as a result of the vote of the people. But it is well to remember that the Government which has a large majority behind it, has a minority in the Opposition and has to take into account that very important fact. If they take that factor into consideration, they will certainly see

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that no regulation or rules governing the conduct of business in the legislature will be disposed of summarily in the manner in which it is sought to be done now.

12 noon. "Sir, I heard the Hon. Premier's statement with attention. It is true that this may be a necessary measure to prevent black-marketing and corruption. It was said that the Defence of India Rules would expire by the end of this month, and so this Bill is necessary to control and requisition essential articles of food. Sir, there are two opinions as to whether there should be control or not. There is a strong opinion that the control system has been responsible for the present black-marketing and corruption. The Government have not assured the people of the Province that they have taken away measures to put down that evil. I know the Government have announced publicly that the machinery to eradicate that evil has been set on foot; but we have not been told how far they have succeeded in that. I believe it is on account of their admission of failure that this measure has been brought forward. If Government really want to control essential articles of food, the Bill should have been published sufficiently early. It appeared in the *Fort St. George Gazette* only on the 31st August 1946. I do not think the Bill has been before the public long enough for the Government to know the reaction of the people on it. It is true the present Bill is only a substitute for the Defence of India Rules which were issued by an Ordinance. Those rules were framed by an irresponsible Government, and those rules were administered by an irresponsible Government. Now a responsible Government has come into being. Is it not necessary that before they get a legislation passed in this House they should take the public with them? It is very important that whatever measure Government may bring forward, they ought to remember that they should secure the consent not only of the vast majority of the members of this House but also the opinion of the people. That is not possible now; for, I understand Government want that this Bill should be passed into law by to-morrow. There are in this Bill a number of clauses which require deep thought, and even if the Bill is referred to the Select Committee, I am afraid it will take at least two or three days to finish its deliberations. Several provisions of the Bill require amendment, modification and alteration so that the effect of the measure may be more wholesome, than has been the case under the Defence of India Rules. Everybody knows, the Defence of India Rules have done a lot of damage to the people and have brought into existence very bad evils in the body politic. In order to eradicate it and prevent such recurrence it will be necessary for hon. Members on the Select Committee to see certain provisions are deleted or modified, and all this will require some time. So I believe there is no meaning in saying that the Bill will be referred to a Select Committee and it should finish its business to-day itself and it should be passed into law to-morrow. This is all hasty legislation; and it has to be deprecated. Therefore I earnestly appeal to the Premier not to hasten this legislation but consider the various aspects of the question in

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detail and to give the Opposition sufficient time to give their best consideration to the provisions of the Bill in order that this piece of legislation may be useful and effective. Sir, I accept the reference of the Bill to the Select Committee but enter my emphatic protest against the way in which this Bill is being hastened."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my constituency . . . (A voice: 'Whom do you represent?') The South Indian Chamber of Commerce which represents the entire business community of this Province. Sir, if the Chamber does not represent them I can't understand who else represents. Sir, on behalf of the mercantile community I endorse all that was said by my hon. Friend Mr. Hameed Khan. The Premier has stated that owing to the Defence of India Rules expiring on the 30th September this Bill has to be passed now. He has not adduced any better reasons than what are found in the Statement of Objects and Reasons incorporated at the end of the Bill. As a mercantile community we wish to assist the Ministry as far as possible. But we would very much like to know where we stand. Already, under the Defence of India Rules we have enough complaints from the merchants about harassment and victimization in certain places due to various reasons in which I do not propose to enter. The Defence of India Rules have been bad enough; I am afraid the Bill now drafted is worse. Under the schedule are included such things as livestock (which I suppose means goats and fowls), eggs, fish, which are perishable articles. Along with them I find such things as motor vehicles (new and used). There does not seem to be any consistency in the list of articles stated. There is no family connexion so to say. (Laughter.) I consider that the whole thing has to be gone into by the Select Committee very carefully and it is absolutely impossible for it to finish its deliberations in so short a time. I am sure within the next two days it will be possible for the members of the Select Committee to ascertain the opinion of the public. The *Fort St. George Gazette* which contains this Bill did not reach many of our Members in the mufassal on account of various causes. (Mr. Speaker: 'On account of railway strike.') Until the second or third of this month, we have been receiving telegrams and letters from mufassal merchants urging us to see what best can be done. I do not think it will be possible for the Select Committee to finish its work before Saturday next. So I would suggest that we take up this Bill on Monday morning. With these observations I once again request the Premier to accede to our request instead of simply telling us 'It is impossible for us to do anything.' After all we are in a minority, and particularly the mercantile community is in a very small minority, and I look to the co-operation of the Muslim and European groups in this matter. I therefore enter my strong protest against the hasty manner in which this legislation is being rushed through."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose 12-15
this Bill being referred to a Select Committee. There is not much p.m.
for me to say except that I do feel, with the knowledge that we all

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have of the Defence of India Rules, a little more time might have been given to us to study this very important Bill. If a Select Committee is to work, it will have to work after 5 in the evening, outside the Assembly hours. I, therefore, suggest that the Select Committee be given much more time than to-morrow to submit its report."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, nobody can be more alive to the necessity of controlling the sale and purchase of essential articles, especially foodgrains, than the people of this Presidency. There is a very large volume of opinion that control of all purchases and sales of articles has been upsetting not only trade and commerce but also the supply of articles to the people. It is said, Sir, that once you control the purchase and sale of articles, the articles go underground, and corruption sets in. It is impossible to put down corruption. While I agree to exercising control over very important articles, such as foodgrains, I am opposed to legislating for the control of any of the articles mentioned in this Bill. Further, there is a very omnibus clause in this Bill, i.e., clause 2 (a) defining essential articles.

"On principle, Sir, the powers of the Legislature should not be encroached upon by the Government. It only means that you are giving power to the executive to pass rules and specify by a notification any article as an essential article. It is opposed to the democratic principle to act without bringing the matter before the Legislature.

"In the schedule I find many articles, which should not have been controlled even under the Defence of India Rules; articles like motor vehicles, livestock, eggs, fish, etc. I do not know, Sir, how far these eggs, fish and ducks can be brought under control. As mentioned by Mr. Natesan, these are all perishable articles, and I am afraid that as soon as you exercise control over the purchase of these articles, they are sure to disappear, and corruption will grow. Corruption in the country will grow in proportion to the number of articles you want to control by legislation. Therefore, my submission is this, Sir. I oppose on principle this omnibus clause that the executive should be given powers—a free hand—to declare a certain article as an essential article. It is wrong and we all know where it will lead us. From the point of view of good business also, it is bad. Some of the articles which are mentioned in the schedule also should go out of the schedule. While I am agreeable to controlling the most important articles of food, such as foodgrains, I am opposed to the control of any of the articles. There are several provisions in the Bill which go to the root of the matter, and which take away the right of the legislators to decide what should be done in a certain matter. While no doubt it is true that with the end of this month the Defence of India Rules will disappear and something must be substituted in its place urgently, so that we will be able to supply food to the different parts of the

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country, I am of opinion, Sir, that this Bill must be gone into very carefully, and it should have been published in the papers much earlier. It affects, as Mr. Natesan has said, the business of many thousands of people. Therefore, let this Bill go to the Select Committee, and sufficient time be given to the Select Committee to make its report. With these words, Sir, I support the motion to refer the Bill to the Select Committee."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the motion to refer the Bill to the Select Committee, and I want to make one or two observations. The Bill was published at a time when most of us were engaged in studying the Budget and hence had not the opportunity to go through all the provisions of the Bill. It should not be the purpose of this House to legislate with all the defects that the Defence of India Rules contained. Such of those provisions in the Defence of India Rules as are defective must be rectified, and for this a careful examination of the whole Bill is necessary. In this connexion, I should like to say that the Defence of India Rules could not effectively check black-marketing, and those rules, being defective, enabled dealers to make fabulous profits. Black-market itself has become famous. To rectify this, we must go through the Bill very carefully. Under the Defence of India Rules which are going to be codified as law in this House, there is no popular control to check black-marketing. Unless there is popular control to check black-marketing, there is no possibility of effectively stopping that evil.

"In clause 5 of the Bill it has been suggested that compensation should be paid for all articles requisitioned. In ordinary cases compensation can be paid, but in the case of persons convicted for black-marketing, I do not find any necessity to pay compensation. In cases where requisitioning has been effected, and where movable property is attached for black-marketing, I suggest no compensation shall be paid.

"Then, Sir, clause 15 empowers only public servants to file charge-sheets against black-marketers. This is one of the defects in the Defence of India Rules. Because of this only, we could not check black-marketing. Unless private individuals are also empowered to file complaints, we cannot effectively check black-markets. To illustrate this, I will cite one instance. In Bezwada a merchant dealing in iron and steel was caught. But after 14 months he was let off and the goods were returned to the owner. I can quote a number of other cases also, but for the time being I stop with this one instance. I would request the House to give proper time to the Select Committee to go through all these details. With these words, I support the motion."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Premier has referred this Bill to a Select Committee. The Bill is essential and I do not agree with hon. Members who spoke saying that there is no necessity now for control. There is necessity for control, but the fact that there is also the

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ugly repercussion that as soon as control is introduced, the particular article controlled disappears from the market, a fact that was mentioned by some hon. Members, is also there. The fault is not to be laid on the head of the control but on the head of those who would like to abuse every good provision and make it a method for belittling the effects. The Hon. Premier has done a service in asking for the control of essential articles. This Bill has obviously to be sent to the Select Committee because there are some provisions which require drastic alteration. For instance, under clause 7, where a person does not obey any order prohibiting, restricting or otherwise controlling the cultivation of specified crops, the result is only that a person cultivates some crops which the Government do not want him to cultivate. Clause 7 (2) says: 'has failed to comply.' That means even if the crop fails on account of monsoon, or the man has no money, it is still a failure. In all official enactments, you will find 'intentional' or 'wilful' failure. In the absence of that, it means under clause 7 (2), that a person who fails to cultivate owing to not having money or not having rain, it would lead to the fear that the property is likely to be put in the possession of some others. Another feature of clause 7 (2) is that the property will be placed under the possession of somebody and that man is entitled, like the owner, to realize profits and is bound to pay on behalf of the defaulter only the Government revenue. The benefit of the profits goes neither to the Government nor to the defaulter, but to a private person. That would be an expropriation which would not even be an expropriation to Government but to some happy street-walker. That is a thing that requires to be remedied and obviously it has to be so changed that the person put in possession shall be liable to pay to the defaulting owner the net profit of the land after deducting reasonable expenses for cultivation and also a certain percentage for the purpose of management, or some commuted amount which can be fixed. Otherwise we will have expropriation in a peculiar form. I believe it is due to the hurry in the drafting of the Bill. Otherwise nobody would consciously put in such a provision as this.

"One other clause requires further radical amendment. That is clause 12 (1) dealing with penalties. In it we find that a person who contravenes any order made under section 7 is also included. That unfortunate man is practically put under three penalties. Under section 7 (2), his lands are likely to be taken away and cultivated by a neighbour, who will also take away the crops. Under clause 12 (1), if he contravenes an order, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term of three years or with fine or with both, and also if the order so provides, any Court trying such contravention may direct that any property—even though it is hundred acres of land—in respect of which the Court is satisfied that the order has been contravened shall be forfeited to the Provincial Government. So, the man loses this property for ever. I believe these are defects which require to be

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remedied in the Select Committee. The whole thing might be met by omitting the words 'or section 7' occurring in clause 12 (1)."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not get into the details."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"I am only dealing with the general principles, Sir. These are things which have to be remedied."

"One very important amendment has to be made in clauses 9 and 10. In section 9, we find 'Every order made by the Provincial Government or the Central Government or any other competent authority under any of the provisions of the Defence of India Rules in respect of any of the matters specified in sections 3, 4 and 7 which having been notified in the Official Gazette was in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall, in so far as it could validly have been made by the Provincial Government under this Act continue to be in force as if it has been made by the Provincial Government under the provisions of this Act and remain until it is superseded or modified by the competent authority.' Now Sir, a huge number of rules and orders have been passed under the Defence of India Rules. In section 9, we have got this general provision that whatever orders have been passed under the Defence of India Rules which could validly be made under this Act shall be deemed to be continued under this Act. I can understand a provision like this being made by the Central Legislature who have full and absolute powers, but not by a Provincial Legislature with limited powers like the present one. The result will be that a person, to know what orders he has to obey, will have to go through a whole library of rules and orders, and find out in consultation with an astute lawyer as to what orders passed under the Defence of India Rules will have to be obeyed under this Act. That kind of thing will not be allowed, particularly in law drafting. The law is there for the people to obey. For people to obey, it must be definite, and on the face of the Act you must know what exactly are the rules and orders. The matter becomes still more complicated when we find in section 10 'Any order made under section 3 or section 4 or section 7 or continued under section 9 shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any enactment other than this Act or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any enactment other than this Act.' This is a Legislature with limited powers. That makes it much more difficult to draft like this."

"When you come to the penal clause, sub-section (1) of section 12, you will have to hunt after the different sections to find out which orders are in force. Such difficulty is much more exemplified if you have a penal section which introduces 'or continued under section 9.' For disobeying an order so 'continued under section 9' you will be sentenced to three years' imprisonment. It will be a very great handicap on the people, unless you give under section 9 what are the specific orders or rules that

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you intend to continue still. Otherwise you cannot penalize a man because he cannot study the whole literature of the Defence of India Rules. These are things which require to be clarified.

“There are two further things that might possibly necessitate its going to the Select Committee. There is a provision in section 5 (1) in regard to movable property. The compensation payable shall be determined by the Provincial Government. There is no provision for appeal to any authority. It is necessary that there should be an application to any District Judge or Principal Subordinate Judge to revise whatever may be fixed, as in the case of the Land Acquisition Act. In section 5 (2), you will find that even with regard to an inch of immovable property, you have got the right to refer to the civil court, and an arbitrator is appointed. You have got the right of appeal also. Movable property is some times more valuable than immovable property. I would request that this matter may also be considered in the Select Committee, so that there may be provision for reference to court or arbitrator and appeal.

“The other thing is also a mistake in the hurry of drafting. Appeals lie to the High Court except in cases where the amount thereof does not exceed Rs. 5,000. Suppose the matter claimed is worth one lakh. But the award of the arbitrator may be only Rs. 4,999 in which case there is no appeal. It is something like the magistrate inflicting a fine under Rs. 50 against which there is no right of appeal. There is no reason why appeals should be restricted to awards over Rs. 5,000. It must be on the value of the claim and the appeal permissible in all cases.

“One other defect which could possibly be remedied is this. It has been found in working out the textile control, that information alone could be obtained under the Defence of India Rules. By some mistake, I find that provision for inspection and checking the stock is left out, though that the matter is required by the textile authorities to see that there is no black-marketing. There are several other intricate matters which may also be considered in the Select Committee.

“I find that motor vehicles are introduced. ‘Motor vehicles’ do not come under the provincial list. In fact, under the provincial list we find ‘Vehicles other than mechanically propelled vehicles.’ Of course, the other vehicles, namely, mechanically propelled vehicles come under the concurrent list. That defect has to be rectified. List 3, item No. 20 deals with mechanically propelled vehicles, and it comes under the concurrent list. I do not know whether the Government have taken the opinion of their Law Officers. Before introducing legislation of this kind, it might be necessary to see that it is free from defects, and that also might be considered. I therefore support the motion for Select Committee to see that the Act is improved.

“One other thing is that there has been a tendency in this Act and the corresponding Bills to reproduce the terms of the Defence of India Rules. For example, I find in section 10 ‘Any

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order made under section 3 or section 4 or section 7 or continued under section 9 shall have effect notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any enactment other than this Act or in any instrument having effect by virtue of any enactment other than this Act.’ This will do for a Parliament which has full power. That is why you find this provision in section 3 of the Defence of India Rules. But to reproduce it in the case of a limited Legislature will make it somewhat vague and undefined. Therefore I hope the Government will see that in its passage through the Select Committee, these defects are removed. Even though we are making emergency legislation, I will make one submission to the Hon. Premier and the Government. The more emergent the legislation is, the greater is the necessity to observe the ordinary forms of respecting rights, so that people may not feel that on account of the emergency ordinary rights are being taken away. The emergency must be limited only to the extent required by the emergency. I support the motion for reference to Select Committee and I hope there will be drastic revision of the Bill.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I have heard the comments made by the hon. Members. I must thank them for having recognized the necessity for an urgent measure of this type. In the opening words, I referred to the fact that the Government of India have been controlling all these essential articles for a long time. They took full power into their hands to regulate the supply of all essential articles by legislation. They have sent to us the draft Bill which they themselves introduced in the Central Legislature and adopted. They have given us an option this time to introduce the Bill and pass it ourselves. They have been good enough to send the draft Bill to us to enable us to frame legislation on those lines. That will show the necessity for treating this as an emergency measure and as a measure that should be adopted by the House. We have been appealing to the Government of India whenever food supplies were getting short. It was the opinion of the hon. Members of this House to appeal to the Government of India to help us in the matter. In framing this Bill, we have taken the provisions of the Government of India Bill and the rules framed by them. These are not framed as original sections by us. The Government of India Act was passed under extraordinary circumstances and these powers were taken by them under extraordinary circumstances, and they have also passed rules. For controlling all essential articles, they have taken power. Personally I am not one of those who approve of the method adopted by the Government of India. As I said on a previous occasion on the floor of this House, the Government of India should not have taken the control of all these essential articles and the power to legislate in their hands. That was my personal view, and it still is that it would have been better if they left us to ourselves. It could not be done and we could not get out of it by simply saying that the Government of India had gone right or wrong. We

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have to carry out their directions. If we wish to get out of their hands, we have to work out our own destinies here making every effort in that direction. That is how I feel. But there is no other alternative for us. We cannot give any direction with regard to production of food and the regulation of various articles. We are calculating to-day which people outside will not be able to know. Only the hon. Members of this House, who have studied the whole situation, will be able to know how the whole business has gone out of our hands and how we are compelled to regulate our business according to the rules made by the Government of India. Therefore, it is an emergent measure which cannot be postponed for any length of time. I request the hon. Members not to insist upon the postponement of the deliberations of the Select Committee to any distant date. I felt Sir, that the Select Committee might meet to-day and give its report tomorrow, and then legislation taken up. In view of the opinions expressed by the hon. Members of this House, I agree to the Select Committee giving its report on Monday, so that they will have sufficient time to examine and consider what is the best thing to be done in the interests of our Province as a whole. I shall be proposing the names shortly."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Are you going to read the names now? Without the names, I cannot put the motion to the vote of the House."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The motion for reference to the Select Committee might be put now. After lunch when the names are given, that might be put separately."

The motion was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Regarding the names of the members, the Hon. Premier will announce after lunch."

(2) THE MADRAS TRADE DISPUTES ADJUDICATION (TEMPORARY
PROVISION) BILL, 1946.

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I beg to introduce the Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provision) Bill, 1946, and move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once. The Statement of Objects and Reasons gives an indication of the implications of this short Bill. I do not think it is necessary for me at this stage to make any elaborate statement."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"On a point of information, Sir, I find in section 3 (b) 'If in the opinion of the Provincial Government it is necessary or expedient so to do, the Provincial Government may, by general or special order, applying generally or to any specified area, make provision for requiring employers, workmen or both to observe for such period as may be specified in the order such terms and conditions of employment as may be determined in accordance with the order.' Section 9 reads 'If any person contravenes any order made under this Act, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to rupees two

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thousand or with both.' If the Provincial Government say that a person shall work on thirty rupees a month and if he fails to work, the result is that, he will be subjected to three years' imprisonment or fine or both. I wish to know whether that is the meaning."

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I do not think that is intended, Sir."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Bill is a very important one. That is why I propose that the Bill must be circulated to elicit public opinion. An argument may be put forward that, as the Defence of India Rules have been there since the beginning of the war and as the public is aware of the provisions, the Bill need not be sent for circulation. The important point is that there is strong difference of opinion on the Defence of India Rules. There is a certain section of the trade union movement which is opposed to the provision for adjudication in the Defence of India Rules."

"Moreover, the Bill has been published very recently. The public is not yet aware of it. Neither the trade unions have been consulted and their opinions obtained, nor have I been able to elicit the opinion of my constituency. Even the labour members on the Congress benches, I do not think, had elicited the opinion of their constituencies. There is the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress and the Andhra Provincial Trade Union Council representing the whole working class of the Madras Presidency. It has not given its opinion, nor was it consulted. That is why I propose that the Bill must be sent for circulation."

"In the working of adjudication, the working classes are put to much inconvenience and disadvantage. So before the Bill is forced through, it is just that the Congress Ministry must consult the working class leaders and organization and take their opinion into consideration. As regards the working of adjudication, I should like to bring to the notice of the House how it has gone against the interests of the working classes all these years. During the war period, this principle of adjudication was there, and I would like to know how many cases were taken up for adjudication. Only after the advent of the Congress Ministry, some cases have been taken up. Even then, how many cases were adjudicated in the interests of the workers? That is a doubtful thing. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it is said that, as the experience of the working of adjudication in the past has been satisfactory, the Government consider it necessary to enact the very principle into law. I beg to submit that rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules did not work justly and in the interests of workers. I should like to bring to the notice of the House the Spencer's strike. As a result of adjudication and conciliation proceedings, to-day 500 labourers are roaming about the streets for want of employment. They were discharged and yet their cases have not been taken up. There are one thousand and one cases which I can bring to the

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notice of the House. Up till now the principle of adjudication had not worked satisfactorily in the interest of the working class.

"Moreover there is no hurry for this Bill. To those unions which are anxious for settlement, there is the Trade Disputes Act already in force which can easily be applied. I do not know why this Bill should be rushed through, and thrust on the throats of the working class. If you want to convince the workers that justice can be done through adjudication, conciliation and arbitration, the Trade Disputes Act is quite sufficient for the purpose. There was no necessity for this adjudication provision. Even during the days of the war, the working classes were entirely opposed to this provision, because it denied them the elementary right to strike work.

"I should like to bring to the notice of the House another important factor. Just now, an amendment given notice of by the Hon. Mr. Giri has been circulated, and I had not time to study its implications. I do not know why this Bill should be rushed through. Time can be allowed. It does not matter if the Defence of India Rules are not in force for a month or two. Defence of India Rules alone cannot solve the problem. In spite of the provision for adjudication, we are witnessing so many strikes. Hence I say there is no hurry to force this legislation just now. Because the Bill has not been studied by the members, we cannot pass it immediately. The working classes have not yet expressed their opinion on this Bill. Moreover, the only organization of the working classes is the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress. There is no other organization parallel to it and it has not yet expressed its opinion on the measure. I request the Hon. Minister for Labour, who is also a responsible trade union leader himself, to consult the Madras Trade Union Congress, get their opinion, and bring in this legislation afterwards.

"Moreover, in this Bill 'Trade Union' is not even mentioned, Sir. What is the position of the trade union under the Bill? That is not made clear. Nothing is mentioned in this important Bill as to whether the trade unions will be recognized or not, and the right of the workers to live is not at all taken into consideration. The most pressing problem to-day, namely, fixing of minimum wage is not at all taken into consideration. None of these important items which affect the lives of the workers and which are to-day affecting the whole society itself are taken into consideration. The South Indian Railway Manager was able to remove the right of the workers to have an enquiry before dismissal. Even that elementary right has been removed from the list, and it is on account of it that we are witnessing to-day such a vast strike going on in our presidency. Whenever and wherever a strike breaks out it has become customary for the Treasury Benches to accuse the Communists. At present about 2,000 workers of Scyndia in Vizagapatam are on strike. The President of the union is Mr. D. V. Ramaswamy, Congress M.L.A. But without taking into consideration the growing unrest prevailing in the working class and services and solving their problem by

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bringing in minimum wage legislation, there is no use shouting against Communists saying they are responsible for all the trouble. When such things are happening, when the conditions of service of workers are not taken into consideration, why force this Bill through? Instead of effecting improvement, you are going to smash the whole movement. There is no hurry for passing this Bill; this can wait. Meanwhile, I request the Hon. Minister for Labour to bring forward immediately a minimum wage legislation.

"In his reply to the debates on 'Industry' the Hon. the 1 p.m. Minister for Labour said that the minimum wage legislation should have been undertaken by the Central Government, as it is an all-India question. That itself shows that this Government want to postpone that important measure, trying to shove it on the Central Government, if possible. The Central Government in its turn may say that they have just come into office and that it is too early to take up that question. Thus, such an important measure as that will be shelved for ever. That is why I say that the first and most important duty of this House is to see that legislation is introduced, recognizing Trade Unions and fixing minimum wages for workers. It is only then that we can think of legislation for adjudication. Adjudication will not stop strikes. Take for instance the S.I.Ry. strike. In spite of adjudication, the strike is going on. I understand, in Vizagapatam, the Scyndia workers are going to strike. The hon. Mr. D. V. Ramaswami, who is a member of this House, is the President of the Union. In spite of him, a strike is being threatened. It should not be understood that strikes are the creation of the Communists. It is the general unrest among the workers that is the real cause of the strikes. Because their wage conditions and their terms of service are not satisfactory, they resort to strike. I may once again state that the most urgent thing for the workers is for the Government to bring forward legislation on these three important matters, viz., (1) fixing terms and conditions of service, (2) recognition of the Trade Unions and (3) fixing minimum wages. Unless such legislation is brought forward first, there is no justification for this present Bill. The different trade unions of workers, both organized and unorganized, should first be consulted before the Bill is passed into law. They must have their say on this Bill. I, therefore, request the Hon. the Minister for Labour to concede this elementary right of the working classes, and to obtain their opinion on this Bill before passing it into law.

"With these words, Sir, I move that the Bill be circulated for public opinion."

Mr. H. S. Town rose.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Before Mr. Town moves his motion, I should like to know whether Mr. Venkateswarlu has got a seconder for his motion. Otherwise it will be lost for want of a seconder."

* SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA:—"I shall second his motion, Sir." (In Tamil.)

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* MR. H. S. TOWN:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, the relations between the employer and the employee have been controlled by the Defence of India Rules for a considerable time now. They are decidedly onesided, very much in favour of labour and against the employer. The first speaker, after the Minister, was very nervous about the effect of clause 9 of the Bill. I counsel him quite strongly that clause 9 cannot in any way harm the worker. It is quite impossible to make clause 9 effective if the workers do contravene the orders made under the Act. The provisions of the Defence of India Rules are rather stringent. That is one of the great objections to it. But I understand that the Government are going to bring in some comprehensive labour legislation which will cover everything in this Bill and much more. I see no reason why we should not continue to live under this Act for a short while and we will have plenty of time to study the comprehensive Bill that will be introduced in due course. Therefore, I see no reason why this Bill should not be dealt with now and passed into law, particularly if we can get an assurance from the Government that they will do everything in their power to speed up the introduction of a really comprehensive Bill covering labour legislation. Therefore, I do not support the motion moved by my hon. Friend.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee. The names will be given later. Sir, we have heard two very opposite opinions on this Bill, one by the hon. Member representing the Communists in this Province and the other a very strong employer in this Province. (A voice: ‘ A very poor employer.’) We have come to know of two very divergent opinions on this very important Bill. In view of the fact that there is so much divergence of opinion on this measure, I believe, Sir, it is necessary that it should be referred to a Select Committee. When once it is referred to a Select Committee, all the *pros and cons* of the measure could be better thrashed out and the legislation could be passed without further consideration of the various provisions of the Bill. It is true, Sir, that the Hon. the Minister who has sponsored this Bill wants that this Bill should be made into law only for a limited space of time. I understand that he is prepared even to go to the extent of reducing the period from one year to six months as stated in the Bill itself. If the period during which this Bill will be law in this Province is reduced to this extent, it may be suggested that it need not be referred to a Select Committee. But knowing the far-reaching effects of some of the provisions of the Bill, in spite of the fact that it is going to be in force only for a short period, I thought that the Hon. the Premier will consider the advisability of thrashing it out in the company of other members. I know that he must have had the advice of experts and also the help of his colleagues. If he thinks that that help and that advice are sufficient and if he believes that whatever measure is brought forward by the Government is sacrosanct, then I do not think there is any necessity for further consideration of the Bill by hon. Members of this House who had no opportunity of helping him

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inside the Cabinet. I believe, it is a golden rule for any member of Government to take into consideration the suggestions of a Select Committee consisting of members who could not otherwise be of help to him. The Hon. the Premier in moving his first Bill has referred it to a Select Committee. He has thus set an example to others. I dare say that that will be the policy that will be followed by the Government as a whole.

“ Perhaps it may appear that this is only a small measure and that it may not have far-reaching effects on the people who will be affected by it. But it is not so. I know that the hon. the Mover of this Bill and other Members of the Government are really anxious to know the views of the other sections of the House, and especially those of the workers and the employers. For that purpose, Mr. Venkateswarlu may be given a chance to get into the Select Committee to see whether he can do anything to alter the phase of the Bill. Of course he will be one among the whole Committee, but still he may represent his side of the case in an effective way. Similarly the other side of the picture may be represented by my hon. Friend Mr. Town putting forth the views of the employers and suggesting amendments, if any. If he has no amendments to suggest, at least he will know what troubles he will have with Mr. Venkateswarlu. He has heard Mr. Venkateswarlu on the floor of this House. He must get into close quarters with Mr. Venkateswarlu at the Select Committee and find out the inner side of his mind and heart, which it will not be possible to know otherwise. I do not think that the Communists are so bad as hon. Members think.

“ Well, Mr. Speaker, I believe it will be a very good thing if all the aspects of the question are thoroughly thrashed out in the Select Committee. Then it will obviate the necessity of a detailed consideration of the Bill in this House and much time of the House will be thereby saved, in going through all the stages of the Bill. I, therefore, suggest that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee.

“ One word more, Sir. As I have told already, clause 3 is not as innocent as it appears to be. It may have far-reaching effects. Then, clause 9 along with clause 3 may have a more far-reaching effect, although the Act will be in force only for a short period of six months. We have seen during the last three or four months how a number of trade disputes have sprung up and how a number of strikes have developed in the various parts of the Province worrying the Government and worrying the public. Of course, all these things should be prohibited, but they should be dealt with in as humane a way as possible. Mr. Venkateswarlu has suggested legislation in regard to minimum wages. That also may be considered. A measure of this sort should not create any anxiety in the minds of the workers. They should not think that this is a very strong measure and that it has been brought forward by the Congress Government to put down labour or to curtail their rights and privileges. That should not be the

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attitude of labour towards this Bill. That is why I suggest that the Bill should be further examined in detail at the Select Committee stage.

"I therefore move that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee."

1-15
p.m. * N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in seconding the amendment moved by my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, I want to point out that it is highly urgent and desirable that we must take up the consideration of this Bill. There are ever so many important matters with regard to this Bill which we can conveniently discuss at the stage when this Bill is referred to a Select Committee. I believe I will be only carrying coal to Newcastle when I say that it has become now the paramount duty of the State to preserve industrial peace. Strike after strike has paralysed our industry. My hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu has only revealed to us his side of the picture. He may not know and it is quite possible even the powers that be may not know how much the employers have suffered as a result of the series of strikes that have paralysed our industries. I only wish that we devise ways and means by which, while labour will have the right to strike assured, enough time is given for capital to adjust itself and to see that lasting injury is not inflicted all on a sudden without notice. I only wish that these matters are given serious consideration in the Select Committee. I heartily support the amendment."

* SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI:—"சபாநாயகரவர்களே, இன்றைய தினம் தற்காலிக முதலாளி தொழிலாளர் பில் ஒன்று கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதில் தொழிற் தகராறு ஏற்பட்ட காலத்தில் அதைத் தடுக்க சமாதானத்திற்குரிய சில வழிகள் இருந்தபோதிலும், சிறிசில குறைகள் ஏற்படும் காலத்திலே, தொழிலாளருக்குப் போதிய பாதுகாப்பு அளிக்கப் படாமலிருக்கிறது. அதாவது இப்போதுள்ள நிலைமையில் மேல் அதிகாரிகள் தொழிலாளர்கள் சிறிய குற்றம் ஏதாவது செய்தாலும் அல்லது செய்யாமலேயிருந்தாலும், அவர்களுக்குப் பழி வாங்கும் முறையில் நோடீஸ் முதலியவைகளைக் கொடுக்கலாம். தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு 15 நாளை அல்லது ஒரு மாதமோ நோட்டீஸ் கொடுத்து அவர்களை வெளியே அனுப்ப இன்று சட்டம் இடம் தருகிறது. அப்படிப்பட்ட பழிவாங்கும் ஏற்பாடு ஏதாவது நடந்தால் அதைப் பாதுகாக்கும் வழிகள் ஒன்றும் இதில் இல்லை. ஆகவே, இச்சட்டம் எவ்விதம் இருக்கவேண்டுமென்றால், ஷே சொன்ன பழி வாங்கும் செய்கையை விசாரிப்பதற்காக அதில் ஒரு வழி இருக்கவேண்டும். பழி வாங்கும் முறையில் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு நோடீஸ் கொடுக்கப்பட்டால் இது விஷயமாக கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று லேபர் கமிஷனரைக் கேட்டால், அவர் "அதற்குரிய சட்டமில்லை. முதலாளி இஷ்டப்பட்டால் பழி வாங்கப்பட்ட தொழிலாளரை வேலைக்கு மீண்டும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம். இஷ்டப்படவில்லையென்றால், 15 நாள் நோட்டீஸ் அல்லது ஒரு மாத நோட்டீஸ் கொடுத்து வெளியே அனுப்பிவிடலாம்" என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஆகவே இவ்விஷயத்தில் ஒன்றும் செய்ய முடியாதென்று அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். பெரிய தகராறு ஏற்படும்போது ஸ்டிரைக் அல்லது லாக் அவுட் இல்லாமற்படி தடுக்கும் முறைகள் சட்டத்திலிருந்தபோதிலும் சிறிய குற்றங்கள் செய்த தொழிலாளர் விஷயத்தில் கோபமுள்ள மேல் அதிகாரிகள் அவர்களைப் பழிவாங்கக்கூடும். இதைத் தடுக்க தக்க வழி செய்யவேண்டும். இப்போது அநேக இடங்களில் இவ்விதம் பழிவாங்கப் பட்டு வருகிறது. வேண்டுமென்றால் லேபர் கமிஷனர் அவர்களை விசாரித்தால் தெரிந்துகொள்ளலாம். இன்று இப்படிப்பட்ட விஷயங்களில் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு யாதொரு தற்காப்புமில்லை. அவர்களுக்கு இத்தகைய தற்

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காப்பு இருந்தால்தான் ஸ்டிரைக் அல்லது லாக் அவுட் இல்லாமலிருக்கும். ஆகவே, இந்தத் தற்காப்பு முறையைப்பற்றி மிகவும் முக்கியமாகக் கவனித்து தக்க நடவடிக்கையை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இல்லாவிடில் இந்தத் தற்காப்பு முறையில் எவ்வித பலனும் இருக்காதென்று நான் பலமாகக் கூறுகிறேன்."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I now call upon the Member representing the non-Union Labour of Madras to speak."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, may I have the speech of the Member for the Textile Union of Madras (Sri N. Govindaswami) in Tamil translated into English or at least the gist of it given in English?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not possible to do anything of the kind."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"The Secretary can do it, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will please resume his seat. It is not possible."

* SRI K. KANNIAPPAN:—"தலைவரவர்களே, இன்று கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும் பில்லானது கொஞ்சம் நல்லதாக இருந்தபோதிலும்கூட இன்னும் பொதுப்படையாக உண்மையில் தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு நன்மை தரக்கூடியதாகத் தெரியவில்லை. ஏனெனில் என்னுடைய தோழர்கள் தெரிவித்தார்கள், இன்று உடனடியாக முதலாளிகளுக்கு ஏதாவது தொந்தரவு ஏற்பட்டால் தொழிலாளிகளை உடனே அப்புறப்படுத்தி விடுகிறார்களென்று தெரிவித்தார்கள். அதன்படி அப்புறப்படுத்தியவுடன் நாங்கள் லேபர் கமிஷனருக்கு ரிப்போர்ட் செய்தால் லேபர் கமிஷனர் அந்த விஷயத்தை சரிவர கவனிக்கிறாராவென்று பார்த்தால் அவர் ஒரு விதத்திலும் கவனிப்பதாக எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. அந்த முறையில் தொழில் வர்க்கத்திற்குப் பெரிய கொளமையும் இன்னலும் ஏற்படுகிறது. அதனால் தொழிலாளர்கள் வேலை நிறுத்தம் செய்கிறார்கள். செய்தவுடன் பழிவாங்கப்படுகிறது உங்களுக்குத் தெரியும். இன்று ஒரு உதாரணத்தைச் சொல்லப் பிரியப்படுகிறேன். தோட்டிகளுடைய வேலை நிறுத்தம் நம்முடைய சென்னையில் நடந்தது. அதை ஒரு சாரார் நடத்தினார்கள். அது தப்போ சரியோ அதைப்பற்றிச் சொல்லப் பிரியப்படவில்லை. ஆனால் இன்று வேலை நிறுத்தம் வாபீஸ் வாங்கப்பட்டு அவர்கள் வேலைக்குப்போனவுடன் அவர்களுடைய மேலதிகாரிகளாக இருக்கப்பட்டவர்களால் தொந்தரவு செய்வதாகத் தெரிகிறது. இந்த விஷயத்தில் என்ன செய்வதென்று எங்களுக்குப் புரியவில்லை. இதைப் போலவே பல இடங்களிலும் இன்று இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் அது விஷயத்திலும் கனம் மந்திரியவர்களைக் கவனிக்கும்படிக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

"பஞ்சப்படி, விஷயமாக எடுத்துக்கொண்டாலும்கூட சென்னையில் பல வொர்க்ஷாப்புகளை முதலாளிகள் நடத்துகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் சரிவர பஞ்சப்படி கொடுப்பதில்லை. இது விஷயத்தில் நாங்கள் கேட்டால் நாங்கள் வொர்க்ஷாப்பை சாத்திவிட்டுப் போய் விடுவோமென்று பயமுறுத்துகிறார்கள். அதனால் தொழிலாளி வர்க்கத்திற்கு கெடுதல் நேரிடுகிறது. இந்த விஷயம் நம்முடைய தொழில் மந்திரி கனம் கிரியவர்களுக்கும் நன்றாகத் தெரியும். முப்பது ஆண்டுகளாக தொழிலாளி வர்க்கத்திற்கே தலைவராகவிருந்து தொழிற் சங்கங்களை நடத்திய தலைவரவர்கள் இன்று நமக்குத் தலைவராக இருப்பதைப் பாராட்டுகிறோம். ஆனால் அவர் செய்யக்கூடிய பில்லானது தொழிலாளி வர்க்கத்திற்கு நல்லதாக இருக்கவேண்டும். அதில் தவறு இருந்தால் உடனடியாகத் திருத்திக்கொண்டு, உண்மையில் தொழிலாளிகளுக்கும் தொழிலாளி வர்க்கத்திற்கும் சேகும் வரக்கூடிய முறையில் இருந்தால் அதை வரவேற்கத் தயாராயிருக்கிறோம்."

[Sri K. Kannappan] [5th September 1946]

“ஆனால் லேபர் கமிஷனரைப் பொறுத்த விஷயங்களை நான் எடுத்துச் சொல்லவேண்டியவனாக இருக்கிறேன். லேபர் கமிஷனராக இருக்கப்பட்டவர் உண்மையில் தொழிலாளிகள் விஷயத்தில் அக்கரையுள்ளவராக இருக்கிறாராவென்று பார்த்தால், அவர் அக்கரையில்லாமல் ஏதோ சாக்குப் போக்குச் சொல்லி தொழிலாளர்களை ஏமாற்றுகிற முறையில் இருக்கிறாரென்பதை நான் சொல்லாமல் இருக்க முடியாது. இந்த வேலைக்கு தொழிலாளர் தலைவராக இருக்கப்பட்டவர்களைத் தொழில் கமிஷனராக ஏற்படுத்தினால் மிகவும் நல்லதாக இருக்குமென்று நான் யோசனை கூறுகிறேன். அந்த முறையிலே சட்டத்தைத் திருத்த நம்முடைய தலைவர்கள் முன்வரவேண்டும். இதற்கு கனம் பிரதமவர்களும் கனம் வி. வி. பிரியவர்களும் உதவியாக இருந்து ஆவன செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு, கனம் கிரி அவர்கள் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிற பில்லை நான் முழு மனதுடன் ஆதரிக்கிறேன்.”

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, the object of my intervention at this stage is only to point out the fact that the Bill suffers from want of definiteness. At present we have the Trade Disputes Act according to which all trade disputes have to be referred to a conciliation board whose decision, however, is not binding on the parties. The Defence of India Rules provide for arbitration in the case of certain disputes. Now let us see whether the provisions of this Bill give any definiteness with regard to the procedure that may be employed by the parties concerned and the obligation on the part of the Government to take certain steps. I find from clause 3 that the Government might take certain steps if they think it expedient to do so. Well, supposing the Government refers the matter to a conciliation board as stated in clause 3 (c); under the present law, supposing the terms of the conciliator's award are not accepted, is there anything to show that the Government can force the parties to accept the decision? If for any reason the Government stop short of that and do not proceed further and appoint an adjudicator, what is to happen? It is only if they appoint an adjudicator and he gives an award, it is binding. Unless you make provision for making it incumbent on the parties to abide by the decision of the arbitrator, no useful purpose will be served. That is the indefiniteness about the Bill. Sir, I suggest that provisions similar to those found in the Trade Disputes Act should be made in this Bill. If the parties do not agree to the decision of the conciliation board, there should be provision for making it obligatory on the part of the parties to refer the matter to an adjudicator. No doubt, the Government may ask the parties to refer the dispute to an arbitrator. But what I say is, it is not binding on the Government to do so. May be if disputes could be settled by conciliation, well and good. But supposing that effort does not succeed, and supposing the Government does not take steps to refer the matter to arbitration, what is to happen? Again, supposing the parties to the dispute do not take the matter to the arbitrator, what is to happen? The dispute will be there. It may be said that we can rely upon the Government to take proper steps to see that a decision is reached and given in a dispute. But there is the possibility always for one party to say that the Government are not referring the matter to arbitration. It is possible that some

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parties may not like to go to an arbitrator. The employers are clever people. If definite provision is not made in the Bill for the adoption of the procedure, I have suggested it may not be fully satisfactory. I want at least for this interim period, before legislation is finally passed, that things should be made very clear. You are entitled to go to conciliator. If you do not agree, the Government is going to appoint an arbitrator. The Government must be obliged to appoint an arbitrator and the parties must be obliged to go to an arbitrator if conciliation fails. I find the words ‘if in the opinion of the Provincial Government.’ My point is that the Government may not think it necessary to go to an arbitrator and the parties may not think it necessary to go to an arbitrator. If one party is willing to stop short with the conciliation board and if in the opinion of the Provincial Government it is necessary or expedient to refer any trade dispute for conciliation or adjudication in the manner provided in the order . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Will the hon. Member be able to finish in a minute?”

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I am sorry. In such a condition, are the Government bound to ask the parties to go to an adjudicator. Under the existing provision, they are helpless. I want the Government to make it clear. Let there be no indefiniteness and scope for people to say that we need not go to an adjudicator. I have nothing more to say.”

The House then adjourned for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

* SRI B. S. MALLIKARJUNA RAO:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really surprised that my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu should take objection to a Bill like this when as a matter of fact we have long been asking for such a provision as this. I wish to remind him of the fact that recently when the Railway Federation issued a strike notice, it was on the ground that the Government had refused to refer certain matters to adjudication. The strike was at one stage about to be precipitated, but just then the Government met the workers half-way agreeing to refer the matter to the Pay Commission and the strike was called off. Under these circumstances, I do not think my hon. Friend is right in saying that there is any divided opinion in this matter of referring disputes to adjudication. Those of us who are working for labour should remove the wrong impression that exists to-day in the minds of the public that labour is for precipitating a crisis and for unreasonably going on strikes. We must create the impression that a strike is only the last resort, that it will not be precipitated unless the other side is very unreasonable and obstinate. In order to create such an impression, we must support and not oppose a provision like this which is absolutely necessary for amicable settlement of trade disputes.

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" Sir, as for myself I consider that this legislation is long overdue. I represent the dock workers of Vizagapatam. It concerns a Central subject and I had to fight with the Central Government as they did not agree to adjudication of certain matters. My hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu is wrong in saying that the workers at Ship Building Yard, Scindia, Vizagapatam, are not in favour of adjudication. A letter has come from the Scindian authorities at the eleventh hour to the effect that they are not going to refer the matter for adjudication. It is on account of that that the strike was precipitated. Perhaps my hon. Friend is not aware of the fact. I for myself can say that we are for adjudication. A provision to make both the parties to the dispute to abide by the award of the adjudicator is long overdue. In the interests of labour it is necessary that such a provision should exist. With regard to the present measure I submit that there is absolutely nothing for a misapprehension. Besides, the amendment moved by the Hon. Minister V. V. Giri will not affect a strike which is declared legal under the Trade Disputes Act. In such a case it is made obligatory on the part of the Government to refer the matter to adjudication. When such a provision has been made, there should be no misapprehension at all in respect of the matter. Moreover it is not stated that the award is invariably made binding on both the parties. It is only when the Government feel it necessary,

' for enforcing for such period as may be specified in the order all or any of the decisions of the authority to which a trade dispute has been referred for adjudication '

this will be done. The sub-clauses (a), (b), (c) and (d) are mutually independent and not interdependent. There is a discretion vested in the authority. It is a provision made for both the parties, for giving them an opportunity to settle the matter under adjudication. This provision is necessary. A comprehensive legislation has not been existing up till now. Even under rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, when a dispute was referred to arbitration or conciliation, the award was not binding on both the parties. We have experienced the results of such arbitration. Each party to the conciliation or arbitration has accepted or rejected the award as it liked. In order to make the award of the adjudicator binding on the parties, it is necessary that there should be a legislation like this. Therefore there need be no misapprehension whatsoever. This legislation is necessary in the present circumstances in the interests of labour. The Central Government has not agreed to the principle of adjudication whatsoever. In regard to the private employers also, it is so. A situation has arisen in the Central Government. It may also arise even as far as the Provincial Government is concerned with regard to the employees under their direct control. This provision will give the employees of the Provincial Government an opportunity to ask for matters in dispute to be referred to adjudication. The Government are bound to give effect to this Bill. Therefore this should be taken as something which is good and which is in favour of labour. We must support the Bill and not oppose it.

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" My Friend hon. Venkateswarlu asked where is the necessity for legislation of this kind. I say, Sir, that this will give an opportunity to show that labour does not want to coerce anybody. We will place the strength of our case and the reasonableness of our demands before the adjudicator. It will enable us to show that we are not unreasonable people. We want to remove the bad impression if any which may exist in the public mind, because public opinion is necessary for the success of any strike. Without public opinion no strike will succeed. I think, Sir, in these circumstances, in the interests of labour, we should not oppose the principle of adjudication. My hon. Friend referred to the fact that there is need for other labour legislation. That does not mean that we should oppose this legislation. Of course, I would agree that there are other matters with regard to labour which have to be taken into immediate consideration. I hope that the Government would go into these matters early. But that should not be the reason why we should oppose this legislation. I think we should consider this matter as paving the way for an amicable settlement without precipitating a crisis. It is necessary that we should remove the present distrust between the parties and create a proper atmosphere. Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules is going to expire shortly. In order to meet the existing situation—there is an emergency with regard to food conditions and famine is threatening—labour should make its own contribution to bring about settled conditions. Under these circumstances, in order to show that labour is always ready for an amicable settlement, I, as one of the members interested in labour, support the bill brought before the House."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the people of the Province have got a right to be heard on certain important matters, I do not want to propose that this Bill be circulated for public opinion, for it might be construed as an attempt to shelve the Bill. However, the people have got a right, though they have sent their representatives to the Assembly, they have a right to be heard on important matters at least. In this case, Sir, the people's representatives in the Assembly have not had sufficient opportunity to study the provisions and the implications of the Bill. Therefore it is only reasonable that they should be given some time to study this Bill and the request that has been put forward on our behalf is very reasonable and legitimate and that is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. I appeal to the Hon. the Leader of the House to agree to this course and have the Bill referred to a Select Committee, so that all the views may be thrashed out in the Committee and the members of the House may feel that their representatives have gone into the matter thoroughly. I think, Sir, such a course will be to the good of all parties concerned. With these words, Sir, I support the motion moved on behalf of my Party."

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" Sir, my friend, Mr. Venkateswarlu, moved that the Bill be circulated for public opinion. If really I were to accede to his desire I need not waste my time or

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the time of this House or your valuable time by bringing this measure. Mr. Venkateswarlu knows as much as myself that this is a sort of a temporary measure in order to tide over the period, when the Government is preparing a comprehensive legislation in the matter of industrial disputes. In fact, just a fortnight ago I was thinking whether I should introduce this temporary measure at all during this interregnum. I thought I could as well wait for two or three months when I hoped to get a comprehensive legislation, but there were representations made by others equally interested in labour that labour would suffer unless I had this measure passed for this short period. I may remind the House that there is an Act dealing with labour disputes, namely, the Trade Disputes Act of 1929. That Act, Sir, provides for the institution of Conciliation Boards and Courts of Enquiry, but the findings of either the Conciliation Boards or the Courts of Enquiry are not binding and it is left to the will and pleasure of the parties to accept them or not. Sir, let me make a statement on my own behalf. I am against the compulsory machinery being introduced in the matter of the settlement of trade disputes. I am a believer in the English method of trade unionism, which believes in the creating of public opinion and not in compulsion in the matter of settlement of disputes. But unfortunately in our country trade unions have not advanced a great deal. Whenever the decision of a Conciliation Board or a Court of Enquiry is unfavourable to one side, that side says 'I am not going to accept it' and the law provides for non-acceptance. So much so, there were occasions when strikes continued for an indefinite period and after all it must be conceded and my hon. Friend, Mr. Town, will agree with me, that the industrialists have a longer purse; they have simply to keep quiet and most of the strikes would go under and the workers would go under. That has been my unfortunate experience, Sir, not only as a labour leader but as a Labour Minister. During the last Congress regime I have had appointed a large number of courts, and I found to my cost that either the employer or the worker would refuse to accept the findings when they went against him. Mostly I found that the worker suffered in the bargain. You would have noticed, Sir, that during the last three months, as I have already stated on the floor of the House, there were nearly 94 trade disputes and about 15 adjudication boards had to be appointed and I must say, whether Mr. Venkateswarlu agrees with me or not, or whether others agree with me or not, that in most of the cases the workers did get a positive benefit out of the decisions of the adjudicators and they were entirely satisfied. Of course to abuse the Government and to do propaganda against the Government they might say that they have not succeeded. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib: 'Why not specify the person?') Sir, I am generally referring to them, not only to the few Members in this House but to persons outside as well. In fact I must state that the very gentleman who represents the Communist Party and many of its leaders were more anxious about adjudication than

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most others. I can make a positive assertion that there is no question about it. On the other hand experience has also shown that, whatever his opinion now may be, tomorrow if this Bill is not introduced, they will be the very persons who will say that this Government did not care to introduce it. In fact, had I taken the step which I originally intended to do, namely, not to bring this Bill before this House—for I feel certain that in the course of three or four months I can introduce a comprehensive legislation—I do really feel that I would not have served the cause of the workers during these three or four months; because if this measure is not passed the Government cannot appoint adjudicators for certain disputes and the awards of such tribunals will not be binding. Therefore, Sir, I do not agree to the motion for circulation of the Bill, because it defeats the very object which I have in mind.

"My friend, Mr. Venkateswarlu referred to disputes on the South Indian Railway and to the disputes between the Scindia Workers and the Scindia Company. I want to tell my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkateswarlu, that we are not masters over the situation so far as these two disputes are concerned. They are under the jurisdiction of the Government of India. We have nothing to say in the matter except to express our views and advise. That is the position. I can assure Mr. Venkateswarlu that whatever advice we have given we have given it in the best interests of labour. Let him not state facts that may not bear examination. Those two matters are subjects of the Government of India. (Interruption.) That is another matter. I may tell my hon. Friend that law and order must be maintained at all costs. People who commit mistakes will have to face the trouble.

"Mr. Venkateswarlu mentioned the fact that most probably, in my stating that I am waiting for an All-India legislation, I am trying to evade my responsibility here, by not introducing the legislation that I have proposed. On the contrary, let me tell my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkateswarlu, that I am an important Member of the Trade Union Congress. At any rate from the very inception I am one of those who were in the fore-front of the trade union movement in this country, and I continue to be a Member of the Trade Union Congress. It was at my instance and those of other leaders that a Triparties Labour Conference has been instituted by the Government of India in which the representatives of the Provincial Governments, the representatives of the Centre, and the representatives of the Workers' Organizations take part. It is in that organization that we generally decide all subjects relating to the improvement of labour and its conditions and we generally come to an agreement as to what should be the legislation that has to be put into effect. Therefore I may state that not only I am prepared, but I am bound to introduce legislation. About that I can say a word. At the last meeting of the Tripartite Labour Conference I told them about the legislation that I was proposing to bring before this Provincial Legislature and if the Government of India were going to bring a similar measure, I should have no objection,

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because as I mentioned on the floor of the House yesterday, this matter of legislation has been fully discussed by the Tripartite Conference and they have come to some tentative conclusions. Sir, either the Government of India will pass that legislation or if they do not do so on the very lines, I shall get that legislation introduced. Let not my friend go away with the impression or do propaganda elsewhere that I am trying to burke the question of introduction of the legislation, as I suppose I mentioned on the budget discussion.

“ Sir, the present legislation as I have said is of a temporary character. My esteemed Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, suggested to me that I should incorporate certain amendments. But I told them this enactment would last for a brief period I have practically repeated that portion of the Defence of India Act relating to adjudication, because, I have known in my mind that I shall not keep this legislation for long and that I shall bring a comprehensive legislation dealing with industrial disputes, dealing with industrial courts, recognition of unions standing orders, and all the things from A to Z relating to industrial workers. I gladly accept the proposal made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, coming as it does from responsible quarters, and I shall state the views of the Government before the Select Committee when it goes into this matter. I have therefore nothing more to add now, but to withdraw my motion and accept the motion of my esteemed Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan.”

The motion made by the Hon. Minister for Industries that the Bill be taken into consideration at once was by leave of the House withdrawn.

The amendment by Sri P. Venkateswarlu that the Bill be circulated for public opinion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

The amendment by Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib was also by leave of the House withdrawn.

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“ Sir, with the permission of the chair I move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the following hon. Members:—

- (1) The Hon. Sri K. Bhashyam.
- (2) The Hon. Sri V. V. Giri.
- (3) Sri B. S. Mallikarjuna Rao.
- (4) Sri N. Govindaswami Nayudu.
- (5) Sri M. Kanniyappan.
- (6) Sri V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar.
- (7) Sri B. S. Murti.
- (8) Sri G. Rajamannar Chetty.
- (9) Srimathi C. Ammannar Raja.
- (10) Sri T. Viswanatham.

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- (11) Mr. H. S. Town.
- (12) Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib.
- (13) Mr. M. S. Abdul Majeed Sahib.
- (14) Sri P. Natesan.
- (15) Sri P. Venkateswarlu.”

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—“ Under rule 78, I appoint the Hon. Sri K. Bhashyam as the Chairman of the Select Committee. When does the Hon. Minister want the Select Committee to report? ”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“ On the 7th, Sir.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ The Select Committee will submit its report on the 7th September 1946.”

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NAMES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MADRAS ESSENTIAL ARTICLES CONTROL AND REQUISITIONING (TEMPORARY POWERS) BILL, 1946.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I propose the following hon. Members to be members of the Select Committee to consider the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1946:—

- (1) The Hon. Sri T. Prakasam.
- (2) The Hon. Sri K. Bhashyam.
- (3) Sri T. Viswanatham.
- (4) Mr. P. K. Moideen Kutty Sahib.
- (5) Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig Sahib.
- (6) Sri P. Natesan.
- (7) Mr. A. E. Thompson.
- (8) Sri N. S. Varadachari.
- (9) The Hon. Sri K. R. Karanth.
- (10) Sri A. B. Shetty.
- (11) Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillai.
- (12) Dr. M. J. Samuel.
- (13) Mr. W. J. Fernandez.
- (14) Srimathi C. Ammannar Raja.
- (15) Sri K. Kamaraj Nadar.”

The question that the hon. Members proposed by the Hon. Sri T. Prakasam shall be the members of the Select Committee was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—“ Under rule 78, I appoint the Hon. Sri T. Prakasam to be the Chairman of the Select Committee. The Select Committee will submit its report on Monday the 9th September 1946.”

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(3) THE MADRAS BUILDINGS (LEASE AND RENT CONTROL)
BILL, 1946.

3 p.m. THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Sir, I beg leave to introduce the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Bill, 1946 and move that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, the names of members of which I shall place before you.

"Sir, I have not much to say on this Bill at this time. Conditions regarding the scarcity of residential houses and non-residential buildings and how the landlords are exploiting the situation are well known to this House. Both the House Rent Control Order which was introduced in the year 1941 and the Control Order regarding non-residential buildings introduced in 1942 and amended in the year 1945 are based on the Defence of India Rules which lapse by the 30th of September—as is known to Members of the House. That the situation requires control of both these sets of houses is also admitted. As such, the Government have thought it fit to introduce this Bill for a period of two years, to be extended, if required, for a further period of two years, to meet the situation that now exists in this Province. The Bill is applicable in the first instance only to the City and towns and municipalities and it can be extended by order of the Government to other areas also, if necessary. In the Bill as it is, provision is made for increase by certain percentages of the rents that were existing between 1939 and 1940; there is also one clause that has been introduced here from the old Bill that lapses by the 30th September, that the landlords must report within three days of a house becoming vacant and the Government has the option to requisition such house or building for the sake of running Government institutions or for the sake of providing for their employees who find it very difficult to get houses—which in effect reacts upon other persons also. These are the main provisions of the Bill, Sir. They more or less go on the lines of the orders that are to lapse by the 30th of this month. If the House accepts the Bill, I shall place before you, Sir, the names of the members of the Select Committee."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"On a point of information, Sir. Defence of India Rules were made on the ground of maintenance of peace, good government, etc., and the all-India Government was able to introduce measures relating to buildings and houses, whether residential or non-residential. So far as the Provincial list is concerned, I do not find anywhere that this subject is included therein. Article 21 of List II of the Seventh Schedule of the Government of India Act simply refers to 'Land, that is to say, rights in or over land, etc.' and does not seem to include the subject dealt with by this Bill. The only two other places where we find something relating to lands and buildings are Articles 8 and 42 of the same List II. Article 8 refers to 'Works, lands and buildings vested in or in the possession of His Majesty for the purposes of the province' and Article 42 says: 'Taxes on lands and buildings, etc.'"

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* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Sir, is this a point of information, or is it a regular speech on the . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What he wants to say must first of all be made clear to the Members."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"But by raising this point of information, he is getting a chance to speak."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may speak on the motion of the Hon. Minister if he wants. Perhaps he wants to raise a question affecting the power of legislation, and it is as well that we know what he wants to say. The hon. Member may please be as short as possible."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"We find, under Article 8 of List II of Schedule VII . . ."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, on a point of order. Either the hon. Member Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar raises a point of order or he makes a regular speech. He cannot go on speaking on a point of information. On a point of information, I submit a Member must always be very brief and his question cannot take the form of a speech, so far as I know. If he thinks that the Bill which has been introduced just now is out of order and *ultra vires*, he must raise a point of order. He does not do that; but he wants some information. All of us who make speeches in this House are of course making speeches only in order to get information from the Hon. Ministers. But nobody rises to a point of information and makes a speech. I submit, Sir, my hon. friend should either raise a point of order or try to elicit information from the Hon. Minister when he replies."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to inform the House that the hon. Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar wants some information. Sometimes we cannot put the question in a few sentences and it requires one or two minutes to explain the idea. After all, there is no harm in allowing him to explain in a minute or two. I shall allow him one more minute and we shall see what he is going to say."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"There must be some time given to explain both sides of the question. As I was saying, so far as provincial legislation is concerned, the second list of Schedule VII contains only two places where the word 'buildings' occurs, viz., in Article 8 and in Article 42. There is however a distinction between lands and buildings in Article 8, similarly there is provision in Article 42 for 'taxes on lands and buildings.' In regard to land, there is also a separate item in Article 23. Till now, legislation has gone on under the Defence of India Rules. I simply want to know whether this legislation comes under this Provincial List."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The motion before the House is that the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Bill, 1946, be referred to a Select Committee."

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* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" You have not given your ruling with regard to the point of information, Sir."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—" The Minister will deal with it when he gives the reply."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, among the Bills introduced this day by the Government, I believe this is the most urgent. I find there is a demand for this Bill from all sides of the House and from all the people of the Province, particularly from those living in the city and in towns.

" Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are two parties affected by this Bill, the houseowner and the tenant. The tenants are a class of people who are fairly badly affected by the scarcity of houses suitable for occupation by a large number of people of various standards and status. The people who have in the first instance suffered and are yet suffering are some of the hon. Ministers themselves and members of the various parties of this House who are living in the city and in towns. The Government have not been able to make provision for the accommodation of hon. Members of this House, particularly those who come from the mufassal. There are also others who, for want of adequate accommodation, are put to great hardship and are not in a position to find houses. So far as this Bill is concerned, it meets the demand of the tenants to a certain extent and it also meets the demand of the houseowners to a better extent—because, I find that certain classes of owners of houses are given better facilities in the way of getting better rent. There are certain hon. Members who feel that in cases where rents are exorbitant and do not deserve to be considered for any increase, the Bill tries to increase the rents considerably. For instance, in some cases, the increase is to be 15 per cent, in some others 50 per cent and in some more from 50 to even 100 per cent. It is true that owners of houses do find it difficult in these hard days when materials are not easily obtainable, and when building materials are becoming more and more costly, to repair the houses and keep them in good condition, with the rent they are now getting, which has been in existence for some years now. It is true they suffer from such hardships. It must also be remembered at the same time that there are a large number of small owners of houses, people belonging to the upper or the lower middle class, who on account of the fact of their parents and ancestors leaving them some property, have become owners of houses, and in the absence of other means of livelihood, have to depend for running their families, on the rents they are receiving for the houses. This class of people will be put to great difficulty if they are not exempted from the control. Such a class is certainly large. People who are renting out houses for Rs. 25, Rs. 40 and Rs. 50 and even for Rs. 60 and Rs. 70 should be exempted. In my opinion, Sir, it will meet the ends of justice if the rent is increased to Rs. 25 or Rs. 40 instead of Rs. 15 as proposed in the Bill. The Bill at

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present exempts only houses fetching a rent of Rs. 15 per month and below, I submit this is not enough. Even people who own small houses fetching a rent of Rs. 25, Rs. 40 and even Rs. 50 should be exempted from any control under this Bill.

" There are also people who are penalized even though they are owners of houses fetching a rent of over Rs. 15, because they have to notify to the Government that such and such a house has fallen vacant and have to wait for a whole week to know whether that house will be required by the Government and if it is not required by the Government for rent whether it will be made available to the owner or any other party. Sir, this is really a hardship on those people who are owning small houses particularly those persons who cannot afford to lose a single pie of the rent. They thus not only have to lose the rent but also have to lose the rent that they would get during the period the house is vacant, as it is left to the sweet will of the Government to decide whether it is required for the purposes of the Government or whether it will be let out to the public. Thus a period exists where the owner not only suffers the hardship of losing the rent for that period but also he is placed in a tantalizing position of having to wait and then ultimately to be told whether that house is or is not wanted by the Government.

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" Sir, there are two sides to this question. Ordinarily we are prone to feel that the houseowner is really a hard-headed man who has no consideration for the tenant and that he is a man who is considered to be rack-renter and deserves to be penalized. I do not think we can easily dispose of the owner in such a sweeping manner. As I have submitted some time back, there are houseowners and houseowners, some of them big capitalists owning a number of houses which are let out at varying rents, e.g., from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500. Not only they thus lead a decent life but amass large fortunes. I am not going to deal with that class of people here; I am only concerned with owners of small houses who live mainly on the incomes that they derive from their houses; and such class of people should be exempted from the operation of the clause. Similar to the exemption which is sought to be given in the case of owners of houses getting a rent of less than Rs. 15, other owners of small houses who are in a very large majority and who have to depend on their rent for their living, should also be exempted from the operation of the Bill. That is one thing and the other thing is Government should make good the loss of rent which may be involved for the period from the time the house falls vacant and the time the reply from the Government is received by the houseowner as to whether the house is actually required by Government or not, for, I do not believe that such a provision has been made in the Bill under discussion. If it is provided, certainly, it will satisfy us. However, I suggest that all the aspects of the question will be considered by the Select Committee and that they will amend the Bill in such a way as to be acceptable to all."

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THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been very much enlightened by the question put by my hon. Friend Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar—though I do not understand him fully—about the jurisdiction of this House to bring this legislation. This question of houses and control of houses and residential and non-residential buildings come within the purview of the Legislature. I do not understand what my friend's difficulty is in regard to this matter. Such a brilliant lawyer as he is, I thought he could easily have understood it without raising such a question. He referred to Schedule VII, List I of the Government of India Act, and then said that this matter does not come under that. But, List II deals with a portion of it which is clear and it is further amplified by List III. List II of the Provincial Subjects, item 21, deals with land, that is to say, ryotwari land, land tenures including relation between the landlord and tenant and the collection of rent. That is one portion which is very clear. Then, we come to List III which relates to concurrent jurisdiction, where 'clause 8 of the subjects given is Transfer of Property other than Agricultural land'. In Transfer of Property, lease is one of the items; and when concurrent jurisdiction is given to this House to deal with subjects that are comprised in the Transfer of Property Act, agricultural land which includes also buildings, whether residential or non-residential comes under the jurisdiction of this Legislature.

"The second point is the suggestion made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan. Of course, the Bill provides for increase of rent that is thought necessary and it also deals with the relations between the landlord and the tenant. He also said that some landlords and some tenants are favoured under the provisions of this Bill. However, these are matters which the members of the Select Committee will consider. It is for that reason that while introducing the Bill, I have also suggested that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee, so that when it emerges out of the Select Committee, it will be a very satisfactory measure to all concerned. If my motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee is accepted, I move that the following members do constitute the Select Committee on this Bill:—

- (1) The Hon. Sri M. Bhakthavatsalam.
- (2) The Hon. Mrs. Lakshmipathi.
- (3) The Hon. Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja.
- (4) The Hon. Sri R. Raghava Menon.
- (5) Sri K. Varadachari.
- (6) Sri B. S. Murthy.
- (7) Sri N. S. Varadachari.
- (8) Sri K. Raghavan.
- (9) Sri M. A. Ishvaran.
- (10) Muhammad Raza Khan Sahib Bahadur.
- (11) Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal.

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- (12) Mr. John Moses Wilson.
- (13) D. Abdul Rawoof Sahib Bahadur.
- (14) Hassan Koya Sahib Bahadur.
- (15) Dr. U. P. Mallayya."

The motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee consisting of the members referred to above was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The report of the Select Committee will be submitted on Monday next. Under rule 78, I appoint the Hon. Sri R. Raghava Menon as the Chairman of the Committee."

(4) THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL BOARDS
(SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1946.

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce a Bill to amend the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and the Madras City Municipal, District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, and move that the Bill be taken into consideration at once.

"In making this motion, I desire to make a few statements in order to explain the objects underlying this Bill. There are two main provisions in this amending Bill and I believe that both of them are non-controversial in character. Sir, 1942 is a memorable year in the annals of modern India. In that year, Mahatma Gandhi inaugurated the movement for the attainment of Swaraj and in pursuance of that movement, national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru and others were put in jail. This movement took a hold on the masses of this country and many of the local bodies, municipalities and district boards, which were then functioning under what was known as section 93 Government—Advisers' regime—passed resolutions sympathizing with the above movement and requesting that the leaders who are in jail should be released. In dealing with this movement, the Advisers' Government thought that these municipalities and district boards should not be allowed to function any longer because they expressed their sympathy with this movement. The ordinary provisions of the Local Boards and Municipalities Act were not sufficient to supersede these bodies. Therefore most of the local bodies which passed resolutions expressing sympathy with the movement were superseded under the Defence of India Rules and put in charge of special officers. At this juncture, Act XXIV of 1942 was passed as a Governor's Ordinance. There are two main provisions in that Act: one was that these superseded municipalities and district boards should be reconstituted not by throwing these bodies open to fresh election but by appointment of members, that is, by nomination. You know, Sir, that for the past sixteen years nearly, the system of nominations to local bodies had been given up, though no doubt there was provision for partial representation of minority interests in those bodies, but even that was given up for the last few years. All sections of the House will agree that the system

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of constituting local bodies by appointment of members by Government is an old and out-moded system. Under this Act, the superseded municipalities should be reconstituted by appointment and it also provides that whenever a municipality or local board was superseded a fresh reconstitution of the board should and must necessarily be made by appointment. I will give you a recent instance to illustrate the difficulty of this provision. The Chittoor District Board was reconstituted somewhere about 1943 and it continued to function till the beginning of this year. At the beginning of this year, about 19 or 20 members of the reconstituted board resigned leaving the others to function. The district board was not competent to carry on the duties and therefore Government had to deal with the situation under Act XXIV of 1942 and the only course open was to reappoint the members who had resigned their seats, but this Government was not prepared to resort to this system of nomination and we have therefore provided in this Bill to take power to appoint special officers. Wherever this Act XXIV of 1942 is in force—it is supposed to be in force for a period of two years after the war, and the war is supposed to have terminated at the end of 1945—if there is any maladministration in any municipality or local board, the only course open to Government is to reconstitute it by means of appointment or nomination. But we felt that this course was undesirable in all respects and, therefore, Government has taken power under the present amending Bill to reconstitute such superseded municipalities and district boards by means of election, which has been in operation but which was temporarily suspended during the period of the war and is now sought to be embodied in clause (3) of the Bill.

“The other provision is this. The elections to local bodies are coming up in November and December of this year. The life of the existing municipal councils and local bodies extends up to 12 noon on 1st November. There is thus an interregnum and one or two courses are open. One is to extend the life of these bodies up to the time the new bodies begin to function. Therefore special officers will have to be appointed for the interregnum. In the case of municipalities the Commissioners who will be appointed as special officers are Government servants who are not supposed to have any party affiliations or prejudices. Therefore Government propose to extend the lifetime of the municipal councils till the new councils are elected and begin functioning.

“So far as district boards are concerned, the position is somewhat different. The executive functions of district boards are vested in the president of the district board and it is desirable, I thought—that again is a matter which will be agreed to by all sides of the House—that during the period of the elections and for some time immediately preceding elections, a non-party officer is put in charge of the administration of the district board, because you know, Sir, district boards carry a certain amount of influence and prestige on account of the various matters that are under their

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control. Therefore it has been provided in the Bill under clause 3 to appoint special officers to district boards for the period of the interregnum until the new boards are formed.

“As I have already stated, both these provisions are of a non-controversial and acceptable character. So far as clause 4 is concerned, it deals only with a general reserve provision which does not make any definite change in the present position.

“I would, therefore, commend this Bill for the acceptance of this House.”

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move an amendment to the motion of the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration, viz., that this Bill be referred to a Select Committee. I no doubt agree to the main principle on which the Bill has been based. So far as the first portion is concerned, namely, the reconstitution of the superseded or dissolved municipal councils and district boards to be by election, we do admit that the elections should be held and the boards reconstituted as early as possible. Under the cover of the elections being postponed to some indefinite period, it is possible that the party in power taking advantage of the provisions of sections 3 and 4 of the Bill may try to consolidate their own party strength. That is our apprehension. In regard to the reconstitution of the boards, you want to take power to appoint special officers under clause 3, and under clause 4 you want to take a general reserve power of a very sweeping nature. I therefore suggest, Sir, these are matters which should be carefully gone into and considered. Under the provisions contained in sub-section (2) of section 3 it is contemplated to appoint special officers to district boards other than a Revenue Divisional Officer or a Collector who will receive payment from district funds. These matters require careful planning. Therefore, I suggest, Sir, that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee. Again with regard to section 4, I do not see any reason for apprehending any difficulty in giving effect to the provisions of the Act, especially when it is going to be in the hands of Government. Therefore whether this provision is necessary or not has also to be considered.

“For the reasons set forth above, I appeal to the Hon. Minister to refer the Bill to a Select Committee. After all it is such a small Bill which can be considered to-morrow or the day after and after the report is received, there will be no difficulty in adopting it. I therefore move my amendment.”

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“Sir, in seconding the motion to refer the Bill to Select Committee, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister for Local Administration regarding the notice issued recently to the Chairman of the Guntur Municipality. The Hon. Minister said that during 1942, the presidents of district boards and the chairmen of municipalities were removed because they supported the demand of the Congress, namely, the release of Congress leaders. But here the same thing is happening under the Congress regime, under the regime of the Minister for Local Administration since he has demanded the

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explanation of the Chairman of the Guntur Municipal Council as to why he should not be removed for supporting the just demands of the municipal workers. Sir, I would like to know whether this is going to be the general policy of our popular Government. But I do hope that this Government will not follow in the footsteps of the past Adviser regime, while we are expecting a rectification of the misdeeds of the past administration from the present Ministry. In spite of that, Sir, and especially on the eve of this amending Bill, I do not know why such a notice should be issued to the Chairman of the Guntur Municipal Council demanding an explanation. Of course, the Government can pass pay legislation because they have got a vast majority behind them but such an autocratic action upon the Chairman of the Municipal Council whether he belongs to their party or not, will certainly not redound to their credit.

"There is another point, Sir, and that is in regard to elections to these bodies. Because there is no time, they want to rush it through. It is all right; but my point is, during question hour, I put a question as to why elections on adult franchise should not be introduced, especially when ration cards have been introduced and voters' lists have been prepared, because if elections are held on the basis of adult franchise it would be a more democratic body, but the reply was that it would be postponed. It is of course nothing new to the Congress Party because, they have all along been demanding the same thing before they came to power. Now even after the popular Government has come to power, I find that they have not taken up the question of adult franchise. When the Congress was in power for about 2½ years on the last occasion, they did not do anything in the matter. Now the present Government want to postpone it. In the meanwhile, I am afraid, elections to municipalities and district boards will be over and it may be another five years before the next elections are held and it is probable that the Government may change in the interval and the question of introducing adult franchise will be shelved. That is the very reason, Sir, why this Bill should be referred to a Select Committee. I suggest, Sir, however, that the Ministry should not hurry up with this Bill before considering the question of introducing adult franchise in regard to elections to local bodies because if it is not done this year, there is no possibility of doing it hereafter. Of course the chairmen of municipalities and commissioners have been exercising their autocratic powers for the last four or five years and I do not see any danger in their continuing for a few months more till the introduction of adult franchise, particularly, when there are popular Ministries above. Of course, should there be any irregularity in their administration, the popular Government is there to check them. If the Congress Party has changed its ideology that there is no need for adult franchise, then this question has to be reconsidered and placed before the electorate once again. What I suggest is there is no hurry for this legislation in regard to municipal elections but you can wait for some time more, because there are other very important things such as adult franchise which have to be looked into.

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"Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the House another important matter in this connexion and that is proportional representation. Now, there is the system of joint electorates. What I suggest is after introducing adult franchise, if proportional representation is also introduced, every community, religion and party will have opportunities to get their full share of representation according to their strength. Now, we are not having such opportunities. As a matter of fact, even in regard to provincial elections in certain places, particularly in the Kistna constituency, in the primary elections, our candidates got two times the number of votes obtained by the Congress candidates. So, if proportional representation is introduced, all the political parties would be better represented according to their strength, because I believe that is the highest form of democracy, I mean adult franchise and proportional representation represent true democracy where every religion and party will be represented according to their ideologies and it will also lead to greater unity among all the sections. If this ideology is accepted, every class and community will align themselves with others and no minority community will suffer. Even the minority communities and even the Muslims who claim to represent ten per cent and other interests concerned are sure to get their quota if this salutary procedure is adopted. In view of the fact that all aspects of the question will be considered in all its details at the Select Committee, I support the motion."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the motion of my hon. Friend to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, all that I wish to say is that it is rather inconsistent on the part of the present Government to perpetuate the very method that they have been condemning all these years. At this very moment, my Hon. Friend, Mr. Daniel Thomas, condemned the principle of nomination; I do not know how he can in the same breath urge the appointment of a special officer on the same lines as was done by the bureaucratic regime. (Hear, hear.) As my Hon. Friend is a Christian, I wish to recall to his mind a sentence from the Bible: 'The hand is the hand of Esau but the voice is the voice of Jacob' which may be applied to the present Government, for though their outward form seems to have changed, yet their spirit remains the same as that of their predecessor. In their own interest, I emphasize—let it not be said of the present Government—that 'the hands are the hands of Esau but the voice is the voice of Jacob'—the voice of the bureaucracy. I would urge upon the Government not to rush through measures like this. People are awake and alive and they will apply the same missiles of argument against the present Government as the latter applied against the bureaucratic regime. With these words, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support the motion of my hon. Friend."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, I believe that this measure is wholly unnecessary. My

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fear is that the Government of the day wish to instal their henchmen both in municipalities and district boards. The Minister concerned has very peculiar notions of the movement of 1942 and about nominations. When people in power at that time decided on a policy of total destruction, somebody has to be put in charge of municipalities and district boards. He is not right in condemning those people. He must remember that even to-day in the Central Government we have nominations. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his party were not elected by anybody, but having collaborated with the British they are there to-day in the Centre. He has no right to claim to be a national leader because he belongs to a party and he and Lord Wavell have joined hands to form the Government at the centre and it is not a popular Government."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"On a point of order, I do not know how this is relevant to the debate, seeing that we are discussing a Bill to amend the District Municipalities and Local Boards Act and are not dealing with formation of the Government at the centre."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It may be clear when the Member further develops his point."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"He condemned nominations and said that nominated presidents of district boards are not fit to be elected. I ask the Government how then a nominated group of men comprising party men can be called responsible Government. I think that the provisions regarding district boards are completely unnecessary. People went into the wilderness and embarked upon a policy of destruction and the Government nominated certain persons to discharge certain responsibilities. They have been carrying out their responsibility for the last two years and I say that nothing will happen if they are asked to manage the elections, unless it be that the present Government want their nominees to be installed there for their own party purposes. As regards municipalities, we are going to have the elections very soon, in a period of two or three months and why do you presume that municipalities will in this period commit mistakes and the Government will require power to deal with them. I fear the last section is the most formidable of all sections. It says that the Government may, as occasion arises, by order, do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing any difficulty. This is a thing which even Hitler and Mussolini would not have asked their Parliaments to permit them to do. They are asking powers to do anything for any occasion to remove difficulties. Is it possible for any legislative assembly to approve of such a clause? The most amusing part of it is that they want powers for a circumstance and for a reason which is not known to them even to-day. Bills have been showered on us, eight Bills in a day. The Opposition has to consider the Bills and therefore has to ask for time. It is unfair that an omnibus measure like this should be

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hustled through the House. It has become a rule with this Government not to give enough time for the Opposition. Under these circumstances, it is better that this Bill is dropped."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, my Hon. Friend Mr. Daniel Thomas referred to the political aspect of the question. He traced the history and the genesis of the measure. He referred to what he chose to call the epoch-making year of 1942, a year which according to him has made a tremendous change in the modern political history of India. It has undoubtedly made changes in the modern political history of India. It has revealed the hand which instead of seeking to do good did nothing but destruction, not merely material destruction but even the spiritual traditions of this country."

"My hon. Friend said that this was a non-controversial measure and that there was nothing in it to object; it was according to him harmless and innocent and even a reference to the Select Committee was not necessary. Local boards and municipalities if they are to be really self-governing institutions are to be representative. My hon. Friend has been in office for the last three and a half months and he must have an intimate knowledge of local boards. He knows the extent to which he suffered at the hands of the very same people whom he has joined, not only he but also along with him his sister community, the Muslims, have also suffered. In order to give representation to Muslims and other minority communities, legislation was brought forward and a very small pittance was given by way of representation to the various minorities—one seat was given here and another half a seat there. That is the state of affairs that went on and we members of the Muslim nationality said that we should have

..." (Interruption.)

AN HON. MEMBER:—"The Muslim nationality."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You need not listen to those interruptions. I do not want hon. Members to disturb when a member is speaking."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Yours is a wholesome ruling. But in the heat of parliamentary debates, members who have a little more of energy indulge in it and the speakers are none the worse for it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Interruption is dangerous."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is dangerous to some and not so to others. Thank you very much for the help given to me on this occasion."

"My Hon. Friend, the Minister for Local Administration, knows with his experience of the working of the administration of the local boards, how they have become practically monopolistic and he should have done well if he had brought forward legislation giving satisfaction to the various important and essential elements in the Province. Instead of that he has brought in this small Bill. He says it is harmless and non-controversial. It is

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not certainly so. My Hon. Friend has himself explained very clearly how nominations came into existence. I am not here to champion the action, rightly or wrongly undertaken, of the Adviser regime which was an autocratic Government. A Government is an autocratic Government if it acts against well-known democratic principles. It is autocratic if it becomes monopolistic.

4 p.m. "Sir, I am sure, the Hon. Minister must have by this time found out where the Advisers' Government have made mistakes by acting wrongly, and I hope he would imbibe democratic principles and give representation to people who have got no representation at all because of joint electorate. It is high time, this Government accepts separate electorate and gives it for those who want it. It would be possible under ordinary circumstances for a Muslim here and there to get elected even though he may not have a majority of his people as voters. But under the existing conditions it is very necessary that satisfactory arrangements should be made by the Hon. Minister in charge of Local Self-Government to see that adequate representation is given to the Muslims, Christians and the Scheduled Classes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, my Hon. Friend seeks to do by this Bill to appoint officers who will conduct the elections to the district boards."

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"No, they will only carry on the administration; they will not conduct the elections."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Thank you, Sir. When he was speaking he said that these officers are not expected to be partymen. But they will be nominees of one party or other; and knowing as we do, how administration is carried on, these temporary nominees are not permanent officers of Government, they will be temporarily special officers only, and they will be selected from among partymen, and so they could not be expected to be independent non-partymen. This is, I fear, putting in the thin end of the wedge. This is how consolidation of party goes on, in the name of justice, fairplay and independence. Sir, I hope the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration will bring to bear on his administration his genial personality and his love of justice, and as a true Christian, he will not become a victim or surrender himself to any monopolist attitude that may govern the party to which he belongs; but on the other hand, he would assert himself and try to see that he triumphs in his principles and that he does not become a party to do wrong. Sir, though this measure is a measure only for an interregnum, I hope he will soon bring forward a consolidated measure wherein he will give representation to all communities in this Province, make local bodies really self-governing and real elected bodies controlled, managed and manned not by one party and one community only."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, from the very beginning I was pointing out that the present Government is utilising this machinery of Legislature not in public interest but for the purpose of consolidating their already strong party and this is

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one instance of that kind. (Laughter from the Opposition Benches.) I know it is one of the most political immoral acts of a Government to make arrangements for elections to local bodies in order to ensure that its own partymen should be returned." (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'Hear, hear.')

* SRI K. P. KAMAKSHI CHETTIYAR:—"On a point of order. Sir, is the hon. Member in order in making that reflection on Government?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may continue his speech."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I should like to know, Sir, what is the object of this Government in bringing a measure like this. My friend Mr. Hameed Khan was saying that they are resorting to these measures in the name of justice and fairplay. I say even that, they are not doing. There is not a plausible explanation for a measure like this. What is the justification for this measure at present? Did they not get an overwhelming majority in this Assembly in spite of all these nominated local bodies and municipalities functioning? Why are they nervous about it? What is it that they say in the Statement of Objects and Reasons? They barefacedly say it is to strengthen their party. So, can you say, this measure is brought in the name of justice and fairplay? I say, it is barefaced political immorality to have brought a measure like this. I say, Government are not acting wisely here; I say, they are acting in their own interest. It has shaken the confidence of the people in the Government. When once they have taken up the reins of office it is their duty to place the interests of the general public at the top and not their party consideration. It is because their party is in a majority, they are in office. Once they have taken up Government they should act with justice and fairness. I would also remind the Government at this juncture that in the Legislature as now constituted, there is practically no connection between our side and the other side of the House. There is no touch, except every now and then they go on saying that they will be protecting the interests of the minorities. Is this the kind of protection you give? You have installed a puppet government in the centre. If this measure is to be passed you will have so many puppet governments in the several local boards and municipalities. You say in the Advisers' regime they ran a puppet government in the nominated councils, and what are you doing by this measure except to have your own puppet governments in the local boards and municipalities." (A cry: 'Shame.')

(Voices in Government Benches: 'We protest against the use of the word puppet.')

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am really sorry that our friends of the Muslim League are working themselves up into a rage, which is understandable. (Mr. Nivarthi Venkatasubbiah: 'They are always like that.')

(Laughter.) Yes. Our friends on the other side may remember that for no sin whatever, many of the district boards in 1942 were dissolved

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by a most autocratic legislation by a Government for not carrying out its behests which could under no law or decency in the art of government be justified. I strongly feel if a national organisation has any respect in itself it must undo all the wrongs that were committed by that Government which did these things in a most autocratic way. What was the sin committed by these local bodies? They simply passed the same resolution adopted by the Indian National Congress asking for independence and telling Government that the people would have to resort to direct action if their demand, namely, independence was not granted by the British Government. That was the only sin they committed, and for that, summarily all those boards were dissolved, and *johukums* were installed in their place. And the behaviour of these boards during all this time is a notorious fact. These people taking advantage of the situation began to curry the favour of the Advisers' Government in every department of administration and demoralized it; and when we seek by this measure to set it right, Mr. Pocker gets up and says, we are doing an immoral act to-day. I do not know how my Muslim friends appeared before the public in supporting the autocratic Government all these years. I submit this is a wholesome legislation that we are seeking to do to-day for the purpose of removing the *johukums* who used to interfere with elections and demoralized them. It is absolutely necessary that these people should be asked to find their places in society. I submit in Chittoor district to which reference was made, the President of the District Board, simply because he was found fault with for the way in which he administered the Tirupathi Devasthanam, of which committee he was the president, he was sought to be removed. He was so enraged with the Advisers' Government that he addressed His Excellency the Governor declaring 'you know how I have served His Majesty's Government during the period of stress all this time, and you are not going to nominate me to the devasthanam committee; I therefore threaten you with the resignation of the presidentship of the district board.' And it is common knowledge that His Excellency the Governor had to request him saying 'keep to your seat my dear boy, you will be all right; if you are not on the committee, you will have the presidentship of the district board.' One day in a fit of anger all the 19 members of the board resigned for the simple reason that he was not allowed to continue in a place to which he was nominated in the Tirupathi Devasthanam."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The hon. Member happens to be the closest friend of that gentleman, Sir."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"I am his counsel also, Sir."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is he not his thick friend, Sir?"

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"I am his counsel also, Sir. Sir, these *johukums* got into these local boards and municipalities not in a decent, a neutral, atmosphere. We should have

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all these local boards cleared of the *johukums*. Hence the necessity for this legislation. With these words I resume my seat."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is some misrepresentation."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"All right. I shall allow you to speak."

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Jai Hind. Speaker. Sir, I rise to support this Bill, Sir. It is absolutely essential that it must be supported by all members of this House. You must know the circumstances under which these nominated bodies have come in. When the patriots had gone to jails, when they were facing lathi charges and bullets, these blacklegs have been nominated by the Advisers' Government. Now that the popular Government has come in, and the patriots have attained their goal of, at least, partial independence, it is their duty to bring in legislation to remove immediately the blacklegs and put in really representative people. In district boards and municipalities, these people while going out of the office will sign contracts, big contracts, and will do so many other things that will mar the good administration of those bodies. They will try to do a lot of mischief. That is why this legislation is absolutely essential. I can say, Sir, as a member of the House representing Guntur, that the Chairman of the Guntur Municipality, which is said to be an elected body, behaved like a political gambler during the strike movement. He chose to support some of these labour leaders that started strikes as against the Government. He issued pamphlets condemning the Government's action and supporting the strikers. I as a socialist and a labour worker do support the economic demands. But the man who started the strike did it with a bad intention."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You come to the point."

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"I am telling you, Sir, how that man behaved. He raised the pay of strikers to Rs. 21 and also he has given an advance of Rs. 4,000 and thus put the Government in an awkward position. Thus he tried to disobey Government orders. I do not know, Sir, why he should not be removed when he tried to disobey the Government orders. Such political jugglers should not be allowed to continue further. My hon. Friends on the Muslim benches are very vehement. I was in jail in 1921 then and along with me was Mr. Farooki, now the leader of the Muslim League in the Upper House. Whenever we now meet our heart swell with great affection. We have been and we will be friends (interruption). In this way, trying to oppose legislation, calling it immoral is bad. I also say, to call the Government at the Centre as puppet Government is absolutely rubbish. It is a Government with all the people behind it and they will be there even after elections take place. It is a people's Government backed by two bulwark of the people. They are not leaders who are living in palaces. They are leaders who have

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gone to jails and who have faced bullets. They have a right to be there and shall be there in spite of some disgrumbled elements. When they were in the jails, these Khan Sahibs and Noons that imprisoned them were really the puppets. That was the puppet Government and not this." (Interruption and cries of 'Order, order.')

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"You come to the point."

* Sri A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"I request my hon. Friends to have patience. Let us think calmly and let us build up a United India together and let us not try to divide India."

"Coming to this Bill, I must say that it must be supported by all sections of the House because it is a Bill that is brought in to set right the wrong done by the previous Government."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir. It is necessary that Mr. Speaker should instruct this hon. Member the elementary rule of this House that when the Speaker stands up he should sit down. This he has not been doing." (Laughter.)

* Sri K. VENKATA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion for the consideration of the Local Boards Bill. I am sorry, Sir, that I have been absent for a few minutes and have missed the enlightened speeches from the Opposition, but nonetheless even from the positive side, I must say that this Bill is long overdue for more than one reason. On my way from Bombay in August 1942 as Secretary of the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee, I issued a circular in consultation with the President of the Tamil Nad Provincial Congress Committee and other friends, to all Congress Parties in local boards and municipalities in Andhra to adopt the resolution passed on the 8th August 1942 by the A.I.C.C. at Bombay. We felt, Sir, that the elected representatives of the people should endorse the resolution that was in reality a clarion call for the winning of freedom for India. I am very glad, Sir, that in my own part of the country all the municipalities and district boards that were manned by Congressmen have responded to this call, and all have passed that resolution. The Advisers' Government would have been correct if elections were held and opinion of the people taken even then. In 1942, if elections had been held, the people would, in spite of the fact that all the leaders were in jail, have returned the Congress in thumping majorities. The Government instead of holding elections passed an amending Bill. War contractors and people who helped in collecting war funds are in position of local boards to-day. I would put a question to the Opposition that if the concerned local boards had not passed the resolution of August 8th, 1942, what would have been the position to-day? It is because of the political issue in the 'quit India' resolution that these boards were superseded by the Government. Otherwise they would have continued to be in order even to-day. Now that is the issue before the Congress Government. I would

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have been very glad if our Congress Government, as soon as it took up office, had dissolved these boards and replaced them by men who had the honour and the prestige, in those days, to pass the August resolution, and I am certain that the country also would have rejoiced over it. But perhaps for equanimity and for ideas of justice, they did not like to disturb the condition of those nominated boards. The reason is that the Government felt that they will be charged with an attempt to bring in their own partymen. To-day the term of office of the boards is almost over. This Bill seeks power only to dissolve them a little earlier. It is only to show people who acted against the interests of the country that they cannot dissolve the boards for the sake of advocating a political idea, this people's Government have decided to bring in this Bill in this form. To call it immoral and to think that Government got out of the way in order to pacify some of their friends and their partymen is unjust. That kind of criticism from the other side is very unjust. I would only request our friends opposite to take into consideration the circumstances in which these boards were superseded, and how the Advisers' Government sought to put in people who were never elected by the people, then or now. The nominated members of local boards have all had their three years of their term and now they must be replaced by elected people. The Opposition should, if at all, welcome this measure. This measure is a democratic measure. It is a measure which the Ministry has brought in in order to show the people who sided Government they are no good and should be replaced by the elected representatives of the people. If the Opposition members want, they can contest the elections, and can succeed. After all, the intervening period will not be at the most, more than 50 days. What is the objection? Will we get into the district boards and eat them away through the Special Officers? Will we resort to black-marketing? This is an unjust charge and an unjust suspicion. I would appeal to you, Sir, and through you to the members of the Opposition to accept this Bill and thereby establish that people's rights cannot be suppressed by any Government, even if it be the British Government in whose Empire the Sun never sets. It is only to prove that the particular attitude of that Government was preposterous that this Bill is brought forward, and I appeal to the Opposition to withdraw their opposition and allow this Bill to establish a correct, moral and desirable ideal in the administration of this Province."

* Sri V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, after hearing the lucid and convincing explanation given by the Hon. Minister for Local Administration, there will be no need 4-30
to allow the Bill to go to Select Committee. A storm has been p.m.
raised in this House to the effect that the party in power are trying to bring their own men into these district boards and municipalities. Sir, as one who had something to do with these local boards for many years, I may tell you that the state of affairs in the district boards and municipalities is so bad that it needs a thorough change, and I am glad that the Hon. Minister,

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within the short period he has been in office visited many a district board, and has now brought forward a very important measure. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, just now pointed out, this Bill seeks power to have the provisions in force for just 40 or 50 days earlier. I would request hon. Members on the Opposition to pass this Bill without further reference to a Select Committee.

“ Sir, about adult franchise my hon. Friend, Mr. Venkateswarlu, brought home to this House that the Congress is for adult franchise. Sir, I may tell you that it is one of the chief objectives of the Congress. Is there anybody who is not for adult franchise? The other day when we discussed the education demand, it was clearly stated that literacy in our province is only 7 per cent. Whatever it may be, I stand for adult franchise and I am sure the party in power will very shortly bring in a measure to improve education in our province. For the preparation of an electoral roll on the basis of adult franchise, it will take not a few months but a long time. Till then a very salient measure like this will be held up. So I may tell my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu that we are all for adult franchise. He referred to the primary election wherein a Communist who topped the polls had been defeated in the general election. It is not our fault. All the candidates put up by this Party for the 30 seats in this House have got the support of those people who vote both at the primary election and the general election. In Mannargudi the Communists put all their efforts to defeat the Congress, but they failed, and the Congress Harijan candidate succeeded.

“ In discussing the matter of district boards, I may say that it is highly necessary that executive officers must be there while the elections take place. One district board has become practically the pocket borough of one family. That family has given members to the district board; it has given officers to the board, contractors come from the same family, and even draftsmen are drawn from that family. When such is the case, how can we get justice during the time of election? I am sure the Hon. Minister has done the right thing in taking power for appointing Special Officers at the time of election. I strongly support the motion moved by the Hon. Minister, and I hope the Opposition will not press to a division.”

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ I would not have intervened in this debate but for some points raised by my Friend Mr. Kameswara Rao. I find that since this morning he seems to have developed a sort of violent mentality. Simply because he has changed his dress—we find him in his bush shirt—he seems to think that we will all be afraid. There is nothing surprising about this; he has copied it from our Viceroy Lord Wavell. I can tell him that he need not talk of violence and other things to Muslim League members. We are prepared to face the bullets

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of the Central Government, and we are ready for it. I would not have said so but for some remarks made by the members on the Treasury Benches. Some Members on the Congress benches feel that heroism and patriotism are their monopoly. They have done nothing. Real heroism and patriotism will be seen on our side when the time comes, and I am sure the time will surely come.

“ The whole question in the debate is whether there is any necessity to appoint Special Officers between the time of elections and now. There is no point in simply condemning the Advisers' regime or bureaucratic government and following the very things for which you are condemning them. Much has been said by Members on the Treasury Benches with regard to the part played by these district boards and municipalities. What is your past record? The whole record of the Congress Party in the matter of local self-government is the worst I can say, and even to-day we see it. That is what we feel. Where is the justification for the Congress Party to fly the Congress flag over the buildings of the Madras City Corporation, just wounding the feelings of other members? It is your party flag and not the country flag. We want to know from you what is the guarantee, that you will not use these officers for your party purposes, or abuse or misuse their power. You will appoint such officers who will always be subservient to you and who will be very partial to your party. A number of parties are going to contest the elections to the municipalities and district boards, and I am sure the Special Officers to be appointed by the party in power will be such as will help the party in power, and therefore they will try to misuse their power. I do not find any justification, having condemned the Advisers' regime, to follow their very methods.

“ My friends on the Treasury Benches waxed eloquent on their heroism in 1942. Whether you are right or wrong, we are not concerned with 1942. History has to give its judgment whether you are right or wrong, but you have tried to make much of what little you have done. You cannot exploit it always.

“ We are concerned with a definite issue whether the power which this Government propose to make is right or not. The members on the Treasury Benches bring very irrelevant issues. But I do give some concession as some of them have yet to learn and are new. It is right that we should also give them attacks and try to teach them some lesson.”

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ On a point of information, Sir, I want to move the following adjournment motion”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I cannot permit any motion at this stage.”

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ My purpose in speaking on this motion is to say that the speeches made by the members of the Muslim League have been greatly misrepresented

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unwittingly perhaps. The speakers on the side of the Treasury Benches have heard wrongly the speeches of the Muslim members because they were themselves in fury. The Muslim League members never accepted nominations as the best method of representing the people in local bodies. Not a single word has been said that nominations are good. I do not see any reason why the members on the Treasury Bench should attack the Muslim members on that score. We make it very very clear that we condemn nominations. We condemn nominations; as Begum Amiruddin has said when you yourself have condemned nominations it is wrong on your part to nominate a certain person to represent the district board and perform its functions—may be for the interregnum. That is our main point. The whole thing started with the Minister for Local Administration stating the origin or the genesis of this Bill, the reasons therefor and from his political point of view he thought 1942 was very good and patriotic. That elicited the answer from the members of my party who did not agree with that point of view. On that I was very much surprised and an elderly gentleman, the member for Chittoor, Mr. Varadachariar should have worked himself up into a fury. He was followed by another young man on the other side who went into hysterics. I want to make it clear that on our side we do not advocate nomination. We equally condemn any attempt on the part of the other side to nominate persons even for a short time for purposes of elections. I find from this that the duties of the Special Officer are very very extensive. He will be representing the entire district board. He represents the district board and discharges all the functions. A certain friend said the reason why we want to see the district boards go out of office is that in this short period they might squander the money of the district boards. What guarantee is there that this Special Officer would not do so? So there is no use saying that the nominated members will squander, so we want to substitute a single officer to look after the affairs. So the main point is this. Not we are opposed to elections. We are opposed to nominations and we are equally opposed to Special Officer being substituted. I do not know whether he is going to be an official or a non-official. I see that this Special Officer may be a non-official and he may be permitted to draw some remuneration. I find it stated 'to appoint for that district board a Special Officer to exercise the powers, discharge the duties and perform the functions of the district board and its president during the interval between the date of expiry of the term of the members previously holding office and the date on which the newly elected members will come into office.' Then it is said 'Whereas Special Officer is appointed, etc., he may receive payment for his services from the district fund.' So we do not know whether he will be a permanent officer or a person appointed for the purpose and some remuneration paid to him. There is a suspicion. Also it is wrong on principle to nominate a person to represent the board. It amounts to the previous board having been dissolved. Hitherto you remember, Mr. Speaker, when the district board has been superseded the Revenue Divisional Officer by virtue of the

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provisions of the Act, whether Municipal or District Boards Act, becomes an *ex-officio* president. There is that provision already. I do not see why a Special Officer should be appointed. The Revenue Divisional Officer or the District Collector might look after the affairs of the district board. Section 4 says: 'If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Provincial Government may by order do anything which appears to them necessary.' Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will remember that this question of vesting powers in executive Government is to be deprecated. I know Congressmen have always condemned any provision in an Act which gives power to executive authority to rule this way or that way. There was a provision in the rules made under the Election Rules where it is said—it was a case of Justice Party having made that rule—which everyone of us condemned. What right has this Government to say 'this in my opinion is good' and 'this in my opinion is not good.' When principles and rights are involved it is not a wholesome principle to allow the executive Government to decide the matter. So, Sir, on these two grounds the suspicions of the parties who might oppose the Congress Party have risen. We have absolutely no objection to sections 2 and 3 going in. Those elections might be held as early as possible. But we object to these two measures going in. So all the heat created is misplaced, unnecessary and could have been avoided if the Minister for Local Self-Government had not given the history of the 1942 movement."

DR. D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"May I ask the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration whether he has any plan or any method by which the minority may be adequately represented through election, because that question might ease the situation very considerably?"

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that my friend Janab Mahboob Ali Baig has spoken without emotion. I shall follow him. (Laughter.)

"The two purposes for which this Bill has been introduced by the Hon. Minister for Local Administration are firstly to remove nominated members, and secondly to appoint Special Officers for a very short time. I am glad that my hon. Friend on behalf of the Muslim League assured us that they hate nominations as much as we on this side of the House hate. So we do not want nominations. Let the nominated boards go immediately. They did not agree with us when the great 1942 movement was going on, when students were being shot by police officers on the 13th of August in Guntur, and all these things were taking place. Naturally, the members of the municipalities and district boards held that it was their duty to support the movement. The Government of the day, the Advisers' regime, removed them and put in nominated boards. They did not agree with us in political matters and so long as friends like Mr. Salam are there—Mr. Salam is a very troublesome man—they can never be *johukums*. I do not want to condemn

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them. Let them be there. As we all are agreed that they should not be any longer there, it is right that the Hon. Minister introduced this Bill in order to remove them immediately.

“Another point which they are making too much of is the appointment of Special Officers. Begum Mir Amiruddin and Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig said that we are following the same way in appointing Special Officers. Special Officers are not nominated members. Nominated members are members representing the public and are supposed to belong to some party or other. Instead of that, some official or the Commissioner himself or sometimes the Revenue Divisional Officer or the District Collector is usually appointed. Therefore, as the Minister has said, let there be some impartial officer during these two months. I am sure the Congress is going to contest the elections, and the Muslim League will also contest, and also the Communists though they have lost 27 out of the 28 seats. Naturally they will try their luck this time also. Nobody objects. Therefore it cannot be considered as nomination. This is appointing an impartial person to be there for a very short time so that the parties may have their own ways unrestricted. This Bill need not go to a Select Committee as it contains only two good provisions.

“With regard to the third point raised by Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig that the Government are taking too much power, I do not think it is so, because the power is taken only for the purpose of this Act. If any difficulty arises with regard to these two matters in interpretation or some such thing, then only the Government will be the final authority. What is wrong in it? What are the purposes of this Act? They are to remove nominated persons and appoint Special Officers. To see that the people do not go to a Court of law or to see that no trouble arises, the Government take that power. Therefore that criticism is also wrong.

“Only one more point I want to speak about. The Communist member Sri Venkateswarlu was harping on adult franchise and proportional representation. Adult franchise will come. The Congress is pledged to it. That is the basis of the great constitution that is going to be evolved by the Constituent Assembly. Where is the time for revising the electoral rolls now? As my hon. Friend knows, the electoral rolls for the municipalities and local boards are the same as those prepared for the Legislative Assembly. The lists are there, and these same lists are to be applied to the municipalities and district boards. So I want my hon. Friend to wait till the new constitution comes.

“Secondly, proportional representation is too difficult even in the most advanced countries, very difficult even to calculate votes. We know here how a mistake was made one day in the election of a member to the Constituent Assembly, and the next day it had to be corrected. Therefore to say that for local boards and municipalities proportional representation should be introduced is absurd. I support the motion.”

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* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“The Member has used the expression ‘absurd’ which you have ruled as unparliamentary.”

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

III.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

a Notification appended to G.O. Ms. No. 2281, Home, dated 3rd August 1946, making certain amendment to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

a Laid on the Table of the House on 3rd September 1946.

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APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 154 asked by Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 5th September 1946, page 1264 supra.]

Statement.

Name of college.	Year.	Number selected from the community of				
		Brahmins.	Non-Brahmins.	Muslims.	Scheduled classes.	Indian-Christians.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Medical College, Madras	1946	33	44	10	1	23
Do.	1945	26	52	14	1	20
Do.	1944	24	52	16	1	20
Do.	1943	20	50	8	3	23
The Presidency College, Madras ..	1946	381	283	19	4	45
Do.	1945	342	253	29	4	32
Do.	1944	338	211	23	4	38
Do.	1943	238	225	20	3	36
The Engineering College, Guindy and other Engineering Colleges. * 1946		83	187	32	8	25
Do.	1945	17	54	14	4	11
Do.	1944	22	47	14	6	12
Do.	1943	21	40	20	5	12

* Includes figures for other Engineering Colleges also.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 6th September 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

* 155 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I do not propose to put the question,"^a Sir. It has already been answered yesterday."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member (Sri A. Kuppaswami Naidu) who put the question 156 is not in his seat. The answer will be printed in the Proceedings."

Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium.

* 156 Q.—SRI A. KUPPUSWAMI NAIDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether any memorandum was presented to the Government urging on them the necessity of taking over the management of the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium directly into their hands with a view to improve the efficiency and usefulness of the institution in accordance with the terms of the agreement;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take on the memorandum; and

(c) whether a copy of the memorandum will be laid on the table of the House?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The matter is under consideration.

" (c) The Government see no need to do so."

Maternity benefit of women labourers.

* 157 Q.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government propose to enhance the rate of maternity benefit of women labourers?

SRI B. S. MURTI (Parliamentary Secretary on behalf of Hon. Sri V. V. Giri):—"That matter has not been considered."

^a The number of I.N.A. personnel appointed by the Government.

* Q.—185 MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any I.N.A. people have been appointed by Government;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, how many and to what posts; and

(c) whether it is the policy of the Government to appoint I.N.A. personnel even though they are not otherwise qualified for the same?

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Government consider the matter?"

SRI B. S. MURTI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"Yes, Sir."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I enquire whether the Government is not aware of the fact that the Post-war Reconstruction Committee decided that maternity leave to women workers should be extended from four weeks to six weeks?"

SRI B. S. MURTI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"Yes, Sir."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I enquire what has been done in that regard?"

SRI B. S. MURTI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"The matter is being considered."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I submit that as the matter has been pending for over a year and a half a decision should be arrived at soon?"

SRI B. S. MURTI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"The matter is being considered and a decision will be taken very soon."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, after all the suggestion is for an extension of the benefit from four weeks to six weeks. Will the time required for consideration of the question be also extended from four weeks to six weeks?" (Laughter.)

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know what is the rate that is now being paid?"

SRI B. S. MURTI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"I would request the hon. Member to refer to the Act, Sir."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know Sir, whether the Government will put in all these things in the comprehensive labour legislation which they are going to introduce?"

SRI B. S. MURTI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"I think the hon. Member is aware that the Hon. Minister for Labour has already informed the House that a comprehensive Bill covering all questions of labour will be brought before this House."

Cooking utensils in jails.

* 158 Q.—SRI M. DORAICANNU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that all cooking is done in jails in vessels made of iron or steel; and

(b) whether the Government propose to consider the question of using brass vessels coated with tin inside for cooking purpose?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" (a) It is not correct to state that all cooking in jails is done in vessels of iron and

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steel—some mud vessels also are used. But it is true that most of the cooking is done in iron or steel vessels. This is done under rule 351 of the Madras Prison and Reformatory Manual, Volume II.

"(b) No; but a proposal to substitute aluminium vessels is being examined. The Inspector-General has been requested to submit an estimate of the expenditure involved in the proposal."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, why iron vessels are being used and how they came into existence? Is it according to the Manual?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I do not know how they came to be introduced. I was not there when the rules were made. But I have made some investigation into the matter. Most of the cooking vessels are of iron or steel and the prepared food or kolumbu are left in such vessels for long periods. The food acquires a flavour not at all to taste and perhaps unwholesome. These must be replaced by brass vessels tinned inside or aluminium vessels. The former one are more durable and probably cheaper in the long run. The tinning may be done by any prisoner. Wherever possible, mud vessels may also be used as it is being done in some of the sub-jails. It is true they are brittle and liable to break easily, but they are also cheaper. At any rate mud vessels may be used for storing and keeping the cooked food or prepared kolumbu."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Are the Government aware of the bad smell that will be produced when cooking in iron or steel vessels and how the smell works on the prisoners who eat the food?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I know that bad smell will be produced when cooking in iron vessels, but I shall have to investigate how it affects the prisoners' health."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state how raw rice is interpreted as boiled rice by the jail authorities and may I know how the iron vessels came into the jail for cooking when there is no such reference in the Jail Manual Code?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I should like to have notice for this question."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the Hon. the Minister for Law will be pleased to allow prisoners in sub-jails to use their own vessels?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"It is not a practical proposition. But the suggestion of the hon. Member is good. Let him submit a memorial to the Government on the subject. Then the matter will be considered."

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SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"As cooking in iron vessels is not good for health, cannot mud vessels be used instead?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"That will also be considered. In fact, I have suggested it in my previous answer."

SRI K. SUBBA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether cooking in iron or steel vessels is not good for health?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I will have to take medical opinion on it."

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the prisoners will be permitted to have their food cooled in mud pots, if they so desire?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I think, that it can be done."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Sir, referring to cooking in iron vessels, may I ask what is the experience of the Hon. the Minister as prisoner?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"As I have already told the House, the smell was not good."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government note the fact that since cooking in jails is done for a large number of prisoners, the use of mud vessels would often result in breakages and waste?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Yes, that is also a matter that has to be considered."

SRI A. SATYANARAYANA:—"సబ్-జైల్స్ లో ఉండే ఖైదీలకు వారి సేరంబు ఋతువు కాకముందు, శిక్షలు పడకముందు, వారికి కావలసిన పరికరాలు, వస్త్రాలు వస్త్రాల సౌకర్యాలు కలిపి ఉండాలి. (పడుతూ) ఇంతవరకు ఏమి చేసింది? ఆ విషయమే ఏర్పాటు చేస్తారా?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"This is not a supplementary question arising out of the main question."

Selection of candidates for technical study in U.K. and U.S.A.

* 159 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government have selected 44 candidates for technical studies abroad in U.K. and U.S.A. this year;

(b) if so, what is the policy the Government have adopted in selecting the candidates;

(c) what are the qualifications of the selected candidates; and

(d) how many of the selected candidates are Harijans?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM (on behalf of Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiyar):—" (a) Yes. The Government of India allotted 50 scholarships to this Presidency for

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advanced studies overseas. Candidates for 46 scholarships have been nominated finally. Selection of candidates for the remaining four is under correspondence with the Government of India.

" (b) The hon. Member presumably refers to the procedure for selection of candidates for the scholarships.

" Applications were invited by means of public advertisement and the selection was made by a Committee consisting of a member of the Board of Revenue as Chairman and the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, and a Member of the Madras Public Service Commission as members. The Committee interviewed the candidates and made the selection. In making the selection the Committee was asked to see that adequate representation was given to the minority communities provided suitable candidates were forthcoming. In respect of the group of subjects connected with 'Industries', the Committee was also instructed to see that as far as possible adequate representation was given to each of the linguistic areas of the Province. In the matter of qualifications the Committee was instructed that as far as possible no student should be selected who did not possess a First-class Master's degree or equivalent qualifications in the subject or basic science concerned, preference being given to those who had also acquired some practical and research experience of value, subject to allowances being made for—

- (1) specialities in respect of which there would be no applicant with a first-class qualification;
- (2) cases where field experience and research after taking a second-class degree might be assessed higher than a mere first-class; and
- (3) the need for securing adequate representation for backward classes and for the various linguistic areas.

" (c) Thirty-nine candidates possess First-class Master's or Bachelor's degrees and seven candidates possess second-class degrees with practical experience.

" (d) Two persons belonging to the scheduled classes possessing second-class degrees applied; none of them was selected."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Referring to the answer to clause (d) of the question, may I know, Sir, the reason for not selecting the two scheduled caste second-class degree-holders?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The reason was that they did not possess the requisite qualifications."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, I want to make a small suggestion. In view of the fact that the answer to this question is a long one and in view of the fact that it is an important question, may I suggest that the answer may be printed and circulated to the House, so that we may be

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enabled to put supplementary questions to-morrow or on Monday?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I will not be here on Monday, Sir. I think, to-morrow will be better."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Then I postpone that question to to-morrow. The answer will be circulated to hon. Members."

Dearness allowance to employees of Local Boards.

* 159-A Q.—SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that dearness allowance was paid to all Government servants with retrospective effect from 1st July 1944 to 31st December 1944 as per G.O. No. 277, Finance, dated 29th March 1946, of the Advisers' Government while it was denied to the employees in local boards and municipalities;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Advisers' Government have ordered in their G.O. No. 1053, L.A., dated 12th June 1946, the payment of arrear dearness allowances at the enhanced rates to conservancy staff; and

(c) whether the Government are prepared to see at least now that a popular Government is in office, that all employees in the local bodies are placed on a par with the Government servants in the matter of paying arrear dearness allowance to ensure contentment and efficiency?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The payment of arrears of dearness allowance to the employees of local bodies was not referred to in the Government Order.

" (b) The hon. member must be aware that at the time of the issue of this Government Order, dated 12th June 1946, the present Ministry was in office. The present Government reviewed the position and as an urgent measure, sanctioned the payment of arrears of dearness allowance to conservancy menials employed under local bodies.

" (c) The matter is under the immediate consideration of the Government and early orders will issue."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government will be pleased to issue orders to the appropriate authorities to disburse the arrears of dearness allowance to those to whom he said in connexion with a similar question he has already issued orders?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"What was ordered in connexion with that question was the payment of dearness allowance to the conservancy menials. So far as the non-conservancy staff are concerned, the matter is under the consideration of the Government and early orders will issue."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"At least in view of the fact that so much distress is prevailing in the country, will Government consider the desirability of ordering it even now?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"The Government are actually aware of the acute distress among the menials and therefore they will pass orders as early as possible."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Are the Government aware of the fact that due to the delay in the disbursement of their dearness allowance many an employee of the local boards has to incur debts and pay interest thereon and if so whether the Government will please consider the desirability of paying dearness allowance with interest?" (Loud laughter.)

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Sir, the Government are unable to hold themselves responsible for the delay, because there has been no avoidable delay. The question of payment of interest on the dearness allowance due does not therefore arise."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* THE S.I.R. STRIKE.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Sri P. Venkateswarlu has given notice of an adjournment motion for discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance. The motion is this—

'The recent action of the District Superintendent of Police, Trichinopoly, and the Malabar Special Police in entering the Workers' Colony on 5th September 1946 and the premises of the Railway Labour Union, opening fire on unarmed workers and resort to indiscriminate and brutal lathi charge on the workers at 8-30 a.m. resulting in the death of four workers and serious wounds to nine others besides injuries to over 100 workers, as part of the one-sided policy pursued by the Police in their handling of the strike situation, favouring the administration of the South Indian Railway General Manager has resulted in a tense situation, where public confidence has been shaken and grave misgivings have arisen as to the safety of any person involved in the strike or showing sympathy to it.'

'This situation has raised grave doubts in the minds of the workers and sections of the public as to the rightness of the policy adopted by the Congress Ministry in regard to such acts.'"

"Before giving my decision on the admissibility of the motion, I will call upon Mr. Venkateswarlu to post me with the full facts of this matter. Without entering into details he may explain the matter. I allow him five minutes to do so."

SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—"The motion is self-explanatory."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No, it is not."

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* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I will move the motion, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No. The motion could not be moved now. The hon. Member, in order to enable me to decide whether to admit the motion or not, may within the five minutes I have allowed, put me in possession of all the facts of the case."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Sir, I rise to give the facts regarding the adjournment motion of which I have given notice. You know the S.I.R. strike has been going on for the last 21 days. Of course this Government have no jurisdiction over Railways, but the use of the police against the workers is the concern of this Government. This has gone to such an extent to-day that there has been a brutal lathi charge, opening of fire by the police and murdering people. All these things have happened and are happening. In fact what I have to add to all these happenings is the arrest of comrade Anandan Nambiyar, a member of this House yesterday. On the whole, yesterday itself, i.e., on the day the lathi charge was made; firing also took place in Golden Rock resulting in the death of four persons and about 100 were seriously injured. Our comrade Anandan Nambiyar was one of those injured seriously on his head.

"Moreover, I would like to bring to the notice of the House how the workers, who are conducting the strike in a most peaceful manner, are being harassed. The presidents and secretaries of 23 branch unions have been arrested and the President Mr. Ismail Khan of the Golden Rock Branch has also been arrested. Dr. Rajan's grandson's wife has also been arrested in this connexion."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Whose grandson?"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Dr. Rajan's grandson's wife, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Which Rajan?"

An Hon. Member:—"Our M.L.C., Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"And also ex-Minister."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Altogether 23 presidents and secretaries of branch unions have been arrested bringing the total number of arrests since the commencement of the strike to 10,050."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"How many?"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Ten hundred and fifty."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"That is only 1,050 and not 10,050."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Yes, Sir, 1,050. I say that this sort of large scale arrests are going on in the regime of our Congress Ministry.

"I should like to bring to the notice of the House another matter to show how things are going on there. A special court has been established to convict the arrested workers. I suggest

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that this court should rather convict Mr. Harrison and his company and Mr. Reynold, the Railway Manager, for causing all this trouble and for killing the people.

"Sir, most of the Communist party leaders have been unnecessarily arrested. In to-days' paper we see that Mr. P. Ramamurti and other Communist leaders have been arrested in Madura for no fault of theirs. The S.I.R. strike has been going on in a most peaceful manner. In spite of provocation on the part of the police, the workers are remaining peaceful and yet police repression is going on."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has only one minute more."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"One word more, Sir. Not only are there these arrests . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"How many deaths took place? How many people died in the recent occurrences?"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Four, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I am quite satisfied with the details given by the hon. Member in support of his motion for adjournment."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want to speak, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. Member want to appeal to the Hon. the Premier?"

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Yes. Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether we agree or not with the views of the Communist party to which my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu belongs or whether we agree with other Communists as Members is a different matter. We have, of course, as a matter of fact, many differences with them. But the question before the House is a request for granting an opportunity for thrashing out on the floor of the House a definite matter of urgent public importance. Many misunderstandings exist in certain quarters over this matter. For our part and, also I know on the part of the Government Benches . . ."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"On a point of order . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No point of order at this stage."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We are for the liquidation of the present situation. We are for settling this affair and for maintaining industrial peace. For that purpose I think the matter will be facilitated if the Hon. the Leader of the House will give an opportunity to this House to discuss this matter."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"On a point of order, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No point of order now. The hon. Member will please resume his seat."

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M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Government may then explain and clear any misunderstanding that may exist particularly in view of the fact that one of the Hon. Members of this House has been arrested. I appeal to the Hon. the Premier to give an opportunity for the House to discuss the matter and also to let us hear from his lips the position which the Government is taking in the matter and which the Government propose to take in the future. This will facilitate, as I told you, Sir, the early liquidation of the unhappy situation that is existing to-day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I request the Hon. the Premier to give us his opinion and to say whether he accepts or opposes the admission of this motion."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, the notice given by the Communist Member of the House does not contain all the facts and his oral statement also does not contain all the facts. For our part, on this side, we too have not got a full report of the happenings at Golden Rock. As the Leader of the Opposition has stated, we should not, on this side of the House, hesitate to have a full discussion of the matter in this House. It is better that we know where we are with regard to the activities of those who have been promoting disturbance of peace. Therefore, Sir, you may fix sometime tomorrow (7th September) for the discussion of this matter."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"But rule 40 of the Madras Legislative Assembly Rules lays down that such a motion will be taken up at 4 p.m. the same day."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes, Sir. I started by saying that this matter may be discussed and the Leader of the Opposition also wanted the discussion so that matters may be clear. I do not concede, Sir, this is a matter for moving an adjournment of the House."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"So, the Hon. the Premier is opposing it?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes, on that point. The matter is not fit for adjournment motion. Without admitting it, the Government would like to have a discussion, as required by hon. the Leader of the Opposition, to understand the facts as they have occurred. I suggest, Sir, to-morrow for a discussion of this matter so that we may have time to get the fullest details possible and not the scrappy information that we have got from telegrams."

11-30 a.m. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I submit that to get out of the difficulty the hon. Member may be asked to move the same motion tomorrow?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No, it cannot be done."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"He can withdraw the motion to-day."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"Rule 14 says—

"14. While in session a meeting of the Assembly shall ordinarily commence at 11 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m.:

"Provided that on notice given to the Speaker at question time, the Speaker may, in his discretion, allow half an hour after 5 p.m. or after the conclusion of the business of the day, whichever is earlier, to enable a Member to raise a debate on any matter of urgent importance which has been the subject of a question or on that day . . .

I think the Hon. Minister wants to take up this question under this rule. Is it so?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the hon. the Leader of the House want this to be taken up tomorrow?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Or this afternoon after 5 o'clock. But I think tomorrow will be better because I am expecting information."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is better that we are posted with full facts. I have to inform Mr. Venkateswaralu that I admit this motion and fix tomorrow after 5 p.m. for its discussion under rule 14. We shall proceed to the next item on the agenda."

SRI K. SUBBA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are not able to hear anything which is going on there."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is due to the defects in the mikes."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Not in the men?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. the Leader of the Opposition will speak through the mike."

III.—THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES AND LOCAL BOARDS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1946.

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, I support the amendment moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Ibrahim. The Bill before the House is suffering from defects of omission as well as commission. I will refer to them presently. In the meantime, I want that some more time should be given to the Members of the House to go through this Bill and have the several provisions discussed in the Select Committee. That is the object of the amending motion. It is nothing much that is asked of the Government and I hope they will agree to give the time required and have the Bill discussed in a Select Committee."

"Sir, we are all for the principle of election; none of us want this nomination. That much is sure. We are as enthusiastic as anybody else in upholding that principle, but that principle must be so put into practice as to give the due rights and privileges to all the people and satisfy the desires and requirements of the various elements of the population. But Sir, in this Bill I do not find anything which takes the place of nomination so as to give satisfaction to the minority communities. The House has

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been told previously that one of the objects of nomination was to give adequate representation to the minority communities and the various other elements that might not come in through election. Sir, we have been urging upon the Government to extend the principle of separate electorates to the local boards and municipalities and also to the Corporation of Madras. I would request the Government to consider that question well and accede to the request put forward by us. Sir, it is not separate electorate that is responsible for any ill-will or friction or bickerings that we find in the body politic of the Province to-day, but it is really the opposition to that principle that is the cause of all these things. Separate electorates are only a recognition of the fact that differences exist between one community and another. It is also a recognition of the fact that unless these differences are properly and squarely met there would not be harmony in this Province. It is for that purpose that separate electorates have been brought in. If the Muslim community and the other minority communities get their due representation through separate electorates and get their real representatives, much of the present trouble will be removed. It is for harmony in the Province that we are stressing the need for separate electorates. Even as it is, the present arrangements are working as a hardship against the Muslims. They have got a complaint in the matter of the delimitation of the constituencies. Take a group of villages where there is a large Muslim population and where the villages are situated near each other. In delimiting the constituencies for the district boards for example, these villages are divided and dispersed between more than one constituency. The result is that even the small voting strength of the Muslim community is frittered away. This defect has to be rectified, but we do not find anything in the Bill which touches upon this question at all.

“ With regard to the question of the appointment of special officers, I am not convinced of the reasons given for these appointments during the interregnum. It is stated that existing members might influence the electorates. Will not special officers also influence electorates? It is the ordinary practice and rule that the sitting members should hold office until the new members are elected to their places. Why should we go behind this ordinary practice of democracy? Even during the section 93 regime, elections and big general elections took place. The party at present in power was not in power then. Yet the officers who were there under that regime were not able to influence the course of elections. Our friends have again come back with a thumping majority. Therefore why should they be afraid of the influence of the sitting members at all, I cannot understand. I think, Sir, in fairness to all the parties concerned and in fairness to the sitting members who cannot all of them be dubbed as mere partisans, the usual practice of allowing them to be in office until the new members come in, should be allowed.

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“ Then, Sir, there is another clause in the Bill, clause 4, I think it is a dangerous clause as it gives an omnibus power to the Government. It says: ‘ If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act . . . the Provincial Government may, as occasion may arise, by order do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty ’. I find such an omnibus clause not only in this Bill but also in the other Bills. I think it is not a salutary provision. The difficulties must be defined beforehand and they must be provided for definitely in the Bill. What are those difficulties and what are the remedies you want? You cannot simply say, ‘ If any difficulties come, the Government shall have the power. ’ The Government may call anything a difficulty. You may say, Sir, that the Government is a popular Government, that it has been elected by the party which in turn has been elected by the people. All the same, Sir, even after the executive has come into power, side by side with it, there is the Legislature. What is the meaning of it? This Legislature has got a definite function, the supreme function of scrutinizing the acts of the executive and seeing whether they are in any way a restriction on the civil liberties of the people. If that was unnecessary, then broadly speaking, I do not think, there would be any necessity at all for the Legislature to exist after the Government had been formed. The very constitution of that great country, the United States of America, is based on the suspicion of the executive, the suspicion that the executive might encroach on the civil liberties of the people. Some British critics of that constitution have remarked that on account of this, the executive in America is not capable of quick action in any emergency. But, Sir, I do not think there is much force in that. The late President Roosevelt, while he was having the word ‘ neutrality ’ on his lips was able by his own executive actions to commit that great country to participation on one side in the war, although at that time no aggression had been committed on any part of the American soil and the Legislature of the country had not formally declared war. What I want to say is that in cases of emergency, such provision is understandable in spite of any provisions of the constitution or the laws of the country. But, Sir, the liberty of the subject is a sacred one. Of course, it has got its own limitations on which we are all agreed, but within those limitations the liberty of the individual must be considered as sacred. There must be a limit to the restrictions that can be placed upon the individual liberty of the people. Now, under this clause, Sir, Government can come forward—I do not say that this Government are going to come forward with such proposal—any Government may, if they think fit, come forward and say, ‘ This, we consider, is a difficulty. ’ But even on that particular point there may be two opinions and a number of other people may think that there is no difficulty. But the Government may still think that it is a difficulty and that they have got a right to do as they please.

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"Sir, even supposing that there is a real difficulty and that it is not provided for under this Act, then the proper way to deal with it should be for the Government to come before this House for a solution of the difficulty. In the name of the liberty of the individual, Sir, that should be the procedure. Therefore, Sir, I am strongly of the view that this clause 4 must completely go out of this Bill. If you visualize any future difficulties, they must be clearly defined and definite provisions made to meet them. With these words, Sir, I support the amendment moved by my hon. Friend."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"I have allowed a number of Members to speak, still there are one or two members who want to speak. I will allow them five minutes each."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. Minister for Local Administration on having brought forward this measure at a proper time like this. In this connexion, I should like to bring to the notice of the House the difficulties experienced by many members not only of my community but also of other minority communities. The purpose of the Bill is to abolish the present local bodies as they are not representative of the electorate. Special Officers will be appointed for sometime. It is fair to say that before the elections, no one party should be in power in local boards, as members might do so many things in order to come to power again."

"Sir, while I am supporting this Bill, I would request the Hon. Minister to take note of what has been said by our Leader, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, that adult franchise must be introduced as early as possible. Then alone can we Harijans get proper representation. Not only adult franchise, I request the Hon. Minister to consider also the question of representation on population basis. I should like to bring to the notice of the House the injustice done to Harijans in my own district. They form a population of 1½ lakhs out of a total of 10 lakhs but the number of seats allotted is only 3. We form nearly one-sixth of the population and therefore we should have more seats. Three seats will not be enough. Justice should be done to all minority communities. Sir, in a democratic government we should have the representatives of all sections of the people. When we are aspiring for cent per cent democracy, it is but fair and just, Sir, that we should have more representation than we have at present."

11-45 a.m. "The Madras Corporation can be said to be the mother of all the municipalities in the districts. Here in the Corporation there is a convention that each and every community will have a chance by rotation of presiding over the Corporation and conducting its business. Our able Speaker has done that once before as he is conducting the business here to-day. They will give a chance for all the minority communities to be in power at least once in four times."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"Communal representation in the Corporation is not in the Act; it is only a convention."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"That is what I am saying. Taking this convention as an example, I request the Hon. Minister to amend the Act and make it a regular provision. Conventions may be converted into constitutions and constitutions may be converted into conventions. (Laughter.) I request the Hon. Minister to take these facts into consideration and see that in the local boards, municipalities and panchayat boards, every community is properly represented according to its population. Another important thing is that a chance should be given to each and every community to hold executive power at least once in four times."

* SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say only a few words. But for the soothing manner and attitude in which Mr. Baig spoke yesterday, the speeches on the other side of the House, from the Muslim benches, were of a strange order. I could not understand even to-day, whether Mr. Salami will prefer election to nomination."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yesterday, Sir, there was a lot of heat imported into certain matters which were of vital importance. I thought last night would make every one forget all that happened yesterday on the one side or the other, and to-day we would meet in a calmer atmosphere. I would appeal to the hon. Mr. Manigar and other friends also to speak in a quiet and dispassionate manner, and I am also going to make an appeal in the end after the Hon. Mr. Thomas who is in charge of the subject, has replied."

* MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, had it not been for the fact that some illogical and unreasonable statements were made on the other side—I do not refer to any vehemence—on the question of the principle involved in the amendment that is now before the House, I would not have risen to speak just now. It was said the object for which this Bill was brought was that the people who man municipalities, district boards and panchayat boards at present are johocums. Sir, I ask whether there is any guarantee that the people whom the present Ministry is going to appoint, will not be johocums. Do they not think, according to the same logic, that people affiliated to other organizations could have the self-same suspicion that the people who are to be now appointed will also be johocums? For the matter of that, I may say that all of us here, every one of us here, are johocums. We are johocums either to the Congress High Command or to the Muslim League High Command or to the High Command of the organization to which we belong. Whenever any orders are issued from the High Command of the organization to which we belong, certainly we obey. Again, even though we differ, if a majority decides something, we certainly fall in line. That is because of the allegiance which we owe to the organization to which we belong. Therefore, there is no one in this House who is an exception to the appellation of johocum or Omdhadast so long as they are all devotees of one organization."

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or another. Therefore I say it is not reasonable or logical to say that the present people are jokoocums and that therefore the present Bill is necessary. I also ask, Sir, has the present Ministry lost confidence in the non-officials who now man the local boards and the other institutions and will they have confidence in the officials whose employment they contemplate. Sir, days are changing and sovereignty also is changing from officialdom to the citizens of the country. In these days, if you are going to suspect the non-officials who man the institutions to-day, I ask, are you really loyal and true to the principle which you yourself proclaimed, you adhere to now? I request you to have confidence in the people who are now in office in local boards and municipalities. The Minister for Local Boards said that with a view to appoint non-party men, the present Bill is brought forward. May I know to which party the people at present in the local boards and municipalities belong? Do they belong to the Justice party or to any other party? If they belong to a party other than the Congress, then do you mean to say that they will not be impartial? I know people may belong to one party or the other, but they may also change as times change. For the matter of that, I may mention that the Hon. Minister for Local Boards was once a veteran leader of the Justice Party and now he adorns the Treasury Benches of the Congress Party. Because one man belongs to one party, nobody can say he is not impartial. It is not the party that decides the partiality, integrity or honesty of a man; it is the man's integrity and character that count, so far as impartiality is concerned. I also wish to bring to the notice and serious consideration of the Ministry the fact that if you do not have confidence in people belonging to parties other than the Congress, you cannot also expect members belonging to other parties to have confidence in the people belonging to your party. You must show tolerance before you preach tolerance to others. You say that even though the Government is constituted by one party, the other party must certainly co-operate and render constructive help; I ask you if the present members in the local boards and municipalities belong to a certain party other than your own Congress Party, should you not also have confidence in them and show tolerance?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You are exceeding your time-limit."

* MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am one of those unfortunate men who always come under the five minutes class. Please give me one or two more minutes and I shall finish. When you say that people are corrupt and adopt the most base devices to turn the elections against you, I ask you, if you are really convinced of the justice of your case and the justice of your programmes and the justice of your creed, why should you fear? Have you lost confidence in the support of the people at large? Or is it a reflection on the integrity and honesty of the voters at large? Why do you fear that the public will easily be corrupted? Are they so easily corruptible after all? I ask you to consider. One of my friends on the other side said

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that after all, the period for which these appointments are going to be made, is only a short one. I ask, if it is a short one, why should you not have the patience to tolerate the present people for this short period? Have you not got patience and tolerance enough to the extent of this short period?

"Another question was put to us that supposing the 1942 rebellion was not started and the local boards and municipalities were not superseded, 'then what will you do?' That was the question put to us. I ask that gentleman, if the elections in this year were not conducted and the Congress Ministry did not come into office, what will you do? Therefore, I say these are not reasons which will justify the present Bill before the House."

"Reference was also made to separate electorates and separate representation. In the name of democracy, the party in power is prepared to go to any length. They are not even prepared to believe the electorate, if it is fully constituted of Muslim voters? Sir, I ask you, if you do not have confidence in an electorate comprising Muslim voters, how can you expect us to have confidence in an electorate consisting mostly of non-Muslim voters? If you say we should also enjoy the confidence of a majority of non-Muslim voters, I ask you, you must devise a system by which you must win the confidence of the majority of Muslim voters to succeed in the election. If you are to win the confidence of a majority of non-Muslim voters, why should you not also win the confidence of a majority of Muslim voters? Therefore, please have some reason, some limit to applying the principle of democracy to separate electorates. I am afraid as devotees of democracy, they may even go to the extent of saying that Muslim boys and girls should not have been born of parents, both of them being Muslims. They may say there must be joint company there also, that if the husband be a Muslim, the wife should be non-Muslim and if the wife be Muslim, the husband should be non-Muslim. I do not know whether they will go to this extent in the name of democracy and bring in a bill one day to that effect. Let us have mutual confidence in each other; please have confidence in us. Even though we are elected through separate electorates, still we know what is right and what is wrong. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister, in the name of tolerance, to please withdraw this measure and allow the elections to be held as early as possible by the people who are at present in the local boards and municipalities. With these words, Sir, I support the hon. Member Mr. Ibrahim's motion."

* SRI K. RAJARAM NAYUDU:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபன மந்திரி அவர்களால் கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கும் இந்த மசோதாவை நான் மனப் பூர்வமாக ஆதரிக்கிறேன். காலந்தாழ்த்தியாவது இந்த மசோதா கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருப்பது போற்றத்தக்க விஷயம். இம் மந்திரி சபை பதவியேற்றவுடனேயே 1942-ம் வருஷம் ஆகஸ்ட் 8-ம் தேதி இம்மகாணத்தில் ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்கள் எப்படியிருந்தனவோ அப்படியே மாற்றியமைத்திருக்கவேண்டும். அப்படிச் செய்திருப்பின் எதிர்க்கட்சி அங்கத்தினர்கள் மட்டுமல்ல, இம்மகாணம் பூராவும் அவ் விஷயத்தைப் போற்றியிருக்கும். காலந்தாழ்த்திய பிறகும் அப்படிச் செய்யாமல் ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களைக் கலைத்துவிட்டு ஸ்பெஷல் ஆபீசர்களை

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நியமிக்கவேண்டுமென்று இம்மசோதாவில் கூறியிருப்பதுதான் இவ்வளவு எதிர்ப்பைக் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கிறதேயொழிய வேறில்லை. காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை வந்ததும் மேற்கூறியபடி செய்திருப்பின் எதிர்ப்பு சிறிதளவும் ஏற்பட்டிருக்காது என்பது நிச்சயம். 'அரவயர்த்தோன் கொடுமை யினும் முரசுயர்த்தோன் உதைருளுக் கஞ்சினேனே' என்று பீமன் சொன்னதுபோல நமது மந்திரி சபையானது எதிர்க்கட்சியினரையும், மைனாரிட்டிகளையும் திருப்தி செய்கிக்கவேண்டுமென்ற மனப்பான்மையில் நியாயத்திலிருந்து வழுவும் ஒரு கொள்கையைக் கடைப்பிடிப்பது சரியல்ல. எவ்வளவு எதிர்ப்பு இருப்பினும்கூட, நியாயம் எதுவோ அதைச் செய்துதான் ஆக வேண்டும். 1942-ம் வருஷம் ஆகஸ்ட் மாதத்தில் ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனத்திலே யிருந்தவர்கள் எதற்காக விலக்கப்பட்டார்கள்? எதற்காகப் பல ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்கள் கலைக்கப்பட்டன? யாரோ சில குலாம்களைக் கொண்டுவந்து முனிஸிபாலிட்டிகளையும், ஜில்லா போர்டுகளையும் நிரப்பிவிட்டார்கள். இவற்றிற்கெல்லாம் காரணமென்னவென்பது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும்."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir. The hon. Member used the word 'gulam'. I object to the word."

SRI K. RAJARAM NAYUDU:—"I submit Sir, it is nothing more than 'jo hukum'."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, the word 'gulam' is something different. It means 'slave'."

SRI K. RAJARAM NAYUDU:—"ஆகவே நமது மந்திரி சபையானது மிகவும் தாராளக் கொள்கையைக் கடைப்பிடித்திருப்பதினாலும், இவ்வளவு காலந்தாழ்த்தியதினால்தான் இத்தகைய எதிர்ப்பு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறதே தவிர வேறொன்றுமில்லை. தவிர எதிர்க் கட்சியினர் அவ்வசியமான பயத்தைத் தங்களுக்குத் தாங்களே உண்டாக்கிக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். இங்கிருக்கும் மந்திரி சபை வங்காளத்திலிருக்கும் மந்திரி சபையல்ல. தங்களுடையிருக்கும் அதிகாரத்தைத் துஷ்பிரயோகம் செய்பவர்களல்ல. இது ஜனநாயக சர்க்காராகும். பலமுறை சிறைச்சென்ற வீரத்தியாகிகளால் ஜாதி மத பேதமற்று பொதுஜன நன்மைக்காகவே அல்லும் பகலும் பாடுபடுபவர்களால் அமைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் இந்தச் சர்க்கார் இப்போது இம்மசோதாவின் மூலம் தங்களுடைய அளிக்கப்பட்டபோதும் சிறிய அதிகாரத்தைத் துஷ்பிரயோகம் செய்யமாட்டார்கள் என்பதை எதிர்க்கட்சி மெம்பர்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளட்டும். உதாரணமாக, சமீபத்தில் திருப்பரங் குன்றத்தில் ஒரு ஹிந்து கோவிலைச் சேர்ந்த மலையினமீது காங்கிரஸ்தொண்டர்கள் கொடியேற்றப் போனதை நமது பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் தடுத்தாவிட்டார்கள். எதற்காக பென்றால், உடனடியாகவுள்ள முஸ்லீம்களுக்கு மனஸ்தாபத்தை யுண்டாக்கக்கூடாதென்ற காரணத்திற்காக. அவர்களைத் திருப்தி செய்வதற்காக நியாயத்திலிருந்து பிறண்டுக் கூட அந்தக்காரியத்தைப் பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் செய்தார்கள். காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களும் பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் சொன்னதைக் கேட்டு கொடியேற்றுவதை நிறுத்திவிட்டார்கள்."

"மதுரை ஜில்லா போர்டிலே முஸ்லீம்கள் தங்களுடைய ஜனத்தொகை விகிதாசாரப்படி பெறவேண்டிய ஸ்தானங்கள் மூன்றுதான். அப்படியிருக்க பொதுத் தொகுதியிலிருந்து நான்கு அதிகப்படியான ஸ்தானங்களை அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுத்துச் சென்ற தேர்தலிலே முஸ்லீம்கள் ஏழு பேர்கள் ஜில்லா போர்டுக்குத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டார்கள் என்பதை நான் பெருமையுடன் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஜனத்தொகையில் 100-க்கு 6 வீதம் கொண்ட முஸ்லீம்களில் ஒருவரான ஜனப் அப்துல் காதர் அவர்கள் மதுரை ஜில்லா போர்டுக்குத் தலைவராகத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டார்கள் படித்த அறிவாளிகளென்று சொல்லக்கொள்ளும் நகர்ப்புரத்து முஸ்லீம் நண்பர்கள் இவ்விதமாக ஜாதி மதவித்தியாச பிரச்சினைகளை அவ்வசியமாகக் கிளப்பிவிட்டு கிராமங்களிலே ஹிந்தக்களும் முஸ்லீம்களும் சகோதர பாவத்துடன் வாழ்ந்துகொண்டுவரும் சௌகரியத்தைக் கெடுத்துவிடாமலிருக்கும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். தனித் தொகுதி வேண்டுமென்று எதிர்க்கட்சி நண்பர்களில் சிலர் மிகவும்

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அதிகமாகக் கூச்சலிடுகிறார்கள். தனித் தொகுதியால் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் கஷ்டங்களைப்பற்றி பிரதம மந்திரியார் பட்ஜெட் கூட்டங்களிலே மிகவும் விரிவாக எடுத்துச் சொன்னார்கள். அது தெரிந்திருந்துங்கூட, குதிரை தூக்கிப் போட்டதுமல்லாமல் குழியையும் பறித்தது போல சட்ட சபையில் மட்டுமல்லாமல் ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களிலேயும் தனித் தொகுதி புத்தத்தவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுவது தவறு. இது அறியாமையினால் ஏற்பட்டதென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆகவே, இந்த மசோதாவில் ஒரு அக்ஷரங்கூட மாற்றப்படாமல், அதை அப்படியே அங்கீகரிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"At the outset of my 12 noon. introductory speech, I stated that both the provisions covered under this Bill are of a non-controversial character. There has been a lively debate on the subject, sometimes emitting more heat than light, but anyway, I think the discussion has only served to bring out the fundamental soundness of the principles involved in this Bill and the desirability of the provisions for restoring election in local bodies. But, Sir, in the course of this debate, references have been made to certain fears and certain apprehensions as to what may happen if this Bill is given effect to. I shall be able, in the course of my remarks, to convince, if they are open to conviction, that there is no such room for any apprehension or fear at all. Before I deal with these matters, I would like to make a few observations of a general character. My hon. Friend, Mr. Pocker, has said that this measure is intended and is calculated to enable the Congress Party to lay their greedy hands on all the seats of power in local boards and to put their own henchmen there. Such an eminent lawyer as my hon. Friend, Mr. Pocker, will agree with me when I say that facts and circumstances are more trustworthy than prejudices and apprehensions. I am speaking facts and facts speak for themselves. You heard, Sir, from certain members on this side of the House, that it would have been far better if as soon as the Minister took up office, the old reconstituted municipal councils and district boards had been abolished and the original municipal councils and district boards had been reinstated in power. These boards and councils have been liquidated under the Defence of India Rules for purely political reasons without any reference to questions of administration of the local bodies and it would have been open to the present Ministry to have acted on the lines suggested. But, Sir, the present Ministry wanted to be tolerant and wanted to be forbearing and though they had all the authority and power to reinstate the municipal councils and district boards, they did not do so because they had the spirit of tolerance and the spirit of forbearance."

"Well, Sir, the question of Chittoor has been referred to in the course of the debate. The instance of Chittoor will again exemplify and illustrate beyond question nor cavil the policy of the present Ministry. Just before this Ministry assumed office, 19 seats became vacant in Chittoor District Board; if we acted on the lines suggested by my hon. Friend Mr. Pocker, we would have put in 19 good true men—votaries of the Congress Party—on the board, but Sir, we were not prepared to adopt the principle of

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nomination. Supposing this Bill is not put on the Statute Book, what would be the position? What would happen to the Chittoor District Board? Under the present Act XXIV of 1942, the Board will have to be reconstituted as a compulsory measure by appointment by Government. Therefore, whether it is 25 or 52 according to the original number—whatever it be—the full quota of the members of the district board will have to be appointed under the provisions of the Act XXIV of 1942. If that is done, my friend Mr. Salam will prepare and table a series of questions as persons appointed to this board and about their character and fitness. I am anxious to help my friend, Mr. Salam, and to save him from the labour of framing these questions and also to save myself from the labour of answering them. We are throwing open the Chittoor District Board for election. It is after all a people's matter and people elect their own representatives to the district board. Is that not a fair and free offer? Does that indicate that the Congress is anxious to grab all the seats for themselves? It is in our hands and we could have put in the required number, but we refrained from doing so and we have left it for the people to elect their own representatives to the district board. I submit, Sir, this is proof, and conclusive proof to indicate that the intentions of the Government are far from what were indicated by my hon. Friend, Mr. Pocker.

"Then again, Sir, various apprehensions have been expressed by my hon. Friend on the other side as to the character and qualities of the special officers who are likely to be appointed when the district boards are superseded. Take the case again of Chittoor, where we have appointed as Special Officer one Mr. Amirtha Ganesan, who was a Superintendent in the Finance Department of this Government in 1941 and who was appointed during the Advisers' regime, as the Commissioner of the Nellore Municipality and subsequently as the Commissioner of the Bezwada Municipality and afterwards, he was promoted as the Deputy Inspector of Local Boards. Up to date there has been no whisper of any complaint about his *bona fides* and he has been impartially carrying on the administration of the district board. That indicates the line we hope to adopt in future. History repeats itself; not only in general history but also in the acts of the Ministry. Therefore, what has been done in the past may be taken as a guarantee of what will be done in the future. My hon. Friend, Mr. Hameed Khan, has been very good to me. He appealed to me to safeguard the interest of minority communities. As a member of a minority community myself, let me assure him that the Congress Party and the present Ministry are out, anxious, ready and willing to do the utmost justice to the claims and demands of every minority community including the Harijans, Muslims and Christians. Sir, the fact that the Speaker of this august Assembly is a member of the Harijan community and the fact that members of the Christian and Harijan communities have seats on the Treasury Benches are sufficient proof of the just recognition of the claims of the various communities by this Government. May I say, Sir, the Hon. the Premier is not only prepared to do justice but is prepared to go even further, not only to be just but also

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generous in the matter of the claims of Harijans, Christians, Muslims and other minority communities. In the course of the debate, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition as well as my hon. Friend Mr. Hameed Khan and also my hon. Friend coming from my own district, Mr. Hussain, referred to the question of joint and separate electorates. It appears to me that that question is not pertinent and relevant here. I believe that a further opportunity will occur for bringing in a comprehensive measure to amending the District Municipalities Act, the Local Boards Act and the City Municipal Act, to discuss and determine the question of joint and separate electorate but may I appeal to the Leader of the Opposition and my other hon. Friends of the Muslim League to examine in the meantime the conditions prevailing since the introduction of joint electorates in the local boards in this Province. I think, my hon. Friend sitting opposite is himself a Chairman of an elected council where there is a Hindu majority. I may say that in my own town of Palamcottah with a population of 30,000 of whom about 5,000 are Hindus and a large majority of Muslims, one Rao Bahadur K. S. Ponnuswami was the Chairman for a long period and I succeeded him for two successive terms as Chairman, and during one of the terms a Muslim was my Vice-President. Well, Sir, it was a happy family; in our council, Sir, we never remembered that one was a Christian, Muslim or Hindu."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My submission is that the circumstances narrated by the Minister have prevailed and will prevail so long as political parties do not take part in local politics."

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"I am thankful to my hon. Friend and I may mention what I feel in my own mind and what I have given expression to in connexion with the formation of the municipalities of this Province is now that elections are coming up and the Congress, the Muslim League and various other parties will put up their candidates for election, and when once these members are elected to the municipalities and local boards, I hope and trust there will be no party divisions and all of us will unite without any question of conflicting interests in working the administration. There is no such thing as Hindu water, or Muslim drainage or Christian light since these are the common civic amenities of all our towns."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir, may I ask the Hon. Minister to say on behalf of his party that they will cease putting up candidates as Congressmen to local bodies?"

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"That is altogether a different question. Here, I wish to confine myself to this, namely, that members when once they are elected to local boards, be they Hindus, Muslims or Christians—it does not matter to which community they belong—will all work together in unison for the better administration of local bodies bearing in mind that the civic amenities are common to all and that there should be no conflict of interest in regard to such matters. We are trying to revitalize our local bodies, give them greater authority and power and to

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provide them more resources in the way of income and taxation. Therefore, I would appeal to all sections of the House, Sir, to co-operate in the administration of local bodies in order to make them effective and vital instruments for the uplift of the masses of the people of this country. Now, we are having Swaraj at the top, Swaraj at Delhi and Swaraj at Fort St. George will not be effective unless we have Swaraj in our local bodies built from the bottom to the top. Once again, I appeal to hon. Members to co-operate in the matter of local administration in order to improve the health, happiness and living conditions of the vast masses of the people.

"I remember, Sir, the statement made by a famous English Statesman: 'Give to the country what was meant for mankind.' My hon. Friends of the Muslim League are welcome to claim their just rights for their own community and in doing so, let them not be cribbed, cabbined and confined to narrow limits of a particular community and forgot the larger interests of the nation at large. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'Question.') My hon. Friend Mr. Hameed Khan questions me. His voice has been heard for several years in the Madras Corporation and his voice has been the voice not of the Muslims alone but of the public of Madras. I hope and trust that for a long number of years to come, his voice may be heard not only in respect of any particular section but the entire people of Madras.

"Well, Sir, there is one other aspect of the question which I would like to mention; there is no idea to grab power. You will see that under clause 3, elections have to be held for the first time after the commencement of this Act, to fill vacancies in the office of the members of any district board; therefore, clause 3 strictly confines itself to district boards; it does not apply to municipal councils. If it was really the intention of the Government to seize power in order to provide seats for their henchmen, they would have done so. Why is it that councils are not included? There are somewhere about eighty municipalities in our Province and most of these municipalities, at least very many of them, are reconstituted municipalities brought into existence under Act XXIV of 1942. By one stroke Government could have taken power to dissolve all these municipal councils and also appoint commissioners to look after them but, Sir, this Bill is rigorously committed to the immediate and necessary purpose, namely, at the time of election, there may be free and fair elections. Fair field and no favour. I would ask the hon. Members to remember that there are in the reconstituted boards Congress Presidents, Congress Vice-Presidents some of whom are also hon. Members of this House and in spite of this, under this Bill, we propose to supersede all of them impartially and there is no question of Congress or non-Congress in the matter of municipal councils from the 1st of November 1946 and special officers will be appointed to carry on the administration during the time. It has been said that we are all interested people and can appoint special officers from among the Party. My hon. Friends, many of whom are lawyers, will know that a man cannot judge his own case. Supposing the

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president of a district board himself stands for election, would it be fair to the opponent to allow the president of the district board to wield all the powers, influence, authority and the resources which he will command as president of the district board—in fact I have been told that some of these district board presidents have even greater powers than Collectors of districts. Would it be fair in such circumstances to continue such a president in office till the moment of elections, when canvassing is going on, nomination is filed, polling takes place—and some of the polling officers may be clerks from his own office? It will therefore be better if an impartial officer who has no party affiliations, or party loyalty, is put in charge of the administration, just as a sort of care-taker, till the people come back to power and carry on the administration of the district board."

* MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir, arising from the statement of the policy referred to by the Hon. Minister, may I ask, will this Ministry go out of office and invite section 93 regime before they contest the provincial elections next time?"

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Since the Hon. 12-30
Premier is also going to speak on this matter, I do not propose p.m.
to go into these details and detain the House for a long time.

"The Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig have stated that they are wedded to the principle of election. The Leader of the Opposition also pointed out some omissions. Due provision for the representation of the various minorities in local boards is not in question. Mr. Nagappa, the veteran upholder of the Harijan cause, also raised the same plea. I am examining the question of the population of these separate communities in the various local boards and municipalities to see to what extent it is necessary to revise the provision concerning reservation. My hon. Friends have charged with omission in a matter which this Bill does not seek to bring forward. Subsequently, when a comprehensive amending measure is brought in, there will be ample scope for discussing these matters. Exception has been taken to clause 4 of the Bill."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"During this interregnum which will be very short, I suppose there is provision in the Local Boards Act and Municipalities Act for the Collectors to continue as ex-officio presidents. Why then this provision for special officers for a month or two?"

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"My hon. friend is evidently under a misapprehension. He states that there is power for appointing Collectors to be in charge of local boards. But I may tell him that that power has been taken away by Act XXIV of 1942. Under section 11 of that Act the old board should continue till the date on which the new board takes office. There is thus no possibility of any interregnum. It was available under the old Act of 1920 but the position has since changed and that is

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exactly the reason for this amending measure to provide for an interregnum, to appoint special officers and to carry on the administration during the period so as to avoid undue influence and favouritism during the election period."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am not referring to cases where the boards run till the date on which the election takes place. In cases of dissolution of the board, the Collector temporarily becomes the ex-officio president of the district board."

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"I shall read the provision I was relying on, which is section 11 of the Act XXIV of 1942. It reads—

"11. Where any district board or panchayat has to be reconstituted by election for the first time after the commencement of this Act, the provisions of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, shall be subject to the following modifications, namely:—

(a) The Provincial Government shall cause elections to be held to the district board or panchayat so that the newly elected members may come into office on the date on which the term of the members previously holding office will expire."

Taking a concrete example, if the life of the present district board expires on the 17th November, the Provincial Government is liable to hold elections so as to bring in the new members on the self-same day. So far as the question of interregnum is concerned, I think I have clearly explained the position, especially of the necessity for carrying on the election without any interference by way of influence. Various suggestions have been made by hon. Members to improve the tone of local board affairs. I shall refer to that aspect of the matter presently. So far as provisions for the interregnum are concerned—I believe what I have stated will enable hon. Members to realize that these provisions are necessary. I wish to say a few words on section 4. No violent departure from democratic principle is involved. In the process of legal drafting, such a provision is usually made. I would invite hon. Members' attention to various Acts starting from 1920 down to 1945 in which such a provision or a similar provision has been put in. It is a sort of drafting reservation in order to provide for an unforeseeable, unexpected contingency. My hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition asked: 'Why not foresee them and provide for them in the Bill?' I wish I could do it; but the difficulty is that I do not know what kind of difficulty will arise and if you do not know what difficulty will arise, you do not know how to provide against it."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"That is exactly what I urge. In a system of proper democracy, unforeseeable difficulties must not be provided for in that way. I say it is a dangerous precedent and I beg the House not to accord sanction to perpetuate it as it will be a very bad example to be set for the future generation."

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"I agree with the democratic principle enunciated by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition. His suggestion will be examined in connection with future legislation but I submit that for the present the provision

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is in accordance with precedent. The section is sufficiently clear. The provision is only intended to come into play in cases of difficulty in giving effect to the provisions of the Bill which have been passed and endorsed by the House. In that event temporary adjustment will be made by the Government by suitable action as circumstances may warrant. Hon. Members may be aware that very great things are held up owing to a small lacuna. The purpose of this clause is that the general scheme of the measure may not be defeated by any unexpected difficulty that may arise. I assure hon. Members that it is limited to the carrying out of the various provisions which have been accepted by the House and I therefore feel that there need be no serious difficulty about it. Once again, I submit that this is a purely non-controversial measure. One point which has been accepted both by the Congress Ministry and the Muslim League is the principle of election and the other point is merely a transitory or temporary provision for holding elections so as to avoid any sort of undue influence or coercion. I request that these provisions may be accepted straightway and I oppose the motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu referred to the question of holding elections on the basis of adult suffrage. I assure him that the Congress is as much wedded to the principle of adult suffrage as any other party or individuals such as Venkateswarlu himself (an hon. Member: 'He is a party by himself') or the party of which the hon. Member is the sole representative in the House. I would like to make a submission in this House. The Ministry is faced with very urgent problems of food shortage. On the other side are some Communist friends who are trying to paralyse the essential services of this country. Under those conditions, is there time or leisure for preparing for elections on the adult suffrage? The present local bodies have been in existence since 1937; they have been functioning for the last seven years and I think most of the members of the local boards have been disgusted and they have with a few exceptions reached a moribund stage. The earlier new bodies with fresh enthusiasm and vigour and fresh outlook are brought into being, the better it will be for the masses of the country."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Regarding the Special Officers that are sought to be appointed, may I know whether they will be officials or non-officials?"

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"That point will be covered by the Hon. the Premier's reply."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, I did not expect so much controversy about this Bill and that the principles of the Bill will be opposed with so much vehemence. The question of democracy has been discussed in a way. One objects to hear it because in this country it once existed and continued for a very long time until the present system had been evolved gradually, not at one jump. The Legislative Assembly or the Upper House, the Legislative Council as they exist to-day were not thought of when the Legislative Council was appointed to help the Governor in

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carrying on the Government of the country. When the Crown took hold of the administration from the East India Company, one might remember how Legislative Councils were without power and they were only intended to give some advice to the Governor. They were enlarged but nominations continued until at a very late stage when the element of election was introduced. Even after that you know that there was nothing of any responsibility. We, people of this country have been trained under such a system. We, for whose benefit municipal and local board administration had been introduced by that great man, Lord Ripon, had not been able to use it for the best benefit of the people; local administration was first introduced in the time of Lord Ripon with a view to enable the people of this land to be trained in democratic principles, and to make them fit to carry on administration first in the village, then in taluk, then in district board and lastly in municipalities. We all know, Sir, how we have not been able to apply the principles of democracy even when opportunities were afforded. Now all those stages have been passed. The history of these boards and municipalities during the last 25 or 26 years is sufficient to enable every one of the hon. Member of this House, and also the people outside the House, to realize how this administration had not been carried properly. We could not maintain that standard of integrity, independence and impartiality in any of the boards. I hope every hon. Member would admit that. I hope every hon. Member will also admit that these institutions had become places for a scramble of seats, without knowing exactly whether there was power, whether they would be serving the people on whose behalf they entered these bodies. I have no hesitation in saying that I am talking from my experience. These institutions came to be nothing but places of intrigue, conspiracy and faction. (Muhammad Abdul Salam: 'Why not abolish them?') A very good suggestion! (laughter) coming from Mr. Salam (laughter). If I were alone I would agree with him to abolish them (laughter). No doubt about that; but I am not alone; nor Mr. Salam is alone (laughter). This country is being governed to-day by hon. Members of this House and by those who are put in office and by electorate who returned all these members to this House. That is why, that step could not be taken. I can say, Sir, it would certainly have been much better, if for two or three years at least, all these institutions had been suspended and they had been taken up by the Government, whichever Government it might be. Democracy is democracy; you cannot make democracy piecemeal; you cannot govern a country piecemeal by applying one rule one day and another rule on another day. The principle of democracy has been accepted for a very long time. As people cannot govern by meeting in crowds or in mobs, rules have been framed to hold elections, rules have been framed to choose representatives; and those representatives alone have been given the power. That is the position of the head of the Government to-day, be it in the local boards or municipalities or village panchayats. In the elections one party or other comes out successful, and the party that is successful takes up office, and that party has the right to

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carry on the administration; those who do not agree with the successful party will be there to raise points, to correct mistakes in administration and to suggest new methods wherever necessary. All these things have been regulated and stipulated, and it is in this way that administration has been carried on until now, however imperfectly we may have been doing on account of our own difficulties and weaknesses. That is the principle of democracy, and it is on that principle this Government has been formed and is carrying on administration by discussing things and arriving at decisions. It is an acknowledged principle, Sir, that the minorities should agree with the decision of the majority, and that administration should be allowed to be carried on. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'If the majority is a democratic majority.') My friend simply shocks me by this question. (Laughter.) The hon. Member says, 'if the majority is a democratic majority.' Certainly it is so. Can anybody say that in the elections held for this Legislative Assembly the voters did not act constitutionally? If it is not by the rule of majority, we would not have been in office to-day. How else can we have come into office? I am trying to point out to every hon. Member, who talked of democracy and at the same time tried to subvert its principle by attempting to compel the majority, who constitute the Government to-day, to give in on all points raised by the minority, that he reduces the administration into one not of majority rule, but another kind of rule. It is for that reason that I wanted to intervene in this debate. The present Government is a democratic Government, however much some friends may feel that they did not succeed in defeating this majority party. It is only natural that they should feel so, that they should sit in this House and carry on Opposition until the next election comes to show that this Government has failed to discharge its duty and that they should not be returned to office. (At this stage Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan rose in his seat to intervene.) How to answer, Sir? I want your help Mr. Speaker. (Laughter.) How to answer the questions of a friend of this type? (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'May I submit, Mr. Speaker, on a point of information.') I have not yielded. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'He has gained his point!') I am not trying to raise a heated controversy over this acknowledged position. We give you an opportunity to do all that lies in your power to correct us by a criticism of our acts in a just and legitimate manner. Beyond that you should not say anything. Some friends feel, that because they have not been returned to office in this Assembly they can say anything they like, and talk anything on every appointment made. They therefore say, even if it be a peon's appointment, 'What is his qualification, how did you appoint him, how dare you do it?' In this way they try to reduce democracy to a farce. Therefore, I say, let us try to understand ourselves, let us try to correct ourselves, and put ourselves in the right path with a view to carry on the administration. Do not take advantage of being a member of the Legislature to destroy democratic principles. I am appealing to hon. Members in this House who have been debating on a high level.

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“ Now let me come to the point in the present Bill. The Hon. Minister for Local Administration has explained the scope of the Bill in his own way. Every trouble was avoided by not interfering till now with those municipalities and local boards that have been filled up by those persons nominated by the Advisers' Government. In the last 25 years, occasions arose when municipalities and local boards had to be abandoned by those who were in office then, be they Congressmen or Independents. What should have been done then was to hold fresh elections. Instead of that, persons whom the Government liked, and in whom they had confidence, were nominated. This was the same thing done by the Advisers' Government; you call it Advisers' Government or by any other name. The seats in the municipalities and local boards were filled by those who had been defeated in the elections, but in whom the Advisers had absolute confidence and faith at that time. Now, when the popular Government has come in, it is but proper that they should be removed.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ The Hon. Premier will continue his speech after lunch. The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 3 p.m.”

(After lunch—3 p.m.)

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Sir, this is a very simple Bill in which all that is sought to be done is to remove the existing machinery of nominated members who came in under extraordinary circumstances and not in the natural circumstances. The machinery has been in existence not for six months, not for even one year, but for several years. These places were vacated in 1942 when Congressmen went into jail. I submit to you and to hon. Members that at that time when Congressmen went to jail there were people outside who could, by open election, get into local boards and municipalities as representatives of the people. That was not the procedure adopted by the Advisers' Government. When all the presidents and members of district boards went to jail straightway, those places were filled by nomination. My friends who were talking of democratic principles were accusing us of violating democratic principles by introducing this Bill at the end of the whole career of those nominated members. Hon. Members had admitted that they are not in favour of nomination and that they are for election. These district boards have been functioning even after Congressmen returned from jail more than a year ago. Congressmen contested the elections and elected their own Ministers four months back. Even while in jail there were some friends who were very anxious that if we ever came back and if we got success in the elections and got into office, the first thing that we should do should be to remove all those gentlemen who were nominated and replace them by persons who had resigned and had gone to jails. Whatever may be the interval it is the democratic principle, it is the right of democracy that those people who resigned and went to jail should now get into these bodies.

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This is a wonderful struggle in the history of the world. You will not find similar circumstances arising in the political struggle of any other country. It is in a perfectly non-violent manner they resigned and walked into jails, and that was the only thing the Congress considered right then. On the question of removing the nominated members, for whom the Opposition Leaders have no particular love or affection, my hon. Friend Mr. Thomas has dealt with sufficiently. Soon after we came into office, a proposal was made that all these nominated Members in district boards and other local bodies, who got in there without caring for those who had gone to jails in the cause of freedom and country, should be removed. I do not quarrel with those who have stayed out. They had their own sympathy and love for their own country and for their own freedom. They were struggling for freedom from their own point of view. Those who have been inside jails were serving their country in a particular way, and they deserve the sympathy and affection of their countrymen without any distinction of caste or colour or creed. That was the position, Sir. Now what is it that is being proposed to be done by this measure. Hon. Friends missed the point and they were attacking us merely because they are free to attack us and we can be made the target of attack. We have to receive these attacks. These attacks are very gentle, Sir, (laughter) and I do not mind them. But sometimes more serious things are done, not by the Members of this House, but from outside, and we are obliged to face all these things. I am saying all this because it has a very important bearing on the question of what is democracy, and how we should conduct ourselves towards that democracy when we are exercising our rights of democracy. Therefore, during these four months we allowed these boards and local bodies to do and act as they liked without making any effort, even though we have a great majority at our back to push through any Bill or amendment or some such thing to remove these people. Not that we could never reconcile ourselves to that view. If they have committed a mistake in accepting office, we thought that we should not keep that in mind. We should not treat them as enemies. We should not attempt to overthrow them soon after we came into office.

“ This Bill has been brought forward by us in the true spirit of enforcing the rule of democracy. Some Members said that tolerance is required on the part of the majority party towards those nominated persons and that they should be continued in office. All this has been explained to hon. Members of this House by my hon. Friend Mr. Thomas. Under such circumstances I cannot understand what is there in this Bill that has given so much offence to anybody. I feel democracy has been misunderstood, and the application of its rules has been misunderstood and misapplied; for each Member said ‘ why do you want to remove those nominated people.’ (Mahbqob Ali Baig Sahib Bahadur: ‘ Nobody said that.’) I do not say that Mr. Baig said that or Mr. Hameed Khan. I am only referring to what has been expressed in this House by some Member. There is nothing wrong in this measure. That is why we do not think there is any need

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to refer this Bill to the Select Committee. Yesterday, I was pained to hear some harsh expressions used on both sides of the House, when there was no need at all. I am appealing to all Members to uphold the real principles of true democracy. I appeal to them 'do not take any stick that comes into your hand and apply it to the back of those who are in office to-day'. This is what has been going on. We are trying to adjust our internal differences. Although there may be differences on fundamentals now, I am hoping for that time when even on fundamentals there would be some measure of agreement. It is with that hope that the Leader of the Congress Party in Delhi has been declaring 'I have formed this Government. I am keeping the door open. I am requesting the League Leader to consider the position and come'."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is that door open still? It is not open."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"My friend has a peculiar way of understanding things."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been misunderstood by the Premier and he has been doing that very often, but I must submit, Sir, that when he states that the Leader there in the Government of India says that the door is open for the League, I say, it is not open; because it is sought to be killed by Muslim Quislings."

3-15 P.M. THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"We have been preaching tolerance. I must appeal to the hon. Mr. Hameed Khan and all other friends to apply the same principle to others. He has used the expression 'Quislings.' I have been avoiding entering into a controversy. On that one subject I can give a reply with a view to satisfy every one. Freedom is claimed by everybody. Every one claims the right to differ on fundamentals and other points. That is one of the points of difference in Delhi between the Congress leadership and the League leadership also. I have been avoiding that kind of trouble here. I do not wish to take up that question with them and argue that this is the correct position, or that this is not the correct position. I do not wish to go into that, because I am not the man to deal with the subject with the authority of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. I have been avoiding that. But my friend wants to rub that into me. 'Is the door open, Sir?' he asked. I have understood like that. I may be wrong and my hon. Friend may be right. But I do not think he is right even now after further consideration. As understood by me, he was inviting the League Leader to give co-operation and to come in."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On his own terms."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"On his own terms.' We will have to go into those terms and have a long discussion about it. They have been trying to adjust the differences. The differences that existed at one stage did not exist at a later stage. The

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differences that existed at a later stage did not exist at the last stage. That was how they were going. Sometimes I was also wondering, not about the individuals, but about the methods. Therefore let us not get into those controversial matters. We are concerned with this Province and with the local boards and municipalities to which elections have to take place shortly. All that is claimed in the Bill is power to remove for a month or two or for whatever period it may be the people who have been holding these offices—according to us very wrongly. It was a very great wrong done to this House and to the country in having accepted nominations by Government. We are just now removing them when we have got power and when we have got the majority. But we have tolerance to wait till the last moment. It is said in this Bill that these officers should go out for a little time and that there should be a special officer to conduct elections. Is anything wrong done to democratic principle? It is democracy that gave to the Ministers the right to carry on the Government. It is democracy that gave to this Government the right to frame laws and bring them before this House for adoption. Even when they are attacked mercilessly, still you are appointed to carry on by allowing discussion to take place, putting it to vote, and giving effect to the decision. It is in that way the whole thing has been going on. We have brought it in that manner here showing the utmost tolerance. We are not complaining even against those British representatives here who have been throwing the representatives of the people, the Congress, each time—not once, not twice, six times—into prison. That is the way in which things have been going on. Against whom are we to complain? Without saying a word against those who have been assaulting you, who have been shooting you, and who have been breaking your bones all these years, you better carry on the business. That was the principle on which the whole business has been carried on. Sometimes we might have done mistakes. Individual mistakes may be existing in the world. It is a factor which should command the sympathy of all the Members of this House and the people who are not of the Congress also. Therefore I say we have not transgressed our limits. We have not done anything wrong. We have only proposed to remove those who have been in this office for years together when they ought not to have been there, and to appoint special officers.

"So much argument has been put forward on these special officers. Who is this special officer? Will he be honest? Will he be bona fide? Will he do justice? Are we honest? Are we bona fide? Are we expected to do justice? All these we expected to-day. He will be appointed, Sir, in exercise of the authority given to us. They therefore condemn every proposal made by the Government on this side, mercilessly attacking and saying so many things. But we should not exchange words. If hot words are used, we should not exchange. I appeal to my friends on this side to avoid strong words. 'Strong words break no bones' is an English proverb. Therefore we should avoid strong words. If you use strong words, it will go to action which we have to do. All of us have come here to speak and then proceed to action and carry on the

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business in a perfectly constitutional manner. In that way we have been attempting to do the business. There is absolutely no justification for any hon. Member to find fault with us about our honesty and about the way in which we are going to discharge our duties. You give us some time and judge from time to time. Whenever we go wrong, you point it out. We will give explanation or we will make corrections on your criticisms. Who will be the special officer? Will not the Collector be sufficient? Will not the Deputy Collector be sufficient? Will not the Tahsildar be sufficient? Will not the Revenue Inspector be sufficient? These questions are not questions that should be put to a Government. The Government have to exercise their functions, their duties and authority in a fearless manner. We will be prepared to accept reasonable criticisms and attacks. That is the position in which we stand to-day. I appeal to the hon. Members to extend their sympathy. They have been really sympathetic on this side. Things have been carried on rather in a wonderfully peaceful manner. I always congratulate my hon. Friends in regard to this matter. (Mr. Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib stood up in his seat.) I did not mean Mr. Salam. Mr. Salam speaks in heat. I did not carry even his presence in my mind. If I refer to expressions either here or outside, that will create a hell for all of us because in the first place we must verify the words said to have been uttered here or there. That is why all of us will have to observe the greatest restraint in expression and conduct. So I ask all the hon. Members not to lose sympathy even in moments of excitement. That is why I wanted to speak on this occasion. The Hon. Mr. Thomas has studied this subject well, discussed the subject previously and considered the pros and cons of a measure like this. Not even one word was intended to be used extravagantly. Therefore, Sir, having regard to the explanation given by the Hon. Mr. Thomas, I would request the hon. Members to support this Bill."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir, the question was whether special officers will be officials or non-officials. Both the Hon. the Premier and the Minister for Local Administration have not answered that point."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, he will be a person selected by us. We are not bound to say that we are going to appoint Collectors. We are not bound to say that we are going to appoint Sub-Collectors or Tahsildars. We are free to choose someone who will do justice and who will not be inclined to do any wrong to one section or other to one individual or other. That will be our duty in the matter of selection."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Premier has made an impression that the Opposition has adopted an attitude only with the object of attacking the Ministry. Sir, it is open to the Opposition to suggest various other alternatives to the provisions in the Bill and particularly to the Members of this party to differ from the Government so far as the provisions are concerned and they suggest other

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alternatives according to their own light. If the Government differ from us they have to answer them instead of suggesting that we have attacked them in vehement language for the sake of attack. It was said that we do not have constructive suggestions to make. On the other hand what the hon. Members did was to make constructive suggestions according to their own ideas. The Hon. Minister made us understand, the Hon. Minister made the world understand that this Opposition has been indulging in strong language and unnecessarily strong language and making an attack on the Government for the sake of attack."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No motive is attributed to hon. Members who might have used harsh expressions on certain amendments. Just similar expressions are used by Members on the other side. We should not be attributing any motive. It is far from my intention to attribute it. In the heat of the moment others have used expressions sometimes very strong; sometimes more serious things happen even in the Mother of Parliaments."

The amendment was put and lost.

The original motion was put and carried.

The Bill was then taken up for consideration clause by clause.

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 3.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I move—
'In line 1 of clause 3 (1) (i), after the word "elections," the words "on the basis of adult franchise and proportional representation" shall be inserted.'

Neither the reply given by the Prime Minister nor the speech of the Minister for Local Administration did give any satisfaction for the points I have raised. The Hon. the Prime Minister did not take the point into consideration about adult franchise. The reply given by the Minister for Local Administration was not satisfactory because instead of taking that point into consideration the reply given was that all industries are paralysed as though that is the reason why the amendment is not to be accepted. What I like to know is why the Congress Ministry do not introduce adult franchise. Even the Hon. Ministers belonging to the Congress party are wedded to it at least in words. Moreover elections to municipalities take place once in 3 years and 5 years. During the last Congress regime, the Congress ministry failed to introduce adult franchise for these elections. The Congress ministry resigned and again Congress came into office. Conducting elections without adult franchise means that we have to postpone the question of adult franchise for another period of 3 years and 5 years. Due to impending crisis the Congress ministry may once again resign. Taking all these factors into consideration I insist that elections

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should be postponed and electoral rolls be prepared on the basis of adult franchise. Instead of rushing these municipal elections now this Government might continue the present state of things, make the necessary preparations and introduce adult franchise during the coming elections. That is why adult franchise should be taken up immediately for consideration. This is a democratic principle. I do not know why the Congress Party should not insist upon proportional representation being applied to municipalities and local bodies. What I suggest is, this is the only way to solve our difficulties, because proportional representation guarantees representation to each community according to its strength to select its own representatives. If Muslims are on the whole ten per cent of the population, they can have their representation according to that strength. This gives another advantage. There are minority parties, they can put their votes and have their candidates selected. If proportional representation is accepted it is a better way of ensuring unity. We are having separate electorates in most cases. But our problems are not solved. We are drifting far and far away. If there is proportional representation they have their ten per cent reserved for the Mussalmans. They themselves can press upon the other communities also. Moreover this problem has been followed in advanced countries. Our legislature is taking its lessons only from the British legislature. In England there are no divisions upon castes and communities. So there is direct election there. But in India where there are very many nationalities and castes the only way of solving our problem is by accepting the principle of proportional representation which will also satisfy the demand of the Muslims. Debate has been going on regarding separate electorates and joint electorates. If this principle is accepted the Leagues will have its own representatives and the Congress party can exercise its votes and see that the representatives work in the interests of the masses. This gives an advantage to the minority groups, including Scheduled Castes. During the general election in Kistna district even though our candidate for Scheduled Caste seat got about twice the number of votes got by the Congress candidate we were defeated. If this principle had been accepted that would not have happened. During the last general election we got about 25 per cent of the votes got by the Congress party but only two of us are present here. If there had been the principle of proportional representation our strength would have been greater and truly reflected according to the votes we got. The most justifiable and the highly democratic form of election that is necessary for our country to-day is on the basis of joint electorate with proportional representation. Now I come to the last point. To-day we know that our country is divided into so many groups and parties. These political parties are fighting. If direct election is held about 51 per cent is elected and 49 per cent is not at all represented. But according to the principle I am now stressing representation is secured by the minority communities also and we can have all the views represented. That is why I stress to-day that the need of the country particularly in regard to elections is adult franchise and proportional representation. The crisis between the

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League leadership and the Congress leadership has arisen and they are not able to come to terms. Mass movement is going on and British Imperialism is taking advantage of the whole situation. If both the League and the Congress leadership come to agree on this point there will be peace all round. So the Hon. Minister will do well to incorporate this principle in the Bill. With these words I move the amendment."

SHAH ALAM KHAN SAVOI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second it."

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"The amendment seeks to introduce a fresh idea. It is not contained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons nor in the scheme of this Bill."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is merely a suggestion."

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"If the amendment is carried how can it be fitted?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If they want to reject it, they can reject it."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amendment moved by the hon. Member, who has spoken before me representing the Communist party in this province has laid stress on two points, the first being the introduction of adult suffrage for elections to local bodies and the second the introduction of the system of proportional representation. The argument advanced by the hon. Member is that proportional representation and adult suffrage would help certain minorities and certain classes of people who would not derive any advantage if representation is not according to that method. So far as we are concerned, we have made it clear that we stand by separate representations for local bodies. I do not think on this occasion many more words are required in order to impress upon this Government and the House generally in regard to the efficacy and necessity of separate electorates so far as we are concerned.

"The Hon. the Minister for Local Administration in his reply did not give us a satisfactory answer so far as the question of the introduction of adult franchise is concerned. It is an admitted fact that all the people in this province and the country and particularly the Congress people have been asking for adult suffrage for a very long time. That has been a very important plank in their programme and they have fought the elections and have come into this House on that issue. Sir, that being the case, we thought that the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration could have advanced better reasons than what he has done for not introducing adult suffrage, so far as elections to local bodies are concerned. He said that it is the communists who have been responsible for creating an atmosphere which makes it impossible for the Government to introduce adult suffrage here and now. That was one of the arguments advanced.

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"The other argument was that the people are not ready, that the time is not enough, that the elections have to be held very soon and that the electoral rolls are not ready in order to enable people to have the elections conducted on adult suffrage. These, Sir, are certainly not very good reasons which can be easily accepted. These elections which are sought to be held could have easily been postponed. It is true that there are certain municipal councils and district boards which have been there for long, and their elections were held some years ago, and some of the members of those local bodies are also members of this Assembly. All these are true. All the same, you cannot give up your fundamental principle. You should not throw away to the winds your own cherished principles which you have been advocating ever since the Congress began.

"Sir, I know this much, that in the last general elections, my friends, in the Communist party gave a good fight to the Congress. Although they did not succeed in sending a larger number of their representatives to this House, according to the voting figures they have made a great headway and have captured some of the elected seats to the Legislature."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"They need not send more. The two are enough here. (Loud laughter.) They do the work of many people."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, there was a time when there were other parties in office before the Congress came into power, which were able to send a majority of their members to the Legislature." (Interruption.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What I meant was that the two members are able to do the work of many people."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"That is a little more charitable, Mr. Speaker. Sir, we all believe in democracy. I believe the Congress party professes to believe in it more than anybody else. A party which believes in democracy, which has been speaking of democracy and which believes that it is working democracy should not fight shy of other democratic parties coming into the Legislature. And now, Sir, I can understand that every party, however large it might be, is naturally anxious to preserve itself, in the interests of self-preservation. It is no wonder that the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration does not want that local bodies should slip away from the hands of the Congress into the hands of the Communists. It is no wonder that they are well-advised in not introducing adult suffrage here and now. Perhaps that is their fear. The principle of self-preservation is always there. They want to sit not only in this House, but also in the local bodies. The local bodies are the feeders. If they allow the seats in the local bodies to slip from their hands into the hands of the Communists, their position and influence in the districts will become weaker. Sir, as a democrat myself, I can understand the democratic fear of my Hon. Friend Mr. Daniel Thomas. But so

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far as our party is concerned, we are neither for this nor for that. We are only anxious that we must have our share." (Laughter.)

The amendment was put and lost.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim will now move his amendment."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

"For clause 3 (1) (iii) the following shall be substituted:—

"(iii) to allow that District Board as constituted at present to function during the interval between the date of expiry of the term of the members holding office and the date on which the newly elected members will come into office."

"Sir, my object in moving this amendment is to impress upon the House the necessity for maintaining the *status quo* in the district boards till fresh elections take place. Under the pretext of ensuring that improper influence is not brought to bear upon any section of the electorate during the coming elections, the Government will be more or less consolidating their party position by the appointment of these Special Officers. It is very probable that they will appoint their own partymen as Special Officers and that would work unfairly against other parties who may want to contest the elections. Therefore, it is only with a view to remove this difficulty that I want that the present *status quo* should be maintained till the elections are over. With these words, I move my amendment."

* P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second the amendment, Mr. Speaker."

The amendment was put and lost.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I now call upon Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Sahib to move his next amendment."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

"In clause 3 (1) (iii) after the words "Special Officer" and before the words "to exercise" the words "of the rank not lower than a Revenue Divisional Officer" shall be inserted."

"Sir, in moving this amendment, I wish to point out to the House that it is not proper for the Hon. the Minister to take advantage of the present special circumstances to appoint men of his own party as Special Officers to the district boards during the interregnum. This will strengthen the Congress position in the local bodies and will work unfairly against other parties contesting the elections. I therefore suggest that only officers of the highest rank in the districts, namely, the District Collectors and in their absence due to any circumstances, the Revenue Divisional

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Officers should be appointed as Special Officers. The Hon. the Minister has stated that these Special Officers will be entrusted with the powers of the president of a district board. So it is very important that the Special Officers who are to be appointed should be men without any party affiliations. We may not have fair elections if partymen are appointed. I submit, Sir, that this is a very simple amendment, and I am sure that the House will accept it, or at least the Hon. the Minister may himself accept it."

* P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, in seconding the amendment, I should like to submit that our fears in this respect are not without foundation. Sir, just as in fact, and in truth and in practice the food administration in the district of Malabar has been handed over by the Government to the President of the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee, it is quite possible that the Government may appoint their own men, the members and office-bearers of the Congress Committees as Special Officers to these district boards. We are attempting by this amendment to ensure that only those who are in the Government service not below the rank of a Subdivisional Officer should be appointed as Special Officers. I cannot understand the very unhelpful attitude of the Hon. the Prime Minister in throwing open his hands in despair and saying that it is impossible for him to agree to any stipulation that only Government officers will be appointed. I cannot understand why it is impossible for the Hon. the Minister to agree that only a special class of officers, men who have received revenue training, men who have been in Government service for a long time and whose impartiality is unquestioned, are appointed as Special Officers. It is very dangerous to leave into the hands of a political party the extreme and unlimited powers of appointing Special Officers. I know, from my own experience, what they are doing in Malabar. They would be creating a lot of difficulties for other parties to contest in the coming elections and they will be helping their own partymen. In the interests of justice and fair play, I request the Government to accept this amendment."

4 p.m.

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think I shall not be appealing in vain if I request the Hon. Minister in charge as well as the Prime Minister to accept this amendment. May be that the fears of the opposite party, the Communists, are not very well-founded. But, at least in order to allay their fears, the Government should show a generous gesture and agree that they will appoint only persons who according to other parties are above suspicion. I appeal to the Government to accept this very small amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I move—

'that sub-clause (2) of clause 3 be deleted.'

"Sir, my suggestion to this House is that this sub-clause is unnecessary. If a Special Officer is appointed, where is the necessity to provide specifically that the payment to be made to him

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* P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second it."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 3 was then put and carried.

Clause 4.

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this clause is not only found in this Bill, but it is found in three or four other Bills circulated to us already. An omnibus clause of this kind is wholly unnecessary. Under this clause the Government want to take power of some kind to install their own henchmen in power on local boards. When the present party in power was in the opposition they were criticising provisions of this kind. But when they have become the so-called popular Government they want to have power to do everything as they please in regard to everything. I do not think even Dictators in Europe ever asked their parliaments to give permission for such clauses. This clause takes one's breath away. Having taken power in the other three clauses of the Bill they want to have also this power in reserve so that they may use it whenever they think it necessary to use it. Such a clause makes the Opposition members suspect the motives of the Government. Now and then the Hon. the Premier is ready with a request to the Opposition not to suspect the motives of the Government. But this clause really makes any sane person to suspect the very motives of this Government. Again, Sir, the past conduct of this Government in appointing persons as they pleased very clearly shows that we have to suspect and not give our assent to a provision of this kind. What happened in the matter of the appointment of the Assistant Textile Commissioner for Andhradesa? A dismissed Commissioner has been appointed by this self-same Government very recently on 24th of last month. What happened to the appointment of the Director of Publicity and to the appointment of the Deputy Director of Industries? Instances such as these make people suspect the very motives of the Government. For instance, a very simple question was put to both the Hon. Minister for Local Administration and the Hon. the Premier whether the Special Officers will be officials or non-officials. They have not answered it. What is the purpose? Even now the Hon. the Premier says: 'I do not want to answer it.' We do not want to know whether the officer who will be appointed will be a Deputy Collector or a Revenue Inspector. We want to know only whether he will be an official or a non-official. Have not the Government made up their minds on this question? Have they not yet decided whether to appoint officials or, as in other cases, their own Congressmen? They have appointed a Congressman for a very important post without advertising and without knowing his qualifications."

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* SRI T. VISWANATHAM (Chief Parliamentary Secretary):—
“ I must call the attention of the hon. Member to the fact that he is travelling backwards. Clause 3 has already been passed and we are in clause 4. He is still referring to clause 3.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I have already told him so.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Sir, under this clause power is sought to be taken by Government to do what they please for anything they like when they are in power.”

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM (Chief Parliamentary Secretary):—
“ Please read it.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ The Chief Parliamentary Secretary attached to no Minister in particular is not able to follow the clause. (Laughter.) I am in clause 4 under which Government seek to take power to do anything they want in their own favour in future. I am speaking of that clause.

“ Sir, the actions of this Government in the past clearly show that they are very anxious to appoint their own persons, whether they are qualified or not. Sir, on this important question, the Government are not able to say whether the persons who will be appointed will be officials or non-officials. This omnibus clause seeks to take power for unnecessary reasons which the Government are sure will not be accepted. Hence I move—

‘ that this clause be deleted. ’ ”

P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ I second it.”

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM (Chief Parliamentary Secretary):—
“ Sir, some Members of the Opposition can never keep to the point. Whatever appeals are made and whatever explanations are given still the strain is the same. In explaining the terms of this Bill, the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas stated clearly that clause 4 is not such an omnibus clause as the Members of the Opposition want us to believe. I cannot believe that they have not properly read it. In spite of the explanations given, I do not know why they are insisting that this is an omnibus clause giving power to the Government to appoint people whom they call henchmen. ‘ Henchmen ’ is the soft word which he used. From his reading of the clause, the hon. Member thinks that it is intended to enable the Government to appoint their ‘ henchmen.’ What does the clause provide for? It only provides for meeting any difficulty that might arise in giving effect to the provisions of the Act which the Hon. Minister has already explained. The provisions of this clause will be of no avail for any purpose other than for removing any difficulty met with in giving effect to the provisions of this Act. Anything that is done cannot go beyond the purposes of this Act and anything done or rule made which goes beyond the purpose of the Act will be *ultra vires*. I suppose friends, who are lawyers, understand it. I would therefore once more say that hon. Members need not go back to the clauses already passed and confuse the issues. There is no use using harsh language. I request hon. Members to concentrate their attention upon the first few words of clause 4,

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viz., ‘ If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act . . . ’ This has nothing to do with politics and so there is no need to suspect the motives of anybody. We do not suspect your motives; why should you suspect ours? ”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ A word of personal explanation, Sir. I never said that under this clause the Government are taking power to appoint their own men. You have to read my whole speech and not split it into parts in order to understand it correctly. In the past the actions of the Party have been such that I have to suspect the *bono fides* of the Government. When they take power to interpret their own Act, their motives have to be suspected. I never said that under this clause the Government will appoint their own men.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I only want to say one word on this topic. My hon. Friend, the Chief Parliamentary Secretary was not quite right first of all in casting aspersions on the members of the Opposition saying that they generally stray away from the point or that they do not care to speak to the point. That is a general aspersion that is not in the least justified. Of course, so far as the particular question is concerned, he could have made that remark; but, to cast such general aspersions he is not quite justified.

“ Now I come to the point at issue. I would like to point out to him that in construing a section neither the present Government, nor the Chief Parliamentary Secretary, nor any of the members of this House have any authority. Their words will have no value in interpreting any of the sections when once the Bill is passed into law. It is left for the court or other authority that may have to deal with the section to interpret it as it likes. Therefore 4-15
the question is, as the section reads, what is the interpretation to p.m.
be put upon it. My hon. Friend may have his own interpretations, but that does not mean that all others will put the same interpretation. My hon. Friend Mr. Salam has pointed out that this gives very wide powers to the Government to be utilized for any purpose. It is unfair to refuse to take into consideration the objection raised by this side, simply because it is coming from the Opposition. I would ask the Members of the Government and the other Members of the Party just to remember what their position was with reference to such clauses when they formed part of certain enactments which were introduced by the Governments of those days when they were in the Opposition. They have always objected to giving such general powers to the Government but when they themselves have come into power, why should they act in a different manner? Why should they not be consistent and stick to the democratic principle that no such general power should be vested in the executive? It is only as a matter of principle that my hon. Friend Mr. Salam has raised this objection and not with the object of attributing any motive. I therefore appeal to the Government not to look upon this amendment as merely coming from the Opposition but look at it justly and fairly and see whether there is any possibility of the fears expressed on this side being realized. I

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would appeal to the Government to look at the matter in a dispassionate manner and see whether they cannot be consistent with regard to the principle to which they were sticking before they came into office, and which they were urging while they were in Opposition."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, the reason why this clause 4 is introduced is that Government must have been advised by the Legal Advisers that unless this clause was introduced, any interpretation that may be given by the Government would not be valid. Sir, it is not the Government that is the competent body to interpret the terms of the statute but only the courts. But the Legal Advisers of the Government seem to have advised the Government that unless this clause is put in the body of the Act, the Government will not have the authority to give their own interpretation and carry out the objects of the Bill. That itself shows that the Government wants to encroach upon the jurisdiction of the court which is the only authority which can give interpretations to the sections of the Act. The tendency of any Government is to take power under certain enactments and do as it pleases without allowing the matter to be decided by the Legislature or to go before the courts for its proper interpretation. That is the tendency which is natural for any Government when it comes into power, but it must be deprecated as it is not democracy."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in seconding the amendment, I only want to point out one aspect of it. The Hon. Minister concerned fairly accepted that he himself did not know the implication of clause 4, the omnibus clause. The Government have a great majority behind them and therefore at any time, if they find difficulty in the administration of this Act, they can rush the necessary legislation through this House in no time. Such being the case, where is the necessity for taking powers under this clause? On this ground also, I support the amendment."

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have only two points to mention. The first one is about the power taken by the Government under clause 4. Such a clause is incorporated in legislation in every democratic country in the world. My hon. Friends know it, but only for the sake of criticism they raise this bogey and nothing else. After all they do not lose anything and as pointed out by the Chief Parliamentary Secretary, it only refers to the scope of this Bill only and it is not a wide power indeed.

"The second point is the one mentioned by the hon. Member Mr. Salam that the Government are favouring their own party-men in making appointments. In this connexion he mentioned the appointment of the Assistant Textile Officer and said that the gentleman, was a dismissed Municipal Commissioner. I want, Sir, that the hon. Member must be sure of all his facts. Of course this Municipal Commissioner was dismissed. But the

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hon. Member Mr. Salam should know and this House also should know that he was dismissed without being given any notice, without even being called upon to explain. The ground on which he was dismissed during the Advisers' regime was that he did not aid the Sub-Collector in the matter of the collection of War Funds in the Municipality of Palacole where he was the Commissioner then. Now Sir, if he had continued as Commissioner, he would have been a first-class Commissioner or (who knows) a Deputy Inspector of Local Boards to-day, as some of his co-officers of those days are to-day, but he has only been appointed as an Assistant Textile Officer. During the five years respite after his dismissal, he devoted himself to doing excellent Khadi work in Andhra Desa. His name has become a household word in that field. He eminently will fit into the job to which he is now appointed. These are the two points which have been the subject of criticism from the other side and I hope that I have sufficiently answered them."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Sir, neither the explanation given by the Chief Parliamentary Secretary nor the speech of the hon. Member Mr. Kala Venkata Rao has given any justification why this clause should be there. It is stated in the clause 'If any difficulties arise . . .' Now, Sir, what are the difficulties anticipated by the Government? In this connexion, I would like the House to take into consideration the recent order which the Government has passed on the Chairman of the Guntur Municipality demanding from him an explanation as to why he should not be removed, for the simple reason that he had expressed sympathy with the cause of the workers who had been demanding a rise in their wages. If the Government anticipate such difficulties and if they want to make provision to meet them, I think, Sir, it is my duty to oppose this clause in the interests of the class of people whom I represent as well as in the interests of democracy, which the Congress Party advocated previously and which they have thrown out now. Of course hon. Members may speak of democracy, but in action it is clear that the Congress Party does not stand for democracy, at least . . ."

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Is there democracy in Russia?"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Yes, there is democracy in Russia. If my hon. Friend, Kala Venkata Rao is anxious to discuss the situation in Russia, I have no objection to do so provided . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No, no, not now. The hon. Member may come back to the clause under discussion." (Laughter.)

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Coming to the point, the reason why I urge that clause 4 should be omitted is that the Government cannot anticipate the difficulty at present. Whenever any difficulty arises, the Government can easily pass a Government Order and carry on the business and there is no necessity for this clause. Without knowing the nature of the difficulties

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which the Government may be confronted with but simply anticipating all sorts of difficulties, I do not see any reason why such a safety clause as this should be put in the Bill.

"Sir, in the working of the food committees and other co-operative societies we see that they are run by Congressmen themselves without taking the aid of other people or accepting the co-operation and the help of the other people. I find there is so much of an atmosphere of suspicion. I would therefore request the Hon. Minister to remove this clause from the Bill. If the Hon. Minister can tell the House the nature of the difficulties which he is anticipating, I would have been very glad to provide the necessary powers to Government and would not have raised this opposition. Because the nature of the difficulties are not mentioned by the Government, I request that the clause may be omitted."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 4 was put and carried.

Clause 1.

Clause 1 was put and carried.

The preamble was put and carried.

* THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Sir, I move—
'that the Bill be passed into law.'"

The motion was put and carried.

IV.—THE MADRAS TENANTS AND RYOTS PROTECTION BILL, 1946.

4-30 p.m. * THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill to provide for the temporary protection of certain classes of tenants and ryots in the Province of Madras and move that it be taken into consideration at once.

"In making this motion, I shall explain the main features of the Bill. As hon. Members are aware, it is the intention of Government to bring in very early two measures, one dealing with the zamindaris or the Estates Land Act, and the other the Malabar Tenancy Act. With regard to the former, the House is aware that there was a committee set up by the previous Congress Government in 1938-39 who went very fully into this question and dealt with many aspects of the problem. It is the intention of this Government, as has been said more than once on the floor of this House to bring in legislation very early. In regard also to the Malabar Tenancy Act, the same Government appointed a committee and that committee went into many of the features of the Malabar Tenancy Act and made recommendations regarding its improvement. But in both these areas, i.e., the Estates Land Act areas and also in the District of Malabar, there have been, as Government understand, a number of eviction suits going on and execution proceedings taken, evidently expecting major legislation on the subject. I have been able to get figures for North Malabar, and I understand that nearly 5,000 suits are

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now pending which will involve the eviction of tenants. The number in the zamindari areas will be equally large though I have not got the figures for that. From various parts of the province, we have been getting complaints in this regard. Therefore, pending introduction of both these measures which I assure the House will be brought in without delay, it has become necessary to bring in this legislation with a view to stay the eviction of tenants and also to prevent the sale of the holdings of those persons. The tenants in the estate areas and in Malabar will be affected as can be seen from the clauses of the Bill.

"Now, in order to be fair also to the landlord, so that the stay may not be granted frivolously or without some compensation, we have provided in clause 4 that before a stay is granted, a deposit of two years' rent be made in court and we have also provided, as long as stay continues, for the due payment of every year's rent as it becomes due. That care has been taken, so that there may be no unnecessary or unjust stay obtained.

"It will also be seen that the three classes of tenants who will be affected are the tenants in Malabar, the tenants in estates under the Estates Land Act and also tenants on private lands in such estates. As hon. Members are aware, this last class of tenants are entitled to continue in possession on due payment of rent. It is the intention—without finally deciding the question of the nature of their rights which will be done in the major legislation—to give them relief, so that they may continue in possession, if they continue to pay the rent as provided.

"Coming now to clause 5, power has been taken to see that if in any class of cases there is injustice by the wholesale stay of suits, a notification may be issued by the Government to cancel the stay granted by this legislation. For instance, it has come to my notice through a deputation which came to me on behalf of small inamdars whose private holdings may not be more than 5 or 10 acres that there will be hardship in their case and I have assured them that the case of such persons who have only small holdings will be duly considered, so that the wholesale stoppage of eviction may not work hardship to them. It is with respect to them and to certain classes of cases in which it may be found that wholesale stay will be injurious, that power has been taken under clause 5 to see that injustice is not done to any class of people.

"Sir, these are the only objects for which this Bill has been brought forward, namely, that pending legislation which we hope to bring forward in the course of the year itself, there may not be wholesale evictions or sale of the holdings of the tenant classes whom all of us on both sides want to help and protect. I therefore request hon. Members on both sides not to oppose the measure but to support it, especially as there is no question of any particular community or class who is going to be injured by this measure."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The question before the House is that the Bill be taken into consideration."

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad the Government have brought a measure like this and they have done it promptly. It is a measure which we on this side of the House do welcome. In view of the object of this Bill, to stay proceedings in Court until the expiration of the period fixed here, it is necessary that the permanent measure which the Government propose to bring forward should also be expedited. That alone will be a justification for staying the hands of the courts. No doubt tenants have to be protected, but landlords also have to be protected. On principles of general administration, it is not advisable to stay all proceedings in courts for any indefinite length of time. I am sure the Government realize this and I would request the Hon. Minister to tell the House what the approximate period will be for the Government to bring up the Bill. In view of the shortness of the duration of this Bill and in view of the fact that there is danger of thousands of tenants being affected on account of the fear of some new legislation being brought into existence, it is necessary that such a Bill should be introduced, and we do welcome it."

"Now, Sir, I would like to say one or two words as regards clause 5. No doubt the Government have taken general power under clause 5 under which a particular suit or proceeding or a class or classes of cases may be allowed to be proceeded with in spite of the provisions here to stay it or them. I would like the Government to indicate what are the classes of cases in which they would exercise that power, so that the public who are interested may have some idea as to what it means. I am sure the power will not be exercised unfairly or unjustly to any class of people, but it is necessary that the public should have some definite idea about it and therefore I want the Government to give an indication as to what this section 5 may mean."

"Again, the question of limitation may arise when parties are prevented from filing a suit or proceeding. This Bill does not prevent the parties from instituting new suits or proceedings, but when such new suits or proceedings are filed, they can be automatically stayed by this Bill. The question therefore is whether it is necessary to drive the parties to undergo the expense of filing suits and getting them stayed. I would have liked some provision made in this Bill to save limitation during the pendency of the period of this Act, so that people might not be forced to file suits which would otherwise become barred while this Act is in force. It is a question of putting these people to unnecessary expense which can be avoided. After a permanent measure comes into existence, it will not be necessary for them to file suits, but when such suits are filed now, they will be stayed; there is no provision for saving limitation and so, they will be bound to file the suits during the pendency of the period of this Act and will be put to unnecessary expenditure. Therefore, I wish the Government to include some provision to meet this point."

* **MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, though we are in agreement with the general principles of this Bill, there is some necessity for clarification from

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the Ministry on one or two points. So far as clause 3 is concerned, it says: 'During the continuance of this Act and subject to the provisions of sections 4 and 5, (a) no tenant in the district of Malabar and no tenant of any private land in an estate shall be liable to be evicted by his landlord in pursuance of a decree or order for eviction, and (b) no holding or land of a ryot or tenant shall be liable to be sold or brought to sale in pursuance of a decree, order or other proceeding for recovery of rent.' This clause gives room for litigation and I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the intention is to create some interest by this Bill in the private land for the benefit of the tenant or whether there is any omission here. It is not also clear, where the tenant has interest in a ryotwari land, whether the sale referred to here will apply to that land. That doubt also has got to be cleared."

"Again, Sir, the stay under clause 4 (1) (a) is a general stay. It is not known whether the Government really want a stay for all classes of suits to be instituted against the tenant, either for rent, under section 77 of the Madras Estates Land Act, or for patta and other things. Therefore, this point also should be made clear by the Minister."

"As regards determination of the rent, what is the rent, who is to ascertain it, whether it is the tenant himself; if the tenant instead of paying Rs. 100 says that his rent is only Rs. 10, and pays the amount, will it absolve him of his liability, has the court power to ascertain what is the fair rent, what is the procedure to be adopted?—there must be some indication, Sir, in the Bill as regards all these points. With respect to limitation, I want to know whether all suits to be instituted hereafter should be stayed and what will be the position of suits instituted after two years with regard to time. This position is not clear. All these points, Sir, require clarification and I request the Hon. Minister to clear these doubts."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we on this side of the House are wholly with the Government in the matter of the necessity of a Bill of this nature, but, Sir, as regards relief given to the tenant, since the question of land is referred to in this Bill, many suits are likely to crop up in civil courts. It is therefore reasonable and necessary that a better and suitable definition of 'lands' may be made in the Bill by excluding all private lands in inam villages."

* **MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully support the Bill, but there are two points which are not quite clearly indicated in the Bill and which may probably give rise to a lot of litigation. The first is arrears of two years of rent or the rent claimed, whichever is less, has to be deposited by the tenant for payment to the landlord. It may be contended by the tenant that the rent claimed by the landlord is not the correct amount. If you say that for payment to the landlord, the amount is to be deposited into the court, the landlord will have the right to claim and take the money from the Court. That is a point that should be made clear."

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p.m.

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"The second point is this. The deposit should be made within two months from the date of the commencement of this Act or the date of the institution of the suit as the case may be. If the second clause is to be applied, that is, the date of institution of the suit, the tenant may not have notice of the suit within two months; so if he has notice of the suit after two months and the tenant deposits the amount after two months, he will not have the benefit of the stay. These are the two points.

"In regard to the merits, these two points may give rise to difficulties. If money is deposited by the tenant, he deposits it under protest; if you say it is the amount for payment to the landlord, the landlord himself will take the amount. I therefore suggest that Government should consider these two points in view of the legal difficulties regarding rent, etc., that are likely to arise, if necessary, by appointing a small committee for considering these difficulties; or if considered desirable, another amending Bill may perhaps be brought to obviate the difficulties."

* M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House is aware of the cases where tenants were being evicted under the provisions of the Malabar Tenancy Act. Now, there are certain sections of the Act which enable the landlord to evict a tenant out of the holding, particularly on account of one of the decisions of the High Court to the effect that if the landlord says he wants the property *bona fide* for his own use or for the use of any member of his family, then the tenant has to surrender possession of the property. This necessitated an enactment which took the form that it ought to be needed by the landlord and not for his *bona fide* requirements; that is not sufficient. While this was the position just before the amendment came in, there were a large number of suits filed in Malabar and I know—coming from the headquarters of Malabar and as a lawyer practising there,—there were a large number of cases where the landlords filed suits on the ground that they required the properties for their own use or for their daughters or brothers or sons-in-law and without waiting even to get certified copies of the decree, they applied to munsifs or sub-judges, as the case may be, to take out execution. I know a case also where one of the District Munsifs, who was at Calicut and was subsequently transferred from there, went even to the extent of asking the plaintiff's advocate to put in such application. Even now, there are cases where evictions have been obtained and appeals are still pending and the landlords are in possession of property belonging to the tenant. I would therefore request the Hon. Minister just to speed up the promised legislation to meet justice in the case of these tenants also.

"There is one other practical difficulty which I find in the matter of the deposit of rent. You know, Sir, there are a large number of cases in Malabar, where the amount payable by the tenant is nominal and in some cases in respect of huge areas, they have to pay only Re. 1, Rs. 2, Rs. 3. In such cases, if the tenant is permitted to deposit his arrears in court, there is difficulty on the part of the landlord also, because he will have to apply to the

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court each time and spend As. 12 for each application besides payment of writing charges, for the clerk and if necessary even to a vakil also. This will mean more than the amount which is actually receivable by him. So, Sir, this practice of depositing rent in court must be given up, if possible, and orders issued so that the rent may be paid to the landlord direct.

"Then again, in regard to the question of stay of suits, I have come across certain difficulties in the matter of classifying tenants. Now the tenants are governed by the Malabar Tenancy Act; they have been defined in it by an elastic term. We have got a system of land tenures in Malabar where the intermediary will not be a tenant but he can even be a trespasser and the landlord may claim the eviction of the trespasser. There are other cases also where there may be a landlord and a tenant; there may also be landlords, tenants and trespassers and the jenmi would have obtained a decree for the surrender or the possession of the property. Then whom are we to stay? Is it the trespasser or the tenant? These practical difficulties have also to be met immediately. Therefore, I would suggest that immediate steps be taken to bring in the proposed legislation relating to these matters; and in respect of all suits, proceedings and executions, Government will have to take immediate action in order to redress the grievances of both the tenants and the landlords."

* K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In supporting the motion for the introduction of this Bill, I am glad to say that though a belated measure, a Bill to amend the Malabar Tenancy Act which has been engaging the active consideration of the Government will be welcomed throughout Malabar. The Malabar Tenancy Act was passed as early as 1930 and it requires substantial amendments in several respects. It has been characterized as one of the most ill-drafted enactments which we have on the Statute Book. The language of the Act created many difficulties in deciding matters of vital importance involving the rights and interests of tenants and landlords in Malabar. With reference to some of the important sections of this Malabar Tenancy Act, clarification is necessary and reconciliation of the sections has become absolutely important and indispensable and in view of the obscurity of the language of the sections, it has also created obstacles even in courts in interpreting and adjudicating on the rights of parties, with the result that there has been a long-standing cry for an amending Act. No doubt piecemeal amendments have been carried out in the past and even during the Advisers' Government. Such piecemeal amendments were made with reference to the section relating to the eviction of tenants, but an all-round amendment of the Act itself has become absolutely necessary to prevent injustice both to the landlord and the tenant. But in bringing forward a measure of this nature, which is intended to stay proceedings involving the valuable rights of both landlords and tenants, one important point has always to be borne in mind by the Government and that is the necessity for expedition in bringing in a permanent legislation and shortening the period of the stay. I would like to have an assurance from

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the Government spokesmen that they would expedite the promised legislation and would place it on the Statute Book at an early date. But one point on which I would like to draw the attention of the Government is the necessity of wide publicity to the provisions of the amending Act so as to invite constructive and useful criticism from all parts of the district and to take expert advice and get the useful co-operation of the various sections of this House who have also something to do with the Malabar tenures and who know something about the peculiar conditions in Malabar and to bring in an enactment which will meet out justice to both the sections, the tenants as well as the landlords. About the peculiar conditions in Malabar, I need not particularly remind the hon. the Minister in charge of this Bill who, I hope, will bestow care on the interests of the various sections who will be affected by it. As a lawyer, I am sure, he would have experienced certain difficulties in construing the Malabar Tenancy Act. Lawyers and judges in Malabar have also felt them both in the original and the appellate courts including the High Court. No doubt there is the section for staying even rent suits. My respectful submission is that even though some temporary inconvenience may be caused to landlords by this section in the realization of rent, it can be very much minimized by the Government by expediting the permanent amending measure and bringing it into force even before the expiry of this year, if that is possible. My only request is to reduce the period of the stay and to expedite the permanent legislation."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on the next day.

V.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

Statement of figures showing the total strength of superintendents and clerks in the Secretariat Departments and the number of Muslims in each category of officers.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, the 7th September 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHAN-MUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

* 159 a Q.—

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have asked the office to roned copies of the answer given yesterday and to circulate them to hon. Members. I hope it has been done."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Yes, Sir b."

a Carried over from 6th September 1946.

b 159 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA:—(a) Whether it is a fact that the Government have selected 44 candidates for technical studies abroad in U.K. and U.S.A., this year;

(b) if so, what is the policy the Government have adopted in selecting the candidates;

(c) what are the qualifications of the selected candidates; and

(d) How many of the selected candidates are Harijans?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" (a) Yes. The Government of India allotted 50 scholarships to this Presidency for advanced studies overseas. Candidates for 46 scholarships have been nominated finally. Selection of candidates for the remaining four is under correspondence with the Government of India.

" (b) The hon. Member presumably refers to the procedure for selection of candidates for the scholarships.

" Applications were invited by means of public advertisement and the selection was made by a Committee consisting of a Member of the Board of Revenue as Chairman and the Director of Public Instruction, Madras, and a Member of the Madras Public Service Commission as members. The Committee interviewed the candidates and made the selection. In making the selection the Committee was asked to see that adequate representation was given to minority communities provided suitable candidates were forthcoming. In respect of the group of subjects connected with "Industries," the Committee was also instructed to see that as far as possible adequate representation was given to each of the linguistic areas of the Province. In the matter of qualifications the Committee was instructed that as far as possible no student should be selected who did not possess a first class Master's degree or equivalent qualifications in the subject or basic science concerned, preference being given to those who had also acquired some practical and research experience of value, subject to allowances being made for—

" (1) specialities in respect of which there would be no applicant with a first class qualification;

" (2) cases where field experience and research after taking a second class degree might be assessed higher than a mere first class; and

" (3) the need for securing adequate representation for backward classes and for the various linguistic areas.

" (c) Thirty-nine candidates possess first class Master's or Bachelor's degrees and seven candidates possess second class degree with practical experience.

" (d) Two persons belonging to the scheduled classes possessing second class degrees applied; none of them was selected."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state why the two Harijan candidates were not selected when other second-class degree-holders with practical experience have been selected?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"Sir, two Harijans applied. One was Mr. C. V. Veluswami who had applied for 'Fuel Technology and Design Furnaces.' He possessed a B.Sc. degree in second class. The Selection Committee recommended the following three candidates in the order of preference shown below. Their qualifications are noted against their names:—

(1) Mr. M. I. Mathews, Christian, B.Sc., First class and B.Sc. (Tech.).

(2) Mr. P. Seshadri, Brahman, B.Sc., (Hons.), First class, First Rank Research Scholar in Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

(3) Mr. T. P. Soundararajan, Brahman, B.Sc., First class, First Rank, Research Experience at Tata Iron Company.

"The Committee have finally selected Mr. M. I. Mathews.

"The other Harijan candidate was Mr. T. M. Gurusiddiah. He had applied for 'Highway Research.' He possessed the B.E. degree with second class.

"The Selection Committee recommended Mr. R. Thilainayagam, a backward class candidate. His qualifications are B.E. (Civil), second-class, C.E. (Diploma) and B.E. in Highway Engineering."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"My question was that out of the answer given to clause (c), namely, that when seven candidates possessing second-class degree with practical experience were selected, why the two Harijans who applied and who possessed second-class degrees were probably not selected."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"The candidates who were selected were probably considered better."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I ask the Government, Sir, when these seven candidates having second-class qualification were selected, what was the difficulty in the way of the Government for selecting these two candidates who had also the same second-class qualifications?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"The answer has been given already in the main answer itself. People who have field experience and factory experience coupled with second-class qualification are certainly superior to those who have merely passed their examinations, and are considered equivalent to first class."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I ask Government whether it is a fact that four candidates possessing less than second-class qualifications were selected in the place of Harijans?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"I am not able to follow the hon. Member."

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I would like to know whether the Government pretend to have relaxed any of these qualifications in favour of the scheduled class candidates whom they say they are helping?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"Government do not make any pretensions, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister state whether the Government are not prepared to stretch a point—a feeble point—in this case in order to help the backward communities and the scheduled class people instead of putting forward pleas which are not very tangible?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"Government do not accept the latter portion of the hon. Member's statement. The Government can make tangible concessions on behalf of the backward classes. In regard to this matter, we could not do anything better because the policy regarding this was laid down even before we took up office."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Having called for the applications with specific qualifications, is it not an injustice, Sir, to reject the applications of the Harijan candidates in preference to Christians?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"There was no question of Christian or Harijan in this matter at all; the best available people were selected. In regard to certain communities, some concessions could have been given but in this matter, as I have stated, the selection was made by a Committee and they selected these men."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of Brahmans selected in this connexion?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"Certainly, Sir. The number is 21, Sir."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Arising out of the answer, the Hon. Minister said, one Mr. Mathews was selected and no depressed class candidates, even though they had necessary qualifications. Is it not an injustice to the Harijans?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"I have nothing more to add to what I have already stated, where I have made my position clear."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Minister said that 21 Brahmans were selected. Is the Government satisfied, Sir, that adequate representation to backward and other scheduled class communities have been given?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"Candidates of the backward classes could be selected only if they have proper and requisite qualification. If the hon. Member wants information about the number of candidates of the backward communities, he can put a separate question."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I ask, Sir, whether in the name of Harijans four backward class communities were selected? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" They were not selected in the name of Harijans."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Will the Government be pleased to call for the reports to show that these four candidates selected were not selected in the place of Harijans? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Nobody was selected in the place of Harijans. My reply was that there were two Harijan applications; to one of the departments a backward class man also applied and he was selected."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I ask whether there was any place reserved for Harijans? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" No, Sir."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government will consider the advisability of making a rule that in the case of backward class candidates the minimum qualification prescribed would be sufficient? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" It is too early to consider it now, because we do not know whether we are going to send candidates to England next year."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the Central Government framed these rules or they directed the Provincial Board to frame them? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" They were received from the Central Government."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" How many Muslim candidates were selected? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Three."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I ask the Government whether in regard to these selections they considered the question of merit or the 20 per cent principle here also? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Merit was considered but it was much more than 20 per cent."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I know the number of applicants from the Ceded Districts who were selected? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" I am sorry that I do not have the number of applications according to districts."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know whether any Muslim candidate was selected from the Tamilnad area? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Even that, I am sorry, I am not able to give at present."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" In view of the fact that no Harijan was selected this time, may I ask whether at least in future the Government would consider the case of Harijans sympathetically? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Certainly, Sir."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I inform the Hon. Minister that one applicant by name Mr. C. V. Subrahmanyam from Nandyal with a B.Sc. second class has also applied for selection and ask whether his case will be considered in filling up the remaining four vacancies? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" The four vacancies have also been filled up."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether his case will be considered at least next year? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" It is too early to say now, because we are not sure whether we are going to send anybody to England next year."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Will the Government consider the desirability of filling up the four vacancies that exist at present by Harijans? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" It has already been answered; these four vacancies have also been filled up."

* 160 Q.—The question was withdrawn by the hon. Member before answering.

Action taken against newspapers during the war years.

* 161 Q.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU on behalf of Sri K. Ananda Nambiar: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of daily, weekly and other newspapers and periodicals against which action was taken during the war years when the Province was under the Advisers' regime;

(b) the number and names of those which have been freed from the above action and allowed to carry on their work as before;

(c) whether the Government propose to withdraw all restrictions and refund the security to those papers against which action was taken by the Advisers' regime; and

a Anti-corruption measures.

* 160 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the anti-corruption drive launched by Government has had any effect; and

(b) if so, how many corrupt officials have been brought to book by the special body created for that purpose?

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(d) if the answer to (c) is in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) & (b) The collection and completion of the information would involve an amount of labour and time which, in the opinion of the Government, would be quite disproportionate to any useful purpose which might be served.

“(c) & (d) All the press restrictions have been withdrawn.

The only case of refund of security which is still under consideration of Government is that of *Desabhimani*, Malabar.”

MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Ananda Nambiyar is in jail now, Sir, and how can Mr. Venkateswarlu put the question?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Have you got his authority?”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Yes.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Arising out of answer to clause (a), may I know whether there is any specific complaint against the *Desabhimani*?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“There is a specific complaint against the paper.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to give information to the House regarding the specific complaint against that paper?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“It will be supplied to him if he wants.”

Soldiers' Boards in the Madras Presidency.

* 162 Q.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU on behalf of Sri K. Ananda Nambiar: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased—

(a) to place on the table of the House a list of members of each Soldiers' Board in the Presidency; and

(b) whether the Minister proposes to take steps to give adequate representation to representatives of ex-servicemen on the Soldiers' Board and to see that the Board functions in close consultation with the Ex-Servicemen's Association wherever it exists?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) A statement showing the composition of the Provincial and District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards is placed on the table of the House.

“(b) The question of re-organizing the Soldiers' Boards in general and giving adequate representation to ex-servicemen on the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards is under consideration.”

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MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether when the question of re-organization of the Board is taken up, members of the Legislature will also be taken into it?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I do not think so, Sir.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“May I know where the need is for this Government to show any particular concern to these ex-soldiers who, I take it, served in an imperialist war?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I am surprised at this question. I am afraid it is being repeated more than once. We have inherited the present Government from the previous Government and we have to attend to so many things that had been done by the previous Government.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I know whether there is any proposal to abolish the Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I note the hon. member's question and I shall try to find out.”

Labour Union of the Dalmia Cement, Limited.

* 163 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the number of workers discharged from the Dalmia Cement, Limited, for having attempted to organize a union whose case the Labour Union had reported to the Labour Commissioner;

(b) what action the Government propose to take in such cases; and

(c) whether it is a fact that non-employees of the Dalmia Cement, Limited, and employees who are members of the union are not allowed to walk through the Colony Roads of the Dalmia Cement, Limited, Dalmiapuram, and that North Indian watchmen are being posted at the entrance of such road to the Colony?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“(a) It was represented to the Government that six workers were discharged for having attempted to organize a Union.

“(b) Such cases are dealt with on merits.

“(c) The Government have no information.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know, Sir, whether organizing a Union was considered a crime?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Not at all, Sir.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Are the Government aware of the fact that employers are deliberately employing Northern Indians as watchmen as to provoke trouble?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I have no information.”

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Hon. Minister take the information and see that these North Indians are not employed so that trouble may not be provoked?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I take the information from the hon. Member and I will see what it is about."

Wages of textile workers.

* 164 Q.—SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to take any action in regard to the standardization of wages of the textile workers in the Province; and

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce early legislation regarding the conditions of service including wage levels?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" (a) & (b) A court of enquiry has recently been appointed to enquire into and report on the conditions of service and wages in the Textile Industry. The question whether legislation should be undertaken for standardizing the conditions of service and wages in the Industry will be considered after receipt of the report of the court of enquiry."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the Government propose to bring in legislation for standardization of wages of textile workers alone or of all classes of daily wage earners?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"That is too big a question. So far as textile workers are concerned after the receipt of the report, we shall consider the question. As regards the others, the question raised by the hon. Member is also under consideration."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Are the Government aware of the fact that the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress have already submitted a memorandum laying down the principles governing this and if so, whether the Government will consider their proposals?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Many memoranda have been received from many Unions and this one too will be considered."

M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to standardize the wages of handloom weavers?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Notice."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, whether the wages will be fixed in consultation with the Trade Union organizations?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"With everybody concerned."

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Legislation to protect quarry workers.

* 165 Q.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government propose to bring in any legislation on the lines of Factories Act to protect thousands of quarry workers from exploitations?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"The conditions of work and the welfare of labour in quarries are safeguarded by the Indian Mines Act, 1923. No provincial legislation in the subject is contemplated."

Recommendations of the Madras Estates Land Act Enquiry Committee.

* 166 Q.—SRI KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is proposed to implement the resolution passed in this House in January 1939 recommending to the Government to bring in legislation at an early date on the general basis of the majority recommendations of the Madras Estates Land Act Enquiry Committee and if so, when the Bill may be expected to be introduced?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The Government have under consideration the question of undertaking legislation in regard to estates in this Province. The recommendations of the Madras Estates Land Act Enquiry Committee will be taken into account."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"May I know if there is any proposal to introduce simultaneously legislation for the abolition of zamindaries also?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Yes, Sir, as was announced by the Hon. the Premier."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know if the Government propose to take up zamindaries offered voluntarily?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"We would like to consider offers if the terms and conditions are reasonable."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know on what terms and conditions they will be taken from the zamindars?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is for the zamindars to say. But so far as the Government are concerned, they would like cheapest terms and most favourable conditions."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether the Government will be prepared to take up the management of the estates under their own department, such as the Co-operative Department or Religious Endowments Department and convert them to the ryotwari system of administration?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I suggest the question being put as a separate one as there are so many points involved."

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SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“ May I know if in the legislation to be introduced simultaneously for zamindaris, aghaharams, mukhasa and inam areas also will be simultaneously covered? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ I cannot say at present; the details have not yet been gone into.”

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—“ May I know the terms, on what terms the Government are prepared to take up the zamindari areas, whether they are going to pay compensation or not? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ It is too premature to enter into details now.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know which are the zamindaries my hon. Friend Mr. Natesa Chettiyar is arranging to bring under the Government? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ It is for him to answer.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know whether the Government have come to any decision on the question of payment of compensation? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ We have not come to that stage.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know whether the abolition of zamindaris will lead to the socialisation of lands? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ There is no necessary connection between the two. Presumably my hon. Friend does not understand the full implications of socialisation.”

Fire accidents in two villages in North Arcot district.

* 167 Q.—SRI P. R. RAMANJULU REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether there were fire accidents recently in Kilvillivalam village in Wandiwash taluk and in Mamandoor village, Cheyyar taluk, North Arcot district;

(b) whether there was heavy loss to property belonging to poor agriculturists;

(c) if answer to (b) is ‘ yes ’ will the Minister state the extent of loss involved;

(d) what steps did the Government take to afford relief to the people;

(e) whether memorials from the people of the respective villages were sent to Government praying for help; and

(f) what action the Government took or propose to take in respect of those memorials?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ (a) Fire accidents took place in Kilvillivalam village of Wandiwash taluk and Mamandoor village of Cheyyar taluk on 12th May 1946 and 13th May 1946 respectively.

“ (b) The individuals whose houses were burnt lost practically all their movable properties also.

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“ (c) The total loss in the Mamandoor case is estimated at Rs. 20,000. In the Kilvillivalam case the total loss is estimated at Rs. 1,00,000.

“ (d) Two palmyra trees and 1,250 palmyra leaves to each of the 103 sufferers in Mamandoor village and two palmyra trees and 500 palmyra leaves to each of the 18 sufferers in Kilvillivalam village were sanctioned to help them to rebuild their houses. A money grant at the rate of Rs. 5 each was also granted.

“ (e) Yes.

“ (f) The memorials were transferred to the Collector of North Arcot for disposal and were filed by him as relief had already been granted after a personal inspection of the scene of occurrence on 16th May 1946 by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Cheyyar.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ May I know whether any such incident was reported to the Provincial Government from the Revenue division of Dharmapuri? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ I am not aware of any such thing.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know whether the help given by Government in such cases is not generally sufficient? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ It is sufficient to put them on their legs again.”

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I ask if the Government would consider the advisability of expanding the fire services so that on such occasions the fire brigade may be available? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ It will be very difficult to extend the fire services to the villages of the province.”

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know whether the origin of the fire has been ascertained? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ I am not aware of it.”

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—“ May I know what the policy of the Government is in the matter of rendering help to those people who are exposed to fire accidents, for instance the Scheduled Classes of the Ceded districts? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ I suggest a separate question be put as it raises a separate matter.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Government have accepted the rule that people who suffer under such accidents should be fully compensated? ”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“ No, Sir, they have not accepted responsibility for any such compensation.”

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SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, if Collectors and Revenue Divisional Officers are empowered to make grants in cases like this? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" Yes, Sir. If it comes to the notice of Government they wire, as we have done in some cases, for immediate relief being given."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, if little more facility will be afforded for taking and supplying materials from the nearest military depots? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I am unable to answer. Military depots are not in our hands."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I suggest the formation of non-official committees for purposes of rendering prompt help in such cases? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" It will be separately considered, in any particular cases."

SRI K. SUBBA RAO:—" May I know, Sir, to minimise the number of fire accidents, asbestos sheets will be supplied to people for roofing purposes."

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I think the questioner himself knows such a thing is impossible."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Are we to take it, Sir, that provision of fire service in this Presidency has reached its maximum limit, and cannot be enlarged or extended? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I do not say it has reached its limit. I know that in these years of war, in several towns where there was no fire service, new services had been provided. But it is beyond the means of Government to provide it everywhere."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" In view of the fact that there are many cases of fire occurring in Ceded districts, will Government consider the desirability of placing certain sums with the Collector of each district to afford immediate help to the people in such cases of fire? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" That has already been done, Sir, not only in Ceded districts but in all districts."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" Is it not a fact that some of these military depots contain useful building materials, are in charge of Collectors and Revenue Divisional Officers? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" A separate question may be put."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Arising out of the answer to my previous question, how is it, Sir, that there is so much delay caused in distributing these grants to those people in distress? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" There is no connection between the previous question and the present question."

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Refund of collective fine in Mannargudi.

* 168 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATHNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have decided to refund the collective fine imposed on the people of Mannargudi during the disturbances in August 1942;

(b) if so when; and

(c) the amount of collective fine imposed?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) The Government have decided to refund the collective fines imposed in several places in the Province including Mannargudi making an allowance for the amount of compensation paid.

" (b) As early as possible.

" (c) Rs. 35,888-10-11 at Mannargudi."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" What is the decision of Government, Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Premier, with regard to other places where collective fines were imposed, such as Tenali, Bapatla, and some other places in Kistna and Guntur districts? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Perhaps, what I have stated in the answer is not quite clear to the hon. Member. In certain cases, where damage had been done, from out of the collective fines, a certain amount was awarded as compensation for the sufferer; and excluding that amount, the balance had been ordered to be refunded."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know from the Hon. Premier, on what principle this action has been taken by the Government, in refunding the fines that were collected from the people of Mannargudi? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" It is a matter of policy with the Government, and according to that policy, the collected fines had been ordered to be refunded. Fines were levied with a view to prevent further troubles as a security, and as the whole trouble is over now, the fines that were levied had to be returned. They would have returned the whole, but for the fact that a portion of the amount was granted as compensation to some sufferers."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Does the Hon. Premier realize that by resorting to such action, the Government are putting up a premium on the desire on the part of a section of the people to resort to disturbances? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Certainly not."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, what the policy of the Government is about the refund of the individual fines imposed during 1940, 1941 and 1942? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" If there are cases in which refund can be made on application that will be done also, as it was done in some cases on merit."

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SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—" May I know, Sir, what procedure Government contemplate in refunding all these fines to the individuals; I mean, whether individuals have to apply to the concerned officers, or will the Government take necessary steps to refund the money to the individuals, themselves? "

P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it the policy of Government not to impose such collective fines in cases of similar disturbance in future? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Certainly not; a heavier fine, perhaps, will be imposed." (Laughter.)

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether it will not be fair and just and consistent with the policy of this Government, if the entire collective fines are returned irrespective of the fact whether some amount from these collective fines went as compensation to the sufferers for the damages sustained? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" May be a good question for the hon. Member in a court of law. But here Government are dealing with cases in which certain money had been paid by the district officers to those who suffered, and Government consider it just to leave that amount, and refund only the balance."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it the case that the Government have refunded these fines only because these disturbers disturbed the peace of the locality in support of the Congress party? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Certainly not."

SRI K. T. KOSALARAMA NADAR:—" Will Government be pleased to refund the amounts through village authorities so that trouble may be avoided to the villagers? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I am not able to understand the hon. Member's mind."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, what the Hon. Premier means when he said 'on merit' the application will be considered, for refund of the fine. According to the policy of the Government, if it is a case in which violence was involved, the fine would not be refunded? "

P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Arising out of the answer, may I know what is the special merit of these disturbances. Is it because they were created to further the political power of the Congress party? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I have nothing more to add to what I have said in the answer."

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P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Further to the answer given to me by the Hon. Prime Minister, may I know, Sir, what was the special merit of the disturbances in Mannargudi and other places? Is the exemption given because these disturbances were made to further the political power of the Congress party? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The question was answered, and I do not think I should repeat it again."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether Government will consider the desirability of returning fines levied on individual satyagrahis? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" It has already been answered."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it not a fact, Sir, that a good many of the people who were responsible for the disturbance in Mannargudi were responsible for destruction of property and causing violence? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I cannot answer that question."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Do not Government realize that most of the persons from whom collective fines were collected were innocent and non-violent, and yet they had to pay for the misdeeds of a few rowdy elements? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" It may be so in several cases."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Does not the Hon. Premier consider it unsound policy to impose greater fines in future after having refunded the fines in such cases? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" That question does not arise out of this question."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" When innocent people have been asked to pay fines for the rowdyism of wrong-doers, will it be a sound policy to refund practically all the collective fines collected from all persons? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" It is the intention of the Government that the fines should be returned to the individuals who paid them."

Gazetted Police officers in Madras City.

* 169 Q.—MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are a number of Gazetted Police Officials in the Madras City Police who have been working for more than three years as against the statutory rules;

(b) if so, why rules have not been enforced strictly and why repeated extensions have been given; and

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(c) the names of such officials and the number of years they have served in the Madras City?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) There is no such statutory rule but only an executive instruction. There are four gazetted officers who have been serving in the Madras City Police for more than three years.

“(b) They were retained beyond three years on account of the paucity of suitable officers to replace them. Moreover, the rule was relaxed during the war period.

“(c) Sri Rao Sahib M. Krishnamurthi Nayudu—Five years and five months.

Sri Rao Sahib C. J. P. Pinto—Five years.

Sri Rao Sahib M. Srinivasa Acharya—Four years and five months.

Sri Rao Bahadur P. Munilal—Five years and six months.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Are there officials of the rank and status who could be transferred to Madras in their places, Sir?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“This is covered by the answer already given. I have said ‘because of paucity of officers’.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Although the Hon. Prime Minister has repeated the word ‘paucity’, may I ask him what exactly are the qualifications that are required to take the place of the existing officers?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“That question cannot be answered straightaway.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I want to know, Sir, whether the quality that is insisted on is the personal quality of these individuals or is it the general qualification in the cadre of the officers?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Qualifications required for the office.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Are Government aware that the work turned out by younger people is more efficient and cost less to the Government?” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The hon. Member may answer the question for himself.” (Laughter.)

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“What are the qualifications that are required for the offices for the City of Madras occupied by these officers?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“That question does not arise.”

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MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“When in similar cases officers had been transferred from the City, may I know why these officers should continue to stay in Madras?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The answer has been given already. Under the then circumstances, they could not find other people.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“What, according to Government, are the special qualifications of these officers that made their presence in the City so indispensable?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“A separate question may be put by the hon. Member.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, what will the Government do, if these officers retired from service to-morrow?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“To-morrow is not to-day, Sir.” (Laughter.)

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware that one Mr. Pinto, Assistant Commissioner, is famous for harassing some communities and workers?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“No, Sir.”

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will Government at least now consider to take necessary steps to transfer these officers under the changed circumstances?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Every endeavour will be made to transfer officers whose presence would not be required.”

Creation of linguistic provinces.

* 170 Q.—SRI KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state what action was taken on the resolution adopted by this House recommending the creation of linguistic provinces in March 1938 and what further action the present Government propose to take on that now?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The resolution was forwarded to the Secretary of State for India in April 1938 but he did not then accept the recommendation. It is now proposed to await the decision of the Constituent Assembly.”

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—“Will Government be pleased to publish the correspondence that passed between Madras Government and the Secretary of State for India on this question?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I do not think any purpose will be served by publishing the correspondence.”

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MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether this Government has reason to believe that steps were not taken by the then Government of Madras (1938) to promote the formation of linguistic provinces? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" No purpose will be served by the hon. Member putting that question or the Government attempting to answer it."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—" Are Government aware that the Secretary of State appointed a Sub-Committee of his Council with the late Ragavendra Rao as the President to deal with the problem of division of Provinces on linguistic basis, and will the Hon. Premier be pleased to call for the report and furnish it to this House."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Notice."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it a fact, Sir, that this question was shelved by the Secretary of State for India on the recommendation of the then Governor who was advised against it by the then head of this Government, in spite of the resolution of this House? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I should not presume so, Sir."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" I should like to know from the Government whether the question that was put to the Secretary of State for India was only with regard to the separation of Andhra Province or the separation of the whole Presidency on linguistic basis? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" At that time, so far as my recollection goes, the question of separation was with regard to Andhra Province alone."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that the resolution was sent as long ago as 1938, will the Government be pleased to send a reminder? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" As I said, Sir, that question has been disposed of; so there is no question of sending a reminder."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKTESWARLU:—" Do the Government propose to send another resolution to the Secretary of State for India demanding immediate formation of Provinces on linguistic basis with regard to Madras Province? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" There will be no need for that, when the question is likely to be disposed of by the Constituent Assembly."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Venkateswarlu is agitating for the separation of Provinces on 'Lingayat' basis and not on 'linguistic' basis." (Laughter.)

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MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Whether the present Government propose any further action on the formation of Provinces on linguistic basis? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" For the present, Sir, the Government feel that no attempt can be made for the formation of Provinces on linguistic basis."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—" Did the Advisers' Government, in their reply to the Andhra Maha Sabha, dated 2nd February 1942, state that a detailed preliminary enquiry was desirable before the question of the separation of the Province was taken up seriously? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" It may be, and it is only natural that such an answer could have been given."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—" Did the Government receive any representation, Sir, that there is need to appoint a fact-finding committee to aid the labours of the Constituent Assembly? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" No information has been received formerly except the oral statement given now by the hon. Member."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—" Is it necessary, Sir, to wait till the Constituent Assembly frames a constitution, for the formation of an Andhra Province? Cannot this Government take steps to form a separate Province under the existing Act? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Our Government do not consider it possible or feasible under the present circumstances."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—" Will Government be pleased to separate the Andhra Budget from the non-Andhra area Budget? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" That question may be considered by the Government."

SRIMATHI C. AMMANNA RAJA:—" On a point of information, Sir, is there any limit to the number of questions that each Member may put? " (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—" No limit."

MR. NAGAPPA:—" May I know from the Prime Minister whether the Government will consider the desirability of passing another resolution by this House in order to bring pressure on the Constituent Assembly to take up the question of formation of Provinces on the linguistic basis? "

MR. SPEAKER:—" I heard somebody bawled out from the gallery over there. I warn you. I will clear you all from there."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I am afraid the hon. Member has not understood his question himself."

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SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Pending the formation of a separate Andhra Province will the Government be pleased to consider about the bifurcation of the Revenue Board into two portions, Andhra and non-Andhra, and in that way also have separate heads of departments like the Director of Public Instruction, Chief Engineer, Inspector-General of Police, and so on?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The question does not arise. The Revenue Board may exist there or not. With regard to other things, what will happen, nobody knows. It is not proper that such questions should be put on the floor of the House expecting the Government to answer, which department would exist, and which would not exist."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"Will the Government care to address the Secretary of State for India to divide this Province into four, namely, Andhra, Tamil, Malayalam and Kanarese?" (A voice: 'Why not more?')

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Secretary of State for India himself is not free to attend to these matters at present."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Question-time is over. The answer to the rest of the questions will be printed in the proceedings. We will now pass on to the next item in the agenda."

* 171 Q. a

* 172 Q. b

Amalgamation of the minor irrigation and Public Works Departments.

* 173 Q.—SRI P. R. RAMANUJULU REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether at present the Minor Irrigation Works and Public Works Department are running as two separate establishments; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the advisability of amalgamating the two departments?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The question is under the consideration of the Government."

* 174 Q. a

* 175 Q. b

Corruption in Public Services.

* 176 Q.—SRI M. DORAICANNU: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to deal with corruption in the Public Services; and

(b) if so, what they are?

a Answered on 10th September 1946.

b Answered on 11th September 1946.

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the press communiqué placed on the table of the House."

Pay and allowances of the Non-Gazetted Officers.

* 177 Q.—SRI R. KUPPUSWAMI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to enhance the pay and allowances of the Non-Gazetted Officers in the Province;

(b) whether the Government propose to give effect to the recommendations of the salaries committee constituted during the Advisers' regime; and

(c) whether a number of cases are pending before the Government in which disciplinary action has been taken against Government servants for chronic indebtedness?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) It has been decided that a sub-committee of Ministers will be formed to examine the question and forward a report to Government.

" (b) This will depend on the recommendations of the Ministers' sub-committee.

" (c) No such disciplinary cases have come to the knowledge of the Government."

Allotment for the Highways Department.

* 178 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state what percentage cut has been made in the amount allotted by the previous Government for the Highways Department and whether any portion of this money will be diverted for village road development?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—"A total provision of Rs. 336.42 lakhs towards the cost (for works, establishment, tools and plant) of the communications branch of the Public Works Department had been made in the budget for the current year authorized by His Excellency the Governor. The allotment for the expenditure required by the Highways Department which was formed on 1st April 1946 as such was not made separately in the budget. It was left to be provided for in the present budget. A total allotment of Rs. 439.29 lakhs required for the department has accordingly been made in the revised budget. There was thus no cut in the allotment for the Highways Department. The latter part of the question does not arise."

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Strike in spinning mills in Pandalspaka (East Godavari).

* 179 Q.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers of the two spinning mills in Pandalspaka (East Godavari) have given strike notice; and

(b) whether the Government propose to take over the mills?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) No. Efforts are being made to end the dispute by conciliation.”

Labour legislation.

* 180 Q.—SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state when the Government propose to introduce legislation to provide the workers with such benefits as old age pension, unemployment relief, permanent machinery for the adjudication of labour disputes, etc.?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“The Government have not yet taken the question of introducing legislation relating to old age pension, unemployment relief, etc., to workers. The Government of India are, however, contemplating such legislation. Legislation for adjudication machinery for labour disputes will be introduced shortly.”

Control over the prices of coconuts, copra and coconut oil.

* 181 Q.—H. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is proposed to reduce the prices of coconuts, copra and coconut oil by means of establishing control over the same; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have fully considered the adverse effect of the same on the financial resources of the coconut growers in the West Coast?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“(a) & (b) The Government of India have formulated certain proposals to make copra, coconut, and coconut oil available at reasonable prices. Those proposals are still under consideration. The Government of Madras will fully consider the effect of these proposals on the financial resources of the coconut growers in the West Coast before agreeing to the Government of India's proposals.”

* 181-A Q. a

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* 181-B Q.—MR. H. GERRY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what sum has been allotted for maintenance of roads taken over by Government, and what does this amount to per mile;

(b) how does this sum compare with pre-war cost of maintenance in conjunction with that cost to-day;

(c) how many power rollers are available now;

(d) how many power rollers are required for maintenance alone;

(e) how many power rollers are required if post-war road development is to be undertaken;

(f) what steps, if any, are being taken to provide them;

(g) had the late Government a definite programme for road maintenance and development; and

(h) if so, by how much have the present Government increased or reduced that programme?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—“(a) Rs. 140 lakhs for ordinary maintenance excluding Rs. 30 lakhs for war arrear renewals. This works to Rs. 1,000 per mile.

“(b) The allotment of Rs. 140 lakhs is double the minimum allotment of about Rs. 70 lakhs recommended by the Chief Engineer on the basis of the pre-war rates and nearly $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the average pre-war expenditure of about Rs. 58 lakhs actually incurred by District Boards on these roads. The present cost of maintenance is about three times pre-war costs. If the present allotment is found inadequate during the course of the year the question of increasing it will be considered.

“(c) Sixty-four.

“(d) Two hundred and fifty-six.

“(e) Eight hundred and fifty. This number will have to be modified if the Post War Road Programme is modified as mentioned in the answer to clause (h).

“(f) Orders have been placed with the Director-General of Munitions Production for 350 rollers. He is taking the usual procurement action.

“(g) Yes.

“(h) This Government have not modified the programme in so far as it relates to maintenance of roads. As regards development of roads the question of modifying the programme drawn up by the previous Government is under consideration.”

* 181-C Q.—MR. H. GERRY: Will the Hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) how many bullock carts fitted with pneumatic tyres are in use in this Presidency;

(b) have Government instituted any tests as between pneumatic tyred and ordinary iron tyred bullock carts of Madras Presidency; and

(c) if not, will they conduct tests and publish the results?

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—“(a) Information is not available.

“(b) No.

“(c) The Secretary of the Indian Roads Congress recently suggested that a trial of the bullock cart wheels of the design proposed by Mr. B. V. Vagh of the Burmah-Shell for use on all types of wheels whether they employ a steel tyre or not might be arranged by this Government. On the advice of the Chief Engineer (Highways) the Government decided in May 1946 to await the results of similar experiments which are being conducted by the Bombay Government.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Alleged shadowing of Sri K. Ananda Nambiar, M.L.A., by C.I.D. Police.

43 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the C.I.D. Inspector and constable are still following the hon. Member of this House, Sri K. Ananda Nambiar, wherever he goes;

(b) if it is for the purpose of reporting his speech, whether the same privilege is extended to all M.L.As.; and

(c) if not, why this hon. Member is specially treated?

A.—*Clauses (a), (b) and (c).*—The Government must decline to answer the questions as it would be against the public interest to answer them.

Location of the Ceded Districts Engineering College.

44 Q.—SRI K. NAGIAH: Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received through the Collector of Cuddapah, copies of resolutions adopted at a public meeting of the citizens of Cuddapah protesting against the proposed location of an Engineering College at Anantapur, where there is already a Government Arts College and requesting the authorities to locate the Engineering College in Cuddapah;

(b) what is the nature of the recommendation of the Collector of Cuddapah on those resolutions; and

(c) the reason for concentrating all the Government Colleges at Anantapur instead of distributing them equally in all the districts in Rayalaseema?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The information cannot be furnished as they are considered confidential.

(c) The College of Engineering for Ceded Districts has not yet been opened as it was not possible to obtain affiliation from the University of Madras in time. Fifty seats in Guindy and 15 in Coimbatore College

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have been provided extra this year. The Government have appointed a Committee of Experts to make recommendation in the matter, including the place in which the College should be established. The suitability of Cuddapah or any other places in the Ceded Districts will also be considered by the Committee.

Execution of Gandikota and Upper Sagileru Projects (Cuddapah district).

45 Q.—SRI S. NAGIAH: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the present stage of the Gandikota Project (Cuddapah district);

(b) when it is likely to be taken up for execution;

(c) the cost incurred in connection with the preliminary investigation and preparation of plans and estimates;

(d) the definite nature of the conclusion reached regarding the utility of the project by the Executive Engineer, who was in charge of preparing the plans and estimates of this project; and

(e) the present stage of the Upper Sagileru Project (Cuddapah district) and whether the Government have any proposal to take this project immediately and improve the paddy growth in the Cuddapah district?

A.—(a) The investigation of the project has been completed and the Chief Engineer is awaiting the report from the Superintending Engineer.

(b) A decision can be arrived at only after the report has been received and examined.

(c) Rs. 1,92,519 up to end of 31st March 1946.

(d) The report of the Executive Engineer is awaited from the Superintending Engineer's office by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation).

(e) Presumably the hon. Member refers to the Lower Sagileru Project for supplying Badvel and nine other tanks from the Sagileru. The scheme was examined and dropped a number of times; the last time was in 1944. The main reasons for dropping the scheme was the doubt about the adequacy of supplies and of the retentivity of the bed of the Badvel tank. To clear up these points gauging the river for three years was sanctioned and is in progress. A geological survey of the tract is also being made.

Irrigation Schemes in Salem district.

46 Q.—SRI RAJA GURUNATHA CHETTIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) what the schemes investigated in Salem district for irrigation are; and

(b) when each of them will be taken up?

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A.—(a) Three schemes, namely, (1) Channel from Mettur Dam to irrigate portions of Salem district; (2) Markandhandhi Reservoir Project and (3) Badathlev Project have been investigated or are still under investigation.

(b) It is not possible to say until investigation has been completed and a final report from the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) has been received by the Government, on the merits and technical feasibility of the schemes.

Lower Bhavani project and irrigation tanks in Coimbatore district.

47 Q.—SRI K. SUBBANNA GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

- (a) at what stage the Lower Bhavani Project is;
- (b) whether it is a fact that Coimbatore district is depending on tanks for cultivation;
- (c) the number of tanks in the district;
- (d) whether the Government have received any representation to repair the tanks; and
- (e) what action has been taken with reference to that representation?

A.—(a) The agricultural aspect of the Lower Bhavani project is under consideration. Detailed revenue investigation with reference to the Revised Estimates which the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) will be asked to prepare has yet to be made.

(b) No. There are tanks, wells, channels and anicuts besides dry cultivation.

(c) There are 42 tanks in charge of Public Works Department.

(d) & (e) Representations to repair the tanks in the district have been received and they have been referred to the Chief Engineer (Irrigation). A report is awaited from him.

Reopening of the Choolai Mills.

48 Q.—SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether if the proprietors of the Choolai mills do not propose to reopen and run the mills, the Government propose to run the concern, in view of the—

- (a) large number of workers remaining unemployed; and
- (b) cloth famine?

A.—The Government do not propose to take over the mills, the closure of which was due to the shortage of essential spare parts. Action has been taken to see that the necessary spare parts are supplied to the mills as soon as they are available from imports.

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Lankas in the Godavari, the Kistna and the Cauvery rivers.

49 Q.—SRI M. BAPINEEDU: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state the number and area of lankas in the three rivers—the Godavari, the Kistna and the Cauvery—and the crops raised in each area; and if the crops raised on the lankas are not food crops whether the Government have issued orders to raise only food crops and if not whether it is proposed to issue such orders immediately?

A.—(1) As regards the number and area of lankas in the three rivers—the Godavari, the Kistna and the Cauvery—and the crops raised in each area, no information is available with the Government. The Board of Revenue has been asked to submit a report.

(2) The Government have issued orders that in Guntur, Kistna, West Godavari and East Godavari the lease of lankas for the current fasli should be subject, wherever possible, to the condition that only food crops and not tobacco or other commercial crops should be raised. No orders have been issued in this respect as regards the lankas in the Cauvery.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—THE MADRAS TENANTS AND RYOTS PROTECTION BILL, 1946.

A Bill to provide for the temporary protection of certain classes of tenants and ryots in the Province of Madras.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The House will now resume discussion 12 noon.
on the Bill moved by the Hon. Sri Karanth.”

ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know whether to oppose this Bill or to support it. I am in a confusion. Any way I would like to say a few words about the Bill. Private lands are supposed to be the personal property of the landholders just like a ryot having hundred acres of patta land. He can lease out his lands to any ryot and receive rent. I know instances where the ryots are getting 10 to 12 bags of paddy for each acre. That works out to nearly Rs. 120 per acre. The landholders are in the same position as the ryotwari landholders. I would welcome this legislation if the Hon. the Minister for Revenue will bring forward similar legislation for the ryotwari tenants also. I am for protecting the interests of the ryots. I do not want the interests of the ryots to suffer in any way. I would request the Hon. the Revenue Minister to remember that the private lands of the landholders are in the same position as the lands of the ryots. There is absolutely no difference between the lands of the ryots and the private lands of the landholders. If legislation of this kind is brought in from time to time, there is absolutely no safety for private property. According to the Estates Land Act, the landholders can lease out their lands and get a certain amount of rent. This legislation is

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brought forward certainly to deprive the landholders of their interests. The landholders spend a lot of money in improving their private lands, manuring them and bringing them under cultivation. They are not lands which are improved by the leaseholder. If such lands are brought in, it amounts to confiscation of private property of individuals. It may be landholders to-day; it may be somebody else to-morrow. The Government can bring forward any legislation. To-morrow they might bring in legislation saying that persons owning a number of houses, which are under the occupation of tenants, shall be deprived of their ownership of such property. I do not mind if adequate compensation is paid for such properties. It may be the landholder to-day; it may be somebody else to-morrow. I am not trying to say anything about the Bill. My only request is that the Hon. Minister should view the thing in a proper manner and see that some compensation at least is paid to the landholders whose lands are given away free to the tenants. If such private lands are given away to the tenants by legislation, where do the landholders stand? Give them notice: if hereafter you give such lands to the ryots on lease, you are not entitled to get them back. Give them a fair opportunity. (Raja of Venkatagiri: 'That is later, not now.') But there is something behind this Bill. That is what I presume. The intention of the Government seems to be—I may be wrong in saying that—to bring forward another legislation wherein a clause may be included that the tenants who are in possession of such lands shall not be evicted; they shall be allowed to continue in the occupation of such lands and the landholders are, perhaps, entitled to $2\frac{1}{2}$ times their rental value. I do not want such things to happen. After all, it is private property. I am not trying to go into the details. You may say that landholders come under a different category. I am not going into the question of landholders at all. I am speaking only on the general principle. You may confiscate the property of the landholders to-day; it may be somebody else to-morrow. It is quite open to the Government to do anything they like. So my only request is to see that such legislation is avoided as far as possible. There is absolutely no security to anybody if such legislation is brought forward. I only request the Hon. Minister to do whatever is possible to see that the interests of the landholders in this particular Bill are safeguarded."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to thank the Hon. the Minister for Revenue for bringing forward this Bill. I am afraid that the objects and reasons in the statement attached to this Bill are not fulfilled by the clauses of the Bill. I am also afraid that the Bill is more for the zamindars than the tenants. Many of the clauses in the Bill are misconceived on misunderstanding the wording in the Estates Land Act and without proper knowledge of the decisions given in the High Courts and the Privy Council. I am unable to understand whether there is what is called 'private land' in an estate. Even if there is any private land, I have no hesitation in saying that there are judgments and decisions to the effect that these private

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lands of the zamindar appertain to the zamindari itself. Supposing a zamindar sells away his zamindari to another person, the private lands also go along with it. There is no such property as private or personal property in a zamindari except some lands which are cultivated by hired labour before Act I of 1908, and these lands also are said to belong to the zamindari itself. To say that there are private properties is wrongly conceived.

"Of all the clauses in the Bill, clause 4 is the most important. It contemplates temporary stay of suits and other proceedings which have already been, or which may hereafter be, filed in courts, pending the passing of a comprehensive legislation. I am afraid the clauses as framed are just against the objects and reasons. Suits are filed for recovery of rent, execution proceedings are taken, and possession has to be proceeded with after confirmation of sale which is done after 45 days of sale or after the decision on the irregularity of sale. In a suit for recovery of rent, all these things take more or less three to five years. By the time the decree is executed and the land is got possession of, it is about six years, and there would be a subsequent suit also in respect of the rent on the same land. Stay of proceedings would constitute delay for a further period to no benefit of the ryots. Again, Sir, it looks as if the eviction of tenants benefits the zamindars. How does the zamindar get possession of these lands, I wonder. The Estates Land Act itself provides for this. Extraordinary things take place only when there are no bidders for the land. When bidders for the land are not available, the zamindars have to apply to the Deputy Collector and take permission from the Court to bid in the sale, but these bids are not at all done. I have not come across a case in my estate for a period of 25 years. Actually the purchaser is one of the tenants, or the tenant by the side of the land. He is also a ryot. He bids and takes possession of it. The land goes only to the ryot to consolidate his holdings. By stay of proceedings by this Bill consolidation of holdings is hampered. I cannot understand how the zamindars are benefited by stay of sale or by confirming the sale or purchaser getting into possession of the purchased property. It seriously affects the normal collection of revenue. It seriously hampers the progress of the tenant. The provisions contained in the clauses or the stipulations as in clause 4 are not beneficial to the tenant. If it is beneficial and if it does not involve the ryot in litigation, I would not have chosen to speak at all, because it serves my vested interests. I should like to go on with the normal collection of rent from the tenant without interference. But unnecessary litigation will be introduced into the Court and ill-feeling will be created between the landholder and the ryot without any benefit to either of them. The tenants entertained a hope, in respect of the zamindari legislation, that this popular Government would redeem them and that any Act that might be passed into law would be beneficial to them. Unfortunately, this enactment is certainly not to their benefit. The objects and reasons are very good but the clauses of the bill are contrary to them. I would

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very much like that this Bill is framed to benefit both the landholder and the tenant and should be referred to a Select Committee, so that it may be reviewed and that the various points advanced by the hon. Members here are implemented in it.

"In respect of the ryots' waste lands, forest lands and tank beds, I suppose the Bill does not intend to control the tenancy of those properties also. The food scarcity and the Grow More Food Campaign had leased these lands to the ryots year after year, there are cases where temporary tenancy had been granted and kudivaram rights in such communal lands, which will be to the disadvantage of the villagers themselves, must not be taken as a loophole for continuation of tenancy by this Bill. The citizenship area that is required will be depleted. In respect of the waste lands, tank-beds and other lands, there must not be any suspension of tenancy or confirmation of kudivaram and the provision for evicting the tenants from these lands must be made available. If they intend to do any such thing, it will seriously affect the ryots, give them trouble and involve them in debts on the litigation over the rights of each party. And the zamindars are equally interested in the ryots as the Government themselves and let me on behalf of part of the zamindars assure the House that they want to be part of the Government's duties and responsibilities. In this respect, I may insist on the Hon. Minister for Revenue that it is absolutely necessary to enforce the compulsory survey of the estates and ascertain the permanent porambokes and forests and other things before a Bill of this nature is passed into law. It is just to clear that misunderstanding that will be created by an enactment of this Bill as law that I make this suggestion. Under these circumstances, I would very humbly suggest to the hon. the Member for Revenue to refer this Bill to a select committee and see that the clauses are in conformity with the objects and reasons of the Bill. I would also suggest the hon. Member to set up a committee to implement the liquidation of the zamindaris at least in respect of voluntary offer and bring them at par with the ryotwari system which was the cause of all the turmoil and trouble and inconvenience to the disadvantage of the agriculturists for the last two hundred years. Service in this respect is of great importance to the welfare of the agriculturists and thus to the whole Presidency."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while welcoming the Bill, I like to make the following suggestions so that the objects with which the Bill is moved may be fully justified and effectively put into force. The first defect is that the Bill is going to come into force immediately. With regard to this point I want to bring to the notice of the House that the alienation has begun not to-day but the zamindars have begun alienation since the formation of the last Congress Ministry and even during the last general election the Congress advocated abolition of zamindari system and the zamindars, fearing the Congress might implement their pledges, began alienation of the land since those days. They divided the

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lands and sold away the property by benami sales, sold away to relatives so that they may escape the provisions of the legislation. Thousands of cases can be sighted and ryots gave evidence before Prakasam Committee report. That is why we suggest that a provision may be incorporated giving retrospective effect from the 14th July 1937 in the interests of the tenants and ryots. It is just and proper, Sir, because from that day the alienations have been carried on and it has been mentioned in the Prakasam Committee report. It is therefore necessary that retrospective effect should be given. Then, Sir, there are so many decrees executed against the tenants and the tenants are made to pay these decrees. The zamindars could be compensated by the payment of two years' rent or the decree amount whichever is less. There may be 2, 3 and even 4 decrees against the tenant and the tenant is made to pay so many times the value. Whatever may be the case, two years' value or decree amount whichever is less should be accepted. In this connexion, our friend the Zamindar of Mirzapur said that they are the owners of the lands. In fact, the zamindars are not owners but mere rent collectors. The reply given by the previous Congress Prime Minister was that they are not the owners of the lands but that they are the rent collectors. So they have no hold over the land. Because they failed to collect rent for six or seven years that is no reason why they should pay for these years. Under any circumstance, the zamindars must not have right to collect the smallest amount of any single decree in a number of suits or amount for not more than two years or whichever is less. Next, with regard to depositing the amount, two months are provided. We have received the amendment from the Minister saying the court can sanction time; the case is left to the court. People are troubled with courts and lawyers. It should be mentioned in the Act if suit decrees proceedings are continued, on the failure of the ryot to deposit the amount, the suits should be disposed off if the ryots pay the amount at any time pending the suit. Another point is the Bill provides powers to Government to continue suits. Such reservation of powers are not necessary. Such reservation of powers may prove harmful in the interest of ryots and the authorities may misuse them. With these suggestions I request the Minister for Revenue to take these points into consideration and to see that the objects explained in the Act are fulfilled in the interests of the ryots."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I deem it my duty to compliment the Hon. the Minister for Revenue for his boldness and sagacity in bringing forward this Bill, as a measure of precaution, before preparing a comprehensive legislation for regulating the relations permanently between the landlords and tenants in this Province. I feel, Sir, that an emergency measure like this is really essential and I wholeheartedly give my support to it. All aspects of the question have been taken into consideration in this measure. The Bill provides not only for the rights and interests of the tenants, but also of the landlords. The Bill is really very wholesome in so far as it is intended to prevent any hardships that might be caused to the tenants on

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p.m.

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account of pending suits against the tenants instituted by the landlords to eject them. As the Hon. the Minister for Revenue has revealed to us, the number of such suits pending in the Malabar district is very considerable.

“ Sir, I would also take this opportunity to request the Hon. the Minister for Revenue to consider one or two points in connexion with this Bill. There are tenants who have occupied holdings for generations and have toiled on the land from father to son. It is quite necessary to protect the interests of such tenants. But then there are also some instances where the tenants have come to occupy the land only two or three years ago. There might be tenants who might have been defaulting, for long, the payment of rent. There might also be undesirable elements among the tenants. All these points may be taken into consideration and suitable provisions made.

“ Then, Sir, there are properties belonging to trustees, endowments and religious institutions. I hope, Sir, that the comprehensive legislation that is under contemplation, will contain suitable provisions for governing the relations between these institutions and the tenants. Their work must not be allowed to be hampered for the time being by a piece of legislation like this, though it is intended to be only for an emergency and be in force for a short time. These two points may be taken into consideration and due provisions made in this Bill itself so that these religious institutions, endowments and trustees may not suffer in carrying out their objects and that provision may also be made for immediate eviction of those tenants who have been incorrigible and who have been there only for a very short time without paying any rent to the institutions. These are the points I wish the Hon. the Revenue Minister to consider while seeking to pass this present emergency legislation.

“ I once again compliment the Hon. the Minister for Revenue for bringing forward this Bill and I hope that in the near future he will bring in the comprehensive legislation stabilizing the relations between the landlords and tenants in this Province.”

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, some doubts, some fears, some points for further elucidation or for betterment of the several provisions of the Bill have been made here and there. But I find that there is no need for any apprehension on the score that any injustice will be done either to the tenant or the landlord or that any inequitable dealings will take place between them under the provisions of this Bill. None of the provisions of the Bill will affect the landlord in any manner. On the one hand, the rent payable to the landlord is not lost; and on the other, the condition for the tenants continuing on the land is prescribed and that is by the payment of two years' rent in advance, so that the landlord can have no complaints with regard to the continuance of the occupation of the land by his tenant till such time as this Act is in force. As a matter of fact, several landlords would be glad that by means of this legislation, they would find tenants

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willing to cultivate their lands, because the tenants would have some security of tenure even for the temporary period during which this Bill is to be in force. There are several areas where tenants are afraid to go to the landlords for taking up lands for the purpose of cultivation, simply because there may not be any security of tenure, even for a short period under the landlord. There are also several areas where landlords themselves would find that it would be to their own advantage to get suitable tenants to cultivate their lands by giving some such protection during this period. So, after all, this legislation does not affect the substantive rights either of the tenants or of the landlords in any manner. From the nature of the amendments that have been given notice of, and from the trend of discussions on this Bill, the only thing that I have been able to find is that there is a reasonable feeling in the minds of hon. Members that a person who might simply squat on the land for a day before this date, even though he has never been in the land before, might claim possession of the land and that it might not be possible for the landlord to evict him at all. That fear need not weigh very much with us. I do not think there will be many cases of that kind. But it may be reasonable to fix a time limit that he must be in possession of the land, before he could claim the benefits under this Act. And I think that clause 5 of the Bill makes sufficient provision for vesting power with the Government to protect such cases also. Therefore this is a Bill on which there need be no serious difference of opinion.

“ As for the necessity for the Bill itself, my friends on the Opposition Benches have claimed that it is a very necessary piece of legislation. I therefore submit, Mr. Speaker, that discussions of the various provisions of the Bill need not be prolonged further, because the Bill is acclaimed by all sections of the House.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a mistake in the answer given by me at question time to a question put to me in connexion with the matter of separation of the Andhra Province. Mr. Mohideen Kutti Sahib put the question—

“ ‘ Is it a fact, Sir, that this question was shelved by the Secretary of State for India on the recommendation of the then Governor who was advised against it? ’

I thought that that was all the question and I gave my answer thus—

“ ‘ I should presume so, Sir. ’

My attention was immediately drawn to the fact that the question also contained the following words, viz.—

“ ‘ by the then head of the Government in spite of the resolution of this House. ’

I did not catch those words at that time. Therefore I should like to make the position clear now. My answer ‘ I should presume so, Sir ’ was intended to apply only to the part of the question

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ending with the words 'by the Secretary of State for India on the recommendation of the then Governor.' As I said just now, I did not catch the other words at that time. If those words were there, my answer should have been '*I should not presume so, Sir.*'

"As there was some misunderstanding about this matter, I sent for the question again as taken down by the office—and I presume that the Press also should have taken down like that and I want to correct the proceedings even at this stage. Taking the question as a whole in the form in which it is put in the proceedings, my answer should be—

'I should not presume so, Sir.'

That is to say, the word '*not*' should be added to my answer. That is all I want to bring to the notice of the House even at this stage."

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Jai Hind. Speaker, Sir, I must really congratulate the Hon. the Minister for Revenue for having brought forward this piece of legislation. Of course, this is only a temporary measure. Personally I am not fully satisfied with this measure and I think that most of the hon. members of the House too will not be satisfied with it. Sir, we want a measure abolishing landlordism altogether. Sir, for years and years together the landlords have been harassing the tenants. They have been sucking up the blood of the tenants all these years. They have sucked up all their blood and now, only their bones are remaining. Many families of the tenants have been ruined. The manner in which the zamindars are extracting work greater from the tenants and the way in which they are harassing them at every stage—all these things are very wellknown to us all and they are still continuing. Even to-day in the Estates of Venkatagiri, these things are going on and there are many complaints . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Please do not bring in names."

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"I thank you, Sir. I will leave that matter for the next occasion."

"So this legislation is absolutely essential at this juncture. Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Natesan Chettiar has stated that some of the provisions of the Bill are insufficient and they go only to benefit the zamindars and not the tenants. Of course one of such clauses is, clause 4 (5) which states—

'Where a suit or other proceedings is stayed under sub-section (1), the tenant or ryot shall, so long as this Act is in force, deposit or continue to deposit in court, for payment to the landlord, each year's rent as it accrues due, within a period of two months, etc.'

"This provision is unjust and it must go. Instead there must be inserted the following words:—

'Or may deposit the whole accrued amount in the court at the final settlement or conclusion of the suit.'

"Then, Sir, in opposing this Bill, my hon. Friend the Zamindar of Mirzapuram says that the Zamindars are the owners of these estates."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will please resume his seat. The Hon. the Premier has just risen up."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, at this stage I wish to suggest to my hon. Friend Mr. Kameswara Rao not to go into details of this measure. The details have all been considered fully and hence I would request him to avoid going into details." 12-45 p.m.

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"It is said that they are the owners."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member was requested by the Hon. the Premier to avoid those references."

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Then, Sir, it was said that to-day this legislation might come into force and tomorrow some other legislation to wipe off private property altogether. It is definitely so, Sir. I would remind the hon. Member that those days are not far off. They are very near. When this Government goes out of office or may be during the time of this Government or when a Socialist Government comes in its place, you are going to have legislation confiscating all the zamindaris without compensation."

ZAMINDAR OF MIRZAPURAM:—"We welcome that."

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"This Government is not against abolition of the zamindars. At least some of the Members of this Government are not against such a legislation."

"Then again, it was said that if to-day it is the zamindar's turn, tomorrow it may be another's turn and another's property might be confiscated. Quite so. The mills and the transports and all other private means of production should come under the State. There should be a Socialist State in the country. With these few words I support the Bill."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"In the first place, Sir, I thank hon. Members on behalf of the Government for the welcome uniformly accorded to this measure by all sections of the House. I do not take as a personal compliment the words of praise with which the measure has been greeted. I am only a part of the whole Government and it is the Government that is entitled to the whole credit for this Bill and not myself individually."

"Now, Sir, I will answer the various questions raised by hon. Friends. Some hon. Members who spoke yesterday asked when the main legislation is likely to be introduced and whether the interregnum is likely to be too long. On that point I may say that with regard to the Estates Land Act, it is our intention, if everything goes on as we expect, to bring in legislation at the very next series of sittings of this House, i.e., at the end of October or in November. As regards the Malabar Tenancy Bill, the question has not reached that advanced state. I was in some way connected with the present Act which was before the old Council in 1928-29. I was a member of the Select Committee on

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that Bill at that time. I took also an active interest in the question at that time. I presided over a Tenants' Conference at Pattambi in those days. The hon. Member Mr. Seethi Sahib remarked yesterday, that the Act is one of the most ill-drafted measures introduced in any legislature. He may be right. What happened was that at the time the bill was introduced it seemed to me that nobody had any comprehensive view as to the actual conditions in different parts of Malabar and how the provisions of the Bill would deal with them. Conditions in Malabar, within the district itself, vary from place to place. No one knew how the various provisions affecting the verumpattamdars and others would work. Anyway, much ground has been covered by the committee appointed in 1938. Its report was kept on the shelf during the time of the previous Government, because they were pre-occupied with war and so they decided then not to proceed with that legislation. Now, when we came into office we asked the Board of Revenue to report upon the Committee's findings so as to decide which of the recommendations should be accepted and which not. We have also appointed a special officer to go into this question. My hon. Friends may know that it is not always very easy to forecast the exact time required for all this work. But I can tell hon. Members that I expect this work to be completed in about three to four months. After that is over it is my intention to go through the whole thing and then, if possible to go to Malabar and hear the representations of the various bodies there itself rather than sit here in Madras and ask all the concerned people to come. So it is our intention to bring in this measure in or before February next. Hon. Members from Malabar will, I hope, not consider this interval too long.

"Another point, which was not raised in the House but about which I have been getting lots of telegrams, is the demand for the application or extension of the proposed measure for certain Malayalam areas in the Kasaragode taluk of South Kanara which happens to be my constituency and which, adjoining as it does the Malabar district, has, more or less, the same conditions as in Malabar. I have received a number of telegrams from these people requesting the extension of this Bill to this area also. It is for their information I am now saying that I find difficulty in applying this measure to that area, because, though the conditions are similar, it is difficult to extend this Bill to those areas. It must be remembered that the Malabar Tenancy Act as it stands applies only to Malabar and it is only to Malabar now we have recommended the enactment of this legislation. Therefore until a more elaborate piece of legislation is taken up we cannot extend this legislation for this particular area. So I request those people through this House to have a little patience. When the major measure is brought in and passed by this House, relief will be afforded to them.

"As regards the question of limitation raised yesterday by my hon. Friend Mr. Pocker, I have got the matter examined. As long as there is no stay for the filing of suits by legislation,

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it is not possible to put in a provision whereby periods could be excluded from the normal periods of limitation. If we put in a provision in this Bill saying that nobody shall file suits for two or three years, then it would be a proper thing to put in a provision saying that this period for which we stay should be excluded from the period of normal limitation for the filing of suits. No such thing has been attempted here because it is unnecessary. There is no prohibition for the filing of suits. On the other hand that even without coming to courts it is open to the tenants to go on paying rents and hence no suits need be filed at all. I beg to submit therefore that it is unnecessary to include in this measure a provision for limitation as was suggested.

"Then I come to the criticisms levelled against the main principles of the Bill. Sir, I may frankly submit that it was most difficult for me to understand the view point of my hon. Friend from Dharmapuri, Mr. M. G. Natesa Chettiyar. He said that he represented the ryots' interests and tried to say that the Bill does not go far enough and observed that while the Statement of Objects and Reasons proceeded on certain lines the Bill itself proceeded on different lines. I do not think he takes us to be so dull as not to understand the real implications of what he said. His pleas were very interesting. What he said was this: If you stay the sale of holdings, you will stop the process of consolidation of holdings. He said that the holdings will become bigger and bigger. He thinks probably consolidation of holdings is a very wholesome objective. I do not think that this House can accept that argument. We want to prevent the sale of holdings of existing tenants and ryots. We do not want the process of consolidation to go on now at this time at the cost of tenants. Therefore I do not think his was a serious argument."

(Sri M. G. Natesa Chettiyar rose.)

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It will hamper the tenant, he said. I do not know how. The tenant is given protection. He is allowed to go on but only a provision has been made that he must pay two years' rent for the arrears."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. M. G. Natesa Chettiyar wants to say something by way of personal explanation."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"What I said on the subject was this: The Bill is framed on the assumption that the zamindars are willing to accept its provisions. How could a purchaser be stopped from getting into possession. That is what I said." (Sri T. Viswanatham: "He must explain the explanation, Sir.")

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"This is a supplementary speech and not an explanation. But still I shall deal with it. Mr. Chettiyar said that the sales are going to be effected and that I said that the zamindars are thinking of purchasing the lands. I made no such statement at any time. On the other hand, the position is that the holdings are being brought to sale and coercive processes are being taken. Sir, we have information

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from different parts of the Province that expecting legislation on these lines, these things are going on and even decrees nearly twelve years old and over which the zamindars have slept for a long time are being executed now in haste."

(Sri M. G. Natesa Chettiyar rose).

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I refuse to yield. This is not the question hour, Sir. Mr. Chettiyar said that I did know what 'private land' is. 'Private land' has been defined in section 3, clause 10 of the major Act. I have read the Estates Land Act from beginning to end and I know what I am doing.

"Then, Sir, the hon. Member said that there is food scarcity and that therefore the Bill should be referred to a select committee. I may respectfully tell him that in what he has said there is nothing which necessitates a reference of this Bill to a select committee.

1 p.m. "I now come to the points raised by the Zamindar of Mirzapuram. He said that it will be confiscation, that there is something behind the provision regarding tenants of private holdings and asked whether the same thing would be done with regard to ryotwari holdings also. I understood him to say that if a similar measure was brought forward with regard to ryotwari pattadars he would welcome it. I thought he was serious in what he said. Sir, it is no good at all, this argument of confiscation. We have instituted inquiries over the whole Province with regard to the condition of the agricultural tenants to know what their condition is. With regard to this question of confiscation, I should think that it would be much better if he and his brother zamindars would move with the times. It is too late in the day to say that nothing should be done and that vested interests should be there and that full compensation for everything should be paid. If we read the Act and consider the agreement between the zamindar and the tenants and if the zamindars are held down to their agreement and if we go into past history and the relation between the zamindars and the tenants ever since the Permanent Regulation was passed—I have read the history of the subject and all the important speeches that have been made on it—it will be found that the zamindars have been taking much more than what was rightly due to them, and if we can have a proper accounting from that period, in regard to all such payments, it may be found that the zamindars would have to pay back to the ryots very much more than what they demand as compensation now. Therefore, Sir, the argument of confiscation is rather too late in the day. But I do not wish to go into the question of the quantum of compensation now.

"Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu wanted that the present Bill should go back to 1937 and that retrospective effect should be given to all sales, etc., made since then. I submit that it is out of place in a legislation like this which seeks to preserve the *status quo* and to see that things are as they are to-day; to go back to 1937, and put a provision here to annul all the sales

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will be quite improper; after the report of the Committee was published; there have been cases where grave injustice has been perpetrated. I can assure him that the Government will take note of them and deal with them in the legislation that will be coming up. But such a provision would be too drastic and unnecessary in a piece of legislation like this.

"Then, Sir, some hon. Members have stated that there are some defects in the Bill and I shall just try to dispel their doubts. The hon. Member Mr. Ibrahim asked whether clause 3 was intended to create any right which was not there. There is no intention in this Bill to create rights in people who have no rights as it is. The hon. Member Mr. Hydross asked whether it is intended to protect the tenants of persons who are trespassers. He said that there might be trespassers in Malabar and in the Estates and asked whether it was the intention of the Government to give them rights. I must submit that there is some confusion in this objection, because the word 'tenant' in Malabar has been defined in the Bill as 'tenants in the district of Malabar governed by the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929'. The 'tenant' in Malabar is always a tenant and not a trespasser. Until he is ejected from the holding he continues to be a tenant. Therefore it is not the intention to protect any trespasser on the land under the Malabar Tenancy Act or elsewhere.

"Then Sir, the hon. Member Mr. Natesa Chettiyar asked 'Is it your intention to protect trespassers on waste lands or communal lands?' I submit, Sir, that whoever is a tenant under the two Acts alone will be given protection under this Bill."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"On a matter of information, may I know whether in the case of people who have taken communal lands for cultivation under the Grow More Food Campaign under an agreement for one or two years, they also will have any rights?"

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"My hon. Friend cannot have it both ways. If he has made an agreement with regard to communal lands in the guise of Grow More Food Campaign, I use the words 'in the guise of' purposely—then I should point out that under the provisions of sections 3, 20-A and 21 of the Estates Land Act, all assignments of communal lands are invalid unless they are made with the permission of the Collector."

(At this stage Mr. M. G. Natesa Chettiyar rose in his place.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Unless the hon. Member wants to raise any point of order, I would ask him not to disturb the Hon. Minister when he is speaking."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"If the hon. Member wants to elicit any information, I think he might wait patiently for some time and not interrupt me at the end of every sentence.

"I would therefore say that with regard to these communal lands, there is no such idea of giving the occupant any right. It is only if he is a tenant under the Act that he will get the

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benefit. Assigning of communal lands for the Grow More Food Campaign is against the provisions of the Estates Land Act and should not have been done without the permission of the Government.

"Another question was asked by my hon. Friend Mr. Ibrahim whether suits for rents alone will be stayed. Under clause 4, it is not this class of suits which will be stayed. It is only suits which involve eviction of the tenant and suits in which the holding of the tenant is attempted to be brought to sale in the course of proceedings for payment of rent, that will come under this section. If it is a question of mere rent suit and if there is no question of the sale of holdings, there is nothing to prevent the execution proceedings from going on.

"Another point was raised, Sir, with regard to the difficulty of paying rents within two months of the institution of suits. I think that point was raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig. I find that there is a lacuna and I have proposed an amendment to fill up the omission. Often times when suits are instituted, the defendants avoid the notices for sometime and sometimes the plaintiffs manage to see that the defendants do not get the notice. Necessary drafting amendments will be proposed to provide that in all cases the Courts are given the power to give the necessary time.

"The hon. Member Mr. Hydross also asked why people should be compelled to go to the lawyers and deposit the amount in courts even when there are no suits. That is a misconception, Sir. What is intended is that there should be payment through courts only when suits are filed. There is nothing to prevent a tenant from sending the amount by money order till the suit is filed. There is no compulsion whatever for him to go to the court for depositing the rent even before the suits are filed.

"With regard to the payment of rent, my hon. Friend Mr. Baig raised the question what would happen if the amount is paid and then there is some dispute whether the money should be paid or not. I have taken note of the point and to remedy the defect I have brought the necessary amendments to-day.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Pocker asked: 'What is the idea of section 5 of the Act; why have you taken power?' Sir, there may be cases in which there may be hardship. As I suggested yesterday, there may be private lands of a few acres only in regard to which it may not be necessary for a general stay order. There may be other cases of waste by the tenants. The proviso to clause 4 (1) (b) refers to the prevention of wilful waste by the tenant or any person claiming under him. There may also be cases where we may consider that the interim relief is unnecessary. We have therefore taken power so that in cases where it is found that by reason of the provision of a general stay, injustice is being done to any class of people, the stay may be cancelled. It is difficult to foresee all classes of cases which may arise in

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future and which may have to be dealt with. I submit, that I have tried to deal with the various objections raised in view of the fact that this measure is required for meeting present situation, I would request the House to pass the motion before it."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Hon. Minister to give us an idea of what is meant by the word 'unnecessary' in the proviso to clause 6. I understand what is meant by 'vexatious,' but I want to know what is really meant by 'unnecessary.'"

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"If there is no fear of the suit being barred, if it is found that the suit need not have been filed at all, that there was still time to file it, in such cases, the suit is filed, it is in these cases that discretion is left to the Court to award costs."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the Hon. Minister mean that a suit may be filed only in a case where it would be barred otherwise?"

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is not for me to give an interpretation. Such a provision as this is found in other Acts also. It says:

'Provided that in the case of a suit instituted after the commencement of this Act, the Court may, if satisfied that such suit is vexatious or unnecessary, deprive the plaintiff of his costs and award costs to the defendant.'

It would be wrong on my part to give an interpretation. I leave it to the discretion of the Court and if the Court finds that a suit need not have been instituted at all, that it is vexatious or unnecessary, then the plaintiff will not be awarded his costs and the defendant will be awarded his costs."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want to know whether there will be any harm done to anybody if that word 'unnecessary' is omitted."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"This word is not considered necessary. The suit may be a vexatious suit or it may be an unnecessary suit. The two words carry different meanings altogether."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The motion before the House is that the Bill be taken into consideration."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was taken clause by clause.

Clause 1.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I move that—
'in sub-clause (4) of clause 1, in line 3, for the word "su" the article "a" be substituted.'

This is only a drafting amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member the Raja of Venkigiri will now move his amendment."

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1-15
p.m.

* RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI:—"Sir, I move that—
'after the words "no tenant of any private land," the words
"who have been continuously in occupation of the same
land for at least two years" be inserted.'

"In the course of general discussion, Sir, very alarming fears were given expression to by my Friend the Zamindar of Mirzapuram and certain unjustified observations and generalizations were made by members belonging to the party in power. I consider, Sir, that any party that is returned to power has got the sovereign right to modify the relations governing the various economic and social sections of society. At the same time, Sir, it is the bounden duty of . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Raja Sahib, I think there is some mistake. Your amendment is to clause 3 and not to clause 1 which we are now considering. You are moving an amendment to clause 3, I am afraid. We are now in clause 1."

* RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI:—"I think, Sir, you were pleased to call me to move my amendment. That is why I am moving it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is there any other amendment to clause 1?"

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"No."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will now put clause 1 as amended to the vote of the House."

Clause 1 as amended was put and carried.

Clause 2.

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 3.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I beg to move, Sir—
'that in clause 3, sub-clause (b), for the words "no holding or land of a ryot or tenant," the words "no holding of a tenant or ryot" shall be substituted.'

"The reason is that the words 'or land of a ryot' are not correct, and this is only a drafting amendment. The same amendment comes also under clause 4."

The amendment was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Raja of Venkatagiri may now move his amendment."

* RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI:—"Sir, I move that—
'after the words "no tenant of any private land" and before the words "in an estate," the words "who has been continuously in occupation of the same land for at least two years" shall be inserted.'

"As I was submitting to the House, the duty of holding the scales even between various sections and recognizing what factors

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do really stand out as obstacles to the progress of the country, which shall be removed, and the manner in which those obstacles should be removed, and also the consideration that has to be given to the various classes affected by this measure, all rest on the party in power. The object with which I have given notice of this amendment is this: since private lands were not—if I am not mistaken—contemplated to be affected by the legislation proposed by my Hon. Friend T. Prakasam Garu in 1938 and since there may not therefore be immediate urgency for making this Bill applicable to private lands, and as the Hon. Minister for Revenue has told us that he contemplates bringing forward legislation dealing with this tenancy problem and as nothing much is lost before that period, I have given notice of this amendment. Further, Sir, private lands have got a different and peculiar character of their own. You will find in the Estates Land Act the definition of private land as land leased out prior to 1896 as private land and cultivated for a period of twelve years prior to 1908. Such lands were classified as private land. Even at the time of the passing of the Act of 1908, all the implications were taken into consideration and sufficient safeguards were provided. These private lands stand on quite a different footing. They bear all the legalistic and economic characteristics of ryotwari lands and are different from jirayati land. As such, I fail to see why these private lands should also be dealt with pending the settlement of the main question, when I expect the Ministry would take us also into their confidence and tell us how we are mistaken and why the private lands also should be converted into ryoti land.

"Sir, my Hon. Friend Mr. Karanth asked the zamindars to move with the times. Whether we are willing or not, the times are moving. There are several zamindars who recognize that their safety and security lie in moving with the times. But at the same time, the strong instinct of preservation of property which is inherent in every individual, compels us to plead with the Ministry, and to request them to tell us how and why we should concede various things.

"As regards the quantum of compensation that is to be given whenever any item of property is acquired, that is, a matter into which I need not go now. My friend the Raja of Mirzapuram predicted that not only the zamindars but also the other interests would be deprived of their properties without compensation. Well, Sir, whether they get or not, is quite another matter, and I need not take up the time of this House on those matters, as this measure only has a limited application. As I was saying, the question of compensation and what the zamindars should concede and sacrifice are all matters which we need not go into just now. Suffice it to say that we plead and earnestly represent to the Ministry that they must be just. Of course you have got the governmental strength and the strength, if I may so describe, of a giant, but that strength has to be used as an angel would use, for purposes of removing injustice. I quite recognize . . ."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may continue his speech after lunch."

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

* RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI:—"Sir, I was submitting to the House that the legalistic character of these lands called private lands—their historical as well as economic nature—is different from the jirayati lands. Therefore, I was wondering why they should be dealt with in the manner suggested in the Bill. Sir, when the time comes, that is, when the tenancy reform is before the House, this question may be taken up by the Ministry. I understand that position, Sir. But at the same time, I think these lands should be treated differently from the jirayati lands for the reason that since these lands were treated as private lands even prior to the year 1898 and several landlords purchased and alienated these lands. In this connexion, Sir, I may be permitted to make a personal submission; I happen to be one of the landholders who would not be affected to a great extent by this measure, but anyway, it is my duty to suggest this amendment, as the representative of the landholders and as one who would like to see that any measure that is passed by this House should do justice to all the interests concerned. In my opinion, Sir, this amendment, irrespective of the decision that may be taken by the Government at a later stage in regard to private lands, would place these private lands in a somewhat different category in view of the fact that only tenants who have occupied these lands for a period of two years would have the benefit of not being evicted by this measure. It also seeks to recognize the *bona fide* character of the persons who can claim immunity from eviction. It is with these objects, Sir, that I have moved this amendment, and particularly in view of the fact that these private lands do not differ in essential respects from lands held by large landowners in other ryotwari tracts. With these words, Sir, and with apologies to the House for having taken up so much of the time on this amendment, I commend this to the consideration of the House and the Hon. the Revenue Minister."

Mr. W. J. FERNANDEZ seconded the amendment.

The amendment was put and lost.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I move the amendment standing in my name, Sir, I wish to say that I have carefully listened to the explanation offered by Hon. Revenue Minister and especially when he said that if retrospective effect to this measure were given effect to, it will bring radical change in the position, but I may say that I am not at all satisfied with the assurance or the reply given by the Hon. Minister because I find that even from the Congress benches there is a great demand for the complete abolition of the zamindari system and without payment of even compensation. In these circumstances, Sir, I do not see how even if retrospective effect is given, it will make a radical change in the existing position. That is why I am for pressing this amendment. You know, Sir, that during the

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previous Congress Ministry, the zamindars apprehending a measure for the abolition of zamindaris, began alienating their lands. If the Hon. Minister is really anxious to do justice to the tenants and ryots, he should immediately bring in a measure to give retrospective effect; otherwise, he cannot do full justice because even from the time the Congress published their election manifesto for the abolition of the zamindari system, they began to resort to alienation in favour of their friends as well as relatives. In this respect, if proof is needed, I can quote instances from the Prakasam Committee Report itself.

"There is another point, Sir, the zamindars, while alienating the lands, may even sell away lands in their possession to small tenants; I refer to tenants in possession of about five acres and less and their right should be safeguarded by this measure. They must not be deprived of their bit of land. That is why I am moving this amendment.

"Then Sir, in regard to giving retrospective effect to this measure, I may say that because the abolition of zamindaris was not taken up during 1937 when the previous Congress Government was in office, we find that the peasants being evicted from their lands. For example, Talatampuramutta in North Vizagapatam district, there was a case of arrears of rent accumulating for over twenty years and the zamindars got decrees in courts for realizing the arrears and the result was they began selling the lands. In view of the reasons set forth above, I request the Hon. Minister to accept my amendment without any reservation so that justice may be done to the tenant. The amendment runs as follows:—

'After clause 3, insert the following as clause 3-A:—

"3-A. Any alienation of any part of private lands exceeding five acres by any single landlord to any single transferee of any private lands in the estates governed by the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908, made on or after 14th July 1937 shall be null and void and such private lands and every part thereof shall be deemed to continue to possess the character of private land so far as the provisions of this Act are concerned."

"On a point of information, Sir. May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is prepared to accept my amendment?"

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 3 as amended was put and carried.

Clause 4.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I beg to move that in clause 4 (1) (b)—

'for the words "holding or land of a ryot or tenant" the words "holding of a tenant or ryot" shall be substituted.'

"This is on the same line as the previous amendment that was carried in clause 3."

The amendment was put and carried.

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* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"This amendment is based on the same principle of my previous amendment and so I do not want to make any speech on its except to say this, Sir. There are a great number of decrees against tenants and their cases also should be taken into consideration. The Hon. the Revenue Minister in his statement made by him this morning promised that the cases of these people also would be carefully dealt with but in view of the fact that there is no provision in the Bill, I do not know how he is going to implement it. I therefore request the Hon. Minister to see that the principle is incorporated in the Bill. With these words, Sir, I move my amendment. It runs as follows:—

'Renumber sub-clause (1) to clause 4 as 4 (1) (i) and add the following at the end:—

"(ii) Every sale made on or after 14th July 1937 of the holding or the land of a ryot or tenement in execution of a decree for rent shall be voidable at the instance of the ryot or tenant who was in possession of such land before such sale.

(iii) Such sale shall be set aside on the petition of such ryot or tenant filed before the expiry of the two months from the date of the commencement of this Act provided that the said ryot or tenant shall pay into Court along with such petition the entire decree amount for the recovery of which such sale was held or the rent for two years and any amount which he may have received out of of the proceeds of such sale:

Provided further that every bona fide purchaser of such holding or land at such sale shall be enlisted for compensation payable by the landlord decree-holder.

(iv) (a) Where any tenant or ryot of any holding or land has been evicted from such holding or land on or after 14th July 1937 such ryot or tenant shall be entitled to receive possession of such holding or land except from bona fide purchasers for consideration.

(b) Every ryot or tenant who shall have been let into possession of such holding or land after eviction mentioned in sub-clause (iv) (a) above shall be entitled to receive from the landlord compensation for the damage incurred by such ryot or tenant as a result of the recovery of possession by the original ryot or tenant under sub-clause (iv) (a)."

The amendment fell through for want of a seconder.

Clause 4 (2).

* RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI:—"I am not moving my amendment, Sir."

Clause 4 (3).

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I move—

'that in line 3 of sub-clause (3) of clause 4, the words "or land" be omitted.'"

The amendment was put and carried.

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* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I move—

'that in line 6 of sub-clause (3) of clause 4, for the words "or rent for two years," the words "or an amount equivalent to rent for two years" be substituted.'"

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 4 (4).

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I move the following amendment:—

'For sub-clause (4) of clause 4, the following shall be substituted:—

"(4) Notwithstanding the expiry of the period specified in sub-section (2) or sub-section (3), the Court may, if satisfied that the tenant was prevented by sufficient cause from making the deposit within the period aforesaid, allow the deposit to be made within a specified period not exceeding one month and may extend it by such period or periods not exceeding one month in the aggregate, as it thinks fit."

"The object of this, Sir, is that in cases where the tenant is not served with a notice or he has no knowledge of the institution of the suit, the discretion is given to the Court under this provision to give him time in proper cases."

The amendment was put and carried.

* RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI:—"I am not moving the amendment that stands in my name, Sir."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Since I have no seconder, may I know whether I have no right to move my amendment?"

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, it may depend upon the speech that he makes whether he will get a seconder or not."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I move the amendment standing in my name—

"At the end of clause 4 (3), the following proviso shall be added:—

"Provided that whenever a landlord may have more than one decree or order of eviction against the same ryot or tenant in respect of any one holding the aggregate amount that the ryot or tenant shall have to pay under this section for all such decrees shall not exceed in any event the rent for two years."

"The main purpose of this amendment is to protect the tenant or the ryot in cases where there are two decrees against him in respect of any one holding. I do not know whether the Hon. Minister has considered this aspect of the question because it is a very vital matter. If this amendment is not accepted, it will create hardship on those people. I therefore earnestly appeal to the Hon. Minister to accept this amendment."

The amendment fell through for want of a seconder.

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Clause 4 (6).

* RAJA OF VENKATAGIRI :—" I am not moving my amendment, Sir."

Clause 4 (7).

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" I move my amendment, Sir :—

' At the end of clause 4 (7), the following proviso shall be added :—

" Provided that if at any time after the Court shall have begun to proceed with the suit execution proceedings or other proceedings as the case may be, the ryot or tenant pays into court the amount or amounts contemplated in sub-sections (2) and (3) of section 4 above then and in every such case the said suit execution proceedings or other proceedings as the case may be shall be stayed automatically."

The amendment fell through for want of a seconder.

Clause 4 (8).

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" My amendment is—
' Sub-clause (8) of clause 4 shall be renumbered as sub-clause (9) and the following shall be inserted as sub-clause (8) :—

" (8) Where a deposit has been made under sub-section (2) or sub-section (5) and there is a dispute in regard to the rate of rent or the existence of the arrears of rent or the amount thereof, the court may—

(i) refuse to pay to the landlord the whole of the amount deposited or, as the case may be, the portion thereof, which is in dispute; or

(ii) direct the payment of the same to the landlord on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit."

" This amendment is brought forward to meet the main objections raised by some hon. Members yesterday under sub-sections (2) and (5), namely, that if money is deposited for payment to the landlord and there is a dispute, the amount need not be lying idle in the court or the landlord walking away, and if there is no dispute, proper safeguards may be taken and orders passed."

The amendment was put and carried.

New Clause 4-A.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" I move that the following be added as new clause 4-A :—

' 4-A. Notwithstanding anything contained in section 4, the landlord shall not be entitled to the payment of any amount paid into court under section 4 above when the amount due to him as and for rent is under dispute in the proceedings until and unless such dispute is finally settled and the amount due to the landlord is ascertained.'

" The amendment is by itself self-explanatory and it does not require any further speech from me."

The amendment fell through for want of a seconder.

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* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" I move—

' that for existing sub-clause (8) of clause 4 renumbered as sub-clause (9) the following be substituted :—

" (8) The provisions of sub-sections (1) to (8) shall apply mutatis mutandis to all proceedings pending at the commencement of this Act or instituted thereafter, in any court of appeal or revision."

" This is only a verbal amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 4 as amended was put and carried.

Clause 5.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" Mr. 3 p.m. Speaker, I move—

' that the clause be deleted.'

I think that the powers asked for are extraordinary powers and it is also unnecessary to give them such powers. When I asked why such powers are needed no explanation was offered and hence I move for the deletion of the clause."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR :—" I second the motion. My reason is that I do not want any class of tenants or landlords should be hovering about the Secretariat trying to persuade the Minister to see that this provision does not apply. I fear there will be a lot of misunderstanding in the country and there might be charges of favouritism levelled against the Government. I suggest that whatever exemptions are needed might be given in the Act itself. In that event, they will avoid a lot of trouble and people will know where they stand with regard to their rights. In any legislation there should be some definiteness and the Government should not be given executive authority to exercise powers in a way which may be considered to be not just especially when there are party Governments. I know there are difficulties because according to the latest Estates Land Act whole inam villages have been classified as estates and there are hundreds of shareholders who get for their share five, two and even one acre. There are other cases where estates are impartible. Even though a person may be called the zamindar he will be entitled to only five or ten acres. In such cases, exemption can be rightly given and I cannot oppose the grant of exemption in such cases. But my point is that a definite rule to the effect that this provision does not apply to an inamdar or landholder who owns five or ten acres, may be made instead of saying that certain class of person will be exempted. I can understand a rule to that effect. I do not want that the Government should be given powers to exempt this or that class of persons. It is not a sound principle. If there is any necessity for exemption, this is not the way how to do it; it should be done by means of a definite provision in the Act itself. I, therefore, support the amendment moved by my hon. Friend."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. Speaker, it was pointed out by me yesterday that there should be some definiteness about

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the powers that the Government want in order that people might know where they stand. The Hon. Minister attempted to explain the position; but I am sorry to say that he did not indicate definitely the lines on which powers given under this Act are going to be exercised by Government. I entirely agree with my hon. Friend Mr. Mahaboob Ali Baig that there should be some definiteness about it for if great power is left in the hands of the Government it is very unsafe and people will not know where they stand and what matters they may expect interference by the Government by means of orders. They could have indicated in the Bill itself as to what class of cases it is intended to apply. In so far as there is no such definiteness and no such indication is given as to what class of cases it will apply, I support the amendment."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI :—" Mr. Speaker, if we simply go into the nature of the Bill, we shall find that it is an emergency legislation in which we are trying to save a whole class of tenants, whether they are legally in possession of the lands covered by this legislation or not, from being evicted even though under the ordinary law, their eviction would be permitted. In this emergency legislation, it will not be possible to lay down a list of all those hard cases wherein the application of this Act would be harmful or detrimental, or in some cases even cruel. It is for the purpose of covering such cases that the Government should have reserve powers to enunciate certain principles so as to bring in some class or hard cases for relief against the rigours of this emergency legislation. One instance has been given by the Hon. the Minister for Revenue and it has been referred to by my hon. Friend Mr. Mahaboob Ali Baig. There are several cases of hardship under the Estates Land Act. Private lands have been turned into garden lands by a landholder or a small inamdar and the landholder puts this in possession of another person to be taken care of or under a contract or wages or share of the produce. This man may to-morrow say: 'I am the tenant of this land and I should have all my rights.' There are several instances of this kind. In such cases the Government must be ready to give relief in cases where people will set up rights which are not even strictly moral. Therefore, I say that a power of this kind should be reserved to the Government and the clause is an appropriate one and in an emergency legislation such as this, it is absolutely necessary."

* MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Mr. Speaker, even granting that there are circumstances under which such powers may be necessitated, I do not understand in what cases the Provincial Government will be satisfied that the powers could and should be exercised. It does not find a place in the Bill as it is framed. It says that in any contingency the Government may order the case to proceed from the stage where it was stayed. I ask why this power should not be given to the courts in which the cases are pending. Why should the Government take these powers? Have the Government lost confidence in their courts as they have lost confidence in the people who have been manning local boards and municipalities or is it out of their lust for power? I say that this provision is not at all necessary and even if it is

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necessary the power could have been given to courts by suitable amendments in the earlier sections. I, therefore, support the motion."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" Mr. Speaker, I oppose the motion which is in the nature of a motion opposing the motion that the clause do stand part of the Bill which is before the House. I would submit that the apprehensions of the last speaker are quite unfounded and it is a charge which has no real basis. He seems to say that our lust for power is so much that we have no confidence in the courts and so on. I am afraid he is using strong words on an occasion which does not require them. We have the highest respect for our courts. I do not think that the class of ryots and tenants for whose benefit this legislation is enacted would themselves like if in each individual case there should be lengthy arguments depending upon individual discretion in each case whether there should be a stay or not, rather than that the discretion or power might be vested in the Government so that it might be used in any particular class of cases. I can understand the objections of my hon. Friend Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig and Mr. Pocker that in a case like this it is much better to have all such provisions incorporated in the Bill rather than having power in the hands of the Government. Ordinarily it would be the case and nobody would like the idea of people having to come up and approach Government for this. I can assure them that there is neither lust for power nor want of confidence in the courts. We have to remember that this is an emergency legislation and we have not had full time to consider the various class of cases where the stay order may affect. The case of inams which my hon. Friend Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig mentioned is one such. It is likely to hit a large number of cases; it is not enough if you merely put it one class of cases. If we could tell all the classes of cases new we could as well put them into the Bill. For want of sufficient time on account of the emergency nature of the measure, it has not been possible. My hon. Friends are too suspicious of any power being given to anybody. They have been exhibiting that state of mind all along and I only request them not to suspect everybody and all the time."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 5 was put and carried.

Clause 6 was put and carried.

New Clause 7.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH :—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

'that after clause 6, the following clause be added :—

" 7. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Provincial Government may, as occasion may arise, by order do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty."

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"Sir, this clause stands on the same par as the previous clause, and it is only to resolve any difficulty that may arise hereafter, which it is not possible to foresee now, that it is introduced. I hope hon. Members will not repeat the same old arguments in opposing it."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of strong condemnation from this side of the House of the methods that are being adopted by this Government to arm themselves with great powers in anything and everything, I am really sorry that the Government persist in the same kind of attitude. I oppose this clause not on the ground that they are doing this for lust of power; I oppose this on the ground that it is bad legislation. On sound principles of legislation it is not advisable to have such clauses. As a matter of fact, if the Government want, they can themselves do justice without resort to legislation. Why should we all undergo all this trouble of legislation. If only the Members of the Treasury Bench would look into the records, while they were in Opposition, they will find that they were opposing similar measures tooth and nail. But once they come into power, they forget all that and do the same thing which they were once condemning. I know my cry is a cry in the wilderness: it is all waste of words and energy. (Laughter.) And I will add this one more word of waste of energy." (Laughter.)

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I am sorry I have to oppose Government in this amendment also. The Hon. Minister for Law will know that such provisions in legislation take away the right of the Legislature and also the power of the courts. This clause will give power to the executive to be the sole judge of circumstances to pass executive orders. Such a thing is unheard of in democratic countries. I am sure, unless they say, 'We are the people's representatives, so whatever we do as Government must be considered to be good and must be considered to have been passed on behalf of the people irrespective of the fact whether it has legislative sanction or not,' this clause cannot be justified. I submit this sort of legislation ought to be deprecated and not allowed on sound principles. Why should not Government lay down in the Bill itself the circumstances under which exemptions should be made. At this rate, as some one of my hon. Friend put it, no legislation is necessary and no courts are necessary. I hope Government will consider this matter, consult their legal officers, consult lawyers—and there are some already among them—before they seek to bring forward this clause. It is high time that the Congress Government retrace their step or at least, in future they will think twice before they bring in any legislation giving abundant powers to the executive."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, up till now, my friends of the legal profession came forward to oppose Government taking wide powers without reference to the Legislature. Sir, I have noticed that there is always a tendency on the part of the Government to have certain reserve powers. Such reserve powers there ought to be. But there is

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a limit to that. Reserve powers should be there to meet emergencies and hard cases. But in the present Bill a very wide power is sought to be given to the executive. My hon. Friends have been crying hoarse against ordinances and executive orders issued during the Advisers' Government, and condemned them with all the vehemence of arguments in the strongest possible terms. Now, when they have come into office, it is better for them to recall what they said regarding those things. Here, in this Bill, they seek to take very wide powers. The Hon. Law Member intends to bring forward shortly a Bill to separate the Executive from the Judiciary. When that is the case, what is the principle of Government now bringing forward an omnibus clause in the present Bill? How can they mete out justice to the people? May I know which influential class of people they want to exclude by the provision of this clause? Are they the inamdars, who I know are a very powerful class of people? If that is not their intention why not they come forward and tell us that this provision is required to meet specific emergencies. In another Bill, a schedule of articles was given mentioning the articles to be affected by that measure. Similarly, why cannot they specify the cases in which the provisions of this clause will be exercised? Instead of so making the clause definite, they make a lot of assumptions, which, it is common knowledge, in the past ministry, in other Bills, led to a lot of litigation. Sir, I once again ask the Hon. Law Member, who, I suppose, is responsible for this legislation, to tell us, whether he will carry his ideology to separate the executive from the judiciary to the extreme extent, or is he only going to tinker with it. Does he want to separate the executive from the judiciary only in one place and not in all spheres of administration? I therefore hope that the Government will agree to delete the present clause."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not want to intervene in this debate but for the fact some members of this House made me to. It must be remembered that this legislation is a legislation to meet some extraordinary circumstances. It is really temporary in character and with limitations. It cannot be said that we are dealing with things of permanent value. We are not now permanently settling the relation between landlords and tenants. But with a view to settle hereafter that we are bringing in this legislation and no more. There may be some points of view which have not been touched upon in the course of legislation. It is not possible really to anticipate the ingenuity of all the parties who are concerned here either landlords, zamindars, and tenants. It is for the purpose of satisfying the interests not only of zamindars but others also this clause has been brought forward. In respect of this matter it is necessary that the Government must be armed with powers for the purpose of meeting any difficulty that might arise in this legislature, unforeseen at this time. Therefore, this amendment has been brought in by the Government itself. I submit, Sir, that so far as this amendment is concerned, there is nothing extraordinary which is intended to arm Government with any extraordinary powers. It may also be noted such claim is generally found in all modern legislation.

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p.m.

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It may be said from the ideal point of view that this legislation should not be there for the purpose of giving powers to Government. You will find such a provision in the Agricultural Debt Relief Act and in the Sales Tax Act also. I submit that it is not an extraordinary thing that we are asking; but it is only to put the legislation through and also to work it. I must say further, Sir, the idea is not to arm ourselves with all powers, because there are limitations in the very amendment itself. Such powers are only as necessary for the purpose of putting into effect the provisions of the Act. It has been said that it is a beneficial measure and members also have accepted it as a beneficial measure. After all Government have come forward with this legislation for the benefit of the tenant. That must be taken to mean that they have the interests of the tenant at heart. There are no people behind Government for whose benefit this clause is brought forward. That very idea is grotesque. I submit, Sir, so far as this amendment is concerned, it is one absolutely necessary for the purpose of putting into effect the various beneficial provisions of this Act."

New clause 7 was put and carried.

Preamble.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'that in the Preamble in line 4 for the words "sale of holding or lands" the words "sale of the holdings" shall be substituted, and in line 6 the words "of holdings" shall be omitted.'

"This is only a verbal amendment, Sir."

The amendments were put and carried.

The Preamble, as amended, was put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I beg to move, Sir—
'that the Bill be passed into law.'"

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say a word on this measure. It is very unfortunate that I have to make this comment on the eve of passing a measure, which we all welcome very much. The fact is that, I want to point out to Government, they are making us despondent. In fact, when I just finished my speech, some hon. Member from the other side was telling me 'do not be despondent.' But telling us 'do not be despondent' is not enough. If he were in my position, he would have long ago become despondent. I am yet to see one instance in which a reasonable suggestion from this side has been accepted by the Government. ('Hear, hear.') Leave alone cases which involve communal considerations. We are communalists, we stand by it, and we swear by it. But here,

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these are instances affecting the common interests of all concerned—about which there can be no difference of opinion—and when we make suggestions, the soundness of our suggestions is not considered by Government. Unfortunately, it is all ignored, perhaps, on the assumption that we are veteran enemies and that we are incapable of making sound and proper suggestions. I would only appeal to Government to look at us from a different point of view. As regards party interests, no doubt, we may have communal considerations. But on other matters, let them think that we also have the capacity to give suggestions. Let them look at our suggestions and treat us in that way."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I submit, Sir, that the suggestion that reasonable amendments coming from the Opposition or anything of that sort—as was spoken by the hon. Member—are not accepted, is not well-founded. On the other hand, when several suggestions were made yesterday, I looked into them, and to-day, in response to them, I have brought forward amendments. If, however, my hon. Friend always takes that depressed view that whatever comes from that side will not be accepted, I can only ask him to be more optimistic. We always look for suggestions emanating from that side. But there is something wrong in a frame of mind, which speaks in the way it has been done."

The motion was put and carried.

III. THE MADRAS PRESERVATION OF PRIVATE FORESTS BILL, 1946.

A Bill to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of private forests and interference with customary and prescriptive rights therein and for certain other purposes.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to introduce the Bill to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of private forests and interference with customary and prescriptive rights therein and for certain other purposes and prove that it be referred to a Select Committee. Instead of having the Bill considered at once, in response to the suggestions made by the Leader of the Opposition, and other Members from that side, we are acceding to the request to have this Bill referred to a Select Committee. Therefore, here is the very first occasion when they can understand that useful suggestions coming from them are responded to.

"With regard to the need for this Bill, Sir, I do not want to take much time of the House because even during the debates on the budget, with regard to forests and the zamindari question, it came from almost every side of the House that there has been going on destruction and denudation of forests all over the Province, particularly in the zamindari areas and in Malabar, to an extent which was undesirable,* and that an emergency measure of this type was necessary. In fact, at that stage the Hon. Prime Minister and myself, during those debates, assured the House that we would very soon bring in a measure of this sort.

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With regard to the need for this measure, Sir, there cannot be much doubt and I hope this House will accord to it the same support as it did to the last measure.

“As regards the destruction of the forests, I may say, Sir, that about 1938–39, a report was made by the Committee appointed by the last Congress Government—I mean the Prakasam Committee Report, which was laid before the then legislature—in which, so far as the estate land areas were concerned, very important recommendations were made, namely, that these forests and communal lands belonged to the people and the villagers as a whole, and are not the property to be dealt with and destroyed as it pleased the zamindars. This aspect has been fully dealt with in particular, Sir, at pages 147 and 148 of that report. Since then what has happened, Sir, is that there has been going on a destruction of forests in zamindari areas to an extent which would not be in the interests of any State to tolerate. With reference to communal lands also such a treatment has gone on. I understand that in the village of Avidi, in the East Godavari district, even the pathways have been alienated by the zamindar. This will show the extent to which some of these gentlemen have gone. In the district of Chittoor, I have gone several miles into the forests to see the utter destruction. These are forests in which people and the ryots have every right and the zamindars cannot sell and dispose them of as they like. Naturally, this interregnum after the report has been utilized in selling away the trees and forest growth to an extent unheard of. If I may say so, with my little experience, districts like Chittoor would get exposed to famine in no time, if existing conditions continue. I shall mention, Sir, what I saw sometime back in the zamindari of Kangundi near Kuppam. I have gone ten to twelve miles into the forest and saw that there has been a wholesale cutting off of the forest growth. For the last eight or ten years this process has been going on in that forest. If one only knows the previous history of the Ceded districts, he will know how the destruction of the forests has brought about want of rain and famine in its wake. I feel that unless very stringent measures are taken regarding these forests, there is very little hope for the people or for agriculture in the areas concerned. The same process, if I may say so, is going on also in the private forests in the district of Malabar about which my hon. friends on that side might be able to speak with more experience than mine. It is also true in my own district of South Kanara. But in Malabar, because most of the forests are in the hands of private owners and on account of the peculiar law and custom in that place jennmis who become karnams want to derive the maximum benefit within the shortest time. These are facts known to hon. Members. The result is that every sort of contract has been given, timber has been cut and the destruction is going on on a very large scale.

“The previous Government appointed a Conservator of Forests, Mr. Sathe, to go into the question of destruction of forests in all parts of the Province including the Government forests and

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he has reported in 1945 giving a very deplorable state of affairs of the forests all over and recommending that stringent measures should be undertaken. It is with this consideration and in these circumstances that this Bill has been brought.

“As has been already stated with regard to a previous Bill also, the idea is to protect the forests concerned, chiefly the forests in the zamindari areas and the forests in Malabar and not to allow them to be destroyed in this manner, pending major legislation on the subject. This Bill takes power to prevent the indiscriminate cutting of trees therein. In clause 4, certain civil and criminal proceedings are sought to be stayed. This is because it has been brought to the notice of Government that in certain estates the usual and customary rights of ryots for the removal of fuel and other agricultural requirements are being interfered with, that hundreds of suits have been filed, and that there is going on a war as it were between the landholders and the ryots. In all these cases, it is intended to stay the proceedings, pending comprehensive legislation. A safeguard has been taken to see that the normal interests of agriculture or for domestic purposes are not in any way interfered with.

“I do not think that is necessary for me to take up more time of this House because the Government are agreeable to refer this Bill to a Select Committee so that, if there are any defects, they may be rectified. With regard to the names of Members of the Select Committee, I have given you, Sir, a list and I shall read it. I have tried to see that every interest is represented, so that whatever suggestions the members may have to make, may be made in the Select Committee itself. The members are—

- (1) Hon. the Premier.
- (2) Hon. Sri K. R. Karanth.
- (3) K. M. Seethi Sahib Bahadur.
- (4) Kader Kutti Sahib Bahadur.
- (5) Sri Linga Raju.
- (6) Sri Kala Venkata Rao.
- (7) Sri Tatachari.
- (8) Sri Bapineedu.
- (9) Sri D. V. Ramaswami.
- (10) Sri R. V. Swaminathan.
- (11) Sri A. Kaleswara Rao.
- (12) Sri V. C. Palaniswami Goundar.
- (13) Sri M. G. Natesa Chettiyar.
- (14) Raja of Venkatagiri.
- (15) Sri Kakkan.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I would just like to say a few words on this Bill. The whole House will agree that a measure is necessary to prevent the denudation of forests. But we have got to see that proper safeguards are provided in order that the Bill does not work hardship not only on the persons

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concerned, but also on the economic condition of society. I would like to point out that during the war no doubt some of the forests had to be denuded to a much larger extent than would otherwise be the case. But so far as Malabar is concerned, I understand that most of the private forests were not so seriously affected as is alleged by the Hon. Minister. In fact, except in the taluk of Wynaad, the forests were not affected during the war. It is only in Wynaad taluk that there has been denudation of forests to a larger extent.

“Now, Sir, I would like to point out that this exploitation of forests in Malabar perhaps has also enabled us to employ thousands of men in the industry. If the Government all of a sudden stop this denudation of forests by the cutting of trees therein, thousands of people who are employed in the industry will be deprived of their means of livelihood. If such a large number of people are thrown out of employment in a place like Malabar, it will be creating a more serious problem than the existing one. That must be guarded against. The Government have taken power to give permission for the cutting of trees. That is a very unsound policy. I am objecting to this on the very same lines on which I have been objecting to other measures of this kind brought forward by the Government. With regard to this measure also, the Government are taking the whole power into their hands to give permission to such people as they like. But it is much safer to lay down the definite category of cases in which this power shall be exercised. If it is not defined, the result will be that, in order to get permission to cut trees, people will have either to come to Madras and roam about the Secretariat, or to go after the Collector or other officials. It is very necessary to lay down the classes in which prohibition should be introduced. The Government have to consider also that total prohibition of cutting trees is not only inadvisable, but also it will be very injurious to society from various points of view, from the commercial point of view and particularly from the economic point of view. So many constructions have been put off to be started after the war on account of the difficulties that existed during the war. Even the Government themselves have put off so many schemes of construction till after the war. Timber may be required for this purpose, and there are over so many industries existing, to be developed, and which have come into existence after the war. All these industries require timber very largely. Without taking all these facts into consideration if the Government simply say that nobody shall cut trees, it will be a hardship. I know they will take shelter under the plea that they have taken power to grant permission. If power is left in the hands of the Government or their subordinate authorities even in such cases, people will be at the mercy of the Government or their subordinates. That is not proper. In the interests of the commercial development of ever so many industries and not to worsen the economic condition of the people by throwing out of employment thousands of

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men particularly at this juncture, it is absolutely inadvisable to stop entirely the cutting of trees. To thwart commerce and industry in this manner is not at all desirable. That the people should depend upon the will of the Government officials even for carrying on their lawful avocations of trade is not at all desirable. Therefore I would appeal to the Government to view this question in a dispassionate manner and to see that the law that is passed in this connexion is a definite one, so that the people may know what trees they can cut and what trees they should not cut. It is absolutely necessary that all steps should be taken for the preservation of forests. At the same time, exploitation of forests for certain purposes must be allowed. I would submit that the Government should define in the Act itself the categories of trees which should not be cut.

“I would like to bring to the notice of Government another aspect of the matter. I am not an expert in that matter and there are other Members of this House engaged in that industry who may be able to enlighten the House better. I understand that, even for the development of forests, it is necessary to cut certain kinds of trees and that then alone such trees will flourish. If they are allowed to grow without cutting, it will be against the interests of the development of forests.

“All these aspects should be taken into consideration. The Government should not at all pass an entirely prohibitive measure, and they should not keep power in their hands alone. So let the category of trees exempted be defined, and sufficient provision be made for cutting such trees. I hope the Select Committee will go into all these aspects and amend the Bill accordingly.”

* M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I speak with reference to my small experience as a person not a trader or a janmi or a tenant but as a person who had something to do with the real difficulties of both the merchants and the landlords. When the Government wanted to introduce certain prohibitions relating to transport of timber from Malabar, I had occasion to represent at least one class of people, that is, the timber merchants of Malabar and I had to interview some high officials in the various departments. In 1942 we prepared a census of the elephants working in Malabar and South Kanara. It was found that there were 813 elephants working in these areas. Some of them were employed in the Government forests and some were employed in the forests belonging to the landlords in Malabar. We had also prepared a rough estimate of the persons employed in this industry. You know, Sir, that for one elephant we made a calculation of about 11 workers at the forest itself. Then from the forests to the river side or to the road side the timber had to be lifted and in this matter about 15 to 20 persons were employed for every one of the elephants. In floating timber logs through the rivers and carrying them in lorries a large number of people are also employed. Now in Kallai itself, I am told that is the second biggest timber

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depot in the world, there are 30 saw mills, not to speak of the mills in the North and South. What will be the position of the people employed in the various branches of the timber industry in Malabar if the measure is rushed through as it is? Apart from this there is the question of firewood. In Madras and certain areas firewood is rationed. But in Malabar where it is produced though it is not exactly rationed we feel serious difficulty. Firewood that was sold at Rs. 3-8-0 a ton is sold at 25 to 30 rupees per ton. When I speak of firewood, I am reminded of other factories and industrial institutions where firewood is required. I know there are some big factories in Malabar, the Malabar Spinning and Weaving factory which gives employment to about ten thousand people. Firewood is largely used at the Malabar Spinning and Weaving Company. At Feroke we have a large number of tile factories famous for their production. There also firewood has to be used for baking and if there were to be a restriction on the cutting of the trees, suitable for firewood, I am afraid these industries are likely to suffer in the future. Then again coming to the other aspect of the question we see in the Act any land can be declared to be a forest. Even the High Court premises can be declared to be a forest land under the Act and there is no restraint put upon a declaration of forest lands under the Act. Now, if you include areas where small shrubs and small trees fit for no other purpose except for firewood are going to be declared as forest lands, then certainly that is not a policy beneficial to any one. Then I can give my own suggestions. I have seen many of the lands in Malabar in between the Ghats and Calicut. Some of them are neither forest lands nor agricultural lands. These lands lie within an area of 1,000 feet above the sea level. They are neither forest areas, nor pure agriculture lands. The theory that if trees are cut, if there is denudation of forests, there will be no rain, is not correct for all times. In Malabar this year we had more rain than ever we had for the last 15 years. At least in Malabar, the rain does not depend upon the condition of forest. So, Sir, I should suggest that instead of waiting for a declaration or permits to be issued for persons to cut trees, a clause may be introduced exempting the area below thousand feet. There are certain kinds of trees which could not grow beyond a particular girth. They are not fit to be grown into timber trees even though they belong to the best variety. They will not grow beyond a particular girth. Unless they are cut and removed, this land cannot be used for anything else. It cannot be kept as forest land or garden land or cultivable land. What people do with these areas is that they occasionally clear them, cut firewood and paddy or tapioca or some other product is occasionally cultivated. The expenses are met partly by collecting firewood and partly by this cultivation. If you restrict clearing these areas, I am afraid, a larger portion of production of foodstuffs in Malabar will be affected. So, Sir, I appeal to you to exempt these areas from the Act and I request that the provision relating to the grant of licence may be deleted and instead of that, a clause may be added that certain lands 1,000 feet above sea level may be exempted from the Act."

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* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"It is true, it may be asked whether it is not necessary to have thinning in all forest areas which are cultivated and maintained by the Forest Department so as to facilitate fresh trees to grow up. But that comes under forest operations. What the Bill now seeks to do is to prevent indiscriminate cutting of trees in private forests and to protect the forests from being denuded and diminished of utility. I feel, Sir, that this is a very important measure and it is right that the Government have thought it necessary to bring forward this measure so early. It will go a long way in preserving the utility of the forests. When once a tree is cut, it takes several years for another tree to grow in its place. So, this is a very wise measure and I strongly support it."

* AHMAD KUTTI SAHIB HAJI BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also feel that this is a Bill to prevent denudation of forests. Though it is a necessary measure, it is rather being hastily introduced. It is very much to be deplored that the Government should have rushed in with this Bill without giving sufficient time to the Members of the Assembly and to the public in general, to consider all aspects of the question."

"Sir, the object of the present Bill is to stop immediately cutting of trees in the forests. Before a Bill of this sort is introduced, the Government must consider all the aspects of this matter. The cutting operations in the forests are not so simple or so quick as the Government think. They are carried out by gradual stages and it will take months before trees can be cut from the forests and removed outside."

"First of all let me explain to the House how the cutting operation of timber from the forests is carried out. Only during certain seasons of the year that the timber could be cut from the forests and it is generally in the hot season that cutting is possible. The trees are cut and carried by elephants to the river side, where they are piled up. It generally takes three months for trees to be cut and dragged to the bank of the river. Then the rainy season comes up and there would be torrential rains, during which the river would be overflowing with water and it would be impossible to float these trees down the river immediately. It takes some time for the floods to subside and it is only after the water has gone down to a certain level that the timber could be dragged down the river. These floating and dragging operations are also carried out by means of elephants. There may be obstructions in the river owing to rocks and things like that. Then men will have to drag the timber. Before the timber gets out of the forest, it generally takes months. So, to stop these operations all of a sudden is not a practical proposition. It is a slow process and the Government should deeply consider all the aspects of the question, before ordering a sudden stoppage of the operations. That is one point."

"Another point is, that many of the forests in Malabar are only about a thousand feet high from the sea level. The cutting is done only for the purpose of firewood. After firewood is cut

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fugitive cultivation begins. The fugitive cultivation in Malabar has been going on for a number of years and it has been useful and profitable both from the point of view of the people and of the Government. I have already brought this matter to the notice of the Hon. the Minister and have explained to him how it goes a long way towards solving the food problem. After the introduction of the compulsory procurement scheme by the Government, people have stopped the cultivation because they have to give all the paddy to the procurement officers. But now on account of the acute scarcity of food, they have again started the fugitive cultivation. So, any legislation that may be introduced should afford protection to this aspect of the matter.

"The next point, Sir, is this. As an immediate effect of this legislation, a number of people who are working in the forests and are engaged in forest operations will be thrown out of work. There are big landlords who have given large sums of money to the jenmis for cultivation in forests, there are the middlemen and there are the contractors and a number of employees under them. All these people are engaged in the forest operations, in one way or another. The immediate effect of this Bill would be that all these people—there are lakhs of them—would be thrown out of employment. Thereby there would be a sudden unsettlement in their economic situation. The Government should take into consideration this aspect also.

"In this connexion, Sir, I should like to remind the Hon. the Minister of the fact that even otherwise, we are threatened everyday with some kind of strikes or other labour troubles. By this sudden stoppage of forest operations, unemployment will increase and there will be again labour troubles and this will be only adding insult to injury.

"There is another point so far as Malabar is concerned. The forests there are only about a thousand feet above sea level and the cutting is generally done in the hills for three years, and another three years are allowed for the forests to grow up. Hence there is no need to include these small-level forests in Malabar in this Bill.

"The next suggestion that I should like to make is that in any future planning of forests on an all-India basis, we should have a reclassification of forest lands from the point of view of forest crops as distinct from agricultural crops.

"Another point I want to refer to is that we need a number of well-trained people in forestry. In the fitness of things there should be a Forest College in Malabar. There are about 18,000 square miles of forests in the Madras Presidency. About 3,000 square miles are under the Panchayat area and Malabar district comprises about 3,000 square miles. A number of people from hill areas will have to come down to the towns if this measure is given effect to. If a Forest College is opened at Malabar, many of the people can be trained in forestry, for which there is a great need there.

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"Then, Sir, I should like to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Minister for Revenue that during the war, a retired Forest Officer was deputed to enquire and report on the conditions in forests. He appears to have submitted his report, but that did not see the light of day and I do not know what happened to it.

"Finally, Sir, I wish to suggest that the Select Committee to consider this Bill should consist of men who are conversant with matters connected with forests. The Chief Conservator of Forests and the Forest Utilization Officer may also be taken into the Select Committee so that they may offer their expert opinion and be of help to the Committee."

A. K. KADER KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this important measure I want to speak a few words on the general condition of the forests and their working and the actual incidents of this Bill on the people in general and on the industry in particular.

"Sir, I am one with the Government in thinking that it is absolutely necessary to prevent denudation or total destruction of forests not only in Malabar but throughout the whole of the Province. This view has been expressed by me in the Post-war Reconstruction Committee or the Forest Reconstruction Committee of which I was a member. I never thought that the Government would bring forward a measure like this. What I expected was that the Government, for the present, would bring about certain control in the destruction of forests, so that the industry is not jeopardized and that the people engaged in the industry as well as the public at large would not be affected. Now, what is contemplated in the Bill is to stop the total felling of the forests straightaway. A number of my hon. Friends have already mentioned to the House that there are a large number of people engaged in the forests, that a large capital is being invested and there are not only a number of employees, but also a number of elephants—that is how they put it—all these will have to be disbanded overnight, immediately this Bill is passed. But I say there are certain provisions in the Bill which give permission in certain deserving cases to carry on the forest operations and things like that. But they are very vague. At the same time it may not be possible for everybody concerned to go to the authorities concerned and convince them about the need for granting them permission to do this felling. I am not pleading for the big landholders or the zamindars. Generally speaking this work is done by the middle class people. If this is stopped suddenly I do not know what the fate of these will be. There may even be financial crashes among them.

"There is another point to be considered. Actually timber is required by very many industries. Soft woods and hard woods are required for different purposes in factories. In these days we all know how difficult it is to get timber for any purpose. The price of timber has gone up very considerably. If at such a time as

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this the Government brings in a measure of this kind it will have serious repercussions on the timber trade and actually it will block the post-war reconstruction schemes.

"In this connexion I want to remind the House that at least 60 or 70 per cent of the requirements of the Province in regard to timber are met from the private forests of Malabar; and when this is stopped suddenly I do not know how people are going to get their requirements. But, instead of bringing in a measure of this kind, if the Government would bring in a Bill for systematizing the whole thing, we would welcome it and support it.

"Sir, there are so many industries depending on this industry for their raw material. There are a number of saw mills employing thousands of labourers and again there are the plywood mills depending on this industry for their operation. People have invested large amounts in forests for the extraction of timber and taken leases from private owners dependent for their requirements on these forests. If these are suddenly stopped, I do not know what the fate of these industries would be, especially when these industries have come into existence during the war and have given great help to the Government in times of stress.

"Another thing is that if the Government had proposed legislation regulating, as they do in Government forests, the felling of particular varieties of timber and of particular size and restricting the felling, we would have welcomed that measure, as I said before.

"Then, with regard to area, this Bill contemplates the inclusion of even 5 cents of land in the scope of the Bill. This is really a rigorous measure. Malabar is a place where most houses have compounds which in most cases extend to as many as 20 acres and more and people meet their fuel and timber requirements from those compounds. Those lands serve as grazing fields and they also supply green manure necessary for cultivation too. When even these small plots are included in the Bill, it will certainly cause a good deal of hardship to the ryots in the villages. I can understand Government restricting felling in blocks of big forests for the sake of the general public by means of a legislative enactment. But they have included within the scope of the Bill even small bits of land in the country side which is definitely going to adversely affect the ryots.

"Lastly, I am glad to see that the Hon. Minister has agreed to refer the Bill to a Select Committee so that we can give better attention to it and improve it suitably."

* K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, from a reading of the preface of the Bill to restrict the cutting of trees in zamindaris and in Malabar one would be inclined to think that it is not an unqualified prohibition of cutting of trees that is contemplated by the Government, but that it is only a restriction of the cutting

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that is aimed at by the Government. If that is the object which the Government have in view the only thing the House will have to consider is whether that object will be achieved by a Bill of this kind without causing hardship and dislocation to the existing economic conditions in Malabar and elsewhere. To me it looks as though the provisions of the Bill are such as would in actual working result in creating a stalemate as far as forest operations in Malabar and outside are concerned. It may be said from the other side of the House that there is a provision in the Bill for a reference to the Provincial Government or an authority appointed by Government for permission to cut trees and that if that permission is obtained and availed of there will be no hardship to persons engaged in felling operations and that they might very well cut trees with the permission of the Government. But we have to consider what would be the actual experiences of persons who make such reference to the authorities? What are the classes of trees contemplated by the Government as being within the prohibited sphere? What are the trees that would be permitted to be cut? These are not specified in the Bill. The result is that the authorities will have the fullest discretion in permitting or prohibiting the cutting of the trees. What are the principles which will be kept in view before permitting or prohibiting the cutting we have not been told. If such wide and unrestricted discretion is given to the authorities in charge of issuing permits to persons who apply to them, that would be placing the applicants in a very difficult and awkward position and would be creating the surest temptation to the officers to abuse the power vested in them and would be leading even to corruption, if I may say so. I would respectfully submit that if it is the unrestricted cutting of timber and the denudation of forests that is sought to be prohibited, the best thing would be for Government to give some indication of the trees that should not be cut without the permission of the authorities and not put on the Statute Book permanent legislation of this kind. There is of course the risk of the prohibited trees being also cut off along with those permitted to be cut. To meet that, provision may be made for giving intimation to the forest officers nearby before the cutting is actually made. Thus, if a person wants to cut trees he might give intimation to the nearest forest officer so that under his supervision only trees will be cut and the prohibited trees will be spared. If the exclusion of trees that Government do not want to be cut is effected by the adoption of the suggestion made by me, the other trees could be cut and no hardship will be caused to persons concerned and no destruction of forests will result. If that is done, the object of the Bill will be achieved and no injustice will result. As has been pointed out by hon. Members, the result of unqualified prohibition of cutting of trees from forests will lead to a very serious paralysation of industrial pursuits in trees and also of the various ordinary timber operations in the various districts of this province. In fact, industrial enterprises will come to a dead stop and thousands of labourers will be deprived of their means of living and will be left out of

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employment to swell the ranks of those creating unrest in the country. This is a serious problem that is facing the present Ministry. Both industrialists and labourers will be deprived of their work by the operation of this Bill and several small industries like furniture making, etc., besides big ones will suffer terribly for want of suitable timber that is now being supplied to them.

"Another matter also has to be noted. It is not really the lorries or motor vehicles that are mostly serving as the means of transport of timber from the thick jungles. In Malabar, I understand that there are some 800 and odd elephants engaged for transport in this industry and there are also the mahouts who get the animals to do the work of removing the timber to the rivers from the interior of the forests. All these agencies will go without work and a sort of stalemate in our industrial pursuits will result from this Bill. I submit, therefore, Sir, that both in the conservation of the forests about which reference has been made and in the interests of the industry, it is necessary to restrict the powers of the Government for declaring any area as a forest or declaring any waste land consisting of trees or shrubs as a forest. Some sort of definition of the word 'Forest' must be made with reference to the height at which the land exists, excluding from the scope of it forests for fuel and ordinary gardens which have some fruit trees or even timber trees. If not, anomalies and hardship will result from so wide a meaning being given the word 'Forest'. These are matters which should engage the attention of the Government. I hope that in the select committee the suggestions made here will receive the sympathetic consideration of the Government and that the measure would not be rushed through ignoring the various criticisms levelled against it. Sir, it should not be thought that the criticisms we made here are unhelpful and meant to embarrass the Government. I request Government to make a note of the criticisms and suitably modify the Bill in the Select Committee. With these words, Sir, I support the viewpoint expressed by my hon. Friend Mr. Pocker and those who followed him from this side of the House."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the next speaker will be brief, as soon as he finishes, I will call upon the Hon. Minister to reply."

4-45
p.m.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members who have spoken before me, coming as they do from Malabar, have represented their case in a very vivid and clear manner. I do not know what exactly is the case made out by the Hon. Member for Revenue in bringing forward this measure. With regard to the other measures which we have considered since yesterday, the argument advanced was that the Defence of India Rules would be expiring at the end of this month and therefore some urgent legislation was necessary. All the measures put before the House were regarded as measures of a temporary nature for the interim period. Both this House and the people were promised that a comprehensive consolidated legislation would be got ready soon and brought before the House. But all these reasons do not hold good with regard to

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this measure. What is the urgency here in this case? The Defence of India Rules do not regulate this matter and it is not as if the whole world would come to an end if this measure was not brought forward now. What is the object of this measure, my hon. Friend has not made clear. If there was any real case for this measure, he would have placed it before this House already. There is the fear of denudation of forests taking place and they want to put a stop to it. In order to put a stop to that, they do not realise that they are unduly interfering with the free rights of trade and commerce. The other day while speaking on the Demand for Industries I referred to this very matter and I told the Hon. Minister for Industries to look sharp and see that his Honourable Colleagues do not interfere with his liberties and rights and see that industrial development takes place without any hindrance. On the other hand, see what is sought to be done by his own colleagues here? I hope there is no trade dispute or feud between the Hon. Ministers and if any adjudication is necessary . . . (An hon. Member: 'You will be adjudicator.') I have no objection to be adjudicator if there is any dispute. As I have said, the Hon. Minister for Industries should not allow his colleagues to interfere with the development of industries. If the felling of trees for timber is put a stop to in the manner it is sought to be done, both soft and hard timber for the purpose of industries will not be available. The Hon. Minister for Industries may remember that I referred to the plywood industry on the West Coast. It was stated that there will be not one industry but two industrial concerns for plywood. How can the Hon. Minister have not only one but two industries if this Bill comes into law?

"So far as the provisions of the Bill is concerned, I am sorry I have to point out once again that this Government has deviated, I dare say deviated deliberately from all accepted ideas about the powers of the legislature. It is sought to take unduly wide powers for the executive. It is stated in clause 3 (2)—

'No owner of any forest or any person claiming under him whether by virtue of a contract, licence or any other transaction entered into before or after the commencement of this Act, shall, without the previous permission of the Provincial Government or any officer authorized by them in this behalf, cut trees or do any act likely to denude the forest or diminish its utility as a forest.'

"Even here, you find that the Government are taking power to interfere with the rights of the contractors so far as the forests are concerned. With regard to the trees, not only are the Government taking power, but in this provision they are also authorizing somebody else on their behalf to prevent the cutting down of the trees and what is called the denudation of the forests. 'Diminish the utility of the forests' is a very wide expression. What is sought to be done is to prevent the forests from being cut to such an extent that they will not merely be denuded, but their utility also as forests will not be diminished.

"There is also the provision in clause 3 (1) (a) which runs as follows:—

'No owner of any forest shall, without the previous sanction of the Provincial Government or any officer authorized by them in this behalf, sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise alienate the whole or any portion of the forest.'

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"This provision needs thorough examination and amendment, if necessary, if the provisions of this Bill are not to sit heavily on those to whom it will be applied."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Mr. Speaker, except my hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, who spoke last and who sees nothing good coming from this side at any time, even the hon. Members who spoke for Malabar were good enough to concede the main principle of the Bill, namely, that there should be some sort of control over the reckless destruction of forests. It is not the intention of the Government to stop wholesale any of the trading or labour interests involved in this matter. All the same, Sir, some sort of control is necessary. As to how that could best be done is a thing which the Select Committee will go into. But if they say that no control whatever is necessary, I regret I cannot agree with them. The forests are not the entire monopoly of the jannmis or the trading interests or those who cut and remove the trees for the sake of industry. The future prosperity of Malabar, the interests of the ryots and the tenants, the whole population—all these have to be safeguarded by the Government. I find from reports that all the available timber of the private forests in Malabar have been taken away and the forests almost destroyed. We find that the timber that is coming to the timber mills in Beliapatam and Kallai are logs of less than a foot in diameter. We have reached a stage in Malabar when regulated control is necessary in the interests of the future. I do not wish to take more of the time of the House as all of us are agreed on the main point of the measure. But as to how best it could be done without seriously affecting the existing interests is for the Select Committee to consider. I hope the House will now pass the motion before it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The motion before the House is that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of names which has already been read out to the House."

The motion was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Under rule 78, I appoint the Hon. Sri K. R. Karanth as the Chairman of the Committee. When does the Hon. Minister want the report to be presented?"

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Monday or Tuesday."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The report is to be presented on Tuesday."

"Yesterday I said that the matter regarding Golden Rock brought forward by the hon. Member Mr. Venkateswarlu would be taken up to-day after 5 o'clock."

IV.—THE TRADE DISPUTES ADJUDICATION (TEMPORARY PROVISION) BILL, 1946.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Before we proceed to that, Sir, I move that the Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provision) Bill, 1946, as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration, under rule 15 (3) of the Assembly Rules, before other items in the agenda."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir, how can the Hon. the Premier move this motion now?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Premier is saying that, instead of the motion now before the House, we shall have the other one first."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"There is no necessity for a change of the order. I do not think it will be proper for the Hon. Premier to present the report of the Select Committee inasmuch as he was not a member of the Select Committee."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"This is intended to facilitate the work of the House. We have got dates fixed up in consultation with some of the hon. Members for the meeting of the Council. If the subject is taken out of its order and if this is accepted here, then there will be work on the 9th instant for the Upper House. It is for this reason, Sir, that I wanted to bring forward this motion."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to point out that the Select Committee's Report was circulated only in the course of the day. Members should have some time to go through it and propose any amendments, if necessary."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Is it possible for us to finish it now?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No, no. It is simply a presentation of the report."

The motion was put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the report* of the Select Committee on the Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provision) Bill, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 3 of 1946) and move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration."

The motion was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"We shall take up this Bill at 3 o'clock on Monday. I wish to inform the House that we will meet at 3 p.m. on Monday and not at 11 a.m. The Upper House will be meeting at 11 o'clock."

V.—GOLDEN ROCK DISTURBANCES.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to raise . . ."

SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—"An adjournment motion cannot be moved now, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is not right. Mr. Venkateswarlu is speaking on the subject."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information. May I know how long this subject is going to be considered?"

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"Usually it is half an hour. If the House wants some more time, I have no objection to grant it. Mr. Venkateswarlu will now speak."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while rising to speak on this motion regarding the firing in Golden Rock, I should like to bring to the notice of this House certain facts and figures. Every day we are seeing in the papers how many arrests are going on, what all things are happening there"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will allow you ten minutes."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"On such an important motion as this, Sir?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Please tell me how many minutes you want?"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Half an hour."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I won't give you half an hour, I will allow only fifteen minutes."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I suggest, Sir, in an important matter like this, we have to take into consideration the deaths that occurred in Golden Rock and the actions of the Malabar Special Police under the guidance and leadership of the Police Superintendent there. So many people, so many workers are subjected to brutal lathi charges and even firing. This is a very gruesome picture and it will affect not only the Communist Party, but also the people throughout our Province. Yesterday, the Prime Minister told us that it is better for the House to know what these people are doing. We should not view it in the manner in which the Prime Minister wanted us to view it. I will let you know what these people have been doing. I want to put before this House some facts to show how things are going on. To-day, Golden Rock is under the regime of the Malabar Special Police. Golden Rock is not now under the regime of the Hon. Mr. Prakasam; it is under the regime of the Harrison, District Superintendent of Police, and Reynolds, South Indian Railway Manager, combination. They are ruling Golden Rock now and not our Prakasam nor this Government. To-day, our legislature is not in content of the situation. That is the situation to-day. I want to know what we can do to retract the situation to stop these atrocities. What can we do to prevent the murder of our people by the Police, to prevent the Police from beating men and women, dragging the sixty years' old mother of Nambiyar and beating his own wife. I should like to mention, Sir, what happened just before the 5th September. What was Jallianwala Bagh day for the whole country was Jallianwala Bagh day for Golden Rock on the 5th September. Such atrocities the people have experienced there. The Reynolds company completely demoralized by solidarity of the workers, requisitioned the Police people and they got the Police to do what they pleased. On the whole, 1,050 were arrested in connexion with the strike. Just three days prior to this, the Police entered the workers' houses, began threatening the workers, ill-treated the workers, and, in spite of all that, the workers did

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not yield. The womenfolk were asked to exercise pressure husbands to go to work. Having failed thus to smash the class solidarity and to get back the whole of the five Golden Rock workers, into work, the Reynolds combination created this tragedy. This is the creation of the Reynolds nation. There is nothing comparable to this; these people unable to bear the atrocities of the Police have left their homes and about fifty families have gone out and are dwelling in the Colony in the union premises. On the 5th itself, when people were there, Md. Ismail Khan, President of the Rock Union, was arrested and the workers demanded that he be released and they offered satyagraha and they said that two hundred of them should be arrested or that Mr. Ismail should be released. They pleaded that all the workers responsible for the strike—not only Mr. Ismail Khan but 46,000 of the workers of the South Indian Railway were responsible for the strike; then why should they arrest only Mr. Ismail Khan? Why should they arrest him alone and not arrest all the workers. Instead of arresting them, the Police began to charge and afterwards they resorted to firing. In the firing people were murdered and they were left on the spot; for nobody cared for them. Even jackals were not allowed there. The people were not allowed to go there; the Police were guarding the place. On the whole, about 300 arrests were made and those arrests were made arbitrarily. The total reach of the military courts, special courts were opened in Golden Rock Colony; summary courts were opened to try the class leaders. They were not allowed to bring their defence. There were summary trials and they have been in the regime of Harrison and Reynolds company, perhaps with the connivance of this Provincial Government. The Prime Minister simply helped the White Management. The person who was known during the days of the previous Congress movement, who had pulled down the Congress flag in Wavari, who is well-known to so many people like Mr. Bapirao and others—this Harrison who was well-known during the Congress Ministry, is very well-known to our friends here. I do not go into details—because it was the Congress Ministry that brought him to control, that punished him and made him responsible for that event, and asked him to hoist the national flag. That same Harrison now in alliance with Reynolds, the manager of the South Indian Railway, who is responsible for the firing and who has got the blessings of the Provincial Government. They are playing havoc with our own people and this Congress is to-day blaspheming the Congress regime in this manner. Because the Congress Ministry, because our Prime Minister, Prakasam began threatening the communists that they were responsible for the strike, this Reynolds combination took advantage of the situation and began to arrest the workers, to give them lathi charges and to commit brutal murders. Had it not been for this, and if the Prime Minister had been more firm, these things would not have happened like this. That is why to-day the Police have got the upper hand, and not the Hon. 1

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About 130 people were injured and four people were killed due to the firing in Golden Rock. Not only that, the union registers and library were burnt. The property purchased by money subscribed by 46,000 workers, the mike, the loud-speakers and our press—all these things are being smashed. Our library has been burnt and our flag has been burnt. All these things have happened. Just as national flag was being burnt during the dark days of our national struggle, and in spite of the fact that the Congress Ministry is ruling over us in this Province, and the Prime Minister is at the head of the Government, this Harrison company has got the power to burn our labour flag and our other property. The burning of the union library reminds us the burning of Tolstoy's library during Czarist days in Russia. Such a situation exists to-day in the Golden Rock, Sir.

“Another thing, our comrade, who is a Member of this House, has been beaten, dragged in the streets and for the first time in the history of the Congress Government, such things are happening, Sir, in the history of this Legislature, when we are sitting here. He has been wounded and beaten till he fell down unconscious. For six hours he was unconscious and his skull was broken; he was taken to the Police station and it seems—even though I could not give definite information, still I can say this—Harrison went to the extent of beating him even after taking him to the Police lock-up. In the hospital, even his wife was not allowed to see him, her own husband. She was not allowed to know whether he was alive or dead. That is how, Sir, the Police raj in Golden Rock is going on.

“Then, Sir, what about the situation in Trichy itself? In Trichy, there is our party office. All our party leaders have been arrested. Office is being taken charge by the Police. Messrs. Ramamurthi and Srinivasa Rao, most important members of the Communist Party, have been arrested and also some of the organizers. Not only that, when women workers were collecting funds for the trade union, they were ill-treated and arrested and there has been lathi charge by the Malabar Special Police and so many people received injuries. These things are going on but how does it affect us? I would like you all to picture the whole thing before yourselves. I would like everybody to think that this is a question not of the workers alone, nor that of the Communist Party but of the whole population in Trichy; they have no right to speak or move about in Trichy. They could not hold public meetings. Civil liberties of the population have been smashed. To-day, the situation there is deplorable; I do not think such a situation has ever prevailed anywhere in our Province before this. If you want to go out, you will have to take permission. I do not know if any one of us who wants to go there to examine the situation will be allowed to do so. Mr. Chakkarai Chettiyar, the President of the Trade Union Congress, who is not a Communist, and Mr. C. Balachandra Menon, Secretary of the Trade Union Congress, have applied for permission to go and see things there personally. I do not know what the Prime Minister or the Minister for Law and Order is going to do with their applications. Is he going to allow them to see things for themselves? I would

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also like you to go and examine things for yourself there, every hon. Member who is not inclined to believe what all actions have been done by the Police, as stated by me are correct. I want them to see for themselves if they can get permission from the Hon. Minister for this purpose. All the newspaper reports also we cannot believe. But do not take the Police reports to be correct. Most of the Members from the Congress Benches know what Police reports are; to what extent they will be correct. In the interests of the people, I request all hon. Members, particularly the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Independent Party, all hon. Members who want justice to be done, who want that law and order should be maintained in the sense in which it has to be maintained, in the interest of the people to go and see things for themselves—I request all of them to get the permission of the Prime Minister and go and see things personally.

“Another point, Sir. I request the Hon. Minister for Law to see how justice is being administered in Trichinopoly to-day. Mrs. Kamala, the wife of Dr. Rajan's grandson, was not allowed to have defence. Mr. Halasyam, a Congress M.L.A., when he went there for purposes of putting up defence was not allowed to go and he also received lathi charges. That is how your law courts are doing justice, not justice but injustice. Not only that. Your judges do not stop there. When the arrested persons say that they are not guilty, it is being written that they have pleaded guilty. We are not allowed to produce witnesses, still we are being convicted. That is how justice is being administered by these courts. That is how, I say, the Police have now got the upper hand. The Police have now gone beyond the control of this popular Ministry. I request in the name of democracy, in the name of the people, not only the workers but the public at large, something must be done to end this. May be you may have your own prejudices, but just look at how justice is meted out; just imagine whether it is right to kill four people. How many Police people were injured I want to know. Even the Inspector-General who could give figures which are lies, even he says only six people received minor injuries. But, Sir, as against that, we find 130 workers were seriously injured and four people were killed and five have received fatal injuries. One of the hon. Members of this House was beaten almost to unconsciousness. His wife was beaten; so also his old mother; and only his child escaped lathi blows.

“Another thing I want to point out, Sir, do not say the Communists are creating trouble; for heaven's sake, don't split our population on those lines. What does it mean? Think about it. It means dividing our people, giving upper hand to the Police. To-day the Police have taken advantage of such statements in Trichinopoly. What were the arguments put forward during the days of the 1942 disturbances? Was it not said that it was the Congress leaders that were responsible for the disturbances? What were the arguments put forward during the days of the Simon Commission? Were not the Congress leaders accused for the public unrest? Our Prime Minister Prakasam stood for the boycott of the

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Simon Commission and he led the boycott in those days; he stood with the masses and he saved the lives of the people. That Prakasam we want to-day to save the lives of these innocent workers, to see that these Police people are not allowed to kill our workers.

5-15 P.M. "Another point I wish to bring to the notice of the House is this. I know that the Communist prejudice has gone too far. In spite of the fact that justice should be meted out and that they should not rely upon the reports of the police—for all of us including the members of the Congress Party—have had experience of police repression, and know what police reports are, but did they ever care to see whether such reports are correct or not. Does the Hon. Prime Minister agree that the murder charge launched against him previously was correct? Is it not based on police reports? Were those reports not false? I am sure the Hon. the Prime Minister will agree with me that we should not rely upon such false reports. And when such is the case, I cannot understand why when such charges are brought against Communists, working class people and their sympathisers, they should be believed by the Hon. Prime Minister. I cannot understand what is actually the cause for such changeover. (Interruption.) In spite of the prejudice of my hon. Friend Mr. Subba Rao, I say, let him go to-day to Golden Rock and see things for himself. If he does that, I am sure, he will agree with me in what I am narrating. I know he has got a terrible anti-Communist prejudice, but if on the other hand he has got a democratic heart—if he has got a heart I am sure he will agree with me. Therefore, what we demand on the floor of this House, is an open enquiry by constituting a committee representative of all parties, of all democratically minded people, to go into the question in order to see for themselves which is just and which is unjust. We heard to-day from the Hon. Prime Minister that compensation will be paid for those who lost their property and other things in 1942 disturbances; but now we find that a loss estimated at Rs. 40,000 has been incurred by the South Indian Railway Union as a result of the action of the Malabar Special Police and are we not entitled to such compensation? By the brutal acts of the Police, our whole property has been smashed; I ask, have they got the sanction of the Ministry for committing such acts? I want to know whether only Congressmen are entitled to such justice and compensation. I expect the same justice at the hands of the Hon. Mr. Prakasam in this case also.

"I wish to bring another matter to the notice of the House and that is in regard to Harrison and Reynolds. I demand that an impartial enquiry committee consisting of all parties be appointed to go into the matter. Compensation to be paid for the destruction of the property and Harrison must be tried and punished and withdraw all help to Reynolds, the South Indian Railway Manager. I suggest that any three Members of this House be selected and let them sit in judgment over him, and we are prepared to accept their judgment. Let it be done and let everybody know what Harrison is. It has been said that there is change of

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heart in the administration and what the change of heart is, we are actually experiencing and seeing with our own eyes. When people see what is going on, they will come to the conclusion that there is nothing to indicate any change of heart. August 1942 teaches us some lessons in this connexion. Change of heart will only come when according to the 1942 demand, this man is made to 'quit India.' In the name of democracy, in the name of justice, I request the Hon. the Prime Minister to do justice instead of taking cudgels against us, instead of threatening us, instead of saying that we have demanded the release of Communist prisoners and that he has done a favour by releasing even Communist prisoners along with 1942 prisoners—we consider that we have a right to demand from our popular leader to do justice in this matter also. Of course, it does not mean we are asking for any favour; we are not going to him with any begging bowl or ask him for any job but we are merely asking him to do justice as was done to Congress political persons, an unofficial enquiry committee and pay compensation and see justice is rendered to workers."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has already exceeded the time-limit."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to make it quite clear that we the Muslim League Party do not see eye to eye with the Communists and we if speak on this subject with reference to which the hon. the Communist Member has already made a speech, it does not at all mean that we are at one with them. But, Sir, the subject is a matter of very serious importance. Very often I have pointed to this House that it is really a very unfortunate circumstance that immediately after the Congress Government came to power, such occurrences have become the order of the day. Have they bestowed any thought on this very serious matter? It is not only that serious things have happened in Golden Rock and Trichinopoly but we see such things being committed everywhere and even in the City of Madras under the very nose of this Government. It was only the other day in connection with some scare that spread, a gentleman was shot down by a policeman without any kind of justification whatsoever. Therefore, life becomes very very precarious. Even in the City of Madras and I have also pointed out that the Government have not taken sufficient measures to prevent such occurrences. It is not at all to be lightly regarded that only five people were killed and nine injured but the life of everyone is worth very much and worth the life of the whole country. I want to point out to the Government that it is the duty of the Government to see that such things do not recur; they should look into the causes of such occurrences; it is not only in regard to firing, they should also go into the question of why the Police fired, the circumstances under which they resorted to firing and whether they were justified in doing so or not. We are in the dark about those things and it is therefore up to the Government to furnish all the details to this House so that we may know where we stand. It is not a question merely of four persons having been killed at Trichinopoly but certainly

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their lives are very precious. It is not merely the question of nine people being injured; probably a large number of people might have been injured and as a matter of fact one of the hon. Members of this House is stated to have been injured—I am very sorry to hear this, and that he is in hospital—but what are the circumstances under which this firing was resorted to and how these four persons happened to be killed on account of this firing, we are entitled to know. It is up to the Government, therefore, to furnish satisfactory information on all these points. I would therefore like Government to pay serious attention to enquire into the causes which led to such occurrences, which has become the order of the day and to see that such things do not recur in future.

“It is not enough they concentrate their attention on consolidating their party strength by means fair or foul, because what I find, from the beginning they came to office, is they have been trying to concentrate their attention on consolidating their party position in spite of the fact that they have such an overwhelming majority. But are they bestowing any attention to these serious questions and to keep peace in the country? If there is no peace in the country, the Government does not deserve the name of the Government and if they are not able to keep peace in the country, and make the people to feel that their life and property are secure, they are not a Government. As a matter of fact, I find lakhs and lakhs worth of property in Vaniyambadi was burnt to ashes and people had to see their own property being burnt without being able to raise their little finger to save them, and the Police have absolutely kept silent and did not do anything in the matter. That is the kind of Police we are having to-day. What are the circumstances in which this incident has happened, we do not know, in spite of the fact the Hon. the Premier went to Vaniyambadi and saw with his own eyes what had actually happened there. But, what has he done? Was he satisfied with the conduct of the Police there? Did he make any enquiry into that and did he institute any enquiry as to the conduct of the Police there? Is it not this very Police that is doing these acts also in Golden Rock? I may tell the House once for all that they do not deserve the name of Government so long as the people do not feel that their life and property are secure. That is the fundamental duty of the Government, they are failing in the discharge of this fundamental duty, and that is the reason why I am speaking in support of this matter. I therefore request the Government to make a thorough enquiry into the matter and even now place before the House what the circumstances connected with this incident are. I would like to impress on the Government that they are in the habit of ignoring the House on very important matters. In matters like this, they should place all the facts and take the House into their confidence but they have failed to do so. Once again, I request the Government to see that the people of this Presidency feel that their lives and property will be made secure at least in the future.”

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. the Premier has, on the floor of this Assembly, said

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on more than one occasion that the struggle that was going on in Golden Rock was not a struggle between the Government of Madras and the workers but it was a struggle that was going on between the workers in Golden Rock and the Railway Administration which was to-day part and parcel of the Government of India. He has also told us that the interest which the Government has got in the matter was only the interest of a third party, but that third party having influence, could have used it in the settlement of the quarrel. The Hon. the Prime Minister has also told us that he has intervened in the matter but he was not able to arrive at a settlement because of certain things which he was not prepared to reveal on the floor of the Assembly and that he thought that he would injure the interests of the parties involved by doing so. To-day that struggle has assumed huge proportions and the Government of Madras cannot be an idle spectator in this matter. So, I would implore the Hon. the Prime Minister to take up the trend where he left it and see that he liquidates the present turmoil which is threatening the peace and order of this Province. When I say this, I also mean that the peace and order of this Province must be maintained and it is the duty and responsibility of any decent Government to see that peace and tranquillity prevail. While saying this, we are not prepared to tolerate the excesses of those authorities who are in charge of peace and order in this Province. Therefore, Sir, I request the Hon. the Premier to place on the floor of this Assembly the events that have led to the actual firing and the losses sustained by the people and particularly the injuries done to an hon. Member of this House. I am sure, Sir, with his generous disposition and with his kindly and fatherly manners, he can play the role of an ambassador of peace and see that peace and tranquillity are once more established in this Province and that justice is meted out to the workers at Golden Rock.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, after my hon. Friend, Mr. Majeed, has given his opinion, the only simple question before the House is how far the Government is responsible in regard to the atrocities committed at Golden Rock. I am one of those who feel, Sir, that this Government and this Government alone is responsible for what has happened. For some reason, the Members of the Treasury Benches have taken it into their heads that all this labour agitation is due to the Communists. With this prejudiced view, if they approach the problem, I say they cannot solve the problem. It is not my opinion alone, Sir. The Hon. the Minister for Labour, when he was last in Coimbatore, he has clearly said at a Workers' Conference addressing his own partymen and said, ‘You have been sleeping and the Communists have captured the workers; you must also capture the minds of the workers’.”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I question that statement, Sir.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Just as the present Congress Party captured the minds of the masses and got into power, so also the Communists, after hard work, have captured the imagination of the workers and they are now the

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rightful Leaders of the labour movements. (Voices: 'Question' from the Congress Benches). Sir, my point was that because the Government has approached the problem with such a view, they will not be able to solve this problem. I ask, Sir, whether the labour strike in the South Indian Railway where 42,000 people are involved, is due to the Communist party? Where such a large number is involved, will not this Government consider it seriously as a matter calling for their immediate attention? If the Speaker bears with me, I will say that in the matter of this strike, the Government have bungled from the very beginning. On the 24th of last month, the strike was about to begin, but we saw in the papers that the Hon. the Premier interviewed the Agent of the South Indian Railway and we saw again in the papers that he has promised his unqualified help to the Agent."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Not at all."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I ask, Sir, what was the kind of help that was promised?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member should not presume false facts and go on arguing, Sir."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I take the information. If the Government had been serious from the very beginning of the labour strike of such magnitude that was going on in Trichinopoly, they would have deputed one or two Ministers to that place—we have a lot of them, about thirteen Ministers and all of them are here—to arrive at a settlement. Instead of doing that, because of the prejudice, they have bungled in the matter. I say this because while Mr. Venkateswaralu was speaking, I saw from the opposite benches smiles and jeers. I remember the scene in 1930 when the Congress had to struggle, and that was in the days of the old Council, when there was a lathi charge in China Bazaar opposite the cloth shops while picketing was going on. In my opinion, Sir, the position of the Congress at that time was the same as the position of the Communist Party to-day. (Voices from the Congress Benches: 'Question.') There was an appeal by the Minister for Revenue this morning to the zamindars of this Presidency to march with the times. I bring to the notice of the House, Sir, that the labourers in this Province have come to their own. This strike is not a problem of the Communists but it is a problem between the 'Haves' and the 'Have-nots.' Unless the Congress Party also marches with the times and settles matters in right earnest, it will not be able to put an end to such atrocities, shootings, murders, etc., described by Mr. Venkateswarlu. This is only the beginning of such troubles and unless these are settled at once, this Government is going to face even more."

* P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, but for the attitude of the hon. Members in the Congress Benches, I would never have deemed it necessary to speak to-day. Our Deputy Leader, Mr. Pocker Sahib, has already explained that if we support the motion moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswaralu, does not indicate our approval of the policy or the methods adopted by the party to which he belongs. But Sir, I know there

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is a party that not only applauded those methods, but advocated, and practised them and that party is the party to which the Ministers belong.

"Ever since we met here, in season and out of season, day in and day out, hon. Members of the Congress Party have been singing in praise of all that happened in 1942, of all the bridges that were broken, of the telephone and telegraph wires that were cut and all the damage and havoc these caused. Sir, adjournment motions were moved by their spokesmen and also discussed in the Legislatures all over this country and protests and walk-outs were arranged. All these things have happened so recently that the Hon. the Prime Minister and the members of the Congress Party could not have easily forgotten them. In these circumstances, Sir, I cannot understand this attitude of mind which to-day compels the Hon. the Prime Minister to decry those very methods adopted by his party and which have brought him and his colleagues to power. Sir, the Ministry claim to be the champions of democracy but to-day they are violating every principle of that democracy. Rights and privileges claimed by them as fundamental rights of man are being denied to those who are opposed to them in politics. I cannot understand this calculated inability to appreciate another man's point of view and the complete lack of courtesy to those who are opposed to them. This morning the Prime Minister announced the remission of collective fines imposed on account of disturbances in 1942 but at the same time, said that he would impose these very collective fines on those who now oppose him. Sir, under the new Acts before us, for everything special officers are appointed and the Ministry are not prepared to give us any assurance as to what class of officers would be appointed as those special officers. Last evening, I was surprised to hear the Prime Minister say that he would personally plead for the abolition of even self-governing institutions which have taught us the art of self-government. I am afraid, Sir, that this attitude of mind, of intolerance and an attitude that brooks no opposition would lead to a very dangerous situation. I am afraid that this Congressism that is being established in this country would be something more horrible and frightful than even Fascism. Sir, in my own little town of Calicut, an order has been issued three days ago. (Sri K. Varadachari: 'Calicut should not be brought here.') I am speaking about the attitude of the Ministry in such matters—an order has been issued prohibiting all meetings and processions; civil liberties are being interfered with and the police have been let loose on the public . . ."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, my hon. Friend, Mr. Pocker, has stated in clear terms our position so far as this matter is concerned. Our only object in participating in the discussion in regard to this matter this afternoon, Sir, is to tell the House that we are certainly no parties to terrorism or repression on the part of any party or side. Sir, when the All-India Railway strike was announced, we thought we had dealt sufficiently with the railway workers in this country.

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I do not know, Sir, how and when this strike of the South Indian Railway has come into existence and why this was not dealt with, put down or prevented. It is very unfortunate, Sir, that there have been strikes all over the Province creating a situation over which the Government seems to have no control. When the question was raised in this very House, we certainly felt that there was really trouble in Golden Rock and that it required the immediate attention of the Government. Those reports of deaths and attacks on persons who were engaged in the strike created some sort of fear. We, on this side, feel that the methods that are employed are certainly not the type of things that should have been done. Some reference has been made to the sufferings that my Congress friends put up with when they were outside the Government or the Legislature. During the last so many years, they suffered incarceration and they have been victims of lathi charges and things like that. The Government of those days were resorting to atrocities like that and they were carrying on the Government without the co-operation and the support of the people. Now, Sir, those days are gone. The then Government, which were an Imperialist Government, a foreign Government, were carrying on the administration of this Province and were resorting to methods that were deprecated by all. We thought, Sir, that the party whose members have had experience of the atrocities of the Imperialist Government and their methods of repression, would have remembered these things and adopted different methods. But, Sir, it is unfortunate that those methods are resorted to by the very Government composed of members who have experienced, no less than the people, such methods of repression. Sir, the people felt that the party in power which was having the largest support in the Province or at least the largest support of the Hindu population in this Province, when it came into office, would adopt very different methods from those which were adopted by their predecessors.

5-45 P.M. "A large number of young men of the Non-Brahmin community suffered incarceration and lathi charges at the hands of that very Government. I believe those very gentlemen believed in non-violence in those days because Gandhiji has been telling us from the very beginning for the last twenty-five years that he believed in it not as a mere expedient but as an article of faith and as his life's principle that non-violence should govern human relations in the world. These gentlemen who are believers and followers of Gandhiji are not able to believe in non-violence in the manner in which he wanted them to do; on the other hand what do we find? The very same people want to govern the Province not with the co-operation and help of the people but by terrorising them and repressing them. The Government have come into office as the representatives of the people and they ought to treat others as their own people even though they may belong to other parties. The labourers of Golden Rock are your people although they may have gone under the guidance of Communists who may have led them astray. You have to adopt all the same peaceful methods of conciliation instead of resorting to violent

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methods of terrorising them. I like to ask whether the Hon. the Premier has called for information from Trichinopoly. I know the Collector of Trichinopoly would have communicated to the Government what has happened. When Congressmen were killed and when they were beaten, we never believed in the reports that came from Collectors; we wanted that first hand information should be obtained by a non-official agency. Now, Sir, what the Hon. the Premier is going to tell us is from the report of the Collector or of the District Superintendent of Police. Is he going to ask us to believe or does he himself believe that all that has been reported is the entire truth, God's own truth? Possibly, it may be true or it may not be true. I wish yesterday itself somebody—one of the Parliamentary Secretaries of this House—had been sent to Trichinopoly to know first hand what has happened. Then we would have believed what my Hon. Friend the Premier would tell us. In fine, I would like to appeal to the Hon. the Premier to treat members belonging to parties other than his own as his own people, to treat them as brothers and not to regard them as aliens and enemies. Although they may have been misguided and gone astray, you must bring them round to your own peaceful way and also rule this Province by methods other than imperialist methods, by methods of conciliation, co-operation and goodwill as he wanted us to give him."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, the matter is not free from difficulty."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will finish his speech in three minutes and he is the last speaker."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If we, the members of the Muslim League speak on this occasion, it is not because we have anything in common with the Communist party, but because as members of this august representative body, we have a responsibility. The matter must be viewed from a dispassionate point of view. It would have been better if the Communist member who charged the police of excesses and who charged the Government accordingly, had given us the details of circumstances which led up to the lathi charge, to the firing and to the arrests. If we had in our possession correct information with regard to the circumstances which led to the firing, we would have been in a better position to express an opinion on it. Nobody in the House or outside the House and so far as the Muslim League is concerned nobody would say that the Government is not charged with the duty of maintaining law and order. Law and order go together. Order if you want to maintain must be within the law. We are interested to know whether the maintenance of order which was sought to be done at the Golden Rock was within the law. Was there justification for the lathi charge? Was there justification for the firing and killing and for the arrests? Circumstances had not been narrated and we do not know the real story. But two things have to be taken into consideration. The first thing is whether the Police action was justified especially in view of the fact that the struggle between the

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railway men and the workers was not the primary concern of the Government. The first question that should be ascertained is whether there was justification for interference by the police and if there was, whether the circumstance justified the use of force and if the force that was applied was necessary or beyond the measure necessary for the maintenance of law and order. That is what I mean when I said order should be maintained within the law. We, the members not only of the Muslim League but all the members of this august representative assembly, have got a responsibility. If we want to take part in this discussion, it should not be misunderstood that we want to do propaganda against the party in power and that we want to take advantage of any little disturbances here or there. That is not it; far from it. We are responsible servants of the people and we have a responsibility to the people who elected us. It is our duty to see that the administration of law and order is done in accordance with the law. I wish to sound one note of warning and the Muslim League is entitled to make it and that is that you belong to a single political party and there is a tendency on the part of members of that party—I do not mean the responsible members like the Ministers—to over-step the limits of their functions and the servants are naturally influenced by the fact that they are under the Congress Party Government and when certain other parties choose to oppose the Congress party or do something which is irksome to it or which is not entirely in the interests of the party in power of which they consider themselves to be the limbs, there is a tendency on their part to over-step the limits of law and therefore, I appeal to the Hon. Premier to go into the matter very seriously and see whether it is not a fact that the servants

AN HON. MEMBER :—“ The hon. Member is referring to Congressmen as servants.”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“ I do not like this kind of exchange of words and interruptions. The hon. Member will proceed.”

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I was referring to the servants of Government. We are all the servants of the people. Not you, Sir. You are the ruler; you are not servant. (Laughter.)

“ My appeal to the Hon. the Premier is this: It is the duty of the Congress Government to see that their members outside and the public servants . . . ”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member has exceeded his time limit; the Hon. the Premier might reply.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ Mr. Speaker, the last speaker tried his best to represent the legal position and the constitutional position dispassionately. So far I could gather, he agreed that it was the responsibility of Government to maintain law and order. Up to a point there was a feeling of appreciation at least on the part of those who had spoken this evening, particularly the members of the League. If they had been a little more patient until the facts are disclosed, they would not have

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spoken in the strain and tone in which they have addressed the House. Facts must be known; both sides must be heard; it is only then that one can arrive at a conclusion. But that has become absent to-day unfortunately. The reason for it unfortunately is that there was shooting, there were some deaths, there was a lathi charge and injuries were caused. As Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig put it one ought to know if there was justification for it. To understand it, it is necessary that we should know what were the circumstances leading to the firing, what was the previous history of the party that had been working to create trouble in the country. These facts must be known. It is only after that, could a Government be charged. Of course, hon. Members were pained to see there were some deaths. Government also feel very sorry for the deaths caused, however just that firing might be. Unless a Government is inhuman it would not fail to feel for the loss of life. The question, ‘ who is in the right and who is in the wrong ’ has to be gone into by the Government. Some friends were good enough to appeal to the Government to go into it dispassionately and ascertain the truth about this matter. I do not quarrel with any statement made or attacks made unconsciously against the Government. Some levelled their criticism in a quiet manner; some others, because of the loss of life, got excited and went a bit stronger in their condemnation before they could get at the facts. Sir, what happened in this case. How did it happen that the Police were compelled to open fire? When did the strike start? What is it that had been going on during the last so many weeks, ever since the strike started? The Police had been guarding about 1,500 miles of railway line, as it were, because the Communists declared a strike, and declared that they would not allow trains to pass. They did their best to call upon all railway men, stationmasters, and other workers to strike, and make it impossible for the trains to run. All this time, the Police had been maintaining law and order without having recourse to any firing at all. In a few weeks, it became known that the strike was going down, and that those who went on strike were resuming work (Sri P. Venkateswarlu: ‘ Never ’). ”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“ I will request Mr. Venkateswarlu not to interrupt the Premier when he is making a statement.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ I was wondering, Sir, whether it was any other gentleman that interrupted me. (Laughter.) It is our friend again. Things were going on very peacefully. The Communist leaders have created not only the South Indian Railway strike but they have created other strikes also calling upon Government to face them. They had been engaged in very violent methods all round. Before coming to this Golden Rock incident, Sir, I would tell you what was done in the town of Karur, forty miles from Trichinopoly. What happened there, perhaps none of the hon. Members know. I happened to go there and see things myself. Karur is a big commercial centre noted for handloom factories. The master handloom weavers there have been carrying on their business for a long time and

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they have been flourishing under all difficult conditions even during the war. What happened in that town, I will request hon. Members to consider for a while. I went there, Sir, as I was returning from Madura, although I was told everything was quiet in Karur, and those who have done mischief had already disappeared. But it was not in my nature to go away. I went there to see who did it all. The Communist leaders had set whole houses on fire in broad daylight. (Cries of 'shame.') They set on fire, not thatched houses, not only tiled houses, but storeyed houses built with cement, brick and chunam. Big houses were burnt, bales of yarn stocked there were burnt, and in that way 11 buildings were destroyed there. How it was done there, do you know, Sir? This is a matter of enquiry now, and the persons concerned will be tried in due course. These are not things that can disappear easily. What had happened in Karur I shall explain briefly. The District Collector was there on the spot. The District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Harrison (who was said to have been present in Golden Rock) was camping there, and the whole Police force was there. Men went in broad daylight, challenging the Government and challenging the Government officials, as it were, they poured petrol on doors, and set fire to houses, burnt all yarn and burnt them all to ashes. That was done in Karur. When I was there I made enquiries. I was told that 40 more people who had taken part in this burning and destruction of property had disappeared and had not yet returned to the town. (A voice: 'Gone underground?') You cannot apply such a sacred word in this connexion. 'Underground' can be used only for political underground. Here (Karur) they have all gone out of the place. These were the Communists who had been engaged in this nefarious business for such a long time to upset everything. It is these Communists who had precipitated the Golden Rock situation at the last stage. What else have they done? In one place in Ramnad district, these Communists took on hand innocent workers, made them defy the whole law of the land as it were, went and occupied the land owned by others, and challenged the Government, and created agrarian trouble. Police protection had to be given there. Sir, very near Madras, in the fourteenth mile, we have got Pallavaram where Muslim proprietors have been running their tanning industry. Some hon. Members may know how matters were brought there to a pitch, and how Police protection had to be given to prevent tanneries being burnt. In this way, wherever protection was required it is the Police force that had been giving protection, when the Communists were engaged in this wretched work in a most unconscionable manner. We have been trying our best, considering the age and inexperience of these so-called Communists, to put reason into them and make them behave properly and act properly towards their countrymen. What is the good of lecturing from morning till night in one breath in the name of 'workers, workers and workers', while at the same time inducing workers not to earn their livelihood, but leading them along streets so as to compel the Police and Government to take

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some action against them. (Laughter.) This is the sort of business which the Communists had been doing all the time. Sir, murders are being committed; it is not an empty statement. (Sri P. Venkateswarlu: 'Police records?') I am not making a statement merely for the sake of statement. All this is borne out by record. All this will come out. It is the Police that have been giving help to these Communists. (Laughter.) In some places attempts were made to tamper also with these innocent Police. I am warning Communists to be careful in dealing with their own countrymen and the Government. (Mr. Kallur Subba Rao: 'Their country is Russia and not India.') (Laughter.) I will give you something interesting about what happened at Golden Rock. When I was in Trichinopoly, their representatives who had been there at the time of this occurrence told me as to what occurred there. An hon. Member of this House who had been injured on this occasion came here along with another leader of the Communist party, Mr. Kalyanasundaram, and demanded of me certain things, which I was not able to reconcile myself to do. One thing always happens. Whenever there is trouble or whenever there is an arrest, people come to me and ask for the release of person or persons thinking that being a People's Government it should be done. They come and argue that the Sessions Judge who convicted the accused is wrong, what they say is correct, and 'therefore' they say, 'please release them: they are our men.'

"Now, Sir, what happened at this Golden Rock is this. The friends who came here went away from here, and they engineered and worked to provoke violence by some means or other. It is the speeches that created trouble in this world. It is the words that bring about trouble on a large scale or small scale. These friends who had left Madras and who had gone, what was it they were doing? What were the speeches made by these people? Here is a letter which I received. I told you, Sir, they came and met me and they went away. What are their speeches, I am going to read—something very interesting to me, to you, and to hon. Members of the House also. The letter says—

"The temper of the workers on strike had been specially roused by violent speeches by Mr. Anandan Nambiar, directed specially against the Government, for example, on the 28th August, at Golden Rock, Mr. Nambiar spoke as follows:—

"Prakasam is 75 years old, and I am 28! . . . (Laughter.) It must be seen for how long he would continue to be the Premier of the Province after arresting me, a Member of the Legislative Assembly. Some other Prakasam and not this Prakasam shall come for that purpose. If I am arrested, 1942 will repeat. The South Indian Railway workers conduct this strike peacefully . . .," and with violence also (these are my words). To continue the quotation—

"When it is so, if we are arrested I would beat Frakasam Garu with my boots in the Legislative Assembly".
(Cries of 'shame, shame'.)"

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir, . . ."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will allow you to speak in the end. Please resume your seat."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"To continue the quotation—

'If I am arrested the land of death should be seen. If you Reynolds (General Manager of the South Indian Railway) go near Jawaharlal Nehru, you will get shoe beatings. Who is caring for your notice? We will see you in the gallows. The workers in the Golden Rock have given their blood due to Mr. Harrison, the Superintendent of Police. Not only for him, we have given our blood under this unjust Congress Government, this reactionary Congress Government. This Prakasam's Government will capsize.'

I have got another translation of a speech from a Tamil paper. I would read a few lines:

'You need not be afraid of the Police beating. If they beat us we will certainly return the blows. We shall not leave them free if they beat us. If they beat us, who are carrying on in a peaceful manner, blows will fall on Prakasam's head. Workers are going to beat Prakasam in the Assembly. If poor labourers are beaten we will send labourers to the Assembly to tear off Prakasam's head. Labourers are not going to be afraid in future. They do not advocate *ahimsa*. It is not known where they are going to be thrashed. The Soviets waged guerilla warfare against Hitler. That guerilla fight will take place hereafter. Prakasam, take away your Police hand, otherwise the head of Prakasam, who has sent them to beat us, will break. Labourers are beaten when they come to attend meetings. They are beaten after entering their houses. If black-legs threaten you, their legs should be changed to red legs. Blood will flow if beaten.'

Hon. Members will have an opportunity to know the speeches and everything as time goes on. Sir, until these two leaders left Madras and went over to Trichinopoly, there was nothing happening there, although the Police had been there for such a long time. Even the Golden Rock strike had practically broken. These friends went there, created a situation and roused the mob whom they addressed at that time. Sir, this is a letter sent on the 2nd September by the Trichinopoly Town Congress Committee. They have passed a resolution.

"It is—

'Since in the opinion of the Trichinopoly Town Congress Committee the speeches made by the Communist leaders at public meetings so far held both in Golden Rock and in Trichinopoly are violent, criminally abusive, directed against responsible men, and dangerous to public safety, and these speeches are to encourage acts of violence by members of the Communist Party, this Committee implores the Madras Government to arrange to render such protection to the public as the occasion demands at the earliest opportunity.'

Like that representations came from those who did not agree with the workers on strike, and they were asking for protection. This is exactly what happened. The hon. Member Mr. Hameed Khan says 'when the Collectors sent reports and when the Police Officers sent reports, you did not attach any value when you were fighting the Government in those days; now when they are sending reports you expect us to believe them.' Since when this attitude has been developed in the mind of Mr. Hameed Khan, I do not understand. (Mr. Hameed Khan: 'Since 1942, Sir.') 1942, or it may be earlier. Never mind; I do not want to go into that. You are entitled to change into anything you like.

"These long reports will take a long time, if I read. That is why, I am trying to read certain portions. I am now reading

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from the Collector's report. The report is dated 5th Sep 1946. The Collector says . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What is the name of the Collec

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Varghese, C of Trichinopoly. The Collector says—

'This morning (5th September) the District Superintendent of Police, C.I.D., were at the Golden Rock station looking after general *bandolust* arrangements. They left the police to their residence at about 8-45 a.m. At about 8-50 a.m. a patrol bus in front of the Union office saw a crowd obstructing the roadway. The bus stopped and the officer-in-charge of the bus arrested four of them for obstruction and put them into the bus. While the bus was proceeding a large crowd of people from inside the Union office came out and threw stones at this bus. It was the time when the usual morning's meeting of the strikers was dispersing. The bus proceeded on its way without trying to deal with the crowd who threw stones. Information about this incident immediately reached the police station. The Personal Assistant to the District Superintendent jumped into a bus with an officer of the Malabar Special Police and at Malabar Special Police constables and proceeded to the scene. A large crowd collected on the road in front of the Union office by then and the bus reached the scene, it was heavily stoned. The Police party were immediately about to be overwhelmed by a large crowd estimated three to four thousand. Stones and soda bottles were hurled at them. The Officer in charge ordered a lathi charge, but before he could do anything the mob threatened to close round the police party. Two constables, eight who comprised that party, were hit and one of them fell down on the ground. The party had only two rifles. The Personal Assistant immediately seized a rifle from one of the constables. The Malabar Special Police Officer seized the other remaining rifle, and both of them opened fire.'

These are the circumstances, Sir, under which, according to the Collector, fire was opened. Those who are charged with maintaining law and order taking this risk, when they were with a large crowd, and when they were treated with stones, when one of the two constables who got injuries fell unconscious, what is it that should be done, Sir? Subject to a final enquiry that will be made, I am trying to place before you because you justly demanded them. What happened at that time? How did this firing happen? When I heard that there was firing and that there were some deaths, I was myself satisfied that the House must be told immediately the circumstances under which fire was opened.

"As regards the police force, Sir, I was myself expecting many things to happen when I was looking at the conduct of the Communists who are determined to create some trouble there or anywhere. I am not taking the hon. Member's word for those details and the documents that I have got in my pocket. Therefore you have to wait in patience. I have placed before you the required to enable you to understand what has happened. I am thoroughly convinced about one thing. If these friends had gone away from here, had not addressed the people with violence, nothing would have happened. It is also stated in the Collector's report how some of these people were armed with spears and axes and other things and how they rushed against the police people also. Under those circumstances, what could you expect the police people to do? They should protect the people and they should disperse this unlawful assembly as

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possible. It was under those circumstances that this firing took place and the deaths occurred. Therefore you know the circumstances and conditions under which this thing has happened, which has not happened for such a long time. Hon. Members of the Opposition know how every one of them and the public generally have been anxious about any violence that might burst out in any part. I thank the hon. Members of the Opposition for the way in which they have been managing things in creating a calmer atmosphere, whatever may have been the political differences. I really congratulate the hon. Members of the Opposition here to-day. They thought that something had gone wrong, that there was no restraint, and that the people were let loose. No such thing has happened. Whenever a situation was placed before me, at once an enquiry was started to ascertain the truth. Whenever hon. Members of this House felt that there was likely to be a breach of the peace and whenever I was called upon to do something, even in the middle of the night, I put myself in touch, which is not usual in the Government way. I have been trying to discharge my duties. The death of even one man, whether he is a Communist or any other man, should not be treated lightly. ('Hear, hear.') It is a matter for great regret, Sir. Not only here—those who have read the papers last night could understand—in other parts of the country also, there is communal trouble. These communal troubles come and go. You see, a systematic business has been started by them, systematic all over the country, under a childish delusion that they would be able to capture this wonderful power, sit on the throne, and govern this country within a few months or years of their existence here. Therefore nothing untoward has happened. In his report, the Collector has stated with what weapons these people were armed, and how with these weapons some of these people rushed against the police also. Under those circumstances, can anybody expect the police officers to be simply offering prayers sitting quiet? Is that the way in which any police force could be expected to do? Leave aside the police force. Even ordinary people, if things go wrong in that way, will they keep quiet under those circumstances? They will have to prevent it by some means. That is why I say—so far as this incident is concerned and so far as the facts that have come to my notice are concerned—they had no option. They were driven to the corner. One of their men fell unconscious and these people were rushing with axes and spears! Therefore it is that the police cannot be charged with any neglect of duty under the circumstances, so far as the facts disclosed by the Collector and the Superintendent of Police are concerned.

"I therefore appeal to all the hon. Members of the House to consider dispassionately. Do not connect any other mistakes which our Government might do with any occasion that might arise against them. I have no such fear so far as the Opposition members are concerned. In the first place, I did not wish to obstruct them. I was inclined to ask them not to speak until

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they were posted with full information. It was not within my province. They must express, and I must wait till the proper stage is reached."

Mr. V. S. Muhammad Ibrahim intervened and spoke a few words in Tamil.

*MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member Mr. V. S. Muhammad Ibrahim says that he has received a similar report from the Trichinopoly Muslim League. He corroborates the Hon. Premier."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. Granting that the Collector's report is true, why should the Government feel shy of appointing a non-official committee to enquire into the matter?"

The House then adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m. on Monday, the 9th September 1946.

IV.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

G.O. No. 671, Finance, dated the 5th September 1946, relating to the schedule of authorized expenditure for 1946-47 as authenticated by His Excellency the Governor.

[7th September 1946]

APPENDIX I.

[Vide item II (8) at page 1437 supra.]

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
MADRAS.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONSIDER THE MADRAS TRADE DISPUTES ADJUDICATION (TEMPORARY PROVISION) BILL, 1946 (L.A. BILL No. 3 OF 1946), has the honour to make the following report.

2. This Bill was published in an Extraordinary issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette* in English on the 29th August 1946.

3. The Committee was appointed on the 5th September 1946 with the instruction that a report might be made on the 7th September 1946.

4. The Committee met in the Hon. the Law Minister's Room, Fort St. George, on the 6th September 1946, and considered the provisions of the Bill and submit the following report.

5. There is only one important change made by the Committee in the Bill and that is in sub-clause (4) of clause 1. The Committee felt that this being a temporary measure, one year prescribed in the Bill was too long a period during which this Act should remain in force and, therefore, unanimously agreed that it should be reduced to six months.

6. Mr. Venkateswarlu objected to the principle enunciated in clause 3 of the Bill and stated that any order for adjudication under that clause should be made by the Provincial Government at the instance only of the Trade Union or the workmen concerned and wanted his objection to be recorded.

7. The Select Committee considers that in view of the few amendments effected in the Bill by it, it is not necessary to republish the Bill.

8. A copy of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee is annexed.

6th September 1946.

K. BHASHYAM,
Chairman.

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ANNEXURE.

[Note.—The changes made by the Select Committee are shown in clarendon type and the portions omitted are shown by dots.]

L.A. BILL No. 3 OF 1946.

A Bill to make temporary provision for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes by adjudication.

WHEREAS it is expedient, pending further legislation, to make provision for the investigation and settlement of trade disputes by adjudication; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Short title, extent, commencement and duration. 1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Trade Disputes Adjudication (Temporary Provision) Act, 1946.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Province of Madras.

(3) It shall come into force on such date as the Provincial Government may, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, appoint.

(4) It shall remain in force for a period of **six months**; but the Provincial Government may, from time to time, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, extend this period by a further period or periods, not exceeding **six months** in the aggregate, if, in the opinion of the Provincial Government, it is expedient so to do.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context, the expressions "employer", "lock-out", "strike", "trade dispute" and "workman" shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in section 2 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, ^{VII of 1929.} subject to the modification that the references to "trade or industry" in the definitions of "strike" and "workman" in the said section shall be construed as including the performance of its functions by a local authority.

Power of Provincial Government to prohibit strikes, etc., and to refer trade disputes for adjudication. 3. If, in the opinion of the Provincial Government it is necessary or expedient so to do, the Provincial Government may, by general or special order, applying generally or to any specified area, make provision—

(a) for prohibiting, subject to the provisions of the order, a strike or lock-out in connexion with any trade dispute;

(b) for requiring employers, workmen or both to observe for such period such terms and conditions of employment as may be specified in the order;

(c) for referring any trade dispute for conciliation or adjudication in the manner provided in the order;

(d) for enforcing for such period as may be specified in the order all or any of the decisions of the authority to which a trade dispute has been referred for adjudication;

(e) for any incidental and supplemental matters which appear to the Provincial Government necessary or expedient for the purposes of the order:

Provided that nothing contained in clause (a) shall apply to a strike which is not illegal under section 16 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929; any trade dispute in furtherance of which any such strike is threatened or has taken place may be referred by the Provincial Government for adjudication. On such reference to adjudication the Government may issue an order prohibiting the strike in connexion with the said dispute.

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Provided further that no order made under clause (b)—

(i) shall require an employer to observe terms and conditions of employment less favourable to the workmen than those which were applicable to them at any time within three months preceding the date of the order;

(ii) shall, where a trade dispute is referred for adjudication under clause (c), be enforced after the decision of the adjudicating authority is announced by the Provincial Government.

4. Where a trade dispute referred for adjudication under clause (c) of section 3 has arisen only in a particular undertaking or group of undertakings, the Provincial Government may include in the adjudication proceedings any other undertaking either of their own motion or on an application received in this behalf, whether a trade dispute exists at the time in that undertaking or not provided that the Provincial Government are satisfied:

Power of Provincial Government to include in adjudication proceedings other undertakings.

(a) that the undertaking to be so included is engaged in the same type of industry or business as the undertaking or the group of undertakings in which the trade dispute referred for adjudication has arisen; and

(b) that the inclusion of the undertaking in the adjudication proceedings will not materially delay the award; and

(c) that the issues involved in the trade dispute referred for adjudication have already given rise, or are such as, in the circumstances, may reasonably be expected to give rise, to a similar dispute in the undertaking to be so included.

5. Where an undertaking has been included in adjudication proceedings under section 4, the provisions of this Act and of any order or award made thereunder shall (save as may be expressly provided to the contrary in any such order or award) apply to and in relation to such undertaking as they apply to and in relation to any undertaking or group of undertakings in which the trade dispute referred for adjudication has arisen.

Effect of adjudication proceedings on undertakings included under section 4.

6. Unless any order made under section 3 makes express provision to the contrary, nothing therein shall affect the power to refer any trade dispute or matters connected therewith for report or settlement under the Trade Disputes Act, 1929.

Power to refer trade disputes under the Trade Disputes Act not affected.

7. Nothing in the Arbitration Act, 1940, shall apply to any proceedings under or in pursuance of this Act.

Arbitration Act not to apply.

8. An order made under section 3 referring a trade dispute for adjudication shall specify, as far as may be practicable, the matters upon which adjudication is necessary or desirable:

Order under section 3 to specify matters for adjudication.

Provided that—

(i) the Provincial Government of their own motion or at the instance of any adjudicating authority, add to, amend or vary the matters so specified;

(ii) the Provincial Government may, with a view to specify the said matters, direct the adjudicating authority to make a preliminary inquiry into the nature of the dispute, and postpone specification for such time as may be reasonably required.

9. If any person contravenes any order made under this Act, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine which may extend to rupees two thousand or with both.

Penalties.

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 162 asked by Sri Pillalamarri Venkateswarlu on behalf of Sri K. Ananda Nambiar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 7th September 1946, page 1374 supra.]

Statement showing the composition of the Provincial and District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards.

Composition of the Madras Provincial Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards.

Patron.—His Excellency the Governor.

Vice-Patron.—The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command.

Chairman.—Honourable Sri V. V. Giri, Bar-at-Law, Minister for Industries and Labour.

Members.—A member of the Board of Revenue; Director of Public Instruction; Director of Industries and Commerce; Inspector-General of Police; Director of Publicity; Surgeon-General; Registrar of Co-operative Societies; The Commander, Madras Military district or his representative; Chief Civil Liaison Officer, Madras; Civil Liaison Officer, Madras; Recruiting Officer for the Madras classes; Naval Officer-in-Charge, Madras; Representative of the Royal Indian Air Force; six Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, three being relieved each year at the discretion of the Secretary; Commandant, Indian Women's Civic Corps; Services Resettlement Liaison Officer.

The question as regards the desirability of including any prominent non-official gentlemen as members is left to the discretion of the Provincial Soldiers' Board. The Secretary to this Board is the Civil Liaison Officer.

Composition of each of the 25 District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards.

President.—Collector.

Vice-President.—Assistant Civil Liaison Officer or Civil Liaison Officer.

Members.—District Superintendent of Police; Revenue Divisional Officers, Special Assistant (Ex-Servicemen's resettlement); District Medical Officer and District Health Officer, if the Collector considers their inclusion desirable, District Educational Officer or District Educational Officers having jurisdiction in the district, Superintendent of Post Offices, Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies; District Agricultural Officer; District Industries Officer; Recruiting Officer represented by the Assistant Recruiting Officer, Ex-Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers, and men of the Indian Army, Royal Indian Navy and Royal Indian Air Force as representatives of the Taluk Soldiers' Committees, not more than one such representative per taluk; The Presidency Post Master, Madras and Postmaster, Madura;

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are also members of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards at Madras and Madura respectively, in addition to the Superintendent of Post Offices; The Assistant Commandant, Indian Women's Civic Corps is a member of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board, Madras; and in the district where the organization is functioning, the Branch Leaders of the Indian Women's Civic Corps are members of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards in their respective districts.

Ex-officio members.—Members of the Madras Provincial Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards when residing in or touring in the district.

Honorary members.—Two legal practitioners who have offered their services free to serving soldiers and their families or dependents in the former's absence.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, the 9th September 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

The Hon. Speaker called upon Sri V. C. Palaniswami Gounder to put starred question No. 181-A.

Many of the Members were not able to find out the question in the list of questions for the day and the matter drew the attention of the Hon. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER:—"It was in the Saturday's agenda, but the gentleman wanted to renew it. If you have Saturday's agenda, probably you will have it."

The Hon. Speaker then read the question.

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. This question was on the list of questions to be answered on Saturday. It was not answered along with so many other questions. I would like to know why this alone is allowed to be answered."

MR. SPEAKER:—"A Member has liberty to renew a question. Anybody who wants to renew a question may do so. My hon. Friend Mr. Salam has asked for such permission and I have given him. The Hon. Prime Minister will now answer the question."

Alleged assault on C. V. Venugopal Nayudu.

* 181-A Q.—SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that on 16th August 1946 during the Direct Action Day of the Muslim League procession in Coimbatore a serious incident occurred and that one Mr. C. V. Venugopal Naidu, advocate of the place, who was driving in his car was violently drawn out of it and there was an attempt to beat him by some of the Muslim volunteers while many of the hooligans in the procession rushed against the car and damaged the same;

(b) whether it is a fact that an immediate complaint was made to the Police, and if so, what steps have been taken hitherto; and

(c) whether it is a fact that there was no police bundobust following the processions?

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"There is some confusion about this question and answer. Short notice question was given. Although I was not sure of getting the information, in time, I agreed to give the answer. The answer as originally framed runs as follows:—

"(a) On 16th August 1946, during Direct Action Day, while Mr. Venugopal Naidu was proceeding in his car, one of the volunteers accompanying the procession hit the car with his lathi. Some rowdies joined in and threw stones at the car badly damaging it and slightly injuring the driver.

"At that stage, the Government answer states that 'Government have no information whether Mr. Naidu was actually thrown out of his car.' By that time, the full report on that matter had not come. I have got this report to-day and I am reading it from the Collector's letter:—

"In my confidential letter to you, dated 2nd September, I have given details regarding Sri Venugopal Naidu incident. Mr. Venugopal Naidu was not thrown out of his car. He got out of the car when a volunteer hit it with his lathi. He was not assaulted by anyone. Some Muslims in the procession gathered round him and protected him from assaults. Nor was any attempt made to beat him. His car was badly damaged and his driver had a cut over the lip out of a broken glass from the car. A complaint was made to the police and it is under investigation. Mr. Venugopal Naidu complained to me that only one police constable was available at the spot and he ran away. I have asked the District Superintendent of Police to report on the allegation that the police bundobust was inadequate and that there was delay in making the investigation. For 15 minutes before this incident, the police bundobust arrangements were adequate. The procession was quite orderly at that time. The trouble seems to be that the driver of Venugopal Naidu's car lost his head when told to stop and then to proceed and it so infuriated the crowd. I shall send a further report on receipt of the police reports."

"That is what has been received. Now I have read the whole of that.

"(b) & (c) The answer to (b) and (c) is also covered by what I have read from the report of the District Magistrate."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"Are we to take it that there was any police bundobust following the procession, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I have said all that I could possibly say on the report received by me."

MR. H. S. TOWN:—"An hon. Member in this House has an umbrella. Is it in order?"

The hon. Member who had the umbrella got up from his seat with the umbrella to go out.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Hon. Members should not bring their umbrellas here in future. They may leave it in my room, if necessary."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"Do the Government concede that there was serious damage to the car of Mr. Naidu?"

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The damage to the car had been admitted."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"Will the Government be pleased to consider the question of paying compensation for the damage?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I have already stated that a further report is awaited from the Collector. After the report is received, the question of compensation will be considered."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"Will the Government see that there is no avoidable delay in sanctioning the compensation?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Beyond what is stated in the Collector's report, the Government are not able to tell anything to the hon. Member. If the further report is not received in time, a reminder will be issued to him."

Office attendance of district officials while at headquarters.

* 182 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that generally District Collectors, Deputy Collectors, Tahsildars and District Superintendents of Police, etc., do not attend office but dispose of the work sitting at home; and

(b) whether the Government propose to direct all such officers to attend office in certain hours at least when they are in headquarters?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) & (b) Under existing orders all Government servants while at headquarters should attend office between 10-30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all week days except holidays, and from 10-30 a.m. to 1-30 p.m. on Saturdays. It was brought to the notice of Government in 1943 that some Collectors did not attend office daily and orders were then issued that Collectors should attend office daily. No further orders are considered necessary now."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I enquire, Sir, whether orders have been issued only to the Revenue Department or to other executive officers as well?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"To all the executive officers, Sir."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, if these revenue officials are not more engaged in executive work than in administrative work?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"According to the circumstances and exigencies of the situation, the revenue officers would be attending office."

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Alleged dismissal of a policeman for participating in the celebration of Netaji Subhash Bose's day.

* 183 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that P.C. No. 730, a policeman of Koilpatti, Tinnevely district, was dismissed from service for participating in the celebrations of Netaji Subhash Bose's day on 1st July 1946 and garlanding the photograph of Netaji;

(b) whether there was any public agitation that the said constable should be reinstated in service; and

(c) if so, whether the Government have any intention of complying with public request?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) The hon. Member is referred to question No. 65 answered in the Assembly on 5th August 1946. The celebrations were held on 27th January 1946 and not on 1st July 1946.

“(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(c) The ex-constable's petition to Government against the order of dismissal is under consideration. The Government will take such action as they consider necessary.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know, Sir, whether it is a disqualification according to service rules for a Government servant who is nationally minded and to worship nationalist leader?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“It would be a disqualification according to the policy of the then Government. It would not be a disqualification if the present Government had been in office at that time.”

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether it is the policy of the Government to encourage members of public service to become ardent devotees of Congress leaders?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“No, Sir.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Does the present Government want its leaders to be worshipped by its officers?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Surely not, Sir. On the other hand, the present Government wants its officers to do their duty by the people, whenever their services are needed.”
(Cries of ‘hear, hear’ from the Opposition benches.)

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“May I know, Sir, whether Government officials, so long as they do their duties properly and impartially, will not be prohibited from holding their political opinion?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“No such prohibition will be imposed upon anybody. As human beings, they are entitled to hold their own opinions.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Does not the rule that Government servants should not participate in political activities hold good now?”

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“It does hold good now and it will hold good in future also.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“As the petition of the Police Constable No. 730 is under the consideration of the Government, will the Government consider the question of paying his salary with retrospective effect, if his petition is considered favourably?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“It is not known, whether his petition will be considered favourably or otherwise. The question of paying his salary with retrospective effect does not arise at present.”

Extension of service to District Collectors.

* 184 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state how many District Collectors in this Province have been granted extension of service after their due date of retirement?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“No extension of service has been granted to any District Collector after the due date of retirement. But three retired Collectors were re-employed before the Ministry came into office. The Government have now decided not to extend the period of their re-employment.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I enquire, Sir, when these three officers will be relieved of their employment?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“When their period of employment comes to an end, they will be relieved.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Are the Government aware that besides the District Collectors, there are many other officers who have retired and were re-employed? May I know what is the policy of the Government in those cases?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The general policy of the Government on this question has been stated more than once on the floor of this House. The general policy is not to re-employ retired officers.”

Paper Control Office.

* 185 Q.—SRI P. R. RAMANUJULU REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) when the Provincial Paper Control Office was constituted;

(b) who are the officers, inspectors and clerks in the office, what are their qualifications and salaries at present and also when they were first employed in the said office;

(c) what is the expenditure incurred for the Paper Control Office and how much of it is borne by the Government of India;

(d) whether there is improvement in paper position in the Province due to the import of foreign paper;

(e) how long the Government propose to continue paper control;

(f) whether there have been complaints that allotment of paper has not been made according to actual needs of consumers and that in many cases persons to whom allotments are made have

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not purchased them while those who are in actual need cannot get paper; and

(g) if the answer is in the affirmative what steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“(a) On the 11th November 1944.

“(b) The information is furnished in the statement * placed on the table. The Ministerial establishment is not an independent unit but forms part of the main office (office of the Director of Industries and Commerce) and transfers of members of the staff from one section to another are made for administrative convenience.

“(c) The actual expenditure incurred on account of the office of the Provincial Paper Controller during the year 1945-46 was Rs. 86,586. No portion of the expenditure is borne by the Government of India.

“(d) Yes.

“(e) The Paper Control Orders were promulgated by the Government of India. These orders will have to continue as long as the position of paper remains unsatisfactory.

“(f) & (g) Allotment to various consumers in this Province have been made on the basis of consumption in the years 1939 and 1943 as fixed by the Government of India in the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1945. In cases where the Government of India and the Provincial Paper Controller were satisfied that the allotment on the above basis was below the actual needs of the consumers, special quotas of paper and newsprint were given.

“While the Provincial Government have no power to compel consumers to purchase paper allotted to them, they have no reason to apprehend that persons getting allotments of paper are not utilizing them.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, what quantity of paper would the Government require to meet the entire needs of the consumers?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“The only answer that the Government could give is that more paper should be produced.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“With regard to answer to clause (b) of the question, may I know, Sir, why out of the 29 officials employed in this department, not even a single Harijan has been included? Is that they did not apply or their applications were rejected?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I think there is one member of the Scheduled Class, Sir.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“In the list of officers furnished in the statement, it is stated that there are also S.S.L.C. (failed) people. May I know, Sir, whether they were exempted from the operation of the General Service Rules?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Most probably, Sir, they might have been exempted. They are not dealt with badly.”

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know, Sir, whether this was the only application from the Harijan community among those who applied?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I am sorry I am not in a position to answer the question.”

Harijan Employment Exchange.

* 186 Q.—SRI R. S. MANICKAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether Government propose to start a Harijan Employment Exchange in every district in this Province?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“There is no such proposal under consideration.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know, Sir, whether the present Employment Exchange office is working satisfactorily and if so, how many Harijans are being employed in it?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Notice, Sir.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Will the Government consider the question of starting Employment Exchanges in all districts so that they may be very useful in finding employment for the Harijans?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Sir, I shall study the question and see whether the Employment Exchanges are helpful to every community?”

Ban on the drama “Mundadugu.”

* 187 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether the ban imposed by the Adviser Government on the drama “Mundadugu” still exists; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, will the Government propose to lift the ban?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(b) The matter is still under the consideration of Government.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“May I know whether this and another drama ‘Comrade Venkamma’ were simultaneously banned by the Collectors of Kistna and Guntur?”

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“I have no information here. I will give the answer if the hon. Member puts down a fresh question.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know how much trouble this drama has caused and to what extent it has disturbed the peace and tranquillity of the Circars?”

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“Possibly, that is the reason why it was banned.”

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, if this drama has anything to do with politics?”

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THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"It has a lot to do with politics. It is because it promoted class hatred between the zamindars and the ryots that it was banned."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know whether any representation from influential members of the Bar and editors of newspapers waited on the Hon. the Law Minister in regard to lifting of the ban?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I do not know whether they are influential or not. But some members waited on me in deputation in respect of this matter. The matter was considered and one of the petitioners present promised to send me an English version of the whole book and he has not done so in spite of two reminders."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know if one of the Parliamentary Secretaries could not have got the book translated?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I thought it better and it is easily more in the interests of the persons who interceded that it should be translated by them so that they may have the benefit of it."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that all those who represented to the Hon. Minister are of the Communist Party?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Some of them were."

Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

* 188 Q.—SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Hindu Religious Endowments be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is fact that the Hindu Religious Endowments Board is not self-supporting; and

(b) if so, what is the amount that is paid by the Government to maintain it?

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—" (a) Hindu Religious Endowments Board is self-supporting.

" (b) Does not arise."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Are there similar endowment boards in other provinces?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"I am not aware of it."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Are the Government aware, Sir, that to supplement its finances the religious mutts and temples board is trying to rope in many of the religious endowments previously exempted from the operation of the Act?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"There is no question of roping in any institution. The question of collecting dues from the temples is quite different from roping them in. It is for administrative purposes that the Board takes action."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Are the Government aware that the Hindu Religious Endowments Board is trying to bring in its operation one or two temples managed by Harijans are being asked by the Board to get more taxes?"

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THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"It is possible, but it is not for the sake of getting taxes."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Board consists of any Harijan member?" (Loud laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"No."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what the income and expenditure of the Board are?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"Notice, Sir."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the bifurcation of the Board into Andhra and Tamil is under consideration?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"Not that I am aware of."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM:—"Is it a fact that when he was Minister, Dr. Rajan completed a Bill to abolish the Board and appoint a Commissioner?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"There was a proposal for reorganizing the Board."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"In view of the poor condition of the Harijan mutts and temples, will the Government consider the necessity of exempting one or two of the Harijan mutts and temples that are managed by Harijans just now?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"I will consider it, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the Board consists of members nominated, appointed or co-opted or nominated?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"Members are all appointed by Government."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"Is it a fact that when the Congress Government was in office last time, the Hon. Dr. Rajan prepared a Bill to abolish the Board and take the administration directly into the hands of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"I have answered the question."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Is it a fact that the Endowments Board is taking a very heavy toll from the Tirupathi Devasthanam though it has nothing to do with the Devasthanam even under the Tirumalai-Tirupathi Devasthanams Act?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"The President of the Endowments Board has some control over the Devasthanams."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Is it a fact that some nominal control was provided in the Act to enable the levy of the toll?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"I do not think so."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"May I know whether there is any proposal to provincialize the department?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"The matter is under consideration."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Arising from the answer to clause (a) may I ask whether there is any scheme under contemplation to make the Board self-sufficient? "

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—" I have already answered the question."

Amalgamation of Panchayat Boards of Chirala and Perala.

* 189 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether there is a proposal under consideration of the Government to amalgamate the Panchayat Boards of Chirala and Perala and constitute them into a single Municipality?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" Yes."

Wells in Ramnad district.

* 190 Q.—SRI R. S. MANICKAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what amount was spent for new and old wells in Ramnad district under the new scheme;

(b) how many wells have been completely constructed and how many remain still to be completed; and

(c) in dry areas what is the minimum acreage required under the rules to get the benefit of a well?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" (a) A sum of Rupees 13,24,795 has been disbursed towards subsidies for sinking new wells in the Ramnad district under the Accelerated Scheme, and a sum of Rs. 1,09,675 for repairing old wells.

" (b) Up to 31st July 1946, 218 new wells and 62 old wells were completed. On that date, 4,068 new wells and 630 old wells were yet to be completed. Later figures are not yet available.

" (c) No minimum acreage has been prescribed, except that in the case of repairs to old wells, it has been laid down that the well, to be eligible for the subsidy, should be capable of irrigating half an acre more of paddy or one acre more of any other food crop than it used to irrigate before repairs. This condition in the case of old wells may be waived provided that the well is deepened by at least three feet."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—" May I request the Government to find out the total acreage that has been newly brought under the accelerated scheme in the Ramnad district in respect of the huge sum of Rs. 13 lakhs allotted? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" Yes, Sir; that will be done."

SRI K. RAJARAM NAYUDU:—" Will the Government extend the time? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" It has been done twice already. Time has been extended to the end of September."

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SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—" Will the Government be pleased to extend the same concessions to the other districts also? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" A separate question may be put down."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" May I know whether the amounts sanctioned for the deepening of existing wells or for the construction of new wells have been included in the Provincial Budget passed? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" This matter was referred to in my speech under the Revenue Demand."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know from what date the subsidy was stopped? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I am unable to understand the question, Sir."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know, Sir, from what date the subsidy was stopped? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I think on the 10th or 15th June last."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" As a result of the time-limit fixed a large number of agriculturists of the Ceded districts have not come forward to sink wells. That being so, will the Government offer this concession again next year? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" For the Ceded districts there is a scheme to last till the end of March next."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I ask, Sir, whether the Government would be pleased to continue the same concession in respect of other districts also since the entire work of digging wells has not been completed by the people who have taken the subsidy? "

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" There is no such idea at present. The old scheme must end some day and the end of September is the last date already fixed. For other areas a new scheme is under contemplation."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it a convention, Sir, that my hon. Friend Mr. Nagappa should raise a supplementary on every question? " (Laughter.)

Air compressor machines to dig wells.

* 191 Q.—SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any proposal with the Government to supply more air compressor machines through the Military department to dig wells in different parts of Salem district?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" No air compressors have been supplied through the Military department to ryots in Salem district for sinking wells; but an army unit is now operating there sinking wells for ryots with the use

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of air compressors. The question of securing the help of the army for sinking wells on a larger scale is under examination by the Government."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"Are the air compressor machines available for distribution all over the district?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have no further information on the point."

SRI P. R. KANDASWAMI GOUNDER:—"May I know how many machines are working in Salem district and in how many taluks?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have not got full information on the point. I am trying to get it."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Will air compressors be supplied to the ryots in the Ceded districts, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Unless the present experiment now tried is found to be satisfactory, we cannot make a promise in respect of other districts."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"In view of the fact that the present policy of the Government is to increase the wells wherever possible, will the Government see that all possible facilities are made available to the ryot to dig wells under modern conditions with less cost to him?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is always considered, Sir, subject to the limitations of the finances of the Government."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know if the entire allotment of subsidy provided in the budget has been spent away already?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Has the Hon. Minister had an opportunity of seeing an air compressor machine working on digging a well?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have not been able to see one, Sir."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Does he understand what an air compressor machine is?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have seen that, Sir, but I have heard about it from other people."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Then how is it possible for the Minister to answer questions that wells dug by these . . .?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is quite possible to answer questions without seeing all things for oneself."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, when the allotment had not been spent away what is the idea of stopping the subsidy already granted by this House?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Sir, the amount that was allotted has been spent away; but I stated that further

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demands will be made during the course of the year for further expenditure that is going to be incurred and that has been incurred."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether a demonstration of the machine could be arranged for the benefit of the Members of this House?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That will be considered."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Have the Government considered the desirability of becoming owners of these new wells when they are dug and reserve the right of irrigation under these wells so that repairs and maintenance of these wells may be done under the care of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I would request the hon. Member to repeat the question, Sir."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will Government consider the desirability of retaining the ownership of wells dug under this new scheme with the aid of the military personnel and reserve also the right of irrigation so that they can be leased out under proper conditions to owners of land using water from these wells?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The wells that are now being dug are private property, Sir, and I do not see how they can be made the property of the Government."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Can't the Government dig wells on private property by giving compensation to landowners?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"We shall consider that as a separate suggestion, Sir."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"When the Hon. Minister visited Salem, did not the Collector show a demonstration of the working of the machine?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It was the Hon. Minister for Agriculture and not myself."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know what is the difficulty of Government in continuing the subsidy when they propose to come with a supplementary demand also for a new scheme as well?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The old scheme, Sir, had a time-limit and that is over. The new scheme is under consideration. I cannot see the difficulty of my hon. Friend."

Training of stockmen at Government livestock farms.

* 192 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any action in the matter of training stockmen at the Government livestock farms as suggested at the Provincial Veterinary Conference held in Madras in April 1945?

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"No. A twelve months' course for the training of stockmen is

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conducted at the Madras Veterinary College. After they complete this basic training successfully, they are given further specialised training if necessary in a poultry or live-stock farm according to the requirements of the department. No action was considered necessary on the suggestion of the Provincial Veterinary Conference."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister considered the reasons which prompted the conference to make this suggestion? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" The Government are not expected to know the reason why the conference passed a resolution."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware of the nature of work which this department is expected to do? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" The Government knows about the work which this department is doing."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Is the Government aware that this scheme was introduced by the Congress Ministry in 1938? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" I am not aware."

Artificial insemination of cattle.

*193 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have had a Veterinary Assistant Surgeon trained in the technique of artificial insemination of cattle; and

(b) whether he is employed on this work at present and what results have been achieved in this matter so far?

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" (a) Yes. A Veterinary Assistant Surgeon was trained in the technique of artificial insemination at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar.

" (b) On his return to Madras after the training, an investigation into physical and chemical properties of semen was commenced at the laboratory attached to the Madras Veterinary College and is still being carried on.

" Fertility tests to confirm laboratory findings have been carried out with success. Propaganda was carried out in the city to induce cow-owners to send their cows to the Veterinary College for artificial insemination, but the response has so far been poor. The question of opening one or two centres in selected areas for conducting artificial insemination is under consideration by the Director of Veterinary Services."

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know what are the selected areas, Sir? "

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THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" It is under consideration."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know whether the man trained for the work is doing his work? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" Notice, Sir."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—" Does the Government know that this artificial insemination will not be liked by the ryots in India and it will be considered inhuman? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" The reply to this is in the answer I have just read."

* 194 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER:—" The Hon. Minister in charge is not in Madras. He has asked me to postpone it. The question will be taken up tomorrow."

Revision of scales of pay of teachers.

* 195 Q.—SRI K. S. V. KRISHNAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to revise the scales of pay of teachers both elementary and secondary;

(b) whether Government are aware of the difference in pay now existing between higher grade and secondary grade trained teachers in the employ of District Boards and the Labour department;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to remedy this inequality;

(d) whether Government are aware that secondary grade trained teachers employed in elementary schools are paid less than those employed in secondary schools; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to remedy this?

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR [Parliamentary Secretary (on behalf of the Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiyar)]:—" (a) & (b) Yes.

" (c) Yes. They are under consideration.

" (d) Yes.

" (e) The matter is under consideration."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I enquire, Sir, whether the Government are aware that unless the pay and prospects of the teachers are substantially raised people will not be attracted hereafter to the teaching profession? "

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR:—" Certainly, we are aware."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—" Is the Government aware that dearness allowance is not paid to some teachers in private-managed colleges? "

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR:—" The Government are not aware of it. If any particular instance is brought to the notice of the Government it will be considered."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Is the Government aware that the teachers in aided elementary schools are the lowest paid when

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compared with others, and if so, what are their proposals to remedy this inequality?"

SRI L. S. KARAYALAR:—“The general question of the revision of the salaries of all teachers is under the consideration of the Government.”

Broadcasting station for Andhra districts.

* 196 Q.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Information be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to instal a separate broadcasting station in Andhra districts; and

(b) if so, when?

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“(a) The establishment of broadcasting stations is now under the control of the Government of India. The opening of a separate transmitter station in the Andhra districts is under the consideration of that Government and they have been informed by this Government of the urgency in the matter.

“(b) This Government have no information.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal before the Government to instal a separate broadcasting station in Malabar?”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“This Government has informed the Government of India that preference is first to be given to the Telugu areas, then Malabar and then to the Karnataka areas.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“What is the reason for giving preference to the Andhra area, Sir, and no preference to Malabar?”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“Because of the larger population of that area. In Tamilnad there is already a broadcasting station at Trichinopoly and one at Madras. In consideration of the greater number of the Telugu people the Andhradesa would be given one. That is the recommendation made by the Madras Government to the Central Government.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know from the Minister in charge the nature of control the Provincial Government has in the matter of the All-India Radio?”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“The Provincial Government have no control over it, except in providing sets for the rural areas.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know whether this Government has any control over the broadcasting programme, and if so, will the Government consider the desirability of allotting a few minutes for doing Harijan propaganda every day?” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“The Government has no control over the All-India Radio. But there is a small committee headed by the Chief Engineer, Public Works

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Department, to propose some programmes to be considered by the All-India radio. Only 20 minutes are allowed for a Provincial programme.”

SRI B. ANANTACHAR:—“May I know why Karnataka was not given priority over the Andhra and other districts?”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“The question of giving preference to the Karnataka will be considered along with other districts.”

Midday meals to school children attending Labour schools.

* 197 Q.—SRI K. RAGHAVAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Information be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to supply midday meals to the school children attending Labour schools in Malabar?

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“The children attending Labour schools in Malabar district are being supplied with midday meals.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I know whether the children are being supplied with powdered milk?”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“That question will be considered by the Minister for Food.”

SRI K. RAGHAVAN:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that a teacher in one of the Labour schools was dismissed for having kept false accounts?”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“That question does not arise.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know whether it is the policy of the Government to give this facility to children reading in the Labour schools alone or will that facility be extended to other Harijan children reading in other schools also?”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“The question of supplying midday meals in Labour schools is purely a question for the Labour Department. The question of other schools will be considered by the Minister for Education. When compulsory education is extended this question also will be considered by the Government.”

P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Government extend this provision of midday meals to the schools under the management of district boards and municipalities by giving them suitable grants?”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“This is purely a question concerning the Labour Department. As regards schools under the control of the district boards they will have to be considered separately by the Government.”

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MR. SPEAKER:—" Question time is over. Answers to the rest of the questions will be printed in the proceedings. Those who want to renew their questions may send requisition to me and they will be brought up to-morrow."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" On a point of information, Mr. Speaker. Since the Hon. Ministers are reading long reports is it not better that the answers to the remaining questions also . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—" It is not possible."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, the Hon. Ministers are reading long reports. Will it not be better to ask them not to read reports and as far as possible give less information?"

MR. SPEAKER:—" We have to follow certain rules and we cannot violate them."

Women's College for Andhradesa.

* 198 Q.—SRI M. DORAİKANNU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government have under consideration any proposal to open a Women's College in Andhradesa; and

(b) if so, when this scheme is likely to materialise?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

" (a) No.

" (b) Does not arise."

UNSTARRED QUESTION.

Export of potatoes.

49-A Q.—SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to prevent wastage of potatoes caused by restriction on export;

(b) whether the Government propose to purchase the potatoes and ration the commodity; and

(c) if not, why not?

A.—(a) Government do not consider that any wastage of potatoes has occurred on account of the ban on exports as arrangements have been made for the export of the entire anticipated surplus to other provinces and states including Ceylon on a quota basis.

(b) No.

(c) Government do not consider it necessary to purchase potatoes on their account and to ration the commodity at present.

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[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS TRADES DISPUTES ADJUDICATION (TEMPORARY PROVISION) BILL, 1946.

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" I have already moved the Bill be considered clause by clause."

Clause 1.

Clause 1 was put and carried.

Clause 2.

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Mr. Venkateswarlu will move amendment to this clause."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—" On a point of order, Mr. Speaker. The hon. Member's amendment seeks to put in a definition 'Trade Union' which is not at present in the Bill. I there suggest that clause 2 may be taken after clause 3 is disposed of."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" If it is the desire of the House, I have no objection."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" I agree, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Then clause 2 will be taken up after clause 3 is disposed of."

Clause 3.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" I move, Sir,

" that for the existing clause 3, the following clause shall be substituted:—

" 3. Where a trade dispute has arisen between an employer and a Trade Union, if the Trade Union has a vote of a majority of its members applies to the Provincial Government for adjudication, the Provincial Government shall by a general or special order apply generally or to any specified area, make provision—

(a) for appointing an adjudication Board consisting of three members, one appointed by each party to the dispute and a third person acceptable to both parties;

(b) for prohibiting a lockout in connexion with a trade dispute;

(c) for enforcing for a period of three months all decisions of the adjudication Board;

(d) for completing the adjudication proceedings within a fortnight from the date of application for adjudication:

Provided that—

(i) in the case of an application made by a Trade Union not having at least 15 per cent of the workers employed in the industry (in the case of non-factory labour) and 20 per cent in the case of factory labour

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as members of its Union or when any other Trade Union having more members than the one applying for adjudication objects to the appointment of an adjudicator the Government shall proceed to appoint an adjudication Board under clause (a) only on a majority vote of the workers concerned in the Trade dispute; and

(ii) *in the case of a Trade dispute in which there is no Trade Union of the workers the Government may proceed to apply an adjudication Board if the majority of the workers concerned in a Trade dispute by a majority vote, desire it."*

"Sir, as the Bill is framed at present, it takes away one of the fundamental rights of the working classes which they have been able to earn after a long fight for many years in each and every country. I raised my objection in the Select Committee, but I failed to convince them regarding the justness of my proposals, which will go a long way to promote amicable settlement of disputes and maintain industrial peace in these troublous days. That is why I have been forced to move this amendment on the floor of the House. The main principle involved is adjudication. What is adjudication? It is nothing but compulsory arbitration. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons the Hon. Minister has stated that adjudication has worked very satisfactorily all these years. The Hon. Minister has also promised to bring in a comprehensive legislation for labour. But if we accept this Bill, it will go against the vital principle for which the working classes have fought all along and it will be against the interests of the working classes. It is not merely my personal opinion but also the opinion of the Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress, Mr. N. M. Joshi. The All-India Trade Union Congress is representative of all the parties concerned. It is printed on page 37 of the Report of the General Secretary to the 21st Session of the All-India Trade Union Congress at Madras. I shall read it:

'Adjudication.—The machinery provided by Government for adjudication of industrial disputes under the D.I.A., has been slow and unsatisfactory in its working. Besides it has generally been found by experience that in a large number of cases the notice of a strike is an essential preliminary to the grant of adjudication. The machinery of adjudication at present is heavily weighted against the interests of the workers. Under present conditions, really impartial and independent adjudicators hardly exist, as most of them cannot get away from their upbringing, of a somewhat narrow middle class mentality. Further some adjudicators from a strong national feeling are inclined to take the view that increase of wages and improved conditions would make development of industries difficult'

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What is the hon. Member reading from?"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I am quoting the opinion of Mr. N. M. Joshi."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may give the substance of the opinion and refer to the pages of the book."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"That is not a book, Sir."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not read it at length."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I shall be brief, Sir."

'Moreover no arrangement is made by Government to implement the award of the adjudicator within reasonable time. As there is no definite agreement reached by Government regarding basic principles, adjudicator's awards are hardly consistent in their implications. Services of judges and lawyers secured for conducting adjudication proceedings, throughout the country during the course of the last three years, have not been of much avail to furnish precedents for settlement of trade disputes in the future. The functioning of the machinery of adjudication under D.I.A. Rule 81 (A) has increased the distrust and suspicion of workers in methods of peaceful settlement of trade disputes by conciliation and arbitration.'

"Sir, that is the opinion expressed by the revered Leader of the All-India Trade Union Congress, Mr. N. M. Joshi. I even quoted the opinion of the Hon. Minister for Labour given on the floor of this House that he was not for compulsory arbitration. Then what on earth is he bringing this legislation for, when the vital principle has not been agreed to?"

"I referred to the Hon. Minister's statement that adjudication had so far worked satisfactorily. In this connexion I should like to refer to the adjudication in the dispute in Spencer & Co. A conciliation board was first appointed and the conciliator first submitted a report, but it was not accepted by the employers. Then the dispute was referred to adjudication. In the end that adjudication affected the workers and went against the interests of the workers."

"The following is from the report of the conciliation board:—

'One can therefore postulate that the stay-in strike on 12th April 1946 was not out and out illegal, inasmuch as there was a provocation due to the silent attitude of the management. Whether the strike is legal or illegal is a vital point for decision.'

* * * * *

'The management is prepared to take back 451 of the 1,023 workers, and that too after they execute fresh contracts. This is tantamount to victimizing some 318 men—and victimization is opposed to all canons of the Labour Code of ethics, as everyone knows.'

* MR. SPEAKER:—"How many times am I to tell the hon. Member not to read long extracts?"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Only four lines, Sir?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Five minutes for four lines?"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"The question was referred to adjudication and the adjudication award went against the workers. While the conciliator said that victimization was opposed to all canons of the Labour Code and ethics, the adjudicator has agreed to the victimization of the workers, after paying the bonus and wages for three months. Sir, no adjudication has worked satisfactorily in the interests of the worker. There is no time-limit for adjudication. And everyone has agreed that the worker has got the trade union right, which right has not been accepted in the Bill. Moreover everyone is agreed that the working class has got the right of recognition of

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trade union right which has not been accepted in the Bill. Sir, we are going to make fundamental changes by means of this legislation which affects the working classes. I feel there is a vital need for opposing this Bill in toto and particularly the provision regarding adjudication. If we now accept the formula of compulsory adjudication then there is no meaning in coming forward and saying that we are not for adjudication like that. If you say adjudication, it means compulsory adjudication. It takes away the right of speech. I protest that the right of the workers shall never be taken away. A few days ago we were informed that the Communists were responsible for the Pallavaram incident. Everybody knows and the Hon. Minister for Labour knows that the Union is not under the influence of the Communists. It may be under the influence of the Congress. Then with regard to Karur it was said that everything happened there under the influence of the Communists. In Karur there is one Mr. Gopalaswami Ayyangar who is a friend of Mr. N. G. Ranga, President of a District Congress Committee. He is a Congressman. Only in the case of Karur burning of factories and other things had happened and all those things had been attributed to the Communists unnecessarily. As a matter of fact the responsibility rests upon others under whose influence the handloom weavers are organized. Sir, our trade union movement is run on right lines. We do not believe in burning factories. Those are not our methods.

4-15 p.m. "Another point I would like to bring to the notice of the House is this: The Congress Party must immediately come forward granting the right to strike. Unless that is done, I do not find there is any necessity for any legislation. After all, every strike that occurs, whether it is under the lead of the Communists or the Congress, is due only to the present-day living conditions, the present-day horrible living conditions that have existed and continue to exist in our country. So long as the present-day conditions are not being remedied, what is the meaning of . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You have exceeded your time-limit. Please finish soon."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"What is the meaning and purpose of bringing this legislation which affects the working classes?"

"I would finally say that in this Bill no time-limit has been fixed for adjudication. How many years the adjudication is going to take place? Meanwhile, what is to happen to the workers? Their organization, their union is smashed and in the end the workers are put to a loss. I appeal to all the members of this House that by passing this Bill, the Congress Party is taking away the right of the workers to strike, and going back on its resolution passed at Karachi guaranteeing this right in the Fundamental Rights resolution. Are they now going back on their resolution passed at the Karachi session? Are they throwing it

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into the ocean, I ask. I request hon. Members of this House see that the right of the working classes is respected and the right to live is granted.

"With these words, Sir, I move my amendment, and I appeal to the House to accept it."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—second the amendment."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose amendment. The first thing is that the dispute of the employer is a dispute with his work people, that is his employees, not the Trade Union. Trade Unions are not the employees of employers, and therefore there can be no dispute with the Trade Unions. Unions are merely the mouthpiece of those with whom the employers have a dispute. Therefore, Sir, that portion of this proposed amendment is going to bring something into the picture which cannot be possibly worked.

"Secondly, Sir, on the appointment of the Adjudication Board, I had drafted out myself a somewhat similar amendment but I realized that the thing would not work in practice. My friend has made his proposal even more hopeless than my proposal. We have now an adjudicator appointed by the Government. The idea is, according to this proposal, for the employer to appoint a member of the Board who, it is quite certain, will decide everything favourable to his side; the Trade Union will appoint somebody to speak for their side, who, we may be perfectly sure, will get everything for the Union. It is therefore clear that the adjudicator to be appointed by the Government will be the arbitrator. I also thought of putting in assessors in the place of these adjudicators. I think that might work well in practice. Anyway, Sir, we are promised a comprehensive legislation in the near future, and between now and then, I suggest that the content of this amendment drafts out what he really does want.

"Now, we turn to lockouts. I see it is proposed to prohibit a lockout. Why not prohibit a strike? What is a lockout? It is the strike of an employer who merely says: 'I do not wish to keep to my side of the contract, and I want to strike because of some reason the other side does not do so' and it is a lockout. The mover wants the right of the workers to strike to be in place but the employer is not given a similar right. Then he went on and said that an adjudication will take a good length of time. In my experience of adjudication—and I have had one or two—the delay has never been on the side of the employer; it has always been on the side of the Union; and it is mostly the employees who are not ready with their case, or because of the leaders who are on behalf of the employees, not quite understanding what they are aiming at, and in at least two adjudications I know the employers have had to assist in putting the Union leaders' case in point of view. If there is to be adjudication, it is quite hopeful to expect to have the proceedings completed within a fortnight. Further, grave issues are involved and Government are

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adjudicator have got to be very careful about what they do or say.

The mover said, Sir, that adjudication generally goes against the worker. I suppose by that he means that the worker has not been getting everything he asks for. To that I reply that adjudication has invariably gone against the employer. It is always the employer who has got to pay something. In sub-clause (ii), the mover gets nearer the truth, and he talks of disputes where there are no Trade Unions. That is the position, that a trade dispute is never with a Trade Union. He must try to get it clearly into his head that Trade Unions are just in the same position in a dispute, as is a barrister who is employed by his employer to state his case in an adjudication. The Union's position is that of protecting the worker but it does not take the position of the worker with his principal.

"Sir, I oppose the amendment because I think it is hastily worded; it has not been carefully thought out and I should think it would be very much better if we sat down quietly together and worked out our wants for the coming comprehensive legislation.

"Sir, I oppose."

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Sir, I do not think it is necessary for me to take much of the time of the House. I have already stated the position of Government in this matter. Government do not propose to have this Bill passed into an Act to have effect for a long time, for the reason that we desire to place before this House a comprehensive Bill dealing with all connected matters. My hon. Friend, Mr. Venkateswarlu stated that the question of recognition is more important than anything else, and I assure him and I assure the House that that question will be taken up when the comprehensive Bill is considered. Apart from it, I join issue with Mr. Venkateswarlu when he says that much time is taken by adjudication. Firstly he opposes adjudication on the ground that it is compulsory and it affects the freedom of association of the workers. I may say, along with him, that certainly the right to strike is an inherent right; but at the same time if this adjudication or compulsion is intended to be put in by the Government, it is primarily in the interests of the workers. I did say and I shall continue to say that I do not myself personally like compelling the employers or workers to come to a settlement, and I do hope a time will soon come when in India there will be no compulsion. But much of education on the part of the employers and on the part of the workers is necessary before they can come to some conclusion. In the meanwhile, I do not want the privileges and the rights of the workers to be disturbed or the industries destroyed. That is my claim to maintain the position that this legislation is more in the interests of the workers than in the interests of the employer. Secondly, it was stated that adjudication took much time. That is not my experience at any rate, after having appointed fourteen adjudicators and I must admit that what Mr. Town stated—that

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employers need not waste their time—is not far from correct in fact, my experience is that at every step the workers ask adjournment. If really they want time to state their case, there is nothing wrong and they are entitled to have it; but there is use saying that it is the machinery of Government that wastes time and takes a long time to come to conclusions. I assure the House and it is a fact that whenever an adjudication came before the Government, it was immediately acted upon. I also do not agree with Mr. Venkateswarlu when he stated that adjudications did not favour the workers. They did favour the workers. I made a comprehensive statement on that matter and I can agree with him. In the matter of the Spencer & Co. dispute there was no doubt a conciliation board and there was adjudication. To say that the workers lost everything in the matter is not administratively a fact. Let me tell this House and you, Sir, that the Spencer & Co. workers got Rs. 18 and Spencer & Co. shelled out that amount through the adjudication department. That is the position. As regards other aspects of the question, I need not go into them just at the present moment.

"I do not think I need say much more; in fact I have agreed to the proposition that this Bill should continue in existence only for a period of six months and not for one year, and I am very glad the members of the Select Committee agreed generally with it—I cannot go into details as to what took place in the Select Committee—but I have given an assurance to them that a comprehensive Bill will come into existence very soon on all the questions, including those mentioned by Mr. Venkateswarlu. I therefore want the hon. Member not to press his amendment. To Mr. Town I need not say much in reply, so also to Mr. Natesan and to Mr. Hameed Khan. Giving this assurance that a comprehensive Bill is coming into existence soon, I oppose this amendment."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall now put the amendment Mr. Venkateswarlu to the vote."

The amendment was put and lost.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall now put clause 3 to vote." Clause 3 was put and carried.

Clause 2.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Sir, there is no need for the amendment now, of which I have given notice."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will put clause 2 to the vote of the House."

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 4.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"In this case also, there is no need to move the amendment, Sir."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will put clause 4 to the vote of the House."

Clause 4 was put and carried.

Clauses 5 to 9.

Clauses 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 were then put and carried.

Preamble.

The Preamble was put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I now beg to move, Sir, 'that the Bill be passed into law.'

I do not want to make any speech. I thank the hon. Members for their help in seeing that this Bill is now passed."

The motion was put and carried.

(2) THE MADRAS PAYMENT OF SALARIES AND REMOVAL OF DISQUALIFICATIONS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 1946.

4-30 P.M. Bill." THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I am not moving my

III.—GOVERNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) MOTION *re*. AMENDMENT TO SCHEDULE V OF THE MADRAS DISTRICT MUNICIPALITIES ACT, 1920.

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the motion that stands in my name, namely:—

'That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by His Excellency the Governor of Madras under section 305 (1) of the Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920 (Madras Act V of 1920) amending Schedule V to that Act be approved:—

DRAFT RULE.

"In the said schedule, after clause (m) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

'(mm) brewing beer; manufacturing arrack or other spirits containing alcohol (whether denatured or not), by distillation.'"

"I wish that both these motions are taken up together."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I think it is better they are dealt with separately."

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Sir, it is a very simple amendment. Under Schedule V to the District Municipalities Act, licences cannot be taken for houses for brewing beer and for manufacturing arrack, methylated spirit or carbolic acid gas. This amendment seeks to include these three items in Schedule V to that Act."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We do not know what is being read because we have not got it in the agenda."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have already circulated it. It cannot be printed again and again."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The question is that it is not in to-day's agenda."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"In to-day's agenda it is given that items left over on Saturday will be taken up to-day."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I do not know the exact purpose for which this amendment is made. I request the Hon. Minister to explain the exact purpose of this amendment."

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"In order to enforce health conditions, these three new items, namely, arrack, methylated spirits and carbolic acid gas are included. These items are not included in Schedule to the District Municipalities Act. The Director of Public Health has suggested that these items should be included in the items given in Schedule V in order to enforce health conditions."

The motion was put and carried.

(2) MOTION *re* AMENDMENTS TO SCHEDULE VII OF THE MADRAS LOCAL BOARDS ACT, 1920.

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I move the following:—

'That the following draft of a rule proposed to be made by His Excellency the Governor of Madras under section 201 of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920 (Madras Act XII of 1920), amending Schedule VII to that Act be approved

DRAFT RULE.

"In the said schedule, after clause (1) the following clause shall be inserted, namely:—

(11) brewing beer, manufacturing arrack or other spirits containing alcohol (whether denatured or not), by distillation.'"

"Sir, the same arguments put forward in the first motion hold good in the case of this motion also."

The motion was put and carried.

(3) INCREASE IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF THE GUARANTEE GIVEN BY GOVERNMENT IN RESPECT OF DEBENTURES ISSUED BY THE MADRAS CO-OPERATIVE CENTRAL LAND MORTGAGE BANK, LIMITED.

* THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I beg to move the following resolution:—

'This Assembly recommends to the Provincial Government that they may under sub-section (2) of section 6 of the Madras Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks Act, 1920, increase the maximum amount of the guarantee given by them in respect of the debentures issued by the Madras Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank, Limited, to a total face value of Rs. 400 lakhs, exclusive of the debentures as the bank may from time to time reduce such debentures being issued for periods not exceeding

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any case 25 years from the date of issue and bearing interest at a rate not exceeding 5 per cent per annum.'

"In placing this resolution before the House, Sir, I wish to say that there is an explanatory note supplied to the hon. Members of the House. So, I do not want to waste the time of the House by reading that explanatory note. I hope the House will accept the resolution."

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the resolution made by the Hon. the Minister, I would like to invite his attention to one or two important points. The particular purpose for which such a guarantee is given to the Central Land Mortgage Bank is to give benefit and relief to the primary borrower who takes the loan from the primary land mortgage bank. For a long time, Sir, an agitation has been going on demanding that the lending rate of the primary banks should be reduced. On this occasion, I would like to impress on the Hon. Minister the need for reducing the rate of interest that is at present charged by the primary banks. I have got facts and figures to prove that the bank will not suffer by reducing the rate of interest. In 1945-46 the profit made by the Central Land Mortgage Bank was Rs. 3,42,000 and this income was derived from a capital of 11 lakhs and reserves amounting to 22 lakhs on last June plus other working capital. On his 33 lakhs, the yield will be a lakh of rupees every year and on account of the existing business of the land mortgage bank the annual income will be 3 lakhs. Even if the existing business is to be continued, there will be an income of 4 lakhs. On the expenditure side, Sir, he spends about a lakh of rupees on staff and contingencies and another lakh on contributions towards the cost of departmental staff lent to the land mortgage bank. Therefore, Sir, if you take away these 2 lakhs, there will only be a net profit of 2 lakhs. If you declare a dividend of 4 per cent every year, the outturn will be Rs. 44,000 and therefore there will be a net profit of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs every year after the declaration of the dividend. Then the reserves will be benefited to the tune of about one lakh and fifty thousand rupees. When such is the case, I do not see any reason why the lending rate to the primary member should not be reduced. The present lending rate is $5\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. I may point out here that the rate of interest for the latest debenture series issued was only $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. Therefore the margin obtained by the Central Land Mortgage Bank and the primary banks is 3 per cent. I would suggest to the Hon. Minister to consider the question whether this margin should not be reduced to 2 per cent instead of the per cent 3 per cent. You will be convinced from the figures quoted above that there is ample scope for making such a reduction. The policy followed in other countries also support the same view. For instance in the United States of America the Farm Credit Administration issues long term loans at the rate of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent whereas their borrowing

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rate is 3 per cent. The margin between the borrowing and the lending rate allowed in the United States of America is only half a per cent. In England also, they borrowed debentures in 1930-31 for a period of thirty years at 5 per cent and also at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent for some amounts. Now the margin allowed has fallen and under a recent Act the lending rate was reduced to $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and the Government themselves are willing to lose the difference. The Government of India have appointed an Agricultural Finance Sub-Committee and that Committee made strong recommendations on the lines I have suggested. I am quoting from the report. 'We suggest that long-term loans to the agricultural community be made available at rates not exceeding 4 per cent and recommend that Government should subsidize land mortgage banks to enable them to do so.' Even for that reason, I would appeal to the Hon. the Minister to support this claim on behalf of the Central Land Mortgage Bank and the co-operators in generally in this Presidency to reduce the lending rate by at least another one per cent. I support the motion."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Sir, I do not wish either to support or oppose this resolution.

"We are asked to increase our guarantee by 50 lakhs. I am however unable to judge from the limited information that we have been given on this matter whether this is really a safe financial proposition. It is very clear from the figures put in by the Hon. the Minister that this demand for a further guarantee of 50 lakhs is at the moment nothing more than a demand to protect our present guarantee. The bank has gone to the limit and then all in a rush we are asked to extend our guarantee by another 50 lakhs. We are told that at present it is expected that advances next year will not exceed 60 lakhs and that as 10 lakhs will come in from the redemption on existing debentures the guarantee need only be for 50 lakhs. There is a hint, though nothing more, that this may be the last time we are asked to increase our guarantee. I question this most seriously. If the debentures falling in this year are only 10 lakhs against a demand for fresh debentures of 60 lakhs, why should we expect that next year the debentures falling in will equal the demand for new debentures? Somewhere about this time next year, I expect this House to be asked to increase its guarantee to 450 lakhs. I therefore ask that well before that time this House be given a statement showing the full appreciation of the position as regards debentures issued already and the date on which they will fall in for final repayment. It might be as well to take the date for this statement as at the closing of the bank books for the current year. I ask this as I think it is to the advantage of everybody concerned that we should know whether the financial transactions of this bank are perfectly clear and that we are safe in giving our guarantee.

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"As I stated at the beginning, Sir, I do not wish to oppose and therefore I support the motion."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by the Hon. Minister for Labour to increase the guarantee to 400 lakhs because as one who is interested in the progress of Land Mortgage Banks, I feel the necessity to afford my support to this motion. But as my hon. Friend, Mr. Kala Venkata Rao has pointed out that it is the interest charged that is standing in the way of many people taking loans from the Land Mortgage Banks. This matter was considered at the last Land Mortgage Banks Conference held in 1945 and it was argued on both sides and they came to the conclusion that Government should reduce the rate of interest. So far nothing substantial has been done in the matter. I feel, Sir, that Government's apathy not to reduce the rate of interest also affects those people in taking loans from the Land Mortgage Banks. Sir, the land mortgage banks give loans on a long-term basis—that is for twenty years. Even according to the present market conditions, it should not be difficult for the Government to reduce the rate of interest. Apart from that, it is not possible for the primary banks to declare any substantial dividends to their shareholders. I urge upon the Government to consider this aspect of the question very seriously and do something in the matter."

"Apart from this, Sir, the Central Land Mortgage Bank charges audit fees from the primary banks. It should be borne by the Central Land Mortgage Bank itself. My hon. Friend Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, who explained the figures in detail, has pointed out the amount of profit the Central Land Mortgage Bank is making and it will be in the interests of the Co-operative Department especially the Land Mortgage Bank, to do something to do away with the audit fees now charged to the primary banks. Moreover, Sir, if one has to apply for loan to the Land Mortgage Bank, details have to be given to the Central Land Mortgage Bank, for instance, details regarding patta and all these things. It naturally involves the employment of staff with very good knowledge in co-operation and accounting and it is not possible for the primary bank to employ such men for the purpose. I would therefore urge on the Government the necessity to get into correspondence with the Central Land Mortgage Bank either to allow the primary banks to employ men at a rate that will be in conformity with the prices that are obtaining at present or to give substantial aid to such banks that have not made profits in days gone by. Another difficulty is that this primary bank is not in a position to advance loans to the Harijans, the reason being that in most of the cases of Harijans who have been assigned lands, it takes a long time for them to get the pattas. The primary banks do not therefore given them loans. As a matter of fact, if statistics are taken of the applications made to the Central Land Mortgage Bank, you will find very few Harijans

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take the opportunity of getting loans from the primary banks. I would request the Hon. Minister to make it a point in not to insist on pattas, especially in the case of those Harijans who are in need of taking loans from the Land Mortgage Banks by instructing the Land Mortgage Banks in the matter, and also to instruct the Revenue Department to issue the necessary pattas without any delay at least in the case of Harijans who wish to take loans from these banks."

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the motion of the Hon. the Minister for Co-operative Institutions, and also the observations made by hon. Friends Mr. Kala Venkata Rao and Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai, urging the reduction of the rate of interest on loans granted to clients of the primary banks, I also bring to the notice of the Government, Sir, the necessity for affording the facilities of these loans to the ryots in the estates also. As it is, this facility is not given to one-third of the ryots of this province because the said one-third extent is administered by the said Act I of 1908. The necessity for affording this facility is that the tenants in the estates are involved in great debts. If at all there is going to be any benefit given to the agriculturist without distinction between ryotwari tenure and other tenures, it is absolutely necessary to afford this facility to the ryots in the estates also. The difficulty is something like this. Most of the estates in this province are not surveyed and record-of-rights have not been properly kept and so the Land Mortgage Banks refuse to grant the loans. This is due to the state of administration in the zamindaris and this must be rectified in most of the estates. There is no survey and no record of rights issued to the ryots in estates. The Central Co-operative Bank itself, through the permission and arrangement with the Government must survey the estates compulsorily and see that the record-of-rights are issued so that ryots in zamindari areas may also have the benefit of borrowing from the bank. There is now great delay in granting these loans; the delay is very abnormal. If an application is filed today, it takes at least about four to five months to sanction the loan the reason being that they have to get at the records and copies of titles, which the applicant is not able to produce early. The difficulty can be solved if a separate officer is appointed to get at these records, to get the information wanted for the purpose of sanctioning and disposing of the loan at an early date. Sir, if at all there is any need for a co-operative institution with the Land Mortgage Banks it is substantively to help the agriculturist. These Land Mortgage Banks are there for affording facilities to the peasants to discharge their debts and to develop the agricultural industry. The debt is to be discharged from out of the income derived from agriculture itself, and the period is twenty years. Because the period is too long, an investigation is made at the very outset into the loan application to find out whether the agriculturist is able to discharge the

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debt or not, it is a great advantage. Instead of involving the agriculturist in debt with private money lenders, we should try to grant him loans as early as possible and relieve him from the local money lender and avoid in all possible ways delay in sanctioning the loans which occur in the production of records by applicants. Therefore, Sir, my humble request to the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation is to extend this facility of granting loans to the ryots early by appointing special officers to make the necessary records and titles made available to the bank.

"Again, I find from the paper placed on the table of the House that Bank has requested the Government to increase the guarantee up to Rs. 500 lakhs whereas Government have agreed to raise the guarantee only up to Rs. 400 lakhs. Since there is already a guarantee for Rs. 350 lakhs. The guarantee is increased now only by Rs. 50 lakhs. Sir, the Central Land Mortgage Bank is an institution which is doing very useful and helpful to the agriculturist. So, I ask, why not raise the guarantee up to Rs. 500 lakhs without reducing it to 400 lakhs as recommended by the Registrar. There is no chance of misuse or any such thing. The Central Land Mortgage Bank need not again approach the Government for further enhancement of the guarantee when they need. After all the amount transacted is not handled by private persons and money is actually seen by the creditor when the discharge of the debt is made through the sub-treasury. With the guarantee the money is raised in the country and guarantee is more or less moral than liability. The finances of the Central Land Mortgage Bank is very sound. The guarantee is sought to borrow at the lower rate of interests possible. So, I ask, why should the Government reduce the guarantee. They need not, as a matter of fact, have reduced it at all. It is an effort of the Central Land Mortgage Bank to lend to its clients at the lowest rate of interest possible if and when money could be raised in the market at the lowest rate. So the guarantee must have been given for the entire amount of Rs. 500 lakhs as requested by the Central Land Mortgage Bank. If there is more money available for the Central Land Mortgage Bank to that extent more facilities would be afforded to the clients of the bank and the clients of the primary banks more freely and to that extent agriculturist will benefit. I therefore request the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation to kindly consider these things and to raise the guarantee as requested by the institution. I suggest that it may be extended to the entire sum of Rs. 500 lakhs. With these words, and with the hope that the Hon. Minister for Co-operation would rectify the defects pointed out I resume my seat."

5 p.m. * THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Sir, the hon. Mr. Town has expressed some scepticism and pessimism and he gave some reasons but I do not agree with them. During the course of the discussion, Mr. Speaker, several suggestions have been made and my hon. Friend Mr. Town has expressed scepticism and pessimism

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regarding the matter and I would like to take him and the House into the details of the transactions of the Land Mortgage Bank.

"Section 4 of the Madras Co-operative Land Mortgage Banks Act empowers the issue of debentures by the bank on the security of mortgages and other assets transferred by mortgage banks to the Central Land Mortgage Banks. Under section 6 of the Act the Registrar is the trustee whose previous sanction has to be taken.

"Under section 6 the Government of Madras may guarantee the debentures issued by the Central Land Mortgage Bank, and under section 6 (2), the Government may, after consulting the Legislative, increase the maximum amount of any guarantee given by them.

"On the 31st of August 1946, debentures of the value of Rs. 3,49,61,500 were in circulation. The guarantee is therefore exhausted.

"The Bank can issue debentures only to the extent of the loans disbursed by it on the security of first mortgage of agricultural lands in the Province of Madras.

"The amount of loan sanctioned does not exceed 50 per cent of the estimated value of the land proposed to be mortgaged, and the valuation is based on the values existed prior to war.

"As against a sum of Rs. 242 lakhs due to the Central Land Mortgage Bank on 30th June 1946, the value of the properties mortgaged to the bank was estimated at Rs. 8.34 crores.

"Debentures are issued with the condition that they are irredeemable for a period of 10 years from the date of issue. Thereafter the bank has the option to redeem all or some of the debentures on three months' notice. In order to accumulate funds to pay off debentures on maturity as per the advice of the Reserve Bank of India, the bank has constituted a sinking fund. The sinking funds are invested either in Government securities or in bank's own debentures. On 30th June 1946, the bank has a sum of Rs. 112 lakhs in its sinking fund investments.

"The bank has worked for 16 years now. The primary banks have all along been paying their obligations to the bank without leaving any arrears at the end of the co-operative year.

"The borrowers have also been paying off their instalments in time to the primary banks and the arrears have been negligible.

"There is no fear of the bank not being able to realize the full amount due on loan account from the borrowers.

"As the debentures are guaranteed by the Government, they are trustee securities and are also approved securities under the Insurance Act. The guarantee enables the trust funds and insurance funds to be invested in debentures.

"The debentures besides being supported by the mortgages and are also supported by the share capital and reserves of the

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Central Land Mortgage Bank, which on 30th June 1946 amounted to Rs. 31,45,068.

"The bank has been meeting its obligations in respect of interest and principal on debentures in time, all along. There is no likelihood of the Government ever being called upon to make good their guarantee. By the Government's security, the bank will be enabled to borrow in the market at cheap rates of interest and pass on the benefit to the agriculturists. Its latest series for Rs. 25 lakhs was issued at $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent and was heavily over-subscribed.

"The Government have guaranteed already up to Rs. 350 lakhs, and now the bank requests a further guarantee of Rs. 50 lakhs. The Registrar has recommended the raising of the guarantee. There is no need for any general apprehension that there will be no limit for the amount that will have to be guaranteed by the Government. There is the amount of debentures redeemable every year, and this will be equal to the amount of debentures floated, a fresh issue resulting in no further increase. Therefore, the withdrawal of guarantee is inadvisable.

"This is the statement that I wanted to make in answer to Mr. Town. I am grateful for the very illuminating observations of my hon. Friend Mr. Kala Venkata Rao. I can assure him that the question of reducing the rate of interest that he proposed is under the active consideration of Government. Recently the Hon. the Premier and I had a conference with the President and Directors of Land Mortgage Bank and very soon you will hear about it. I am also glad to say that the Reserve Bank has recommended a reduction in the interest margin from 3 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The whole thing is engaging the attention of the Government and very soon a decision may be expected in the matter. My hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Pillai raised the point regarding the difficulties of Harijans in the matter of securing credit. I will certainly take up that question and see what directions should be issued. Mr. Natesa Chettiyar's suggestions with regard to zamindari lands will be remembered. However, there are certain difficulties and these will be sympathetically gone into. I do not think a lengthier speech is necessary to commend the resolution for the acceptance of the House."

The resolution was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Some Members have complained of the duration of the sitting and said that they wanted the House to be adjourned. But if the House is inclined to transact some more business, we shall sit a bit longer. I have no objection to waive notice in respect of any notice of amendments that any hon. Member might wish to give."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I suggest that we adjourn."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

9th September 1946]

APPENDIX.
[Vide answer to starred question No. 185 asked by Sri P. R. Ramanujulu Reddi at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 9th September 1946, page 1468 supra.]

Name of officer.	Designation.	Qualification	Salary at present.	Date of appointment.
1 K. P. R. Menon	Deputy Paper Controller	Do.	420	17th March 1944 to 25th September 1945.
R. N. Ethirajulu Naidu	Do.	Do.	200	20th December 1945 to 22nd July 1946.
3 Mir Baqur Ali	Assistant Paper Controller	B.A., B.L.	175	18th August 1946.
4 Do.	Do.	B.Sc.	175	8th May 1945. 1944.
5 H. A. J. Savarinathan	Paper Assistant No. I	B.Sc.	125	15th December 1944.
6 Bakher Ali Khan	Paper Assistant No. II	B.A.	125	Do.
7 C. K. Sivaramakrishnan	Paper Control Inspector	B.A.	125	3rd December 1945.
8 Syed Kaushar Hussain	Do.	B.Sc.	125	8th September 1946.
9 C. V. Hari Krishnan	Do.	B.Sc.	125	19th August 1946.
10 M. T. Narasimhan	Do.	B.A., B.L.	125	8th June 1946.
11 A. S. Bhandari	Do.	B.A.	125	8th January 1945.
12 T. K. Subramanyam	Do.	B.A.	125	15th December 1944.
13 V. Suryanarayana Rao	Do.	B.Sc.	125	Do.
14 J. Achutha Rao	Do.	B.A.	125	20th August 1945.
15 K. K. Rai	Do.	B.A.	125	14th August 1945.
16 C. Gopal	Do.	B.A.	125	16th October 1945.
17 Aziz Ahmed	Do.	B.A.	125	15th December 1944.
18 Muhammad Arzuathulla Jedy	Do.	B.A. (4 years service in A.B.P.)	125	5th July 1946.
19 Muhammad Taqullah	Do.	B.A., B.L. (service in N.W.P.)	125	11th August 1945.
20 P. J. Alwa	Do.	Studied up to B.A. (4 years in A.B.P.)	125	13th August 1945.
21 Syed Shaw Ghous Mohideen	Do.	S.S.L.C.	125	5th September 1945.
22 G. M. Ghais	Senior Superintendent	S.S.L.C.	125	1st January 1945.
23 P. C. Raju Mudallal	Upper division clerk	S.S.L.C.	65	16th October 1945.
24 M. T. Sampandan	Do.	S.S.L.C.	65	3rd June 1946.
25 Syed Ali Musay Raza	Do.	Studied up to B.A.	55	1st August 1946.
26 T. R. Balakrishnan	Do.	S.S.L.C.	55	18th November 1944.
27 R. Venkatarman	Do.	S.S.L.C.	30	27th September 1945.
28 R. Elumalai	Lower division clerk	S.S.L.C. (failed)	30	27th January 1945.
29 Mir Ahmed Ali	Do.	S.S.L.C. (completed)	30	14th January 1946.
30 A. S. Narayanawamy	Do.	S.S.L.C. (completed)	30	10th December 1945.
31 D. Krishnamoorthy	Do.	S.S.L.C. (completed)	30	5th May 1946.
32 Wahidu Zaman	Do.	S.S.L.C. (completed)	30	11th November 1944.
33 K. Nagaraja Sarma	Do.	B.A.	30	4th June 1945.
34 J. G. Neelam	Do.	S.S.L.C. (eligible)	30	10th March 1946.
35 N. Viswanathan	Do.	S.S.L.C. (failed)	30	10th March 1946.
36 N. Nagarajan	Do.	S.S.L.C. (failed)	30	10th March 1946.
37 Mirza Askar Ali	Typist	S.S.L.C. (failed)	30	10th March 1946.
38 Syed Hafizullah Hussain	Do.	S.S.L.C. (failed)	30	10th March 1946.
39 Syed Khawaja Mohideen	Lower division clerk	S.S.L.C. (failed)	30	27th July 1946.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 10th September 1946.

The House met in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

1.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Construction of new Assembly Hall and other buildings.

* 171 Q.—M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to construct an Assembly Hall and other allied buildings either at the Government House compound or in any other place in Madras City;

(b) if so, details of the scheme and its estimated cost; and

(c) the amount spent so far by the Government for the construction of buildings in Madras City from 1940 to 1946?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—“(a) & (b) There is a proposal to utilize the Banqueting Hall at the Government House, Mount Road, for the purposes of the Assembly by enlarging the floor space and carrying out other alterations necessary. The cost of effecting the alterations has not yet been worked out.

“(c) The information is given below for each year:—

						RS.
1940-41	..	..	..	..	..	5,41,627
1941-42	..	..	..	..	..	4,91,738
1942-43	..	..	..	..	..	7,58,792
1943-44	..	..	..	..	..	2,41,829
1944-45	..	..	..	..	..	12,23,223
1945-46	..	..	..	..	..	11,52,771
Total ..						41,09,980 ”

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know from the Hon. Premier, in view of the fact that we are going to have linguistic provinces very soon, whether this Government will give an assurance that no money will be spent on the Madras City in future?” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“No such assurance will be given.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I know, Sir, whether in the new House that will be provided for the Assembly, due provision will be made both for the Press and for the ladies, I mean, better provision for ladies and much better provision for the Press?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—“We shall very gladly consider the question.”

[10th September 1946]

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do not Andhra members already consider that this is not Fort Saint George but Fort Saint Prakasam?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the hon. Member repeat his question?"

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that time and again the question of linguistic provinces is raised here, I would like to ask the Hon. Premier, 'do not Andhra members consider Fort Saint George is Fort Saint Prakasam?' (Laughter.) (A voice: 'We do.')

No answer.

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that Madras City is claimed both by Tamilians and Andhras, an assurance that no money will be spent on the construction of the Assembly building is necessary?"

No answer.

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to purchase the University building which was used by the then Government in 1937 as Assembly Chamber instead of going in for a new building?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—"I do not know whether the University buildings are for sale." (Laughter.)

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether Government are aware that Madras City is claimed not only by Andhras but also by Tamilians as well as Malayalees?" (Laughter.)

(The Hon. Sri V. V. Giri: "By the Canarese also.")

No answer.

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer given by the Premier, namely, that no assurance will be given in the matter, may I ask him, Sir, whether he is not serious about the separation of the Andhra Province?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"When one is not serious, we cannot be serious too."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether Government will get into touch or negotiate with the University authorities and see whether that building cannot be purchased?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—"Government are aware that the University authorities cannot afford to spare that building for sale."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to assure hon. Members even that building is in no way better than this building." (Laughter.)

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"In view of the historical importance of the present building, may I ask, is it the wish of the Government to shift the entire Assembly and Council to these buildings?"

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SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Will Government take steps see that the lot of carbonic acid gas that accumulates in this hall for lack of ventilation is taken out by means of exhausts?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—"I am unable to understand the meaning of the question."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Is it a fact that the conversion of the Banqueting Hall into an Assembly Hall is under the contemplation of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—"I have already answered that question."

** Qs. 172 and 173:

Manufacture of fertilizers.

* 174 Q.—M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether there is any scheme under consideration of this Government for manufacture of fertilizers?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"There is no scheme under consideration of this Government for the manufacture of fertilizers. The Government have however decided to contribute towards the share capital of the ammonium sulphate factories to be set up by the Government of India at Sindhr, Bihar and by the Fertilizers and Chemicals, Travancore Limited, at Alwaye in Travancore State and have sanctioned the expenditure necessary to subscribe for shares of the value of Rs. 25 lakhs in factory of the Government of India and of the face value of Rs. 20 lakhs in Fertilizers Chemicals, Travancore, Limited. The Fertilizers and Chemicals, Travancore, Limited, have entered into an agreement with the Government of Madras undertaking to sell every year from the factory at Alwaye 20,000 tons or 2/5 of output of the ammonium sulphate of the company, which is less for a period of five years from the date of commencement of production. The terms between the Government of India and the Government of Madras in respect of the factory at Sindhr have not yet been fixed. The Fertilizers Chemicals, Travancore, Limited, have not yet begun production. To meet the immediate requirements of phosphates in the Province, the Government have arranged for Messrs. Parry & Co. to manufacture under Government account annually about 5,000 tons of superphosphate for a period of three years. They have started manufacture on 1st August 1946, though the agreement has not yet formally been executed."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"When a factory is started in this Presidency, will the Government give an assurance that no outsider will be given licence to start a factory?"

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THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Government themselves may consider starting factories."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"What will be the rate at which fertilizers will be charged for the various crops, when they are supplied?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I should like the hon. Member to put a separate question."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Fertilizers Commission that visited India have made any recommendations to get chemicals in our own Province?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Notice."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, when do the Government expect the Travancore Chemicals and Fertilizers to supply fertilizers to this Province?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I cannot give you a definite answer to that question now. We will write to the Travancore Government."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Who are the Managing Agents of the factory at Alwaye?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I will be able to give an answer to the hon. Member. But I have not got it here."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have any plan for starting industries themselves?"

No answer.

G. NARASIMHA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government of India propose to start a factory at Bezwada?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I am not aware."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"What is the total capital of the factory at Alwaye?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Notice."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My question is not answered, Sir. Will Government be pleased to give an assurance that permission to start a factory in this Province will not be given to an outsider?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"What do you mean by an outsider? Within India or outside India?"

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"By outsiders, I mean people from other Provinces."

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Certainly it is a matter to be taken into consideration."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Arising out of the answer given, in view of the fact that Messrs. Parry & Co., have been asked to supply chemicals to this Government, may I know whether the prices will be cheaper?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Certainly."

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SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, what industries do Government propose to start?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"It does not arise. It is too early for the Government to say at this stage."

Location of a Polytechnic school at Vuyyuru.

* 175 Q.—M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the reasons for locating A.G. Polytechnic school Vuyyuru; and

(b) whether the Government will consider the advisability shifting it to a more central place as Guntur or Bezwada?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" (a) The Government have not yet passed final orders on the question of locating a Polytechnic at Vuyyuru.

" (b) The matter is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—"May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal to start a factory in the West Godavari district?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Notice."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"What is the course of studies, Sir, that is proposed to be given at this Polytechnic school?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I will be able to give an answer if a separate question is put."

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—"In view of the fact that there are no industries in the West Godavari district, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to consider the starting of one Polytechnic school in West Godavari district?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I shall certainly consider it."

* * Qs. 176 to 193.

Admission to Higher Elementary Schools and High Schools.

* 194 Q.—SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the great rush for admission in Higher Elementary schools and High schools of the Province;

(b) what steps they have taken to meet the rush;

(c) how many schools have asked for recognition; and

(d) how many schools have been given recognition?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR

" (a) The Government are not aware of any difficulties arising from admissions into higher elementary schools. There has been an increased demand for school places in high schools.

" (b) The class room space per pupil has been reduced allowing five more admissions to each class and Inspecting Officer

* * Qs. 176 to 181 answered on 7th September 1946, * Q. 181-A on 9th September 1946, * Qs. 181-B and 181-C on 7th September 1946, * Qs. 182 to 193, September 1946.

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have been authorized to permit admissions up to 5 more. One hundred and twenty-seven schools have been permitted to open one or more divisions of the higher forms.

"(c) One hundred and twenty-six applications for opening new secondary schools were received.

"(d) Ninety-eight schools (secondary) have been permitted to be opened."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government will consider the desirability of reducing further the space allotted to each and every student in the class and increase the number of students in the class?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government aware that when applications were forwarded from District Boards and Municipalities for permission to start schools, the Director of Public Instruction has refused permission this year?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Quite possible, Sir."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I enquire, Sir, whether Government will be pleased to establish a Muslim High School in every district?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, the reason why permission was refused by the Director of Public Instruction for starting new schools?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"There are certain standards which everybody who wants to start schools should fulfil. They have provided for those standards for the efficient administration of the schools."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware that the space now allotted for each student is more than enough?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir. Government themselves feel that the question of space has been relaxed as a matter of expediency, and they do not think they should go further."

B. POCKER, SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the categorical denial by the Hon. Minister for Education that he is not prepared to consider the advisability of opening a Muslim High School in every district indicate the real policy of the Government so far as Muslim education is concerned?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The policy of the Government has been explained well under the Education Demand, and I do not think it necessary to go into the question now."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Do Government propose to relax the rules so that a great number of students can be admitted in the schools?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Consistent with efficiency whatever can be done will be done, Sir."

** Qs. 195 to 198.

Grants for secondary schools.

* 199 Q.—SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMIAMMAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government propose to give grants towards the furniture and equipment for secondary schools newly started by private bodies?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"The question of giving grants towards purchase of furniture and equipment for secondary schools newly opened by private bodies is considered every year as a new scheme of expenditure in connexion with the budget estimates for the next year and grants are sanctioned to the extent of funds are available. Only those applications which have been admitted and placed on the approved list will be eligible for aid."

Contemplated strike in South Indian Railway.

** 199 A Q.—M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the General Manager of South Indian Railway met the Premier;

(b) whether the Premier has promised all support and assistance to the Railway authorities in case there is a strike; and

(c) if the answer to (b) is in affirmative, whether the Premier will be pleased to state in what way he proposes to render help to the railway authorities?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) Yes.

"(b) & (c) The General Manager wanted help for protecting trains that carry food to their destination in the district. He was told that the Police Department would give him necessary help for carrying food and also for keeping law and order. No other help was asked for nor was it promised by the Government. The question of strike was a matter between the two parties. Government had nothing to do with it. It was a matter for settlement between the parties."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer that only specific help was promised, is the Government aware that a different version was published in the papers was it not the duty of the Government to contradict it?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"If wrong statements published, the Government cannot feel bound to answer the wrong statements."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Is the Government aware that the Police are being used as gate-men?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Government are not aware of any such thing. So far as Government knew, the Police were doing their duty to keep law and order and to see that food trains are not stopped."

KHAN SAHIB H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"So far as this Government is concerned is it not its responsibility to intervene in the interests of, and on behalf of, the people of this Province to bring about a conciliation or suggest means to settle the dispute by arbitration?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Whether it is strictly the responsibility of this Government or not, this Government went out of its way to bring about a settlement between the General Manager of the Railway and the workers."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Government allow this House to know what is the reply the South Indian Railway General Manager gave to the Government's reference to conciliation?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The workers' leaders did not allow that stage to be reached; the workers did not appear to pursue the topic."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"In view of the fact that a large amount of inconvenience is caused to the public, will the Hon. Prime Minister be pleased to advise the General Manager to run more day trains?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I take it, Sir, that the General Manager will do his duty, and is trying to do his best in the circumstances."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"In view of the fact that the South Indian Railway is the property of the State and belongs to the Government of India, is it not the essential duty on the part of the Provincial Government to protect the property from the mischief of the Communists?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is the duty of the Government and every public officer to do his best to prevent mischief to property."

SRI M. S. PATTABIRAMA AYYAR:—"Are the Government aware, Sir, that many hundreds of Police-men on duty on the platforms of many junctions in the South Indian Railway are fed by the railway authorities in the refreshment rooms and passengers are refused refreshments?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Government has no information, and it has nothing to do with that."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are we to take it, Sir, that this Government is helpless in bringing about a settlement either by way of conciliation or by arbitration?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is the work of the Central Government. So far as this Government is concerned,

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at the very earliest opportunity the Government of India informed of the situation that is likely to develop, and suggested to the Government of India to send an arbitrator or conciliator to look into the matter, at the very outset.

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Do Government propose to contact the Union President so that settlement can be arrived at?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Government cannot be solicitous to those persons who were not amenable at that stage."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Is it a fact that 10 per cent of the workers on strike have come back?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Government are aware of the actual figures."

SRI M. S. PATTABIRAMA AYYAR:—"Is it not the duty of the Government to look after the conveniences and well-being of the passengers travelling in the South Indian Railway?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Mr. Pattabirama Ayyar has not known the duties and responsibilities of carriers like the railway. So far as this Government is concerned, it can give general help in regard to peace and order and also the help that may be required for running trains smoothly."

SRI K. T. KOSALARAMA NADAR:—"Will the Prime Minister agree with me when I say that he can do himself when he failed to take any action against those who circulated wall-posters saying that railway travel was dangerous and it was criminal intimidation?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"There have been very many things of that nature."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Is it a fact that there have been purposely incited by the Communists in pursuance of their policy of making the Congress Government impossible whether they are not putting up most impossible demands?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Some people think that it will be possible for them to make any demand possible. The Government will not be swayed by what might be in the minds of persons who are not alive to their responsibility and duty."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Hon. Premier is aware that this Government, by providing unqualified help, has done a great injustice to the cause of the workers without going into the consequences of their action?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"My hon. friend M. A. Salam is a lawyer and he must be able to know what has been promised by the Government. I have already given the answer specifically."

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H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that this railway strike is a too serious one affecting the whole of South India, has this Government made an approach to the Government of India in the matter of this railway strike?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Before any development, the Government of India was told as to what they should do in this matter."

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Government prepared to meet the labour union leaders if they come forward with proposals for settlement?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Government always extends its good offices to any one anxious for the settlement of matters."

MR. SPEAKER:—"In this question, the Hon. Premier has given a big statement. I won't allow a number of supplementary questions on this matter."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes, Sir."

* * Qs. 199-B and 199-C.

Police firing in Golden Rock.

* 199-D Q.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that there was brutal police firing on 5th September 1946 in Golden Rock on workers of South Indian Railway; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government propose to take against the District Superintendent of Police, Mr. Harrison and other officials who are responsible for this firing?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) The Government have received a report on the firing by the Police at the Golden Rock on 5th September 1946.

" (b) The circumstances under which the firing had taken place had been stated already in the debate on the question on 7th. In addition, the reports of the Collector and the District Superintendent of Police and other matters would be considered and a final decision will be taken in due course."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer that the answer of the Premier is based on the Collector's report, is the policy of this Government to accept the Collector's report as final and, if not, why should they feel shy of appointing a non-official committee?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"To the first part of the supplementary question, I may answer that the Government does not generally take a final decision before all matters are known. That is why in the main answer itself, it was stated that 'in addition, the reports of the Collector and the District Superintendent of Police and other matters would be considered and a final decision will be taken in due course.'"

* Qs. 199-B and 199-C were answered on 11th September 1946.

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Is Government aware that, taking advantage of this ban on strike situation, the police officers are prosecuting Communist arresting them, and locking out their offices, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Hon. Member has aware of the fact that wherever law and order have been violated, the authorities concerned will be taking action under the circumstances."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Premier aware that it was the policy of the Congress for the last 25 years to decry official reports and cry for non-official reports?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The question does not arise."

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will Premier give an assurance that, if the leaders of the labour movement appear before the Premier for a settlement, they will not be arrested in view of the fact that arrest warrants have been issued against them?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member is asking a peculiar question. Before he comes to me, he should be arrested."

* * 200 Q.—Postponed.

* * 201 Q.—Postponed.

* * 202 Q.—Postponed.

* * 203 Q.—Postponed.

* * 204 Q. to * 207 Q.

Physics Research Officer in the Public Works Department.

* 207-A Q.—SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(1) what research qualifications does the gentleman at present, the post of Physics Research Officer, newly created in the Public Works Department possess;

(2) (a) whether he has published any papers; if so, the titles or names of papers and the name of journal in which the publication is made and in case the answer is negative, on what basis the department has chosen him; and

(b) whether the department has made any genuine attempt to make enquiries whether men with research experience are available in the subordinate educational service from which the gentleman is drafted; and if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM:—" (1) Sri Seshadri, the present Physics and Soil Mechanics Officer at the Irrigation Research Station at Poondi, is a Fi-

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M.A. in Physics and a Member of the Institute of Radio Engineers (America). He was in charge of Research in the Physics Department in the Presidency College for six years till April 1946 and worked under Sir C. V. Raman during 1926-27.

“(2) (a) The information is not readily available.

“(2) (b) Yes. Efforts were made to secure the right type of officer for the post, and the present incumbent was considered most suitable.”

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know whether it is not the policy of this Government to advertise at least for posts for which they are appointing now? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—“ For a job like this, the Government considered it was not necessary to advertise for the post.”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“ What is the nature of the work that this Physics Research Officer is supposed to do under the Public Works Department? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—“ There is a research station at Poondi, and this Physics Research Officer is doing research work there. I would invite the hon. Member to pay a visit to the research station and acquaint himself with the nature of the work that is going on.”

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know the special reasons which prompted this Government not to advertise for this post? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—“ I have already explained, Sir.”

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—“ With regard to the answer to clause (a), I would like the Minister for Public Works to go into the applications of other research workers and ascertain which is better.”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—“ I am unable to understand what the hon. Member wants me to do.”

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—“ Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to go into the papers of the present man who is appointed and also the papers of the other professors that have applied for this post and ascertain whether there are others better than the one selected? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—“ I do not have before me any papers referred to by the hon. Member.”

Persons discharged from the Defence forces.

* 200 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) how many men and women have been discharged from the various Defence forces in the Presidency as a whole and in each district;

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(b) how many from among the discharged servicemen have applied to the Soldiers' Board and to the Employment Exchange and how many were given jobs and how many are jobless to-day; and

(c) whether the Soldiers' Board or the Employment Exchange tried to use their services in the Railway, Postal and other strikes and if so how many?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ (a) According to the information furnished by the Regional Employment Exchange, Madras, 67,679 persons belonging to this Province have been released up to the end of July 1946. Among the employment cards received for these persons only 53,552 have been sorted out districtwar. A statement^a showing the number of cards received and sorted is placed on the Table of the House.

“(b) The number of ex-servicemen who applied to the Employment Exchanges up to end of July 1946 was 44,950 and the number of persons to whom employment was found up to end of July was about 17,461 including 593 men undergoing Technical Training and 464 men who found work by their own efforts. A statement^b showing details is placed on the Table of the House.

“The employment figures are however not a true indication of the number of men placed in employment through Employment Exchanges as a large number of employers do not inform Employment Exchanges of the number of men accepted by them out of those submitted.

“(c) This subject is dealt with by the Government of India and the information is not available.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the General Manager of the South Indian Railway has pressed the Government to accord sanction for the employment of ex-servicemen as blacklegs during the strike, Sir? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ The Government have not received any intimation to that effect.”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“ May I know the nature of the technical training that is given to these ex-servicemen? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ That depends upon the service rendered by these ex-servicemen while they were in service. According to the circumstances and the aptitude, necessary instruction will be given.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of assigning cultivable waste lands to these people, as it will help to solve the food problem? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ The Government have been anxious to solve the food problem in every possible way within their reach.”

^a Printed as Appendix I on page 1552 infra.

^b Printed as Appendix II on page 1553 infra.

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Hon. the Prime Minister assure this House that these ex-service-men will not be employed in the industries where strikes are going on?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Government cannot give any such assurance, and it is not within my province and the Government to give it."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know why the Communists have started these strikes as soon as the Congress took up office?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"We have nothing to do with strikes. The hon. Member is not in order in putting the question."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether it is a fact that a colony that was intended to be started at Rudravaram in Kurnool district for the demobilised soldiers is now stopped?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may put a separate question."

Bucket shops in Madras City.

* 201 Q.—MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Bucket shops (private and illegal betting on horse racing) are thriving in Madras City particularly in the southern range; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take special steps to prevent this illegal betting on horse racing?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" (a) Bucket shops no doubt exist in Madras City but they cannot be said to be thriving. A number of organizations have been rounded up by the police but others soon take their place. The total number of cases successfully prosecuted for betting has shown an increase in 1945 over the figure of 1944. The total number of cases put up in the first eight months of 1946 shows an increase over the 1944 figure and is almost equal to the 1945 figure. It is reported that up to date more cases have been put up for prosecution from the southern range than in the whole of each of the previous two years.

" (b) Section 37 (3) of the Madras City Police Act, 1888, provides for adequate punishment for this offence and the law is being enforced. The Act was recently amended making the punishment heavier and more stringent."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the number of cases put up for prosecution after this Government came into power show an improvement on the figures that existed previously?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"No separate figures are available here to answer the question."

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M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government is aware that some of the bucket shops are flourishing directly under the patronage of high Police officials?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"If he knows, he can give me the information."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether it is not correct to presume that the very fact that the number of cases has increased indicates that the bucket shops thriving these days?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"It may be due to an increase in the number of bucket shops, but I do not know whether they have made much money out of them."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that printing of acceptances gives an incentive to these bucket shops, do the Government propose to prohibit the publication of acceptances?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"That is a suggestion which I would like to consider."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Is not the Hon. Minister aware that these acceptances are published by the local newspapers?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I have seen something like that."

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Has not the Government received so far any representations against the Police officials who are encouraging this?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Not since I came into office."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government give this House an assurance that all publication of literature concerning races will cease?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I will consider this suggestion too."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Do you publish a list of bucket shops also?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The Police may have some information about it."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Hon. Minister give effect to the suggestion made by all sections of this House that all publications in respect of racing, advertisements and the like will be prohibited by law?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I think I said already the suggestion will be considered."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether the Government propose to take any action to ban the joy land shows which are plundering the people in Bezvada, Masulipatam and other places?"

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THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Recently I have received complaints from various places that the so-called shows allow there for gambling in the shows. I have issued instructions to the District Superintendent of Police and the District Magistrate to pay a surprise visit to all these shows, so that gambling may be stopped."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that these bucket shops are flourishing on account of Poona and Bombay races?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"It is more than I can say."

Remission of Land Revenue.

* 202 Q.—SRI KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government granted a remission of Rs. 75 lakhs from 1937 onwards with reference to Ryotwari Land Revenue;

(b) when it was stopped; and

(c) whether the Government propose to restore it and if so from when?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" (a) Land Revenue Concessions to the extent of Rs. 75 lakhs were granted from fasli 1347 (1937-38) by

(1) the cancellation of the percentage enhancements due to resettlements after 1914 (Rs. 57 lakhs);

(2) a remission of 2 annas in the rupee of the wet assessment in the districts resettled before 1914 (Rs. 14 lakhs); and

(3) the temporary reduction of water cess in East and West Godavari and Kistna districts and in the deltaic tracts of Guntur (Rs. 4 lakhs).

"(b) All land revenue concessions except item (3) in the answer to clause (a) were withdrawn from fasli 1353 (1943-1944).

"(c) The Government have no proposal to restore the concessions which were withdrawn."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Are the Government aware that the reasons assigned by the Advisers' Government for cancelling these remissions do not hold good to-day?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I think, Sir, they hold good in the sense that there is no need for remission."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether such remissions are allowed in respect of ryots in zamindari areas?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That is a matter between the zamindars and the ryots."

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SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Are not the Government aware that there is a good disparity between the rates of commodities and the price of agricultural produce and that the criterion fixed by the Advisers is not at all correct?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am not able to answer that question."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether the Government are aware even when the zamindars grant the remission, the Government do not and would not recognize it and proportionately reduce the cess even on remission?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"This question applies to ryotwari areas and the supplementary question applies to zamindari areas."

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government propose to reduce in future the present rates of land revenue?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"As I have already stated during the budget debate, we have under consideration proposals for the modification of land revenue."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that rainfall in the Ceded districts is very precarious and that the irrigation sources to which supplies are very uncertain should be given the benefit of rules relating to precarious sources of water-supply?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That has nothing to do with the question on hand."

SRI M. S. PATTABIRAMA AYYAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister consider the advisability of restoring this remission at least to the food producing tracts this year?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The present concession that was cancelled is not going to be restored. So far as food production is concerned, there are other concessions."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it not the policy of this Government to give such remissions in fit and proper cases at all times?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The question of granting remission of two annas or four annas in the rupee altogether is a different thing. The present question relates to a concession of 75 lakhs given by the previous Government."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"May I ask whether in view of the fact that remissions under the irrigation sources have been niggardly in the past, so in the case of the Ceded districts and that they would liberalise these rules?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"If there are any particular cases brought to my notice, they will be looked into."

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Grant of lands to Saradanikethan.

* 203 Q.—M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have granted about 100 acres Romperu area in Guntur district free of cost to Saradanikethan; and

(b) the extent of land granted free of cost to either organizations or individuals since this Government have taken charge?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“(a) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

“(b) Lands have been alienated by the Government to organizations in the following cases since this Government took charge:—

(1) An extent of 19,039 sq. ft. in Ongole town, Guntur district, was alienated in favour of the Indain Red-Cross Society, Madras, for use as the site of a Maternity and Child-Welfare Centre.

(2) An extent of about 20 acres of land in the Turinjikadu forest area, Malavathangal village, Gingee taluk, South Arcot district, was ordered to be alienated in favour of the Kasturbha Leprosy Work Committee, Madras, for the Kasturbha Kushta Roga Nivarana Nilayam at Turinjikadu.

“There may be a few cases of alienations ordered by the Board or the Collectors. The information has been called for.”

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know whether it is the policy of this Government to alienate lands only to organizations which may be supporting the Congress?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Neither the Indian Red Cross Society nor the Kasturbha Leprosy Work Committee has anything to do with politics.”

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.*Agreement regarding letting of water from Kannambadi Dam.*

50 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to place on the table—

(a) the terms of agreement between Madras and Mysore Governments regarding letting water from Kannambadi Dam on Cauvery river and state;

(b) whether any steps have been taken to let water from Kannambadi earlier in spite of the terms of the agreement on account of the failure of the monsoon;

(c) if answer to (b) be in the affirmative, whether any action was accordingly taken; and

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to so modify the terms as to suit the extraordinary circumstances of failure of monsoon like the last season in consultation with the Government of Mysore?

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A.—(a) The agreement of 1924 was published on pages 776–788 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 8th July 1924. Copies of G.O. No. 228, I., dated 3rd July 1924, containing the agreement are available in the Council Library. Subsequent agreement regarding rules of regulations was published on page 1424 of Part I of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 23rd September 1930.

(b) No steps were taken to release water earlier from Kannambadi. There was no water to spare in the reservoir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No such proposal has been made. No modification of the terms of the agreement will help either party without detriment to the other under circumstances similar to that of the last season.

Motor transport in Vizagapatam district.

51 Q.—SRI G. KUMARASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Government to improve the motor transport facilities in the Province in general, and in the district of Vizagapatam in particular; and

(b) what steps do the Government propose to take to increase the number of motor vehicles in the Province in general and in the district of Vizagapatam in particular?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the *Press Communiqué No. 21, dated 4th September 1945, which enunciates the policy hitherto followed by Government in the administration of motor transport in this Province. The question how far the policy needs revision is under the consideration of the Government. There are no specific proposal to improve the transport facilities of the Vizagapatam district in particular.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to starred question No. 110 already delivered on the floor of this House. No steps to increase the number of vehicles in the Vizagapatam district in particular are now under contemplation.

Alleged Police excess in 1942.

52 Q.—SRI S. NAGIAH: Will the Honourable the Minister be pleased to state what action he proposes to take regarding the Police and official excesses committed since the Congress disturbances in 1942—

(i) in this province; and •

(ii) in Cuddapah district in particular.

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A.—The Government have received a few petitions complaining of excesses alleged to have been committed by police and other officials in Ramnad district during the disturbances in 1942 and the matter is under consideration. No such complaints have been received from Cuddapah district.

Establishment of a Provincial Advisory Board of Education.

53 Q.—SRI R. NADHAMUNI REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state what action the Government propose to take on the suggestion of the South India Teachers' Union regarding the need for establishing a Provincial Advisory Board of Education to help the Ministry of Education to formulate a well-defined uniform and effective educational policy?

A.—

Withdrawal of the full fee concession to lady students in Medical Colleges.

54 Q.—SRIMATHI K. LAKSHMI AMMAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) when the full fee concession to lady students admitted to the Medical Colleges was withdrawn;

(b) the reasons, if any, which made the Government withdraw the said concession; and

(c) whether the Government propose to restore the said concession to lady students?

A.—(a) In 1945 the Government withdrew the full fee concession subject to certain conditions, viz.,

(1) that students who belong to the Muslim community or the backward and scheduled classes should continue to be eligible for the concession;

(2) that in the case of other students college fees at half the prescribed rates only should be levied;

(3) that six free studentships should be reserved for deserving poor students not belonging to the Muslim community or the backward or scheduled classes; and

(4) that the students belonging to this Province who had already been admitted in the Medical Colleges should continue to be eligible for exemption from the payment of tuition fees.

(b) The concession was originally granted in order to attract women to the medical profession. There was no lack of applicants for admission to the Colleges during 1943 and 1944. As against 49 seats reserved for them, 111 and 116 respectively applied during these years. The Government considered that there was no need to continue the concession except to the extent already mentioned.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

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Repairs to irrigation tanks in the zamin area of Udayarpalayam taluk.

55 Q.—SRI P. KAKKAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the irrigation tanks in the zamin area of Udayarpalayam taluk have not been attended to or repaired for a considerable time; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by the Government to repair them?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information. The Collector of Trichinopoly has been asked to ascertain whether the fact is as stated, and if so, to take suitable action in respect of the irrigation works under the Madras Irrigation Works (Repair Improvement and Construction) Act, 1943.

Wells sunk with Government subsidies in Tinnevely district

56 Q.—SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many wells have been sunk so far with Government subsidy in Tinnevely district; how many in Ambasamudram and how many in Nanguneri taluks; and

(b) whether the work has been completed and the subsidy paid?

A.—(a) & (b) Subsidies have been paid for sinking 3,731 new wells and for repairing 854 old wells in the Tinnevely district. Out of these, 309 new wells were completed, and 75 old wells repaired, up to 3 July 1946. Later figures are not yet available. Information regarding the number of new wells completed and old wells repaired in each of the taluks of Ambasamudram and Nanguneri is not available with the Government. It has been called for from the Collector.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—THE MADRAS ESSENTIAL ARTICLES CONTROL AND REQUISITIONING (TEMPORARY POWERS) BILL, 1946.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to inform the House that Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1946, has been before the House for two days. I would not allow any more amendments to be moved now.

"Pocker Sahib Bahadur has given notice of a motion adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of public importance. The motion is—

"That the business of the House do stand adjourned to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance, namely, the very serious situation caused by the notice given by

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Non-gazetted Officers' Association to the Government that they would resort to direct action on 5th October 1946, if their demands for adequate relief in the matter of increase of salary are not satisfied and the great discontent and the deep resentment caused among the non-gazetted officers by the orders issued on 9th September 1946 by the Government withdrawing the recognition of the said Association and the granting of extremely inadequate relief in the matter of increase of salary.'

"Before I take up this question, I want to inform the House that the House will rise to-day at 1-30 p.m. because the Council is meeting at 3 p.m. So, if the House has no objection and if the Hon. the Prime Minister has no objection, I will take up this matter for discussion at 1-30 p.m. under rule 14 of the Rules for the Madras Legislative Assembly, as I have done in respect of the adjournment motion connected with the Railway strike. Rule 14 reads as follows:—

'While in session a meeting of the Assembly shall ordinarily commence at 11 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m.:

Provided on notice given to the Speaker at question time, the Speaker may, in his discretion, allow half an hour after 5 p.m. or after the conclusion of the business of the day, whichever is earlier, to enable a member to raise a debate on any matter of urgent importance which has been the subject of a question on that day. No division shall be taken on such debate, and such time shall not be available for transaction of any other business.'

"So, if the Leader of the House has no objection, I shall take up this matter at 1-30 p.m. under the above rule."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I have no objection, Sir."

* D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, may I know whether amendments already given notice of will be allowed, in view of what the Hon. the Speaker has said just now that no amendments will be allowed on that Bill."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes, they have already been allowed. I said, only further amendments will not be allowed."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, the hon. the Mover of the adjournment motion has not expressed his acceptance to the motion being discussed at 1-30 p.m."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has accepted it and the Hon. the Leader of the House has also accepted it."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, since the House rises at 1-30 p.m., may not the adjournment motion be taken up at 1 o'clock, and the discussions finished by 1-30 p.m.?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The rule says 'or after the conclusion of the business of the day, whichever is earlier . . .'. Therefore the adjournment motion cannot be taken up before 1-30 p.m. I shall allow half-an-hour for discussion, or one or two minutes more, if necessary."

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"The Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill as amended by the Select Committee is now before the House and the Hon. the Premier will move that the Bill be taken into consideration."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I present the Report ^a of the Select Committee on the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, and move—

'that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.'"

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the Trades and Commerce of this Province, I should like to give my fullest support to the Bill. Sir, at the Select Committee stage, the Hon. the Premier was good enough to tell us that the interests of the merchants will be safeguarded on account of the fact that the present Government is a popular Government representing the will of the people."

"Sir, I shall make a few general observations as to how the Bill, when it becomes law will have to work. In regard to the provisions in clause 3 regulating production by licences, I suggest that the Ministry should have a well-defined and uniform policy in rejecting applications for permits and licences and in suspending or cancelling permits and licences."

"Then, certain powers are delegated to the officials. I suggest, Sir, that only officers of departments who have comprehensive knowledge and experience of the particular trades and commodities should be delegated with such powers. At all events no powers in this respect should vest with the Police, independent of the departments concerned."

"Then, Sir, at the Select Committee stage I raised the question of protection that is afforded to the public, if an officer or person acting under the Act takes undue advantage of his powers and begins to harass people intentionally. The Hon. the Premier assured us that nothing of the sort would be done by the officers under the present Government."

"Sir, I would suggest that sort of confidential or secret machinery should be set up to function co-extensively and simultaneously with this Act to detect and punish cases of bribery and corruption, as it is well known that the vesting of such extraordinary powers has always been accompanied by abuse resulting in corruption and bribery. There should be some restriction, as I said before, in the delegation of powers to the departmental officers. And if it is brought to the notice of the Government that any officer or servant of the department has acted harshly, improperly or unjustly, I hope that the Government will take suitable action against the officers. Sir, as a result of one or two suggestions of ours, the Hon. the Premier very kindly altered sub-clause (e) under

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clause 5, and also in another case, added the following words to clause 1 (4):—‘Such notification shall be placed on the table of the Houses of Legislature if sitting.’ We brought to the notice of the Hon. the Premier that the Government were taking too much powers by simply notifying in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, the extension of the period after the first two years by a further two years. The Hon. the Premier was considerate enough to tell us that our attention will be drawn to such extension and that the public and the merchants will have an opportunity of getting a debate raised in the House through hon. Members. In the case of clause 5, sub-clause (c), he was good enough to agree to our amendment that an appeal shall lie to the High Court against the award of an arbitrator where the value of the subject-matter in dispute in appeal is Rs. 2,000 and above.

“Sir, on the whole, I must express my deep gratification at the manner in which the Hon. the Premier wanted to oblige the merchants and I assure the House on behalf of the mercantile community that they will be only too willing to co-operate with the Government as they have been always doing in the past. I therefore strongly support the Bill in its entirety.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

‘that the further consideration of this Bill may be deferred in view of the contemplated continuance of the Defence of India Rules by the Government of India.’

“This information is based on some report that appeared in the Press and I have sent a short notice question to the Hon. the Premier enquiring him whether there is any official information on this point. But in any case, Sir, I should like to point out that this Bill, along with other Bills were brought in such hurry and haste by the Government and they are rushing through because the Defence of India Rules are coming to an end by the end of this month and that therefore it was necessary that these rules should continue to be in force and that unless steps are taken immediately to have these Bills made into law, the Government would be put to difficulties. It is on that ground that these measures have been introduced. If it is a fact that the Defence of India Rules are to be retained this Government may perhaps find it unnecessary to further consider these Bills. I do not know, Sir, whether the Government has got any definite information now officially that the Defence of India Rules are to be continued or not by the present Interim Government. But, however, I would suggest that even if they have not got any definite information on this point, the further consideration of these Bills may be deferred until some definite information is received from the Government of India on the subject.

“Sir, I do not see any necessity for having two sets of Acts, one by the Local Government and the other by the Central Government. It is only the Government that can speak and not I. It is for that purpose that I gave a short notice question to which I received no answer.

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“Therefore I would request that the measure be deferred until 12-15 the intention of the Government of India is definitely known. If p.m. the information has not already been obtained, the Government can obtain the information and then proceed with the measure.”

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I second the motion, Sir.”

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to second the motion of the Deputy Leader of our party, hon. Mr. Pocker. If in fact the Defence of India Rules are to remain in force, I do not see any necessity for rushing through this measure. When Bills are brought forward in haste, it is evident that they cannot but be defective; hence it is that we find the Bills presented to this House to abound in defects. It is desirable in the interests of the public that the Government should take more time to bring forward their legislative measures and that the public should be given sufficient time to consider them. In regard to this Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning Bill, I may point out that it is open to doubt whether in regard to certain items mentioned therein the Government of Madras and this Legislature have the power to legislate. I would invite the attention of the Government to clause 4 of the abovementioned Bill, wherein it is stated that the Government may requisition any movable property and also acquire it. I wish to inquire whether the Government and the Provincial Legislature have the power of requisitioning and acquiring movable properties as distinguished from immovable properties. In this connexion, I wish to refer the Hon. the Minister for Law to list 2 of the Provincial Legislative List in Schedule VII of the Government of India Act, 1935. I find that specific mention has been made therein with regard to compulsory acquisition of land under item 9, but I do not find any item relating to the compulsory acquisition of movable property. I want to know whether the Government have considered this point, and whether by bringing forward a legislation like this they are not transcending the powers that are vested in this legislature and in the Provincial Government so far as the acquisition of movable property is concerned. We are aware that during the War the Central Legislature, under section 102 of the Constitution Act along with the Parliamentary amendments, utilized the various powers in all the legislative lists and even powers not enumerated in any of the lists; but it is not up to the Provincial Legislature to assume such powers, for if it did so its act would be unconstitutional. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I suggest that measures which affect the well-being of the people should not be rushed through in this manner, but that both the public and those who are on the Treasury Benches should have more time to consider the various implications of the Bills that are brought forward and to see that the Government are not transcending their powers in regard to legislation. With these words, Mr. Speaker, I second the motion moved by Mr. Pocker.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I will put the motion of Mr. Pocker to the vote of the House. The motion of Mr. Pocker is . . .”

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Government have not replied to my motion, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"When there is no answer from the Hon. Minister we cannot compel him to give a reply."

Mr. B. Pocker's amendment was put and lost.

The original motion was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will take the Bill clause by clause. The Preamble will be taken in the end."

Clause 1.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I move—

that in sub-clause (4) of clause 1, for the words "two years" occurring in line 1, the words "one year" shall be substituted.'

"Mr. Speaker, in the preamble it is stated that this measure is intended to meet certain emergencies for a limited period. In fact I felt even in the Select Committee, with due respect to the Hon. Premier, that the feeling of the Government Members was that they were very good people and therefore there would be no wrong done. But my experience has been otherwise in the matter of the working by the officers of the proposals that have been sponsored by this Government. I concede, Sir, that they are very good people and that they are very well-intentioned. Therefore it is that I want to at least restrict this period in which the Government is going to take such wide powers. You know, Sir, that this is a measure under which the Government can do anything and everything with regard to the people of this Province. I want that the harassment and inconvenience to the people of this Province should be as little as it can be. It is because of that that I am moving this amendment to make the period 'one year' instead of 'two years.' Sir, it is stated that the Provincial Government may, from time to time, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, extend this period by a further period or periods not exceeding two years in the aggregate. If the Government is prepared to accept my amendment, I am prepared even to accede to the principle that they can extend this period even to three years instead of two years. I therefore request the Government to accept my amendment and reduce the period to 'one year.'"

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I beg to support this amendment moved by Mr. Mohideen Kutty. It is a very reasonable suggestion and I hope the Government will take it in the light and in the spirit in which the amendment is moved. After all, the Government can extend it further if it is found after one year that it is necessary to do so. I know that speeches do not serve any practical purpose in this House and therefore I do not want to waste either the time of the hon. Members of this House or that of the Hon. the Speaker."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a provision taken from the Defence of India Act and the rules

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framed thereunder. Originally it was felt that the emergency would not cease earlier than two years. To-day, Sir, so far as we have been able to judge the conditions and the circumstances, it is not likely that the emergency will be over within one year. That is why we have adhered to two years. If the emergency should cease earlier that circumstance will be taken into account. If such a good thing could happen to us we will welcome it. But as things stand at present, it does not look like that. We are searching for anything that we can get to tide over these two months of the food crisis. Therefore, Sir, two years may be allowed. I oppose the amendment moved. This was opposed in the Select Committee also and I thought it would not come up here again."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 1 was put and carried.

Clause 2.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am not moving my amendment, Sir."

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 3.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am not moving my amendment, Sir."

Clause 3 was put and carried.

Clause 4.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this was also a matter considered in the Select Committee and certain improvements were made, I know. Unfortunately, they have not satisfied me completely and therefore I would like to request the Hon. the Premier to take away the word 'ordinarily' from the proviso. My intention is to lessen the inconvenience and harassment that may be caused by the indiscretion and even the high-handedness of the officers of the Government."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is the hon. Member moving the two amendments standing in his name?"

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I move the following amendment, Sir:—

'In sub-clause (1) of clause 4, first proviso, after the words "religious worship," the words "or family residence" shall be inserted.'

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second the amendment, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What about the second amendment?"

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am not moving that amendment, Sir."

The amendment was put and lost.

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THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Sir, there is a type mistake in the second proviso: the word 'a' should not be there before the word 'buildings' and it should be deleted. If any formal amendment is necessary, I shall move one, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is only a printer's mistake and may be corrected without an amendment."

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am not moving my amendment to clause 4, sub-clause (3)."

Clause 4 was put and carried.

Clause 5.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Sir, I move—

'that after sub-clause (2) of clause 5, the following proviso shall be added:—

"Provided that no compensation shall be payable to any movable property belonging to a person who has been already convicted of the offence of selling goods at excessive profits."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"This is an amendment which is moved just now, and Mr. Speaker, you have said that you would not accept . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have not said anything about this amendment."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I read the amendment again?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I move, Sir—

'that after sub-clause (2) of clause 5, the following proviso shall be added:—

"Provided that no compensation shall be payable to any movable property belonging to a person who has been already convicted of the offence of selling goods at excessive profits."

"Sir, the whole Bill is based on the Defence of India Rules and the Ministry is deriving inspiration from the Defence of India Rules. Not even amendments have been made in the Defence of India Rules and all the defects in the Defence of India Rules are being carried into this Bill. That is why I have been forced to move this amendment. We all know, Sir, so many cases of black-marketing going on in our Province. Sir, compensation should be paid only to those people who are charging fair prices and are useful to the people. I do not find any reason for paying compensation to those who have always charged excessive profits and resorted to blackmarketing. They have already derived their compensation in the blackmarket. Under these circumstances, I do not find any necessity for paying compensation for taking away

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their movable articles from persons who have been convicted or against whom cases have been launched for blackmarketing. With these words, I move the amendment."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is any hon. Member seconding the amendment?"

(There was no seconder.)

The amendment fell through for want of a seconder.
Clause 5 was put and carried.

Clause 6.

There being no amendments, clause 6 was put and carried.

Clause 7.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I move, Sir—

'that in sub-clause (1) (b), for the words "land whether appurtenant to a building or not" the words "not appurtenant to a residential building" shall be substituted.'

"Sir, even this question was considered in the Select Committee and unfortunately my amendment was not accepted. I feel, Sir, that if the section is allowed to stand as it is, even small residential buildings where families reside which are close to lands may be taken possession of by the Government without any reason, even out of malice and people put to inconvenience and hardship. I want that such a very wide power should not be given under this section. I request that my amendment may be accepted."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second the amendment."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I oppose the amendment, Sir."

The amendment was put and lost.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I move, Sir—

'that sub-clause (2) be omitted.'

"Sir, even in the Select Committee, there was a very keen controversy over the very wide powers contemplated under this section. The owner of the land will not only be dispossessed of the land but will also be subject to other punishments contemplated in this section. Therefore, I feel, Sir, that this sub-clause should be completely omitted."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second the amendment."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, I would ask the Hon. Minister to give this House an assurance that in the execution of this sub-clause 7 (2), no harsh steps will be taken. As can be seen from the proceedings of the Select Committee placed on the table of the House, if the word 'wilfully' had been inserted after the word 'failed', it would have prevented a harsh use of this section. If a person for reasons beyond his control is unable to comply with Government orders, then he should not be punished."

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I pleaded for this in the Select Committee, but I withdrew my plea when I thought I had made the Government understand my view-point, namely, that in the case where a person has failed to comply with the order, not wilfully, but for proper reasons, he should at least be given a reasonable amount of compensation for the use of the land that is denied to him, but which will vest either in the Government or in some nominee of the Government. I only ask for an assurance in the matter and I do not wish to say anything more."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is a standing assurance, Sir, to the public that no section or no provision will be used harshly or unnecessarily."

The amendment was put and declared lost.

* D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I have not heard many 'Noes' at all, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I heard them. If the hon. Member wants, I will put the amendment again."

The amendment was put again and lost.

Clause 7 was put and carried.

Clause 8.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I move, Sir—

'that in sub-clause (1), in line 2, after the word "authority" the words "not below the rank of a Gazetted Officer" shall be inserted.'

"The Government should be careful to see that no officer below the rank of a Gazetted Officer should be invested with these wide powers."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second the amendment."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"If the amendment is accepted, it would be impossible of performance, this being an emergency measure."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 8 was put and carried.

Clause 9 was put and carried.

Clause 10 was put and carried.

Clause 11.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I move, Sir—

'that in sub-clause (1) (b) of clause 11, after the word "by" and before the word "post," the word "registered" shall be inserted.'

"I want, Sir, that in the matter of notices we must make sure that a person to whom the notice is sent gets the notice and does not miss it. Therefore I want to have the word 'registered' inserted."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second the amendment."

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The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 11 was put and carried.

Clause 12.

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir move—

'that in line 2 of sub-clause (1) of clause 12, after the figure "7" the figure and letter "(1) (a)" be inserted.'

"This is done in response to the request made by some Members on the other side that the penalties must not be imposed on persons committing offences under section 7 (1) (b), i.e., persons who fail to bring under cultivation any waste land or arable land. The Government have accepted the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I move, Sir—

'that in sub-clause (2), in lines 1 and 2, for the words "an order issued under this Act," the following words shall be substituted, namely:—

"an order made under this Act or continued under section 9".'

"This is merely a formal amendment, Sir."

The amendment was put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I move—

'In lines 5 and 6 of sub-clause (3), for the words "order made or deemed to be made under this Act" substitute the words "an order made under this Act or continued under section 9".'

The amendment was put and carried.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir move—

'that sub-clause (4) (b) be omitted.'

"I find, Sir, that this clause is very wide and gives power to Government to punish people who are supposed to do a thing which is very vaguely put in here. Even an attempt to evade is so to be made an offence. The very fact that we are not sure what is meant by the expression put in here is enough to show that very great injustice is likely to be done if this clause continues in the Bill. I therefore move my amendment for the deletion of this clause."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"There is a formal amendment to sub-clause (4) of clause 12, which I move, viz—

'that for the words "an order issued under this Act" in lines 1 and 2, the words "an order made under this Act or continued under section 9" be substituted.'

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 12 as amended was put and carried.

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Clause 13.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I move—

'that in clause 13, in lines 2 and 3, the words "or does any act preparatory to a contravention of an order made under the provisions of this Act" be omitted.'

"If these words are retained, it is clear that an act even of preparation is likely to be taken as an offence. Even though this Bill may be a matter of urgency, I would request the Government to delete these words, so that mere preparations need not be taken as offence against this measure. I feel, Sir, it will be a great injustice if these words are allowed to exist even in this temporary piece of legislation."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I want to move a formal amendment—

'that in line 3 of clause 13, for the words "an order under the provisions of this Act," the words "an order made under this Act or continued under section 9" be substituted.'"

The amendment was put and carried.

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I move that—

'in lines 6 and 7, for the words "an order made under any of the provisions of this Act," the words "an order made under this Act or continued under Section 9" be substituted.'"

The amendment was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will now put clause 13 as amended to the vote of the House."

Clause 13, as amended, was put and carried.

Clause 14.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I do not move my amendment, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will put clause 14 to the vote of the House."

Clause 14 was put and carried.

Clause 15.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, I move—

'that clause 15 be amended as follows:—

"Any offence punishable under this Act shall be a cognizable offence as defined in the Indian Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code."

"Sir, up till now the Defence of India Rules have been in operation, but we want to know how many cases of blackmarketing have escaped punishment. Private individuals are not allowed

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to launch cases against these blackmarketeers. Even though blackmarketing was caught and handed over to the officers, the officers used to allow those blackmarketeers to escape punishment. That is why you find up till now very few cases launched for blackmarketing. If my amendment is accepted, the public will have an opportunity to launch cases against the blackmarketeers, and they can be brought to book and punished. That is why I am suggesting this amendment."

* MR. SPEAKER (after a pause):—"Your amendment falls through for want of a seconder."

"I will now put clause 15 to the vote of the House."

Clause 15 was put and carried.

Clause 16.

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'that the whole clause be omitted.'

"We all know it is against all canons of British jurisprudence to say that the burden of proof should be shifted on to the defence. I ask the Hon. Minister for Law what justification there is for this provision, even though this may be an emergency piece of legislation. We have not known of any such provision in any legislation so far as British jurisprudence goes. Therefore, I want the deletion of this whole clause."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second the amendment."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I want to say this because the hon. Member has asked me to reply. Even in the case of the Penal Code there are exceptions, and this is merely an exception here. If a person has got property on his hand without a permit or licence, the burden of proof is placed upon him; it is because he has no permit or licence, that the burden of proof is placed on him."

The amendment was put and lost.

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I move, Sir—

'that in lines 1 to 3 for the words "any order made or deemed to have been made under the provisions of this Act," the words "any order made under this Act or continued under section 9" be substituted.'"

The amendment was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will now put clause 16 as amended to the vote of the House."

Clause 16, as amended, was put and carried.

Clauses 17 to 19.

Clauses 17 to 19 were put and carried.

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Schedule.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I am not moving my amendment, Sir."

The schedule was put and carried.

Preamble.

The Preamble was put and carried.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I now move—
'that the Bill be passed into law.'"

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is very unfortunate that in this House there is very little consideration paid to reason. I do not mind from what quarters any reasonable suggestion comes, but the suggestion has to be tested from the point of view whether it is reasonable or not. No doubt the Government looks upon us as its enemies. They are entitled to do so, but even from the enemy's side if some reasonable suggestion comes, it has to be given proper attention. Now look at the way in which not only this Bill but so many other Bills are being pushed through this House. The reason given by the Government was that we are living in extraordinary times. Though the war is over, the aftermath of war is there, we are told, and we must be deemed to be living under the same war conditions. The Defence of India Rules are about to expire and some provision must be made for their continuance under the Government of India Act. Under these extraordinary circumstances, unless those powers are legalized and continued, it would be difficult to carry on the administration of the country—that is what we are told. It was in that connexion that I proposed an amendment this morning that the further consideration of these measures might be deferred until it was definitely known whether the present Interim Government was going to continue the Defence of India Rules or not. I had sent a short notice question yesterday on this matter in order to elicit information."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member gave it at a late hour."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I could have the information from the Press only on Saturday evening and so I sent the question yesterday. That is all I could do."

p.m. "Even now, Sir, when I made the amendment on this point, the Hon. the Premier did not think it worthwhile even to answer whether he had any information or not, or whether he had bestowed any attention to that. He did not even have the courtesy to refer to it. Now, Sir, I ask whether it is not a matter to be taken into consideration at all in pushing these Bills in this hurried manner. If the Defence of India Rules are to be continued, there may not be any necessity for these provisions at all. When such is the case, Sir, I ask, why the Government should have treated this suggestion with that kind of contempt? Is it a matter to be treated with such a contempt? A point has been

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raised as to the necessity of proceeding with these important measures in this hurried manner. Many of the Members had not even the time to read and study the provisions and when these are matters of very great importance, not only to the Government but to the people also, they must know what things are being done in their name and for their benefit; whether it will be good for them or bad for them; they have got a right to know and the Members of this House who represent the people of the province and the public also should know where they stand. All on a sudden one fine morning, half a dozen Bills revolutionizing the whole law are being brought to the House for acceptance. Is it fair? And what was the necessity for such hurrying up? Should not the Government have ascertained beforehand whether there is any actual necessity or not? Should they not have got definite information whether the Defence of India Rules are to be continued or not? Even now, when I ask about it, they keep mum and they treat it with contempt. I do expect a more reasonable attitude from the Government.

"When you look into the Bill and see what kind of powers are vested in the Government, it will be seen that some of them are Hitlerian powers. Whenever we wanted certain powers to be defined—let them be defined in the Act itself in any manner they like and they can take any power—but the people must know where they stand. Sir, many of the provisions of this Bill are very harsh and they will work very great hardship also. When one hon. Member from the other side drew the attention of the Government as to the harshness which it might cause, of course, the only assurance that he could get from the Hon. the Premier was that everything will be all right—it was a general assurance—the Government is a good Government and so the presumption is that it will act only in a good manner and not improperly. Of course, the Hon. the Premier is one of the best men we have come across and therefore everything can be left to his goodness. I have more faith in his goodness than in all these laws which are passed."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"May I ask for information as to what the other side felt about the matter? They could have guided us in the Select Committee stage."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, the matter was thrashed out in the Select Committee and even in seconding the very first amendment relating to section (c), I said that speeches in this House have become practically useless and it is only waste of time and that is why I did not speak. So far as the attitude of my part is concerned, that has been made quite clear in the Select Committee and it was only out of despondency some amendments were moved formally and I formally seconded them without wasting a word. Why should the time of the House be wasted when hon. Members have much more useful work to do than to be sitting here? Therefore, I submit to Government that they should take a more reasonable view of these matters of very great

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importance. I do not want to refer to particular clauses in this measure since it will have the same effect as the other remarks made by other Members. Lastly, I would only appeal to the Government in the name of the people to give an assurance that these harsh clauses will not be worked in an arbitrary and harsh manner."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, as I said already, I give my entire support to this Bill on behalf of the mercantile community. Sir, the Premier, during the Select Committee, at the very outset, said that we are passing through very critical times and these powers are very much necessary for the Government to run smoothly and efficiently. Sir, he has a very courteous way of getting round the Opposition. I had a number of amendments on my hand, but when the Premier told us that no harsh treatment would be meted out to the public and to the merchants especially, I did not force my amendments through. Sir, in the general working of the Act, I wish the Government give strict instructions to its subordinates to see that no harassment is caused, particularly in the mufassal districts.

"Sir, in clause 14, you have got a big opportunity of roping in Secretaries, Directors, Managing Directors, etc., for very trifling reasons. Clause 14 reads:

'If the person who contravenes or is deemed to contravene an order made under section 3, section 4 or section 7 or continued under section 9, is a company or other body corporate, every director, manager, Secretary or other officer or agent thereof shall, unless he proves that the contravention took place without his knowledge and that he exercised all due diligence to prevent such contravention, be deemed to be guilty of such contravention.'

"Here I wish to point out that the word 'and' in the section quoted was not in the original Bill, it has been substituted for the word 'or'; this addition of the word 'and' would certainly cause embarrassment to the companies. I happen to be the Managing Director of a concern, I am here in the Assembly; I do not know what my staff is doing in my office; but, according to this, if something goes wrong in my office, I have got to give proof that I have exercised all due diligence. Now, what is the degree of diligence that has to be exercised? I hope the Hon. Premier will kindly see that this hardship on behalf of the company directors is taken into consideration while giving instructions to his officers.

"Sir, I can only once again reiterate what I have said already and I would like to have an assurance on the floor of this House that undue harassment will not take place and that the Government will help the mercantile community as far as possible. I may also incidentally add that the mercantile community has been able to adjust itself to the present conditions and hope that the Government will enable the mercantile community to co-operate with them at all times."

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, these are days of interim arrangements and these interim arrangements are unfortunately unpopular and I believe

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and hope that in the working of these interim measures the Government will be very careful. I know the Hon. the Premier has assured us that so far as it lies in him no harassment or any hardship will be tolerated, but, Sir, in this connexion I want to remind the Hon. the Premier that all actions and all deeds that are committed in the name of the Government cannot be controlled and checked by an ordinary human individual. We are satisfied about the sincerity and bona fides of the Hon. the Premier, but I am not in the least satisfied with the working of the measures that have been sponsored here which are deliberately flouted by the subordinates in the mufassal. Instances can be quoted and I may invite the attention of the Hon. the Premier to the number of complaints and applications and petitions that are pouring in even into the hands of the Members about the great harassment that is going on even in regard to procurement and the supply of sugar, kerosene and cloth for necessary articles. It was only yesterday that I got a very pitiable case in regard to the state of things happening. It has been represented to me by the inhabitants of a group of villages; it was said in that petition that a large number of Mappillas, simply because they are Muslim Leaguers, were denied even the elementary and necessary supply of cloth or kerosene or sugar. Sir, you are armed now with what I may call, an atomic bomb, I want the utmost and most careful attention of the Premier in the working of these measures. In fact, in spite of all the hopes that the Premier was good enough to inspire in us, I am in a state of despondency and if things continue in such a manner in Malabar, I am afraid matters will become serious. Though we want to extend our hand of co-operation, that is simply spurned and I wonder what the Government is thinking about the matter. I have just referred to a matter which seriously agitates the minds of the Mappillas. I find that in every matter we are being prevented from co-operating—I mean the Mappillas. I understand that in spite of all these things, you are rushing the military and especially Europeans and Gurkha soldiers to Malabar. For what purpose, I really cannot understand. If at all anything happens, it will be due to the harassment by the subordinate officers and misguided propaganda of Hindu ladies who are going to any extent to provoke the Mappillas. I want you to pay special attention to this matter. Knowing as I do the Hon. the Premier, I have every trust and hope that things will be set right as far as he is concerned.

"Coming to this measure, Sir, I said that this is a measure that is almost like an atomic bomb. I want this measure to be used only in very very rare instances and not for the harassment of any persons. My hon. Friend Mr. Natesan pointed out a provision, namely, clause 14, where the manager of a firm will be considered an offender if somebody else has done something without his knowledge. Matters like that can be repeated, and under clause 16, when I moved my amendment, the Hon. the Law Minister was pleased to say that even in the Penal Code in certain exceptions the burden of proof is on the defence. I do not know

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how he can maintain that it is a case of exception. I do not know how this is a measure of exception. It is a measure which is going to be introduced in an emergency. In conclusion, Sir, I cannot but offer my thanks to the Hon. the Premier for very readily accepting my amendment at the Select Committee. That related to a matter affecting the interests of a very large section of poor Mappilla fishermen of Malabar. I am indeed thankful to him for that. Certain other minor amendments also might have been accepted on the proposals that I had the honour to move. In this connexion, I want to tell my hon. Friend Mr. N. S. Varadachari about his complaint that we were not diligent enough to support him in the Select Committee. (Interruption.) We did not do it because we felt that in the presence of such an able advocate like Mr. Varadachari, no time need be wasted in repeating it. I once more request the Hon. the Premier to see that in the working of this measure people are not put to hardship."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I thank all the hon. Members who have enabled us to get through this important measure without any difficulty."

The motion was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Select Committee Report on the Forest Bill has already been circulated to hon. Members. I wish to inform the House that amendments will be received till 11 a.m. to-morrow and amendments received after 11 o'clock will not be accepted."

III.—THE MADRAS BUILDINGS (LEASE AND RENT CONTROL) BILL, 1946.

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Sir, I beg to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Bill to regulate the leasing of buildings and for control of rent in the Province of Madras and move that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

"Hon. Members have got copies of the report and the changes made by the Select Committee in the various clauses that have been discussed and approved. So, I have now only to request the House to take into consideration the Bill as submitted by the Select Committee after the amendments were made."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I move that the further consideration of the Bill be deferred in view of the contemplated continuance of the Defence of India Rules."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in seconding the motion that has been moved by the hon. the Deputy Leader of our party, I wish to urge that since the Defence of India Rules are not likely to terminate at the end of this month, which we shall presume as the Hon. the Prime Minister has not stated otherwise, the Bill before the House should be deferred. This Bill vitally affects the interests both of the landlords and the tenants: therefore, sufficient time should be afforded to the public

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to consider its various provisions. Moreover, since this Bill has been framed in a manner to help the rich rather than the poor, it needs revision.

"With regard to house rents, there are two points of view—one is that of the landlords and the other of the tenants. The landlords urge that as the prices of articles have soared high, house-rents should fall in line with the general trend of rise in prices, particularly in view of the fact that in these days it is rather costly to maintain houses and keep them in proper repair. On the other hand, the tenants, who form the bulk of the poor and the middle class sections of society, contend that many of the landlords have reaped sufficient benefit by reason of capital appreciation. Many of the landlords have sold some of their properties at considerable profit amounting to at least double the sum that they had invested on the same, and in many instances, these properties, especially big houses, have to-day passed off into the hands of profiteers. Therefore, by excessive enhancement of the rents of houses, the Government will be benefiting the profiteers whom they themselves condemn. The tenants further urge that the landlords usually get a yield of five to six per cent on their big properties and seven to eight per cent on small properties, which should be deemed to be a sufficient return—these days on sound investments. Moreover, it is stated that the question of house rent should not be considered merely from the point of view of rise in prices but from a different angle as well, namely, the return that is available these days on sound investments. The yield from house properties should not be compared to the yield that one gets from stocks and shares, but on the other hand, to the yield that is obtainable on gilt-edged securities. It is common knowledge that the yield on gilt-edged securities has not gone up; but, on the other hand, has come down from 3 per cent to $2\frac{3}{4}$ and $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent, why then should the yield from house properties be expected to be far in excess thereof. It is pointed out that people invest money in real property because this is considered to be one of the safest modes of investment like gilt-edged securities. One cannot invest money in sound investments and at the same time enjoy a high yield therefrom. Moreover, Sir, it is stated by the tenants that some of the provisions of the Bill, particularly with reference to the increase in the rent of houses above Rs. 50, will prove a real burden on the middle-class section of society. Even people who are paying a rent of slightly over Rs. 50 will be compelled to pay an increased rental of 25 per cent, and if they are unfortunate enough not to secure old houses, but are forced by reason of lack of accommodation to get into new ones, will have to pay an increase in rent of 50 per cent. It is asked whether it is reasonable in these days of high cost of living to expect those with an income of Rs. 300 or Rs. 400 who are now paying Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 by way of rent to pay 50 per cent over the amount they are paying at present. It is stated that in these days the middle-class people have suffered tremendously, so much so that no margin is left to them to meet any extra cost of living and that they are finding it extremely hard to make both ends

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meet; hence an increase of 25 and 50 per cent in their house rent will prove a real hardship to them. It is also asked that when in a big City like Calcutta, which is considered to be the second City in the whole of the British Empire, where living is exceedingly costly, only 10 per cent increase has been allowed in rent—why should not a similar increase or something like 12 or 15 per cent suffice in a place like Madras, where life is very much cheaper?

“Mr. Speaker, I have put forward the two points of view that are advanced on behalf of the landlords and the tenants. The points of view of both have to be carefully considered so that such steps may be taken as would promote the greatest good of the greatest number. In undertaking legislation every Government and every Legislature should strive towards that end. This principle of democracy, namely, the greatest good of the greatest number, enunciated by the famous Jeremy Bentham, and not personal considerations, should weigh with every true democrat. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I am of the opinion that this Bill should be deferred so that more time may be given to the people to consider its various clauses.”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the points raised against bringing this Bill is that the Government of India are likely to continue the Defence of India Rules for some more time. Till this day, we have not been definitely informed whether the Defence of India Rules will lapse or not and this matter of the control of houses and rent is so important that we cannot take the risk. If the Government of India will continue the Defence of India Rules, we have the course left open to us to proceed under those changed circumstances. As it is, this emergency measure is necessary and it is only reasonable and wise to have this on the Statute Book as matters now stand.

“As regards the merits of the Bill, much can be said. It is true the Bill provides for some increase but that increase is not on the existing rent. Fair rent has to be fixed on the rent that was prevailing between 1939 April and 1940 April because that was the time when rents were normal and any increase that is contemplated under this measure is only with reference to the rent that was in existence in 1939–40. It cannot be denied that there has been enormous rise in prices of things since then and it is true that houses are considered as a safe investment and if rich persons have invested money in houses, the return they are entitled to get as rent may not be very much. But there are persons who depend solely on rent and rent alone and to them this rent is the only property. Therefore, the slight increase as is provided in this Bill is necessary to adjust their economy with the enhanced cost of living.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The Hon. Minister may continue his speech to-morrow.”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“I require only three minutes more to finish my speech, Sir.

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“In enacting any measure, the interests of all classes of 1–30 people must be taken into account and we must see to it that as far as possible people already hard hit are not affected. The Select Committee has given very careful consideration to the question of enhanced rents. I have to emphasize that the increase is not over the present rents but with reference to rents obtaining in 1939–40, which were normal years. The fair rent is fixed by the Controller and there is also provision for adjustment of collections made in excess of the fair rent. It is very difficult to enact any legislation which will be good for both parties and will give both parties entire satisfaction. The Government have given the measure their careful consideration and I believe both the landlords and the tenants will have to be satisfied. After all this is not going to be a permanent measure. If the pressure as a result of the war is over and the exploitation of the position by the landlords which has arisen out of war conditions is over, certainly this Bill will not be on the Statute Book. My submission is that much could be said on both sides; but the measure that has been brought before the House is just and equitable and the Select Committee has bestowed much attention on it. I, therefore, appeal to the House to accept the Bill.”

The amendment was put and lost.

The original motion was put and carried.

IV.—MOTION *RE* WITHDRAWING RECOGNITION OF THE NON-GAZETTED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION.

MR. SPEAKER:—“The House would remember that this morning I allowed Mr. Pocker to raise a debate on an important matter. Mr. Pocker will now initiate the debate.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, this is a matter of very great importance, not only to the people concerned but also the Government. So far as Government is concerned the services form their very back-bone. So far as the public are concerned, they are indebted to them for working day and night and help the administration to be carried on. Ever since the time when the East India Company took up the administration of the country, they knew they could not import their own people for certain jobs and therefore they provided for a certain kind of education in order to train people to carry on the administration and it was they, these trained people, that have been really carrying on the administration for a century and a half or two. During the short time at my disposal, I do not want to trace past history. The present position is that there is a very large number of employees who form the non-gazetted section of Government officers. I am told—I speak subject to correction—that they number nearly 1½ lakhs of persons. The whole administration of the country depends upon them. I wish Government realizes that they are as much human beings as the members of Government on the other side and members on this side of the House. Government servants have to live first and then alone they can work for the Government. If Government had given any serious

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consideration to the real state of affairs of those people, to their financial position and to the conditions under which they have been carrying on, they could not have been so callous and so indifferent as to order in the sort of way they had done; they could not have been so inhuman as they have behaved to these men. If they had any human considerations, they would not have allowed their own salary to be trebled and our own to be doubled and allow these starving men who have been toiling day and night only a pittance. Is it humanity, Sir? This Congress Government proclaimed from house tops that they stand for the rights of the poor, that they stand for the down-trodden. Is this the way in which these people have to be treated by you? They are your back-bone; they toil for you night and day and they have been toiling for the sustenance of the Government and for the good of the people and they are starved like this. Their salaries were revised decades ago and the country has undergone so many economic changes. Have Government given a moment's attention to these facts? Is it not their duty first of all to consider the conditions under which these Government servants work? Mr. Speaker, there is a man serving in your house and his salary was fixed ten years ago; will you allow him to continue on the same salary even now under existing conditions, when prices of essential stuffs have gone up, not threefold but even five or six fold? You will not and I do not pause for an answer. I want now to ask Government whether they have bestowed any consideration to this matter. How many months was it since they came into office that they brought forward legislation concerning the salaries of Ministers and members of the House including myself? Was it fair on their part to have done it? Even yesterday, there was a Bill for the salary of the Hon. President of the Legislative Council and it was dropped like a hot potato. I would like to know what consideration they have given to their salaries. Their salaries were fixed many decades ago and since then their salaries have undergone some changes, if at all, only for the worst. Prices do not stop and find a level with the pay given to these people and they have been rising, even six and seven fold in certain cases. Is it not a hint to them to help themselves? Are they to be allowed to help themselves? If that is so, there is no place amongst them for honest people. I know many people amongst them; there are men of very high character and morality and if I may say so, without disrespect to the members of Government, there are many amongst them who will run the Government much more efficiently than the present Government. I know by actual experience and can speak to their ability, their high character and integrity. Under the worst conditions under which they are living, they are honest and do not stoop to take a pie as bribe from any person but they borrow and starve. This is the way their appeal is treated. I believe they are given Rs. 4, such of them as are drawing in excess of forty up to 196 and the rest are given a relief of Rs. 3 only. Do you expect anyone to welcome this? The Hon. the Premier knows their conditions as much as any member of the

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Government or other members. Is it fair or is it just to treat them in this callous manner? It is only a month ago that the Government of India itself considered the question and I understand that the employees of the Government of India have been given an interim relief of Rs. 4-8-0 plus Rs. 3-12-0, Rs. 8-4-0 in all. I ask you Sir, whether you have come up to that level. In this very Fort there are offices of the Government of India and side by side with them employees of the Provincial Government are also working. The other people are at an advantage and these people receive only this pittance of a benefit. The Government of India employees get their relief with retrospective effect, so that those people will have some small amount to liquidate their heavy debts into which they have gone for some years. They are able to see a few rupees more in their hands. That is something. Could not the Government of Madras rise at least to the level of the Government of India in giving this interim relief? It is said that a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet has been appointed to go into this question. Let any number of Committees be appointed but let there be relief. It was also suggested that there was no necessity for a fresh committee at all. There is already a Report on this question with the Government and the Report was that of a Committee appointed during the Adviser Government. I understand that relief to the extent of 33-1/3 per cent has been suggested therein for certain class of employees. I ask if it is not possible to give effect to its recommendations. Even in giving interim relief, could not Government be a little more magnanimous and a little more human? What are they to do with this three or four rupees? Will it not encourage people to break the law? I am sure the Government has withdrawn recognition because they said in despair—they had no other go; they waited for so many months—that if relief was not forthcoming before the 5th October, they would resort to direct action. If they said that, they were only following the example set by you. Were you not doing it before? If so, why not they do it now? Are they not human beings? When it was a matter concerning you and your grievances were not you resorting to it? It is the same thing that they are doing now. In conclusion, I say that this is not a matter in which any speeches are required and it is self-evident that their grievances are genuine. I appeal to the humanity of the Government to the reason of the Government to see that there is satisfaction and that nothing untoward happens."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, if I take part in this debate, it is because I took up this question, during the general budget discussion, of discontent prevailing amongst non-gazetted officers. I find matters are reaching a climax; they have served you a notice that they will strike work on the 5th, and in the meantime Government, evidently standing on prestige, have withdrawn recognition. I do not know what effect this withdrawal of recognition will have on the policy of the employees. I would only make an appeal to the employees to wait for some time so as to give

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breathing chance to the Premier. On the other hand, I must bring to the notice of the Ministry the very urgent necessity for an increase of salary for these persons. After all, they are taking this action simply because they are not in a position to live comfortably. As I said last time, I know all these people are indebted to a large extent. If the Government Servants' Conduct Rules concerning indebtedness, were enforced, at least 75 per cent of the people ought to be sacked at once. I know, Pathans are waiting outside on the 31st of the month to receive their collections. After all these are all educated people. These are not like the ordinary skilled or unskilled workers. I know they have a sense of responsibility about them. They have done everything that they possibly could. It is said they went and talked to the Premier. They had their own conference. They discussed the pros and cons of the questions, and evidently they have now come to this conclusion. Sir, to-day all over India the strike fever is spreading. The Imperial Bank of India and the Reserve Bank staff in the various branches all over India are beginning to strike work. Even in places like England you find that a number of people had gone and occupied somebody else's flat. That is the way people's mind works to-day. There is a wave of unrest. (Voice: 'Communist's ideas'.) I am not talking as a Communist. I am only trying to show that there is a wave of unrest in the country that people are not able to get on in life, that they get such miserable wages, that the cost of living has gone tremendously high, and that it is absolutely impossible for people to maintain a decent standard of living. (A voice: 'What about Mr. Natesan.')

Mr. Natesan can look after himself. Sir, I would also appeal to Non-Gazetted officers to see if they cannot wait for a few days more, and see if they can take the Government along with them. I would entreat the Premier to give his most sympathetic consideration to the grievances of these officers and see what best can be done under the circumstances, because I do not want it to be advertised that the Madras Government Non-Gazetted officers also are going on a strike."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that we are allowed such a very little time to discuss such an important thing. As has been said, about one and a half lakhs of non-gazetted officers are about to strike, and they are placed in such a condition that if they do not withdraw their strike notice, they will be dismissed, and their recognition will be withdrawn. Are these the tactics of the Congress Government? Are these tactics worth the name of the Congress Party? Will every Congress member think for himself and then answer why he during the election campaign went about saying 'we will grant minimum living wage.' When the time comes you do not even care to grant them the living wage. You do not even find the time to think over their conditions and to increase the salaries. No Cabinet Sub-Committees are needed to increase the salaries of the Ministers. You do not care to elicit public opinion, when you are increasing rent by even 50 per cent and more. How

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many of the non-gazetted officers can pay this rent, and continue to exist on this pittance of a salary? Let everybody think for himself and answer. I may say that the Madras Government is setting the pace for individual capitalists. The individual capitalist hesitates to withdraw to seek for non-recognition of trade unions. But the Government is not afraid of it. To-morrow what will be the reaction of the individual capitalist. The individual capitalist will say to any labour union, the 'Madras Government, the Congress Government, the popular Government has withdrawn recognition of the Non-Gazetted Officers' Association, what do you say now if I withdraw the recognition of your union?' This tactic adopted by the Government is tyrannical. Madras Government seek to declare war against the Non-Gazetted Officers and against people, and had already declared war against working class. I request the Hon. Prime Minister to withdraw the sentence that the recognition of the Association is withdrawn. I appeal to the Hon. Minister for Industries and Labour, who is an ardent trade-unionist, that this sentence will affect the trade union movement as a whole, and will smash trade unions as such. In the name of the working class who will strongly support the demand of Non-Gazetted Officers and who will stand behind them, I appeal to Government to look into these matters, particularly their salaries. A minimum living wage Bill must be passed into law before any other Bill is taken into consideration. Government ought to have considered this proposition of minimum wage legislation earlier than all other Bills. Without going into this Government has declared a war against the working classes and the non-gazetted officers. Government is carrying on its policy of repression and is bringing laws to crush every popular movement and to see that they are coerced."

(At this stage the Speaker rang the bell, and there were cries of order, order, and Mr. Venkateswarlu resumed his seat.)

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heartily sympathise with non-gazetted officers in their demand for relief. But I think it is a matter of very great regret is that these loyal body of workers have tarnished their bright record by resorting to a notice of a threat of strike. I have all along stood as the champion of the tax-payer. I do not think those who are supporting the demand have thought for a moment what will be the effect of giving relief to the non-gazetted staff as desired on the tax-payer. I saw a note in the *Mail* that if Government are to give Rs. 4 to every officer drawing Rs. 125 and under it will cost nearly two and a half crores of rupees and if they give the same Rs. 4 to those who are drawing between Rs. 125 and Rs. 200 it will cost another crores of rupees. I heard a conversation in the Library some days ago that there was a proposal to give each peon Rs. 10 but that even that relief would not be enough. They expect something like Rs. 20 or Rs. 25 per month. It will cost Government twenty or twenty-five crores of rupees a year. Where is the money to come from? The tax-payer cannot bear any extra burden. Unless we can show to Government a way out to give

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adequate help, we should not, I think, support their demand so strongly. We should be reasonable. Give them by all means help in such a way that you would not be throwing an unconscionable burden on the tax-payer."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the point raised by the hon. Mr. Fernandez would have been well received if only this point of view had been applied when his own salary was raised. I can understand the anxiety of his community to associate themselves with whatever the Government does (Mr. Fernandez: 'No; I protest'), and his attempt now seems to be the same. This Government, as at present constituted, having twice bungled in the Scavengers' strike and the South Indian Railway strike, has committed a Himalayan blunder from which they will not be able to recover, and will not be able to settle this problem amicably—that is the cancellation of the recognition of the Non-Gazetted Officers' Association. It was the policy of this Government, as voiced by the Hon. Mr. V. V. Giri that this Government recognized peaceful picketing and peaceful ways and means to achieve the end so far as labour is concerned. But here comes a bolt from the blue—a blow below the belt. Government ought to have thought twice before they did this. If only the members of the Treasury Benches are not on the Treasury Benches, but outside, they would have rushed to the Press as soon as recognition is cancelled and would have given opinions that these things ought not to have been done. Because they are here, and because they are slowly becoming die-hards representing the old school of thought, they are not able to see the movement. Here at least they cannot have the prejudice that these organizations are backed by Communists. They can have no prejudice, and they can decide matters on facts and figures. Here is a claim which even this Government has said on their own word. For instance when the question of salaries came, it was the hon. Mr. Town who pointed to a very significant sentence in the recent Salaries Bill for increase of salaries for Ministers. That sentence says: 'This Government recognizes that there was cent per cent increase in the cost of living.' You said this about three months ago. This Government stood by a sentence that there was in this Presidency an increase of 100 per cent in the cost of living. Will you stand by it and give 100 per cent increase to the salaries of non-gazetted officers or do you want that these non-gazetted officers either to resort to actions which are not recognized by you or to resort to a thing which you have done in the past. It was the policy of the Government of India and also this Government that whenever an interim relief is given, it is given with retrospective effect. There is no meaning in giving relief from 1st August 1946. If you think relief is necessary and that conditions warrant it—I think conditions warrant it—you should give them with retrospective effect, that is, from July 1945. You took enhanced salaries for the last four months, and you give a pittance to these non-gazetted officers. Why is this disparity shown to them?"

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Either you must be incapable of understanding the conditions the world, or you must be some other thing. Do not stand formalities, do not stand by false prestige—which I am told has led to the cancellation of recognition. You are not dealing with scavengers or with other workers. You are dealing with a very intelligent, high qualified organization, and if you cancel the recognition, they also know better how to meet you. They will certainly meet you, and the way in which you have been behaving in the past in this matter clearly shows that you will not be able to meet the situation unless you adjust yourself. Again, Select Committees and Cabinet Committees have been appointed. The word 'Cabinet' has a history, and the Cabinet Ministers, elected from Parliament have not done well. I wonder whether the Cabinet Committee, after so much elaborate enquiry, has given only Rs. 3. Do you know the value of these Rs. 3 in this labour market? Either the Ministers must be very careful in their calculations or they will have to face, in the future, a trouble which they will not be able to settle. I appeal that a further Committee of representatives of this House be appointed to go into the matter or you must meet the demands and give relief with retrospective effect."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a very peculiar responsibility to discharge in this matter since most of my constituents are non-gazetted officers. I am not going to plead their cause to-day. I have done that, Sir, to the extent possible during the budget debate, and I shall not repeat arguments on this occasion. I am one who deprecates all strikes in essential services. I do not like servants of Government to strike. I will also add this caution that non-gazetted officers should not help themselves if they strike. But I must say and I will plead that they (Government) should choose discrimination between remedies, especially when more than one remedy is available. They must make the force of the power of persuasion felt in this matter rather than resort to measures like withdrawal of recognition from what I do not personally consider a trade union. Government servants do not form a trade union nor did Government servants ever claim that they were a trade union. In fact this act of withdrawal of recognition has now raised the status of a trade union, which I do not like. I do not propose to say a single word in respect of salaries themselves and the increases granted now by Government—they call it interim concession. Since I do not want it to be understood as complaint, I do not dare to refrain from doing so. It is for those affected and the public to agitate and secure redress of the grievances. I do my part. All I wish to say is this, that after announcing Government's decision on the main question they should not come out with a statement that they have withdrawn recognition to the Non-Gazetted Officers' Association. This Association has been working for 25 years not in the spirit of a trade union. It is true they have talked of direct action. We politicians

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take responsibility for all that. We politicians have been indulging in too much talk of direct action, and, in these days, these unfortunate words are often used by those who never mean to practise direct action. Direct action has lost much of its value to-day when a Government of our own is in office. What I would earnestly plead is that Government should not put too much meaning into these words which politicians may use, but which Government servants may not emulate it because they do not even understand them. I only wish to say this. It is good to develop strength, but it is not right to use it in the same manner or in like measure. I want Government to get back again into this question and restore the recognition to this body of loyal Government servants who want only to persuade Government to look into the case, and not indulge in threats. These are hard times, and hunger makes for much as the Government very well knows. I conclude with this request to the Hon. Prime Minister that he will reconsider this question of withdrawal of recognition, and he will not take words lightly used—glib talk—as serious threat, and proceed with a step that would really mean unnecessary and unintended provocation.”

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to see that throughout the debate the members on the Treasury Benches, particularly Ministers, feel that there is nothing serious with regard to this problem, and they keep on smiling thinking that everything will go all right. They have to understand that if the threat were put into operation the whole machinery will collapse and this Government cannot be carried on for a day. Do not for a minute imagine that we are inciting the non-gazetted officers to resort to these methods. We want to discourage such tendencies. The main purpose of our party in expressing our opinion is to see that justice is done to them. In this connexion, I may say that Mr. Fernandez spoke about money. The whole point is that at the time when the budget proposals were formulated, the present Government could have thought of this contingency. They all felt that these problems will never occur and will never happen and ‘if they happen we will tackle them’. When the Government are spending three crores of rupees for the Khaddar scheme and one crore of rupees for the Harijan uplift could they not have thought of providing something to meet this contingency. A difficult situation has arisen and the difficulty is quite serious. I do not want time to dilate on individual cases. How do you expect your non-gazetted officers to maintain a family of five, six or seven members. It is humanly impossible. I ask the Government to explain as to how the family should live on Rs. 40 or Rs. 50 without incurring heavy debts. I should like to draw the attention of the House to a particular thing and finish my speech. Very recently, you may have seen that there was a strike by the Reserve Bank of India staff. Originally they were getting a salary of Rs. 40. I am sure hon. Members will have noticed that their salaries have been increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 75 and

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for every child—if they are fortunate enough—they get Rs. 10, which is of course up to a maximum of Rs. 30. I say, therefore, Sir, that justice should be done to them. It is no use talking in a light-hearted manner that we do not have funds, particularly when compared to the services which they render. It is unjust, as was pointed out by us that these people are forced to work 10 hours and 12 hours—that too responsible work. And what is paid to them? A meagre sum which is not in proportion to the work that is expected of them. It is inhuman and cruel on our part to expect them to do that responsible work for the pittance we pay. Apart from financial considerations, I am sure Government will rise to the occasion and do justice to them. If they fail, it would be a bad day for the Government as was pointed out by the Deputy Leader of our party.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ We should consider this ^{2 p.m.} subject dispassionately without any excitement, without importing undue vehemence. As I have been stating in the past, I must tell here hon. Members of this House that they are all expected sooner or later to play the role of responsibility when their turn comes, and there is no good of discarding all rules and reason and speak whatever they consider proper to use it against the Government. It has been my anxiety that the hon. Members of this House would weigh the words when they enter defence for the non-gazetted officers and try to justify them without having any regard to the rules of discipline. No Government can function if indiscipline is sown and encouraged without looking to the consequences. Apart from the many considerations, can any institution function if indiscipline is preached. This is not a case in which for the first time the salaries are fixed by those who have come to office four months back. As I pointed out on another occasion these salaries had been fixed very long time ago at a low rate for almost all the Government servants. This is not a case in which the present Government took into its head to reduce the salaries which had been ranging at a high rate. Wherefrom has this enthusiasm come now? How has this been fomented by expressions which are not calculated to be of any service? I can understand if the Government has taken a sudden jump and reduced the salaries for protestations to be recorded. What has been going on for such a long time has been continued for a few months. Why this anger? Why this temper of the hon. Member Mr. Pocker and the hon. Member Mr. Natesan? (Mr. P. Natesan : ‘I only requested that the Premier may see that something is done.’) For anybody, Sir, it would be unjust and improper that they should get off the proper balance in considering this situation. Is there anything unreasonable which this Government has been endeavouring to do? How does this spirit come into these non-gazetted officers and then threaten the Government with direct action? Wherefrom did they get it? How did they forget that their union was recognized by Government to enable them to ventilate their grievances and put

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forth grievances? The position of Government servants, Sir, is quite different from that of other independent persons. No Government will function if such a spirit gets into the head of these officers and they threaten with direct action. It is unthinkable and unimaginable in any part of the world if these unions that had been recognized by Government and given the freedom to put forth grievances should turn round and follow the example of those who say that they will have recourse to direct action. I should have expected every hon. Member of the House to realize what is going on. A Sub-Committee of the Cabinet Ministers was formed with a view to inquire into this matter and give some immediate relief if not a final relief as may be found just and proper. That is what has been done by this Government. When the Committee was considering the proposals the Government of India published a communiqué in which they formulated certain proposals as interim proposals. That enabled, Sir, the Sub-Committee of the Ministers to take a decision, an interim decision on the lines or very near the lines indicated by the Government of India. Non-gazetted officers are persons who have been working as servants of the Government. They are the persons who are expected to do their business without getting a temper. They have passed a resolution in which they reiterated their challenge and reasserted their determination to carry on direct action if within a certain time their demands are not complied with. Having regard to the agitation and the strikes that have been carried on during the last so many months they may be pardoned if they become unreasonable. How can hon. Members of this House who know their full responsibility be exonerated, Sir, when they have recourse to a language which they have been using against the Government? Nothing has happened. It is the duty of the Government, it is the duty of the hon. Members of the House and it is also your duty, Sir, to maintain the discipline and enable the Government to carry on the administration. For every little thing if hon. Members should work themselves up into a fury and then, Sir, use all the vocabulary they could command against the Government it would be a difficult time. I am not worried, Sir, about the harshness of the words or the rudeness of the expressions because we are here to meet with all rudeness and with all expressions. In their own interest let me tell the hon. Members of the House they should look upon this Government as their own Government; even though they form the opposition, they should look upon the Government as their own and help the people outside, the parties concerned to understand and act with reason. All that has been abandoned and they have been saying what they have not said up till now; everything they could command they have said. Any expression which came to them was used. This the Government does not deserve. This Government has been labouring under very extraordinary circumstances. How many crores it might become if a particular rate of increase is accepted we need not worry. But we should worry if the heart does not come to the help of the Government. Government has not been acting unreasonably.

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Government appointed a sub-committee with the hope that it may relieve to some extent the interim suffering. At once they say 'no interim allowance, we are determined to carry on direct action.' This attitude on the part of the Government servants is due to the encouragement given, unconsciously it may be. The Government of India gave an enhancement of Rs. 3 and Rs. 4-8-0. Same it may be on the whole system of Government, both in the centre and the provinces. The Government of India has announced an increment, an interim increment and have said that it was not final. When that announcement was made by the Government of India those persons for whom the announcement was made, the workers there, the officers there, call them by any name you like, they did not get into a fury and tell the Government of India: 'Even though you have allowed this, we do not accept your proposal. We go to direct action. We are determined to carry on that.' Who is responsible for this attitude of the non-gazetted officers in this Province? We have not given any offence in any direction. Who is responsible? The responsibility is upon these hon. Members, who have been fretting and fuming and condemning this Government without recognizing even a little that has been done. No insinuation, no inuendo is made. I am dealing with the question straight as it has been stated here. If there is anything unparliamentary I would not hesitate to withdraw. There is nothing unparliamentary. Mr. Pocker, Mr. Salam and other friends should have some little reason and judgment when they take the Government and condemn it outright. When that is not done it is the duty of the Government, Sir, to deal with the situation in a straight manner and tell the hon. Members how this position has come up and how the officers of the Government of India, after that increment was announced, did not rebel, did not declare that they were determined to carry on direct action. Why should they have recourse to it? You might say it is error of judgment. I do not quarrel with persons who make mistakes in judgment. They were very much misled. They ought not to have done that. The Chief Secretary invited them to put the case before them. Is it right that Government servants whose recognition was given by the Government, should take up this attitude? Try to reason with them and point out that they had taken an unreasonable attitude. Some of them, Sir, admitted that it was a mistake. You will find on the file on which that note has been made.

"Some of them who met him admitted that it was a mistake to have given the notice. They admitted that they should not have done that. The Chief Secretary was encouraged by this and he followed up saying 'You will please withdraw your letter of direct action.' He reasoned with them, he argued with them and he asked them to withdraw the notice. They promised to reconsider the matter. They considered and after some time they said 'No.' How did they come to this conclusion? Who were the persons who prompted them to do like that? Who were the persons who encouraged them to adopt that attitude? The non-gazetted officers should be serious. They should not go under the ill-name of

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those people who have been fomenting strikes, who have been fomenting direct direction.

"Sir, it has been pointed out 'You showed the way in the past. What is wrong if others follow it at this juncture.' There also I expect hon. Members to have reason with them. What did the Congress preach? Why did they go to the jails? What are the issues involved? Were those issues like this? The question of freedom was the issue. Therefore it was, that the Congress advocated direct action. Not once, not twice, not thrice, but at least half-a-dozen times during the last 25 years, did the Congress resort to direct action and it is only as a result of that that the country has been raised to the present status. If there were any legitimate complaints from the other side, the Government would have no quarrel with them. They will enquire into those complaints with a view to remedy them. Complaints were made by a certain section that they were not able to make peaceful picketing. This Government at once issued a communiqué defining peaceful picketing and also defining violent picketing and the consequences of violent picketing. Therefore I submit, Sir, that what was done by the Congress should not be quoted by my hon. Friends. Whether occasion arises, when some of the hon. Members may have recourse to similar action for a similar purpose, it is a different matter. I am glad, Sir, during the last 25 years the training given by the Congress to the people all over India, including the opponents has brought them into the right groove, namely, that they also want to carry on their programme in a non-violent manner. Even the Leader of the Muslim League has expressed that expression although some members might have been using that expression in quite the reverse direction. But my request is 'Let us try to pull the whole of our business together and carry on the Government with mutual help and accommodation.'

"Therefore, Sir, I say that the position taken by the non-gazetted officers and those who have been defending them is unjust and untenable. What do these non-gazetted officers mean when they say 'We do not care. We will carry on direct action.' Sir, I hope that the non-gazetted officers, at least at this stage will realize that they are the servants of the people, that they are bound by rules, that they have maintained the position of the Government and also have maintained their position. This is not the way that the non-gazetted officers should behave towards the Government. Some hon. Members said, 'Oh, disaster would come upon the Government.' Nothing of that sort would happen. That is a wrong impression, Sir. Hon. Members may note that in this world there are crores of people who have got to work in order to live. There should be no wrong impression that the consequences would be serious."

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or that the Government would cease to function by whatever action they might take. The Government will cease to function only when the Government is forced to do so by the country as a whole. Therefore, in their own interests, I tell the non-gazetted officers not to pursue the line which they have adopted. They must change; they must try to become reasonable and they must try to put reason into their actions. After all, what is it that has been done now? Just now, only interim relief has been given. The final results of the Committee have not been announced yet. If they become unreasonable, then the Government will have to deal with the situation in their own way.

"Therefore, Sir, I would suggest to the non-gazetted officers to change their attitude, recognize that they are Government officers and that there is a union recognized by the Government. It is only because the Association was recognized by the Government that they have developed their strength. It is not the intention of the Government that they should be bottled up. That is why recognition was given to their Association. But when they have turned round and said, 'We do not care; we would resort to direct action and we would not listen to what the Government say' the Government had to do what is reasonable in the circumstances, to show how reason can be put into their heads."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have received a slip from the House saying that the House is hungry. I shall give one minute to the hon. Mr. Pocker who has just risen from his seat."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry that the Hon. the Premier should have gone to the extent of accusing hon. Members of this House who have spoken on this occasion—at any rate some of them—of the charge of inciting these non-gazetted officers to strike or do anything contrary to law. As a matter of fact, there was nothing in the speech of any of the hon. Members showing anything in the nature of an incitement to strike or even an indication to that effect. As a matter of fact, the only appeal that was made was that the Government was not right in giving no adequate relief to them. No doubt, the conduct of the Government was characterized as cruel and inhuman. I do not think that that can be taken as inciting them to strike and as a matter of fact, the Hon. the Premier was wrong in accusing us of having used improper language and he went on preaching homilies to us as to what language should be used. No, Sir, as to the language that was used, every word of it was parliamentary and if there was an objection to it, it should have been raised then and there."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"He never said that the hon. Member used unparliamentary language."

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 200 asked by Sri K. Ananda Nambiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 10th September 1946, page 1511 supra.]

Statement showing the number of cards received and sorted at the Regional Exchange, Madras, Master Register, district- war.

District.	Technical.	Non-technical.	Total.
Anantapur	235	215	450
Arcot, North	3,509	2,615	6,124
Arcot, South	1,447	1,186	2,633
Bellary	1,090	148	1,238
Canara, South	659	218	877
Chingleput	1,654	833	2,487
Chittoor	625	471	1,096
Coimbatore	1,147	749	1,896
Cuddapah	292	315	607
Godavari, East	778	459	1,237
Godavari, West	521	428	949
Guntur	885	758	1,643
Kistna	547	440	987
Kurnool	371	433	804
Madras	2,709	576	3,285
Madura	1,579	1,396	2,975
Malabar	4,034	2,747	6,781
Nellore	519	424	943
Nilgiris	154	54	208
Ramnad	1,037	894	1,931
Salem	1,155	935	2,090
Tanjore	1,687	875	2,562
Tinnevely	1,968	1,244	3,212
Trichinopoly	1,976	813	2,789
Vizagapatam	1,521	1,495	3,016
Bangalore Cantonment	574	158	732
Total ..	32,673	20,879	53,552

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APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 200 asked by Sri K. Ananda Nambiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 10th September 1946, page 1511 supra.]

Statement showing the number of ex-servicemen registered and placed in employment by the Regional and Sub-Regional Employment Exchanges, etc.

Exchange.	Number of ex-servicemen registered.			Number of ex-servicemen placed.		
	Up to the end of June 1946.	In the month of July 1946.	Total.	Up to the end of June 1946.	In the month of July 1946.	Total.
Madras Regional Exchange						
Appointments Branch						
and Linked Railway						
Exchange	272	64	336	77	57	134
Madras S.R.E.	8,216	1,695	9,911	456	183	639
Vizagapatam	3,081	1,001	4,082	338	126	464
Bezwada	3,467	673	4,140	174	66	240
Anantapur	2,116	694	2,810	340	158	498
Vellore	3,470	2,494	5,964	68	70	138
Coimbatore	2,033	496	2,529	301	87	388
Trichinopoly	2,168	835	3,003	100	116	216
Madura	4,979	1,096	6,075	358	191	549
Calicut	4,570	1,530	6,100	152	101	253
Total ..	34,372	10,578	44,950	2,364	1,155	* 3,519
Deduct—Number of ex-servicemen struck off from the register.			5,644	* Add—Number of ex-servicemen found work by their own efforts.		464
Balance ..			39,306			3,983
Number of ex-servicemen undergoing Technical Training as on 31st July 1946 ..						593
Number of ex-servicemen employed in Labour Contract Societies ..						58
Number of ex-servicemen employed in Co-operative Workshops ..						101
Total ..						4,735
Number of ex-servicemen placed by the R. and E. Offices ..						1,790
Number placed by Special Assistants to Collectors ..						† 10,936
Grand total ..						17,461

† The figures for Vizagapatam, Calicut and Kistna for July have not been included.

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APPENDIX III.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 51 asked by Sri G. Kumaraswami at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 10th September 1946, page 1517 supra.]

*Press Communiqué No. 21 of the Government of Madras,
Home Department, dated 4th September 1945.*

Some months ago Government accepted a recommendation of the Post-war Reconstruction Committee in favour of the state ownership of public passengers motor transport. This decision has caused considerable speculation among those engaged in the motor transport and allied businesses who wonder how their interests and prospects are affected. The following statement is intended to clarify the position.

Government adhere to their decision in favour of state ownership as the ultimate aim of their policy. At the same time many factors such as the shortage of vehicles and trained personnel and the possibility of an elected Government which will have a right to make their own decision in a matter of such fundamental importance make it impossible to take any far-reaching steps towards the ultimate objective at this juncture. The immediate objectives of Government are the improvement of the services offered to the public and their co-ordination with other means of transport, particularly the railways.

As regards the first, under G.O. No. 1467, Home, dated 7th May 1945, small bus operators will amalgamate into concerns of such a size that they can afford to maintain proper facilities for maintenance and repair of their vehicles. The small bus owner who had no facilities for looking after his bus properly, or could not afford to do so or to maintain "Reserve" buses has long been an obstacle to the improvement of bus services, and for a considerable time the Government have been placing before him the advantages of, and need for, amalgamation. The unwillingness of the Government of India to release to such small concerns "controlled vehicles", which are in short supply and have to be put to the best use, made necessary more active methods than persuasion. The effect of this Government Order is that hereafter permits for new routes or for new services on existing routes will be granted only to operating concerns owning at least 20 buses and having facilities for their repair, maintenance and that the permits of small owners will not be renewed after 31st December 1945 unless they have become part of such a concern. Provision is made for the Provincial Motor Transport Controller to act as arbitrator in case of dispute over the terms of amalgamation.

A well organized road transport system is of a paramount interest to the Provincial Government and the co-ordination of road and rail passenger services is of not less interest to the Central Government of which the railways are now a department. The Central Government propose to prevent wasteful competition between road and rail services by forming with existing operators joint road rail companies to run bus services on roads which are parallel to or act as a "feeder" to a railway. The Government

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of Madras have agreed to the promotion of such companies and will be a partner in them formally taking a share equal to that of the Central Government. Existing operators will not be subject to any pressure to join such companies or to discriminate if they refuse, but it is hoped that the manifest advantages will be sufficient persuasion. Such a company would be protected from competition, to the extent that if all the present road operators joined it and so it held a *de facto* monopoly new permits would not be given to any new operator on the route in question. Routes operated by both a joint road rail company and private operators Government would normally offer any additional permits to the road rail company.

APPENDIX IV.

[Vide item II at page 1521 supra.]

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
MADRAS.

THE SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to consider the Motor Vehicle Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Bill, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 2 of 1946), have the honour to make the following report.

2. This Bill was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* (Extraordinary), dated the 29th August 1946.

3. It was referred to the Select Committee on the 5th September 1946 with the instruction that its report be made on the 10th September 1946.

4. The Committee met on Sunday, the 8th September 1946, both in the forenoon and in the afternoon and considered the Bill clause by clause. No substantial amendments have been made in the Bill as introduced in the House, and the few amendments made are of a simple nature. Mr. N. S. Varadachari and V. I. Muniswami Pillai took strong objection to the punishment of imprisonment for contravention of provisions of clause 7 of the Bill, and they wanted their objection to be recorded.

5. The Bill as amended is annexed.

8th September 1946.

T. PRAKASAM,
Chairman.

[10th September 1946]

ANNEXURE.

[Note.—The changes made by the Select Committee are shown in clarendon type and the portions omitted are shown by dots.]

L.A. BILL No. 2 OF 1946.

A Bill to provide for the continuance during a limited period of powers to control the production, supply, distribution, transport and prices of essential articles and trade and commerce therein and requisitioning of property.

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the continuance during a limited period of powers to control the production, supply, distribution, transport and prices of essential articles and trade and commerce therein and requisitioning of property; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Short title, extent, commencement and duration.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946.

(2) It extends to the whole of the Province of Madras.

(3) It shall come into force on the 1st day of October 1946.

(4) It shall remain in force for a period of two years; but the Provincial Government may, from time to time, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, extend this period by a further period or periods not exceeding two years in the aggregate if, in the opinion of the Provincial Government, it is expedient so to do. Such notification shall be placed on the table of the Houses of Legislature if sitting; if not sitting, it will be sent to the members of the Legislature.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) “essential article” means any of the articles which is specified in the Schedule to this Act and any other article which may be declared by the Provincial Government by notified order to be an essential article,

(b) “notified order” means an order notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette*,

(c) “undertaking” means any undertaking by way of any trade or business and includes the occupation of handling, loading or unloading goods in the course of transport.

3. (1) The Provincial Government, so far as it appears to them to be necessary or expedient for maintaining, increasing or securing supplies of essential articles or for arranging for their equitable distribution and availability at fair prices or for directing, maintaining or increasing the production of any essential article, may, by notified order, provide for regulating or prohibiting the production, supply, distribution and transport of essential articles and trade and commerce therein.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the powers conferred by sub-section (1), an order made thereunder may provide—

(a) for regulating by licences, permits or otherwise the production or manufacture of any essential article;

(b) for controlling the prices at which any essential article may be bought or sold;

(c) for prohibiting or regulating by licences, permits, or otherwise the storage, distribution, transport, disposal, acquisition, use or consumption of any essential article;

(d) for prohibiting the withholding from sale of any essential article ordinarily kept for sale;

(e) for requiring any person holding stocks of an essential article to sell them at fair prices to specified persons or class of persons or in specified circumstances;

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(f) for regulating or prohibiting any class of commercial or financial transactions relating to any essential article, which in the opinion of the Provincial Government are, or if unregulated are likely to be, detrimental to the public interest;

(g) for collecting any information or statistics with a view to regulating or prohibiting any of the aforesaid matters;

(h) for requiring persons engaged in the production, supply or distribution of, or trade or commerce in, any essential article to declare their stocks of essential articles, to maintain and allow inspection of or produce for inspection any books, accounts and records relating to their business, and to furnish any other information relating thereto;

(i) for regulating the processing of any essential article;

(j) for exercising over the whole or any part of an existing undertaking, such functions of control and subject to such conditions, as may be specified in the order;

(k) for any incidental and supplementary matters, including in particular the entering and search of premises, vehicles, vessels and aircraft, the seizure by, a person authorized to make such search of any article in respect of which such person has reason to believe that a contravention of the order has been or is about to be committed the grant or issue of licences, permits or other documents, and the charging of fees therefor.

4. (1) If, in the opinion of the Provincial Government it is necessary or expedient so to do for maintaining, increasing or securing supplies of any essential article or for arranging for its equitable distribution and availability at fair prices or for directing, maintaining or increasing the production of any essential article, the Provincial Government may by order in writing, requisition any property, movable or immovable, and may make such further orders as appear to them to be necessary or expedient in connexion with such requisitioning:

Provided that no property used for the purpose of religious worship shall be requisitioned under this section:

Provided further that a building solely used for residential purposes shall not ordinarily be requisitioned.

(2) Where the Provincial Government have requisitioned any property under sub-section (1), they may use or deal with the property in such manner as may appear to them to be expedient and may acquire it by serving on the owner thereof, or where the owner is not readily traceable or the ownership is in dispute, by publishing in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, a notice stating that the Provincial Government have decided to acquire it in pursuance of this section.

(3) Where a notice of acquisition is served on the owner of the property or is published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, under sub-section (2), then, at the beginning of the day on which the notice is so served or published, the property shall vest absolutely in the Provincial Government free from all encumbrances and the period of requisition thereof shall end.

5. (1) Whenever in pursuance of section 4 any immovable property is requisitioned or acquired, the compensation payable therefor and the person or persons to whom it should be paid shall be determined in accordance with the rules to be made in this behalf by the Provincial Government.

(2) Whenever in pursuance of section 4, any immovable property is requisitioned or acquired, there shall be paid compensation determined in the manner and in accordance with the principles hereinafter set out, that is to say:—

(a) Where the amount of compensation can be fixed by agreement it shall be paid in accordance with such agreement.

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(b) Where no such agreement can be reached, the Provincial Government shall appoint as arbitrator, the District Judge or Subordinate Judge having jurisdiction over the area in which the immovable property is situated.

(c) At the commencement of the proceedings before the arbitrator, the Provincial Government and the person to be compensated shall state what in their respective opinions is a fair amount of compensation.

(d) The arbitrator in making his award shall have regard to—

(i) the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 23 of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, so far as the same can be made applicable, and
(ii) whether the acquisition is of a permanent or temporary character:

Provided that where any property requisitioned is subsequently acquired, the arbitrator, in any proceedings in connection with such acquisition, shall for the purposes of the provisions of the said section 23 take into consideration the market value of the property at the date of the requisition as aforesaid and not at the date of its subsequent acquisition.

(e) An appeal shall lie to the High Court against the award of an arbitrator where the value of the subject-matter in dispute in appeal is two thousand rupees and above.

Explanation.—In the case of periodical payments the value of the subject-matter in appeal shall be deemed to be five times the amount in dispute calculated for one year.

(f) Save as provided in this section and in any rules made under this Act, nothing in any law for the time being in force relating to arbitration shall apply to arbitrations under this section.

(3) The Provincial Government may, with a view to requisitioning or acquiring any property under section 4, by order—

(a) require any person to furnish to such authority as may be specified in the order such information in his possession relating to the property as may be so specified;

(b) direct that the owner, occupier or person in possession of the property shall not, without the permission of the Provincial Government, dispose of it or where the property is a building, structurally alter it or where the property is movable, remove it from the premises in which it is kept, until the expiry of such period as may be specified in the order.

6. (1) Where any property requisitioned under this act is to be released from such requisition, the Provincial Government or any person generally or specially authorized by them in this behalf may, after such inquiry, if any, as they or he may in any case consider it necessary to make or cause to be made, specify by order in writing the person to whom possession of the property shall be given.

(2) The delivery of possession of the property to the person specified in an order under sub-section (1) shall be a full discharge of the Provincial Government from all liabilities in respect of the property, but shall not prejudice any rights in respect of the property which any other person may be entitled by a due process of law to enforce against the person to whom possession of the property is given.

7. (1) The Provincial Government so far as it appears to be necessary or expedient for maintaining, increasing or securing the supply of essential articles may by notified order provide—

(a) for prohibiting, restricting or otherwise controlling the cultivation of specified crops;

(b) for bringing under cultivation any waste or arable land whether appurtenant to a building or not, and for the growing therein of specified crops.

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(2) If in the opinion of the Provincial Government, the possession or having effective control of any land to which an order under sub-section (1) applies has failed to comply with the order, the Provincial Government may, without prejudice to any other action taken against that person (hereinafter referred to as "defaulter"), if the contravention, by order direct that the land shall be placed in the exclusive possession of such person and for such period as may be specified in the order and during the period of continuance of the last mentioned order the person specified therein shall have all the rights of the owner to manage the land and to realize the profits arising therefrom and be liable to pay on behalf of the defaulter the Government revenue charges of a public nature and the rent, if any, accruing due in respect of the land during that period.

8. (1) The Provincial Government may by notified order authorize any officer or authority subordinate to the Government, to exercise any one or more of the powers vested in them by or under this Act except the powers specified in section 20 in relation to such matters and subject to such restrictions, if any, as may be specified in the order.

(2) The exercise of the powers delegated under sub-section (1) shall be subject to control and revision by the Provincial Government or any persons as may be empowered by them in that behalf. The Government shall also have power to control and revise the proceedings of any persons so empowered.

9. (1) Every order made by the Provincial Government or any officer or authority subordinate to the Government or any other competent authority in respect of any of the matters specified in sections 3, 4 and 7, if such order has been notified in the Official Gazette was in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall, in so far as it could validly have been made by the Provincial Government under this Act, continue in force until it is superseded or modified by the Provincial Government under the provisions of this Act; and all appointments made under the provisions of this Act; and all permits issued, regulations made and directions given under the provisions of this Act shall also continue in force until superseded or modified by the Provincial Government or any officer or authority subordinate to the Government or any other competent authority.

(2) The Provincial Government may, if they consider it to do, from time to time, modify or annul any order, appointment, permit, regulation or direction specified in sub-section (1).

10. Any order made under section 3 or section 4 or section 7, if such order has been notified in the Official Gazette was in force immediately before the commencement of this Act shall, in so far as it could validly have been made by the Provincial Government under this Act, continue in force until it is superseded or modified by the Provincial Government under the provisions of this Act; and all appointments made under the provisions of this Act; and all permits issued, regulations made and directions given under the provisions of this Act shall also continue in force until superseded or modified by the Provincial Government or any officer or authority subordinate to the Government or any other competent authority.

11. (1) Every authority or officer who makes any order under this Act shall cause a copy of such order to be published in the case of an order of a general nature in a class of persons publish such order by a notification in the Official Gazette and in such manner as may be in the opinion of such authority or officer suited for informing the persons whom the order concerns. Where the order is not of a general nature, the authority or officer may serve a copy of the order on the person concerned—

(a) personally by delivering or tendering him the order

(b) by sending him an authenticated copy of the order

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(c) where the person cannot be found, by leaving an authenticated copy of the order with some adult male member of his family or by affixing it to any part of the premises in which he is known to have last resided or carried on business or personally worked for gain.

(2) Where any provision of this Act empowers an authority or officer to take action by notified order, the provisions of sub-section (1) shall not apply in relation to such order.

12. (1) If any person contravenes any order made under section 3 or section 4 or section 7 (1) (a) or continued under section 9, he shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both; and, if the order so provides, any court trying such contravention may direct that any property in respect of which the court is satisfied that the order has been contravened shall be forfeited to the Provincial Government:

Provided that where the contravention is of an order relating to an essential article which contains an express provision in this behalf, the court shall make such direction unless for reasons to be recorded in writing, it is of opinion that the direction should not be made in respect of the whole or, as the case may be, a part of the property.

(2) Where any essential article is seized under the authority of an order issued under this Act and such order provides for the forfeiture of the article in respect of which the order has been contravened, such forfeiture may, whether or not any prosecution is instituted for a contravention of the order, be adjudged by the Collector of the district or Presidency-town in which the seizure was made, and any forfeiture so adjudged shall, subject only to an appeal which shall lie to the Provincial Government, be final:

Provided that an adjudication of forfeiture under this sub-section shall be no bar to the prosecution or punishment of any person under sub-section (1).

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 32 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, it shall be lawful for any Magistrate of the First Class specially empowered by the Provincial Government in this behalf and for any Presidency Magistrate to pass a sentence of fine exceeding one thousand rupees on any person convicted of contravening an order made or deemed to be made under this Act.

(4) If any person to whom any provision of any order issued under this Act relates, or to whom any such provision is addressed or who is in occupation, possession or control of any land, building, vehicle, vessel or other thing to which such provision relates—

(a) fails without lawful authority or excuse, himself, or in respect of any land, building, vehicle, vessel or other thing of which he is in occupation, possession or control, to comply, or to secure compliance, with such provision, or

(b) evades, or attempts to evade, by any means, such provision, he shall be deemed to have contravened such provision; and in this Act, the expression, "contravention" with its grammatical variations includes any such failure, evasion or attempt to evade.

13. Any person who attempts to contravene or abets or attempts to abet or does any act preparatory to a contravention of an order made under the provisions of this Act shall be deemed to have contravened the order; and any person who, knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that any other person is contravening any order made under any of the provisions of this Act, gives that other person any assistance with intent thereby to prevent, hinder or otherwise interfere with his arrest, trial or punishment for the said contravention, shall also be deemed to have contravened the order.

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14. If the person who contravenes or is deemed to contravene made under section 3, section 4 or section 7 Offences by corporations. nued under section 9 is a company or corporate, every director, manager, secretary or other officer or agent shall, unless he proves that the contravention took place without edge and that he exercised all due diligence to prevent such contravention, be deemed to be guilty of such contravention.

15. No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable Act except on a report in writing of the fact Cognizance of offences. tuting such offence made by a person who is servant as defined in section 21 of the Indian Penal Code.

16. Where any person is prosecuted for contravening any order deemed to have been made under this Act Burden of proof. this Act which prohibits him from doing being in possession of a thing without lawful authority or excuse or permit, licence, certificate or permission, the burden of proof that authority or excuse or, as the case may be, the requisite permit certificate or permission shall be on him.

17. (1) No court shall, in any suit in which the validity of an or action taken under this Act is in question Saving as to orders. power to issue any injunction, whether permanent or temporary, so as to restrain the Provincial Government or any officer empowered by or under this Act from executing or carrying out an order passed by them or by him under this Act, or in any way in or affect such order.

Nothing contained in this section shall be deemed to prevent from granting in the suit any relief by way of compensation or other party may be entitled.

(2) Where an order purports to have been made and is authority in exercise of any power conferred by or under this Act shall within the meaning of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, be presumed to be so made by that authority.

18. (1) No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall Protection of action taken any person for anything which is in good under the Act. or intended to be done in pursuance of an order made under section 3, section 4 or section 7 or continued under section 9.

(2) No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Government for any damage caused or likely to be caused by an order made in good faith done or intended to be done in pursuance of an order made under section 3, section 4 or section 7 or continued under section 9.

19. (1) The Provincial Government may, by notification Power to make rules. St. George Gazette, make rules for the purpose of bringing into effect the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for—

- (a) the procedure to be followed in arbitrations under this Act;
- (b) the principles to be followed in apportioning costs of arbitration before the arbitrator and on appeal.

THE SCHEDULE.

[See section 2 (a).]

- (1) Firewood.
- (2) Charcoal.
- (3) Livestock.
- (4) Eggs.

- (5) Non-edible oil seeds.
- (6) Manures.
- (7) Electrical energy.
- (8) All vat dyes.
- (9) Alizarine.

- (10) Other dyestuffs.
- (11) Artificial silk.
- (12) Motor vehicles.

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APPENDIX V.

[Vide item III at page 1536 supra.]

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
MADRAS.

The SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to consider the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Bill, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 4 of 1946), has the honour to make the following report.

2. This Bill was published in an Extraordinary issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette* in English on the 29th August 1946.

3. The Committee was appointed on the 5th September 1946 with the instruction that a report be presented to the House on the 9th September 1946.

4. The Committee met in the Committee Room, Fort St. George, on the 7th and 8th September 1946, and considered the provisions of the Bill and submit the following report.

5. There are only a few important changes effected by the Select Committee in the Bill. They are as follows:—

Clause 3, sub-clause (1), proviso.

The Committee have substituted “thirty rupees” for “fifteen rupees” as they felt that it was necessary that small buildings whose monthly rent did not exceed thirty rupees should not come under the purview of this clause.

Clause 4.

As regards the fixing of rent under clause 4, the Committee felt that the percentages of increase allowed were on the generous side and therefore considered it necessary to reduce those percentages as in the amended Bill annexed.

Clause 14.

It was considered that the punishment provided in the clause should not extend to the contravention of the provisions of the whole Act. Therefore they have restricted the punishments to the contravention of provisions of sections 3, 5 and 8 of the Act only and also substituted “simple imprisonment” for the word “imprisonment” contained in that clause.

Mr. Rawoof took strong objection to impose any punishment by imprisonment for contravening any section or violating any provision of the Act.

6. The Select Committee considers that in view of the few amendments effected in the Bill by it, it is not necessary to republish it.

7. A copy of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee is annexed.

R. RAGHAVA MENON,
Chairman.

8th September 1946

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ANNEXURE.

[Note.—The charges made by the Select Committee are shown in clarendon type and the portions omitted are shown by dots.]

L.A. BILL No. 4 OF 1946.

A Bill to regulate the leasing of buildings and for control of rent in the Province of Madras.

WHEREAS it is expedient to regulate the letting of residential and non-residential buildings and to control the rents for such buildings and to prevent unreasonable eviction of tenants therefrom in the Province of Madras; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

Short title, application, commencement and duration.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1946.

(2) It applies to the City of Madras, all municipalities within the Province and such other areas as may be notified by the Provincial Government in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

(3) It shall come into force on the 1st October 1946.

(4) It shall remain in force for two years; but the Provincial Government may, from time to time, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette* extend the continuance of this Act for a further period or periods not exceeding in the aggregate two years, if in their opinion it is expedient so to do.

Definitions.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(1) “building” means any building or hut or part of a building or hut, let or to be let separately for residential or non-residential purposes, and includes—

(a) the garden, grounds and out-houses, if any, appurtenant to such building, hut or part of such building or hut and let as part of such building or hut,

(b) any furniture supplied by the landlord for use in such building or hut or part of a building or hut, but does not include a room in a hotel or boarding house;

(2) “Controller” means any person appointed to perform the functions of a Controller under this Act;

(3) “landlord” includes the person who is receiving or is entitled to receive the rent of a building, whether on his own account or on behalf of another or on behalf of himself and others or as an agent, trustee, executor, administrator, receiver or guardian or who would so receive the rent or be entitled to receive the rent if the building were let to a tenant;

(4) “tenant” means any person by whom or on whose account rent is payable for a building and includes a person continuing in possession after the termination of the tenancy in his favour, but does not include a person substituted by the existing tenant or a person to whom the collection of rents or fees in a public market, cart-stand or slaughter-house or of rents for shops has been farmed out or leased by a municipal council or local board or the Corporation of Madras.

Notice of vacancy by landlord.

3. (1) Every landlord shall, within seven days after his building becomes vacant by the termination of the current tenancy, give notice thereof to the Controller:

Provided that this sub-section shall not apply to a building the monthly rent of which does not exceed thirty rupees.

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(2) If, within a week of the receipt of a notice under sub-section (1) by the Controller, the Provincial Government or any officer empowered by them in that behalf does not intimate to the landlord that the building is required by them for any Governmental purposes or for use by any public institution under Government control or any officer of the Government, the landlord shall be at liberty to lease the building to any tenant.

(3) If the Provincial Government require the building for any purpose specified in sub-section (2), the Provincial Government shall be deemed to be the tenant of the landlord as from the date of the receipt of the notice under sub-section (1) and the terms of the tenancy shall be such as may be agreed upon between them:

Provided that the rate of rent shall not exceed the fair rent that may be payable under the provisions of this Act.

4. (1) The Controller shall on application by the tenant or landlord of a building fix the fair rent for such building after holding such inquiry as the controller thinks fit.

(2) In fixing the fair rent under this section the Controller shall have due regard—

(a) to prevailing rates of rent in the locality for the same or similar accommodation in similar circumstances during the twelve months prior to the 1st April 1940;

(b) to the rental value as entered in the property tax assessment book of the municipal council, local board or the Corporation of Madras, as the case may be, relating to the period mentioned in clause (a);

(c) to the circumstances of the case, including any amount paid by the tenant by way of premium or any other like sum in addition to rent after the 1st April 1940.

(3) In fixing the fair rent of residential buildings, the Controller may allow—

(i) if the rate of rent or rental value referred to in sub-section (2) does not exceed Rs. 25 per mensem, an increase of $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent on such rate or rental value;

(ii) if the rate of rent or rental value exceeds Rs. 25 per mensem but does not exceed Rs. 50 per mensem, an increase of $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on such rate or rental value;

(iii) if the rate of rent or rental value exceeds Rs. 50 per mensem an increase of 25 per cent on such rate or rental value:

Provided that in the case of a residential building which has been constructed after the 1st April 1940, the percentage of increase shall be 25, 37½ and 50 respectively.

(4) In fixing the fair rent of non-residential buildings, the Controller shall allow—

(i) if the rate of rent or rental value referred to in sub-section (2) does not exceed Rs. 50 per mensem, an increase $37\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on such rate or rental value;

(ii) if the rate of rent or rental value exceeds Rs. 50 per mensem, an increase of 50 per cent on such rate or rental value:

Provided that in the case of a non-residential building which has been constructed after the 1st April 1940, the percentage of increase shall not exceed 50 and 100 respectively.

(5) In the case of a building for which the fair rent has been fixed before the commencement of this Act, the Controller shall on the application of the

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landlord allow such increase in the fair rent as in the opinion of the Controller the landlord is entitled to under this section.

5. When the fair rent of a building has been fixed under section 4, no further increase in such fair rent shall be permissible except in cases where some addition, improvement or alteration has been carried out at the landlord's expense and if the building is then in the occupation of a tenant, at his request:

Provided that the fair rent as increased under this section shall not exceed the fair rent payable under this Act for a similar building in the same locality with such addition, improvement or alteration and it shall not be chargeable until such addition, improvement or alteration has been completed:

Provided further that any dispute between the landlord and tenant in regard to any increase claimed under this section shall be decided by the Controller.

6. When the Controller has determined the fair rent of a building—

(a) the landlord shall not claim or receive any premium or other like sum in addition to fair rent or any rent in excess of such fair rent, but the landlord may stipulate for, and receive as advance, an amount not exceeding one month's rent;

(b) any agreement for the payment of any sum in addition to rent or of rent in excess of such fair rent except in cases falling under section 5 or clause (a) of this section shall be null and void in respect of such addition or excess and shall be construed as if it were an agreement for payment of the fair rent;

(c) any sum paid in excess of the fair rent, whether before or after the commencement of this Act in respect of the use of the building after the commencement of this Act, shall be refunded to the person by whom it was paid or at the option of such person otherwise adjusted.

7. (1) A tenant in possession of a building shall not be evicted therefrom, whether in execution of a decree or otherwise and whether before or after the termination of the tenancy, except in accordance with the provisions of this section:

Provided that nothing contained in this section shall apply to a tenant whose landlord is the Provincial Government:

Provided further that where the tenant denies the title of the landlord or claims right of permanent tenancy, the Controller shall decide whether the denial or claim is *bona fide* and if he records a finding to that effect, the landlord shall be entitled to sue for eviction of the tenant in a civil court and the court may pass a decree for eviction on any of the grounds mentioned in this section, notwithstanding that the court finds that such denial does not involve forfeiture of the lease or that the claim is unfounded.

(2) A landlord who seeks to evict his tenant shall apply to the Controller for a direction in that behalf. If the Controller, after giving the tenant a reasonable opportunity of showing cause against the application, is satisfied—

(i) that the tenant has not paid or tendered the rent due by him in respect of the building, within fifteen days after the expiry of the time fixed in the agreement of tenancy with his landlord or in the absence of any such agreement, by the last day of the month next following that for which the rent is payable; or

(ii) that the tenant has after the commencement of this Act without the written consent of the landlord—

(a) transferred his right under the lease or sub-let the entire building or any portion thereof; or

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(b) used the building for a purpose other than that for which it was leased; or

(iii) that the tenant has committed such acts of waste as are likely to impair materially the value or utility of the building; or

(iv) that the tenant has been guilty of such acts and conduct which are a nuisance to the occupiers of buildings in the neighbourhood; or

(v) that where the building is situated in a place other than a hill-station, the tenant has ceased to occupy the building for a continuous period of four months without reasonable cause, the Controller shall make an order directing the tenant to put the landlord in possession of the building and if the Controller is not so satisfied, he shall make an order rejecting the application.

(3) (a) A landlord may apply to the Controller for an order directing the tenant to put the landlord in possession—

(i) in the case of a residential building, if he requires it for his own occupation and if he is not occupying a residential building of his own in the same city, town or village :

Provided that a landlord who has obtained relief under this clause shall not be entitled to make further application under this clause.

(ii) in the case of a non-residential building, if he is not occupying for purposes of a business which he is carrying on, a non-residential building in the City, town or village concerned which is his own or to the possession of which he is entitled :

Provided that where the tenancy is for a specified period agreed upon between the landlord and the tenant, the landlord shall not be entitled to apply under this sub-section before the expiry of such period.

(b) The Controller shall, if he is satisfied that the claim of the landlord is *bona fide*, make an order directing the tenant to put the landlord in possession of the building on such date as may be specified by the Controller and if the Controller is not so satisfied, he shall make an order rejecting the application :

Provided that the Controller may give the tenant a reasonable time for putting the landlord in possession of the building and may extend such time so as not to exceed three months in the aggregate.

(4) Where a landlord who has obtained possession of a building in pursuance of an order under sub-section (3) does not himself occupy it within one month of the date of obtaining possession, the tenant who has been evicted may apply to the Controller for an order directing that he shall be restored to possession of the building and the Controller shall make an order accordingly.

(5) Where the Controller is satisfied that any application made by a landlord for the eviction of a tenant is frivolous or vexatious, the Controller may direct that compensation not exceeding fifty rupees be paid by such landlord to the tenant.

(6) Where an application under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) for evicting a tenant has been rejected by the Controller, the tenancy shall subject to the provisions of this Act be deemed to continue on the same terms and conditions as before and shall not be terminable by the landlord except on one or more of the grounds mentioned in sub-section (2) or sub-section (3).

Landlord not to interfere with amenities enjoyed by the tenant.

8. (1) No landlord shall, without just or sufficient cause cut off or withhold any of the amenities enjoyed by the tenant.

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(2) A tenant in occupation of a building may, if the landlord has contravened the Provisions of this section, make an application to the Controller complaining of such contravention.

(3) If the Controller on inquiry finds that the tenant has been in enjoyment of the amenities and that they were cut off or withheld by the landlord without just or sufficient cause, he shall make an order directing the landlord to restore such amenities.

9. Every order made under section 7 or section 8 and every order passed on appeal under section 12 shall be executed—

(i) in the City of Madras, by the Principal Judge of the Madras City Civil Court and during the vacation of that Court, by the Vacation Judge of the Court of Small Causes, Madras.

(ii) elsewhere, by the Subordinate Judge or if there are more than one Subordinate Judge, by the Principal Subordinate Judge having original jurisdiction over the area in which the building is situated or, if there is no such Subordinate Judge, by the District Judge having jurisdiction ;

as if it were a decree passed by him.

10. The Controller shall summarily reject any application under sub-section (2) or under sub-section (3) of section 7 which raises substantially the same issues as have been finally decided in a former proceeding under this Act or under the corresponding provisions of the Madras House Rent Control Order, 1945, or the Madras Non-Residential Buildings Rent Control Order, 1945, between the same parties or between parties under whom they or any of them claim.

Conversion of non-residential buildings and failure by landlord to make necessary repairs.

11. (1) No residential building shall be converted into a non-residential building except with the permission in writing of the Controller.

(2) If a landlord fails to make the necessary repairs to the building within a reasonable time after notice is given by the tenant, it shall be competent for the Controller to direct on application by the tenant that such repairs may be made by the tenant and that the cost thereof may be deducted from the rent which is payable by him.

12. (1) (a) The Provincial Government may, by general or special order notified in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, confer on such officers and authorities as they think fit, the powers of appellate authorities for the purposes of this Act, in such areas or in such classes of cases as may be specified in the order.

(b) Any person aggrieved by an order passed by the Controller may, within fifteen days from the date of receipt of such order, prefer an appeal in writing to the appellate authority having jurisdiction.

(2) On such appeal being preferred, the appellate authority may order stay of further proceedings in the matter pending decision on the appeal.

(3) The appellate authority shall send for the records of the case from the Controller and after giving the parties an opportunity of being heard and, if necessary, after making such further inquiry as he thinks fit either personally or through the Controller, shall decide the appeal.

(4) The decision of the appellate authority and subject only to such decision, an order of the Controller shall be final and shall not be liable to be called in question in any court of law whether in a suit or other proceeding or by way of appeal or revision.

13. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Act, the Provincial Government may, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, exempt any building or class of buildings from all or any of the provisions of this Act.

Exemptions.

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14. If any person contravenes any of the provisions of sections 3, 5 and 8 of this Act, he shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or with both.

Penalties.

Power to make rules.

15. (1) The Provincial Government may make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for—

(a) the procedure to be followed by Controllers and appellate authorities in the performance of their functions under this Act,

(b) the manner in which notices and orders under this Act shall be given or served.

(3) All rules made under this section shall be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, and upon such publication shall have effect as if enacted in this Act.

16. (1) All proceedings commenced and action taken under the Madras House Rent Control Order, 1945, and the Madras Non-Residential Buildings Rent Control Order, 1945, and pending at the commencement of this Act shall be continued, and so far as may be, be deemed to have been commenced or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act and further proceedings shall be subject to the provisions of this Act.

(2) All orders passed under the Madras House Rent Control Order, 1945, and the Madras Non-Residential Buildings Rent Control Order, 1945, regarding the fixing of fair rent shall continue in force until altered under the provisions of this Act.

Savings.

17. The expiration of this Act shall not—

(a) render recoverable any sum which during the continuance thereof was irrecoverable or affect the right of a tenant to recover any sum which during the continuance of this Act was recoverable by him thereunder,

(b) affect any liability incurred under this Act or any punishment incurred in respect of any contravention of this Act or any order made thereunder,

(c) affect any investigation or legal proceeding in respect of any such liability or punishment as aforesaid, and any such investigation or legal proceeding may be instituted, continued or enforced and any such punishment may be imposed, as if this Act had not expired.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 11th September 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock. Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Anicut over the river Vamsadhara.

* 172 Q.—SRI G. KUMARASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a scheme for the construction of an anicut or reservoir over river “Vamsadhara” in Vizagapatam district and if so;

(b) what the details of the same are;

(c) whether the District Collector of Vizagapatam recently submitted any proposals for the construction of a reservoir;

(d) if so, what are the proposals; and

(e) what steps the Government propose to take to speed up the construction of a reservoir on river “Vamsadhara” to check the famine in the neighbouring taluks?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) The proposal was to bring under irrigation an additional extent of 30,000 acres including 8,000 acres in the Karukavalasa and Parlakimedi zamindari. The balance of 22,000 acres is in Government limits. Besides the above the scheme would also provide additional supply to a total extent of 47,000 acres of old irrigation. A rough forecast of the revenue realizable by the scheme indicated that a net revenue of Rs. 2,09,962 could be obtained. The cost of the scheme estimated at the rate in force in 1920 including all direct and indirect charges was roughly expected to be about Rs. 90 lakhs yielding a return of 2.33 per cent. A further report on the scheme has been promised by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation and it has not yet been received.

“(c) The District Collector has promised to report on certain schemes which he considers should be taken up in North Vizagapatam. His report has not yet been received.

“(d) Does not arise.

“(e) The Chief Engineer for Irrigation is being asked to expedite his report on the full scheme, namely, Vamsadhara Project.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“May I ask whether the Government have in view the policy of preventing famine in the Ceded districts by irrigation development and if so whether they have fixed or propose to fix any target for such development?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“Yes, Sir.”

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SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“ May I know what that target is? ”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“ I want notice, Sir.”

Alleged assault on Ayyavu Thevar by a Police official.

* 199-B. Q.—SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that representations were made by an hon. Member of the House that one Ayyavu Thevar, a teacher of Madippanur Kallar School in Tirumangalam taluk, Madura district, was beaten by the acting Sub-Inspector of Police, Saptur, in the same taluk for the reason that he was not prepared to vacate the front seat in motor bus; and

(b) if so, what action was taken?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“ (b) A report has been called for from the Inspector-General of Police.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“ May I know whether the Government will take strong action against such police officers who misbehave like this? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Strong or weak action will be taken only after the facts are known.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Will the Hon. the Prime Minister give an assurance that the front seat in the bus will not be mistaken by the local officials as a treasury bench? ” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ I hope the hon. Member will note that after so much of agitation about the front seat in the bus no repetition of such things will occur.”

Alleged assault on Sri N. S. Ramaswami, Lawyer of Salem.

* 199-C Q.—SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that a respectable Lawyer Sri N. S. Ramaswami was man-handled and insulted in a public road at Salem on 21st August 1946 in broad daylight when he went to see the Textile Control Officer, with regard to professional matter, by the Personal Assistant to the District Superintendent of Police, Salem, without any justification;

(b) whether the Government received any representation from the Bar Association, Salem, about the incident requesting the Government to take disciplinary action against the concerned Police officer; and

(c) if so, what action the Government propose to take on it?

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ (a) Government have had no official report on the matter.

“ (b) & (c) A copy of the resolution was sent to the Inspector-General of Police by the Association. The Inspector-General is engaged in investigating the matter. Government will consider the matter after the report of the Inspector-General is received.”

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—“ Will the Government be pleased to instruct the Inspector-General of Police to transfer this official who has created terror in the district and has become unpopular? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ The time has not yet arrived, Sir, to give an answer in the affirmative.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state if he would call for non-official reports in such cases? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Sometimes non-official reports have been very dangerous in the present circumstances, Sir, when there are some people definitely pledged always to do something against the Government.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“ In view of the fact that such acts of discourtesy on the part of the police have become too general, may I suggest that severe notice will be taken of such acts by the Government? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ I should have expected the hon. Member not to put that question after hearing my reply.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to get a non-official report at least to see whether it is dangerous to the people or to the police? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Wherever circumstances demand non-official reports would certainly be called for.”

Bridge on the Godavari at Alamur.

* 204 Q.—SRI KALA VENKATA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a proposal to build a bridge on the Godavari at Alamur as part of the scheme to develop National Highways;

(b) whether it is included in the post-war scheme of development, and if so, with what priority; and

(c) whether the Government are going to implement it and if so, when?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“ (a) Yes.

“ (b) Yes. This Government proposed to the Government of India that the work may be taken up during the first year

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of the five-year plan, i.e., 1947-48. The priority of the works to be taken up has to be fixed by the Government of India as they subsidize the works included in the plan, and their orders are awaited.

“(c) Yes, in the order of priority that may be assigned by the Government of India.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I ask, Sir, which are the two important places that this bridge joins and whether it is worth the cost?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“It connects the places separated by the Godavari.”

SRI S. PARAMANANDA RAYAR:—“May I know, Sir, whether there is any proposal for constructing a new bridge over the river Coleroon near Chidambaram?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“I want notice, Sir.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that a bridge is badly needed across the Pennar near Chennur in the Cuddapah district and whether he will take early steps to construct one?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“I personally have no information, Sir.”

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—“Is it a fact that owing to delay in the revision of the estimates the priority for the Alampur bridge is going down?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“I want notice, Sir.”

Export of groundnut cake from Andhra districts.

* 205 Q.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) how many tons of groundnut cake were exported from Andhra districts and to what places these exports were made; and

(b) why the Government allowed the groundnut cake to be exported from these districts?

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“(a) The following information is furnished—

Year.	Quantity ex- ported from Andhra Dis- tricts. Tons.	Destination.
1945-46	21,653	Madras, Chingleput, South Arcot, North Arcot, Chittoor, Salem, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely.
	8,867	From one district to another within the Andhra districts.
1946-47 (1st April to 31st July 1946).	17,197	Malabar, South Kanara, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevely and Coimbatore.
	3,536	From one district to another within the Andhra districts.

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“(b) The districts of Vizagapatam, Kistna, Guntur, Bellary, Kurnool and Anantapur are the principal producing districts of groundnut cake while the other districts produce very little or none at all. The annual production of groundnut cake, the approximate consumption during 1946 and the exportable surplus stocks in the above six districts are estimated to be 145,000 tons, 75,100 tons and 69,900 tons respectively. Since groundnut cake is in demand everywhere, it has to be moved from these districts of high production to other districts of low production to effect equitable distribution.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Is the Government aware that by these exports Guntur district particularly is suffering for want of groundnut oil cake?”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“No, Sir. Guntur district has been allotted 13,000 tons, while other districts are allotted much less?”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“May I take it that Salem is a deficit district in respect of groundnut oil cake?”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“It does not produce enough.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Is the Government aware that the Andhra districts are suffering for want of groundnut cakes for agricultural purposes?”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“Not only the Andhra district, but all the districts are suffering.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Will the Government take steps to speed up the production of groundnut cake by granting permits for the export of oil, because most of the expellers have stopped work in the Andhra districts?”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“I will pass on this question to the Hon. Minister for Food.”

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“May I know whether any reports have been called for from each district regarding their requirements before exporting groundnut cake to the extent of 70,000 tons to the south?”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“There is no need to call for any report.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Is the Government taking particular care to see that the districts from which groundnut cake is exported are not made deficit districts?”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“We are exporting paddy from surplus districts to deficit districts. In the same way we have to export groundnut cake from district to district.”

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SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—" May I ask, Sir, whether groundnut cake is imported from the Nizam's dominions to the deficit areas? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" Notice, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of setting apart the quota required for a district and then send the surplus to other districts? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" We are equitably distributing the quantity that is available, Sir."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—" Are the Government aware that on account of the control of the prices of groundnut oil and groundnut oil cake, they have gone into the black-market? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" I am not aware, Sir."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I ask whether any allotment has been made of groundnut oil cakes to meet the demands of fodder for animals? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" Will the hon. Member please repeat the question? "

The question was repeated.

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" No separate allotment has been made from the cake that is produced by the mills. We are not commandeering or in any way restricting the production of the country chekkus. Those who want the cake for food for cattle can take it from the production of the country chekkus."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Will the Government take note of the needs of the particular district before exporting the cake outside that district? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" That is why we have given a quota of 13,000 tons to Guntur district."

SRI G. VENKATA REDDI:—" In view of the importance of groundnut cake as food for cattle, will the Government see that enough cake is supplied to the Ceded districts for fodder? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" We will consider it."

Arts, Engineering and Medical Colleges for Malabar.

* 206 Q.—M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government feel the necessity of establishing first-grade colleges in arts and science, engineering and medical colleges in Malabar; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

" (a) & (b) The Government have not felt any such necessity until now. A proposal to raise the Government Brennen College at Iellicherry to first-grade is under consideration. The question of establishing a Medical college in Malabar as also in other places will be considered on its merits during the post-war period."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is the Government aware that there is a great deal of agitation in Malabar among all classes of people for a Medical college and also for more first-grade colleges? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
" It is quite possible, Sir."

M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask whether there is any proposal for the establishment of an Engineering college in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
" There is no such proposal, Sir."

M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I take it that there will be no provision for any of these courses in Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
" May I ask what the hon. Member means, Sir."

M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Sir, facilities for engineering courses are absolutely wanting in Malabar. That being so, am I to take it . . . "

MR. SPEAKER:—" The hon. Member should not make a speech. He may just put the question."

M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR:—" In view of so much agitation for an Engineering college in Malabar will the Government consider the proposal, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
" I am sorry, Sir, the matter has not been understood. Simply because there is no Engineering college in Malabar it does not mean that there are no facilities for the students from Malabar. All the Engineering and Medical colleges are taken on a provincial basis and all the linguistic areas get their quota of admission wherever the colleges are situated."

K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the question of converting the Government Brennen College into a first-grade college will be considered early and orders passed? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
" That is more that I can promise, Sir."

M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is there a proposal for the establishment of a first-grade college at the district headquarters, namely, Calicut? "

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
“No, Sir. Not even the hon. Member has made that suggestion.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware when he speaks of linguistic areas that the Ceded districts are also included in the Andhra area?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
“Certainly, Sir. The Ceded districts are included in the Andhra area and that is their trouble.”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“May I ask, Sir, if Malabar is not a district which is educationally most forward?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
“Yes, Sir, it has that honour.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that one-third of the population of Malabar consists of Mappillas who are most backward in education?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
“It seems true, Sir.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know from the Hon. Minister which will take precedence, is it the establishment of colleges or the establishment of elementary schools for compulsory elementary education in all important places in the Presidency?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
“While I have no objection to answer this question, Sir, may I respectfully submit that it does not arise out of this question?”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know whether the Government is prepared to consider the advisability of opening more first-grade colleges in Malabar in view of the backwardness of the Mappillas in higher education as it has been admitted by the Government?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
“There are enough facilities for higher education in Malabar which the Mappillas can take advantage of today. What the Mappillas really want is not the top ones but the bottom ones.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I suggest the desirability of converting all the existing second-grade colleges into first grade in view of the bifurcation scheme coming into force?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
“It is an omnibus question which cannot be answered in the course of supplementary questions.”

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DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—“In view of the fact that there is no college at all in the Ramnad district, which will the Government consider the question of opening a college in the district?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
“That does not arise out of this question.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I ask what the Hon. Minister means by ‘bottom ones’, Sir?”
(Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
“That is very clear from the context, Sir.”

Alleged surplus of the ‘kar’ crop.

201 Q.—SINNA KAZIYAR HAJI MOULVI S. A. F. IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the extraordinarily large exportable surplus of the ‘kar’ crop this year and of the waste brought about by the ban imposed by both Provincial and Central Governments;

(b) how the Government propose to help the cultivators in getting a fair value for the produce raised and got at enormous cost;

(c) how and why potatoes and onions came to be styled as articles of food while they are not used freely by most class of people as supplementary food even; and

(d) what the Government are going to do with the huge surplus stock of onions now lying in various districts such as Madura, Ramnad, Cuddapah, Anantapur, etc., districts?

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA (on behalf of the Hon. Sri R. Raghava Menon):—“(a) Government are aware of the existence of a large exportable surplus out of the ‘kar’ crop of potatoes in the Nilgiris this year. They do not, however, consider that there has been any wastage on account of the control over movements now in force as arrangements have been made for the export of the entire anticipated surplus to other Provinces and States on a monthly quota basis. The entire kar crop will be cleared by the end of November. There is, however, some difficulty with regard to rail movement which exporters will have to face even if there is no control over movement.

“(b) Government have made it obligatory for every licensed dealer in potatoes to pay a fixed minimum price to the grower in addition they have agreed to grant permits for export of potatoes in favour of growers also as a special case.

“(c) Government consider that potatoes and onions are articles of food in common use by all classes of people.

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"(d) Arrangements have been made for the export of the entire estimated surplus outside the Province on a quota basis from the chief producing districts in the Province. The quantity thus allowed to be exported outside the Province is about 34,000 tons. If the existence of a further surplus either with the producers or dealers is brought to notice additional exports will be allowed."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"With reference to the answer given to clause (b) may I know from the Government whether growers are allowed to export within the Province?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"The permits that are given to the growers are like the permits given to the other permit-holders."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Will the Government consider the advisability of granting permits to growers to sell their produce essentially in local markets, I mean within the Province?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"I am not fully aware of all the details contained in every permit. I shall consider that question."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"Is the Government aware that in various parts of the Province non-availability of potatoes is keenly felt by the consuming public?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"The Government is not aware, and cannot be expected to know unless informed."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know what is the total quantity allotted for the Nilgiris for export during this month?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"This is a matter of detail which I cannot immediately answer."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Is the Government aware that because of the dilatory procedure adopted in Madras large stocks of onions have suffered deterioration both in weight and quality and consequently enormous losses have been sustained by exporting firms?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"The Government is not aware of any wastage that has been caused as a result of want of permits."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government make an enquiry into the matter?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Yes, Sir, the Government will make enquiries into the matter."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"Is it not a fact that potato is more nutritious than cholam and such other foodgrains?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is a matter of opinion."

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Alleged disorderly behaviour by a European Officer.

* 208 Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of M. A. Salam Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware of a report that appeared in the *Forum* a weekly magazine of Bombay, dated 9th June 1946, about a European I.C.S. Officer in a drunken state behaving in a disorderly manner towards an Hon. Minister in the latter's office at Fort St. George; and

(b) if the report is true, whether the Government will be pleased to disclose the name of the official and the action taken by Government in this matter?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) No.

" (b) Does not arise."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Premier bring to the notice of the paper not to publish such sort of mischievous statements?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is also the duty of the public and the critics to make sure of facts before such questions are published."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"If the facts are true, what is the harm in the paper publishing the statement?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"If the facts are not true and accurate, it is the fault of both the publisher and the paper that published it."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Whether the Hon. Premier will get a report about the actual things that occurred?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I do not think the Government could undertake this additional task."

Transfer of Police officials.

* 209 Q.—SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government propose to transfer all Police officials who are addicted to drink from the district where prohibition is to be introduced from 1st October 1946?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No proposal of the kind is under contemplation."

Districts in which filaria is most prevalent.

* 210 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) the districts or areas in which filaria is most prevalent in this Province;

(b) what measures are being taken to reduce its incidence or prevent its spread; and

(c) whether any research work is being done to find out an effective remedy for this ailment?

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THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“(a) to (c) A statement* is placed on the table of the House.”

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“The statement shows that no research work has so far been done regarding effective treatment for this ailment. May I ask in view of the wide prevalence of this disease whether research work will be done in this connexion?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“The suggestion made by the hon. Member will be borne in mind and further research will be carried out.”

Alleged conversions in the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium.

* 211 Q.—SRI A. KUPPUSWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether the management of the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium, Tirumani, viz., Church of Scotland Mission, encourages proselytisation among patients;

(b) how many patients have so far been converted to Christianity;

(c) how many converted ex-patients are employed in the Sanatorium; and

(d) what is the number of Christian and non-Christian employees in the Sanatorium?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“(a) The Mission strictly adheres to the agreement entered into with the Government under which the Sanatorium shall be conducted on entirely non-sectarian lines and every inmate shall be free to observe his or her own religious practice consistent with the discipline and effective administration of the Sanatorium and health of inmates and staff in general.

“(b) To the best of the knowledge of the present staff not more than 25 persons have become Christians since the Mission took over the management of the Sanatorium in 1925.

“(c) Four converts are employed in the Sanatorium.

“(d) The healthy employees consist of 33 Christians and 39 non-Christians and the patient employees of 19 Christians and 103 non-Christians.”

Treatment in the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium.

* 212 Q.—SRI A. KUPPUSWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) how many Hindu, Muslim, Indian Christian and Anglo-Indian patients are undergoing treatment in the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium, Tirumani;

(b) whether there is any difference in the treatment of Indian and Anglo-Indian in-patients as regards accommodation and per capita expenditure; and

(c) if the answer to (b) above is in the affirmative, why is this discrimination made?

* Printed as Appendix I on pages 1639–1640 infra.

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THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“(a) On the 30th August 1946 the number of persons undergoing treatment were 581 Hindus, 68 Muhammadans, 66 Indian Christians and 34 Anglo-Indians.

“(b) According to the agreement between the Government and the Mission authorities, separate standards of diet, clothing and accommodation for Indian and Anglo-Indian patients have been fixed and consequently the capitation grant in respect of an Anglo-Indian patient has been fixed at Rs. 30 per head and for an Indian patient at Rs. 20 per head.

“(c) The differentiation in the matter is due to the different standards and modes of life of the communities concerned.”

Nationalization of industries.

* 213 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have under contemplation any scheme to nationalize the industries of the Province;

(b) if so, when the Government will take up the nationalization of the industries of the Province; and

(c) if not, why not?

SRI B. S. MURTHI [(Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Sri V. V. Giri]:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) & (c) It has to be decided with reference to the circumstances of each industry whether it should run entirely by the State or should only be controlled. A decision will be reached as the planning of each industry is taken up.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Arising out of the answer given to clause (a), may I ask, Sir, how long this Government will take to nationalize the industry and if so, what are the industries just now which the Government are going to take up?”

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary):—“For the information of the hon. Member, I will read a Press Communiqué which was issued on the 7th August 1944, where it has been considered necessary to state the policy which the Government proposed actively to pursue towards industries.

“The industries will be divided into four classes: (i) those wholly financed, controlled and managed by the Government, (ii) those in which the Government will take a majority of the shares but will allow private management, where necessary, (iii) important industries in which Government will take a fraction of the shares and will also have representation on the directorate, and (iv) private enterprises in which Government will give the necessary help, advice, as well as technical and other assistance.”

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Are the Government aware that a sister province, viz., United Provinces, has socialized and nationalized the production, exchange and distribution of certain industries?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"I am afraid the hon. Member's information is not correct."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Parliamentary Secretary to the Labour Minister be pleased to state whether Government are prepared to take over such textile mills as were closed and which have declared lockouts?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"I am afraid the question does not arise."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"May I know if the Government have thought of any industry to be run by themselves directly after assuming office?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"Notice, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Do not the Government think that nationalization of industries will solve the strikes problem?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"I do not think that will solve the strikes."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"In the present Cabinet, planning is under the Chief Minister, Industries are under Mr. Giri."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should not make a speech."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Will the Government consider the question of placing Trade, Commerce, Planning, all these under one Minister?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Will the hon. Member repeat his question?"

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Will the Hon. the Minister consider the question of keeping all Planning, Industries and Commerce, all these three subjects under one Minister, for the efficient running of the industrial planning of South India?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is left to the Premier to distribute the portfolios as he considers necessary and proper." (Laughter.)

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Sir, in view of the fact that there is shortage of cloth, will the Government consider at least for the present to take up textile mills?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"This does not arise."

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SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Referring to the Press Communiqué, may I ask, Sir, whether the policy of this Government is identical with the policy stated therein? If not, what are the changes?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"The Press Communiqué represents the policy of the Government now for being pursued."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"In view of the answer given to Mr. Nagappa's question, if it is proved that by taking over industries, we can avoid strikes, will the Government consider the problem, Sir?"

SRI B. S. MURTHI (Parliamentary Secretary):—"This question does not arise."

Circulars to co-operative societies.

* 214 Q.—SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that circulars and orders are sent in English to co-operative societies in villages, though the members may not know the language; and

(b) whether it is proposed to send them in the regional languages?

SRI B. S. MURTHI [(Parliamentary Secretary) on behalf of the Hon. Sri V. V. Giri]:—" (a) & (b) The circulars from the Registrar of Co-operative Societies which are mainly addressed to Deputy Registrars and Provincial and District Co-operative Institutions are issued in English. But orders and circulars intended for primary societies are generally expected to be issued in the language of the district. The need for doing so will again be impressed on the officers concerned."

District board elections.

* 215 Q.—SRI P. SANGAM NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether the ensuing district board elections will be conducted separately for North and South Vizagapatam districts; and

(b) if so, what are the taluks that will be included in the North and South Vizagapatam districts respectively, and what will be the strength of each district board?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" (a) No.

" (b) Does not arise."

Cultivation of lands in Pedapatnam village, Bandar taluk.

* 216 Q.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the fallow lands in Pedapatnam village in Bandar taluk were given to big landlords and zamindars for cultivation and if so, why; and

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(b) whether the Government propose to encourage the agricultural labourers and poor peasants to cultivate such lands by supplying them with manures and agricultural implements?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“(a) No lands in Pedapatnam village, Bandar taluk, were given to big landlords or zamindars.

“(b) Yes. The Agricultural Department is supplying manure free of cost to poor and deserving ryots up to Rs. 2,000 per year in each district. The department is also selling manures like groundnut-cake and bonemeal on a subsidized basis by not including in the sale price the overhead charge up to 10 per cent of the cost of the manure and the entire establishment charges. It is also supplying to ryots iron and steel raw materials for the manufacture of agricultural implements as well as finished implements at cost price at the Agricultural depots.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state if the lands in that village had been given to agricultural labourers?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“I have no definite information about it. If the hon. Member asks for it, I shall get it.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I ask, Sir, if the lands are not given to landlords and zamindars, may I know to whom these lands are given?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“The hon. Member may ask a separate question.”

Lift irrigation from the Bandar canal.

* 217 Q.—SRI A. KALESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the ryots of Patamata, Patamata lanka, etc., villages near Bezvada presented a memorial to the Government to sanction a lift irrigation scheme from the Bandar canal of the Kistna river for the irrigation of the lands of these villages; and

(b) whether the Government have sanctioned the said scheme?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH (on behalf of the Hon. Sri M. Bhaktavathsalam):—“(a) Yes.

“(b) No. A report from the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) on the feasibility of the scheme is awaited.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“May I know whether the Government will expedite the report on the scheme and take action?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Certainly, Government have been expediting every such scheme.”

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Shifting of the Serum Institute to Madras.

* 218 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) when the Serum Institute is proposed to be brought back from Coimbatore to Madras; and

(b) what steps are proposed to be taken to expand it into a first-class Biological Institute as foreshadowed in the speech of the Director of Veterinary Services at the Madras Provincial Conference held in April 1944?

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“(a) There is a proposal to purchase from the Government of India the Dehydrated Meat Factory Buildings at Ranipet for the Serum Institute. The institute can be transferred from Coimbatore only after these buildings are purchased or when a suitable building becomes available.

“(b) Necessary steps to expand the Serum Institute can be taken only after a permanent building is secured for it.”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“May I know, Sir, why the matter is under consideration?”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“Because we are considering the question of expanding the Serum Institute we are seeking to get a better building than the one in which it is located at Coimbatore now.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“May I know from the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture whether by bringing the Serum Institute to Ranipet the cost of production of serum will be cheaper?”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“That is the question. For want of a proper building, we are not expanding the Institute there. As soon as Government provide a suitable building, it is proposed to produce better serum and in a larger quantity.”

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—“May I know from the Hon. Minister for Agriculture whether till a separate Institute is started at Ranipet, the present Institute at Coimbatore will be left to continue as it is?”

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“I do not know why the hon. Member is so much interested in Coimbatore. It is enough I tell him that a big Institute is required for the department concerned.”

Staff of the Veterinary College.

* 219 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether more students have been admitted to the Veterinary College this year and whether there has been corresponding increase in the staff of the College?

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THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"The increase in the number of admissions is 15 in the case of degree course and 5 in the case of the stockmen compounders' course. This increase does not justify the appointment of any additional staff at present."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, what is the extra cost that is involved due to the increase in the staff?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Perhaps the hon. Member did not hear the answer when I read it."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have any proposal for improving the pay and prospects of the officers of the Veterinary department?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"There is a proposal to increase the pay of all non-gazetted officers in the Presidency."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether the Government has given any instructions to the Principal of the College to recognize the claims of backward communities in making admissions to the College?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"That question does not arise out of this."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Ceded Districts Famine Enquiry Committee made any recommendation to start a Veterinary College in the Ceded Districts and whether there is a proposal to start one there?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"That question does not arise out of this."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Hon. Minister ascertain whether there is any change contemplated in the course of study prescribed in the Veterinary College in view of the fact that the Veterinary department have taken over the subject in its entirety of livestock from the Agricultural department?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Notice, Sir."

Supply of electric water pumps to agriculturists.

* 220 Q.—SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have made any arrangement to supply agriculturists with electric water pumps when electricity is available on loan system as in the case of petrol, oil and water pumps;

(b) if so, in how many cases such help has been rendered so far; and

(c) if no such arrangement has yet been made, whether the Government propose to make such arrangement and if so, when?

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THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" (a) No. (b) Does not arise.

" (c) No arrangements have been made for hiring of departmentally owned electric water pumping units as there has so far been no demand for such hiring. If there is a demand for electric motor pump sets necessary arrangements will be made for supplying them on a hire basis."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether the Government propose to extend the electricity scheme to several villages in Kistna district so that the agriculturist may get electric pumps for irrigation?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"I request the hon. Member to address the question to Hon. Minister in charge of electricity."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that there is no use supplying pumps without pipe lines, there is no use sinking wells without water, there is no use maintaining cattle without fodder and men without food?"

MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"And Members without shirts?" (Laughter.)

Salaries of elementary and high school teachers.

* 221 Q.—SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal under consideration to raise the salaries of teachers in elementary and high schools in this Province?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"Yes."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state how much increase Government propose to give?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"I am sorry, Sir, that cannot be disclosed at present."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Is the matter relating to the increase of salary a secret which cannot be disclosed?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"Yes, Sir, until it is disclosed, it is a secret."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, if the increase will solve the inequality which is now existing between the teachers in aided elementary schools and teachers under district boards and municipal councils?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"The matter is under consideration, Sir."

MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a secret only for the Communist Member?" (Laughter.)

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
 “Also to the hon. Member Mr. Anwar.” (Laughter.)

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“May I know whether the increase will equalise the salaries to the minimum living wage?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
 “Government is trying to do what all it can do in this matter and anything more than that I am unable to give you, Sir.”

Demonstration by Government Press workers.

* 222 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there was any demonstration by the Government Press workers at Fort St. George on 3rd August 1946;
- (b) if so, what were their demands; and
- (c) what action the Government propose to take to meet their demands?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—
 “(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(b) & (c) The matter is under consideration and Government consider that it is not in the public interest to disclose the details at present.”

Number of ration shops conducted by Harijans.

* 223 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

- (a) the number of Harijans to whom licences were granted to run the ration shops all over the Presidency—districtwar;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that the Harijans who are mainly agricultural labourers have to forego their rations on account of their going late to the shops as they return late from the fields; and
- (c) what arrangements the Government propose to make to ensure that agricultural labourers, who return late in the evening, get supply of rations?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“(a) The Government have no information giving the number of ration shops to be run by Harijans. The information has been called for by the Board from the Collectors and the Rationing Officer, Madras. Replies received from six districts and the City Rationing Officer, Madras, show that licences have been given to 12 Harijans. Replies from other districts are awaited. In most of the districts there may not be many

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or any ration shops run by Harijans for the following reasons:—

- (i) At the time of the introduction of rationing the principle that persons who were already dealing in foodgrains under foodgrains licences should not be thrown out of business was observed. Instructions were also issued that in selecting retailers preference should be given to persons holding licences under the Madras Food Grains Control Order.
- (ii) Applications from Harijans for the grant of licence to run ration shops were few presumably because they did not hold licences under the Food Grains Control Order.

In G.O. Ms. No. 591, Food, dated 26—7—1946, the Government have relaxed the rule of one year's standing to Harijans for the purpose of granting licences under the Madras Food Grains Control Order II, 1945. Instructions have been issued to all District Rationing Officers that those who produce an exemption certificate from the Commercial Tax Officer under the above order, may be permitted to run a ration shop. As these instructions have been issued only very recently, it is likely that larger number of Harijans may come in to run ration shops in future.

“(b) The working hours of the ration shops are as follows:—
Statutorily rationed areas.—7-30 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Rural rationed areas.—No general orders have been issued fixing the working hours of the ration shops in rural areas. The Collectors have fixed convenient hours. From the report so far received, some Collectors have fixed the last working hour of ration shops varying from 6-30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

There has been however no complaint so far from any labourers that they find it difficult to purchase grains in the evenings.

“(c) In view of the answer to question (b) no further reply is considered necessary.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Will the Government consider the desirability of opening shops in the Harijan localities suitable to their timing as they have to return very late in the night from their work?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“When information is given to the Government, they will consider the question of opening convenient ration shops if it could possibly be done.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I ask whether the Government will consider the desirability of opening shops in the Harijan locality itself?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“The ration shops are open in the locality and not anywhere else.” (Laughter.)

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ I mean, Sir, in the Harijan locality itself? ”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“ If there are sufficient number of Harijan families who must be met with, naturally ration shops will be opened in that locality.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ I would like to add in this connexion that it is the desire of this Government to see that the distinction between Harijans and non-Harijans will be soon dissolved. It is with that object that opportunities will be given for Harijans to get into touch with non-Harijans who may be inclined to feel exclusive for themselves.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ In view of the answer given by the Hon. the Premier, will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to entrust all the ration shops to Harijans so that non-Harijans may go to Harijans? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Every endeavour will be made, provided the hon. Member who questions can get some patience for himself.”

Private practice to doctor of the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium.

* 224 Q.—SRI A. KUPPUSWAMI NAYUDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state whether it is a fact that doctors of the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium are allowed private practice and if so, whether it is contrary to the rules of the Mission?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ Doctors of the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium are allowed private practice. This is not contrary to the Mission rules as applicable to the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium.”

Development of Ayurveda.

* 225 Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether a Development Officer has been appointed for the development of Ayurveda in this Province;

(b) if so, what are the qualifications and age of this officer; and

(c) what are the service conditions of this Development Officer?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ (a) The answer is in the affirmative. The officer is designated as ‘ Special Officer for the reorganization of the Department of Indian Medicine.’ It is proposed to develop not only Ayurveda but also other systems of medicine such as Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy.

“ (b) The officer is a B.A., B.L., and a retired Law Secretary to the Government of Mysore. In addition to his being Law

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Secretary, he was in charge of the Medical Portfolio in Mysore. He has had administrative experience in the Department of Indian Medicine and was also the Chairman of the Committee for Indigenous systems of Medicine in Mysore. His age is about 56.

“ (c) This officer has been appointed for a period of one year from 17th July 1946. The Government have decided to declare him as the administrative head of the Department of Indian Medicine and to grant him a honorarium of Rs. 500 per mensem in addition to a conveyance allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem. He has been treated as a first-grade officer for purposes of travelling allowance.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know whether it is not advisable to have an officer with some knowledge of medicine in Ayurveda, Unani and Siddha in a matter like this? ”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ I do not think it is necessary for an administrative head to be an expert possessing knowledge of any system of medicine because he is going to be only the administrative head of the Department of Indian Medicine.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“ May I enquire, Sir, whether any steps are being taken to develop the Unani system as well? ”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“ The development of the Unani system also forms part of the scheme of Indian medicine.”

Urdu Section in the Department of Information.

* 225-A Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Information be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the existence of Urdu Press in this Presidency through which Muslim public opinion may be ascertained; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative will the Government consider the advisability of having an Urdu Section also in the Department of Information? ”

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—“ (a) Yes.

“ (b) The Government will consider the advisability of having an Urdu Section in the Department of Information and Publicity.”

* 225-B Q.—SRI M. BAPINEEDU (on behalf of Sri Alluri Satyanarayana Raju): Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are making grant of lands, (i) to those who are neither tillers nor agriculturists, (ii) to those who have set up pumping installations in view of the

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Grow More Food campaign and got temporary grants of lands during the war on leases for periods ranging from 3 to 10 years and also (iii) to those who have been granted lands only for temporary cultivation with the aid of water from the canals; and

(b) if there are cases where such grants were already made whether the Government now propose to reconsider the same in view of their declared policy?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“(a) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to the permanent assignment of lands. There is now a ban on permanent assignment of lands pending consideration of the policy of the Government.

“(b) Does not arise.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“May I ask whether the ban applies to ex-military people also?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Pending consideration of several claims there is this ban.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know whether the Government will consider the advisability of lifting of the ban?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“As soon as the consideration of the several claims on hand is over the Government will lift the ban.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know when the Government will consider the lifting of the ban?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“As soon, Sir, as the consideration of the several colonization schemes on hand is over, they will lift it.”

Supply of groundnut oil to Burma.

* 225-C Q.—SRI M. BAPINEEDU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the permit to supply groundnut oil to Burma has been given by the Government to one English Firm only;

(b) if so, what is the name of the company; and

(c) what are the reasons for giving them the permit?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“(a), (b) & (c) The Madras Government have agreed to supply the Government of Burma 12,000 tons of groundnut oil. They understand that the officer deputed by the Burma Government to purchase the oil has appointed Messrs. Ralli Brothers, as their agents for purposes of procurement and supply.”

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Has not the Madras Government got any discretion to advise the officer to appoint an Indian firm for that purpose?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The firm was appointed not by the Madras Government; the firm was appointed by the representative of the Burma Government for purchasing and supplying oil to them, and this Government had no voice.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Will Government instruct the agent of the Burma Government that there should be a relaxation of the conditions imposed in the tender in view of the fact that the purchase of this oil is mostly for cooking purposes?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“If the hon. Member contacts me and gives me the point, I shall consider the matter.”

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—“After the war, there have been individual exporters to Burma. Why not these 12,000 tons be allotted to them instead of giving it to the Burma Government?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“What this Government did was to ask the Burma Government to send their own representative to make the purchases here and take the oil away.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Will the Hon. Minister find out from the agent of the Burma Government whether it is not a fact that in the tenders called for by them they ask for certain conditions which cannot be fulfilled easily by certain oil expeller owners in this Province?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“This Government have no information; if the local merchants had stated this, the Government would have gone into this question.”

SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—“Will the Madras Government advise the Burma Government to encourage Indian merchants also in importing groundnut oil from Madras?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“The Burma Government representative will be purchasing the oil from the local merchants. This Government will look into the question.”

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is this Government likely to get rice in return for this groundnut oil from Burma?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“The Burma Government cannot directly give us anything for the groundnut oil which we are supplying. It must come through the Government of India, but this was given as a bait for the Burma Government to increase their export to the Government of India.”

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SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—"Is our Government so helpless in asking the Burma Government to encourage our traders?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The difficulty seems to be that the hon. Member is not aware how rice is being imported into this country. It is done by the Government of India and its distribution is by allocation. So, we cannot directly do anything except to help the Burma Government to give them an incentive to give us more rice."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the representative of the Madras Government who was sent to Burma proposed to the Burma Government that oil would be exported to them in return for export of rice to this (Madras) Province?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"This question does not arise."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"May I ask that in future, for whatever quantities that may be exported to Burma, the local merchants will be given preference for exporting?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"This Government did not give any preference even now."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I ask, Sir, where was the need for our representative to go to Burma unless we got something in return?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Our representative went to Burma just to explore the possibilities of getting more rice to India and to Madras in particular."

Appointment of Publicity Assistants.

* 225-D Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Information be pleased to state—

(a) whether publicity assistants have been appointed recently in the Publicity Department; and

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what are the qualifications of the persons that are appointed and what are their service conditions?

THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA:—" (a) No.

" (b) The question does not arise."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Harijan workers in the Revenue Department.

57 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of peons, clerks, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors, Deputy Collectors and Collectors in the Revenue Department belonging to Harijan community, rankwar and districtwar?

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A.—There is no Collector at present who belongs to the Harija community. A statement^a showing the Deputy Collectors in the Revenue department belonging to the Scheduled Castes, rankwar and districtwar, is appended. There is no information as to who out of these are Harija Deputy Collectors. The Government have also no information about the number of Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors, clerks and peons in the Revenue department belonging to the Harijan community. The Board of Revenue has been asked to furnish the information for as many of these classes as possible.

Breeding bulls maintained by Government.

58 Q.—SRI MANIKOTH KUMARAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the number of breeding bulls at present maintained by Government expense in the various taluks of Malabar; and

(b) whether Government propose to take any steps to provide free of cost stud bulls, suited to local conditions, in each taluk?

A.—(a) The number of breeding bulls maintained in Government institutions in the Malabar district is 7.

(b) More bulls can be distributed in the Malabar district when the post-war scheme for the purchase of breeding stock for Rs. 2 lakhs per annum is sanctioned.

Drinking-water supply for Ariyalur.

59 Q.—SRI P. KAKKAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any petition from the public of Ariyalur, requesting to introduce a scheme for drinking water-supply; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government have taken in the matter?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) In connexion with post-war reconstruction, a compendium of Provincial requirements of water-supply and drainage has been prepared. In that compendium the places have been arranged in an order of priority according to their importance and urgency from the public health point of view of the Province taken as a whole. Ariyalur is assigned the 65th rank in the compendium of water-supply requirements. A scheme for Ariyalur will be taken up in its turn in the compendium.

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Palmyra tax in Tinnevely district.

60 Q.—SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the palmyra trees are cut and removed in the Tinnevely district, and yet the trees counted before the resettlement, are taxed; and

(b) whether the Government propose to make arrangements to count the trees again before taxing or to abolish the palmyra tax?

A.—(a) Palmyra trees were counted at the resettlement of the Tinnevely district and assessed to tax. No deduction is made for trees cut and removed and no tax is added for trees newly planted during the period of the resettlement. The assessment fixed has thus remained unaltered.

The Government have no information about the number of palmyra trees cut and removed in the Tinnevely district.

(b) The Government do not propose to count the trees again as the work involved will be laborious. The Government will examine the question of continuing or modifying this mode of assessment along with the general proposals for reform of Land Revenue policy.

Movement of groundnut cakes in Guntur district.

61 Q.—SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) when the tenders for the movement of the groundnut cake were called for this year in Guntur district;

(b) whether it is allotted to Sri R. Suryanarayana, Tenali, by the District Agricultural Officer, Guntur;

(c) if so, whether it is a fact that the Joint Director of Agriculture has not approved the tender owing to some irregularities and complaints received by him from the public;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Government have now confirmed the tender of Sri R. Suryanarayana; and

(e) if so on what grounds?

A.—(a) 15th March 1946.

(b) to (d) Yes.

(e) The Government were advised that the contract between the District Agricultural Officer, Guntur and Messrs. R. Suryanarayana & Co., was complete and could not be terminated. They therefore ordered that the cancellation of the acceptance of the tender should be set aside and the contract given effect to.

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Land cultivation in the Province.

62 Q.—MRS. JEBAMONEY MASILAMONEY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) How many acres of land are under paddy-cultivation in the Presidency;

(b) how many acres are under other food crops cultivation; and

(c) what is the average annual yield per acre of the paddy?

A.—(a) 11,013,530 acres during fasli 1354.

(b) 16,954,667 acres during fasli 1354.

(c) The yield per acre attained in 1944-45 (fasli 1354) in respect of important food-crops as compared with the normal yield is given below:—

	Fasli 1354.	Normal yield as fixed in 1919.
	LB.	LB.
Paddy irrigated	1,631	1,787
Paddy unirrigated	1,153	1,301
Cholam irrigated	1,270	1,467
Cholam unirrigated	506	577
Cumbu irrigated	1,092	1,207
Cumbu unirrigated	476	544
Ragi irrigated	1,298	1,492
Ragi unirrigated	644	715
Korra	347	384
Varagu	723	876
Samai	394	441
Maize	960	1,060
Bengalgram	449	..
Horsegram	175	..
Sugarcane	6,621	6,916

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY THE HON. MR. SPEAKER.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I have received a message from the Hon. Sri R. B. Ramakrishna Raju, President of the Madras Legislative Council:—

"In accordance with rule 108 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards (Second Amendment) Bill, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 5 of 1946) as agreed to by the Council without any amendment and signed by me."

The Hon. the President of the Council has also sent me the following message:—

"In accordance with rule 109 of the Madras Council Rules, I transmit a copy of the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Bill, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1946), as passed by the Council with the amendment set out in the annexure and signed by me for the concurrence of the Assembly."

ANNEXURE.

For sub-clause (2) of clause 4 of the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Bill, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1946), the following shall be substituted—

"(2) Where in a suit for eviction there is also a claim for rent, the tenant shall within two months from the date of the commencement of this Act

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or the date of institution of the suit, as the case may be, deposit in court, for payment to the landlord—

(i) in the case of a suit instituted before the commencement of this Act, the arrears of rent accrued due until the date of the commencement of this Act, at the rate claimed in the plaint or an amount equivalent to rent for two years at the rate aforesaid, whichever is less,

(ii) in the case of a suit instituted on or after the commencement of this Act, the arrears of rent claimed in the plaint, or an amount equivalent to rent for two years at the rate claimed in the plaint, whichever is less, together with such interest as may be payable under law, custom or agreement.”

“In this connexion, I wish to make the following announcement:—

“I have received notice of a motion by the Hon. Revenue Minister that an amendment made to sub-clause (2) of clause 4 of the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Bill, 1946, in the Upper House might be taken into consideration. Though the item is not on the agenda, I propose to include the Hon. Revenue Minister's motion as the last item on to-day's agenda.

“In order to prevent inconvenience to hon. Members who may be put to the necessity of attending another sitting and in view of the fact that the amendment made in the Upper House was only a minor one made with a view to fill up some lacuna, I appeal to the hon. Members of the House to approve the action.

“I wish to make another announcement.

“Hon. Members are aware that at the meeting of the Assembly held on Friday, the 2nd August 1946, I made an announcement regarding the constitution of a Joint Committee of both the Chambers for making necessary recommendation in regard to the amendment to the rules of procedure and nominated the following members of the Assembly to be members of that Committee:—

- (1) The Speaker.
- (2) The Deputy Speaker.
- (3) The Hon. the Premier.
- (4) Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur.
- (5) The Hon. Sri V. V. Giri.
- (6) Kumararaja Sir Muthiah Chettiyar.
- (7) Mr. H. S. Town.
- (8) B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur.
- (9) Sri S. Chidambara Ayyar.

“I have since had a talk with the Hon. President of the Council and as a result we thought it advisable to have a separate committee for each House. Accordingly I am to state that hon. Members whose names I announced in August 1946 will constitute the Committee for considering the Rules of Procedure under sub-section (1) of section 84 of the Government of India Act, 1935.

III.—MOTION UNDER RULE 17 OF THE MADRAS ASSEMBLY RULES.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Sir, I beg to move—

‘that rule 17 of the Madras Assembly Rules be suspended and the House do resolve to transact Government business on Wednesday, the 11th September 1946.’”

The motion was put and carried.

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IV.—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

(1) THE MADRAS BUILDINGS (LEASE AND RENT CONTROL) BILL, 1946.

Clause 1 (3).

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“I withdraw the amendment, Sir.”

Clause 1 (4).

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I move—

‘that in clause 1 (4), for the words “two years” wherever they occur, the words “one year” shall be substituted.’

“Mr. Speaker, Sir, when this legislation is sought to meet an emergency to last only for a short time, I do not see why this Bill, when passed into law, should remain in force for two years at one stretch especially because Government is taking power to extend the period from time to time by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette* and when in the other piece of legislation, that is with reference to the control of essential articles, it was thought that it would be sufficient to reduce the period to six months, I do not see why in this matter, the Government should wish to have a period of two years at the very outset and at one stretch. The working of the Act can be watched for one year and it can be extended by another year whenever the need for it is felt. Who knows, it is quite possible that conditions might improve and settle down and we shall be having normal times in one year. That is why I move my amendment for substituting one year for the words ‘two years’ in this clause.”

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I second the amendment, Sir.”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“Sir, the amendment cannot be accepted for the reason that we cannot be sure that the conditions regarding the houses, the scarcity of houses and the conditions that now compel the Government to bring forward this Bill will be over in the course of one year. The period that is provided in the Bill is only two years and if the conditions so abruptly change, we can repeal the Act. So, Government do not propose to accept the amendment.”

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 1 was put and carried.

Clause 2.

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the following amendment:—

‘In clause 2 (1) (a) and (b), the words “or hut” and “hut” wherever they occur, shall be omitted.’

“My reason is this. According to this clause and the sub-clause thereof ‘hut’ is to be included in the definition of a building but in the application of clause 7 (3) (a) ‘A landlord may

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apply to the Controller for an order directing the tenant to put the landlord in possession in the case of a residential building if he requires it for his own occupation and if he is not occupying a residential building of his own in the same city, town or village. What I submit is in the application of this clause 7 (3) (a), the definition of 'building' which includes a 'hut' will give rise to difficulties in actual working, because a person may purchase a house and compound and there may be a hut in that compound; the house may be in the occupation of a person at the time of purchase and the purchaser for the time being may have to occupy the hut. It may not be quite fit for his occupation; it may not be decent enough and also it may not be large enough for his family. Then, Sir, if he applies under clause 7 to the Controller for putting him in possession of the bigger house which is in the possession of a different person, he may be told that he is already occupying the hut, which is included in the definition of 'building' and therefore he is residing there. It is quite possible that such cases may arise and the courts will find it difficult to give a proper interpretation to the word 'hut' and the other side might contend by saying that a hut is a building because it is included in the definition of 'building' and can be occupied by a purchaser and so he has no right to ask for the other building and for the eviction of the person occupying the bigger building. This difficulty might arise. I, therefore, suggest that the word 'hut' might be avoided altogether. There is no need for it. I request that under the circumstances, the Hon. Minister will agree to omit the words 'or hut' and 'hut' wherever they occur in this sub-clause."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second it."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, the word 'hut' is necessary there. There are cases in which huts are rented and we cannot describe the exact size of a hut. In so far as there is a question of tenancy there, the tenant has to be protected. Otherwise the Rent Control legislation would not be applicable to huts. It is because of that that huts have been included and it is applicable only if they are leased as part of the buildings as subsequent amendments of the Government will show. For these reasons, I cannot accept the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I move—
"that in sub-clause (1) (a) of clause 2, for the words "let as part of such building or hut" substitute the words "let or to be let along with such building or hut"."

"The amendment is necessary to make the meaning clearer.

"I shall also move another amendment to sub-clause (4) so that both of them might be put to the House.

"I move—

"that in sub-clause (4) of clause 2, for the words "a person substituted by the existing tenant" substitute the words "a person placed in occupation of a building by a tenant"."

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"When the Bill emerged from the Select Committee the words 'a person substituted by the existing tenant' were inserted in the sub-clause. In its place the Government wish to insert the words suggested in the amendment. The reason is that the words 'substituted by the existing tenant' are not capable of clear definition. So the amendment is suggested."

The amendments were put and carried. Clause 2 as amended was put and carried.

Clause 3.

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Speaker, I move—

"that in clause 3, sub-clause (1), for the words "by the termination of the current tenancy" substitute the words by the landlord ceasing to occupy the building or by termination of a tenancy."

"The amendment has been suggested with a view to include houses falling vacant on account of the landlord leaving the house in addition to the termination of tenancy."

The amendment was put and carried.

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I move—

"that in clause 3, sub-clause (1), between the word "thereof" and the words "to the Controller," the words "in writing" shall be inserted."

"The existing provision merely says that the landlord shall give notice to the Controller within seven days after the termination of the tenancy. As it is, it may be even an oral notice. In order that the legal requirement may be complied with and the landlords may not simply say that it was given orally, this amendment is suggested."

B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur seconded the amendment.

The amendment was put and carried.

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I move—

"that in clause 3, sub-clause (2), between the word "landlord" and the words "that the building is required", the words "in writing" shall be inserted."

The reason is the same that I have adduced in connexion with the previous amendment. Just as the landlord is required to give notice in writing in case the house falls vacant, so also the Provincial Government or any of its officers are asked to give an intimation in writing that they require the building. The position has been negatively stated in the sub-clause, namely, that if within a week the Provincial Government or . . . does not intimate to the landlord that the building is required, the landlord shall be at liberty to lease the building to any tenant. The position is sought to be made clearer that if the house is required by the Government or by its officers, it must be intimated in

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writing. This is with a view to avoid any doubt in regard to this matter in court of law and to comply with a legal requirement."

The amendment was seconded by Begum Sultan Mir Amir-uddin.

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I accept the amendment."

The amendment was put and carried. Clause 3 as amended was put and carried.

Clause 4.

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, I move—

that for sub-clause (2) (a), (b) and (c) of clause 4, the following shall be substituted:—

- "(a) to the estimated capital value of the building;*
- (b) to the rental value as found entered in the property tax assessment book of the municipal council or the local board or the Corporation of Madras, as the case may be; and*
- (c) to the circumstances of the case, including any amount paid by the tenant by way of premium or any other like sum in addition to rent from the commencement of the tenancy;*

Provided that the fair rate of rent fixed yields a return of 2½ per cent on the capital value of the building under any circumstances."

I would like to refer to clause 4 (2) (a) which says that regard shall be had to the prevailing rates of rent in the locality for the same or similar accommodation in similar circumstances during the twelve months prior to April 1940. Let me take the first question, namely, the rates of rent prevailing for twelve months prior to 1st April 1940. There are such localities as Mambalam which are not completely built up areas. It is possible that no residential houses existed there in that area before 1940. How is the Controller to act in fixing the fair rent? He will certainly find it very difficult to act in accordance with this provision. There is the other question that the rates of rent differ from locality to locality and it will be a varying figure and there will be nothing fixed for the Rent Controller to proceed upon. It is, therefore, suggested that regard shall be had to the capital invested on the building. The fair rent shall be fixed at so much per cent on the capital value of the building. The capital value of the building can be estimated with less difficulty than the rents obtaining in that locality for twelve months prior to April 1940. On the basis provided for in the Bill, there will be confusion and the Rent Controller may not be in a position to say exactly what the amount of prevailing rent in that area was during the period.

"Apart from administrative difficulties, there is the question of inducement to house builders. It has been admitted on all hands that there is a scarcity of residential houses and even the

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Hon. Ministers must have experienced this difficulty in finding suitable residential accommodation for themselves. When that is the position, you must offer suitable inducement to persons who can come forward with money to invest on houses. Unless they are given reasonable return for the capital which they have put on the construction of the buildings, I do not think, people with money will come forward to construct houses and ease the present problem of scarcity of houses. That is why I have suggested a return of 2½ per cent should be guaranteed on the capital invested. The present bank rate is between 2 and 3 per cent. But if the Government feel that the rate I have suggested is too high, it is left to them to reduce it. I think this would be a better way than trying to find out the rent of buildings in that locality for a period of 12 months prior to April 1940. There is the advantage in that it will help building of more houses and thus the housing problem will be solved. We have got so many problems to face and unless people come forward to build houses, it will not be possible to solve this problem. Unless Government offer inducement to many people to invest their capital in house property, it will not be possible to have more houses in our province.

"I move that this amendment be accepted by the Hon. Minister in charge of the Bill and that the rate of fair rent be fixed at 2½ per cent on the capital value of the buildings. That is only a suggestion I have made. The Government may consider and reduce the rate of return on the investment. It is left to the Government to do so. Therefore, Sir, I have only to move the amendment."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Sir, this principle of assessing fair rent on capital value will be very unsafe for the simple reason it is first of all very complex to get the capital value of a building. What fixed criteria we can have we have provided in the Bill. The rent that is fixed in 1939-40 must be taken to mean a rent which will cover the interest on the investment. That is taken as a unit on which fair rent is to be fixed along with other considerations. My hon. Friend wants to substitute a very complex matter which will not be quite useful for the purpose of fixing the fair rent. Another thing that has been said is that there must be fixed a rent which will give some inducement to the landlords to construct houses. The present Bill is meant only to control the rent during a particular period. Inducement to construct buildings must come from other sources and not by an increase of rent. That will affect the tenants who are not able to pay, and a number of tenants will be thrown out of their houses. This amendment is complex and is not practical because it will involve a lot of enquiry, and we will not be able to get at a fixed standard. Government feel sorry that they cannot accept the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the rejection of my amendment to clause 4 (2) (a), (b) and (c), I do not find it necessary at all to move the other two amendments."

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Amendment to clause 4 (3) (i).

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ I move—
‘ that in clause 4 (3) (i), after the words “ in sub-section (2)”
the words “ exceeds Rs. 15 ” shall be added and for the
figures “ $8\frac{1}{3}$ ” the figures “ $3\frac{1}{8}$ ” shall be substituted.’ ”

We know that the salaries of most of the low-paid staff have not been increased and are not sufficient to meet their budget. We are giving an opportunity for the landlord to increase the rent but we are not increasing the salary of the low-paid staff sufficiently. Most of these people are living by paying small rents, and may not be able to pay an increase in rent. That is why I suggest that below Rs. 15 the increment will be only $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent. Then they will be able to balance their budget. With these words, I move my amendment. I request the Minister to act up to the spirit of the amendment, because there is no seconder.”

The amendment fell through for want of a seconder.

Amendment to clause 4 (3) (i), (ii) and (iii).

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister has given notice of an amendment, which is tantamount to my amendment, it is not necessary for me to move my amendment.”

Amendment to clause 4 (3).

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ I move that—

‘ in sub-clause 3 (ii) of clause 4, in place of “ an increase of 25 per cent ” the words “ an increase of $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent in the case of rental values between Rs. 25 per mensem and Rs. 50 and $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent between Rs. 50 and Rs. 100 ” shall be substituted.’ ”

All my amendments are based on the calculation of the salaries received by the low-paid staff. We have not given them sufficient increase and the increment they demanded has not been given. Under these circumstances, let us do justice to them by reducing the rent so that these poor people may balance their budget. That is why I am moving my amendment and I appeal to Government to accept at least this amendment.

The amendment fell through for want of a seconder.

Amendment to clause 4 (3) proviso.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ I move the amendment, Sir—

‘ that proviso to sub-clause (3) of clause 4 shall be omitted.’ ”

The amendment fell through for want of a seconder.

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN :—“ As the Hon. Minister and myself have thought on the same lines, I do not think it necessary to move the amendment standing in my name.”

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Clause 4 (3).

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—“ I move—

‘ in sub-clauses (i), (ii) and (iii), for the words “ an increase of ” substitute the words “ an increase not exceeding ”.’ ”

This amendment is necessary to give discretion to the Controller to go into the circumstances of each case.

‘ In the proviso, for the words “ shall be ” substitute the words “ shall not exceed ”.’ ”

The amendments were put and carried.

Clause 4 (4).

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I am not moving the amendment, Sir.”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—“ I move—

‘ in clause 4 (4), for the words “ shall allow,” substitute the words “ may allow ” and in sub-clauses (i) and (ii) for the words “ an increase of,” substitute the words “ an increase not exceeding ”.’ ”

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 4 as amended was put and carried.

Clause 5 was put and carried.

Clause 6 was put and carried.

Clause 7.

K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ I move—

‘ For clause 7 (2) (i) the following shall be substituted :—
“ (i) that the tenant has not paid or tendered the rent due by him in respect of the building within fifteen days of the time fixed in the agreement of tenancy with his landlord or in the absence of any such agreement, by the last day of the month next following that for which the rent is payable :

Provided that the landlord sent a registered notice to the tenant intimating the default and the tenant failed to pay the rent and the cost of the notice within fifteen days of the receipt or refusal thereof :

Provided further no order for eviction shall be passed by the Controller in case the tenant deposits in court on the day of his first appearance in court, the arrears of rent due on that date and the cost of the petition to be fixed by the Controller ”.’ ”

This amendment is intended to give a well-deserved relief to the tenant in case he fails to pay the rent on the date fixed by inadvertence or by absence from the station and release him from forfeiture if he deposits in court on the day of his first appearance in court the rent due with cost. This amendment, without causing any hardship to the landlord, will give relief to the tenant.”

B. Poker Sahib Bahadur seconded the amendment.

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should be declared to be a residential building on the ground that such conversion has resulted in scarcity of residential accommodation."

Sub-clause (1) of clause 11 as it stands means that no residential building shall be converted into a non-residential building, *after the commencement of this Act*, except with the permission of the Controller. My idea is that provision should be made to enable the Rent Controller to declare as residential buildings, the buildings which were converted into non-residential buildings since 1944. My reasons are as follows. In my own town of Chittoor, we found that recently merchants, who were making a lot of money from trade, have taken hold of small and big residential buildings, and the people are suffering for want of residential accommodation. By reason of the wholesale occupation of the houses by traders, the poor people and officials transferred to the town are unable to find accommodation. I find in the City of Madras also whole streets have been converted into non-residential areas by merchants, and people are finding it difficult to get accommodation. As an illustration I would say that in my own town of Chittoor, a small town with a population of nearly 25,000 about 150 residential houses have been taken away by merchants to store all sorts of goods for their business. This has resulted in scarcity of accommodation to the ordinary people and the trouble is very much acute now. I understand the same condition prevails in many of the municipal areas in this Presidency including the City of Madras. Therefore I submit that this is a hardship against which the Bill must make provision. I requested the Hon. Minister yesterday to consider this matter. I move the amendment since I was not objected to. If he accepts it, I will be very thankful."

The amendment was duly seconded.

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We discussed this amendment in the Select Committee itself at considerable length and felt that it could not be accepted, as this was the one provision in the Bill to which the hon. Member wants to give retrospective effect for two years. The amendment is to enable all residential buildings converted into non-residential buildings since 1944 to be reconverted into residential buildings. In the Select Committee, it was pointed out that there were a number of buildings in which there were ration shops and so many other buildings used for non-residential but essential purposes. Besides, to give power to the executive authority of the municipality to move the Rent Controller to get them reconverted into residential buildings will be going too far. I submit that this amendment should not be accepted."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The hon. Member Mr. Varadachari who moved this amendment said that, as a result of the conversion of residential buildings into non-residential buildings, there is scarcity of residential accommodation. Various conditions have brought this into existence. The conversion has taken place in the past with the knowledge, consent and authority of the landlord. This Bill cannot retrospectively affect relations that

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have already come into existence. The Bill provides that in future no residential building shall be converted into a non-residential building except with the permission of the Controller. It is regrettable that such conversion has taken place in the past. But the Government cannot now take steps in this Act which is to control the lease and rent of buildings hereafter. So I regret that I cannot accept the amendment."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"I withdraw the amendment."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Clauses 11, 12 and 13 were put and carried.

Clause 14.

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I move that— 5-15 P.M.
 'Clauses 14 to 17 be renumbered as clauses 16 to 19 and the following inserted as clauses 14 and 15 respectively:—

- "14. The executive authority of a municipal council or local board or the Revenue Officer of the Corporation of Madras shall, on application made in this behalf and on payment of such fee as may, from time to time, be fixed by the Provincial Government by notification in the Fort St. George Gazette, grant to the applicant a certified copy of the extract from the property tax assessment book of the municipal council, local board or the Corporation of Madras, as the case may be, showing the rental value of the building or buildings in respect of which application has been made, relating to the period specified in the application. Such certified copy shall be received as evidence of the facts stated therein, in proceedings under this Act.
15. Every landlord and every tenant of a building shall be bound to furnish to the Controller or any person authorized by him in that behalf, such particulars in respect of the building as may be prescribed by rules made under this Act."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, the amendment given notice of by the Hon. the Minister was to the following effect:—

'Renumber clauses 15 to 17 as clauses 17 to 19 respectively and after clause 14, insert the following as clauses 15 and 16:—

* * * *

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to inform the House that the above amendment was given notice of yesterday in the Assembly. But they have been superseded by the amendment now proposed and this has been circulated later. If any hon. Member has got any further amendments to suggest now, I have no objection to place them before the House for consideration. May I know from hon. Mr. Rawoof whether he is now clear."

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D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Well, Sir, I thought they were amendment to clause 15. I have not received the notice of amendment circulated later. I have only yesterday's notice of amendments."

The amendment was put and carried, and new clauses 14 and 15 formed part of the Bill.

Clause 14 (renumbered as clause 16).

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"1 move—

For existing clause 14 (renumbered as clause 16) substitute the following:—

"16. (1) If any person contravenes any of the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 3, clause (a) of section 6, sub-section (1) of section 8, sub-section (1) of section 11 and section 15, he shall be punishable with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees or with both.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 32 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, it shall be lawful for any magistrate of the first class specially empowered by the Provincial Government in this behalf and for any Presidency Magistrate to pass a sentence of fine exceeding one thousand rupees when awarding punishment under sub-section (1)."

"This is an amendment to the original clause 14, which is renumbered as clause 16."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I want to inform the House that I am not going to put the original clause 14 to the vote of the House. Instead of that, for the existing clause renumbered as clause 16, the amendment moved above by the Hon. Mr. Raghava Menon will be put to the vote of the House."

The amendment was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The original clause has now become clause 17. I will now put clause 17 to the vote of the House."

Clause 15 renumbered as Clause 17 was put and carried.

Clause 16 (renumbered as clause 18).

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"1 move the following amendments to clause 18 (original clause 16):—

"In sub-clause (1), omit the words 'be continued and' and in line 4 for the words 'further proceedings shall be subject to the provisions of this Act', substitute the words 'be continued subject to the provisions of the Act'."

For sub-clause (2), substitute the following:—

"(2) All orders passed or deemed to have been passed under the Madras House Rent Control Order, 1945, and Madras Non-Residential Building Rent Control Order,

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1945, and in which fair rent has been fixed, shall continue in force until they are superseded or modified under this Act by the authority competent to do so."

"The amendment proposed in sub-clause (1) is, that the words 'be continued, and' in line 4 have been deleted and these have been taken to the end of the sub-clause, and substituted for the words 'further proceedings shall be subject to the provisions of the Act.' These are only verbal alterations and do not alter the intention of the clause. The amendment to clause (2) also is verbal."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Mr. Speaker. May I know whether the expression 'shall be deemed to have been commenced or taken under the corresponding provisions of the Act and be continued subject to the provisions of the Act' mean the same thing as the original clause, that is 'shall be continued and be deemed to have commenced or taken under the provisions of the Act, etc.' I want to know what is the object that is being carried out by these verbal amendments."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The object is, that if there are already applications pending for fixing fair rent, those applications will have to be continued."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this amendment to clause 16 (1) and (2) of the Bill was inserted by the Select Committee at my instance. I have some doubts whether we could allow the proceedings to be continued under the provisions of the present Act. I have been made to understand, Sir, that proceedings that have been started for the fixation of fair rent some 12 months or 18 months ago are still pending in the courts of Rent Controllers in the mufassal. The point to be considered, Sir, is whether this House agrees that the tenants or landlords, as the case may be, whose applications have been pending for 12 or 18 months should be allowed to have the fair rent fixed according to this Act. That will mean a hardship in some cases. That has got to be clarified and I ask the Hon. Minister to make the position very clear.

"The scales of increase that have been allowed in this Act are far higher than what were available under the previous House Rent Control Order. Whether a tenant or a landlord could have that benefit with retrospective effect for 18 or 12 months has got to be considered. The Government should clarify this position before bringing in amendments. (Interruption.) I think, Sir, I have not been able to make it clear to the Hon. Minister. I have been made to understand that there are proceedings that have been started some 12 to 18 months ago which are still pending in the courts of the Controllers. If the section as it stands is allowed to be passed, the result will be that the tenants and landlords will have the benefit of this increase fixed in this Act with retrospective effect, because the fair rent has got to be fixed from the date of the application. That position has got to be made

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clear. I request the Minister to consider my suggestion to delete the words 'commenced or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act'."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second this amendment, Sir."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Sir, I have to state that the fears of hon. Members are not warranted. If my amendment is accepted, the sub-section (1) will read as follows:—

'All proceedings commenced and action taken under the Madras House Rent Control Order, 1945, and the Madras Non-Residential Buildings Rent Control Order, 1945, and pending at the commencement of this Act, shall, so far as may be, be deemed to have been commenced or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act . . .'

Let us take a concrete example. If an application for fixation of fair rent has been made, and witnesses have been summoned and other proceedings taken, a fresh application may be unnecessary, as it shall be deemed that the proceedings have been commenced or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act. That is the meaning. In the absence of provision in such terms, there will have to be fresh proceedings. According to this amendment whatever has been done and whatever portion remains to be done, will be deemed to have been commenced under the corresponding provisions of this Act and be continued subject to the provisions of this Act. Sir, there is a complete arrangement for the continuity of the proceedings without any waste of time for the parties for taking fresh steps under the new Act."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, I requested the Hon. Minister to tell the House definitely whether he had any objection to the deletion of the words 'be deemed to have been commenced or taken under the corresponding provisions of this Act' and I have explained how this deletion is necessary. The explanation given by the Hon. Minister means, Sir, that the parties who did not have certain rights on the date of their applications will have those rights under the present Act."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I shall mention the difficulties that will arise if my hon. Friend's amendment is accepted. What happens is that certain applications have been made and are pending at the time of the commencement of this Act and the persons who made the applications are entitled to have them adjudicated upon as to fair rent or as to eviction. If such a provision is not put in this Act it will mean that these cannot be enquired into. I shall meet the objection raised by my hon. Friend to this, i.e., that the further proceedings in the applications which have already been made shall be subject to the provisions of this Act. He feels that some injustice may be done either to the tenant or to the landlord because we have to decide those applications as on the date when the applications were made. I may point out that so far as the previous sections are concerned

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discretion only is given. It is not 'he shall do so'. It only says 'he may do so'. The fact that the applications have been pending for some time is a factor which will be considered by the Controller either in fixing fair rent or for purposes of eviction. If an application has been pending for 18 months or 2 years that will be considered in fixing the fair rent or for eviction purposes. In respect of this there is no hardship. Of course there may be some conceivable cases where the Controller is not very reasonable and some injustice may be done; but we cannot provide for all that."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Minister has not evidently seen the section. It says: 'shall be subject to the provisions of this Act', and there is no option given to the Controller."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I am clear about that. It is not 'shall' in the previous sections whereunder proceedings for fair rent or eviction are conducted. The word is 'may'. Therefore the Controller has full discretion to have fair rent fixed in the manner he likes and to the extent to which it is subject to the provisions of this Act, it does not fetter his discretion at all."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to know what the hon. Member. Mr. Pocker, seconded."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My hon. Friend Mr. Rawoof has proposed that certain words be deleted. It is for the Hon. Minister to accept it or not."

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"It was only a suggestion made."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"First I will inform the House that old clause 16 now becomes clause 18. I will put the amendment first and then I will put clause 18 as amended to the vote of the House."

The amendments were put and carried.

Clause 16 renumbered as clause 18 as amended was put and carried.

Clause 17 renumbered as clause 19 was put and carried and allowed to stand part of the Bill.

The preamble was put and was carried and allowed to stand part of the Bill.

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Sir, I move that the Bill be passed into law."

The motion was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"We shall pass on to the next item on the agenda. Before doing so, I wish to inform the House that we sit to-day till 8 o'clock. That was the understanding arrived at yesterday. (Interruption.) If we finish earlier, we may close earlier."

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AN HON. MEMBER:—"To-day is the Bharathi day, Sir, and some of us want to go away early as we are meeting to-morrow also."

ANOTHER HON. MEMBER:—"Are we meeting to-morrow also, Sir?"

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"If hon. Members will not take a long time the business can be finished within half an hour. It is entirely in the hands of the hon. Members."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have no objection. I wish to know from the Hon. Premier whether it is the desire of the House to adjourn now."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No, Sir."

(2) THE MADRAS PRESERVATION OF PRIVATE FORESTS
BILL, 1946.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"We will now take the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Bill."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Sir, I beg to present the ^a Report of the Select Committee on the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Bill, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1946) and move—

that the Bill as reported by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

"I wish to speak only for five minutes in order to place before the House the salient features of the amendments that have been carried out. In the first instance, as will be seen from the report, after a fair and full discussion we have presented a report which is quite unanimous and without any dissenting minute. Therefore our work will be quite easy.

"Sir, in clause 1 we have limited the extent of private forests to 100 acres in Malabar and South Kanara and also in other areas excluding estates. We have also defined communal land so that alienation of these and the cutting of forests in them might be made more definite. In clause 3, instead of taking power for the Provincial Government to notify the authority, which is indefinite, we have definitely provided that District Collectors are the officers from whom necessary permission should be taken. By way of consequential amendments to this provision, we have made a provision for appeals from their orders. Then, coming to clause 10, we have provided a new clause under which power has been taken to frame rules for defining the classes and kinds of trees which may be permitted to be cut and the terms and conditions subject to which such permission could be granted and the procedure to be followed by the District Collector for granting permits.

"These, Sir, are the main changes made by the Select Committee all of which have gone to improve the provisions of this Act. Considering that the main object of the Bill has been supported by all sections of the House, I request the House to pass this motion."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am afraid we must express our disappointment at the manner in which this Bill has emerged from the Select Committee. In the

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light of the suggestions made by the members of our party, we expected that considerable changes would be made in the Bill when it went to the Select Committee, but we are disappointed.

"Sir, in the first place, I find that the definition of the word 'forests' remains unaltered. The definition of this word after the Bill has emerged from the Select Committee is as wide as it was when the Bill was first presented to this House. According to the definition of 'forests' that the Government have adopted, it can even declare tomorrow Mount Road to be a forest! It is indeed amazing and without precedent. In order to bring in various classes of land under the definition of 'forests' so that its legislation might come under item 22 of List II of the Provincial Legislative list in Schedule VII of the Government of India Act, 1935, the Government have extended the definition of 'forests' according to their predilections. But I submit and I wish to state that my submission is based on very high authority, on the authority of no less a person than that eminent lawyer Sir Aliadi Krishnaswami, that the Provincial Government have no power to extend the definition of 'forests' in the manner that they have done in order to make the term all comprehensive and make all classes of land come within the purview of that definition. It is an accepted principle settled by the highest authority that the Provincial Legislature with restricted and limited powers cannot extend the ambit of its powers by any process of definition. Reference to books on Constitutional Law will bear out this point. Sir, there are a number of lawyers on the Treasury Benches, yet it is amazing that the Government should bring in such legislation. Even yesterday I referred to this matter when dealing with the Essential Articles Control Bill.

"When I mentioned the point the Hon. Minister for simply shook his head but he did not clearly state whether the Provincial Government was empowered under the Government of India Act, 1935, to bring in legislation covering the various items mentioned in the Bill. Now, I want the Hon. Minister for Revenue to specifically state under which item of the Provincial Legislative List of the Government of India Act, 1935, this measure has been brought forward, and particularly how the Provincial Government is in a position to extend the definition of 'forests' in the manner that it has done. If the Provincial Government has not this power, then evidently the present measure would be 'ultra vires' of this Legislature.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are disappointed to find that the suggestions made by the members of our party have not been accepted which has necessitated the members of our party to bring forward a large number of amendments. Our members from Malabar had suggested that trees which stood 1,000 feet above sea-level should be exempted. They had also pointed out that clause 3 (1) (a) and (b) should be deleted as these clauses took away some of the inherent rights of owners. But three other suggestions have not been accepted. Let us visualise what the effect of this legislation will be. Its effect undoubtedly will be that those industries of Malabar

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which are dependent on timber will be paralysed; its effect will be that within a short time a timber famine will overtake the land to add to the number of other famines that are overhanging our heads under the present regime; its effect will be that thousands of people working in the forests, factories and industrial concerns in Malabar will be thrown out of employment which will intensify the already acute labour unrest prevalent in this Province. Sir, is it wise on the part of the Government to bring in such measures at the present time as will add to its troubles?

"Mr. Speaker, I cannot perceive any urgency so far as this Bill is concerned. There might have been some urgency with respect to other Bills, but in regard to this measure, I do not see where the urgency lies. I do not demur to the assertion that it is necessary to prevent the destruction of forests; I grant that the problem of the preservation of forests has to be tackled, but there is no necessity, I feel, to rush through legislation in this manner. The Hon. the Minister for Revenue might be aware that the Post-war Reconstruction Committee has constituted a Forests Sub-Committee which dealt with the problem of the preservation of forests. The Government could have implemented the recommendations of that Sub-Committee for the time-being, until it was in a position to bring in a suitable and well-considered legislation, instead of rushing through a measure like this.

"Another point to which I must advert is in connexion with clause 12 of the Bill. I have given notice of an amendment that that clause be deleted, for it is most objectionable inasmuch as it gives unlimited powers to the present Government to do anything that it considers necessary. Mr. Speaker, it has been repeated to us times without number that this is a democratic Government. Why then I ask, should it want to take total powers into its own hands which habit was in vogue with the totalitarian governments? The word 'totalitarian', Mr. Speaker, originated thus: One day when the late Signor Mussolini was discussing political matters with the Pope at the Vatican, he banged his fist on the table and declared: 'The State is total; the State shall have total powers'. Thereupon the news was flashed in all the newspapers of the world that according to Mussolini the State should be total. While the famous Louis XIV of France declared in the seventeenth century '*L'Etat c'est Moi*', meaning 'I am the State', Mussolini declared in the twentieth century 'The State is total'; thus, the word 'totalitarian' came into existence. The definition of the term 'totalitarian government' is a government which invests itself with total powers. We find that this is precisely what the Congress Government is doing. In the face of this I wish to emphasize that no amount of rhetoric about democracy will convince the peoples of the world that this Government is democratic. Let it be remembered that it is not words, or outward manifestations, or declarations, or declamations, that will make the present Government democratic but actual deeds. It is deeds not words that will count and it is by its deeds that the present Government will be judged at the bar of public opinion the world over. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to consent to have

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this clause deleted. The other day, the Hon. Minister for Law attempted to justify the insertion of the clause which gave the Government omnibus powers by stating that such a clause was to be found in modern legislation, the instances that he gave of modern legislation being the Agriculturists' Debt Relief Act and the Sales Tax Act. But I wish to point out that since these Acts were brought forward by the Congress with a totalitarian outlook how could it be otherwise? In the name of democracy, I ask the Government to delete clause 12 from the present Bill and not to appropriate totalitarian powers to itself in the Bills that will be introduced in the future."

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion of the Hon. Minister. He has explained very well what changes have been brought about by the Select Committee. Sir, the fear to quit has created a mentality in a number of landholders to make hay while the sun shines. (At this stage Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin took the Chair.) They fear, Madam, that this Congress Government, a democratic government, which works with a social purpose in mind, will take action very speedily and deprive them of their zamindaris which they got only as rent collectors about 130 years ago. Now, Madam, everybody knows that the forest area in India is only 13.4 per cent of the total area and that to save this country from an invading desert it would need at least a 20 per cent area of forests. We know, Madam, from statistics published from the time of the Agricultural Commission that western United Province is being invaded by the desert and on account of the denudation of forests the fertility of the soil is being washed away and we are not getting a regular supply of rain and manure. The result is the invading desert. Therefore, if we allow the landholder, let it be ryotwari or zamindari, to denude the forests, the fate of the country will be sealed. The Bill is therefore necessary to serve that particular purpose. The difficulty is how to prevent these gentlemen from making hay while the sun shines, as I told you in the beginning. The Hon. Minister for Revenue, in order to put a stop to their acts of destruction, has brought forward this Bill. I am not speaking from imagination. I have got in my hands documents which prove that the zamindars have taken to destruction on a large scale. I will read out to you an order by the Maharaja of Pithapuram to the tendar of Palivela, dated 25th December 1941:—

"An extent of 100 acres of the lands available for cultivation in the estate puntas of Aridy village are granted under Grow More Food Scheme to the applicant Sri D. Ramaraju Garu of Narasapuram, as requested by him for nazarana of Rs. 600 per acre subject to payment to the estate of assessment at Rs. 7 per acre on dry tenure and cesses thereon annually from fasli 1355 on condition of granting a jirayati patta for the land to the lessee if he would at his own cost apply to the Collector and get conversion of the land into ryoti tenure under section 20-A of the Madras Estates Land Act within six years from the grant fasli."

This hon. Member is not here to-day and I do not propose to comment strongly in his absence. He tried to lease out puntas in 1929 but then the Collector came in the way and prevented it. Under the present circumstances, he wanted to take advantage and assigned no less than 100 acres as I quoted above. This he tried as

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a test case, but the villagers were unanimous in their action. They filed a suit and got an injunction in the District Munsif's Court at Razole. That gentleman again appealed to the High Court. But, Sir, how can you expect the poor ryots to fight up to the Prizy Council? The difficulty is this: law is equal for all. The courts are open to all, but they are as costly as the Connemara Hotel. Therefore the poor ryots cannot be expected to appeal against the rich zamindars who have very heavy income and can go to any extent to establish their rights. Therefore, the present demand of the ryots that the zamindars should be prevented from taking advantage of the present circumstances and alienate porambokes, tank-bunds, etc., in the villages is just onwards is just and this amendment should be supported by all those who have got the interests of the ryots in their hearts.

"After all, Sir, we are going to abolish the zamindaris. The social purpose is the only justification for a social institution. The zamindars have got the contract, they have the sanid-i-Mibikiyat Isthimmar in their possession. The Prakasam Committee has amply proved that in 1802 they had no rights and even if they got any alleged rights conferred on themselves, it can be said that the Government cannot confer what they themselves did not possess. This has been held in courts of law, and it can be proved that the claims of zamindars all these 140 years are not at all supported by any evidence before 1802. And anybody who goes through the long report of the Prakasam Committee will be amply satisfied in this respect. Therefore, Sir, this is a step in the right direction, and I heartily congratulate the Government on having taken this up at this moment. I hope this will prevent the zamindars from any further interference with the communal rights. After all, Sir, forests are of general interest, as I told you in the beginning, and they should be preserved at all costs if we want to have a prosperous agricultural country in our dear India. I support the Bill, Sir, with all my heart."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I wish to say a word or two as to what has to be done in regard to the working of this Act and the responsibility of Government after passing this Act in framing the new policies in respect of forests defined under this Bill.

"My first suggestion, Sir, is that in working this very temporary measure, care should be taken that a proper authority is constituted in order to enable petitions under this Bill to be disposed of speedily. I see that the District Collector is made the authority for dealing with such applications. I agree he may continue as the authority under this Bill; but when a permanent policy is declared in respect of these forests, the authority should naturally shift with the acquisition of these properties by the Government to the regular Forest department. I trust that the Collector even now in all these cases will take the advice or will delegate his powers under the rules which Government may make in this behalf, to the District Forest Officer, so that expedition may be observed in matters under consideration in regard to this Bill.

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"The second thing I have got to say is this: that wherever a respectable landowner has a forest already worked on a scientific basis, care should be taken to see that the work is not interfered with very much. A working plan from him should be asked for in the first instance, and when Government through the District Forest Officer is satisfied that the plan therein provided offers facilities for work consistent with the preservation of the forest and the replanning of the same, he should be given the advantage of time and his work should not be impeded by other considerations. What I find generally in Government is this: that it takes a long time even when you have an understandable working plan, to put it in proper shape; but under this temporary measure, I hope Government will take care to see that time is saved and not wasted in the working of these forests so far as that may be deemed essential even for the preservation of these forests.

"The third thing I have got to say is this: I will never be satisfied until this Government announces one day that all zamindari forests and all private forests will be acquired by the State in the interests of the State. I do not understand, nor do I support the policy of treating forests as belonging to a village or to a community and to give to each man the right to do anything as he pleases in that area. That will never suit, I trust, the Members of this House too. I want forests to be under State control, and not merely that, I want them to belong to the State. Government could frame a policy and acquire all private forests, paying such suitable compensation as they deem fit. Then, Sir, we shall have an expanded forest department with suitable working plans for working those forests and also for preserving them from destruction and denudation. I trust Government will lose no time and from now onwards, will frame the policy in respect of this matter, will work out details and even instruct District Forest Officers to go ahead on the basis that the State will acquire all these forests, and to make—I won't say temporary, but to make—provisional plans for the working of these forests as and when they are acquired. I trust the Government will speed up certain acquisitions. There is no justification for an owner like the Tirupati Devasthanam to keep forests in their possession. The Members of the Devasthanam Committee know nothing about forests and there is no reason why such forests should not be immediately taken over by the Government and leased, as they can do even under the terms of the present law. They may be added to the Chittoor division. There are also several other forests like this. Even now option could be given to private parties who may be intimidated of the forthcoming State policy to surrender their forests on lease, in order that they may be worked profitably both to themselves and to the State. I trust, Sir, this will be . . ."

* ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Madam. The Chair is being addressed as 'Sir'." (Laughter.)

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I am sorry; I trust, Madam, that this will be attended to by the Government and suitable replies will be made by the Minister concerned in this debate itself, in regard to the points raised by me."

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* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Madam, in welcoming the general features of this Bill, I just wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Revenue, a few points. The Bill must be made applicable since the 14th July 1937 because up till now we have received reports that zamindars have begun evicting the tenants from their lands and porambokes; and in one village in the Guntur district, the District Magistrate has arrested the ryots and evicted some Harijans. This has been made known to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Harijans also. Under these circumstances, I request the Minister to make the provisions applicable from the year 1937. With these words, Sir, I welcome the Bill."

(At this stage the Hon. Speaker re-occupied the Chair.)

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the report of the Select Committee, I find that in clause 3, on the motion of the Raja of Venkatagiri, it was agreed that persons who have no rights of ownership for cutting the trees should also be subjected to the penalty under this Bill. Sir, since this amendment has come from the Raja of Venkatagiri, I should like to inform the House that for a very long time the ryots, who are mostly Harijans, have had the right of cutting trees on forest lands. Disputes have arisen and matters have gone to courts of law and to the High Court, where it was finally decided that the land belonged to the Maharaja. What I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister is while making rules to work the provisions of this Bill, he will see that the Harijans who have been at one time enjoying rights in the forests by way of getting wood and other things, required for agricultural purposes and other purposes also, are not interfered with. This is my only request, and I welcome the measure that has been brought forward."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Dealing first with the arguments advanced by the hon. Begum Amiruddin, I would beg to submit that many of the objections raised by her are objections which should have been levelled at the first stage of the Bill itself, i.e., before it was referred to the Select Committee. Once the main principles of the Bill have been accepted by this House, there is little use in going back again to the old position and raising the same arguments over again. She said she had expected many amendments and that there were not many. That is only a compliment to the measure, Sir, that it did not necessitate many amendments in the Select Committee. It is no defect of the Bill itself. I may assure her that there were many lawyers, trained lawyers there even from the party to which she belongs. So that, it was not by any lack of legal talents that more amendments were not put in as necessary."

"Then, she was pleased to refer to a great authority on law who appears to have written an article in the Press. Sir, we are quite aware of those objections. She asked what are the items and headings under which we are getting on with this Bill. May I tell her that this refers to the regulation of the customary rights of tenants in the use of forests, firstly, and for the preservation of forests in the interest of the State and for the present and future

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use of the ryots and agriculturists in general. If she will please refer to items 21 and 22, they will be found to cover all that is necessary—lands under item 21 and forests under item 22. The Madras Legislature deals with the Estates Land Act and the Madras Forest Act, which includes forest policy. Therefore it is a bit too late in the day to say that it is not within the competence of the Legislature. Our legal advisers have seen all these provisions and the Bill has been brought forward under proper advice."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Does pasture land also come under that?"

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I may say that pasture land comes within the Estates Land Act and therefore there is no difficulty about that. For the purpose of definition, we have included it and we have said that wherever there are trees and shrubs, they will be deemed to be forests."

"Suppose in a concrete case of an area of fifty acres, over forty acres are trees and shrubs, but in between there is an area of three or four acres which contain pasture land. If the Government have no power to declare the whole area as a forest—there is no use of looking into every little thing saying that a forest must contain so many acres with so many trees, of this girth or density and so on it will not serve the purpose. We are dealing with three legislations in the main—the Madras Forest Act, the Malabar Tenancy Act and the Estates Land Act. After all, this is only a Bill for the better use of forests by the ryots or agriculturists. This is only an emergency measure and there is no fear or doubt about the competence on the part of the Legislature to deal with this."

"Then, the hon. Member referred to the thousand feet above sea-level. I wish she had left this to others who dealt with it in the Select Committee who know more about the condition of Malabar than herself. We have advisers in the Forest Officers and the Chief Conservator of Forests. Most of the forests in South Kanara and Malabar are within thousand feet above sea-level except those on the slopes of the ghauts. There is, therefore, no use making a hard and fast rule saying that forests must be 500 feet above sea-level. We knew that we were doing."

"Then Sir, the Hon. Member referred to the question of hurry in passing the measure that there is Forest Committee and so on. We are aware of all those things and as a matter of fact, I have myself gone through one of the best reports on the subject by Mr. Sathe, Chief Conservator of Forests, in which he has referred to the devastation of forests all over the province and Malabar in particular. Therefore, it is to meet an urgent situation that this has been done. The reform is intended for the better use of forests and therefore it is not in any haste or hurry that we are having this measure."

"Last of all, she repeated the argument that has been stated on the floor of this House almost half a dozen times that a particular clause is undemocratic and that we are doing things in fascist way. We are thankful to her for giving the history of

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'totalitarianism.' We are all aware of that. A thing repeated too often loses much of its force. As I said in the other House, substantial powers have been taken not merely by the Congress Government of 1937 but also by the British Parliament, as my hon. Friend Daniel Thomas, mentioned in the other House yesterday, when in 1929, the Poor Law was enacted to meet a situation where the Minister in charge was given powers to construe the provisions of other legislations to suit the purpose of the Act. Here, we are taking power for providing for the main thing, and that is in order to remove any difficulty in working the provisions of this Act. Therefore, to bring in the cry of Nazism and Fascism is, Sir, to use words which are unnecessary for this occasion. Strong words break no bone.

"Then hon. Friend, Mr. N. S. Varadachari, has given some useful advice which I say, we shall certainly consider. For example, one of the things he said was that the process of granting permits should be speeded up. I am fully conscious of the fact that there is often undue delay. We shall frame rules so that there is no undue delay and there is no harassment and that in regard to the grant of permits, the advice of Forest Officers should be taken. I assured hon. Members in the Select Committee that this will be done because the District Forest Officers are the proper authorities competent to advise on such matters.

"The other suggestion of my hon. Friend, Mr. Varadachari, with regard to working plans—that also is a very useful suggestion—will be considered.

"He made the suggestion that forests may be acquired. I may tell him, as I said under the Forest Demand, we have under consideration to revise the whole policy in regard to forests which will be taken up as soon as our pre-occupation with the Budget is over, particularly in view of the report of Mr. Sathe, and in the amending measure, we hope to bring we shall consider his suggestions in regard to the acquisition of private forests and other important things. If we take the district of Malabar, it contained at one time some of the best forests which no longer exist to-day and this question of acquisition would be a useful proposal which we shall consider seriously when we take up the question. However much you may regulate the State could look after the forests much better. Then there is also the question of compensation and so on and the suggestion will be seriously considered including the suggestion of using the Tirupati forests. I am thankful to him for his valuable speech—I do not find him here; probably he seems to have gone away.

"Then with regard to the suggestion of my hon. Friend, Mr. P. Venkateswarlu, he has simply repeated the same arguments of retrospective effect from 1937 in regard to alienation of forests and so on. We cannot go much further than what we have done.

"Lastly, with regard to the fears of my hon. Friend, Mr. Munuswami Pillai, I can assure him that we have taken power by a special clause wherever we find it necessary, to regulate the exercise of the customary rights of the people. We have also made

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necessary provision here to see that people do not go and injure or denude the forests. Their legitimate rights are to be protected and for that we have taken powers to see that their rights are properly exercised. So, the measure as a whole, is an urgent measure and we shall deal with all the other things in great detail in the comprehensive measure that we are going to bring forward later in regard to the question of forests as a whole. In the meanwhile, I beg to ask for the support of the House to see that the Bill is passed."

The motion was put and carried.

Clause 1.

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I do not want to waste the time of the House by making a speech because all the important points were made clear by my hon. Friend, Begum Amiruddin and very good suggestions were made by hon. Friend Mr. N. S. Varadachari. At this late hour, I think it is wrong on my part to make a long speech on the amendment.

"Sir, my first amendment is this:—

'In clause 1, sub-clause (2) (ii), after the words "South Kanara" and before the word "having" the words "500 feet above mean sea-level" shall be inserted.'

My object in moving this amendment is this. In the Bill as it stands, the definition is so wide and so indefinite that I wish Government had not put it in there. There is a possibility of any place being declared a forest—I do say Government will not do it—all the same, when we pass a law, it must have some definiteness about it and those who deal with it must be satisfied that it is a statute which is self-sufficient and not dependent upon any other authority. The main object of this amendment is that there are so many forests at low levels out of which fuel is cut. I am sure it is not the policy of the Government now to stop cutting trees for the purpose of fuel and for this purpose, it is very necessary that an exemption should be made as it will be very difficult for people to get the permission of the authorities concerned—whether from the Government or from the Collector. This is a need felt very much not only in the localities in which such trees are cut for purposes of fuel but it is also required for other places also. Is it the idea that in areas which are below 500 feet there are trees which are not fit for fuel? I originally suggested, perhaps it was also proposed in the Select Committee that the height may be 1,000 feet but in order to see that no hardship is worked and the object of the Bill is achieved, I suggest 500 feet. I hope Government will consider the feasibility of accepting this amendment so that cutting of fuel may be facilitated and also there may be some reasonable definition for the word 'forest'.

"I shall move the other two amendments also in clause 1, sub-clause (2), namely:—

'In clause 1, sub-clause (2) (ii), after the word "situated" and before the words "in estates" the words "500 feet above mean sea-level" shall be inserted.'

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'In clause 1, sub-clause (2) (iii), after the words "private forests" and before the words "situated in other areas" the words "500 feet above mean sea-level" shall be inserted.'

K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second the amendment, Sir."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I submit that the Government are not in a position to accept the amendments for the reason that originally when the provision was brought in, there was no limit of extent but in order to see the small forests used for fuel were not affected we put in this limit of hundred acres. Further this theory that there are fuel forests below 500 feet sea-level is not correct. I have got intimate knowledge of my own district where many a reserve forest and some of them of the heaviest forests are under 500 feet sea-level and the conditions in Malabar will not be any different. Therefore, to make a distinction will not help anybody, but on the other hand, will be unworkable. Further before you lay prosecutions for cutting at every place you have to see what is the sea-level. There are two districts where rainfall is over 100 inches and heavy forests exist below 500 feet. Therefore this limit is not a proper one."

The amendments were put and lost.

Clause 1 (2) (iii).

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I move, Sir—

'That in clause 1 (2) (iii), in line 3, after the words "this Act", the words "by notification in the Fort St. George Gazette" shall be inserted.'

"It is by mistake these words were left out. I submit that this is only a verbal amendment."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 1 as amended was put and carried.

Clause (2) (a).

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, my amendment to clause 2 (a) is as follows:—

'In clause 2 (a), after the words "any other class of land" and before the word "declared" the words "500 feet above mean sea-level" shall be inserted.'

"The object of this is to make the definition of 'forest' more intelligible and more definite. It is of course consistent with what I have proposed in the previous amendments. As it is, I have already stated that the definition of 'forests' does not seem to look like that of a legal definition. It seems to be a definition which depends on the will and pleasure of the Government. Of course that will and pleasure may perhaps be much better defined. In order to give some better and definite shape to the clause, I am moving this amendment."

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K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second it, Sir."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Sir, while there was something which can be said in regard to forests in Malabar in respect of the 500 feet rule, if this amendment is accepted, there will be no forests left in the Estates Land Act areas if this rule is applied. So, I oppose the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 2 was put and carried.

Clause 3.

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I move the amendments standing in my name in respect of the various sub-clauses of clause 3 together to facilitate discussion:—

Clause 3.

'In clause 3, sub-clause (1) (a) and (b) shall be deleted, sub-clause (2) shall be renumbered as sub-clause (1), sub-clause (3) as sub-clause (2) and the words "or subsection (2)" in clause 3, sub-clause (3) shall be deleted.'

Clause 3 (1) (a).

'In clause 3, sub-clause (1) (a), for the words "District Collector," the words "District Forest Officer" shall be substituted.'

Clause 3 (2).

'In clause 3, sub-clause (2), for the words "District Collector," the words "District Forest Officer" shall be substituted.'

Clause 3 (2), proviso.

'In the Proviso to clause 3, sub-clause (2), after the words "fallen trees" and before the words "or to any act done" the words "or trees cut before the commencement of this Act" shall be inserted.'

Clause 3 (2).

'In clause 3, sub-clause (2), delete the words "without the previous permission of the District Collector" and after the words "cut trees" and before the words "or do any act" the words "described in the schedule below" shall be inserted.'

'In clause 3, sub-clause (2), the words "or do any act likely to denude the forest or diminish its utility as a forest" shall be deleted.'

'In the proviso to clause 3, sub-clause (2), after the word "domestic" and before the word "purposes" the words "or agricultural" shall be inserted and after the word "customary" and before the word "domestic" the word "or" shall be inserted.'

'In the proviso to clause 3, sub-clause (2), after the words "domestic or agricultural purposes" as amended by the

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previous amendment and before the words "or for making agricultural implements" the words "or for the purposes of rubber, tea, coffee, cashew and orange plantations" shall be inserted.

Before the proviso to clause 3, sub-clause (2), the following proviso shall be added:—

"Provided that the District Collector shall ordinarily pass an order on any application for such permission within a fortnight of the receipt thereof."

"Sir, in the first place, I am yet to understand what was the real purpose of the Government in having this clause interfering with the inherent rights of the owners of these forests from selling, mortgaging, leasing or otherwise alienating them. I thought the object of the Government to be achieved by this Bill was to prevent them from cutting away trees and thereby denuding the forests and making the forests valueless and that was, I thought, the object. I think it is a great hardship to prevent people from dealing with their own forests in achieving this object. Whether the forest is in the possession of owner, lessee or mortgagee or anybody claiming under the owner or even 'any other person' as in the amended section is prohibited from cutting trees, but I do not see any reason why Government should prevent people from either alienating, mortgaging or even leasing their property. All kinds of people are subjected to the provisions of this Act. After all what is intended is to prevent cutting of trees. I agree. But in order to achieve this object, why should owners be prevented from exercising their inherent rights? Unless it is necessary for carrying out the objects of this Bill, why such a provision is required, I fail to understand. At any rate, whatever may be the purpose, so far as the forest coming under Estates Land Act area or in other parts of the eastern portion of this Province are concerned—so far as Malabar is concerned, there is no complication, I do not think there is any complication in South Kanara also—all kinds of people are subjected to the punishment and they apply to one and all. At the same time, this provision unnecessarily hampers people from exercising their rights. There may be people whose main property is forest. How can they live? There may be some good demand for a forest and they ought to forego it. It may be they require money for various other purposes for carrying on, for example, industries or for any other business or for domestic purposes, even then, they should not be mortgaged or even leased. Of course, the question of what will happen as regards the rights as between the lessor and the lessee is a different matter; let them settle it between themselves, as to leases that have already taken place, but the prohibition is for the cutting of trees. There are also very many other products coming out of these forests. At least for this purpose, they can be leased but cutting may be prohibited. I understand one of the objections is there is the possibility of people dividing big areas into small lands. That objection came up in the Select

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Committee. That could not have been the object when the original Bill was drafted. I do not see why this clause is put in this Bill. In fact, I would appeal to Government to delete that clause unless it is absolutely necessary for carrying out the purpose of this Bill. That is in regard to the first part of my amendment."

K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I second it, Sir."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The other amendments are consequential. The substantial portion of my amendment is to substitute the words 'District Forest Officer' for the words 'District Collector'. Now, Sir, my main object in moving this amendment is this. So far as this permission is concerned, it must be sought from a person who knows what forest is and knows what are the conditions for which the permit is required. You cannot expect the District Collector to know all these things. Here is an officer who knows everything about forests and why go to the Collector and it is also said that the Collector will have to seek the advice of the District Forest Officer. Then why this double-method? When there are District Forest Officers in every district, can they not deal with this matter, whether this permission can or cannot be granted? He is a person who is conversant with things in his department. Of course, he is going to advise the Collector and if it is so, why should he not straightway issue orders, instead of the orders being issued by the Collector? Another reason why I have suggested this amendment is that, if the power is given to the Collector, he will certainly send the paper to the District Forest Officer and then it goes to the Ranger and so on. So much of delay will be caused. If timber is required for industrial or domestic purposes and permission is sought, there is not much good the papers going round and delay is caused if the usual red tapism is followed. I do not see any reason to subject people to this kind of difficulty. I would request Government to tell me if they do not have sufficient confidence in their own district officers, in this case the officer in charge of the department of forests. There is the other point also. The District Collector has innumerable functions already and it will not be advisable to burden him with one more item of work. I request the Hon. Minister for Revenue to give very serious consideration to this matter and consider the advisability of entrusting the District Forest Officer with this duty. After all, no harm will be caused; if he goes wrong, Government can correct him. What I have said refers to the substitution of the words 'District Forest Officer' both in sub-clauses (1) and (2).

"I have also another amendment to clause 3 (3)—

"In the proviso to clause 3, sub-clause (2), after the words "fallen trees" and before the words "or to any act done" the words "or trees cut before the commencement of this Act" shall be inserted."

So many trees would have been cut before the commencement of this Act and they would have been allowed to lie in forests. I do

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not see why any specific mention regarding them should not be made in the Bill itself. The fallen trees are in the forests and there is some chance, even as the clause is worded, to say that the proviso does not apply to such cases. It might be given a different meaning and things have to be made clear. Government must on no account prevent the removal of trees already cut and which are there. Strict instructions may be given even now before the Act comes into force to the District Forest Officer that the removal of such trees should not be prevented. They have been allowed to remain there for some time for difficulties of transport and various other reasons. I am sure Government do not intend that the Bill covers trees which have been already cut. Those people that were responsible for it cannot be punished nor can the removal of the trees be prevented. I do not think there will be any difficulty in giving orders based on my suggestions.

"Another amendment refers to sub-clause (2) and it is—

'In clause 3, sub-clause (2), delete the words "without the previous permission of the District Collector" and after the words "cut trees" and before the words "or do any act" the words "described in the schedule below" shall be inserted.'

The object of the amendment is to make the Bill self-sufficient and clear in itself instead of depending upon the discretion of any officer for giving effect to the provisions of the Bill. No doubt Government say that they will be making definite rules in order to provide for the kind of trees prohibited from being cut, the quality of the trees and under what circumstances they might be cut. The amendment will not in any way affect it for the reason that whatever that the Government intend to provide by rule, would be incorporated in the schedule. The object is that immature trees should not be cut. If it is so, there is no difficulty in mentioning it in the schedule itself, instead of making rules for it. I do not know whether Government have any further object in view; if so, it may be made definite and clear. I am not clear in my mind why there should be any hesitation for Government to accept this amendment.

"The next amendment is—

'For the same sub-clause, I mean, sub-clause (2) of clause 3, delete the words "or do any act likely to denude the forest or diminish its utility as a forest".'

"Sir, it is not at all advisable to put in such a weighty provision in the Bill and invest any officer with any discretion to penalise acts, the nature of which is not defined. People themselves do not know what will constitute denudation of forest or diminish its utility. I want to know what the acts are that will be contemplated by this. If any person does any act likely to denude the forests or diminish its utility, he is liable to punishment. In that case, is it not reasonable that people should know what are the acts which are likely to denude forests or diminish

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their utility, the doing of which will make them liable for imprisonment and fine? I do not see why such vague phrases should be put in the contravention of which is punishable. I would request Government to see the reasonableness of my amendment and accept it. I know the fate of my amendments but I do this because I have a duty to perform to you, to my constituents and I have to satisfy my conscience. I would appeal to Government to make this matter quite clear at least by way of rules so that when the Act and Rules are put together people may know where they stand.

"My next amendment is—

'In the proviso to clause 3, sub-clause (2), after the word "domestic" and before the word "purposes" the words "or agricultural" shall be inserted and after the word "customary" and before the word "domestic" the word "or" shall be inserted.'

By means of this amendment, Mr. Speaker, I am only trying to restore the clauses to its original shape, namely, as it was before it went to the Select Committee. Before it went to Select Committee, agricultural purposes were included. I fail to see why it was deleted. Anybody conversant with conditions in Malabar knows that the fugitive system of cultivation, the punam cultivation is carried on them. I understand that it yields about two lakhs of paras of paddy. If this provision were to be enforced, the result will be that nobody will touch these lands and the yield of paddy would be lost to the country; especially at the present acute food position in the country we should welcome production of food. People will be prohibited from carrying on punam cultivation and there will be a short supply of paddy to the extent of one or two lakhs of paras of paddy. I do not know if Government have bestowed their thought on this subject and have come to the conclusion that preservation of trees is much more important than the procurement of two lakhs of paras of paddy. I wish the Government know and realise the consequences of what they are doing. Fugitive cultivation is an important factor in the West Coast. If this Act were to be brought into force, the result will be that a person who wants to initiate punam cultivation will have to take the permission of the Collector and he cannot proceed unless the permission is granted and I do not know in how many months the permission applied for will be granted."

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Only for the cutting of trees and other acts contemplated in sub-clause (2), the permission of Collector is necessary."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My hon. Friend must know that not only trees, but also shrubs have to be cleared and forests include shrubs also. In addition there is the provision 'any act likely to denude the forest'. Under that compendious term, even the ordinary agriculturist can be roped in for penalty for merely cutting some shrubs or picking dry dung from forests. It can be argued that the utility of the forests will be

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diminished by such acts. I know nothing would come out of my amendments; my intention is only to apprise Government of my ideas on the question so that they may bestow their thought on them and come to a conclusion whether the preservation of shrubs is more necessary than procurement of paddy.

7 p.m. "The next amendment is this—

'In the proviso to clause 3, sub-clause (2), after the words "domestic or agricultural purposes" as amended by the previous amendment and before the words "or for making agricultural implements" the words "or for the purposes of rubber, tea, coffee, cashew and orange plantations" shall be substituted.'

These plantations are usually be raised in those forest areas, and if this amendment is not accepted all those things will come to a standstill. These are plantations that are going on in those areas, and I have suggested this amendment on the analogy of the provision in the original Bill. The original Bill exempted the cutting of trees for agricultural purposes. If that is to be exempted for agricultural purposes, I am yet to be enlightened why it was omitted here. These plantations come under the same category. There are large areas in which rubber, tea, coffee, cashew and orange are grown. I have suggested this amendment in order that the cultivation of plantations in those areas may be facilitated.

"The last part of my amendment to this clause is this—

'Before the proviso to clause 3, sub-clause (2), the following proviso shall be added:—

"Provided that the District Collector shall ordinarily pass an order on any application for such permission within a fortnight of the receipt thereof."

"I am fully aware that it is rather a difficult task for the Collector to dispose of applications expeditiously. In this case, the Collector has to send it to the Forest Officer, Ranger, and all this circuitous procedure has to be resorted to. When it is to be done by the District Forest Officer, these cases will be expedited."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am unable to accept any of the amendments, but I will give reasons why they are not accepted. I shall be very brief in giving reasons. Reasons have been advanced in favour of the amendments, and I ought to reply to them, but without taking much time. The deletion of sub-clauses (1) (a) and (b) will defeat the very purpose of this Bill. It is necessary, Sir, to exercise control over sale, lease, mortgage and alienation. The idea is that the owners of forests should not be left to deal with them as they like. The idea that forests can be dealt with apart from the agricultural lands, that there is nothing in them which concerns the prosperity of the people of Malabar as whole, must be given up. These forests are not the exclusive property of the few private landholders and they should

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not be allowed to cut away forests producing timber and maximum money within the shortest time. They are the property to be enjoyed by the ryots both now and in the future. What I say is that the cutting of trees and alienation should be regulated in a proper manner in Malabar and South Kanara districts. With regard to other areas, of course, the alienation should be prohibited in the manner which has been thought best.

"Then, Sir, the point that District Forest Officer should be substituted for District Collector should not have been urged at all. In the Select Committee which contained two hon. Members from Malabar, there was not one who accepted the suggestion to put District Forest Officer in the place of District Collector, and that too for a good reason, because the utility of a forest, with reference to the cultivation needs of ryots of the place, would be better known to the District Collector than a Forest Officer who will think only of the problems of cutting and replanting and nothing more, just as a timber merchant thinks only of the industry and not at all of the future prosperity of the ryots. I would request my hon. Friends of Malabar to take a broad human view, because the district of Malabar is very insufficient in food supplies, and all other surplus districts have to send food supplies to Malabar. Therefore, they must look after their future themselves, and should not allow jaimis and others to do away with the forests and make money within the shortest time possible. I do say that rubber plantation must be protected, but only with due regard to the future of the district as a whole.

"With regard to the omission of 'agricultural purposes' was an omission made by Mr. Khader Kutty from Malabar. He made the position clearer that if agricultural purposes were exempted, hundreds of acres will be given for rubber plantations without anybody knowing it. It was on that suggestion that it was altered to 'customary domestic purposes or for making agricultural implements' and it was also to see that owners of forests would not convert forests into rubber plantations. These plantations are to be raised in places below 500 or 1,000 feet above mean sea-level. It is also not total prohibition that will be made. What will be done is that permission will be regulated, and the owners of forests will not be allowed to take things into their own hands. What is sought to do is not a total prohibition but only regulation.

"This answers my hon. Friend's other objection that for timber plantation operations there should be no control at all. That is a thing which cannot be agreed to. Last of all he said that there should be a time-limit for the grant of permission. While I appreciate the opposition that there should not be undue delay, I can tell the hon. Member that powers will be taken to see that proper rules are framed, and that there is no unnecessary harassment. Lastly, there is an amendment which my hon. Friend has prepared, namely, a list of 17 trees which he thinks should be incorporated in the Bill. It will be much better to leave it to be covered by the rules rather than put it in the Act. Even here I hope, my hon. Friend will see the wisdom of the Government in being unable to accept any of his amendments."

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The amendments were put and lost.

Clause 3 was put and carried.

Clause 4 was put and carried.

Clause 5 was put and carried.

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" My amendment to clause 6 is—

' Clause 6 shall be omitted '.

" This again is one of the instances in which wide powers are taken by the Government by a notification. Apart from that I may just point out to my hon. Friend that there is a redundancy. There is an actual redundant clause 3 (2) that no one shall do any act likely to denude the forest or diminish its utility as a forest.

" Here again there is ' If in the opinion of the Provincial . . . detrimental to the preservation of such forests.' I submit, Sir, it is rather redundant. I do not want the same thing should be in both the places. When the Bill is passed into Law, people should not have room to feel that sufficient thought has not been bestowed by this House. If there is a redundant clause, I do not think it looks very well. This clause is there already in the Act itself, and there is no need why Government wants power by notification to ' prohibit . . . forests.' Government should not take wide powers."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I oppose this amendment. It is found necessary to ' prohibit or regulate the doing . . . forests ' other than those which are already mentioned there. It is for that purpose that power has been taken. It is not a redundancy, and with regard to clause (ii) for instance to regulate the exercise of customary or prescriptive rights, that clause cannot certainly be called redundant."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 6 was put and carried.

Clause 7.

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" The amendment is—

' In clause 7, sub-clause (1), the words " or sub-section (2) " in line 2 shall be omitted.

' In clause 7, sub-clause (1), the words " or any of the terms of the notification under section 6 " shall be deleted.'

" This is only a consequential amendment. I am not moving it."

Clause 7 (1).

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" I move—

' that after the word " punishable with " and the word " imprisonment " insert the word " simple " . "

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* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I beg to oppose the amendment, as it will almost be taken as an insult by the person who commits the offence."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 7 was put and carried.

Clause 8 was put and carried.

Clause 9.

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" I move—

' Clause 9 shall be omitted.'

This is a section under which the Government want protection even from going to courts. I do not want the Government to be afraid of courts. If there is any question as to whether this House has power to pass this Law or any section in it, I do not know why the Government should prevent people from going to court. They can very well trust their courts. If anyone goes to the court unreasonably, he will be driven out. So I would request the Government not to create an impression that even the Government in their own measure declare that they have lost faith in the courts."

K. M. Seethi Sahib Bahadur seconded the amendment.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I am unable to accept the amendment. But I have got faith in the courts. If every order and notification under this legislation should be questioned in a court of law, matters will be held up. It is for that reason we are unable to accept the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 9 was put and carried.

Clause 10.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" I move—

' in sub-clause (1), in line 2, for the word " purpose ", the word " purposes " shall be substituted.'

This is a verbal amendment to rectify a mistake."

The amendment was put and carried.

Clause 10 as amended was put and carried.

Clause 11.

Clause 11 was put and carried.

Clause 12.

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" I move—

' that clause 12 shall be omitted.'

I do not want to take up any time of the House by saying anything on this amendment, because my silence will be much more eloquent than my speech. A reading of this clause is itself sufficient to condemn it. As Begum Mir Amiruddin has said enough, I do not want to waste the time of this House."

K. M. Seethi Sahib Bahadur seconded the amendment.

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* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I silently oppose the amendment."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 12 was put and carried.

Preamble.

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I move—

'that the words "and whereas it is necessary to make provision for certain other purposes also" shall be omitted.'

It is very very strange that the Government should in the preamble say that we want to make provision in this Bill for certain other purposes also without giving any indication either in the Bill or in the preamble as to what those other purposes are. These are extraordinary methods which the Government should refrain from resorting to. It is very vague and it does not speak creditably on the part of this House to pass such a preamble."

K. M. Seethi Sahib Bahadur seconded the amendment.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I cannot accept this amendment. There is nothing unusual. In similar Acts, it is found that more than one purpose is mentioned. All of them are not brought forward in the preamble. Only one or two purposes are stated and 'certain other purposes also' is added. The other purposes cannot go beyond what are mentioned in the body of the Bill."

The amendment was put and lost.

The preamble was put and carried.

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I move—

'that the Bill be passed into law.'"

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I do not want to say anything as silence is golden."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

(3) THE MADRAS TENANTS AND RYOTS PROTECTION BILL AS
RETURNED FROM THE COUNCIL.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have already informed the House that a Bill has been received from the Upper House with certain verbal amendments. That Bill will be taken up now."

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Sir, I beg to move—
'That the amendment (shown in the annexure) which was made by the Legislative Council in the Madras Tenants and Ryots Protection Bill, 1946 (L.A. Bill No. 6 of 1946), as passed by the Legislative Assembly, be taken into consideration.'

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"ANNEXURE.

Clause 4.

For sub-clause (2), substitute the following sub-clause:—

(2) *Where in a suit for eviction there is also a claim for rent, the tenant shall, within two months from the date of the commencement of this Act, or the date of institution of the suit, as the case may be, deposit in court, for payment to the landlord—*

(i) *in the case of a suit instituted before the commencement of this Act, the arrears of rent accrued due until the date of the commencement of this Act, at the rate claimed in the plaint or an amount equivalent to rent for two years at the rate aforesaid, whichever is less,*

(ii) *in the case of a suit instituted on or after the commencement of this Act, the arrears of rent claimed in the plaint, or an amount equivalent to rent for two years at the rate claimed in the plaint, whichever is less, together with such interest as may be payable under law, custom or agreement".*

"The amendment has been passed in the other House at the instance of the Government. There was a slight omission to cover one set of cases. Whereas we have made provision for the payment of two years' rent or its equivalent in the case of decrees already passed and also suits to be filed hereafter an omission was made not to cover class of cases in which suits might have been filed two or three years ago and remain pending. There was no provision to cover such cases. This was brought to the notice of the Government so that all parties might get equal relief."

MR. B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, it is not correct to say that this is a verbal amendment. I do not propose to oppose this for the reason that the result will be the same. It would take some more time of the House. This amendment gives some more advantage to the landlord. Anyhow I do not think it is worth my while to say more than this or to oppose this."

The motion was put and carried.

The amendment was put and carried.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not necessary to put the Bill as amended to the vote of the House under rule 100. Before we disperse, the Hon. the Prime Minister wants to make an announcement regarding Khadi."

V.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. PREMIER RE KHADI.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, to-day a scheme relating to village industries has been circulated among the hon. Members of the House. Before this, a scheme for Khadi was announced. A little later I promised to furnish another scheme relating to other village industries. That other scheme relating to

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village industries has been printed, made ready and distributed among the hon. Members of the House. This is done to enable them to understand the object of preparing the schemes incorporating the suggestions that were made from time to time as they are made ready, and also to enable them to understand why a big sum of three crores for cottage industries and for food development was asked for and why it was earmarked. The scheme that is presented to-day will enable every one of the Members to understand what the position in the country is, how the development of village industries is proposed to be made and how the provision made in the budget is proposed to be spent as we proceed with the work. I have given a note in the first two pages. I do not propose to read it to save time. It would be enough if I say that villages in the country which were once flourishing with their own cottage industries have become practically ruined now. Even for little things, which they could have been making for themselves provided facilities had been afforded, the villagers have been compelled to go to towns and make purchases. In that way every one of the hon. Members will certify to the fact that the villages to-day are not what they were in olden times. To restore old cottage industries and to introduce new industries which had not existed there: that is the object of this scheme. The details are given. Every detail has been mentioned in the outline, as the hon. Members can understand. They can picture to themselves, if these industries could be introduced into the villages and worked, in what condition they would be a year or two later, if not earlier.

“As regards Khadi, a scheme had been placed before the hon. Members of the House. The same scheme had been sent up to the All-India Spinners Association General Secretary Krishnadas Jaju and through him it was sent up to Mahatma Gandhi and they have given advice and instructions. Khadi department is one which has been exclusively under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. He has been an expert in Khaddar and the Khadi department. Long ago in the past when there was a conflict between those leaders who did not agree with Gandhiji's programme, the late C. R. Das and Pandit Motilal Nehru joined issue with Mahatma Gandhi on the question of his programme. A decision was taken in the Belgaum Congress. No doubt it was a decision in favour of Mahatma Gandhi, but the majority was not sufficiently big. He said that he would leave the Congress leadership in the hands of Pandit Motilal Nehru and C. R. Das so that they might carry on the programme through Council entry. In those days the difference between the two wings of the Congress was on the question whether Gandhiji's programme was the best one to secure freedom and consolidate the nation. There was what was known as the no-changers section. Pro-changers were C. R. Das and Pandit Motilal Nehru whose view was 'This programme will not secure freedom. We must enter councils. Through councils, we will get Swaraj.' That was the issue. On that issue, the Belgaum Congress decided no doubt in favour of Mahatma Gandhi, but Gandhiji said: 'No, this majority is not enough for me. I shall hand over the leadership to these two friends who have faith in council entry.' It was left in their hands. At that time it was that Mahatma Gandhi said:

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'I shall separate this Khadi department.' He started this All-India Spinners' Association before that, and he was conducting the business. He said: 'I will hand over the leadership for the political struggle into their hands and I will separate this Khadi department which should be a non-political organization. It should not have anything to do with politics, because Khadi is intended not only for orthodox Congressmen but it was intended for all the peoples living in the land who have to live by getting their food and by having their cloth.' Therefore he considered that the Khadi department should stand separate. He has made it an organization and that organization has been functioning. Gandhiji re-entered Congress politics direct only when it was found out that C. R. Das, my old friend, died and it was left to Motilal Nehru who found out how deceived he was in thinking that council entry or work through the councils at that stage would not help. Therefore he requested Mahatma Gandhi: 'For heaven's sake, come to our rescue. We shall leave these councils. Please take up office.' Then it was that the great Salt Satyagraha movement came in and since then the Congress has been under one leadership, old differences having died down. He has been an expert. That is the previous history of this Khadi department. Therefore, Sir, although we have started the scheme here, some of us have been in the movement from the beginning up to date. We have started the movement here. Because we have got this big office, we thought we should not lose much time and we have been spending our time in this direction. We sent up a scheme to them and they have proposed some modifications in regard to Khaddar proper and with regard to other cottage industries, they have given their approval and have said that the whole of this village industries scheme other than Khadi placed in the hands of the hon. Members might go on as we prepared the scheme ourselves. Therefore I will submit to the hon. Members of this House and to the country outside that, so far as development of village reconstruction is concerned, all the cottage industries enumerated in this scheme would be carried on in all the 24 districts in the areas originally marked out by us. So far as Khaddar is concerned, the opinion of Mahatma Gandhi and his adviser who is one of the greatest experts Mr. Krishnadas Jaju is: 'don't try to develop all the firkas in all the 24 districts at one stage; you better limit your jurisdiction to three districts in Andhra, three districts in Tamil Nad, one in Kerala and one in South Kanara.' While doing so, we were given a direction that the area might be limited to a population of 50,000. According to our original scheme, a firka on an average was estimated to cover 20 to 25 thousand people. Nearly double that area is given. But the instruction is given that this might be confined to three districts in Andhra, three in Tamil Nad, one in Malabar and one in South Kanara. Very wholesome advice has been given by the founder of this Khadi department and by the expert in this line. We sought for their advice and they have given us their advice. The Government accepted the advice and we would like to carry out Khaddar work on the lines advised by the founder and his Secretary. As regards this, we have got experts who will give you within a short

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time the whole of this scheme, which is a rather big scheme covering not one item or two items. The shoe-maker in the village will not be the old shoe-maker. He will be able to produce articles which can be purchased only in some shops and imported from foreign places or manufactured in the Arts College or in some other place paying heavy cost. Under this scheme, villagers will be able to produce shoes of the finest type. The carpentry work would be of a different type altogether. In every respect, villagers will become better equipped not only to earn their livelihood. These industries are expected to improve the food problem, because agriculture has become a losing item. Because the old cottage industries disappeared, the agriculturists have become poor and they have not been able to meet their ordinary taxation. Therefore it is with that object that this attempt is being made.

"I must only thank the hon. Members of this House. Whatever opposition was given, it was not given out of any bad spirit. What they felt at every stage they said, and we have been benefited by the criticism. We have not become losers on that account and if this scheme to-day becomes possible, it is because the hon. Members of the House have given their unstinted support to the scheme. Not only in this Khadi scheme, but in every other respect throughout this session the hon. Members of this House have proved themselves to be thoroughly competent to cope with any situation under any difficult circumstances. I should say one should feel proud of the record of work done in this House during the last two months ever since the session began and I cannot flatter you, Sir (turning to the Hon. Speaker), for the way in which you have been conducting the business. We cannot thank you too much. You have managed it so well that the country stands indebted to you for all that you have done."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Before we disperse, I wish to thank the Hon. Premier for the kind words he has said of me. I adjourn the House *sine die*."

The House then adjourned *sine die*

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 210 asked by Sri A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 11th September 1946, page 1580 supra.]

FILARIA.

1. Filariasis is most prevalent in the coastal areas of Vizagapatam, West Godavari, Chingleput, Tanjore and Malabar. Among specially endemic areas, the following may be mentioned:—

Vizianagram in Vizagapatam district.

Palacole in West Godavari district.

Conjeeveram in Chingleput district.

Negapatam in Tanjore district.

British Cochin in Malabar district.

In Madras, the incidence varies in different areas of the City, Saidapet, Mambalam, Perambur showing the highest incidence. In other districts such as East Godavari, North Arcot, Chittoor, mild prevalence in certain localized areas occurs.

2. *Measures for prevention*.—(a) Filariasis is mainly a question of faulty drainage, breeding of mosquitoes and presence of infected persons. The main measure is the reduction of the breeding of culex mosquitoes which convey the disease. Anti-mosquito measures such as oiling and spraying undertaken in various endemic areas like Chicacole, Vizagapatam, Palacole, Conjeeveram, Kumbakonam have produced noticeable results.

(b) Local measures to deal with the drainage are now adopted by filling in stagnant water-pools, regular cess-pool service, filter-pits or trenches, cleaning kutchra drains and constructing pucca ones where possible. Drainage schemes on a priority basis have been recommended for the chief endemic centres on the score of filariasis.

(c) Propaganda by the health staff on the causation and prevention of filarial infection is undertaken as a routine measure in all endemic centres. Personal protection by the use of mosquito nets is an effective measure for the prevention of filaria.

3. *Research*.—A certain amount of research on some aspects of filaria, other than treatment, has been carried out by the Madras Public Health Department. The development of micro-filaria in the body of the mosquito *Culex fatigans*, its survival outside the mosquito in tank and tap water, the relation between mosquito infection rate and human infection rate, relation between manifestation of diseases and infection and seasonal prevalence of mosquitoes were the problems investigated by the department. Dr. T. Bhaskara Menon, Principal, Andhra Medical College, did research work on the development and transmission of filaria in lizards. Research on filariasis is conducted in the School of Tropical Medicine, Calcutta.

[11th September 1946]

4. The following drugs have been tried for the prevention of the diseases with the effects described under each:—

(1) *Anthiomaline*.—A lithium antimony compound supplied by May and Baker, London. This compound was found to be beneficial in controlling attacks of acute lymphangitis of filarial origin. It had no lethal effect on the parasite.

(2) *Stibatin (Glaxo)*.—A pentavalent compound of antimony of low toxicity. No lethal effect on the parasite could be seen after a full course of treatment recommended by the makers.

(3) *Mopharside*.—An arsenical preparation used as an anti-spyhilitic. The drug did not appear to have any lethal effect on the parasite.

(4) *Filarson*—(*Poly Clinic Laboratory*).—Reported to be a combination of arsenic salt in solution with emulsions of killed T.A.B. and Streptococcal organisms.

“Although the compound showed no lethal effect on the parasite, it appeared to improve the general tone of the patients, thus helping them to overcome the susceptibility to attacks of lymphangitis.”

5. *Mist. Calotropis Co.*—Obtained from *Calotropic gigantea*. No effect on the disease.

6. *Penicillin*.—Similarly had absolutely no effect on filariasis.

7. *Neestal (Burroughs Welcome)*.—Experimental work was done with ‘*Neestal*’ in cotton rats. Both adults and larvæ are reported to have been killed.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 57 asked by Sri S. Nagappa at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 11th September 1946, page 1595 supra.]

Statement showing the number of Deputy Collectors in the Revenue Department belonging to the depressed classes rank-war and district-war.

Number of Deputy Collectors.	Post now held.	District.	Rank.
1	Treasury Deputy Collector	Ouddapah ..	Permanent Deputy Collector.
1	Special Assistant to the Collector	Madura ..	Do.
1	City Rationing Officer	Madras ..	Do.
1	Special Officer, Colliery Labour	Deccan ..	Do.
1	Revenue Divisional Officer, Chandragiri ..	Chittoor ..	Do.
1	Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Labour.	Madras ..	Do.
1	Revenue Divisional Officer, Bhimavaram ..	West Godavari ..	Approved Probationer.
1	Revenue Divisional Officer, Mangalore ..	South Kanara ..	Do.
1	On leave		Do.
2	Do.		Permanent Deputy Collector.
1	Deputation in United Kingdom for training.		Do.

11th September 1946]

APPENDIX III.

[Vide item IV (2) on page 1614 supra.]

To

THE HONOURABLE THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
MADRAS.

The SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to consider the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Bill (L.A. Bill No. 7 of 1946), has the honour to make the following report.

2. The Bill was published in an Extraordinary issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette* in English on the 29th August 1946.

3. The Committee was appointed on the 7th September 1946 with the instruction that a report be presented to the House on 10th September 1946.

4. The Committee met in the Committee Room, Fort George, on Monday, the 9th September 1946, both in the forenoon and in the afternoon and considered the provisions of the Bill and submit the following report.

5. The following are the more important changes made by the Committee:—

Clause 1, sub-clause (2).

It was thought expedient to exempt the private forests in districts of Malabar and South Kanara having a contiguous area exceeding 100 acres from the operation of this Bill. Then again it was considered necessary to bring in private forests situated areas other than the estates as defined under the Madras Estimation of Land Act and having a contiguous area exceeding 100 acres. It was also thought necessary to specifically exempt the reserved forests constituted under the Madras Forests Act from the operation of this Bill. Therefore the sub-clause was amended incorporating the above decisions of the Select Committee.

Clause 2 (a).

The definition of ‘forest’ was amended so as to include communal land also.

A new sub-clause (c) defining the term ‘person’ was added.

Clause 3.

The Committee felt it might be advisable to prescribe the District Collector as the authority competent to grant sanction referred to in sub-clause (3) (1) (a) and the permission referred to in clause 3 (2).

New clause 4.

A new clause 4 was introduced in order to provide an appeal from the District Collector to the Provincial Government.

New clause 6.

It was thought necessary to introduce a new clause clarifying the powers given to the Provincial Government for prohibiting regulating certain acts.

[11th September 1946]

New clause 7.

The Committee considered this clause at length and arrived at the conclusion that it was not necessary to prescribe a separate and lesser punishment for the first offence for the reason that the first offence might be of such a serious nature as to deserve a deterrent punishment.

New clause 8.

A new clause 8 was introduced in order to prevent sanctions for frivolous prosecutions by subordinate officers. The clause prescribes the District Collector as the proper authority to sanction prosecutions.

New clause 9.

A new clause 9 was put in in order to see that no order of the Provincial Government or the District Collector under this Act and no notification issued by the Provincial Government under section 6 shall be liable to be questioned in any court of law. This was done with a view to avoid unnecessary litigation.

New clause 10.

The Select Committee thought it was advisable to insert a separate clause empowering the Government to make rules affecting certain matters.

New clause 12.

A new clause 12 was introduced in order to enable the Provincial Government to remove or remedy any unforeseen or minor difficulties that may arise in giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

The Select Committee considers that in view of the few amendments effected by it, it is not necessary to republish the Bill.

A copy of the Bill as amended by the Select Committee is annexed.

K. R. KARANTH,
Chairman.

9th September 1946.

ANNEXURE.

[Note.—The changes made by the Select Committee are shown in clarendon type and the portions omitted are shown by dots.]

L.A. BILL No. 7 OF 1946.

A Bill to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of private forests and interference with customary and prescriptive rights therein and for certain other purposes.

WHEREAS it is necessary, pending further legislation, to prevent the indiscriminate destruction of private forests and interference with customary and prescriptive rights therein;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to make provision for certain other purposes also;

It is hereby enacted as follows :—

Short title, application, commencement and duration.

1. (1) This Act may be called the Madras Preservation of Private Forests Act, 1946.

[11th September 1946]

(2) It applies—

(i) to private forests in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara having a contiguous area exceeding 100 acres and owned by a single person or by more than one person jointly;

(ii) to forests situated in estates as defined in the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908, in the Province of Madras; Madras Act I of 1908.

(iii) to private forests situated in other areas in the Province of Madras and having a contiguous area exceeding 100 acres which may be declared by the Provincial Government to be forests for the purposes of this Act,

but does not apply to reserved forests constituted under the Madras Forest Act, 1882, and lands at the disposal of the Government as defined in that Act. Madras Act V of 1882.

(3) It shall come into force at once.

(4) It shall remain in force for a period of two years, but the Provincial Government may, from time to time, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, extend this period by a further period or periods not exceeding two years in the aggregate if, in the opinion of the Provincial Government, it is expedient so to do.

2. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

Definitions

(a) 'forest' includes waste or communal land containing trees and shrubs, pasture land and any other class of land declared by the Provincial Government to be a forest by notification in the "*Fort St. George Gazette*."

Explanation.—For the purposes of this clause, 'communal land' means any land of the description mentioned in sub-clause (a) or sub-clause (b) of clause (16) of section 3 of the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908. Madras Act I of 1908.

(b) 'owner' in relation to a forest includes a mortgagee, lessee or other person having right to possession and enjoyment of the forest.

(c) 'person' includes a Hindu undivided family, a Marumakkattayam tarwad or tavazhi and an Aliyasantana family or branch.

3. (1) (a) No owner of any forest shall, without the previous sanction of the District Collector sell, mortgage, lease or otherwise alienate the whole or any portion of the forest.

Explanation.—Nothing in this sub-section shall be construed as preventing the owner from selling or otherwise dealing with the right to gather and remove forest produce other than trees and timber in the usual or customary manner, for a period not exceeding two years.

(b) Any alienation made on or after the 16th August 1946 in contravention of clause (a) shall be null and void.

(2) No owner of any forest or any person claiming under him, whether by virtue of a contract, licence or any other transaction entered into before or after the commencement of this Act or any other person shall, without the previous permission of the District Collector cut trees or do any act likely to denude the forest or diminish its utility as a forest:

Provided that nothing contained in this sub-section shall apply to the removal of dead or fallen trees or to any act done for the usual or customary domestic purposes or for making agricultural implements.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or sub-section (2), the Provincial Government may exempt any forest or class of forests or class of trees therein from all or any of the provisions of this section.

4. Any person aggrieved by an order under clause (a) of sub-section (1) of section 3 or under sub-section (2) of that section in regard to the sanction or permission referred to in that clause or sub-section may, within two months of the receipt of such order, prefer an appeal in writing to the Provincial Government. The Provincial Government shall pass such orders on the appeal as they may think fit.

Appeals.

[11th September 1946]

5. (1) All suits, proceedings in execution of decrees or orders and other proceedings including proceedings by way of appeal or revision, in which a claim to customary or prescriptive rights in a forest is involved and all criminal proceedings in respect of offences which are of the nature described in Chapter XVII of the Indian Penal Code and arise out of any act done in exercise or assertion of such customary or prescriptive rights and which are pending at the commencement of this Act or may be instituted thereafter shall stand stayed and shall not be proceeded with until after the expiration of this Act.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), the Provincial Government may direct that any suit or proceeding or class or classes thereof stayed under sub-section (1) shall be proceeded with from the stage which had been reached when the suit or proceeding was stayed.

6. If in the opinion of the Provincial Government it is necessary for the preservation of a forest or forests they may, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*—

(i) prohibit or regulate the doing of any act likely to be detrimental to the preservation of such forest or forests;

(ii) regulate the exercise of customary or prescriptive rights in such forest or forests.

7. (1) Whoever contravenes the provisions of sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 3 or any of the terms of a notification under section 6 shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine which may extend to five thousand rupees or with both.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in section 32 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898, it shall be lawful for any Magistrate of the first class specially empowered by the Provincial Government in this behalf to impose a sentence of fine exceeding one thousand rupees.

8. No prosecution shall be instituted against any person without the sanction of the District Collector.

9. No order of the Provincial Government or the District Collector under this Act and no notification issued by the Provincial Government under section 6 shall be liable to be questioned in any Court of law.

10. (1) The Provincial Government may make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

(2) Without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for—

(a) the classes or kinds of trees which may be permitted to be cut and the girth of such trees;

(b) the terms and conditions subject to which permissions may be granted;

(c) the procedure to be followed by the District Collector before granting permission.

11. All suits and proceedings stayed under this Act shall, after the expiration of this Act, be proceeded with, subject to the provisions of any law which may then be in force, from the stage which had been reached when the suit or proceeding was stayed.

12. If any difficulty arises in giving effect to this provisions of the Act, the Provincial Government may, as occasion may arise, by order do anything which appears to them necessary for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

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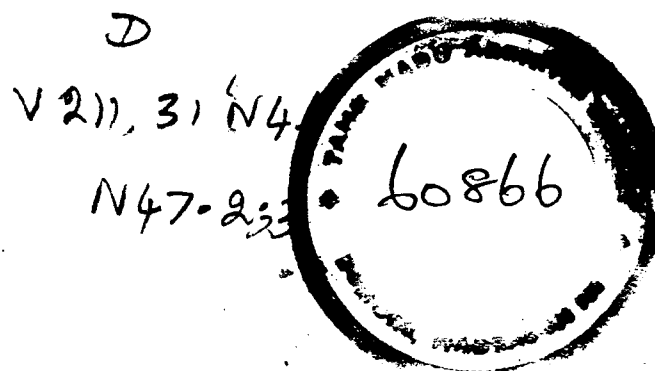
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PERSONNEL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.

GOVERNOR OF MADRAS.

HIS EXCELLENCY LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR ARCHIBALD EDWARD NYE, G.C.I.E., K.C.B., K.B.E., M.C.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND PORTFOLIOS.

- 1 THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM, B.A., AT-LAW, Prime Minister. Public, Police, Home, Finance, Planning, Food and Fire Services.
- 2 THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI, B.A. Public Health, Medicine, Fairs and Festivals and Miscellaneous (Public Health).
- 3 THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI, BAR.-AT-LAW. Industries, Labour, Electricity, Co-operation and Emigration.
- 4 THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM, B.A., B.L. Law Courts, Legislation, Courts and Prisons and Registration.
- 5 THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI, B.A., LL.B., BAR.-AT-LAW. Hindu Religious Endowments, Charitable Institutions, Excise and Debt Relief.
- 6 THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS, B.A., B.L. Local Administration, Roads in charge of local bodies and Tramways.
- 7 THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH, B.A., LL.B. Land Revenue and Commercial Taxes.
- 8 THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVAT-SALAM, B.A., B.L. Public Works (General), Irrigation, Highways and Important Roads other than those under the control of local bodies, inland waterways and minor ports.
- 9 THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA. Agriculture, Commerce and Trade Statistics, Marketing, Museums, Posts and Telegraphs, Banking, Insurance and Rural Indebtedness, Veterinary, Railways and Ropeways, Civil Aviation and Government Museum, The Ceded Districts Economic Development Board.
- 10 THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILIN-GAM, B.A., M.L. Education, Stationery, Record Office, Translators' Department, Archaeology, Epigraphy, Age and Nationality Certificate, Malabar Marriages Act, Libraries and Government Press.
- 11 THE HON. SRI V. KURMAYYA, B.A., LL.B. Public Information, Broadcasting and Harijan Uplift.
- 12 THE HON. SRI B. VEERASWAMY. Forests, Cinchona, Fisheries and Village Industries.
- 13 THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON. House Control, Motor Transport and Food.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS.

Speaker.

THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHUNMUKHAM PILLAI.

Deputy Speaker.

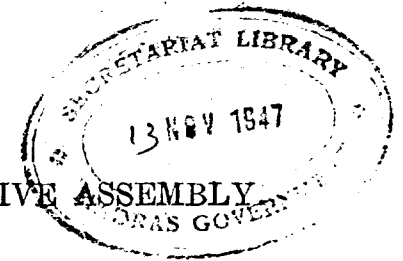
SRIMATHI C. AMMANNA RAJA.

Secretary to the Assembly.

SRI D. K. V. RAGHAVA VARMA, B.A., B.L.

Assistant Secretary to the Assembly.

SRI T. HANUMANTHAPPA, B.A. (Hons.), B.L.



THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

FIRST SESSION OF THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ACT, 1935.

Monday, the 22nd July 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—SWEARING IN OF MEMBERS.

The following members made the prescribed oath of allegiance to the Crown and took their seats:—

Sri Raja Rao Venkata Kumara	Reddivari Nadhamuni Reddi.
Mahipati Suryarao Bahadur	T. K. T. N. R. Tatachari.
(Maharaja of Pithapur).	M. Ebrahim Kunhi Sahib.

II.—ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

MR. SPEAKER:—"We meet here for a specific purpose, namely, to elect members to the Constituent Assembly. My friend Muhammad Ismail Sahib, the Leader of the Opposition, has given notice of a motion to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. As we are meeting for a definite purpose, I propose to rule it out of order."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know the purpose of the resolution?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not necessary that I should read the resolution now."

"Hon. Members are aware of the purpose for which we have met here today. My first duty is to formally communicate to the House the message of His Excellency the Governor, dated the 21st June 1946. The message reads as follows:—

'The (*) Statement by the Cabinet Delegation and His Excellency the Viceroy has already been communicated to you. In paragraph 21 of the statement His Excellency the Viceroy is charged forthwith to request the provincial Legislative Assemblies to proceed with the election of their quota to the constitution-making machinery which it is proposed to bring into being. The basis for Provincial representation is described in paragraph 19 of the statement. At the request and on behalf of His Excellency the Viceroy, I now ask you to proceed with the election of forty-nine representatives to the Constituent Assembly. Four of the representatives shall be Muslims.

ARCHIBALD NYE,
Governor of Madras.

[Mr. Speaker]

[22nd July 1946]

" Pursuant to this message nominations have been received for the election of representatives to the Constituent Assembly for the four Muslim seats and for the 45 general seats. The following four persons have been nominated for election to the Muslim seats:—

- (1) Abdul Sathar Haji Ishaq Sait, Haji.
- (2) Ahmed Ibrahim, K. T. M.
- (3) Mahboob Ali Baig.
- (4) Pocker Sahib, B.

As the number of nominations received is equal to the number of seats to be filled, namely, four, there will be no election as far as the Muslim section of the Assembly is concerned and I am to announce Messrs. Abdul Sathar Haji Ishaq Sait, Haji, K. T. M. Ahmed Ibrahim, Mahboob Ali Baig and B. Pocker Sahib will be declared duly elected.

" As regards the general seats, the following 53 candidates have been validly nominated for election to the Constituent Assembly:—

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 O. V. Alagesan, | 26 S. Nagappa. |
| 2 Mrs. Ammu Swaminathan. | 27 P. L. Narasimha Raju. |
| 3 M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar. | 28 C. Perumalswami Reddi. |
| 4 K. Chandramouli. | 29 The Hon. Sri T. Prakasam. |
| 5 Mrs. Dakshayani Velayudan. | 30 S. H. Prater. |
| 6 Rev. Jerome D'Souza, S.J. | 31 Raja of Bobbili. |
| 7 Mrs. G. Durgabai. | 32 C. Rajagopalachariar. |
| 8 B. Gopala Reddi. | 33 T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar. |
| 9 The Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir | 34 Ramanath Goenka. |
| N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar. | 35 O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar. |
| 10 D. Govinda Doss. | 36 N. G. Ranga. |
| 11 P. Kakkan. | 37 Mariadas Ruthnaswami. |
| 12 K. Kamaraja Nadar. | 38 N. Sanjeeva Reddi. |
| 13 V. C. Kesava Rao. | 39 K. Santhanam. |
| 14 T. T. Krishnamachari. | 40 B. Shiva Rao. |
| 15 Diwan Bahadur Sir Alladi Krishna- | 41 H. Sitarama Reddi. |
| swami Ayyar. | 42 Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. |
| 16 L. Krishnaswami Bharathi. | 43 Rao Bahadur N. Sivaraj. |
| 17 P. Kunhiraman. | 44 U. Srinivasa Mallaya. |
| 18 P. M. Lingesan. | 45 Dr. P. Subbarayan. |
| 19 K. Madhava Menon. | 46 U. C. Subrahmanya Bhatt. |
| 20 M. A. Manickavelu Naicker. | 47 C. Subrahmanyam. |
| 21 A. Masillamoney Pillai. | 48 Dr. V. Subrahmanyam. |
| 22 V. I. Muniswami Pillai. | 49 P. Sundarayya. |
| 23 Kumararaja Sir M. A. Muthiah | 50 M. C. Veerabahu. |
| Chettiyar. | 51 P. M. Velayudapani. |
| 24 S. Muthiah Mudaliyar. | 52 Kala Venkata Rao. |
| 25 V. Nadimuthu Pillai. | 53 T. J. M. Wilson. |

As the number of candidates nominated for filling the general seats exceeds the number of seats allotted, that part of the Legislative Assembly consisting of members other than Muslims shall elect its own representatives according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote. The members of the Assembly other than the Muslims will accordingly now proceed to elect their representatives.

" For the information of the hon. Members I may state that the room now occupied by the Secretary has been temporarily converted into a polling booth. Hon. Members will kindly proceed to the booth to record their votes.

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[Mr. Speaker]

" The election will be conducted by the Secretary to the Legislature who has been nominated as the Returning Officer. He will issue the ballot papers initialled by him to the members. Detailed instructions as to how they should vote and record their preferences are given on the last page of the ballot paper. The essence of the voting would lie in the member having to mark his first preference by putting the figure ' 1 ' opposite the name of the candidate he prefers best. The ballot paper would be rejected if the first preference is not recorded in favour of any of the candidates. The recording of subsequent preferences shall be done by putting the figure ' 2 ' opposite the name of the member's second choice, the figure ' 3 ' opposite the name of his third choice and so on, numbering as many candidates as he pleases in the order of his preference. Forty-five being the number of vacancies, each member can vote for 45 members in the order of preference. What is, however, most important to bear in mind while recording the vote is not to put a cross-mark against the candidate of the member's choice, but the figure ' 1 ', ' 2 ' or ' 3 ' according as the candidate chosen is first, second or third in the order of preference.

" A ballot paper shall be invalid—

- (1) upon which a member signs his name or writes any word, or makes any mark by which it becomes recognizable; or
- (2) which does not bear the Returning Officer's initials; or
- (3) on which the figure ' 1 ' is not marked; or
- (4) on which the figure ' 1 ' is set opposite the name of more than one candidate; or
- (5) on which the figure ' 1 ' and some other figure is set opposite the name of the same candidate; or
- (6) which is unmarked or void for uncertainty.

" The polling will take place today from now on till 6 p.m. with a lunch interval between 1-30 and 2 p.m.

" I will be in my Chamber throughout the period of polling so that hon. Members may avail of my assistance in the matter of voting, should need for it arise.

" The counting of votes will take place at 12 noon on Tuesday the 23rd July 1946 in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George. Any candidate or his authorized agent may, with the permission of the Returning Officer, be present at the counting of votes."

The Hon. Speaker then explained the purport of the above speech in Tamil.

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIAR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, the purport of the speech may be given in Malayalam also."

MR. SPEAKER:—" I do not know Malayalam. If anybody wants to say it in Malayalam, I will permit that.

" The Chief Parliamentary Secretary will please say in Telugu what I have said in Tamil."

Sri T. Viswanatham then explained the purport in Telugu.

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SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"On a point of information, Sir. I would like to know if it is necessary for me to mark all the 45 names."

MR. SPEAKER:—"You need not mark all the 45. It is your pleasure."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"May I know the number present at the House before voting? We have to calculate the votes."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I do not know that."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. Is the House to meet after the voting is over?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Not necessary."

"(Seeing Mr. H. S. Town moving in his seat.) Does the Hon. Member Mr. Town, wish to say anything?"

MR. H. S. TOWN:—"I am only a visitor here."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Before I adjourn the House, I desire to congratulate the four Muslim members who have been duly elected. The polling booth will be kept open till 6 p.m. today. I desire all of you to go to the booth and vote."

The House will now adjourn to meet again at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, the 31st July 1946.

The House then adjourned.

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APPENDIX.

STATEMENT BY THE CABINET DELEGATION AND
HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY.

1. On March 15th last just before the despatch of the Cabinet Delegation to India Mr. Atlee, the British Prime Minister, used these words:—

"My colleagues are going to India with the intention of using their utmost endeavours to help her to attain her freedom as speedily and fully as possible. What form of Government is to replace the present regime is for India to decide; but our desire is to help her to set up forthwith the machinery for making that decision."

* * * *

"I hope that India and her people may elect to remain within the British Commonwealth. I am certain that they will find great advantages in doing so."

* * * *

"But if she does so elect, it must be by her own free will. The British Commonwealth and Empire is not bound together by chains of external compulsion. It is a free association of free peoples. If, on the other hand, she elects for independence, in our view she has a right to do so. It will be for us to help to make the transition as smooth and easy as possible."

2. Charged in these historic words we—the Cabinet Ministers and the Viceroy—have done our utmost to assist the two main political parties to reach agreement upon the fundamental issue of the unity or division of India. After prolonged discussions in New Delhi we succeeded in bringing the Congress and the Muslim League together in Conference at Simla. There was a full exchange of views and both parties were prepared to make considerable concessions in order to try and reach a settlement but it ultimately proved impossible to close the remainder of the gap between the parties and so no agreement could be concluded. Since no agreement has been reached we feel that it is our duty to put forward what we consider are the best arrangements possible to ensure a speedy setting up of the new constitution. This statement is made with the full approval of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom.

3. We have accordingly decided that immediate arrangements should be made whereby Indians may decide the future constitution of India and an Interim Government may be set up at once to carry on the administration of British India until such time as a new Constitution can be brought into being. We have endeavoured to be just to the smaller as well as to the larger sections of the people; and to recommend a solution which will

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lead to a practicable way of governing the India of the future, and will give a sound basis for defence and a good opportunity for progress in the social, political and economic field.

4. It is not intended in this statement to review the voluminous evidence that has been submitted to the Mission; but it is right that we should state that it has shown an almost universal desire, outside the supporters of the Muslim League for the unity of India.

5. This consideration did not, however, deter us from examining closely and impartially the possibility of a partition of India; since we were greatly impressed by the very genuine and acute anxiety of the Muslims lest they should find themselves subjected to a perpetual Hindu-majority rule.

This feeling has become so strong and widespread amongst the Muslims that it cannot be allayed by mere paper safeguards. If there is to be internal peace in India it must be secured by measures which will assure to the Muslims a control in all matters vital to their culture, religion, and economic or other interests.

6. We therefore examined in the first instance the question of a separate and fully independent sovereign State of Pakistan as claimed by the Muslim League. Such a Pakistan would comprise two areas; one in the north-west consisting of the Provinces of the Punjab, Sind, North-West Frontier, and British Baluchistan; the other in the north-east consisting of the Provinces of Bengal and Assam. The League were prepared to consider adjustment of boundaries at a later stage, but insisted that the principle of Pakistan should first be acknowledged. The argument for a separate State of Pakistan was based, first, upon the right of the Muslim majority to decide their method of Government according to their wishes, and secondly, upon the necessity to include substantial areas in which Muslims are in a minority, in order to make Pakistan administratively and economically workable.

The size of the non-Muslim minorities in a Pakistan comprising the whole of the six Provinces enumerated above would be very considerable as the following figures* show:—

	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.
<i>North Western Area—</i>		
Punjab	16,217,242	12,201,577
North-West Frontier Province	2,788,797	249,270
Sind	3,208,325	1,326,683
Br. Baluchistan	438,930	62,701
	22,653,294	13,840,231
	62.07%	37.93%

* All population figures in this statement are from the most recent census taken in 1941.

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	Muslim.	Non-Muslim.
<i>North-Eastern Area—</i>		
Bengal	33,005,434	27,301,091
Assam	3,442,479	6,762,254
	36,447,913	34,063,345
	51.69%	48.31%

The Muslim minorities in the remainder of British India number some 20 million dispersed amongst a total population of 188 million.

These figures show that the setting up of a separate sovereign State of Pakistan on the lines claimed by the Muslim League, would not solve the communal minority problem; nor can we see any justification for including within a sovereign Pakistan those districts of the Punjab and of Bengal and Assam in which the population is predominantly non-Muslim. Every argument that can be used in favour of Pakistan, can equally in our view be used in favour of the exclusion of the non-Muslim areas from Pakistan. This point would particularly affect the position of the Sikhs.

7. We therefore considered whether a smaller sovereign Pakistan confined to the Muslim majority areas alone might be a possible basis of compromise. Such a Pakistan is regarded by the Muslim League as quite impracticable because it would entail the exclusion from Pakistan of (a) the whole of the Ambala and Jullundur Divisions in the Punjab; (b) the whole of Assam except the district of Sylhet; and (c) a large part of Western Bengal, including Calcutta, in which city, the Muslims form 23.6 per cent of the population. We ourselves are also convinced that any solution which involves a radical partition of the Punjab and Bengal, as this would do, would be contrary to the wishes and interests of a very large proportion of the inhabitants of these Provinces. Bengal and the Punjab each has its own common language and a long history and tradition. Moreover, any division of the Punjab would of necessity divide the Sikhs leaving substantial bodies of Sikhs on both sides of the boundary. We have therefore been forced to the conclusion that neither a larger nor a smaller sovereign State of Pakistan would provide an acceptable solution for the communal problem.

8. Apart from the great force of the foregoing arguments there are weighty administrative, economic and military considerations. The whole of the transportation and postal and telegraph systems of India have been established on the basis of a united India. To disintegrate them would gravely injure both parts of India. The case for a united defence is even stronger. The Indian armed forces have been built up as a whole for the defence of India as a whole, and to break them in two would inflict a deadly blow on the long traditions and high degree of

[22nd July 1946]

efficiency of the Indian Army and would entail the gravest dangers. The Indian Navy and Indian Air Force would become much less effective. The two sections of the suggested Pakistan contain the two most vulnerable frontiers in India and for a successful defence in depth the area of Pakistan would be insufficient.

9. A further consideration of importance is the greater difficulty which the Indian States would find in associating themselves with a divided British India.

10. Finally there is the geographical fact that the two halves of the proposed Pakistan State are separated by some seven hundred miles and the communications between them both in war and peace would be dependent on the goodwill of Hindustan.

11. We are therefore unable to advise the British Government that the power which at present resides in British hands should be handed over to two entirely separate sovereign States.

12. This decision does not however blind us to the very real Muslim apprehensions that their culture and political and social life might become submerged in a purely unitary India, in which the Hindus with their greatly superior numbers must be a dominating element. To meet this the Congress have put forward a scheme under which Provinces would have full autonomy subject only to a minimum of Central subjects, such as Foreign Affairs, Defence and Communications.

Under this scheme Provinces, if they wished to take part in economic and administrative planning on a large scale, could cede to the Centre optional subjects in addition to the compulsory ones mentioned above.

13. Such a scheme would, in our view, present considerable constitutional disadvantages and anomalies. It would be very difficult to work a Central Executive and Legislature in which some Ministers, who dealt with Compulsory subjects, were responsible to the whole of India while other Ministers, who dealt with Optional subjects, would be responsible only to those Provinces which had elected to act together in respect of such subjects. This difficulty would be accentuated in the Central Legislature, where it would be necessary to exclude certain members from speaking and voting when subjects with which their Provinces were not concerned were under discussion.

Apart from the difficulty of working such a scheme, we do not consider that it would be fair to deny to other Provinces, which did not desire to take the Optional subjects at the Centre, the right to form themselves into a group for a similar purpose. This would indeed be no more than the exercise of their autonomous powers in a particular way.

14. Before putting forward our recommendation we turn to deal with the relationship of the Indian States to British India. It is quite clear that with the attainment of independence by

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British India, whether inside or outside the British Commonwealth, the relationship which has hitherto existed between the Rulers of the States and the British Crown will no longer be possible. Paramountcy can neither be retained by the British Crown nor transferred to the new Government. This fact has been fully recognized by those whom we interviewed from the States. They have at the same time assured us that the States are ready and willing to co-operate in the new development of India. The precise form which their co-operation will take must be a matter for negotiation during the building up of the new constitutional structure, and it by no means follows that it will be identical for all the States. We have not therefore dealt with the States in the same detail as the Provinces of British India in the paragraphs which follow.

15. We now indicate the nature of a solution which in our view would be just to the essential claims of all parties, and would at the same time be most likely to bring about a stable and practicable form of constitution for All India.

We recommend that the constitution should take the following basic form:—

(1) There should be a Union of India, embracing both British India and the States, which should deal with the following subjects: Foreign Affairs, Defence, and Communications; and should have the powers necessary to raise the finances required for the above subjects.

(2) The Union should have an Executive and a Legislature constituted from British Indian and States representatives. Any question raising a major communal issue in the Legislature should require for its decision a majority of the representatives present and voting of each of the two major communities as well as a majority of all the members present and voting.

(3) All subjects other than the Union subjects and all residuary powers should vest in the Provinces.

(4) The States will retain all subjects and powers other than those ceded to the Union.

(5) Provinces should be free to form Groups with executives and legislatures, and each Group could determine the Provincial subjects to be taken in common.

(6) The constitutions of the Union and of the Groups should contain a provision whereby any Province could, by a majority vote of its Legislative Assembly, call for a reconsideration of the terms of the constitution after an initial period of ten years and at ten yearly intervals thereafter.

16. It is not our object to lay out the details of a constitution on the above lines, but to set in motion the machinery whereby a constitution can be settled by Indians for Indians.

It has been necessary, however, for us to make this recommendation as to the broad basis of the future constitution because

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it became clear to us in the course of our negotiations that not until that had been done was there any hope of getting the two major communities to join in the setting up of the constitution-making machinery.

17. We now indicate the constitution-making machinery which we propose should be brought into being forthwith in order to enable a new constitution to be worked out.

18. In forming any Assembly to decide a new Constitutional structure the first problem is to obtain as broad-based and accurate a representation of the whole population as is possible. The most satisfactory method obviously would be by election based on adult franchise; but any attempt to introduce such a step now would lead to a wholly unacceptable delay in the formulation of the new Constitution. The only practicable alternative is to utilize the recently elected Provincial Legislative Assemblies as the electing bodies. There are, however, two factors in their composition which make this difficult. First, the numerical strengths of the Provincial Legislative Assemblies do not bear the same proportion to the total population in each Province. Thus, Assam with a population of 10 millions has a Legislative Assembly of 108 members, while Bengal, with a population six times as large, has an Assembly of only 250. Secondly, owing to the weightage given to minorities by the Communal Award, the strengths of the several communities in each Provincial Legislative Assembly are not in proportion to their numbers in the Province. Thus the number of seats reserved for Muslims in the Bengal Legislative Assembly is only 48 per cent of the total, although they form 55 per cent of the provincial population. After a most careful consideration of the various methods by which these inequalities might be corrected, we have come to the conclusion that the fairest and most practicable plan would be—

(a) to allot to each Province a total number of seats proportional to its population, roughly in the ratio of one to a million, as the nearest substitute for representation by adult suffrage;

(b) to divide this provincial allocation of seats between the main communities in each Province in proportion to their population; and

(c) to provide that the representatives allotted to each community in a Province shall be elected by the members of that community in its Legislative Assembly.

We think that for these purposes it is sufficient to recognize only three main communities in India: General, Muslim and Sikh, the "General" community including all persons who are not Muslims or Sikhs. As the smaller minorities would, upon the population basis, have little or no representation since they would lose the weightage which assures them seats in the Provincial Legislatures, we have made the arrangements set out in paragraph 20 below to give them a full representation upon all matters of special interest to the minorities.

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19. (i) We therefore propose that there shall be elected by each Provincial Legislative Assembly the following numbers of representatives, each part of the Legislature (General, Muslim or Sikh) electing its own representatives by the method of proportional representation with the single transferable vote:—

Table of Representation.

SECTION A.							
Province.				General.	Muslim.	Total.	
Madras	..	..	..	45	4	49	
Bombay	..	..	..	19	2	21	
United Provinces	..	..	..	47	8	55	
Bihar	..	..	..	31	5	36	
Central Provinces	..	..	..	16	1	17	
Orissa	..	..	..	9	0	9	
Total ..				167	20	187	

SECTION B.						
Province.			General.	Muslim.	Sikh.	Total.
Punjab	..	..	8	16	4	28
North-West Frontier Province.			0	3	0	3
Sind	..	..	1	3	0	4
Total ..			9	22	4	35

SECTION C.					
Province.			General.	Muslim.	Total.
Bengal	..	..	27	33	60
Assam	..	..	7	3	10
Total ..			34	36	70
Total for British India ..					292
Maximum for Indian States ..					93
Total ..					385

Note.—In order to represent the Chief Commissioners' Provinces there will be added to section A the Member representing Delhi in the Central Legislative Assembly, the Member representing Ajmer-Merwara in the Central Legislative Assembly, and a representative to be elected by the Coorg Legislative Council.

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To section B will be added a representative of British Baluchistan.

(ii) It is the intention that the States should be given in the final Constituent Assembly appropriate representation which would not, on the basis of the calculations adopted for British India, exceed 93, but the method of selection will have to be determined by consultation. The States would in the preliminary stage be represented by a Negotiating Committee.

(iii) The representatives thus chosen shall meet at New Delhi as soon as possible.

(iv) A preliminary meeting will be held at which the general order of business will be decided, a Chairman and other officers elected, and an Advisory Committee (see paragraph 20 below) on the rights of citizens, minorities and tribal and excluded areas set up. Thereafter the provincial representatives will divide up into the three sections shown under A, B and C, in the Table of Representation in sub-paragraph (i) of this paragraph.

(v) These sections shall proceed to settle the Provincial Constitutions for the Provinces included in each section, and shall also decide whether any Group Constitution shall be set up for those Provinces and, if so, with what provincial subjects the Group should deal. Provinces shall have the power to opt out of the Groups in accordance with the provisions of sub-clause (viii) below.

(vi) The representatives of the sections and the Indian States shall reassemble for the purpose of settling the Union Constitution.

(vii) In the Union Constituent Assembly resolutions varying the provisions of paragraph 15 above or raising any major communal issue shall require a majority of the representatives present and voting of each of the two major communities.

The Chairman of the Assembly shall decide which (if any) of the resolutions raise major communal issues and shall, if so requested by a majority of the representatives of either of the major communities, consult the Federal Court before giving his decision.

(viii) As soon as the new constitutional arrangements have come into operation, it shall be open to any Province to elect to come out of any Group in which it has been placed. Such a decision shall be taken by the new legislature of the Province after the first general election under the new constitution.

20. The Advisory Committee on the rights of citizens, minorities, and tribal and excluded areas should contain full representation of the interests affected, and their function will be to report to the Union Constituent Assembly upon the list of Fundamental Rights, the clauses for the protection of minorities, and a scheme for the administration of the tribal and excluded areas, and to advise whether these rights should be incorporated in the Provincial, Group, or Union constitution.

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21. His Excellency the Viceroy will forthwith request the Provincial Legislatures to proceed with the election of their representatives and the States to set up a Negotiating Committee. It is hoped that the process of constitution-making can proceed as rapidly as the complexities of the task permit so that the interim period may be as short as possible.

22. It will be necessary to negotiate a Treaty between the Union Constituent Assembly and the United Kingdom to provide for certain matters arising out of the transfer of power.

23. While the constitution-making proceeds, the administration of India has to be carried on. We attach the greatest importance therefore to the setting up at once of an Interim Government having the support of the major political parties. It is essential during the interim period that there should be the maximum of co-operation in carrying through the difficult tasks that face the Government of India. Besides the heavy task of day-to-day administration, there is the grave danger of famine to be countered; there are decisions to be taken in many matters of post-war development which will have a far-reaching effect on India's future; and there are important international conferences in which India has to be represented. For all these purposes a Government having popular support is necessary. The Viceroy has already started discussions to this end, and hopes soon to form an Interim Government in which all the portfolios, including that of War Member, will be held by Indian leaders having the full confidence of the people. The British Government, recognizing the significance of the changes in the Government of India, will give the fullest measure of co-operation to the Government so formed in the accomplishment of its tasks of administration and in bringing about as rapid and smooth a transition as possible.

24. To the leaders and people of India who now have the opportunity of complete independence we would finally say this. We and our Government and countrymen hoped that it would be possible for the Indian people themselves to agree upon the method of framing the new constitution under which they will live. Despite the labours which we have shared with the Indian Parties, and exercise of much patience and goodwill by all, this has not been possible. We therefore now lay before you proposals which, after listening to all sides and after much earnest thought, we trust will enable you to attain your independence in the shortest time and with the least danger of internal disturbance and conflict. These proposals may not, of course, completely satisfy all parties, but you will recognize with us that at this supreme moment in Indian history statesmanship demands mutual accommodation.

We ask you to consider the alternative to acceptance of these proposals. After all the efforts which we and the Indian Parties have made together for agreement, we must state that in our view there is small hope of peaceful settlement by agreement of the

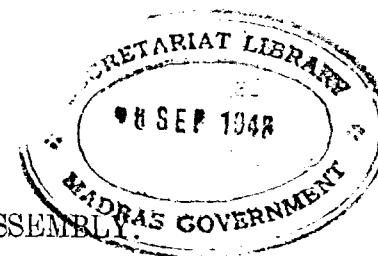
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Indian Parties alone. The alternative would therefore be a grave danger of violence, chaos, and even civil war. The result and duration of such a disturbance cannot be foreseen; but it is certain that it would be a terrible disaster for many millions of men, women and children. This is a possibility which must be regarded with equal abhorrence by the Indian people, our own countrymen, and the world as a whole.

We therefore lay these proposals before you in the profound hope that they will be accepted and operated by you in the spirit of accommodation and goodwill in which they are offered. We appeal to all who have the future good of India at heart to extend their vision beyond their own community or interest to the interests of the whole four hundred millions of the Indian people.

We hope that the new independent India may choose to be a member of the British Commonwealth. We hope in any event that you will remain in close and friendly association with our people. But these are matters for your own free choice. Whatever that choice may be we look forward with you to your ever increasing prosperity among the great nations of the world, and to a future even more glorious than your past.

New Delhi, 16th May 1946.



THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, the 31st July 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVA-SHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[STARRED QUESTIONS.]

Appointment of the Chief Justice to the Madras High Court.

* 5 (14) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the recent appointment of the Chief Justice to the Madras High Court of Judicature was made in consultation with the Council of Ministers; and

(b) whether the claims of an Indian for the post were discussed?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) & (b) The appointment was made and communicated to the Governor His Excellency Sir Henry Knight. He told the Ministry about it after they entered office.

“(b) The Government have no information.”

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether there was any special purpose in making the appointment so early in view of the fact that the Chief Justice is to retire only early next year?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“It is impossible to say whether there was any special purpose in the mind of either the Viceroy or the Secretary of State to move so early in the matter.”

Resolutions embodying the immediate demands of Malabar.

* 6 (33) Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a list of the resolutions embodying the immediate demands of Malabar and passed at the special conference of the Communists of Malabar held at Parassinikadava, North Malabar, in March last; and

(b) if so, whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table of the House?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) No.

“(b) Does not arise.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“On a point of information, Mr. Speaker. Can Mr. Venkateswarlu put the question on behalf of Mr. Ananda Nambiyar?”

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MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member is not in order. If Mr. Venkateswarlu makes a request, I will give the permission. The hon. Member need not speak on behalf of Mr. Venkateswarlu.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I propose to put the question, Sir.”

Mass arrests in various trade union centres of the Province under the Criminal Law Amendment Act and the Defence of India Rules.

* 7 (35) Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that mass arrests are taking place in various trade union centres of the Province under the Criminal Law Amendment Act and the Defence of India Rules; and

(b) whether the Government propose to withdraw the Criminal Law Amendment Act and not to enforce the provisions of the Defence of India Rules?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) The Government have no information.

“(b) Instructions have already been issued to all District Magistrates and to the Commissioner of Police, Madras, not to make use of the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Act and the Defence of India Rules for the maintenance of Law and Order as the provisions of the ordinary law are considered sufficient.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Government be pleased to state whether a report will be called for on the subject and placed on the table of the House as early as possible.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Yes.”

Termination of the services of Dr. C. Ramadas.

* 8 (50) Q.—SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representation was made as regards the termination of the services in 1942 on political grounds of Dr. C. Ramadas, D.M.L.S. & D.M.R., Sub-Assistant Surgeon, Government Headquarters Hospital, Guntur; and

(b) if so, what action the Government propose to take as regards the matter?

THE HON. MRS. A. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) The matter is under consideration.”

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—“What are the actual grounds for the dismissal of this gentleman?”

THE HON. MRS. A. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“They are confidential.”

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Labour troubles in the Aaron Mills, Pappinisseri, Chirakkal taluk.

* 9 (30) Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the labour troubles in the Aaron Mills, Pappinisseri, Chirakkal taluk, and if so, what steps they have taken to ease the situation;

(b) whether it is a fact that in connexion with this labour strike, the Collector of Malabar has made a few reports to Government, and if so, whether those reports will be placed on the table of the House; and

(c) why comrade P. Krishna Pillai, Secretary of the Kerala Branch of the Communist Party of India was externed from Malabar?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“(a) Yes. The Government referred the dispute to a Board of Conciliation for promoting a settlement.

“(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As these reports were confidential, and as the dispute has been amicably settled by the Board of Conciliation, it is not proposed to publish them.

“(c) Sri P. Krishna Pillai was externed from Malabar district because it was considered that his presence in that district and his activities were prejudicial to the maintenance of public order and of industrial and agrarian peace. The externment order was, however, cancelled on 14th May 1946.”

Spencer and Company dispute.

* 10 (36) Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the labour dispute in Spencer and Company and the breakdown of the conciliation machinery set up by the Government; and

(b) if so, what further steps the Government propose to take to end that dispute?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“(a) Yes, Sir.

“(b) The Government have appointed an adjudicator and are awaiting his report.”

Arrests in Nandyal town of customers of cloth.

* 11 (43) Q.—SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether any arrests were made in Nandyal town of customers who had gone to ask for cloth to shops on the 9th May; if so, on what date the arrests were made, what the names of the arrested people are, what are the reasons assigned for their arrests and under what rules or law;

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(b) whether the arrests were made by the police on their own initiative or after the representations from local cloth dealers, and if the latter, what their representations are; and

(c) whether any protests and representations have been received by the Government from individuals and public organizations of Nandyal town, and if so, what those representations are?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“(a) Yes. The arrests were made on 13th May 1946. The names of the arrested people are: (1) teacher Venkaiah, (2) Madiga Nayakanti Thimmappa, (3) Nanda Varam Narasimhulu, (4) Gaddala Hussainappa, (5) Sanditi Thimmanna, (6) Akumalla Venkata-doss, and (7) Muni Reddi. The reasons for their arrests are that they caused disturbance and threatened to loot the cloth shops. Security proceedings have been instituted against them under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, for keeping the peace.

“(b) On the night of 9th May 1946 the District Magistrate and the District Superintendent of Police received telegrams from the cloth association about the disturbance. They visited Nandyal on the 10th morning and instructed the police to enquire into the matter and take action. The arrests were made after enquiry by the police. The allegations by cloth dealers were that these persons at the head of large crowds containing some rowdies threatened to loot the shops and cause serious disturbance.

“(c) Yes. A representation has been received from Sri Alvakonda Venkata Subbiah and others on behalf of the citizens of Nandyal. The representations are—

(1) that the security proceedings now pending before the Subdivisional Magistrate, Nandyal, in M.C. No. 8 of 1946 may be withdrawn;

(2) that an independent enquiry may be held to elicit the true facts of the incidents on 9th May 1946 at Nandyal; and

(3) that the Cloth Rationing Orders promulgated in Nandyal and Kurnool towns since 10th May 1946 by the District Magistrate, Kurnool, may be allowed to continue.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know, Sir, whether asking cloth for purchase will be classified as loot?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Certainly not.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Will the Government then accept the version of the people that they were assembled there for the purchase of cloth?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I take the information from the hon. Member.”

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MR. SPEAKER:—“Order, order. Before I call the name, no hon. Member should put the question.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“While the cloth rationing was introduced on the 10th itself, where was the need for arrest on the 13th?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Most probably, there was trouble.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Having taken the information from me, what is the Hon. Minister going to do?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I just take the information.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Government be pleased to appoint an independent committee?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“That matter will be considered.”

Arrest of Sri T. Venkayya and others at Nandyal.

* 12 (44) Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some Harijans including Sri T. Venkayya, teacher and Vice-President of the Kurnool District Adi-Andhra Sangham were arrested at Nandyal; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the arrest?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to starred question No. 43 on the same subject.”

Restoration of gun licences cancelled after 1940.

* 13 (123) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of gun licences has been cancelled after 1940; and

(b) whether the Government propose to restore all such licences?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) The matter is under consideration. The Arms Act is a Central Subject and this Government is acting only as the agent of the Government of India. The Government of India issued instructions in 1940 that the issue of licences must be tightened up. That policy was being pursued till now. The Government of India has now been addressed for the relaxation of the restrictions and the Central Government while not agreeing to a general relaxation has stated that crop protection licences should be given liberally.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“May I know, Sir, what happened to the weapons seized when the licences were surrendered.”

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THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Notice."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Do the Government believe that, with the direct action propounded by the Muslim League, they should be allowed to arm themselves with guns?"

(No answer.)

Withdrawal of the extension of the Criminal Tribes Act to the Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely districts.

* 14 (34) Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. Minister for Law be pleased to state whether the Government propose to withdraw the extension of the Criminal Tribes Act to the Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely districts?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The question is not clear. The question of repealing or modifying the Criminal Tribes Act is under consideration. Pending such consideration the question of withdrawal or of extension is kept in abeyance."

Conviction of certain persons in connexion with the cremation of Jayaram (an Adi-Dravida).

* 15 (42) Q.—SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that one Jayaram (an Adi-Dravida) died and was cremated on 8th October 1945 in the Hindu burial ground at Thathanari—northern bank of Vaigai river, Madura;

(b) whether the clerk in charge and vettiyan objected to the cremation when the corpse was half-burnt; and

(c) whether two Adi-Dravidas Thangachami and Kandaswami were prosecuted in that connexion and convicted by Town Magistrate, Madura, for four months and this was confirmed by the City Magistrate, Madura, on 17th May 1946?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) It is reported that while preparations were being made for the cremation, two thotties of the burial ground interfered but the accused and their party did not pay any heed. On being informed, the Death Registrar in charge of the burial ground hurried to the spot and protested against their conduct in vain.

" (c) Yes. But the Government have since remitted the unexpired portion of their sentences."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know whether the thotties acted at the instance and instruction of the clerk?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"There is no information with the Government on the point."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of appointing a district officer for each district to look after the interests of the Harijans?"

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THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"It is a matter of policy. That will be separately considered by the Government."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Will the suggestion be given effect to in the budget?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"It is more than what I can say."

Amendments of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act so as to include the Muslim and other non-Hindu endowments.

* 16 (102) Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Hindu Religious Endowments Act will be so amended as to include the Muslim and other non-Hindu endowments; and

(b) if the answer to (a) above is in the negative, for any reason, whether a separate law for the supervision and control of Muslim Wakfs on similar lines will be enacted?

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—" (a) There is no proposal under consideration.

" (b) There is also no proposal now under consideration."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Minister concerned will consider a draft Bill that will be prepared by the Muslim League Party?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"Certainly."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have felt any need for the Act?"

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"There has been in the past a number of proposals for legislating on the Muhammadan religious endowments and nothing came out of them. But if there is a demand for legislation from the Muslim community, Government will do the needful by means of a Bill either from Government or help a private member who brings the Bill."

Replacement of the district boards by taluk boards or larger panchayat boards.

* 17 (101) Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) Whether the Government propose to abolish district boards and replace them by taluk boards or firka boards or village union panchayat boards for larger village groups; and

(b) whether the Government propose to undertake legislation for the constitution of larger village panchayat boards with extended powers specially in the matter of starting and managing primary and secondary schools?

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THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“(a) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

“(b) The Government will bring up legislation to reorganize village panchayats and entrust them with greater powers and responsibilities in the administration of village affairs.”

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether the district boards have worked satisfactorily so far all over the Province?”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“No definite opinion can be expressed on the point at present.”

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, what is the reason for this change over from district boards to panchayats or taluk boards whatever that may be?”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“There is no change over.”

Number of Mussalmans among athigaris and menons in Malabar district.

* 18 (8) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of adhigaries and menons in Malabar district; and

(b) the number of Mussalmans among them?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—

“(a) Adhigaris .. 750	(b) Adhigaris .. 70
Menons .. 792	Menons .. 5 ”

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government will take steps to see that Muslims are appointed to these posts in proportion to their population in the Malabar district?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“The principle that has been adopted till now is one of heredity. Therefore the matter cannot be considered now, unless the Government think of scrapping the old system.”

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Government see that the old system is scrapped as early as possible?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Not just at present. It is not intended to do so now.”

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is there any particular merit in the appointments being hereditary?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“It is a matter of opinion. But it has been adopted from 1800 as a measure of administrative convenience by the past governments.”

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“What does the Hon. Minister think about it at present?”

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THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“The matter has not yet been taken up for consideration.”

K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Does the principle of heredity apply to menons also?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“I think so, for both sets of officers.”

Malabar Tenancy legislation.

* 19 (9) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the Government propose to introduce legislation along the lines of the recommendations of the Malabar Tenancy Committee appointed by the last Congress Government?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“The Government have not yet examined the recommendations of the Malabar Tenancy Committee. They are awaiting the remarks of the Board of Revenue on those recommendations and will examine what legislation is necessary after the Board's remarks are received.”

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know why the Government who are generally quick in all other matter are slow in regard to this question?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“They are not slow. The previous Government kept off the matter till after the war. Now the matter is being considered by the Board of Revenue. This Government have appointed a Special Collector to go into the question; legislation will be introduced in this House as early as possible after considering the report.”

Collection of sales-tax.

* 20 (54) Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the collection of the sales-tax has been stayed in certain cases, and if so, on what grounds; and

(b) whether the Board of Revenue was consulted in this matter, and if so, what was their opinion?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“A number of representations were received by the Government from merchants and Chambers of Commerce from all parts of the Province alleging certain hardships caused by the assessment of commission agents to sales-tax. Pending the examination of the question, the Government have ordered that the collection of sales-tax from the commission agents holding licences under section 8 of the Madras General Sales Tax Act, who have been assessed to sales-tax should be stayed. The Board of Revenue has been asked to examine the points raised by the commission agents and to submit a detailed report to the Government on the question. The Board's report is awaited.”

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SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Are the Government aware that the sum involved in this seemingly innocent order is over forty lakhs?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It may be so, Sir, but when a matter of injustice is pointed out, it is for the Government to consider the matter and take proper action."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Have not many of the parties offending against section 8 of the Act, themselves been collecting sales-tax?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am not aware of it. But the matter will be looked into."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Are the Government aware that all or most of these parties are seeking remedies in courts of law? When matters are *sub judice*, is it proper to set at nought legislation by administrative orders?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The matter will be looked into."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it the policy of this Government to stay legislation when objection is taken to a provision of a legislative enactment?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"No order has been passed to stay the effect of legislation. But simply the collection of the tax has been stayed because representations have been received from all over the province on that one point."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Is it not a fact that as a result of this order, much of the tax will remain uncollected?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The Government do not apprehend that, and the tax will be collected."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Suspension of the collection of the tax due under an enactment amounts to suspension of the effect of the enactment."

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is a matter of opinion."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government allow a full discussion of the matter, since it involves a huge loss of revenue?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The matter will be considered."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Are there any proposals for the amendment of the Sales Tax Act?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Not just at present. Regarding almost every section of the Act, representations have been received. A special officer has been asked to go into all the representations, so that at the right time, legislation may be brought forward to amend the Act if necessary."

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MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it the policy of the Government that, in all cases where grievances are represented to the Government or defects in legislation pointed out, effect would not be given to the present legislation till the amendments are carried out?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is too general a question for me to answer."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Hon. the Minister consider the suggestion of introducing a system of licences to all traders both big and small so that they may all be brought on to the Commercial Tax Officers' registers?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The matter will be considered. It is a very useful suggestion."

Irrigation schemes in Malabar.

* 21 (12) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have under contemplation any irrigation scheme for Palghat and Ponnani taluks in Malabar; and

(b) whether the Government will be pleased to appoint an expert committee to enquire and report on the possibilities of irrigation schemes in Malabar?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—" (a) Yes. In Palghat taluk the following four schemes which have been included in the first five-year plan of Post-war Reconstruction and Development schemes are being investigated by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation):—

- (i) Gayatri anicut;
- (ii) Mangalam anicut;
- (iii) Anicuts across two streams in Vadavanur; and
- (iv) Malampuzha Project.

"A special staff has been sanctioned and a subdivision at Palghat has been formed.

"For Ponnani taluk, the Ponnani pumping scheme proposed as a Grow More Food measure has been inspected by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and his final report is awaited.

"(b) A sub-committee for Irrigation under the Post-war Reconstruction Committee has gone through the various irrigation schemes and the post-war schemes for Malabar given in the five-year plan are based on the recommendations of the committee, which have been made on expert knowledge. The Government do not consider it necessary to appoint another committee."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it the policy of the Government to introduce irrigation facilities in backward and undeveloped areas?"

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"Certainly, Sir."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Have the Government got any irrigation scheme for the Ramnad district?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"I am not aware of any such scheme."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"If so, will they investigate into the possibilities?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"Yes, Sir."

Number of Mussalmans in the Highways department.

* 22 (13) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether any appointments have been made in the Highways department; and

(b) what the number of Mussalmans in the same is?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"The Highways department has been formed with effect from 1st April 1946 and appointments to posts in the department have been made as detailed below:—

Category.	Number.	Category.	Number.
1 Chief Engineer	1	10 Divisional Accountants ..	21
2 Superintending Engineers ..	7	11 Upper division clerks ..	178
3 Divisional Engineers	39	12 Lower division clerks ..	427
4 Assistant Engineers	179	13 Steno Typists	5
5 Supervisors	282	14 Typists	43
6 Draughtsmen	151	15 Tracers	42
7 Managers	8	16 Attenders	210
8 Superintendents	8	17 Peons	712
9 Head clerks	37	18 Daffadar	1

"(b) The number of Mussalmans appointed to different posts in the Highways department is as follows:—

Category.	Number.	Category.	Number.
1 Superintending Engineer ..	1	7 Upper division clerks ..	5
2 Divisional Engineers	4	8 Lower division clerks ..	22
3 Assistant Engineers	12	9 Attenders	14
4 Supervisors	12	10 Peons	91
5 Draughtsmen	5	11 Daffadar	1
6 Head Clerk	1		

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"What is the extra cost to the exchequer on account of this department?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"I want notice, Sir."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the number of Muslims given in the list represent the number of appointments to which the Muslims are entitled under the communal Government Order?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"Yes, Sir, the appointments were made since April last. We have not issued any rules regarding conditions of service. To the

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Highways Department, the staff of the district board engineering section and the staff of the road circles have been transferred. We are considering the question of forming an amalgamated cadre of engineers for irrigation, buildings and highways sections. Pending decision on that, we have not yet considered the question of allocation according to communities."

MR. F. FERRELLY:—"May I know whether any special qualification is required for appointment in the Highways Department?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"Regarding the technical side, engineering qualifications have been prescribed."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On what principle, the appointments have been made?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"I have just answered the question. We have not made any new appointments."

MR. F. FERRELLY:—"May I know, Sir, whether most of the appointments were made by way of transfer from the Public Works Department by simply promoting inefficient juniors and whether any attempt was made to bring expert men either from this province or outside for the Highways Department?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"I am afraid I cannot agree with the hon. Member that inefficient men have been promoted. Wherever necessary, the Government will certainly consider the question of importing qualified men from outside."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Is it a fact that the Highways Department has been formed solely from the military point of view?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"It cannot be said, Sir, that the Highways Department was formed purely from the military point of view."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of absorbing the municipal engineers also in the Highways Department?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"Yes, Sir."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Some of the senior men in the local boards have been neglected in this department and have not been given proper cadre, is it a fact?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"I am not aware of that complaint, Sir."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the Hon. Minister mean by 'importing' importing from foreign countries also?"

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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"If necessary, we may have to do so."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Is the cadre of the Highways Department merged with the district board engineers cadre?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"There is no longer any district board engineering cadre."

Construction of a bridge over the Bharathapuzha in Ponnani taluk.

* 23 (19) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the site for a bridge over the Bharathapuzha in Ponnani taluk has been fixed at Kuttipuram;

(b) the total estimated cost for the same; and

(c) when the actual construction will be started?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The cost of the work was estimated at Rs. 5 lakhs in 1944. The plans and estimates have to be revised with reference to current schedule of rates and the new Post-War standards for road bridges.

" (c) The work is expected to be taken up for execution in 1948-49."

11-30 a.m. P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know if the work cannot be started earlier, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"The question of starting the work early next year will be considered."

Opening of cattle breeding stations in Malabar and South Kanara.

* 24 (79) Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture, etc., be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware that the cattle found in the West Coast districts are of a poor breed; and

(b) whether any action has so far been taken in the matter of opening cattle-breeding stations in Malabar and South Kanara?

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) One of the Post-War Development schemes relating to the Veterinary Department is to open a livestock breeding farm in each district. Two farms are proposed to be opened each year and the districts in which the farms are to be opened will be chosen according to a priority list to be drawn up. The opening of these farms depends primarily

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on the availability of suitable land and when suitable land is obtained in Malabar and South Kanara districts the question of opening farms in these districts will be considered."

SRI A. B. SHETTY: May I ask the Hon. Minister whether priority will be given in the matter of opening of cattle breeding stations to districts where the cattle are of poor breed?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"It will be considered."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"May I ask whether the policy of Post-War Reconstruction framed by the Adviser Government has been considered by the Government before putting it into effect?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"The recommendations have been considered by the Government."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether there is at present a Cattle Development Board for the Province?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"There is a Cattle Development Board existing now. The members thereof are considered to be experts."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that cattle imported into Malabar tend to grow feeble there?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Notice, Sir."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Is it not a fact that the quality of the cattle is poor because of the want of lime in the soil?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Notice, Sir."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will this matter be considered by technical experts?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—"Certainly."

Losses in advances to milkmen in the Madras Milk Supply Union.

* 25 (97) Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture, etc., be pleased to state—

(a) what losses have occurred in respect of advance made to milkmen in the Madras Milk Supply Union;

(b) whether these amounts have been written off; and

(c) if so, on what principles this writing off was done?

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THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—“(a) The Government have not so far incurred any loss.

“(b) & (c) Do not arise.”

Reorganization of education in the Province.

* 26 (15) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have under contemplation any proposal to re-organize education in the Province; and

(b) if so, what the main features of the scheme are?

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN (Parliamentary Secretary):—

“(a) Yes. They propose to take up re-organization of education as soon as possible.

“(b) It is too early to mention the main features of the scheme.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is not the Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon. Minister for Education aware that the Minister has already made public *ad nauseum* the policy he wishes to pursue regarding education?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The Minister is responsible for the public announcements that he makes. You should not ask the Minister's Parliamentary Secretary about those announcements.” (Laughter.)

KHAN BAHADUR MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is this House to take it that no scheme has yet been framed?”

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN (Parliamentary Secretary):—“A scheme is under consideration.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Government take the House into confidence before a scheme is formulated and put into force?”

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN (Parliamentary Secretary):—“Certainly, Sir.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Hon. Minister consult the various sections of the House and the communities that form part of it . . . ?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“You may put the question to the Hon. Minister when he is present and not to the Parliamentary Secretary.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“On a point of order, Sir. It is open to the Parliamentary Secretary to answer the questions put to him and, if he is not able to answer he might well say so.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“As the Parliamentary Secretary is new to the House, I as Speaker am suggesting that it is the Minister that should answer the question.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I do not think it is the function of anybody else to make a suggestion of that kind.”

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MR. SPEAKER:—“I have got the power here to suggest it.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I request the Speaker to put this question again on the agenda?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member may renew notice of the question.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—

“Why should we?”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether the order recently passed regarding vernacularization is in conformity with any scheme or whether it is an order unconnected with any scheme and came to light one fine morning?”

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN (Parliamentary Secretary):—“Notice.”

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Hon. the Premier give an assurance that no change will be made unless the House approves of it?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“No assurance can be given, Sir.”

KHAN BAHADUR MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is the Hon. the Premier aware that the Muslim community especially is very much agitated over the proposal to impart education in what is called the regional language?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I am not aware of any such agitation.”

MR. F. FERRELLEY:—“Mr. Speaker, if the Government have not yet got any policy in the matter, will the Hon. the Premier try to restrain his Minister from making pronouncements in public?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I do not think any of my brother Ministers require any advice on the matter. They are giving answers as briefly as possible without declaring any general policy.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I request the Hon. the Premier to explain what exactly he means by saying ‘No assurance can be given?’”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Plain language can be understood by my hon. Friend. The assurance wanted was to the effect that nothing would be done by the Government without getting the previous consent of the House. It is impossible to give any such assurance. There are so many matters in which the Government will have to give the lead without coming to the House.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I ask the Hon. the Premier whether he realizes that this is a matter which affects the various cultures of this Province and if so whether an assurance is not imperative?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The matter will come before the House ultimately.”

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P. K. MOHIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government aware that the Malayalees of Madras are undergoing hardship on account of the recent order of the Government on regional languages?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No. The Government are not aware of any such hardship."

P. K. MOHIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government be pleased to see that such hardships are not caused to the Malayalees?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"If there is any hardship to any section of the population and if it is brought to my notice, I will certainly consider it."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. the Premier unaware of what the Hon. Minister for Education has been doing all along?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I am aware of what the Hon. the Minister for Education has said and I back him up very strongly. When the time comes, what he has announced will be considered."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"ఈ ప్రాంతీయ భాషా నిర్ణయ విషయమై మదరాసు సరిహద్దు అంధ్రులకు కష్ట ముగానున్నదని విన్నవములు వచ్చినా?"

(A Voice: "He can speak in English.")

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The hon. Member knows English and has hitherto addressed the House in English."

MR. SPEAKER:—"When the hon. Member knows English, I cannot allow him to put the question in Telugu."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"I bow to your ruling, Sir. Your predecessor had allowed me this privilege."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am not going to continue it."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Is the Hon. the Premier aware that representations have been received from the Andhra public about the difficulties experienced in this cosmopolitan city on account of the introduction of the system of teaching in regional languages?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"If the hon. Member makes his question a little plainer, he will enable me to understand him easily."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. the Premier aware of the fact that if this regional language is introduced as the medium of instruction, the Muslims, whose mother tongue is Urdu, will suffer and suffer very badly?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I may tell the hon. Member that, so far as I have known, the Muslims living in

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the different regional areas are only taught in their regional language, just as the other members of the community are taught."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it the intention of the Government that all children in a particular area should get their education in what they call the regional language of the area and not in their mother-tongue? I want a direct answer to that."

(A Voice: "Is it a supplementary question or a speech?")

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member has not understood me. He is labouring under a mistake. Mother-tongue is not anything different from regional language. I may tell hon. Members that in certain areas most of the Muhammadans speak only the regional language and many of them do not know anything of Urdu."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know if the Hon. Minister is not aware that, so far as Andhra Muslims are concerned Urdu is their mother-tongue and not Telugu, though they speak Telugu as they speak any other language that they know?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I know that in Andhra-desha Muslims speak Telugu language better than Urdu."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know from the Hon. the Premier whether he is going to force any particular language on our community or whether he is going to satisfy the needs of our community in this matter?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Surely no language will be forced on any community."

KHAN BAHADUR MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"As far as the Andhra districts are concerned, primary education is given to Muslims in Urdu. There are Urdu primary schools and Inspectors of Schools for those Urdu schools and there are several sections in those schools where Urdu is the medium of instruction for the Muslims of the Andhra districts."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I am aware of all that and I have always felt sorry that conditions have deteriorated on account of the introduction of such language in the schools. As a matter of fact the members of the different communities were moving like brothers and sisters speaking the same language and working together. It is only the introduction of the Urdu language that brought all this trouble."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Am I to understand that the object of the Government is, as I have said, to force the Muslims to educate themselves in a language which they do not want?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No, Sir. The hon. Member is a native of Malabar where the language is

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Malayalam. In Malabar itself there are so many Muslims who cannot read or speak Urdu. They speak only the language of their place."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. the Prime Minister not going to pay heed to the feelings of the Muslim parents in the matter of imparting education to their children in their mother-tongue and is he going to force down their throats a language which they do not want and thus tyrannise over them?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No, Sir, there will be no tyranny and no compulsion. Children will be given education in the language which they can easily understand, and anybody will be at liberty to read and speak in the language he chooses."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Does not the Hon. the Prime Minister know that the Muslims that are living in villages in the Andhra districts do not know any Urdu, and know Urdu only to the extent of (పాండిరి-మిదా చొప్పా కత్తా భిష్కు దాలో) '*Pandirimida choppa katta Bhyshku Dalo*.' In view of that . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will please put his question in a question form."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is not the Government aware that there are hundreds and thousands of children in the City of Madras who have been very badly affected by the new orders which have been issued by the Government without consulting either the educational authorities or the parents of the children concerned or the public or any of the communities?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I am not aware that the children have been badly affected and I shall see that no children are adversely affected."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am not speaking of the general educational policy, but I am referring to the adverse effect of the recent order issued by the Education Minister."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes, Sir. So far as I can see, there has been no adverse effect at all."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. the Prime Minister allow the cent per cent Muslim representatives of the Madras Presidency to decide for themselves in which language they want their children to be educated?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I have already told the House that every one is free to choose his own language according to his wish. There will be no compulsion at all."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that as a result of the recent orders issued by the Education Minister, so many schools in which education which was previously imparted to children in the English language were prohibited from doing so and they were all of a sudden asked to impart education in some other regional language?"

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I am not aware if it is a fact, but I shall go into the matter very carefully and deal with it in the best possible way."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask the Hon. the Premier, whether it is the policy of the Government to change over, so far as education is concerned, merely from one language to another, or to change to the mother-tongue of the people concerned, from the language which is at present the medium of instruction?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The policy of the Government is not to interfere with the mother-tongue at all."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the recent orders issued by the Education Minister were issued on his own responsibility or whether the Government as a whole are responsible for the orders?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The responsibility of one Minister is the joint responsibility of the Government as a whole."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the replies the Hon. the Premier has made on the question of Urdu as medium of education in schools, may I know his views on the Congress policy of Hindi *versus* Hindustani?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I want notice, Sir."

Redress of grievances of aided school teachers.

* 27 (16) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—
(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the aided school teachers for redress of their grievances; and

(b) if so, whether the Government have come to any decision in the matter?

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN (Parliamentary Secretary):—" (a) & (b) The Government have received representations from teachers in aided schools about some of their grievances and the matter is under consideration. "

Raising of the Government Muslim Girls' High School, Tirur, to a College.

* 28 (18) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—
(a) whether there is any proposal to raise the Government Muslim Girls' High School, Tirur, to a college; and

(b) whether the site for the same has been finally decided upon?

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN (Parliamentary Secretary):—" (a) No.
(b) The question does not arise."

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, why the Government should not consider the advisability of converting the Government Muslim Girls' High School, Tirur, to a college in view of the necessity for the Muslim girls acquiring higher education? "

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN (Parliamentary Secretary):—" No case has up till now been made out for converting the school into a college. If and when such a case is made out, the Government will consider the question."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Government consider the desirability of taking up the question now, in view of the dearth of colleges for Muslim girls? "

SRI B. PARAMESWARAN (Parliamentary Secretary):—" The Government will no doubt consider the question, if occasion demands it."

Number of Government officials who obtained permits for the purchase of new cars.

* 29 (57) Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Additional Minister for Food and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Government officials who have been given permits for the purchase of new cars during the last three months; and

(b) if such permits have been issued for new cars, whether due care was taken to see that they had no other usable vehicles at that time?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" (a) The total number of Government officials to whom permits were given for the purchase of new cars during March, April and May was 35.

" (b) Applicants for new cars are required to apply in a form giving the following among other particulars:—

(1) of any motor car or motor cycle in their possession or in the possession of any member of their family which is available for their use;

(2) of any vehicle owned or used by them during the past one year and sold or transferred, with reasons for sale or transfer and price if sold; and

(3) if any vehicle is owned, reason for replacing it or for another new vehicle.

" The Provincial Motor Transport Controller who issues the permits takes proper care to see that there is genuine need for a new car."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—" Is the Hon. Minister satisfied that the new instructions given by Government in regard to the issue of permits have been conscientiously observed by its officers? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" The Provincial Motor Transport Controller, who is the head of the department, is observing the rules and instructions issued by the Government from time to time. He takes proper care to see that the officers do not infringe the rules."

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SRI K. VARADACHARI:—" May I submit, Sir, that on the very day on which the instructions were issued, they were disobeyed? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" I have not come across any such cases. I shall immediately look into them, if such cases are brought to my notice."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" May I ask, Sir, whatever may have happened in the past, whether the Government would consider revising its policy in respect of issuing permits for the purchase of new cars? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Strict instructions have been issued by the Government to the Provincial Motor Transport Controller to follow a definite policy in regard to the issue of permits for new cars and the Controller will no doubt see that the permits are given equitably in deserving cases."

MR. H. S. TOWN:—" May I know, Sir, how many new cars originally supplied to these officers have since been sold and replaced by other new cars? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" I want notice, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask the Hon. the Minister whether the desirability of revising the old policy in order to see that non-officials doing essential services are given priority in the matter of issue of permits, will be considered? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" I can at once assure the hon. Member that all non-officials doing essential duties requiring cars will be put on a par with officials."

SRI H. SITHARAMA REDDI:—" Will the Government give priority to the Members of the Assembly? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" That question will also be considered."

AN HON. MEMBER:—" Is it a fact, Sir, that hitherto officials have been preferred to non-officials in the matter of issue of permits? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" I think, Sir, it is not so, so far as I am aware."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—" On a point of information, Sir, may I say that it has been refused in my case three times." (Laughter.)

SRI P. NATESAN:—" Will the Hon. the Minister consider the desirability of scrapping up all previous applications and issuing revised instructions in regard to applications for new cars received in future? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" The Provincial Motor Transport Controller will deal with each application

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according to its merit and see that no hardship or injustice is caused. He will apply the rules justly in deciding each case."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Whenever permits are given to purchase new cars in place of the old cars, of the 1940 or later models, will the Government issue orders to see that these old cars are surrendered to the Controller, to be sold according to controlled prices, and not at fancy prices by the previous owners?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Instructions have been given to the Controller in regard to this matter also."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I request the Hon. the Minister to place before the House the rules which prescribe the order of priority as regards the grant of permits and to state what difficulty there is in placing on the table of the House, the list of priorities according to the rules?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I do not follow what the hon. Member means, by 'a list of priorities'."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want the Hon. Minister to place on the table of the House the rules which prescribe the order of priority as regards grant of permits."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"This will be done as far as possible."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government see that the Controller does not issue permits for both the husband and his wife simultaneously for the purchase of a car by each of them?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Suppose they are living in different places?" (Renewed laughter.)

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"May I know what is the policy of Government in the matter of the control of the soaring prices of second-hand cars?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"If there are people who have got too much money, they may purchase second-hand cars at whatever fancy price they can pay and the Government cannot control them."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Is it not absurd to give an answer like that, particularly when there is an anti-profiteering ordinance which does not allow more than 20 per cent on the original price?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"That is a matter which the Government will look into in due course."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I request the Government to kindly revise their policy about the sale of second-hand cars and see that second-hand cars are not sold at fantastic prices?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The Government will certainly consider the question."

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DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Government also consider the desirability of enforcing a rule that second-hand cars should be sold only through licensed dealers or agents?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"That question will also be considered."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are aware that there are officials and non-officials having cars already who are still applying for permits for the purchase of cars?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The Government are not aware of such cases."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"In view of these serious allegations, will the Government consider the desirability of appointing a Committee to go into the whole question and suggest remedies and evolve new rules and regulations?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"A Committee is not necessary. The Controller can deal with the matter quite as well with Government instructions."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Corruption among Commercial Tax officials.

1 (24) Q.—P. K. MOHIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that corruption is rampant among Commercial Tax officials; and

(b) what the Government propose to do in the matter?

A.—It is likely that there is some corruption in the department mentioned. But its exact extent is not known. A machinery has been created to tackle the question of corruption in all departments. If specific instances of corruption are brought to the notice of the Government suitable action will be taken.

Effect of the strike in the South Indian Railway on the movement of foodstuffs.

2 (28) Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state the extent to which the movement of foodstuffs has been affected by the recent strike in the South Indian Railway?

A.—No serious delay in movement of foodstuffs was caused by the recent strike on the South Indian Railway as it was of very short duration and incomplete in effect.

Grievances of teachers of elementary schools in Malabar.

3 (64) Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the teachers of elementary schools in Malabar regarding their various disabilities;

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(b) which are the bodies that have made such representations;

(c) what are the grievances set forth in those representations; and

(d) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken by the Government on those representations?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have received representations from various associations of teachers in Malabar and other districts regarding grievances of teachers in elementary schools.

(c) The representations mainly relate to—

(i) increase in salaries;

(ii) grant of dearness allowance at Government rates with retrospective effect; and

(iii) payment of monthly grants.

(d) The matter is under consideration.

Possibilities for irrigation in Malabar.

4 (69) Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have explored the possibilities for irrigation in Malabar especially in the taluks of Ernad, Walluvanad, Ponnani and Palghat;

(b) when was the last enquiry made in that direction and by whom; and

(c) whether the Government propose to set up a small committee to explore the possibilities for irrigation in the abovesaid taluks and also other parts of Malabar?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to clause (b) of starred question No. 21 (12).

Strength, etc., of the Malabar Special Police.

5 (70) Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the present strength of the Malabar Special Police;

(b) the communities to which the rank and file and the officers belong; and

(c) the number of persons in the force belonging to each community, showing sepoy and officers separately?

A.—(a) Six Officers, 17 Subadars including Subadar-Major 50 Jamadars, 13 Havildars-Major, 58 Havildars, 91 Naiks, 175 Lance-Naiks and 1,596 Constables.

(b) & (c) The Government have no information and consider that it would serve no useful purpose to collect such figures.

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Appointment as village munsifs of persons who have passed the Village Magistrate's Test.

6 (95) Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of persons who passed Village Magistrate's Test held by the Government, yearwar and district-war, from 1930 onwards;

(b) whether all those people have been absorbed as village munsifs by the Government;

(c) if not, why not; and

(d) if so, when?

A.—(a) to (d) The Government have no information. The collection and compilation of the information would involve an amount of labour and time which, in the opinion of the Government, would be quite disproportionate to any useful purpose which might be served.

Representation from the managers of aided Moplah schools in Ernad taluk.

7 (115) Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a representation from the managers of aided Moplah schools in Ernad taluk setting forth their grievances and making some demands helpful to the advancement of Moplah education;

(b) what are the demands made in that representation; and

(c) what action the Government propose to take on the representation?

A.—(a) & (b) Representations have been received from managers of aided elementary schools for Mappillas in the Ernad taluk containing the following requests:—

(1) that they may be given a special grant of at least 25 per cent of the assessed grant for meeting expenditure on buildings and equipment;

(2) that provision may be made for appointment of Mulla teachers in all Mappilla elementary schools and that their salaries may be increased to Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 per mensem;

(3) that free and compulsory elementary education may be introduced for whole of the Ernad taluk; and

(4) that provision may be made for supply of midday meals and books and slates for poor Mappilla pupils.

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(c) *Request* (1).—The question of allowing a separate grant to managers of aided elementary schools towards expenditure on rent and equipment is under the consideration of Government.

Request (2).—In 1943 the Government approved a proposal of the Director of Public Instruction that aided elementary schools for Mappilla children might be permitted to employ local Musaliars on their staff for imparting religious instruction and that a grant not exceeding Rs. 60 per annum for each school might be paid. This proposal was sanctioned only as an experimental measure and it was restricted to South Malabar. The question of its continuance and extension to North Malabar is to be decided after a report is received from the Director of Public Instruction in September next.

Request (3).—In 1926 elementary education was made compulsory in selected areas of Ernad taluk. Three additional villages in the taluk were chosen for the introduction of compulsory elementary education last year. A few more villages will be selected in the current year and in due course elementary education will be made compulsory in the whole taluk, as part of the programme for the whole Province.

Request (4).—Midday meals are supplied to children attending schools in areas where elementary education has been made compulsory since 1945-46. The same is the case in regard to the supply of books and slates also.

Levy of heavy sales tax on licence-holders in Anakapalle and Rajahmundry.

8 (150) Q.—SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been made regarding the levy of heavy sales tax on licence-holders in Anakapalle and Rajahmundry contrary to the practice in vogue of exempting them from the inception of the Sales Tax Act till 1944; and

(b) whether the Government propose to accord favourable consideration in case of past irregularities in the accounts of commission agents as requested by the Merchants' Association, Anakapalle and Chambers of Commerce, Rajahmundry and Madras (Andhra region)?

A.—(a) Yes, representations have been made but exemption from the sales tax applies only to such transactions as are carried out in accordance with the terms and conditions of the licence.

(b) The Government will consider the question on its merits.

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Bifurcation of the revenue district of Vizagapatam.

9 (150) Q.—SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any progress has been made in the matter of bifurcating the revenue district of Vizagapatam; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken so far?

A.—(a) & (b).—Proposals for the bifurcation of the revenue district of Vizagapatam have been received from the Board of Revenue and are under the consideration of the Government.

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. THE SPEAKER RE THE RESULT OF ELECTION TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY.

12 noon.

Mr. SPEAKER:—“As a result of the election for the General Seats of the Constituent Assembly held on the 22nd July 1946, the following persons have been declared duly elected as the representatives of the Province for the purposes of paragraph 19 of the statement^a by the Cabinet Delegation and His Excellency the Viceroy, dated the 16th May 1946:—

1 Sri O. V. Alagesan.	22 Sri S. Nagappa.
2 Mrs. Ammu Swaminathan.	23 „ P. L. Narasimha Raju.
3 Sri M. Ananthasayanam Ayyangar.	24 „ C. Perumalswami Reddi.
4 „ K. Chandramouli.	25 The Hon. Sri T. Prakasam.
5 Mrs. Dakshayani Velayudan.	26 Mr. S. H. Prater.
6 Rev. Jerome D'Souza.	27 The Raja of Bobbili.
7 Mrs. G. Durgabai.	28 Sri C. Rajagopalachariar.
8 Sri B. Gopala Reddi.	29 „ T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar.
9 The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar.	30 „ Ramanath Goenka.
10 Sri D. Govinda Doss.	31 „ O. P. Ramaswami Reddiyar.
11 „ P. Kakkan.	32 „ N. G. Ranga.
12 „ K. Kamaraja Nadar.	33 „ N. Sanjeeva Reddi.
13 „ V. C. Kesava Rao.	34 „ K. Santhanam.
14 „ T. T. Krishnamachari.	35 „ B. Shiva Rao.
15 Diwan Bahadur Sir Alladi Krishna-swami Ayyar.	36 „ H. Sitarama Reddi.
16 Sri L. Krishnaswami Bharathi.	37 Dr. B. Pattabhi Sitaramayya.
17 „ P. Kunhiraman.	38 Sri U. Srinivasa Mallayya.
18 „ K. Madhava Menon.	39 Dr. P. Subbarayan.
19 „ V. I. Muniswami Pillai.	40 Sri C. Subrahmanyam.
20 Kummararaja Sir M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar.	41 Dr. V. Subrahmanyam.
21 Sri V. Nadimuthu Pillai.	42 Sri M. C. Veerabahu.
	43 „ P. M. Velayudapani.
	44 „ Kala Venkata Rao.
	45 Mr. T. J. M. Wilson.

“I have also to inform the hon. Members of the House that the results of this election as well as the names of the Muslim Members declared previously elected will be published to-day in an extraordinary issue of the *Port St. George Gazette*.

“At the preliminary meeting of the Provincial Representatives to be held in pursuance of paragraph 19 (iv) of the statement, dated the 16th May 1946, by the Cabinet Delegation and His Excellency the Viceroy, each Member should present a document of credentials signed by me as the Speaker of the Assembly which elected him. The letters of credentials are ready for delivery and the Members of the Legislature elected to the Constituent Assembly

^a Vide pages 7-16, Volume II, dated 22nd July 1946.

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may receive their letters of credentials from me in my Chambers either in person or through an agent duly authorized in writing. In the case of those who are not Members of the Legislature, letters of credentials will be sent to them in the usual course."

III. PRESENTATION OF BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1946-47.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Premier and Finance Minister will now present the Budget for the year 1946-47."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—Sir, I present to the House the preliminary accounts for 1945-6 and the Budget Estimate for 1946-7.

"*Introductory remarks.*—The first Congress Ministry in the Madras Presidency resigned office in October 1939 after having been in office for about two years and three months. The Congress Party was again returned to power in this Province at the recent elections. The present Government assumed office on the afternoon of the 30th April 1946. The Treasury Bench is thus again occupied by persons elected by and wholly responsible to the people of the Province.

"2. *Revised Budget for 1946-7.*—The budget for 1946-7 which was authorized by His Excellency the Governor under the Proclamation issued under section 93 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and published last March lapsed with the revocation of the Proclamation and the assumption of office by the Ministry. The Ministry has now to present to the Legislature for voting a budget for the full year 1946-7, though it assumes responsibility only for the expenditure during the portion of the year subsequent to the revocation of the Proclamation on 30th April 1946. The figures furnished by the Accountant-General, Madras, for the expenditure incurred in April 1946 whilst the section 93 proclamation was in force, are exhibited separately in the budget, but the expenditure has been merged in the full year's estimates now presented to the Legislature.

"In preparing the revised budget, the Government have taken into account various factors that necessitate material changes in the estimates of revenue and expenditure adopted in the budget previously published and have made such other changes as were possible within the short time available after the assumption of office by the Ministry in order to give effect to the policy of the Congress.

"3. *Preliminary accounts, 1945-6.*—Before considering the budget estimates for 1946-7, a brief reference may be made to the financial results of the year 1945-6. Only the preliminary accounts figures for 1945-6 are available now. These are liable to modification as a result of further adjustments between the revenue section of the accounts and the capital, debt and deposit sections. On the basis of the figures now available the actual revenue in 1945-6 was Rs. 47,86.40 lakhs, i.e., Rs. 6,61.11 lakhs more than

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the budget estimate, and the expenditure (excluding the net outlay on State Trading Schemes and the transfer to the Revenue Reserve Fund) was Rs. 32,65.05 lakhs, i.e., Rs. 3,26.11 lakhs more than the budget estimate. The increase in revenue occurred mainly under Excise, General Sales Tax, Income-tax, Stamps and Receipts under the Motor Vehicles Acts. The additional expenditure occurred largely under the heads General Administration, Police, Civil Works and Other Taxes and Duties (i.e., Commercial Taxes). The reasons for the increases are given in the Budget Memorandum. Against a net outlay of Rs. 1,06.20 lakhs anticipated in the budget estimate for 1945-6 under State Trading Schemes, there was actually a net credit of Rs. 2,29.20 lakhs due mainly to the realization in 1945-6 of amounts due for sales effected in 1944-5 and to payment not having been made in the year for certain purchases made in 1945-6. As a result of the improvement in revenue and the net credit arising from the transactions relating to State Trading Schemes, it was possible to transfer a sum of Rs. 17.50 lakhs to the Revenue Reserve Fund against Rs. 10.00 lakhs provided in the budget estimate.

"The capital expenditure outside the revenue account was Rs. 87.77 lakhs against the budget estimate of Rs. 1,75.62 lakhs. The position under debt, deposit, advance and remittance heads showed an improvement of over Rs. 1.48 lakhs. This is mainly due to the fact that, as usual, the budget estimate for 1945-6 did not take credit for the new loan of Rs. 3 crores that was actually raised in the open market during the year to finance capital expenditure and loans and advances to local bodies and agriculturists.

"The year 1945-6 closed with a cash balance of Rs. 3,10.09 lakhs against Rs. 50.11 lakhs anticipated in the budget estimate. In addition to the cash balance of Rs. 3,10.09 lakhs, there were at the end of 1945-6 securities worth Rs. 29,65.22 lakhs in the Cash Balance Investment Account and Rs. 14,11.38 lakhs in the Revenue Reserve Fund.

"4. *Budget estimate, 1946-7.*—Before entering into the details of the estimated revenue and expenditure of the current year, I shall mention certain general features of the budget.

"5. *General food position.*—The general food situation in the Province continues to be difficult. The havoc caused by the cyclone of October 1945 in the northern surplus districts, the failure of the north-east monsoon in certain central districts and the insufficient supply of water for irrigation of the Cauvery Delta resulted in a progressive decline of rice stocks in the Province. Imports of rice from outside the Province were not on a sufficient scale to offset appreciably the losses due to natural disasters in the Province. Food distribution therefore became difficult. As against a total deficit of about 10 lakhs tons of rice during the current crop year, the Government of India have so far allotted only about 2½ lakhs tons in the form of rice, including an allotment of about 1 lakh tons of rice from outside India. But they have also allotted fairly large quantities of wheat, flour and maize and some millets in

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order to make up the deficiency as far as possible. As part of their measures for meeting the food crisis, the Government have launched a vigorous procurement drive throughout the Province. Village, Taluk and District Committees consisting of influential non-officials are being formed to give assistance in regard to procurement and in ensuring equitable distribution of food. A separate Public Relations Branch has been formed in the Civil Supplies Department to popularise the use of unfamiliar food-stuffs such as wheat. The Government have also sanctioned the purchase of transport vehicles and machinery at a total cost not exceeding Rs. 12.75 lakhs from surplus Army stores, for use in connexion with the food production and procurement drive. The south-west monsoon of 1946 is favourable. If it is followed, as we must hope and pray, by a favourable north-east monsoon, the food position in the Province should rapidly become more satisfactory.

"The Government are endeavouring to see that the prices of essential foodstuffs and firewood are kept as low as possible and that adequate incentives are given for the cultivation of food-crops, by granting subsidies on the sales of certain foodstuffs and by giving bonuses in respect of certain food-crops, etc.

"6. *Rationing of foodgrains.*—Statutory rationing of foodgrains is now in force in all the municipal towns of the Province and their suburban areas, the whole district of Malabar and the Chirala and Perala villages in Guntur district. Non-statutory rural rationing was first introduced in the deficit districts of Vizagapatam, Tinnevely, Ramnad, Coimbatore, the Nilgiris and South Kanara; owing to the difficult food position it has recently been extended to all parts of the Province where statutory rationing is not in force. Adequate staff has been sanctioned for the enforcement of the rationing of foodgrains under both methods.

"7. *Grow More Food Campaign.*—The Government have taken various measures to promote increased production of food. They have sanctioned an accelerated scheme for sinking new wells and repairing old ones. The scheme was introduced in all the districts of the Province except the Nilgiris. Under the scheme, half the cost of sinking a new well or repairing an old well is given as a subsidy, subject to a maximum of Rs. 300 or Rs. 310 for each new well and a maximum of Rs. 160 in respect of repairs to old wells. By the end of June 1946 applications involving the payment of subsidies amounting to Rs. 3.14 lakhs for new wells and Rs. 77 lakhs for old wells had been received and the amount of subsidies sanctioned by that date was Rs. 1.88 lakhs for new wells and Rs. 48 lakhs for old wells. The sinking of wells is on the whole costlier and more difficult in the Ceded Districts than elsewhere. Owing partly to these special circumstances and partly to the need to provide employment for labourers during the coming months when there may be famine, the Government have sanctioned a modified scheme for the Ceded Districts, with effect from 24th June 1946, so as to provide for the payment of subsidy up to Rs. 500 for a new well and Rs. 300 for an old well. As the necessary data were not available in time, it was not possible to

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include in the revised budget the additional provision required for the subsidies mentioned above. The Government have also sanctioned the grant of bonus to cultivators for encouraging cultivation of short-term cereal crops during March and April 1946, free distribution of manure in certain taluks in Malabar and South Kanara districts to lands cultivated with short-term paddy sown in the months of April, May and June 1946, the grant of bonus to ryots for short-term paddy and millets to be delivered in September, October and up to 15th November 1946 and bonus for delivery of paddy, rice, etc., during June and July 1946.

"The Province was even in normal times deficit in foodgrains. While the population is growing, food production is more or less stationary. It is, therefore, necessary to intensify the assistance to the production of more foodgrains to bridge the ever-widening gap. While planning to increase the area under cultivation and introducing better methods, the Government propose to concentrate immediately on improving the yield in rice surplus areas by providing more manure and better drainage facilities as this is the best way of securing quick results.

"8. *Prohibition.*—As a first instalment, the Government have ordered that prohibition should be re-introduced in the districts of Salem, Chittoor, Cuddapah and North Arcot with effect from 1st October 1946 and that the enforcement of prohibition should be entrusted to the Police with the assistance of such Excise staff as they find necessary for the purpose. The loss of revenue on account of this decision is estimated at Rs. 2.30 crores for a full year.

"I am saying something now which is not found in the speech printed and circulated to hon. Members. The programme of prohibition will be completed in the whole Province in three years and the Sales Tax revenue will be set apart for that purpose from now.

"9. *Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift.*—The Government have decided to undertake certain measures of rural reconstruction and pursue them vigorously. To start with, they propose to make a firka in each district self-sufficient in the matter of food and clothing. Each selected firka will be in charge of a Firka Development Officer of the rank of a Deputy Tahsildar and under him there will be one Village Development Officer of the rank of a Revenue Inspector for each of the four or five groups of villages into which each selected firka will be divided. The necessary subordinate staff will be provided for each Firka Development Officer and Village Development Officer.

"A scheme for the production of khadi in each of the selected firkas is ready and will be put into operation almost at once. The special feature of the scheme is that not only will yarn be spun in the villages but it will as far as possible be woven into cloth in the same areas. A sum of Rs. 3 crores has been included in the budget for the purpose. A further sum of Rs. 1 crore has been included for measures aiming at the uplift of Harijans

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and the removal of their disabilities. A special fund will be constituted for financing these schemes and contributions will be made to it from current revenues.

"I may tell hon. Members in this connexion that it is not a question of voting a lump-sum for the purpose because it is against the spirit of the rules which have been examined by the Finance Department. Because of that difficulty we are earmarking a sum of Rs. 4 crores for this purpose and the amounts required from time to time will be drawn from that fund for the promotion of these objects.

"10. *Education*.—Apart from the additional provision of grants to managements of aided primary schools to enable them to pay higher dearness allowance at Rs. 16 per mensem to their teaching staff and for the supply of midday meals to poor children attending primary schools in selected areas, the budget includes a provision of Rs. 22 lakhs for the extension of compulsory primary education to further selected areas in the current year. To provide teachers for the increasing number of primary schools, the Government have also planned to train 4,000 additional teachers and have arranged for the payment of enhanced rates of stipends to teachers undergoing training. The Government are aware of the need for raising the status of the teachers and are actively considering proposals with regard to raising their status. As a token of their sympathy towards the low-paid teachers in aided primary schools, the Government have decided to give from 1st August 1946 an increment of two rupees a month on the grant paid in respect of each teacher in the aided primary schools because these teachers are about the lowest paid in the ladder. This decision was taken after the budget estimate was fixed and involves an extra cost of Rs. 7½ lakhs in the current year and Rs. 13 lakhs in a full year.

"The budget includes also provision for the payment of grant to the Andhra University towards the cost of the Chancellery and Administration buildings and an increased block grant to the Annamalai University, for the opening of Government Engineering Colleges at Cocanada and Anantapur, and for the opening of a Government College for Muslim girls at Madras and of the B.Sc. course in the Government Muhammadan College. Provision has been made also for the raising of the Coimbatore Government Arts College to a First Grade College and steps will be taken to place the Coimbatore College of Technology on a permanent basis.

"I would like to indicate here the policy which the Government intend to pursue with regard to education. Several religious endowments have surplus funds regarding the use of which there is no settled policy. The Government will take necessary steps to ensure that all surplus funds are used for education by the opening of new institutions.

"Basic education on the lines expounded by the Hindusthani Talimi Sangh will be adopted, and it is expected that gradually our schools and training schools will be remodelled on those lines.

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"University education also needs much reform. Students on completion of their high school studies go to colleges as a matter of course. It is necessary to divert them to various professions so that many of them need not aimlessly go in for a college education. The result of the present system of education has been a fall in the standard of University achievement. Most of our graduates have to content themselves with filling clerical posts under Government or entering the overcrowded profession of law. The University education is really unnecessary for most of the professions that men and women seek to fill and should be taken up by young men and women who have the capacity to benefit from it and contribute to the progress and development of the country by research, initiative and opening up of fresh fields of activities. The Government propose to take up the re-organization of education in right earnest in the near future. In the reorganization, the proper place and importance will be given to the regional language.

"11. *Medical*.—The Government have sanctioned the opening of two new Government Medical Colleges in the current year—one at Madura and the other at Guntur. They propose to provide facilities for the training of 200 additional midwives, from 1946-7. Arrangements have also been made for opening, as and when necessary, 200 hospitals with 20 beds each in certain districts to meet the emergency which may arise as a result of the deterioration of the health of the people due to food shortage. The Government also propose to develop the practice of the indigenous systems of medicine, such as Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani and also of homœopathy and naturopathy, in this Province and education in those systems on systematic and up-to-date lines. A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs has been provided in the budget for this purpose.

"12. *Public Health*.—Provision has been made for two anti-malarial units in the revised budget, one in the Agency tracts of Vizagapatam district and the other in the Agency tracts of East Godavari district. The Government have also made suitable preparations for combating epidemics that may break out as a result of food scarcity. They have also arranged for the purchase of multi-vitamin tablets and other preparations for use in treating food deficiency diseases, at a cost of Rs. 18 lakhs.

"13. *Development of rural water-supply*.—There is a great need for the acceleration of the rural water-supply programme in the Province in general and in the famine-affected Ceded Districts in particular. It is proposed to transfer Rs. 30 lakhs to the fund for the development of rural water-supply to meet increased expenditure on rural water-supply works. 12-30 p.m.

"14. *Municipal water-supply and drainage schemes*.—In addition to the municipal water-supply and drainage schemes for which funds are provided in the budget, certain other schemes under this head are under active consideration and the Government hope to sanction some of these in the course of the current year and present a supplementary demand in due course for the funds required.

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" 15. *Housing*.—The Government are well aware of the difficulties arising from the acute shortage of houses in the Province and are carefully considering what measures should be taken to improve the position. A proposal to undertake legislation to make it possible to continue control of house-rents after the expiry of the Defence of India Rules is also receiving attention.

" 16. *Highways Department and road works*.—The previous Government decided that local bodies should be relieved of the responsibility for the maintenance and development of important lines of communications and 10,000 more miles of roads were taken over by the Government from 1st April 1946. To maintain the roads taken over from local bodies and to execute the post-war development programme, the Highways Department was constituted from 1st April 1946. The present Government are, however, reviewing the position in view of the paramount need for increased production of food and other essential articles and are not in favour of spending large amounts on road works. They would prefer to spend larger amounts on irrigation works and other productive schemes, while setting apart adequate funds for improvements and maintenance of existing roads, and for construction of new roads wherever necessary. The Government have also considerably curtailed the programme of purchase of mechanical equipment and contemplate the revision of the entire post-war programme for road development. They propose that the staff that will be retrenched from the Highways Department should be used for the investigation of important irrigation and electricity schemes which has been held up for want of engineering staff.

" 17. *Irrigation, etc., works*.—Special attention will be paid to the restoration of minor irrigation works by executing the necessary repairs and by deepening them, and irrigation channels will be put in order. Work on Major Projects such as the Tungabhadra Project and the Machkand Project will be continued and progress speeded up, and the investigation of the Ramapadasagara Project will also continue.

" Several proposed irrigation schemes were abandoned in the past on the ground that they would not yield a minimum financial return, although they were otherwise considered to be sound. With a view to expanding the area under food crops it will be necessary to examine some of these schemes again as well as new projects. The Government are considering a revision of their irrigation policy.

" 18. *Local Administration*.—In the sphere of Local Administration, the Government have decided to enlarge the powers of Municipalities and Local Boards and to remove certain restrictions which have been placed on them during recent years, so as to enable them to function more efficiently in meeting the needs and providing the amenities of civic life in our towns and villages. The Village Panchayat Act, passed this year before the present Ministry took office, will also be thoroughly recast, and Panchayats will be reorganized so as to enable them to serve

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as autonomous bodies administering village affairs. Necessary legislation to achieve these objects will be prepared and placed before the House in the course of the year.

" 19. *Famine relief*.—The Government decided to speed up the well-digging programme and repairs to irrigation works and to increase the number of Public Works Department and District Board works in the famine-affected districts in order to provide employment for the people. One hundred and sixty-five works have been sanctioned in Anantapur and sixty-four in Bellary. Fodder depots have also been opened in these districts to relieve the fodder scarcity. Gratuitous relief in the shape of cash and grain is also distributed to infirm and decrepit persons in the affected villages. Large consignments of condensed milk have been supplied to the Collectors of these districts for distribution to expectant and nursing mothers and children. Remissions of land revenue have been granted on a liberal scale in the affected areas. The budget provides for an expenditure of Rs. 145 lakhs on famine relief measures and it is proposed to make a net withdrawal of Rs. 39 lakhs from the Famine Relief Fund to meet a part of this expenditure.

" The Ceded Districts are a tract constantly liable to famine and considerable sums are spent year after year on unproductive works to provide famine relief. Measures for the permanent development of the area are long overdue. The Government propose to address themselves immediately to this task by diverting a portion of the provision for famine relief and by further grants, if necessary. A geological survey will be undertaken and the abundant and valuable mineral wealth of the tract will be utilized. An Economic Development Board has been in existence for some time and has made a number of proposals. It will be strengthened and reorganized and provided with a high-powered executive working directly under the Government. Its duty will be to effect the suggested improvements as quickly as possible with the aid of special grants placed at its disposal.

" 20. *Post-war development schemes*.—The Government have already sanctioned a number of post-war development schemes and other schemes are under detailed examination. The total provision included in the budget for post-war development schemes is Rs. 11,33.41 lakhs, of which Rs. 7,82.60 lakhs is debitable to the revenue account.

" In planning it is necessary to take note of the fact that a number of articles which can be produced in the Province, are imported, resulting in loss of money and loss of avenues for employment. Bangles are an instance in point; bangles worth Rs. 50 lakhs are imported annually into the Province. They are articles which can be easily manufactured here and in fact there was a flourishing trade in them in some areas till a few years ago.

" Trade and Commerce complain that the existing channels have been interfered with and one opening after another is closed to them. But the kind of business so far has largely been of the type which takes no risks, does not add to the real wealth of the Province

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and aims at making money in easy ways like commission agency, money-lending, etc. The Government in future planning intend to open up new lines along which trade and commerce may prosper and help the real development of the Province. They propose to establish an Industrial Finance Corporation on the lines of the Industrial Finance Corporations recently formed in the United Kingdom and make it responsible for the proper industrial development of the Province. It will work independently of the Government but subject to their control.

" 21. *Judiciary and Executive and Jails.*—The budget also includes token provisions of Rs. 2 lakhs for the separation of the Judiciary and Executive and Rs. 1 lakh for the improvement of sub-jails in the Province.

" 22. *Revision of rates of pay.*—The Government are considering carefully the question of improving the rates of pay of the lower grades of Government servants and servants of local bodies. The Government hope to pass orders soon on the memorials of the village officers and servants asking for increased remuneration which are now under their active consideration.

" 23. *Reorganization of land systems.*—It is the intention of the Government to bring in legislation as early as possible regarding the Estates Land Act and the Malabar Tenancy Act. The examination of the Land Tenures in the other areas of the Province with a view to reform has also been taken up.

" 24. *Revenue Reserve Fund.*—In recent years there were large surpluses in the revenue account, and they were transferred to the Revenue Reserve Fund in order that the moneys so accumulated might be drawn upon to meet expenditure on post-war development schemes and to cover revenue deficits. On 1st April 1946 there was a balance of Rs. 31,40 lakhs in the Fund in cash and securities. In order to balance the budget after meeting the large expenditure on food subsidies, providing Rs. 4 crores for village reconstruction and Harijan uplift and providing for a number of other new schemes including post-war development schemes, it is proposed to withdraw Rs. 8,94 lakhs from the Revenue Reserve Fund.

" 25. *Budget Estimate, 1946-7, Summary.*—Coming now to the actual figures of estimated revenue and expenditure to be met from current revenues in 1946-7, the position is as follows:—

	Preliminary Accounts, 1945-6.	Budget Estimate, 1946-7.
	RS. LAKHS.	RS. LAKHS.
Revenue—		
Normal	47,86.40	48,48.92
Transfer from the Revenue Reserve Fund. ..	..	8,94.00
Total ..	47,86.40	57,42.92
Expenditure on revenue account excluding (a) net outlay on State Trading Schemes and (b) transfer to the Revenue Reserve Fund. ..	32,65.05	50,53.58
Net outlay on State Trading Schemes ..	—2,29.20	6,89.19
Transfer to the Revenue Reserve Fund ..	17,50.00	..
Total ..	47,85.85	57,42.77
Surplus ..	.55	.15

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" 26. *Revenue.*—The total revenue anticipated for 1946-7 (excluding the transfer from the Revenue Reserve Fund) exceeds the preliminary accounts figure for 1945-6 by Rs. 62.52 lakhs. The Government of India have offered to give "advance grants" (i.e., advances against the grants that will be allocated to this Province by the Government of India for post-war development in the five years from 1947-8 on principles which have not yet been finally settled) towards the expenditure on unproductive post-war development schemes incurred in 1945-6 and likely to be incurred in 1946-7. The budget takes credit for Rs. 4,48 lakhs on this account. The merging of the surcharges with the basic rates of Income-tax will increase the Provinces' share of Income-tax receipts and the Madras Government's share in 1946-7 is expected to be Rs. 54.60 lakhs more than in 1945-6. The budget also anticipates larger receipts under Land Revenue, Agriculture and Electricity Schemes. On the other hand the budget allows for a loss of revenue of about Rs. 1.15 lakhs under Excise on account of the reintroduction of prohibition in the districts of Salem, Cuddapah, Chittoor and North Arcot from 1st October 1946 and a further decrease of Rs. 2.02 lakhs under Excise on account of the anticipated fall in wages and employment due to cessation or reduction of war-time activities. Decreases are also anticipated under Stamps, General Sales Tax, Entertainment Tax and Betting Tax due to the anticipated diminution in war-time prosperity, under Forest as a result of the stoppage of supply of timber and hay for war purposes and under Civil Defence on account of the absence of certain special credits which accrued in 1945-6 due to the sale of A.R.P. stores and recovery of arrears from the Government of India on account of poolable expenditure and coastal patrols.

" 27. *Expenditure.*—Including the net outlay on State Trading Schemes, the budget provides for an expenditure of Rs. 57,42.77 lakhs, i.e., Rs. 27,06.92 lakhs more than the preliminary accounts figure of expenditure for 1945-6, excluding the transfer to the Revenue Reserve Fund which was not outright expenditure. Of this large increase of Rs. 27,07 lakhs, over Rs. 9.18 lakhs is due to State Trading Schemes, the net outlay on which in 1946-7 is expected to be Rs. 6.89 lakhs as a result of heavy subsidies on food against the net credit of Rs. 2.29 lakhs in 1945-6. The establishment and other charges incurred in connexion with the intensive procurement and rationing of foodgrains and free distribution of milk to school children and priority consumers in the mufassal account for an increase of Rs. 2.80 lakhs, while the schemes for village reconstruction and Harijan uplift are responsible for an increase of Rs. 4.00 lakhs. There is an increase of over Rs. 3.74 lakhs under Civil Works, which arises mainly from the taking over of a number of roads from local bodies, the constitution of a new Highways Department and the execution of works included in the post-war development plans and other works held up during the war. Education is responsible for an increase of over Rs. 1.99 lakhs on account of provision for payment of larger grants to managements of aided schools towards the cost of dearness allowance to their teaching staff, for supply of midday meals to poor children attending primary schools and for a number of new schemes such

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as the opening of Government Engineering Colleges at Cocanada and Anantapur and the training of 4,000 additional teachers. Famine contributes an increase of Rs. 1.01 lakhs, after allowing for the net transfer to be made from the Famine Relief Fund to meet a portion of the expenditure. There are increases on a smaller scale under a number of other heads, notably Irrigation, Police, Public Health, Agriculture and Industries.

“Detailed explanations for the variations between the preliminary accounts figures for 1945-6 and the Budget Estimate for 1946-7 under the various heads are given in Part II of the Finance Secretary's Memorandum on the budget for 1946-7.

“28. *Capital expenditure*.—The total capital expenditure outside the revenue account (excluding the net outlay on State Trading Schemes and the expenditure on pension commutation payments which will be met from current revenue) is Rs. 4,29.81 lakhs against Rs. 87.77 lakhs in the preliminary accounts for 1945-6. The large increase results from increased provision for a number of electricity schemes and for the Tungabhadra Project, on which only a limited amount could be actually spent in 1945-6.

“29. *Loans and advances*.—The budget takes credit for recoveries of over Rs. 100 lakhs under loans and advances and provides for new advances of over Rs. 2.06 lakhs including Rs. 30 lakhs for short-term loans to the Madras Co-operative Central Land Mortgage Bank and about Rs. 71 lakhs for new loans to local bodies.

“30. *New open market loan, 1946*.—It will be desirable to raise a loan in the open market if easy money conditions continue to prevail, so that the proceeds may be used to finance capital outlay and new loans and advances. Borrowing on a large scale will eventually be necessary to provide funds for development and it is advisable to spread out the open market borrowing and raise as much as can conveniently be raised in the open market on reasonable terms each year. Following the usual practice, no credit has been taken in the budget on this account.

“31. *Closing balance, 1946-7*.—After taking into account the opening cash balance of Rs. 3,10.09 lakhs and the probable credits and debits under all heads, the year is expected to close with a cash balance of Rs. 50.91 lakhs. It is estimated that, in addition to this cash balance, the Government will hold on 31st March 1947 securities worth Rs. 9,21.46 lakhs in the Cash Balance Investment Account and securities worth Rs. 22,40.38 lakhs in the Revenue Reserve Fund. It is also anticipated that the Government will hold on 31st March 1947 securities purchased for Rs. 3,92.48 lakhs belonging to the Sinking Fund Investment Account, the Famine Relief Fund and the Electricity Depreciation Reserve and Special Reserve Funds.

“32. *Conclusion*.—The Government anticipate that the post-war levels of prices and employment will eventually be lower than the war-time levels and that this will probably involve an appreciable fall in Provincial revenues, but so far there is no sign of any such fall as a result of the end of the war. The expenditure

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of the Province continues to increase steadily even beyond the high level established during the war years. The deficit of nearly Rs. 9 crores in the revenue account anticipated this year may be regarded as exceptional as it is mainly due to heavy food subsidies and the high cost of importing foodgrains, powdered milk, etc., from outside to meet the acute and exceptional food shortage caused by a variety of adverse natural factors. Without these special items of expenditure and without giving up any important source of revenue, it would have been just possible to balance the budget this year. It will be necessary to tap new sources of revenue to meet the increasing expenditure on post-war development schemes in future years. As the Government intend to extend prohibition to other districts in future years, it will be impossible even to maintain the existing level of expenditure unless alternative sources of revenue are found. How best the additional revenue may be raised will of course be a question for very careful consideration by the Government. They will at the same time examine what retrenchment in expenditure may be effected.

“The work of the Finance Department in preparing the budget has by no means been easy. Not only has it had to prepare it in a short time, but it has also had constantly to readjust it as the various schemes of the new Government were decided upon. I take this opportunity to render the thanks of the Government to Dr. Dodwell and Mr. T. N. S. Raghavan and their officers and staff.

“With these words I commend this budget for the acceptance of this House.”

IV.—STATEMENT *RE* REDUCTION OF THE RICE PORTION OF THE RATION.

The HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“With your permission, Mr. Speaker, Sir, before moving the resolution, I would like to make a statement before this House, regarding reduction of the rice portion of the ration.

“Sir, when I spoke on the food position in May last, I estimated a local procurement of 300,000 tons rice and 36,000 tons of millets and imports to the extent of 116,000 tons rice, 500 tons of millets and 30,000 tons of wheat and wheat products for the period from May to October. I said that even with these local procurement and imports our overall deficit in all foodgrains would be 268,000 tons at the end of October. I also stated that considerable further help would be necessary to carry us through November and December as our main harvest would be available only thereafter.

“I am glad to say that both procurement and imports are better than anticipated. From 3rd May 1946 up to 18th July 1946 298,673 tons of rice and 34,693 tons of millets have been procured. Procurement has no doubt been considerably helped by the bonus offered by the Government for deliveries in June and July. As

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regards imports, the Government of India have, owing to their slightly improved supply position, been able to give us increased quotas, much of which however is in the shape of maize, wheat and wheat products rather than rice. According to present information, the net import that we can expect from 1st July up to the end of October are about 67,000 tons of rice, 103,000 tons of millets and maize, 75,000 tons of wheat and 20,000 tons of wheat-floor. Even with better procurement and increased imports the position in respect of rice is not easy as at the present rate of consumption, the stocks including anticipated imports will get completely exhausted by the last week of October leaving no buffer at all. But the stocks will run out much sooner in some areas than others, because the stocks in surplus areas are naturally more than in other areas, and it is impossible to expect producers to surrender what they require for themselves till the next harvest. Allowing a month's buffer on this account the available stocks will be enough only till about 25th September, when rationing will begin to break down. The Government of India hope to supply further quantities of rice, wheat and wheat products in September and October, but how much will be allotted by them and how much will actually arrive are uncertain. There is no indication at all of what help will be available in November and December, as the Government of India are reviewing the position every month and are allotting quotas only about a month in advance.

"In these circumstances it has become necessary to take steps to conserve the existing stocks of rice. The Government have therefore regretfully decided to reduce the rice portion of the ration to 8 oz. in the case of rice-eaters with effect from 4th August 1946, as otherwise we shall be landed in a very awkward situation, if imports do not arrive in sufficient quantities or in time. Heavy manual labourers will however continue to get 10 oz. of rice as at present.

"If the position improves later, I need hardly say that rice portion of the ration will be increased. In the meantime I appeal to the Members and to the public to put up with the inconvenience and help the Government to get through these three difficult months. One way of immediate help is to consume the large quantities of maize and wheat and wheat products that are being supplied and reduce the strain on rice. Another way of help is to improve the procurement of the short-term crops which will be harvested in September and October. The Government have already announced sufficient inducement by announcing a bonus for delivery of the short-term crops up to the 15th of November 1946. If the response is satisfactory, it may be possible to restore the cut much sooner than the present position indicates."

1 p.m.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I request the Hon. Premier to supply copies of this statement to the House?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes. He will do so. He has given his assurance to that effect."

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V.—GOVERNMENT RESOLUTIONS.

(1) PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

The Hon. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I move—

'that, with reference to rule 134 of the Madras Assembly Rules, this Assembly do proceed, on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the Speaker, to elect nine members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the first session of the Madras Legislative Assembly.'"

The Motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"In accordance with the regulations framed by me for conducting elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 5 p.m. on Monday, the 5th August 1946 as the time within which notice of nominations for election to the Public Accounts Committee should be given to the Secretary. The nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary. There will be an election if the number of candidates exceeds the number of vacancies, namely, nine. In that event the date of the election will be announced on Wednesday the 14th August 1946."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the election be held on the 14th August 1946?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"No. I will announce the date of the election on the 14th."

(2) HOUSE COMMITTEE.

The Hon. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I move—

'that, under rule 152 of the Madras Assembly Rules, the House do proceed to elect six members to the House Committee according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote in accordance with the regulations made in this behalf by the Speaker.'"

The motion was put and carried.

MR. SPEAKER:—"In accordance with the regulations framed by me under rule 152 of the Madras Assembly Rules for the holding of elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 5 p.m. on Monday, the 5th August 1946 as the time within which nominations of candidates for election to the House Committee should reach the Secretary. The nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary. There will be an election if the number of candidates nominated exceeds the number of vacancies, namely, six. In that event the date of the election will be announced on Wednesday, the 14th August 1946."

(3) ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

The Hon. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Sir, I move—

'that, in accordance with section 3 (1) (b) of the Madras State Aid to Industries Act, 1922 (Madras Act V of 1923), and rule 3 of the rules framed thereunder, this Assembly do proceed on a date to be fixed by the Hon. the Speaker to elect one person to be the Assembly's representative on the Board of Industries constituted under the Act.'"

The motion was put and carried.

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Mr. SPEAKER.—“ In accordance with the regulations framed by me for conducting elections according to the principle of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, I fix 5 p.m. on Monday, the 5th August 1946 as the time within which notice of nominations for election to the Board of Industries should be given to the Secretary. The nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary. There will be an election if the number of candidates nominated exceeds one. In that event the date of the election will be announced on Wednesday, the 14th August 1946.”

(4) ELECTION OF ONE MEMBER TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“ Sir, I move—
‘ that, with reference to G.O. No. 55, Railway, dated 10th December 1923, and rule 3 of the existing rules relating to the Local Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, this Assembly do recommend to the Government to communicate to the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, the name of one person elected by this Assembly to serve on their Railway Advisory Committee for the remaining period of the two years ending with 31st March 1948.’ ”

The motion was put and carried.

Mr. SPEAKER:—“ With reference to the motion of the Hon. the Minister for Public Works regarding the election of one Member of this Assembly to the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway passed by the Assembly just now, I am to state that the nominations should be handed over to the Secretary before 5 p.m. on Monday, the 5th August 1946. The nomination forms can be obtained from the Secretary. There will be an election if the number of candidates nominated exceeds one. In that event the date of the election will be announced on Wednesday, the 14th August 1946. The election will be by the ordinary method and not according to the method of single transferable vote.”

VI.—PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

Mr. SPEAKER:—“ I have to announce to the House that under rule 9 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I have nominated the following four Members of the Assembly to be a panel of Chairmen for the First Session of the Assembly:—

1. Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin.
2. Sri K. Varadachari.
3. Sri P. Natesan.
4. Mr. F. Ferrelly.”

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on 2nd August 1946.

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VII.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

- (1) Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 1495, Home, dated 14th May 1946, making certain amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.
- (2) Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 1590, Home, dated the 23rd May 1946, making certain amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.
- (3) Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 1864, Home, dated the 22nd June 1946, making certain amendments to the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 2nd August 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHAN-MUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER:—"There is a general complaint that questions and answers are not audible. So I request all the Members to speak through the mike."

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

[N.B.—The numbers within parentheses represent the numbers in the order of receipt of notice.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Free distribution of manure in Palghat and Walluvanad taluks and the extension of the concession to Ponnani and Ernad taluks.

* 30 (22) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have ordered free distribution of manure in Palghat and Walluvanad taluks only; if so,

(b) what are the reasons for not including the other taluks in the scheme; and

(c) whether the Government propose to extend the concession to Ponnani and Ernad taluks?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) Yes, so far as the Malabar district is concerned.

" (b) In order to make the best use of the available stock of manure, the Government ordered the distribution to be confined to the two taluks in question which form a compact block of rice-growing tract.

" (c) There is no such proposal at present."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether in view of the fact that Ponnani taluk is the least fertile comparatively, the Hon. Minister will be pleased to extend the scheme to that taluk also? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The suggestion will be considered."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know on what basis manure was distributed? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Notice."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it a fact that instructions have been given to the Agricultural Department to give preference to those who hold permits from the office bearers of the Congress? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" It is a most absurd suggestion. Government did not issue any such instructions to anybody."

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MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do the Government propose to extend the concession to other famine-stricken areas where necessary?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It will be done wherever necessary."

M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know if the Government are aware that people in Arantangi and Pattukkottai taluks deserve this free distribution of manure?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"If application is made, it will be considered."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What kind of manure is supplied, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The manure that is available and suitable to the area is supplied."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"I put the question standing in the name of Sri K. Ananda Nambiyar, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"If the hon. Member has an authorization letter from Sri K. Ananda Nambiyar in whose name the question stands, the hon. Member may put the question."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Yes, Sir; I have the authorization letter. I therefore put the question."

Demand of security proceedings against certain Communist workers by the Police in Malabar.

* 31 (31) Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Police in Malabar have demanded security proceedings against certain Communist workers in the district, and if so, who they are?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes. Their names are: (1) Muhammad Issaq, (2) Chaliyoth Kannan, (3) K. V. Narayanan Nambiyar, (4) P. V. Chathukutty Nambiyar, (5) K. V. Mossankutty, (6) K. P. R. Ryrappan Nambiyar, and (7) K. V. Kunhiraman alias Chotti Raman. The proceedings against No. (1) are under section 108, Criminal Procedure Code; against the others under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government be pleased to state whether there are special instructions given to the Police regarding Communists?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No special instructions have been given to the Police. On the other hand, the instructions given to the Police are that they should get hold of all people who are likely to disturb the peace."

[2nd August 1946]

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do the Government intend to curtail liberties of the people like this?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No civil liberties will be curtailed; on the other hand, those who are working must take particular care to see that they do not infringe the liberties of others."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Does the Hon. the Prime Minister know that our workers who were released from the Alipuram jail are being harassed by the Police in Tiruppattur taluk?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Notice."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Are these security cases *sub judice*?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"They may be."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what the charges are against these persons?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Notice."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Do the Government propose to withdraw the proceedings against the workers?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No case will be withdrawn unless the person concerned deserves it."

Arrest of G. Latchanna, Secretary, North Vizagapatam District Congress Committee, in a village in Palakonda taluk.

* 32 (47) Q.—SRI G. KUMARASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. G. Latchanna, Secretary, North Vizagapatam District Congress Committee, was arrested in a village in Palakonda taluk when he went there in connexion with electioneering work; and

(b) if so, why?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) At midnight on 2nd March 1946 during Sivarathri festival, Sri G. Latchanna addressed a big crowd gathered in front of the temporary Police station at Sangham village and created disturbance and obstruction to pilgrims. The Inspector of Police who was on the spot found that the meeting was not in the nature of an electioneering one, and advised those gathered there to hold meetings in a more convenient place; but they did not pay heed to his words. From their attitude, the Inspector apprehended an imminent breach of the peace and the possibility of an attack on the temporary Police station. He therefore arrested Sri G. Latchanna under section 151, Criminal Procedure Code."

Re-opening of the Choolai Mills.

MR. SPEAKER:—"As the interpellator is not present in the House, this question (33) and its answer will be printed in the report."

[2nd August 1946]

* 33 (45) Q.—SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) what immediate steps the Government propose to take to see that the management of the Madras United Spinning and Weaving Mills, Limited, otherwise known as the Choolai Mills, re-open the said mills as early as possible; and

(b) what steps the Government had taken or propose to take to implement the award given by the adjudicator in 1945 in the dispute between the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Limited, and their workers?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“(a) This Government have already taken every measure to see that the Madras United Spinning and Weaving Mills is re-opened as early as possible. Certain mill stores are required for re-starting the mill. The stores under control are being released for the mill as and when possible by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay. Non-controlled stores are being purchased by the mill itself. It is understood from the Manager that the stores are coming to the mill and he has been informed that the Government are prepared to give any further assistance that may be necessary as and when requested.

“(b) The adjudicator's award was enforced and made binding on both the employer and labour for one year from 19th July 1945 except in regard to the following two points:—

(1) *Basic Wages*.—The adjudicator suggested the setting up of a Wage Board. This was not acted upon as it was felt that wages have to be fixed on a uniform basis for the entire textile industry and the general question of setting up wage boards is under the consideration of the Government of India.

(2) *Enhancement of Dearness Allowance*.—The adjudicator suggested slight increase in the case of low-paid workers, but as the Dearness Allowance paid by this employer is the highest in the Presidency, the suggestion was not accepted.”

Opening of the Polytechnic Institute.

* 34 (75) Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) when the proposed polytechnic institute will be opened in Mangalore; and

(b) what courses of training will be provided in it?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“(a) It is proposed to open the polytechnic at Mangalore in the current year.

“(b) The following courses of training are proposed to be provided at present:—

(1) Automobile Engineering.

(2) Civil Engineering.

(3) Mechanical Engineering.”

[2nd August 1946]

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I request the Government to open a polytechnic institute in the Ceded districts?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Notice.”

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“May I know how many have applied for admission to the institute?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I am sorry I have not got the information. If the hon. Member wants it, I shall get it for him.”

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state when the polytechnic institute at Madura will be started?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Notice.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state under whose management the polytechnic institute at Cocanada is being run?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Government.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“May I know what steps the Government propose to take to make the diploma courses of this institute recognized by commercial concerns and Provincial Governments?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Notice.”

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know how many polytechnic institutes will be opened during the current year?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Notice.”

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Have the Government got any policy behind the opening of these polytechnic institutes?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Good policy.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the institute at Cocanada has got the necessary workshops and laboratory?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Notice. Questions of this kind cannot be answered on the spur of the moment.”

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—“Are there any polytechnic institutes at Trichinopoly?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Notice.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is there any proposal to open a polytechnic institute in Malabar?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I have no information on hand.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Have the Government received a representation for a polytechnic institute at Guntur?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Notice.”

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DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—" May Trichinopoly have one such institute? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" The suggestion will be considered."

MR. F. FERRELLY:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is necessary to open a polytechnic institute in Mangalore where there is already a first-class Government Trade School in Engineering? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" The Government have taken that aspect into consideration before deciding to open this polytechnic institute at Mangalore."

Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive.

* 35 (6) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether the Government have come to any decision on the question of the separation of the judiciary from the executive?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" The Government consider that the separation of the judiciary from the executive is desirable and have decided to appoint a Committee to examine possible schemes, and to make a report to Government."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, who the members of this Committee are? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" They are Sri K. Rajah Ayyar, Sri T. R. Venkatarama Sastri, Sri Pappu Somasundaram, Sri Balakrishna Ayyar, and Sri V. L. Ethiraj."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know when the Committee is expected to finish its labours? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" In about a month or more."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that there are lawyers amongst Muslim Members in the House competent to give advice in regard to this question? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" Certainly there are. The Committee will consult them."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Hon. Minister consider the advisability of including one of them as a member of the Committee? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" It is not necessary at this stage."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" What is the meaning of 'necessity' ? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" It is an expert committee consisting of members of the Crown Office."

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M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Hon. Minister bear in mind the need for giving Muslims a proportionate number of offices when this scheme is put into force? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" It is too early to say anything about appointments now."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know what the terms of reference of the Committee are? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" I have not got the exact terms with me at the moment; but I think the Committee will examine all possible schemes and put before the Government that scheme which it considers best."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Government see that in the matter of these new appointments, due regard will be paid to the claims of Muslims? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" Certainly. Their claims will be taken into consideration."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the claims of the top members of the bar alone will be considered? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" The claims of the top as well as of the bottom will be considered." (Laughter.)

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask whether it is a misnomer to call the separation of judiciary from the revenue as separation of judiciary from the executive and will it not be more appropriate to call this Committee as the Committee for the separation of the judiciary from the revenue? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" It is a matter of opinion."

M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Do the Government propose to take steps to amend criminal law and procedure if really they want separation? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" If it is considered necessary, the Government will take the necessary steps."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask the Government to give hon. Members an outline of their scheme? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" An outline has been already given."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the Committee was appointed by the Government or by the Hon. Minister? "

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" Whatever is done by an Hon. Minister may be taken as having been done by the Government."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Therefore may I know, whether at the time the Committee was appointed, the Government did not consider the scheme of the Hon. Minister."

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"They did not tentatively."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"That means the Committee did not have any definite scheme before it?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"All schemes are before it."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know Sir, who is to advise the Government in matters of the kind?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The Law Officers of the Crown."

K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Did the Government make a reference to their Law Advisers?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Naturally, it implies that."

Proceedings against Justice Byers.

* 36 (41) Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government intend to take up the matter regarding the proceedings against Justice Byers in revision to the High Court;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, why not?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) The question does not arise.

" (c) They have been advised against taking the course."

Betting on American cotton figures.

* 37 (80) Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) the districts in which betting on American cotton figures has been found to be regularly practised on a large scale; and

(b) the number of people who have been convicted for this offence in South Kanara after the Gaming Act was amended this year?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" (a) From the information available with the Government, it was prevalent on a large scale in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari and South Kanara.

" (b) Thirty-two."

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SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"In the districts in which such betting is prevalent, cannot the Government take steps to prevent the telegraph office giving information to facilitate such betting and see that necessary action is taken to stop this practice?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The Government have no information on the point. At any rate, the Telegraph Department is not under the control of the Provincial Government."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Will not the Government consider the desirability of introducing direct measures under the Gaming Act to curb this evil practice?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"That point will be considered."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Cannot the Government address the Government of India in the matter to see that the Telegraph Department does not accept telegrams on American cotton figures or take up any direct action in the matter?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"That will also be considered."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Is it not a fact that these telegrams come to this country through Reuters?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I do not know anything sure about it myself. The hon. Member seems to know more about it."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Do not the Government consider it necessary to ban altogether the coming in of these figures in daily newspapers?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Yes, the Government will consider the suggestion."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Is it a fact that those who have been convicted for this offence were not the actual offenders but were only agents and petty men?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I want notice of it."

The number of panchayat boards in Malabar district and whether the number will be increased.

* 38 (21) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) what the total number of panchayat boards in Malabar district is; and

(b) whether the District Panchayat Officer, Malabar, has been directed to increase the number of panchayat boards as far as possible?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" (a) The number was 67 on 1st June 1946.

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“(b) The Deputy Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards has drawn the attention of the District Panchayat Officer to the fact that there is ample scope for increasing the number of panchayats in the district.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“In connexion with the election to local bodies and panchayat boards, will the Government consider the question of introducing adult franchise?”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“The local bodies and panchayat boards have been existing for so long a time and elections have been carried on with the usual franchise. The ultimate aim of Government for these elections is the introduction of adult franchise, but it is a question of time, Sir.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“May I take it, Sir, from the reply to the above question, that adult franchise will be introduced in the next elections?”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“At present, I think the Government have no idea of introducing adult franchise in the coming elections.”

The number of ryots who have taken advantage of the Government subsidies for sinking wells and tanks in Malabar district.

* 39 (11) Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state how many ryots in the Malabar district have taken advantage of the Government subsidies for sinking wells and tanks?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“It is presumed that the hon. the Member refers to the accelerated scheme for sinking new wells and repairing old wells introduced in March 1946. This scheme does not provide for the grant of subsidies for sinking irrigation tanks. Eight hundred and eighty-four persons had applied for subsidies for sinking wells under the accelerated scheme in the Malabar district. Subsidies were sanctioned in 177 cases and rejected in 577 cases.”

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that many of the ryots have not been able to take full advantage of the scheme, owing to the delay in the publication of the scheme and in the sanction of subsidies?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“The difficulty was that applications had to be made before the 15th June and the work completed before 31st July. In the meantime the monsoon set in and many of the applicants could not begin the work. But I may tell hon. Members that a new scheme is under consideration for the West Coast districts of Malabar and South Kanara in the coming year and also for other districts.”

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SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“Will the Government be pleased to give the figures of percentage between the rich, the middle-class and the poor peasants that have received the subsidy?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“It is not possible to make such an investigation.”

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—“May I know, Sir, how many wells have been sunk, after the introduction of this scheme and whether the scheme has proved a success?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“It is too early to assess the success of the scheme. The time has been extended till September and it is only then that an idea of the success of the scheme can be obtained.”

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—“In view of the fact that many of the wells have not been dug, will the Hon. the Minister be pleased to extend the time still further?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“The utmost time that could be granted has been granted and that is till the end of September and it is hoped that most of the wells would be completed by that time.”

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—“As the Government knows, many of the officials connected with the granting of subsidies are corrupt and they would not grant these subsidies without taking bribes from the villagers. I submit that it would be better to entrust the work into the hands of non-officials or M.L.As. . . .”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Will you kindly put it in the form of a question?”

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—“Will the Government consider the question of entrusting the work of the granting of subsidies to non-officials or to M.L.As.?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“In the interest of the Members themselves, such a course is not desirable. The Government cannot entrust the work to non-officials.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I ask, Sir, whether the amount of subsidy granted to the ryots for the sinking of wells in the Ceded districts is enough and whether it does not require to be raised? Should not also the time-limit be extended in these districts?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“I have personally seen many of these wells in the Ceded districts and the time that is now given will be more than ample?”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“Will the Government consider the question whether subsidies could not be given by the Government in the form of labour and materials?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“It is very difficult for Government to supply labour.”

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SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL:—"May I know, Sir, how many wells have been sunk in the Tinnevely district under this scheme?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is a separate question and I require notice."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Is it not possible for the Agricultural department itself to take up the scheme and execute it?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is not possible. It is a scheme for the ryots to take up privately and it cannot be carried out by the department. The department can only give advice."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Are the Government aware that a regular percentage is asked for as bribe by the officials concerned who grant subsidies?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The Government are not aware of any such general practice. If specific cases are brought to their notice, they will look into them."

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—"May I know, Sir, in how many cases subsidies have been given in the various districts of the province?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Notice, Sir."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"In view of the great difficulty felt by ryots in sinking wells in the Ceded districts, will the Government consider the desirability of supplying them with boring sets?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Whatever help the Agricultural department could give to the ryots in regard to the sinking of wells has been made available in the Ceded districts also."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Now that the monsoon has set in, in Malabar, is not the Government aware that digging operations would be very difficult and that time should be extended till next summer?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The last year's scheme is over and a new scheme for the West Coast districts is under consideration. I have already referred to this in my previous reply."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What about the old scheme?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Those who have completed the work and are eligible for the subsidy, will be entitled to it."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Do the Government propose to give the ryots any technical help in the matter of digging wells?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The Government will be prepared to give any technical help that is possible, but may I know what sort of technical help is required?"

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SRI P. NATESAN:—"In view of the fact that extension of time has been granted in respect of the completion of wells, will the Government consider the question of supplying the ryots with machinery and technical personal to help them in completing the work before the time allowed?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is impossible for the Government to supply machinery for the thousands of wells to be sunk."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is the want of funds or the want of sufficient machinery that stands in the way of Government helping the ryots?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am not able to understand the question, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"To put it more explicitly, Sir, may I know whether the department has not got sufficient machinery and implements to assist the ryots in completing the wells?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I said that it is not possible for the department to supply all the machinery for digging thousands of wells in the districts."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR:—"Will the Government consider the question of requisitioning the help of the Sappers and Miners from the Army?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That is a very useful suggestion and it will be considered."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Are there no water-diviners with the Government?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"No, Sir, not under official agency."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Government consider the question of restoring the tanks under the tank restoration scheme by the Public Works Department?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The question may be addressed to the proper quarter."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR:—"In the matter of repairing of old wells and sinking of new wells, will the Government help the ryots by supplying them with crowbars and other implements necessary for the purpose?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"This is also a question which should be addressed to the Minister for Agriculture."

[Question 40 was put by N. Muhammad Anwar Sahib Bahadur 11-30
on behalf of Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin and answered.] a.m.

Proportion of the land assessment to the net produce in ryotwari areas.

* 40 (141) Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) what proportion the land assessment bears to the net produce in ryotwari areas; and

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(b) whether the Government have in view the introduction of a Land Revenue Bill?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“(a) It cannot be said what proportion exactly the land assessment bears to the net produce in the ryotwari areas. In its report published in 1925 the Taxation Enquiry Committee has stated that ‘the result of an elaborate examination of the question made ten years ago showed that the percentage of assessment to rental in the case of all classes of leases taken together varied from 10·7 to 29·0, the percentage in half the districts being less than 17·1. A further comparison in the case of the three districts in which re-settlements have most recently been made shows variations from 6·25 to 24·1.’ It may fairly be assumed that the rental is something less than the net profit so as to leave a margin for the cultivator so that the assessment at most must be something less than 29 per cent of the net profit. Although at the original settlement the assessments were fixed on the basis of half the net money value of the produce, at re-settlements, the re-settlement commutation rate was compared with the settlement rate and if the former was in excess of the latter, the old rates were enhanced, but never by the full percentage of increase revealed by the commutation rates. The land revenue cannot thus be said now to represent the value of half the net produce, but something considerably less. And the proportion varies when there is a change in prices as is the case now.

“(b) The question of introducing a Land Revenue Bill has not yet been taken up for consideration but all relevant factors which will enable Government to frame such a Bill are being investigated.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“Do the Government propose to take steps to abolish the zamindari system when they introduce the Land Revenue Bill?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“It does not arise out of this question.”

M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Are the Government aware that the assessment in the Tanjore district is the highest in the province and may I ask whether they will take steps to reduce it?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“The matter will be considered along with the other districts.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“Will the Government consider the question of abolishing the land-tax and introducing a system of Land Income-tax in its place?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“The question of introducing an Agricultural Income-tax is being investigated. No decision has yet been arrived at.”

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[Question 41 was put by N. Muhammad Anwar Sahib Babadur on behalf of Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin and answered.]

Number of posts of Minor Irrigation Supervisors in the Province of Madras.

* 41 (147) Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number of posts of Minor Irrigation Supervisors in this Province;

(b) the number of the above posts that are held by—

(1) Brahmans, (2) Non-Brahmans, (3) Muslims, (4) Christians and (5) Scheduled Classes; and

(c) whether the claims of any Muslim for the above post has been overlooked during the past five years?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“The information asked for in the question is not available with the Government. The Board of Revenue has been asked to submit a report.”

Re-opening of the minor ports in the Province for passenger traffic.

* 42 (53) Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether the Government have any proposal for re-opening the minor ports in the Province for passenger traffic?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“After cessation of hostilities, all the minor ports in this Province have been re-opened for steamer traffic; as such they are also open for passenger traffic. Passenger traffic between ports in South India and Ceylon are however restricted to the ports of Dhanushkodi and Tuticorin under the Ceylon quarantine regulations as before the war.”

SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI:—“Will the Government consider the question of opening the Point Calimere port for passenger traffic?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“This question was considered by the previous Ministry and the matter was finally referred to the Chairman of the Ports Technical Committee who were of the opinion that the matter was not worth any consideration. I have since received some representations in the matter. We shall pursue the matter further.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“Is it a fact that the Nizam's Government are demanding the ports of Masulipatam and Cocanada?”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“I am not aware, Sir.”

M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I ask whether the Government will consider the possibility of re-opening Adirampatnam and Thirumalaivasal in the Tanjore district as minor ports for passenger traffic.”

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“Yes, Sir.”

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have considered the advisability of opening the ports of Kilkarai and Tondi?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"Not so far, Sir."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the Government propose to improve the Minor Port of Masulipatam?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"We shall consider the question."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Is the Government aware of the agitation in the Press regarding the demand of the Nizam's Government for these ports?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"I am not aware, Sir."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government consider the claims of Vadarevu in the Guntur district, for improvement?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"We shall consider it."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I ask whether the Government will resist the demand of the Nizam's Government for the port of Masulipatam if he makes such a claim?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"Certainly, Sir."

K. M. HAJI AHMAD KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government be pleased to include the Calicut port also in this consideration?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"We shall consider generally the question of improving all minor ports in South India."

SRI N. SANJEEVI REDDI:—"Will the Government consider the question of having some minor port for the Ceded Districts?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"If the Hon. Member will prepare and submit a scheme, the Government will consider it." (Laughter.)

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask whether the Government will consider the question of improving the natural facilities at Malpi and re-opening it for passenger traffic?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"We shall consider that question."

Opening of the road on the coast line directly connecting Malabar with South Kanara.

* 43 (77) Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no road on the coast line directly connecting Malabar with South Kanara, and if so, to what distance; and

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(b) whether any action is being taken to open a road here?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—" (a) Yes—for a distance of $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles between Vellur and Karivellur on the district frontier.

" (b) Yes—In view of the importance of having a through road from Cape Comorin to Bombay via Calicut, Telli-cherry, Cannanore, Mangalore and other important towns in the West Coast, provision has been made in the post-war Road Development programme for the formation of a road from Vellur to Karivellur including the construction of a bridge across Kovvayi river on this section during 1948-49."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether action in this matter will be expedited since this matter has been pending investigation and consideration for a very long time?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"I shall consider the question of taking it up next year."

DR. S. SUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of opening a road from Cape Comorin to Madras to Calcutta?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"We shall examine the question, Sir." (Laughter.)

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know what are the new projects that were sanctioned but were not put into execution?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"It is a very wide question. I want notice, Sir."

SRI K. SUBBA RAO:—"May I ask whether road-making will come under Irrigation?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"Road-making cannot come under Irrigation, except in the case of culverts and bridges over canals or rivers."

Number of irrigation schemes sanctioned for Malabar and South Kanara.

* 44 (169) Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the number of irrigation schemes sanctioned for Malabar and South Kanara for helping the 'Grow More Food' campaign since 1943 and the amount spent on such schemes so far?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"No irrigation schemes for helping the 'Grow More Food' campaign have been sanctioned for Malabar and South Kanara districts since 1943; but several schemes are under investigation by the special staff sanctioned for the purpose. The Chief Engineer (Irrigation)'s final report in the matter is awaited."

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SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"In view of the fact that no schemes have so far been sanctioned for this purpose in Malabar and South Kanara will Government be pleased to follow a liberal policy in this matter in the future at least?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"Certainly, Sir.

We propose to devote special attention to Malabar and South Kanara with regard to irrigation. We have already completed investigation for two schemes in South Kanara and we are examining the same."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"May I ask whether the Government will work the Grow More Food campaign in proper spirit and take steps to see that it is accelerated?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"We are trying to do our very best to accelerate this campaign."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, what is the scheme for increasing irrigation facilities under the auspices of the Grow More Food campaign proposed for the North Arcot district?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—"I want notice, Sir."

Admissions to the Higher Elementary and Secondary Grade Training Schools.

* 45 (82) Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether there has been a fall in the number of admissions to the Higher Elementary and Secondary Grade Training Schools since the last two or three years; and

(b) what steps the Government propose to take to attract sufficient number of suitable candidates for teachers' training?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

"(b) The Government have sanctioned the grant of stipends at liberal rates to teachers undergoing training—Rs. 12 per mensem for higher elementary grade training and Rs. 18 per mensem for secondary grade training. The rule prescribing educational qualification for admission of candidates for the secondary grade training course has been relaxed as a temporary measure in 1946-47. The period of the secondary grade course has also been reduced from two years to one year for the emergency course in the current school year.

"Before proceeding further I should like to apologise to the House for not having been able to be present in the House day before yesterday at question time to answer my questions."

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N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the Hon. Minister seriously believe that the rates are liberal?"

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"And attractive?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"They are much more liberal than the previous rates."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know, Sir, whether the measures now taken have brought sufficient number of candidates to the training schools?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Not as much as we desire, Sir."

DR. S. SUBRAMANYA AYYAR:—"Do the Government expect to attract more candidates to these training schools when the pay that they would receive as teachers after training is much less than the Postal Messenger's pay?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"We are considering the question of revising the teachers' pay."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government think that the only reason for not getting sufficient number of candidates is the low rates of stipend?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Personally I think we should pay the teachers more, if we should attract sufficient numbers."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know if more teachers' training schools have been opened since this Ministry took up office?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Notice, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, if the schools which were closed some time ago, have all now been re-opened?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Yes, Sir. Some of them."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Can the existing training schools accommodate all the teachers proposed to be trained by Government?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The existing training schools can accommodate much more than the numbers they accommodate at present."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the Government contemplate the conversion of Higher Elementary Schools into Middle Schools?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir."

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SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Is the Government aware that the number of teachers trained, is less than the number of teachers who retire from the schools?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, if the Government has assured itself that there are enough schools to train as many as 4,000 teachers?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The plan of the Government was to open new training schools and new training sections in the existing High Schools as more candidates turned up for training. But sufficient number of candidates have not yet come."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to call for information whether the number of teachers trained are sufficient in number for the vacancies caused by retirement?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is not a matter of merely replacing the retired teachers. It is a matter of opening new schools also."

SRI K. SUBBA RAO:—"In view of the vernacularization of the medium of instruction will the Hon. Minister consider the advisability of admitting into these training schools candidates who have passed the S.S.L.C. Examination even though their marks in English are less?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"That will be considered."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister consider the question of re-employing retired teachers for the time being to meet the demand?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Sometimes they are allowed, but if you make it a rule there is the danger of people of 70 coming back and being re-employed. They may not do any teaching but may spend their time in sleeping and resting."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Will the Government be pleased to employ retired teachers to fill up vacancies?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I have already answered this question."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the number of L.T. teachers is inadequate at the present moment and may I know what steps the Minister proposes to take to increase their number?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Not much for the present in that direction. I understand that the Training College at Saidapet is full."

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N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the terrible paucity of trained teachers will the Hon. Minister consider whether it is not desirable now to abandon training altogether and arrange for a refresher course for a limited period of three months for teachers?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No educationist will accept the proposition of the hon. Member."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"May I ask whether the Government will investigate this matter fully and consider what further steps could be taken to recruit a larger number of candidates for the teaching profession?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"This matter is very much in the Government's mind and before the year is over I hope we will be able to come forward with concrete proposals which will attract larger number of men to this profession."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask whether the Government are giving any special concession to the I.N.A. personnel in the matter of these admissions?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir. No special concessions as far as I am aware."

Dr. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"In view of the great amount of illiteracy prevailing in the country will the Government consider the advisability of insisting on every new graduate spending at least three months in teaching in a village before he is given the degree?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"That does not arise out of this question."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether there is a difference in standard between the Panchayat Board teachers and the District Board teachers in the matter of their salaries?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The difference is not in the standard of qualification, but in the matter of their salaries."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Why is there this difference?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is a large question and it cannot be explained in the course of a supplementary question."

Reorganization of education in the Province of Madras.

* 46 (105) Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have decided to undertake the reorganization of education in the Province; and

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(b) if the answer to (a) above is in the affirmative, what steps the Government propose to take in that direction?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“(a) & (b) Yes. A questionnaire is being prepared to invite public opinion on various matters requiring reorganization.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Has the questionnaire just mentioned by the Hon. Minister seen the light of day?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“I do not understand what is meant by ‘light of day’. I said the questionnaire was being prepared and when it is published I hope the eyes of the hon. Member will be set upon it.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“You want some more light?”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“While the questionnaire is prepared will the Hon. Minister give an assurance that nothing will be done in the matter of reorganization before giving an opportunity to this House to discuss the matter.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“I do not agree that on every little administrative detail we should get the opinion of this House. But on broad principles which have not been accepted by educational authorities such as for instance whether graduates should be asked to do teaching work for three months before they are given their degrees, the Government will place the matter before the House and take their opinion before coming to a decision, but no Government can undertake that every administrative action that will be taken by it will be placed before the House for its decision.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I ask for an assurance that in the matter of the basic language nothing will be done by the Government without consulting this House.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I do not understand what he means by basic language. Is the Hon. Minister aware that there are demands from various communities that the matter of the reorganization of education should be in accordance with their own requirements and unless he consults them and gets their consent he should not take any steps in that matter?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“I am not able to answer a general question like this. If the hon. Member specifies any particular point on which he wants information I will be able to answer the question.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“The question is with regard to the regional languages about which the

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Hon. Minister has been speaking elsewhere. May I know whether he realises that his scheme of regional languages adversely affects a particular community whose language is Urdu?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“No, Sir.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“Do the Government propose to take over the management of aided schools under private management and introduce compulsory primary education in those areas?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“It does not arise out of this question.”

K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Government publish their proposals regarding reorganization of education for public criticism before passing final orders on them?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“We will do one better. We will publish these points of reorganization and take public opinion before passing orders.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Has the Hon. Minister for Education read the reply given by the Hon. the Premier with regard to the medium of instruction the day before yesterday and has he anything to say with regard to that matter?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“I am absolutely at one with the Hon. the Premier.”

Compulsory study of Hindi and introduction of the same as the medium of instruction in all schools.

* 47 (108) Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the study of Hindi or Hindustani is compulsory in all schools; and

(b) whether it is the aim of the Government to make Hindi or Hindustani a common language in the Province and introduce it as the medium of instruction common to all schools, in the place of English?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
(a) & (b) Proposals to introduce Hindi in Schools is under consideration of the Government.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“Do the Government propose the mother-tongue to be the medium of instruction instead of the regional language?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“The regional language is the mother-tongue of most of the people of the region.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister not to make such categorical and sweeping assertions and may I ask him to place his hand on his heart and

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find out whether there are not a large number of people belonging to the Muslim community who speak Urdu in the Telugu area?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"No, Sir. My information is that a majority of the Muslims in the Tamil districts speak Tamil in their homes, the majority of Muslims in the Telugu districts speak Telugu in their homes and the majority of Muslims in Malabar speak Malayalam in their homes."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Your information is wrong."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister to verify the fact, the absolute and categorical fact, that almost all the Muslims in the Andhra Desa have Urdu as their mother-tongue?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"No, Sir."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask him to *verify* the fact?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"That is my information, Sir. If there is anything different from that I would like the hon. Member to give that information."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am giving that information."

SRI B. ANANTACHAR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that Urdu is a compulsory language in the schools in the Nizam's Dominions, even where the mother-tongue of the pupils is Telugu or Mahrati?"

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We are not discussing the policy of the Nizam's Government."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the statement he has made is wrong?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"If the information I have got is wrong, I should say that the information given by the hon. Member also is wrong."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask, Sir, whether it is proper for the Hon. Minister to treat hon. Members on this side in the light manner in which he has done?"
(Cries of 'order, order'.) "Where does 'order, order' come in? It is a very serious matter."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know the answer which the Hon. Minister has just given to the question whether he would verify the fact that Urdu is the mother-tongue of the Muslims in the Andhra Desa?"

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"If the hon. Member has information different from ours, we will enquire."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is not a question of information. It is a fact."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Government allow the pupils to learn in their own mother-tongue?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"The regional language is mostly the mother-tongue."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Is the Government aware that there are persons living in regions where the regional language is not their mother-tongue?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"If there are many such children in a school and if the school is prepared to impart instruction in the mother-tongue of these students, we have no objection."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"What should be the strength of such students?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"The schools know that."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. Minister has come down. He has stated that he is prepared to permit the opening of special schools or classes if there were a sufficiently large number of students in areas where the regional language is different from the mother-tongue of the students. On the same analogy, may I ask him whether if he found that in the Andhra districts there are a large number of Muslim students, whose mother-tongue is Urdu, he will be prepared to provide education for them through the medium of Urdu?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"There is no climbing down. Orders have been passed with respect to Madras City that if in any school there is a large number of Malayalam students sufficient to make up a class and if they wanted instruction through the medium of Malayalam and if the schools take the responsibility of imparting instruction through that language, there will be no objection to it."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My question was with reference to Muslim students in the Andhra districts with Urdu as their mother-tongue. Will the Hon. Minister kindly answer that question?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
"Let me first get a representation from any school that there are a sufficient number of Muslim boys who want to be instructed through the medium of Urdu."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the Hon. Minister know that to-day in the Andhra Desa the medium of instruction in Muslim schools is Urdu?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"He is ignorant." (Laughter.)

Short Notice Question.

Threatened strike notice of the scavengers in the Madras City.

* 48 (269) Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have taken any action to avert the threatened strike of the city scavengers; and

(b) if so, whether the Government can let the House know what it is?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (a) It is for the Corporation of Madras to take necessary action.

" (b) The question does not arise."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact that the Corporation has asked for a loan or a half grant from the Government in the matter?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am not aware."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact that the Hon. Minister for Local Administration promised Rs. 2 to the scavengers without previously consulting the Commissioner and that precipitated the strike?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"No information."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister for Public Health aware of the consequences of the threatened strike and may I ask whether steps will be taken to avert it?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Yes, Sir. The Government are aware of the consequences that may arise out of the threatened strike and the Commissioner of the Corporation is already negotiating with the strikers, i.e., those who have sponsored the strike with a view to coming to an amicable settlement."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether he promised to grant Rs. 2 increase without asking the Commissioner?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"No, Sir."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Hon. Minister for Local Administration say whether it is not true that in some municipalities dearness allowance is not paid and that is the cause of strike in these municipalities?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" (. . .)."

MR. SPEAKER:—"We shall pass on to the next item in the Agenda."

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Inundation of the paddy fields with sand in Kadavurunchi Madai ayacut in Kadayannallur village, Tirunelveli district.

10 (38) Q.—K. MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the paddy fields in Kadavurunchi Madai ayacut in Kadayannallur village, Tirunelveli district, are inundated with sand to a height of 2 feet and more by the usual seasonal flood;

(b) whether the contractor was delaying the work for about ten months after removing the bund of the channel and leaving a gap wide open between the sluice and the bank;

(c) whether the pattadars of the abovesaid ayacut made representations to the Collector and Public Works Department Engineer before the last rainy season in December 1945, that there was the danger of their fields being inundated by flood and sand;

(d) what action was taken on those representations;

(e) whether it is a fact that the sluice is still in the same condition;

(f) whether the peasants and the pattadars have now made representations once again that the repairs should be finished soon, and that otherwise, their fields will further be inundated;

(g) whether the peasants have applied for monetary help to the Collector to remove the sand; and

(h) how long those petitions are pending without any disposal?

A.—(a) The field in rear of Kadavurunchi Madai, a sluice in the channel taking off from sluice No. 3 of Pappanakal in Kadayannallur village, was covered with sand brought down by the flood waters from the breaches in Pappanakal channel and the breach in the ring bund put up in front of the sluice.

(b) The contract was settled and materials were collected in September 1945 and work started in the following month. The bund at the site of the sluice was cut open for constructing the sluice and a ring bund put up in front of the site to prevent water entering the work site. There was no gap left open which would allow water into the fields, in the normal course of events. Inundation was caused by the breaching of the ring bund under abnormal conditions. Repairs to breaches in the main channel were attended to first.

(c) There was no representation from the ryots in December 1945 to Public Works Department about the danger of their fields being inundated by floods.

(d) The question does not arise in view of answer to (c) above.

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- (e) The work of reconstruction of the sluice was completed in June 1946.
- (f) One petition was received and sent to the Chief Engineer (Irrigation).
- (g) & (h) No information. A report has been called for from the Board of Revenue which is awaited.

The number and names of villages where fire broke out in last summer.

11 (88) Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) the number and names of the villages where fire broke out in last summer;
- (b) how many houses were gutted out; and
- (c) what relief the Government have given to the parties concerned?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) It is not possible to answer the question since no particulars regarding time, place or occasion have been given.

Total number of acres of cultivable waste land in the Province of Madras.

12 (94) Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) the total number of acres of cultivable waste land in the Province, districtwar;
- (b) how many acres of such land were cultivated either under Grow More Food campaign or under sivoijama cultivation;
- (c) whether the cultivators under sivoijama cultivation were levied any penalty for encroachments;
- (d) if so, whether the Government propose to return the penalties so levied;
- (e) if not, why not;
- (f) if so, when; and
- (g) the future policy of the Government as regards the poramboke lands and sivoijama cultivation?

A.—(a) & (b) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to cultivate waste lands at the disposal of the Government. A districtwar statement showing (1) cultivable waste lands in blocks of 50 acres and above, (2) the extent brought under temporary cultivation as a result of the Grow More Food campaign out of those lands until the beginning of 1944, and (3) the extent of poramboke cultivation in fasli 1354, is appended^a. It is not practicable to collect complete information regarding the total cultivable waste land available with the Government. The Government have called for up-to-date information regarding the total area cultivated under the Grow More Food Scheme in each district.

^a Vide Appendix on page 136 infra.

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- (c) Penalties are levied only where the encroachments are considered objectionable.
- (d) No.
- (e) Penalties are not refunded in objectionable cases.
- (f) Does not arise.
- (g) Poramboke lands are *prima facie* required for communal purposes and will not therefore be permanently assigned to anybody. As regards assignment of Government lands under sivoijama occupation, the question of future policy is under consideration.

Memorial by Dr. P. M. Kamath to the Hon. the Prime Minister.

13 (109) Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that a memorial has been submitted to the Hon. the Prime Minister by one Dr. P. M. Kamath, Registered Medical Practitioner, Gobichettipalayam, Coimbatore district;
- (b) if so, whether the memorial contains allegations against any local officials and others in their official or public capacity; and
- (c) if such allegations are found in the memorial, what action, if any, has been or is proposed to be taken, to inquire into the matter in public interest?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

- (b) It contained certain allegations against a police subordinate officer, Gobichettipalayam.
- (c) The enquiries made showed that the allegations in the memorial were groundless.

Payment of Dearness Allowance to the local board employees.

14 (148) Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Local Board employees were not paid the dearness allowance at the enhanced rate of Rs. 16 from 1st July to 31st December 1945 though the other Government servants are paid at the enhanced rates; and
- (b) if so, whether there is any proposal before the Government to make the local boards pay their employees the dearness allowance at the same rates and for the same period as the Government pay their servants?

A.—(a) & (b) The hon. Member apparently refers to the period from 1st July to 31st December 1944. Government have recently directed local boards to pay dearness allowance to their conservancy menials for this period at the enhanced rate of Rs. 16 per mensem. The question whether a similar direction should be issued in respect of the other employees of local boards is under consideration.

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[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE HON. THE SPEAKER *RE* CONSTITUTION OF A COMMITTEE FOR AMENDING RULES OF PROCEDURE.

12 noon. Mr. SPEAKER:—"The Rules of Procedure which at present govern the conduct of business in the Chambers of the Madras Legislature are those of the old Madras Legislative Council, with such modifications and adaptations as have been made therein by the Governor acting in his discretion under sub-section (3) of section 84 of the Government of India Act, 1935. Under sub-section (1) of that section, it is for the Chambers themselves to make the necessary rules for regulating their procedure and the conduct of their business. For this purpose, under the auspices of the then Hon. the Speaker, my predecessor, a Committee was appointed in 1937 for reporting on the amendments which might be necessary if the rules were to be placed before the Assembly under section 84 (1) of the Act. The Committee prepared a draft report suggesting certain amendments to the rules. Before the Committee could however pass the report, the Ministry then in office resigned. As the Ministry has now assumed office, the question of bringing the rules of procedure under sub-section (1) of section 84 of the Government of India Act, 1935, has now been taken up.

"On this issue, I had prior consultation with the Hon. the Premier, the Hon. the President and the leaders of the various groups in this House. They have been kind enough to consent to serve on the Joint Committee of the Members of both the Chambers which I intend to constitute for the purpose of making the necessary recommendations in regard to amendments to the Rules of Procedure. I therefore propose the following Members of the Assembly to be Members of that Committee:—

- (1) The Speaker,
- (2) The Deputy Speaker,
- (3) The Hon. the Premier,
- (4) The Hon. Mr. M. Bhaktavathsalam,
- (5) Mr. Muhammad Ismail Sahib,
- (6) Kumararaja Sir Muthiah Chettiyar,
- (7) Mr. H. S. Town,
- (8) Mr. B. Pocker Sahib, and
- (9) Sri S. Chidambara Ayyar."

III.—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1946-47.

Mr. SPEAKER:—"The general discussion on the Budget will now be taken up.

"Before we proceed to the general discussion on the Budget, I wish to tell hon. Members . . ."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Before you say that, Sir, may I submit that we have not yet received the copy of the statement made by the Hon. the Premier the day before yesterday, relating to the present food situation. That will certainly materially affect the discussion to take place to-day."

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Mr. SPEAKER:—"The statement will be circulated to the members just now. In the meanwhile, we can proceed with our general discussion on the Budget.

"Before we go to the general discussion, I wish to inform the hon. Members that under Rule 126 (3) of the Assembly Rules, the Speaker has been given power to allot time for the speeches of hon. Members. I have consulted the Hon. the Premier and the leaders of the various groups. To-day we will have to rise at 1 o'clock for lunch and meet again at 3 p.m., to-day being Friday. And for these three days, i.e., to-day, to-morrow and Monday, we will have at our disposal about ten or eleven hours. At the rate of fifteen minutes each, about thirty members can take part in the discussions. I have consulted the Hon. the Premier and the other leaders of groups in the house. I propose to give half an hour for each of the leaders, and fifteen minutes for each of the members. They have agreed to the time-limit. If, however, one or two members want one or two more minutes, I shall have no objection to grant the same. Mr. Ferrelly will now speak."

* Mr. F. FERRELLY:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have listened to the Budget speech of the Hon. the Prime Minister and have also gone through, with considerable interest, the various remarks he has made therein. He mentioned at the outset that he was presenting the present Budget from the Treasury Bench of a Government elected by the people after an absence of nearly seven years. That gives us great pleasure, although it was his party that was responsible for the fact that they have not been there during the last seven years.

"First of all, we would like to congratulate the Hon. the Prime Minister on the manner in which he has faced the problems before him and on the manner in which he has endeavoured to seek new fields for the improvement of the lot of the people of this Presidency. He will, however, I am sure, forgive us if we cannot go all the way with him in these endeavours. We have some criticisms to make, but these criticisms are offered in a spirit of construction and not of destruction; and I hope they will be accepted as such.

"It has been said, Mr. Speaker, that this Budget has been produced hastily and by the vagueness of several of the statements made, we are afraid it is evident that it has been hastily prepared. I do not say that the Prime Minister's statements have been deliberately vague, nor that the issues have been evaded; much less do I say that some of his statements are mere window-dressing; but the fact remains that on the many points brought out, there is no information given to the house.

"If I may, I would like to make my comments, somewhat in the order of the Prime Minister's speech. The first thing which strikes one is the enormous and terrific figure which this Government are spending on State-trading. The figures given to us show that while last year we expected a profit of some 200 lakhs and odd, this year we are going to anticipate a deficit of

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some Rs. 600 lakhs and odd. The total figure reversed in this proposal is Rs. 918 lakhs, or over Rs. 9 crores.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, from the figures which the Government have put in print, we cannot make out what the cost of the administration is; but will the Prime Minister kindly tell us if he is satisfied that the administration is not top-heavy? I would also ask him, Sir, will the Prime Minister take the House into his confidence and will he tell us exactly how those surplus Provinces in India from whom we secure grain, are treating us? May I ask for instance whether in regard to wheat and wheat flour which we got from the Province of Sind, they show their brotherly love for South Indians by charging us a higher price than what we have to pay for wheat and wheat flour from Australia? If I am correct in saying that they charge nearly 50 per cent more, if I am only approximately correct, will the Government tell us what steps they have taken to stop this inequity amongst brother Indians? It is a sad commentary, Sir, that in spite of these subsidies, in spite of war conditions ceasing to exist and in spite of the speeches made here, the cost of living in the Madras Presidency continues to rise. It is not enough that the prices of grains should be controlled; what about the prices of indigenous food products grown in our own villages, in the districts, their prices are now anywhere between 400 and 700 per cent higher than these before the war. The Ministry have, I agree, a very stern task in looking after grain; but it is high time that something was done to control the prices of other food-stuffs. Nothing is mentioned, however, about this in the Budget.

"Then in regard to the growing of more food, we have a lovely picture of the wells that have been sunk, and we listened with some amusement this morning to the questions put in this regard. What I would like to know, is the Prime Minister satisfied that the money granted for the sinking of new wells and for the repairing of old wells has actually been spent and that it has not gone into thin air.

"Now, Sir, we must next comment upon this question of prohibition. Fortunately or unfortunately we feel it is hardly proper for us to hold back our views on this important question. Let me say, we are with you, Sir, in every endeavour that you make to alleviate the lot of the poor man. Judging from this morning's papers, we do not know whether it is going to be introduced in four districts or whether the goal of total prohibition in the Province is to be reached in two years or three years. But we raise this point because we feel it our duty to forcibly bring to the attention of the Government the danger of this policy. Sir, history teaches us—and it is a very difficult thing to ignore history—history for over two thousand years has shown us that in any country which has introduced prohibition, there has been trouble. Does this country expect to succeed, Sir, where China and the United States of America have failed? (A voice: 'Certainly.') Apart from the sense of ability to do, we do not know what we can do. Sir, the sudden stopping of alcohol is likely

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to reduce the moral standards of the people. You, Sir, are changing law abiding citizens into breakers of the law. Illicit and underground suppliers will be found as they were found before in these four districts, of which we know. And is this the time, Sir, to risk any possible trouble in disregard of law and order? I must say this is not the time. We would like to know if Government are prepared for any such trouble? You have just reduced the rice ration to 8 oz. and now you are taking another risk.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I said very early that we would support the Government's efforts to alleviate the lot of the poor man. I suggest that this ought to be done by education, and it is only by education that you can instil into the minds of the people what are the advantages that they would get and not by the carion call of the Government. This can only be done by educating the public to an appreciation of abstinence and by controlling the toddy shops. Improve the quality of the alcohol—usually it is impure and if necessary you may reduce the alcoholic content but unless you are certain that other forms of doubtful varieties are not going to be taken and unless you are sure that you are prepared to have recourse to strong measures to support law and order, you are going much too quickly indeed.

"Now, Sir, my next point is in regard to the suggestion of further powers to increase the inefficiency of our municipalities and district boards. (An hon. Member: Question.) The Hon. the Prime Minister simply says: 'greater powers are going to be given.' What are these powers, I would ask the Hon. the Prime Minister? As a matter of fact, from my own experience in the Malabar District Board and the Calicut Municipality too much power has already been given.

"Next, we have this wonderful scheme of Rural Reconstruction and the uplift of the Harijans. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, that the Prime Minister has any right to come to this House and ask us for a blind grant without saying how it is going to be spent. It is stated that three crores are provided for rural reconstruction and therefore we want three crores, but the Government have not given their plans in regard to the scheme. But, such ideas as are given involve a most dangerous policy. You anticipate selecting certain areas and you tell us plainly that spinning and weaving will have to be carried on there. Is the Ministry prepared to repatriate those who do not want to other districts? No, of course not. Sir, any schemes involving the right of the individual and which aim at curtailing the right of an individual to live his life as he wants it, are against the common practices of democracy. Sir, if this scheme goes through—we heard earlier from one of the Ministers that if necessary he will make effective laws to carry it through—and if this hand-spinning and weaving is to be enforced, you are encroaching upon that most sacred right of every man to do what he likes according to his own light. This is an encroachment which we cannot support. It is true that you can guide but not compel and any law you

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bring in or any rules for reconstruction, should aim at leaving the decision to what a man shall do, to him, that he 'may' and not 'must.'

"There is only a very good point which the Prime Minister has made and that is with regard to education. We cannot but support him and warmly congratulate him for having had the courage to say what he has said about university education. I wish that more leaders in India would voice their thoughts so openly. The manner in which we turn out graduates of second-class quality, etc., is no credit to our Province. Cannot something be done to bring pressure upon universities to raise their standard of education? It is far too low and we should support the Prime Minister in any plan which he brings forward on the lines of his speech.

"We cannot overlook the regional languages and we cannot forge what the Prime Minister said two days ago in this House. Then he said that he considered diversity of languages was the principal cause for the disunity of India. I think I am correctly quoting him. If that is so, why are the Government so keen on regional languages. Surely, there is necessity for one language and if you cannot have English, well, have one of the Indian languages for all India. But whatever the language that is adopted, it should be one which will enable your young men coming up to take their part in the life of the world. This country, we consider, has one of the greatest futures before it of any in the world. There are very few opportunities in the world for your young men who are only capable of speaking Urdu or Hindi. This should not be overlooked.

"Now, Sir, we are sorry that you are not taking courage to further the medical side of this Province. We suggest that the whole field of medicine and public health should be urgently reviewed. The standard by which a man takes a degree and practises the profession is too low and so long as you do not take steps to remedy this, the standard will remain low. You should give every inducement to the student to prosecute his studies to the highest available standard and then pay him a suitable salary for his work, and unless that is done you are not going to have a satisfactory medical service in Madras.

"The next point that I have to criticize is the retrograde step in cutting down your Highways. An hon. Member raised a supplementary question on this subject to the Hon. Minister for Public Works and I was not satisfied as to the qualifications of the men promoted to the new Highways Department but that does not mean to say that we feel that there should be cutting down in the programme of giving this country the best possible means of communication which we can. The roads in the Madras Presidency are extremely poor and the roads of the Malabar and South Kanara districts are about the worst of the lot. I say it is a retrograde step—I repeat it—to cut down our Highways at the present time particularly when this Province is going ahead

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so much in industrial expansion—not only in industrial expansion but in the expansion of agriculture. The agriculturist must have decent roads to get his products to the market. He has not got such roads now—certainly not in Malabar.

"Sir, you say that some of the funds from the Highways Department are to be spent on Irrigation. We think it is an extremely good point if you must take from the Highways then give it to Irrigation. There are other profitable ventures, it is stated, but what are they? Why does not the Prime Minister take the House into his confidence and tell us what these other ventures are?

"Now, Sir, I really must cross swords with the Hon. the Prime Minister when we come to this dreadful paragraph on Trade and Commerce. I do not know whether he drafted it in anger, but it is certainly a point for sorrow to the Trade and Commerce section of the House. I suggest that the first few sentences are a complete misstatement of fact and I hope that the Prime Minister, when he had heard the arguments, will suitably withdraw. If the Prime Minister is speaking about petty merchants, I am with him. But do Government really mean to compare a money-lender and the small provision dealer with those men—Indian and other nationalities—who have brought to this Province dyes, cotton mills, sugar factories, vanaspati, cement, iron and steel, etc. Surely not, Sir. Trade and commerce go hand in hand with the country's prosperity. I personally am sure—and am sure all the Members of this House engaged in trade and commerce—are proud of the contribution which trade and commerce have made to the social and economic development of this Presidency and I say it is grossly unfair of the Prime Minister to suggest for one moment that this has been done without any risk or responsibility.

"Finally, Sir,—if you will grant me another two minutes—we feel it is a very sad thing that the Prime Minister should have dipped into the Reserve to the tune of nearly nine crores. He says that the Government expect that prices will be reduced during the next few years. He also said that expenditure is going up. If Government expect lower revenues, surely this is not the time to absorb 28 per cent of their Reserve in one sweep. Government must have in their minds new the methods they are going to employ to finance prohibition *in toto*. For this, they have to find approximately one-third of their present revenues. I suggest, Sir, that it would be sound economics to bring in gradually those new measures of taxation or any other measures whereby you are going to finance this Presidency. You will then be accustoming the people and possibly Trade, of what is to come and you will keep your Reserve for those days when there is likely to be much greater need for something to fall back upon."

* MAHARAJA OF PITHAPURAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the most pressing problem of the moment is shortage of food and cloth. All are suffering but I am sure the poor are suffering

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more than the rest as regards food. I most earnestly request our Government to exert their utmost to remove these difficulties and to see that the prices are kept reasonably low, so low as to be within the reach of the poor. In this connexion, Sir, permit me to say that bribery, corruption, blackmarketing and hoarding must be put a stop to and not only that but corruption and bribery in general must be put down with the strongest hand at the earliest possible moment however highly-placed the parties concerned may be by virtue of riches or of office. The most important matter is the removal of untouchability. This inhuman and pernicious system must be removed. Blood-curdling and diabolical sins have been inflicted in a most cruel manner on our unfortunate sisters and brethren, children of the same God as nude as we are. The removal of this evil is imperative. The best interests in this country, social, economic and political, demand it. Considerations of humanity and spirituality sternly demand it. This evil, I submit, must be entirely eradicated. To achieve this object, the sovereign remedy is to make the observance of untouchability a penal offence. To this end, I most earnestly and with all the emphasis I command beg the Government to pass early legislation making untouchability a penal offence. There is another way of helping the Harijans. It is by giving them all possible help by way of giving them financial and other facilities. Sir, another thing is this. Members of the depressed classes should be given appointments both in the Government services and in other public services. They must be given a much larger share of appointments especially such appointments as are responsible and high in the executive line. That the Harijans can do as well as the so-called higher classes is a well-known fact. They, if given the necessary opportunities, will shine as well as other castes. For instance, permit me to say something about you, Sir. Mr. Speaker, you are yourself an illustrious example. You are a Master of Arts and you are, I believe, the first Harijan Mayor of the Madras Corporation. You are, I am glad to find, the first Harijan Speaker of this august Assembly. Let me, Sir, humbly and heartily congratulate you on your achievements and wish you the best of luck. These facts show that the Harijans can acquit themselves in responsible offices with credit and distinction. (An hon. Member: Sure.) They richly deserve the concessions I have referred to at the hands of the Government. I ask for similar concessions for the backward classes also. Likewise, I request the Government to show similar concessions to the women of our country. They are not less intelligent than we men. If there is any difference at all, it is in their favour. The results of the University examinations in various Provinces show beyond doubt that they are as good as ourselves and in several cases better than we. In various Provinces, I find that girls come out first in the Universities and in some Provinces not only first, but second, third and up to tenth and they top the list. They are endowed with splendid qualities of head and heart. They have a very precious gift of God, the maternal instinct, which I am sure will stand them in very good stead. Thus they are better fitted than

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we are for some kinds of posts. Another question of vital value to our country is the removal of poverty. It is the birth-right of every human being to live in reasonable comfort. Able-bodied labourers must have employment. In their old age, they must be given old-age pensions. Destitute and infirm people must have poor asylums and destitute orphans—boys and girls—must have orphanages."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What about the abolition of zamindaris?"

* MAHARAJA OF PITHAPURAM:—"That will come in due course. Well, the hon. Member seems to be very anxious about it. It will be dealt with by Government in due course, I am sure."

"As regards finding finances for these things, I would suggest the encouragement by the Government of indigenous industries on a gigantic scale and the cultivation of lands where so many millions of acres are lying uncultivated. These might be brought under cultivation and improved and up-to-date methods should be adopted including methods of wet cultivation of rice and the method of electro-culture."

"Next, Sir, I hope that the Ministry will introduce prohibition in the whole of the province as soon as possible."

"Now I come to the question of education. I hold and it is my sincere belief that religious education on non-sectarian and liberal lines will be of very great importance. I say that the imparting of religious instruction will be of immense value. Students must be made to understand that human existence is worth while as long as it is based on true religion. Another point is this. Sir, when they get the knowledge that the fundamental principles of all the great religions are almost the same, I believe, that conflicts, communal, religious, racial and international are likely to diminish to a very considerable extent. I may even hope that they may disappear in due course. Another point, Sir, is this. The educational institutions, I should like to see great stress laid on the importance of physical education, of games and sports which are indigenous to our country. I am sure they are now conducive to the enduring strength and health of the youth in this country, than foreign systems."

"I wish to refer to one point which is of the utmost importance 12-45 and which is causing very great concern and hardship to the p.m. Andhra population of the City of Madras. The Government have recently passed orders to the effect that instruction in high schools should be given in the regional language—I wish it were the regional languages. We, Andhras, who form a very large section of the population of Madras find that there are only a few high schools where there is provision for imparting instruction in Telugu. This is a very great hardship and my people are labouring very much under this disadvantage. I, therefore, most earnestly request the Hon. the Premier to issue orders at the earliest possible moment—I would even say immediately—and remedy this defect."

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"Last but not the least, I come to the vexed question of the formation of the Andhra Province. We, Andhras, have been clamouring for it for ever so long but still it is coming. The formation of the Andhra Province has been approved by both the Central and the Provincial Governments and has, I believe, received the approval of the Indian National Congress. But I am sorry to say that it has not yet become an accomplished fact. I request the Government to do all that lies in their power to set the necessary machinery in motion without any loss of time.

"I humbly submit these proposals for the kind and careful consideration of the Government. May God guide our Government."

M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, after going through the Budget, I feel—I may be excused for giving it as my opinion—that the entire Budget is a jugglery of figures in order to give effect to the political programme of the Congress. When I say that I feel like that, it is because my conclusions are based upon certain facts and figures and announcements made by the Opposition—I mean the party in power. You are aware, Sir, that the introduction of prohibition in the province was cited by the Congress Ministry then in power as a justification for the levy of the sales tax. But now we find that the present Ministry wants to introduce prohibition only in four districts while they are continuing the sales tax at the same level and the excuse is advanced that if total prohibition is introduced in the whole province, they will go short of funds. I would like to draw the attention of the House to some of the figures that are specially earmarked for certain purposes—I mean the amounts set apart for rural or village uplift—you may call it by whatever name you please—and one crore of rupees for the uplift of the so-called Harijans. My view with my little experience in my own place is that whenever a political party is entrusted with funds to carry out any programme that the Ministry might direct, finally those amounts would only be spent to carry out the programme of the political party and to advance their political interest. I say it is much better and, in fact, there might be justification for it, had this four crores of rupees, which has been set apart for village uplift and Harijan uplift, been employed to meet the deficit that may arise from introduction of total prohibition in the province. It is a long-desired programme and it is welcome to all the people of the province. But what is the position? The Ministry simply say that they are going to introduce prohibition in some districts or rather in certain territorial areas. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ferrelley, has given expression to the view that prohibition at one stretch may be harmful to the people themselves. But as a Mussalman, I belong to a community that prohibits intoxicants of any kind. Let us cast our eyes on past history and see how our Prophet was able to introduce total prohibition for his people. When we go into that history—most probably it will be an eye-opener to many of us—we find that in order to achieve his objective of

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total prohibition, instead of applying it wholesale, he reduced the quantity of liquor that the people were taking each day in order that a stage might be reached when they will be able to withstand the temptation of taking to liquor at the first opportunity, by that means total prohibition could be accomplished. That was a most scientific method followed by our Law-giver and I place the very same method for the edification of the Ministry or for anybody who may think of introducing prohibition in the world. I repeat once more that if this sum of four crores of rupees which has been set apart for rural and Harijan uplift had been diverted to meet the deficit consequent upon the introduction of total prohibition, it would have been more welcome to all people of this province. My fear is that the three crores of rupees set apart for rural uplift would in the long run be used only for advancing the political programme you have before you. I say this on different grounds. The Ministry has accepted the programme which was once contemplated or adumbrated by the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee. There may be any amount of contradictions, namely, that the principles were discussed in this House and that effect was given only to some of the proposals made by the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee. Whatever it may be, it is a matter which has gone on behind our backs; the principles and details were worked out without consulting us and this programme is being recklessly carried out in Malabar. The officials in charge of the programme do not consult other parties and only consult Members of the Legislature belonging to the party in power. I am told at the outset that there was a Government Order to the effect that in the selection of members for the various village committees in Malabar, the M.L.As. may be consulted. I may tell you, Sir, that while the Committee for Palghat was formed, I was not consulted and it would be interesting for any one to know that I have been elected from the same constituency comprising the two taluks of Palghat and Ponnani. Neither was my hon. Friend Mr. Mohideen Kutti who comes from the same constituency. We have never been consulted and on the other hand, they have put in their own nominees and I understand it has been done in consultation with the Congress workers in those areas. If the very same principles and if the very same methods are adopted in spending this huge sum of three crores of rupees, I may at once tell you that it is going to affect all other communities and the other political organizations. When the Hon. Minister for Food visited Malabar, I drew his attention to some of the facts that I had witnessed with my own eyes in the matter of the organization of the so-called village committees. When officials visit the different centres they go in Government jeeps in the company of Congress workers thereby elbowing out people belonging to other parties and they are not given any opportunity to freely express their views and place facts before the officials in the matter of getting effective representation in any of the bodies that are working in the district. If the same methods and principles are followed, if they are not going to change them, I am

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afraid the whole of this huge sum of money would go only for the advancement of the political organization called the Congress and the other political parties would be left behind. So I suggest that these items may be cut out and used for the exclusive purpose of meeting the deficit that may arise on the introduction of total prohibition.

"It is well that we remember that the Ministry has made provision in the Budget to carry out their programme and policy with regard to education. They have set apart one crore of rupees and especially earmarked it for the so-called uplift of the Harijans which may be used in other ways. As far as education is concerned, Harijans will be entitled to have their due share out of the common funds set apart for other communities as well. If they really mean that the so-called Harijan uplift is the economic and financial uplift, I have nothing to say about it. If they really mean that, this amount will also be spent for purposes of education of the Harijans, I may say that the Muslim community though it forms seven per cent of the population will also be entitled to the same special concessions—as a matter of fact they are entitled by right to some special amount for their education. I am sorry to say that in the preparation of this Budget, the Muslim community has been totally neglected. We, Muslims, claim that we belong to a religion and possess a culture which is different from yours."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will continue his speech after lunch interval. The House will now adjourn and meet again at 3 p.m."

(After lunch—3 p.m.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"Several hon. Members want to take part in the debate. Therefore I consulted the Hon. Premier and Leaders of parties and we have agreed that the House shall sit to-day till six o'clock."

M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I was dealing with the subject of education when the House adjourned for lunch. You are aware that the policy enunciated by the present Government is to the disadvantage of the Muslims of this Province. You are aware that the present Government have announced that education will be imparted in the language of the region. You are aware that in this province we find different districts or groups of districts having different languages. For example, there are Telugu districts, Tamil districts and places where Malayalam is the main language. I put it to you, Sir, if we are going to have our entire education based on regional language, how will it be possible for an Assembly like this to transact business; and how will it be possible for us to exchange our ideas? Do you wish to have for ever this language in which I am addressing you to-day? Or is it your intention that we should have a common language, and that we should encourage such a one?"

"Now, there is the other aspect of the question. That is, one hon. Member was good enough to remark this morning that because

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in the Hyderabad State, His Highness the Nizam has introduced Urdu as a compulsory subject, we should also have the regional language as the medium of instruction. I hear that Hindi or Hindustani, whatever you may call it, is one of the languages under contemplation that is going to be introduced in this Province. I ask you, Sir, how many Hindu homes are there in this Province where Hindustani is spoken as mother-tongue? How many Hindus are there who exchange their ideas in this language? I put it to you, Sir, whether the present Ministry can transact business in Hindustani? Well, Sir, there is a lot of difference between the despotic rule of a monarch and the rule of a popular Ministry. If you really understand what is behind the move of the Nizam, you will not put that as an analogy. Do you mean to say, that you are going to compel everyone here to study Hindustani or Hindi, whatever you may call it? If that is your intention, you are not justified in doing so; because, as I said, there is a lot of difference between the rule of a monarch and the method of rule of a popular Ministry. Or, you may say, 'We are only trying to introduce a system of education which finally will bring all people together.' The Hindustani Talimi, as the Premier was pleased to announce yesterday, is it the Wardha system or the Vidyamandir system, of which we hear so much? But the Muslims have their own culture, their own religion and their own language. What is the place given to their language by the present Ministry? That is the question I would put to them. We have got our Arabic language, we have got our Urdu language. Where do those languages come in? I hope Government will be able to answer the question. Sir, one thing I assure you, and that is, the Muslims here consider, as any other people, that their language is the real index of their civilization; it is an index of their culture; it has been so throughout the world; there is no doubt about it. I tell you, Sir, the Muslims require their own culture and their own ideal to be kept up for ever; and any attempt to disturb it by anybody, whether it is the present Ministry or any Government, will be resisted by the Muslims to the last drop of their blood. You want the Harijans to be uplifted; and do you want to put the Muslims in the place of the Harijans? Our civilization, our culture and our language will never be allowed to be jeopardized by any action of Government."

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. Premier on the presentation of his first budget. It has got its novel features. Finance is not merely arithmetic. (Laughter from Opposition Benches.) It has a great policy behind it. Mr. Gladstone, one of the greatest of Premiers of England once stated:

'Budgets in a thousand ways go to the root of the prosperity of individuals, the relations of classes and the strength of nations.'

Based on that, one would like to have a particular kind of taxation which would raise the standard of living and change the present kind of economy that has been imposed upon our country

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by a foreign nation. That is possible only by having a strong Central Government at New Delhi. We are not yet near it; perhaps we may have to wait for some time more. But as far as the provinces are concerned, we have been enjoying, what is called, provincial autonomy for nearly a decade. But in that period the Congress Government functioned at first for two and a half years, and now the Congress is in for the last two and a half months.

First, I would like to state a few things about revenue. A Government has to collect taxes and then administer them in a particular manner so that maximum benefit is distributed to all. On this, I would lay a principle accepted now-a-days throughout the world; and that is, calling on citizens to make sacrifices equal to their varied incomes. This would increase the taxable amount as also the total tax income. Then, we have to revise our tax schedule and construct our mode of collecting taxes on this principle. What is contained in what I just said is, what is called, 'progression'. You should not only collect from each person a particular portion of his income, but a greater rate from a man who gets more income. This principle should be introduced into our tax structure. Land revenue used to form practically the mainstay of the Government of this country in the past. In 1821 land revenue formed as much as 62.17 per cent of the total revenue. The days have now changed. Now we are collecting eight crores as land revenue in this Presidency including wet rate charges, and in the incoming budget of 48 crores, it forms about 16 per cent. This 8 crores can be said only to be a regressive tax. We have to change its basis, and I hope the Hon. the Revenue Minister will bring forward legislation to change the assessment of revenue in this Presidency. In re-planning and re-building our tax structure we have to consider one or two important points. One thing we have to do is to give the exit to the excise revenue; and we should introduce land tax on a sliding scale. We can have a basic tax, we can introduce a differential water-rate and impose more than anything else an agricultural income-tax. We have to re-arrange the present rate of sales tax. Then we have also to find fresh avenues. (Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan: 'What are they?') Bring in legislation to levy death duties, increased tax on motor vehicles, tax on sales of articles of luxury, tax on employment and tax on property. (Mr. F. Ferrelly: 'Tax on property? It was tried and given up.') It was dropped on account of some other difficulty. And then, Sir, more than all this, we have to abolish zamindaris. I was agreeably surprised to hear the Zamindar of Pithapuram saying in the Gokhale Hall that zamindars are willing to give up the estates. I am very glad to see that at last the zamindars have responded to our request. When the Prakasam Committee Report was debated in the House, the Kumararaja of Chettinad was rather angry for suggesting this thing. To-day, the zamindars themselves are anxious to give up the estates, I hope, including Kumararaja of Chettinad. Not free; but of course for a compensation. But what kind of compensation has to be given, this legislature will have to determine. When in 1936

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Inams legislation was brought forward, the Viceroy refused assent because there was no provision for compensation for the appropriation of kudivaram:

"We will give them a year's rental on each estate. Rent 3-15 has grown from 72 lakhs in 1802 to 211 lakhs now. By this we are not doing anything extraordinary, because the zamindars themselves have shown the way in 1936. In those days the Raja Saheb of Bobbili was the Chief Minister. P.1

"Then, Sir, I come to the question of expenditure. The prosperity of a nation, as we all know, is bound up with its political liberty. The Government of India Act of 1935 restricts the freedom of the Provincial Governments to explore fresh avenues in order to proceed in any way they like. We have to bear to-day the legacy and the burden created by the past Governments as a result of the policies that they followed. If the Congress have not done anything else according to critics, it must be accepted and acknowledged that they have inculcated a spirit of service among those who are called upon to run the administration by accepting low salaries. Our country is one of those poor countries where the salary schedule is very high. We have to reform it, and we should get the power to frame a new constitution having the right to limit our expenditure.

"Then, Sir, we have got the question of social services. In England they spend as much as 25.95 per cent of their State income on social services and in Australia 17.5 per cent. But in India we spend only 8.5 per cent of our Revenue on social service of every kind. Of course, I must say that after the introduction of the Montford Reforms, expenditure on social services began to show an increase. Even the Governments prior to the Congress Ministry of 1937 have shown what they can do under the diarchic system, to improve the social services. In our presidency there was an increase of about 38 per cent over the 1922 basis by the time the Congress took up office, and in 1939-40, it registered further increase of about 5.9 per cent. As years go by, our expenditure would not be so much on the army and the navy and much less on wars. We can spend much of our income on social services, and the Prime Minister has shown a way by creating the Rural Reconstruction Fund and the Harijan Fund of four crores of rupees—I stress the word 'Fund' because of the suspicion created. Funds have been created, and sums will be drawn from them for fresh schemes which will be adumbrated, perhaps with the approval of this House, so that their benefits may be distributed to the rural areas on an agreed basis. Sir, in the conditions of the nineteenth century liberalism, to which one of the Members in this House referred to—and I had to interject also—they were developing a society where wealth accumulated and men decayed. We have to find ways and means to prevent this trend. To do away with this trend in the seven lakhs of villages in this country, I would like to suggest that these funds and the additional funds that the Government will provide in the future should go towards the enlargement of the social services in

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the rural areas of our land. Well Sir, we have heard many arguments in favour of an industrialized agriculture. To-day I read in "The Contemporary Review" an article written by a great authority, about the effects of mechanized agriculture on rural areas. He has clearly stated that the conditions have very much changed due to mechanization and that, as a result even in America there is a large surplus of unemployed figure in the rural population. I believe that we have to proceed on different lines. I have no objection to industrialization as such; but for the industrialization of the plough I am not prepared. We must give an instrument, perhaps an improved one, but should not mechanize the plough in this country and thereby destroy once and for all the basis of our rural economy. If we want to arrange for the dispersion of wealth, on a wide basis, it can only be done by the adaption of decentralized methods of production. *Laissez faire* has left this world for good, and we have come to the days of planning—planning of the Russian type, the American type and the English type, and out of these we will have to perfect the Indian type, to serve our nation. Well, Sir, we know that India has to develop in this particular manner. We have to put our shoulders to it and help every such endeavour if we want to progress. I can say with confidence that of all the 'isms' that have ruled this world, Gandhism is the best thing and therefore, Sir, I would commend it as the best basis for planning.

"Then, Sir, I would like to say a few words about irrigation. I would restrict my remarks, because the time allotted is drawing near and speak on this when the debate on irrigation comes up before this House. I will just say one or two points about the need for a river policy in India. In Mysore, rivers are bunded or in Hyderabad rivers are bunded, before they enter British India and on account of these methods, famine stricken areas are created, as in Rayalaseema. Therefore, Sir, I would like to advocate the creation of a nationalized river and multi-purpose system like the T.V.A. and the Damodar river system. With the other aspects of irrigation, I would like to deal later on.

"Before I finish, I would like to join with the Maharaja of Pithapuram in his appeal, a matter in which I am also very much interested. It is the creation of the Andhra Province. It will be a matter for the Constituent Assembly—we will do our best there—but meanwhile, I would ask for the support of the Ministry for the creation of linguistic provinces, a proposition which has received the support of this House on more than one occasion. Meanwhile I would request the Hon. Prime Minister to appoint a fact-finding committee, mind, not a boundary commission. Without raising any controversial issues, necessary facts and figures will have to be collected. I hope the Government will undertake this work at once.

"Before I sit down, I would like to congratulate the Hon. the Prime Minister on the presentation of this budget which will receive the general commendation of the House."

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* K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am not expected to offer any comment on the arithmetical manipulations relating to the various items of income and expenditure dealt with in the budget. It is only on the policies that have been adopted by the Government that I would like to offer a few remarks. The one thing which we on this side of the House are able to follow in the face of the bewildering figures is that the Prime Minister has succeeded in balancing the budget and that, by heavily drawing on the revenue reserves. The policy of the Congress Ministry was expected to be one which would help the underdog more than anybody else. It was expected that the lower grade subordinates in the public service would be benefited by the reforms that the Congress Ministry would introduce in their budget, but provisions for helping the subordinates are conspicuous by their absence in the budget.

"I now come to some of the innovations and administrative policies that they have in contemplation as for instance their proposals in the matter of food administration and the reorganization of education. It is my duty to bring to the notice of the Ministry that in adopting these proposals, they are really running grave risks, treading on very dangerous grounds, and undertaking a very heavy responsibility involving the feelings, susceptibilities, rights and interests of millions of people of this Province. It has been the consistent contention of the Muslim League Party here that food administration ought to be a non-controversial subject and that it should be under the direction of a non-party board consisting of representatives of the important political parties in the Province. The useful suggestion given by the Muslim League Party to that effect was not headed much less accepted by the Ministry. It was jettisoned and the result is that in all the districts there is heart-burning on the part of the minority communities like the Muslims at the arbitrary way in which measures relating to food administration are being carried on with the one-sided advice and co-operation of Congress committees. As the hon. Members of this House know, an adjournment motion was sought to be moved at the last meeting of the Assembly to discuss the serious situation that has arisen in Malabar as a result of the introduction of new scheme of food administration and the Hon. Speaker disallowed it on the ground that the meeting was convened for the specific purpose of electing representatives to the Constituent Assembly and that therefore the motion was not admissible. The intensity of the feelings of the people will be evident from the fact that members felt compelled to move an adjournment motion even at a special sitting of the Assembly."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should not question the ruling of the Speaker."

* K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am not questioning the ruling of the Speaker. I am only referring to the intensity of public feeling evidenced by the fact that an adjournment motion was sought to be moved at the meeting convened for the purpose

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of electing members to the Constituent Assembly. Far from questioning the ruling of the Speaker, I quite agree with him that that motion had technically no place at that meeting. In fact, the point I was referring to was quite different from the one the Speaker had in mind.

"What was it that happened in Malabar district in the matter of food administration? In several villages and some taluks where the Mussalmans form a considerable proportion of the population, they were not given representation proportionate to their population, and in some cases there were no Muslims taken at all on the committee. You will be surprised to hear that certain committees, which were formed in consultation with the Muslim M.L.As., were subsequently remodelled on the ex parte advice of the Congress workers by reducing or tampering with Muslim representation. I am not saying that food administration cannot go on if Muslims are not on food committees. What I mean is that food administration is not taking the course which the Congress Ministry professes to aim at. I suppose the Congress Ministry want the co-operation and assistance of all sections of the people in their food administration, and if that is their object, it is simply being defeated by the way in which the officers entrusted with the actual administration are carrying on their work in the districts. I emphasize it once more that the Congress Ministry must take into account the feelings, sentiments and opinions of other political parties also in such important matters as the food administration, where they ought to expect the co-operation of all sections of people in the Province.

"I wish to make a few remarks with reference to the educational reform which the Ministry have now in contemplation. One feature of that reorganization has been disclosed by the Hon. the Premier in his statement made while introducing the Budget and that is the idea of the Ministry to introduce basic education in this Province. As my hon. Friend Mr. Hydross told this House, this basic education scheme is no other than the Wardha scheme or the Vidya Mandir scheme which was tried in other Provinces in the teeth of the strenuous opposition from the entire Muslim body politic of those provinces. In fact, in the Central Provinces the Muslims offered civil disobedience against the Vidya Mandir scheme, and the Congress Ministry there had to suspend the scheme in response to the very strong feeling expressed by the Muslims. Why should the Muslims be so very unreasonable in this matter might be the idea passing through the minds of my hon. Friends on the other side? They must have a little more imagination and sympathy in facing such questions. In fact my hon. Friends know that every community has got certain religious feelings and susceptibilities. The Hindus represented by the Congress would certainly be making the utmost sacrifices for the vindication of their religious rights and the satisfaction of their religious sentiments. On the rights, privileges of even castes and sub-castes in the Hindu community, they are so very stubborn and jealous. It may not, therefore, be reasonable or fair for them

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to accuse the Muslims for being religious-minded and zealous in observing religious practices and traditions. While introducing basic education, you must see how it affects the Muslims. Religious education is considered very essential and most vital for a Muslim. The first thing that a Muslim child is made to learn is the recitation of the Holy Quran and the fundamental principles of Islam. Religious instruction is taboo under the basic education system. Under that system no religion should be taught to children the reason apparently being the notion that it is religion that really creates differences in human society and that no particular denominational religious instruction should be imparted in any school. That seems to me to be the stand of the protagonists of basic education. I do not agree with those who plead for the elimination of religious instruction from the educational curriculum. On the other hand, I believe that religious instruction given on right lines will be the greatest factor that will bring about unity and harmony in human society and create a feeling of human brotherhood. I contend that religious instruction should be provided for not only the Muslims, but also for the Hindus, Christians, and all other communities in the country. However difficult it might be, it has to be achieved. It is not as if the Hindu brethren do not need religious instruction. They have ever so many means to have religious instruction. Even the text-books followed in our schools contain sufficient material for them to have instruction in the tenets and traditions of their religion. Even though they are not called religious text-books, they really contain sufficient information for them to have a grounding in their religious knowledge. So it is that they do not generally ask for provision for religious education in the curriculum of studies. It is not correct to treat the Muslim on the same footing as the Hindu while considering the question of religious instruction. Sir, the Muslims need separate text-books, and a separate curriculum of instruction for their religious education and suitable teachers will have to be appointed. Some might say 'What an extraordinary thing are these people asking for!' I honestly feel that there is some misapprehension about religious education. If religion could be taught in universities, like the Muslim University in Aligarh where theology is compulsory, and which produce genuine patriots fighting for the liberation of this country, why should it not be taught in the lower classes? Believe me, religious instruction is not going to adversely affect the patriotism or the nationalism of the students, but would only infuse in them the right spirit to work for the common good of this country. There will be great confusion if religious instruction is to be eliminated altogether by the introduction of this scheme of basic education. What is going to happen is that in the basic education scheme there will be no provision for teaching Islam while in the guise of moral instruction the Gandhian ethics or Hindu ethics will be taught with its emphasis on non-violence. I do not quarrel with non-violence. There is divergence of opinion between community and community and religion and religion on basic doctrines. The Muslims believe both in violence and non-violence for achieving great aims and

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ends. A Muslim has his own religious and ethical ideology which he has to study from his early boyhood. He cannot, therefore, make any compromise on the question of religious instruction. The Government have to make provision for the religious instruction of Muslim children at any cost. Apart from this there is very serious difference of opinion on the desirability of having a system of education dominated by the study of crafts at the expense of humanities. In basic education the emphasis will always be on crafts and not on humanities, and ultimately the system will not be conducive to the cultural elevation and refinement of the minds of the students. This view is honestly held by a large body of enlightened public opinion. The advisability of the introduction of basic education is, therefore, a debatable question which admits of honest differences of opinion. So what I would submit is that this basic education should not be imposed on the Province without regard to the views and feelings of people like the Muslims. Muslims can never reconcile themselves to basic education which shuts out religious instruction. I feel nervous to sound a note of warning to my hon. Friends on the other side, one of whom went to the extent of indulging in the cheap sneer that gun licences should not be given to Muslims because of the language of the Bombay resolution of the Muslim League! However, I cannot help saying on the floor of this House that it will be an extremely painful duty on the part of the Muslims of this Province to put up a fight to the finish against any policy of education promulgated by the Government in disregard of the Muslim sentiments and feelings and without making suitable provision for their religious instruction in schools. Let the Ministry have experiments with non-Muslim students, but let the Muslim students be exempted from these experiments. I am glad, I have the assurance of my hon. Friend the Minister for Education that the new proposals for educational reorganization will be published for public criticism before final orders are passed and let us for the time being rest content with that assurance. I sincerely trust that the Premier will respect the feelings and sentiments of the Muslims and avoid everything that will give room for clash between community and community in this province. Otherwise, we will have very very difficult times in the political life of this Province.

"One hon. Friend was referring to provision for religious instruction on non-sectarian lines. I can appreciate the ideal, but I am afraid it is impossible of accomplishment. Religious instruction on non-sectarian lines is an impossibility. Religious instruction should be imparted to particular religionists according to the principles of their particular religion and not on non-sectarian lines. The so-called non-sectarian religious instruction has always the tendency to have the complex of a particular sect or religion. So let us make a wise arrangement. Let religious instruction be provided for Muslims, and also for Hindus and all other communities that want it in their respective religious principles and traditions. That will be the best solution of the educational problem in this country."

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* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Jai Hind! Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate our Prime Minister for having presented a budget unique in the history of budgets in India and of the Congress Ministry, because that budget provides one crore of rupees for Harijan uplift and three crores for rural reconstruction. I was pained to hear some arguments against this provision for Harijan uplift and rural reconstruction. I want to know whether there is any member in this House who is not for the poor and down-trodden Harijan. That he had the courage to make this provision in the budget is itself complimentary.

"As regards the mother tongue of Muslims in Andhradesa, I say their great grandfathers had been Hindus and even after embracing the Islamic religion they have been speaking only Telugu and their mother tongue is Telugu. They should not be ashamed of it. They should not forget that they are the children of Hindustan-India. They now want to borrow another language just as they have borrowed another religion and want to give up Telugu which is spoken by Muslims in all places in the Andhradesa. Of course if they want they can have Urdu as a secondary language such as Hindustani (ironical cries of 'Many thanks'), but not give up Telugu. 3-15 p.m.

"Next coming to prohibition, I am pained to see that it is proposed to introduce prohibition this year only in four districts. I am for total prohibition here and now. I realize the difficulties in the way of introducing prohibition throughout the province all at once. I must point out that in Soviet Russia, where I have travelled extensively, the Socialist Government has not been able to compulsorily introduce prohibition. I know the difficulties and that is why I say it would have been better if prohibition is not started this year in four districts but started next year in all the districts. Of course the idea of the Hon. the Prime Minister seems to be to proceed step by step and bring about complete prohibition in the province in the next three years. There are difficulties in the way of achieving this. When prohibition was declared in America, people gathered in the borderlands and in the little islands out in the sea and, in defiance of the Act, took liquors and they even brought liquors from Mexico through tunnels to the main land. In the same way, before introducing complete prohibition in our province we will have to see that Ceylon also adopts this policy. There will be difficulties, of course. I hope, however, that complete prohibition will be an accomplished fact here in three years.

"I shall next say a few words about the zamindari system. Sir, I am of opinion that the system should be completely abolished without any compensation. The zamindars are the blood suckers of the ryots. No mercy should be shown to people who have been oppressing the ryots for hundreds of years. They deserve no mercy, no quarter. I feel so very strongly in the matter that if I have the power I will abolish the zamindaries right now. (Laughter.) The ryots are oppressed with debts. There should be a moratorium declared with regard to these debts or all their debts."

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should be completely abolished. I have resided in Soviet Russia for two years and studied Soviet economic system. I have great love for that country and even their enemies do not withhold their admiration for their agricultural and economic systems. That is the only one country where there is no unemployment. I have travelled from one corner to the other in Russia and have seen for myself the way they were carrying on their works like the great Moscow Volga Canal and Dneiper Dam. It is a recognized fact that it is only in that country food is plenty at the present time. They have surplus food to be sent to India also. All this is due to the working of their wonderful economic system. I am a socialist and I believe in socialization of all the industries and the land. Unless land here also is socialized you cannot ameliorate the condition of the ryots. Some hon. Members caused me surprise when they said that industrialization would not be profitable in India. I believe in complete industrialization and electrification of industries and agriculture. With my own eyes I have seen in Russia how great farms were ploughed by tractors and seeds sown by 'planes over thousands of acres in no time.' We have plenty of land here and if only you adopt collective farming and introduce electrification and mechanization in agriculture you could multiply the yield from lands several times. It is for the Government to devise the means and advise the ryots what to do and how to do things. They should not be content with growing one crop in a year when they can easily raise two crops. I hope the Hon. the Premier will take pains to see that this is done with the aid of experts. I am aware of the unfortunate fact that he has to rely on the old budget and the old people still at the helm of affairs in the departments. They are not progressive people with progressive views. Their views, as they have imbibed imperialist ideas, would be one-sided and their plans unsuited to national interests.

"I hear so much about the Muslim communities and all that. There is no religion. Religion is for the mind and it is not a matter for practical living. Religion is the opium of the people. I ask you one thing. If there is a Muslim capitalist, does he feel any pity or regard for at least the Muslim who works in his factory and sheds his blood at work? No Muslim feels that way. Does the Hindu capitalist feel anything for the Hindu labourer working before his very eyes because he is a Hindu? No. Nobody feels for the worker, whether he is a Christian, a Muslim or a Hindu. The cloak of religion is nothing but a myth and society is divided only into two classes, the exploiter and the exploited. So, root out exploitation altogether. Let there be no exploitation of man by man. Let us build a classless society. Then only we can ameliorate the condition of the people; otherwise not. What the British have been trying to do in this country is to play the monkey in the story of the cats and the cheese. They say: 'Here, look at the Constituent Assembly.' One section of the population says, 'We do not want it.' There are threats from both Hindus and Muslims. Let all the classes in

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India, labour, nationalists and capitalists, join together and drive the British out of the country and establish here a Government based on socialist plan. (Laughter.) Unless there is that spirit amongst us we can have no salvation. We cannot solve any of our problems. As long as the British are here, they will introduce splits and schisms between you and me and between this man and that man. I therefore beg of the Muslim members not to play into their hands and create a split. Now, what are our differences? My hon. Friend on the other side was talking about village committees. Only the other day, my hon. Friend Mr. Salam and I sat together and amicably drew up a satisfactory list of members to such committees. That being the case, I cannot understand this talk of the committees being swamped by Congressmen. On the contrary, many of the Collectors and Deputy Collectors have removed from the lists, the names of Congressmen in many cases. That is my complaint. (Laughter.)

"Turning next to the Budget, Sir, I find in it an item for growing sweet potatoes. I cannot understand why some Members object to it. Sweet potatoes are the staple food of Africans. I was in Africa for two years and found the people there subsisting on sweet potatoes. Plantains also are the staple food of many.

"It appears we have got tons of condensed milk available. The Advisers' Government provided some crores for securing this commodity. I do not know what has happened to this economic stock. I am afraid it is not going to be distributed properly. I hope the Hon. the Premier will take proper steps to have it distributed in time and not allow it to be kept stored in Collectors' offices, so as to enable the peons, the tahsildars and the revenue inspectors smuggling it and thus exhausting the supply.

"Sir, corruption is there. We should attack corruption. The corrupt officials must first go. Unless we root out corruption and unless corrupt officials go, you cannot successfully put into effect any of your beneficent programmes. I can give instances of corruption. I went to a place to see things for myself. A tahsildar takes 2 annas for sanctioning half a seer of sugar. What a shame! (Laughter.) For sanctioning one seer he takes 4 annas. The people have reported this to Government and the matter is pending with the Parliamentary Secretary, who also visited that place. There are so many cases like that.

"I do not think the budget presented by the Hon. the Premier will affect anybody adversely. He is a leader who knows the people and their wants. He knows their ideas and their feelings too and acts with that knowledge. While in the old regime, the Premier never allowed the members to speak at party meetings, we know now that we can speak and ventilate our grievances and our feelings. We are coming together."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has taken more than 15 minutes."

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* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"I am concluding, Sir.

"Any budget that does not provide for compulsory education is no good. We must introduce compulsory education immediately. Unless this is done we cannot progress. Of course I shall speak on the subject when that Demand comes up later. But I would state here that you have to be very careful in introducing compulsory education. In places where there are industries you will have to open industrial schools. For instance in Palnad in Guntur slates are made. The children there must know the industry. In every industrial area there should be an industrial school. Mahatma Gandhi has given a scheme for basic education. I strongly support the Wardha scheme. With these few words I resume my seat."

* MUHAMMAD RAFAEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member who has just spoken has said that in his district there has been no trouble whatever with regard to the selection of members to village and taluk committees. I am sure, Sir, he has not studied the working of these committees throughout the Province and though he may speak about his own district, he cannot speak about the other districts with the same authority. But I can say, Sir, that in my district—Nellore—facilities for the Members of the Assembly to look into these lists of village committees have not been given and it was only on a reference made by me to the Collector, that he, rather belatedly, issued instructions to the respective tahsildars that I might be shown the lists about formation of these committees. Even then, Sir, I may inform the House that the only answer that I got from the various tahsildars was that the lists were ready in their offices and that I might look into them at a particular time on a particular day. Now, is it possible for me to go to each of these offices throughout the district and look for myself the various lists that they have prepared? Would it not be more easy and helpful, Sir, I ask, for the tahsildars to send a copy of the list to the various Members of the Legislature concerned to enable them to study the lists and to give them their suggestions, if any, in the selection of the candidates?"

"Now, Sir, with regard to the taluk committees again, when the debate on food was going on, some Members on this side of the House were inviting the attention of the Hon. the Premier to the dearth of Muslim representation in the taluk committees as at present constituted. Sir, it is all right for the previous speaker to say 'Well, these committees are there and how do we know that these committees are not going to do full justice to the people?' That is not the point. As one of the previous speakers in this House said, the idea of the whole scheme is that the public should be associated with the food administration and if you want to pursue that policy, and if you want that that policy should be converted into action, then, Sir, you must give an opportunity for the different sections of the public and to the Muslim community in particular, which forms an integral part

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of the public, to associate itself with the Government in the administration of that policy. How can you expect us to co-operate with you, when there is no place for us on the Taluk Committees? We have heard much about the Congress leaders decrying separate electorates and advocating the system of joint elections with reservation of seats for minorities, but I may state that with regard to the constitution of these Taluk Committees, they have gone one step further and have resorted to joint electorates without reservation of seats for the Muslim representatives. I hope, Sir, that this injustice to the Muslim community will ere long be remedied by the Hon. the Premier. After all, what is it that we want? All that we want is that we should be given an opportunity to co-operate with the Government to serve on the Taluk Committees as well as the District Committees, in the administration of their food policy. Is it an extravagant claim?"

"Then, Sir, I may state, at the risk of repeating what many other Muslim Members on this side of this House have said, and even if, for no other reason than to lay emphasis on the fact, that the Muslim community intensely feels the injustice of the educational policy of the Government. Sir, we have been hearing that the medium of instruction should be the mother tongue. Now we are using a new phrase, that the medium of instruction should be 'the regional language'. What is it that has prompted the Government to change the phraseology? Is it a cue that has been taken out of the Cabinet Mission's juggling with words; if so, then it is no wonder that the Hon. the Minister for Education wants to follow suit. But I submit, Sir, that the regional language is not the same as the mother tongue so far as the Muslims are concerned and the previous speaker is wholly incorrect in saying that both are the same. Let him at least admit that we, the elected representatives of the Muslim community in this Province, know more about the feelings of the Muslim community than he does. Let him not take the responsibility of representing the Muslims also, for which he has no authority."

"Then, Sir, in my district of Nellore, we have been for a long time agitating for a separate high school for Muslims with medium of instruction in Urdu. But even in this budget no provision has been made for the opening of a high school for Muslim boys in Nellore. There is a middle school for Muslim boys run by the municipality. Now what is the use, if the pupils who pass out from that school, and who have been educated all along through the medium of Urdu, are asked to join a high school, where the medium of instruction is not Urdu. If the Government want to retain that middle school, then the logical corollary is that it should be raised to a high school with Urdu as the medium of instruction. This is a question upon which the Muslims in my district are keenly interested and I do hope that the Government with its vast majority will not disregard the feelings of the Muslim community in this matter and see that the school is raised to the status of a high school."

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"Now, Sir, let me refer to another matter, which can be described as an echo of past unhappy events. You must have heard of the communal riots in Nellore which occurred two or three years ago. I can assure the House, Sir, that I am not very happy to refer to these riots now, when it may be argued—and wrongly I say—that those events are all past and that communal riots are, once for all, gone. But I know, Sir, that the feelings are still intense in Nellore, and the past Advisers' Government were turning a deaf ear to cries of the Muslims in this regard. Now that a popular Government is in office, they hope that their cries will be heard. I therefore wish to bring to the pointed attention of the Government that these communal feelings are still alive that the slightest provocation will easily set fire to the communal rage, which will result in riots and disturbances with all their attendant horrors. I therefore submit that unless the communal problem in Nellore is satisfactorily solved, there is always this danger to the public.

"Now what is the real cause of these communal disturbances? I think, hon. Members are aware of the longstanding question, the question of music before mosques. May I just remind the House that so long as the Congress Ministry was in power prior to 1939, in spite of many representations by the Hindus, it refused to execute the civil decree which allowed music to be played before mosques. It was the Advisers' Government which came in after the resignation of the Congress Ministry, that reversed the policy, which resulted in the unhappy incidents which we all know. Now that the Congress Ministry is again in power, it must reverse the policy of the Advisers and see that the Muslim community is appeased. I believe that the Congress has declared as its policy, that as a measure of goodwill and harmony between the two communities, there should be no music played before mosques on the one hand and that there should be no public sacrifice of cows on the other. If this policy is adhered to, by the present Congress Ministry, then I am sure it will go a very long way towards establishing communal harmony in the district as also in the whole Province. If it is argued that the difficulty in the way of enforcing such a policy is the civil court decree, then the difficulty must be got over by introducing necessary legislation in this House. I do hope, Sir, that I may be given an opportunity of referring to these matters more fully when the appropriate Demand comes up for consideration in this House. At present I shall refer to this matter only in passing.

"In conclusion, Sir, I wish to refer to the words of the late Rt. Hon. Srinivasa Sastri, which he uttered when addressing a meeting at the Law College in 1937. He said that the then Ministry was like a steam-roller, which rolls on without any idea as to what it crushes on its way. I do hope, Sir, that this Ministry will not be called by the same name—a steam-roller—and that it will not adopt similar policy, simply because it has a majority behind it and think that it can use it to the detriment of minorities."

[2nd August 1946]

* SRI A. SUBRAMANIAM:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே. கனம் பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் கொண்டுவிருக்கும் வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தைப்பற்றி நாமெல்லோரும் பெருமையடையவேண்டியவர்களாகவிருக்கிறோம். ஆனால், அதில் சில சீர்திருத்தங்கள் செய்யவேண்டுமென்ற ஆசையுடனேயே சில வார்த்தைகளை நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். கனம் பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் கல்வித் திட்டத்திற்காகவும், ஹரிஜன் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காகவும், கிராம அபிவிருத்தித் திட்டத்திற்காகவும் பல முறைகளை வகுத்து வைத்திருந்தாலும்கூட, இந்த மாகாணம் முழுவதிலும் கள்ளுக்கடை, சாராயக்கடை, பீர், பிராந்தி, வைன், விஸ்கி, ஜின், ரம் போன்ற நாகரிக வஸ்துக்கள் விற்கப்படும் சைத்தான் நிலைமையை போக்குவதற்காக ஒரு பெரிய தொகையை ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருப்பாரானால், நான் மட்டுமல்ல, இந்த மாகாணம் முழுவதிலுமுள்ள பொது ஜனங்களெல்லாரும் சந்தோஷமடையக்கூடிய நிலைமையைப் பெருவார்களைப்பதை இந்தச் சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ள நான் ஆசைப்படுகிறேன்.

"குறிப்பாக, இந்த மாகாண முழுவதிலும் கள்ளுக்கடை, சாராயக்கடைகளையெடுக்க முடியவில்லையென்று கனம் பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் கூறலாம், அதற்குச் சரியான ஜவாபும் அவர் சொல்லலாம். இதில் பல கஷ்டங்களிருக்கின்றன வென்பதை நான்களும் உணர்ந்திருக்கிறோம். ஆனால், அதற்குத் தகுந்த பரிசாரம் செய்வதற்குப் பல நல்ல முறைகளுக்கின்றனவென்பதை இந்தச் சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் எடுத்துக் காட்ட விரும்புகின்றேன். இந்த மாகாண முழுவதிலும் கள்ளுக்கடை, சாராயக்கடைகளை யொழிக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற்காக சென்ற காங்கிரஸ் ஆசை நடந்து கொண்டிருந்த காலத்தில் பல புதிய வரிகள் போடப்பட்டன. ஆனால், 4-15 அந்தப் புதிய வரிகள் போடுவதற்கு முன்பாகவே ஒன்றிரண்டு ஜில்லாக் p.m. களில் மட்டும் கள்ளுக்கடை, சாராயக்கடைகளை எடுத்துவிட்டு, பிறகு மூன்றுவதாக ஒரு ஜில்லாவையும் குறிப்பிட்டு அதிலும் கள்ளுக்கடைகளை யெடுத்ததுமன்றி, புது வரிகளைப்போட்டு, நான்காவதாக ஒரு ஜில்லாவிலும் கள்ளுக்கடைகளை எடுக்கப்பட்டன. இன்னும் அதிகமான ஜில்லாக்களில் மதுவிலக்கு ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டுமென்று திட்டம் போட்டு கொண்டிருந்த அந்தக் காலத்தில் அதிகாரத்திலிருந்த காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரிகள் சட்டசபையிலிருந்து திடீரென்று ராஜினாமா செய்து வெளியேறினார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை வெளியேறியதும் 93-வது செக்ஷன் பிரகாரம் அட்வைஸர் ஆகி இந்த அரசாங்கத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு காரியத்தை நடத்தியது. ஏற்கனவே விதிக்கப்பட்டிருந்த விற்பனை வரியையும் தள்ளுபடி செய்யாது, அரை தம்பிடியாக இருந்ததை ஒரு தம்பிடியாக உயர்த்தி, பிறகு அது இரண்டு தம்பிடியாக உயர்த்தப்பட்டது. அந்த அட்வைஸர் ஆகியில் அப்படியிருந்தும் கள்ளுக்கடைகள் எடுக்கப்பட்டிருந்த நான்கு ஜில்லாக்களிலும் மறுபடியும் கள்ளுக்கடைகளை வைத்தார்கள். இவ்விதம் செய்ததற்கு அந்த அட்வைஸர் ஆகியினர் ஒரு சாஜாப்பு சொன்னார்கள். அது என்னவென்றால், அந்த நான்கு ஜில்லாக்களிலும் சிலர் சாராயத்தை காய்ச்சினார்களென்றும், கள் இறக்கினார்களென்றும் குற்றத்தைச் சுமத்தினார்கள். ஆனால், இந்த நிலைமையை யொழிக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற்காக ஏராளமான போலீசாரை வைக்க வேண்டுமென்றும் சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால், இந்த அரசாங்கத்தால் திருட்டுச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவதைத் தடுக்க முடியவில்லையென்ற காரணத்திற்காக மறுபடியும் கள்ளுக்கடைகளை அந்த நான்கு ஜில்லாக்களிலும் திறந்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று அந்த அரசாங்கத்தார் சொன்னார்கள். நான் ஒன்று சொல்லுகிறேன். இந்தத் தேசத்தில் I.P.C. (இன்டியன் பெனல் கோட்) என்ற ஒரு சட்டமிருக்கிறது. திருட்டு, கொலை முதலிய குற்றங்களைத் தடுக்க அந்தச் சட்டமிருக்கிறது. ஆனால், அந்தச் சட்டத்தைச் செய்ததினால், 'திருடும், கொலையும் நின்றுவிட்டதா?' வென்று கேட்கிறேன். கிடையவே கிடையாது. அப்படியிருந்தும் அரசாங்கத்தில் 'அந்தச் சட்டத்தை யெடுத்துவிட்டார்களா?' வென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன். நாட்டில் திருடும், கொலையும் நடந்துகொண்டேதானிருக்கிறது. அந்தச் சட்டமும் இருந்துகொண்டேதானிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் தாங்கள் செய்யும் காரியம் நியாயமானதா, பொது ஜன கேட்கத்தகுந்த உகந்ததா என்பதை நாம் ஜாக்கிரதையாக பரிசீலனை செய்யவேண்டும். 'எங்களால்

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கண்டுபிடிக்க முடியவில்லை, அது முடியாத காரியம், வீடு வீடாக, மொந்தை மொந்தையாக, பாளை பாளையாக சாராயம் காய்ச்சப்படுகிறது. அதைத் தடுக்க எங்களால் முடியவில்லை. பெரியகவலையா யிருக்கிறது என்று அரசாங்கம் சொன்னால் அதற்கு அர்த்தமில்லை. ஆனால் நம் முடைய காங்கிரஸ் ஆக்ஷியிலே, பொது ஜனங்களுடைய ஆதரவைப் பெரு வாரியாகப் பெற்றிருக்கும் நாம் அவ்விதம் செய்ய முடியாது. ஆகவே பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் செய்யவேண்டியதை உடனடியாகச் செய்வார்களென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன். மதுவிலக்கு விஷயத்தில் அவர் இது வரையிலும் அதிக பங்கெடுத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார். உணவுப் பஞ்சம் அதிகமாக ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் இந்தக் காலத்தில் கள்ளுக்கடை, சாராயக் கடைகளை எடுப்பதினால், உணவுப் பஞ்சத்தை ஒருவாறு குறைக்கலாம். எப்படியெனில், பனை மரத்திலிருந்து கள் எடுப்பதை நிறுத்தினால், அந்த மரத்திலிருந்து உற்பத்தி செய்யப்படும். பனஞ்சார் வெல்லம், பனம் பழம், கிழங்கு, பூ இவைகளை ஏழைகள் சாப்பிடுவார்கள். அதோடு இன்று ஜனங்கள் எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் சர்க்கரை இல்லாமல் திண்டாடுகிறார்கள். கள்ளுக்கடைகளை யெடுப்பதின் மூலம் அந்தத் திண்டாட்டத்தையும் நாம் ஒழிக்கலாம். பனம் கற்கண்டு, பனம் வெல்லம் அல்லது சர்க்கரை இவைகளை நாம் ஏராளமாக உற்பத்தி செய்யலாம். இவ்விதம் பனை மரத்திலிருந்து பல விதமான உணவுப் பொருள்கள் நமக்குக் கிடைக்கின்றன. தென்ன மரங்களிலிருந்தும் அப்படியே.

“அடுத்தபடியாக உணவு உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்குவதற்குப் பல திட்டங்களை நம் பிரதம மந்திரியார் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இப்போது அரசாங்கத்திலே விவசாயிகளிடமிருந்து நெல் மூட்டையைப் பிடிக்குங் காலத்தில் ‘போனஸ்’ ஆக மணங்கு ஒன்றுக்கு ஒரு ரூபாய் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. இதனால், கிராமவாசிகள் ஏராளமான தானியங்களைக் கொண்டு வந்து கொட்டுகிறார்கள். ஆனால், இன்னும் அவர்கள் ஏராளமான தானியங்களை மறைத்து வைத்திருப்பதாகத் தெரிகிறது. இது விஷயத்தில் அரசாங்கத்தார் தகுந்த முறைகளைக் கையாண்டால், அதுவும் மறைந்து போய்விடும். அது எப்படி யெனில் இன்றைக்கு நெல் மூட்டை ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 9-8-0 ஆக விற்பதாக வைத்துக்கொண்டால், அரசாங்கத்தார் அதை விவசாயிகளிடமிருந்து ரூ. 13 அல்லது ரூ. 14-க்கு வாங்கி மறுபடியும் அதை ரூ. 9-8-0-க்கு ஏழைகளுக்கு விற்கவேண்டும். இவ்விதம் அதிக விலைக்கு வாங்கி, குறைந்த விலைக்கு விற்பதினால் ஏற்படும் மூன்று அல்லது நான்கு கோடி ரூபாய் நஷ்டத்தை கவர்ன்மென்ட் பார்களே ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். இப்படிச் செய்தால், விவசாயிகள் தங்களுடையிருக்கும் எல்லாத் தானியங்களையும் கவர்ன்மென்டாரிடத்தில் கொண்டு வந்து கொடுத்துவிடுவார்கள். கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டும் ஒழிந்து விடும். அரிசியை 10 அவுன்சிலிருந்து 8 அவுன்சாகச் செய்யவேண்டிய அவசியமும் இராது. இன்னும், விவசாயிகளுக்குத் தேவையான உழவுக் கருவிகளையும் நாம் தருவித்துக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இவ்விதமெல்லாம் செய்வதன்மூலம் உணவு நெருக்கடியைத் தீர்ப்பதில் நாம் கண்டிப்பாக வெற்றியடையமுடியும்.

“இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் இன்னொரு விஷயத்தையும் நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். இரண்டு, மூன்று மாதங்களுக்கு முன்பு கனம் மந்திரி அவருடைய கைக்குச் செட்டியாரவர்கள் சேலம் ஜில்லாவுக்கு விஜயம் செய்திருந்தபோது ஜனங்கள் ரேஷனை வாங்கும்போது, மணலா கொட்டையையும் வெல்லத்தையும் கலந்த அடையாக தட்டின பர்பியை ஒவ்வொருவரும் 6 அணு அல்லது 8 அணுவுக்கு வாங்கிக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்றும், மீதி பணத்திற்குத்தான் அரிசியை வாங்கிக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்றும், நிர்ப்பந்தம் செய்யப்பட்டது. நாங்கள் அவ்விதம் செய்ய முடியாதென்று சொன்னோம். ‘நிலக் கடலையாகத் தனியாக எங்களுக்குக் கொடுத்துவிடுங்கள், அதை நாங்கள் வேகவைத்தோ அல்லது வறுத்தோ இஷ்டப்படி சாப்பிட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறோம் என்றும். மணலாகக் கொட்டையையும் வெல்லத்தையும் கலந்து அடையாகத் தட்டிக்கொடுத்து அதை வாங்கிக்கொள்ளும்படி நிர்ப்பந்தப்படுத்துவது நியாயமில்லை’ என்று சொன்னோம். நாம் கேட்டுக்கொண்டதிற்கிணங்க கனம் மந்திரியவர்களும் நிலக்கடலையாகவே வாங்கிக்கொள்ளலாமென்று உத்தரவு கொடுத்தார்கள்.

2nd August 1946] [Sri A. Subramanyam]

“அடுத்தபடியாக, இப்போது 54 லக்ஷத்துக்குச் சர்க்கரை வள்ளிகிழங்குகளை வெட்டி வற்றலாகக் கொடுக்கப்படுவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், இப்படிச் செய்தால் அதற்கு என்னையும் மற்ற சமாள்களும் வேண்டும். இதனால் ஏழைகளுக்கு எந்த விதமான பிரயோஜனமும் இல்லை. அதற்குப் பதிலாக அவைப் பச்சைக் கிழங்காகவே கொடுத்துவிட்டால் போதும். அதை ஏழைகள் வேகவைத்தோ, அல்லது சுட்டோ, சாப்பிடுவார்கள். இவையன்னியில், இன்னும் பல சிறிய குறைகளுக்குக்கின்றன. இவைகளை யெல்லாம், பிரதம மந்திரியாரவர்கள் நன்கு பரிசீலனை செய்து பல நல்ல முறைகளையும், திட்டங்களையும் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்பதுதான் என்னுடைய ஆசை. உடனடியாக இந்த மாகாண முழுவதிலும் கள்ளுக்கடை, சாராயக்கடைகளை எடுத்துவிடவேண்டும். இதற்காகத் தற்போது பணமில்லை யென்ற கவலை வேண்டாம். விற்பனைவரி மூலம் கிடைத்த தொகை ரூ. 26 கோடி கவர்ன்மென்ட் பொக்கிஷத்திலே இருந்துவருகிறது. இதிலே, இந்தக் கள்ளுக்கடை, சாராயக்கடைகளை யெடுப்பதினால், சற்றேறக்குறைய ரூ. 13 கோடி நஷ்டம் ஏற்படலாம். இந்தப் பணத்தை நாம் ரூ. 26 கோடியிலிருந்து எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம். விற்பனைவரி மூலமாக வருஷா வருஷம் 6 கோடி ரூபாய் வந்துகொண்டேயிருக்கிறது. இதைக்கொண்டு ஹிஜன் முன்னேற்றம் முதலிய பல காரியங்களைச் செய்யலாம். இன்னமும், கீழ்தர சிப்பந்திகளுக்குக் கொஞ்சம் சம்பளத்தையும் உயர்த்தலாம். அவர்களுடைய சேஷமத்திற்காக ஏதாவது ஒரு நன்மையை இந்தக் காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கியிலே நாம் செய்துத்தான் தீரவேண்டும். இதற்கெல்லாம் பணமில்லையென்ற கவலை நமக்கு வேண்டியதில்லை. பணம் அவசியமாக வேண்டியிருந்தால், புதிய வரிகளை நீங்கள் போடுவதாகவருந்தாலுங்கூட பாதகமில்லை. அதற்கான பல சட்டங்களையும், திட்டங்களையும் அரசாங்கம் மேற்கொள்ளவேண்டும். உதாரணமாக, வருஷத்திற்கு ரூ. 10 ஆயிரம், 12 ஆயிரம் நிலத்திலிருந்து வருமானம் பெறும் பெரிய மிராசதாரர்களிடமிருந்தும், ஜமீன்தாரர்களிடமிருந்தும், மடாதிபதிகளிடமிருந்தும் ஏராளமாக வரி போட்டு அதிகப் பணத்தைத் திரட்டலாம். செலவு போக வருஷத்திலே இவர்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு பணம் மிச்சப்படுகிறது என்பதைக் கணக்கெடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும். ஒருவருக்கு ரூ. 20 ஆயிரம் வருமானம் வருவதாக இருந்தால், அதில் நீங்கள் ரூ. 10 அல்லது 15 ஆயிரம் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாம். இதையும் இந்த அரசாங்கம் உடனடியாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும்.

“இன்று நாட்டிலே பஞ்சம் இருக்கிறது. எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் தொழிலாளர்கள் சம்பளம் போதாதென்று சொல்லிவருகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு நாம் உதவி செய்து ஆகவேண்டும். இதையெல்லாம் செய்யமுடியாதென்று சொல்லக்கூடாது. இந்த விஷயத்தை நீங்கள் சரியாகக் கவனித்துச் செய்ய வேண்டியதைச் செய்யவேண்டும். அவர் இப்படி சொன்னார், இவர் அப்படி சொன்னார் என்று இருக்கவேண்டாம். மக்கள் சுகாதாரமாய் பெருவாரியாக அபிவிருத்தி அடைய வேண்டுமென்றால் முதலில் கள் குடிப்பதைத் தடைபடுத்தவேண்டும். கள் குடிப்பதினால் அவன் கெடுவதோடு இல்லாமல், அவனுடைய சுற்றத்தாரும் கெட்டுவிடுகிறார்கள். ஆகவே, முதற்படியாக நாம் கவனிக்கவேண்டியது இந்தக் கள்ளுக்கடை, சாராயக்கடைகளை எடுப்பதுதான். இந்த அழகான காரியத்தை பிரதம மந்திரியார் அவர்கள் கவனித்து, அதற்காக வேண்டிய காரியங்களைச் செய்யவேண்டும். சென்ற காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை இருந்த காலத்தில், சேலம் ஜில்லாவிலே எவ்வளவோ குற்றங்கள் குறைந்துவிட்டனவென்று சேலம் கலெக்டர் கனம் டிக்ஸன் துரை அவர்களே சொன்னார்கள். ஆனால், அட்டைவலர் ஆட்சி வந்ததும், ‘நான் அடிப்பதைப்போல் அடிக்கிறேன், நீ அழுவதைப் போல் அழ’ என்று சொல்லுவதைப் போல திருட்டுத்தனமாகச் சாராயத்தைக் காய்ச்சுவதற்கு சந்தர்ப்பத்தைக் கொடுத்தார்கள். இதற்கான பல உதாரணங்களையும் சாட்சியங்களையும் கொடுக்க நான் தயாராகவருக்கிறேன். காங்கிரஸ்காரர்கள் உண்மையாக இந்த விஷயத்திலே பிரசாரம் செய்தால், திருட்டுச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவதை கண்டிப்பாய்த் தடுக்கலாம். போலீஸாரால் தடைப்படுத்த முடியாதென்ற அவநம்பிக்கை நமக்கு வேண்டியதில்லை.

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“கடைசியாக, பிரதம மந்திரியாரவர்கள் போலீஸாரெல்லோரும் பொது ஜன ஊழியர்கள் என்பதை உணரவேண்டுமென்றும், அதற்கு பல திட்டங்களையும் உத்தரவுகளையும் போடவேண்டுமென்றும் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். பம்பாய் அரசாங்கத்தார்கூட போலீஸார் பொது ஜனங்களுடைய சேவகர்களை உணரும்படிக்கு ஒரு அறிக்கையை விட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த மாதிரியாக போலீஸார் இந்த மாகாணத்திலேயும் நடந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். அவர்கள் பொதுஜனங்களுக்கு ஒத்தாசையாக இருக்கவேண்டும். இந்த மாதிரி ஒரு அறிக்கையையும் இந்த பட்ஜெட் சமயத்திலேயே சேர்த்துவிட வேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—

“Mr. Speaker, the Budget from a general point of view gives no comprehensive policy of ordered development on economic and social lines. (At this stage the Hon. the Deputy Speaker, Sri-mathi C. Ammauna Raja took the Chair.) (Cheers.)

“Madam, the Budget has been framed more or less in a haphazard manner making some provision for certain schemes and giving more importance to other schemes sacrificing vital schemes like housing problem, insurance on the lines of Unemployment Insurance or Life Insurance and so forth. Government have not tackled land legislation and they have not tackled the most important legislation, that is on labour. My view is that the Budget when presented should be on a comprehensive basis, because the Government of the day is said to be a popular Government having a majority of the people behind them and having the confidence of all sections of the people and they must aspire to solve all the problems confronting the Province. Therefore, I say that the Budget does not give the comprehensive policy of the Ministry as a general feature.

“Coming to the question of taxation, I suggest that it is time that the Ministry gives some sort of remission in the General Sales Tax, because already the Revenue Reserve Fund amounts to 31 crores and odd and the Ministry is not going to launch upon Prohibition in the entire Province. They are only launching upon Prohibition in four districts for which they have got ample resources left to them. I say all this revenue reserve fund has been created out of the high taxes levied on commercial firms and therefore it is time that Government consider how far these commercial people who are affected by the imposition of the General Sales Tax can be helped. People making a turnover of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 are making such sacrifices on account of these taxes that may not even get a profit. I have known so many cases wherein petty dealers have had to close down their shops because of the heavy taxation under the General Sales Tax Act and others.

“On the side of the Land Revenue the Ministry should give some sort of concession by way of reduction of land assessment. In Tanjore district which I have the honour to represent, a few years ago they increased the land assessment to the extent of about 18½ per cent over the mamul assessment. Now the prices have gone up, they may say. But in Tanjore, a merely paddy producing centre, which has no industry of its own or any other occupation for its people, the price of paddy has been

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controlled whereas the prices of other consumer goods, agricultural implements, cattle, manure, cloth, silk and other luxuries and necessities of life have gone up to the extent of 500 per cent to 1,000 per cent. Therefore, is it not time for the Ministry to think of the sacrifices the Tanjore mirasdars are making and the trouble they are undergoing in supplying the Food Department with paddy at a fixed rate? I do not speak of the big mirasdars who are having hundreds of velis of land. I speak only of the peasant proprietors. They have no occupation of their own, they have no industries of their own. They are entirely dependent upon their agricultural income and when the cost of living has risen tremendously as compared with the price of paddy, they naturally deserve some sort of remission. I therefore expect the Ministry to grant some sort of remission so far at least as paddy growers are concerned. If that is not possible, I would suggest a bonus on a generous scale. As I already said paddy growers have been suffering under very great hardships and therefore it is high time for the Ministry to grant a generous bonus for the supply of paddy. It is not enough if the Ministry gives a mere bonus. Further, there is the difficulty of cattle and manure. The price of cattle in Tanjore district has gone up by 300 to 400 per cent; so also the price of manure. The Ministry has adopted the policy of free distribution of manure in some portions of Malabar district. They should have taken Tanjore district also for the free supply of manure. At least they should supply cattle and manure at a reasonable cost, though the Government may suffer some loss in these transactions.

“Madam, provision is made in the Budget with regard to what is called ‘Public Relations Branch in the Civil Supplies Department’ to popularize unfamiliar foodstuffs such as wheat. I suggest, Sir, that this sort of scheme is more or less of doubtful value, because at present there is no necessity for a huge grant for the popularizing of the wheat diet. People have already been accustomed to, or forced to learn how to prepare, wheat diet. It is not at all necessary to incur expenditure on this scheme.

“Then with regard to procurement, we on this side of the House, the Members belonging to the Muslim League, have opposed the formation of committees not on the ground that we are not prepared to co-operate with this Government in the execution of their Food policy, but on the ground that it is needless at this critical stage to introduce a new machinery for procurement and distribution of food. What we expected has come into actual practice. Wherever we go we are faced with representations that this section or that section is not included in village committees or taluk committees. And therefore I suggest that Government must issue strict instructions for the enforcement of the principles enunciated by them in the matter of these committees.

“With regard to Prohibition, so far as we Members of the Muslim League are concerned, we entirely agree with the Government in adopting total prohibition all over this Province. When the Ministry has 31 crores at their back by way of Revenue

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Reserve Fund they need not even wait for new sources of revenue. They may right away launch on total prohibition. It is a much needed measure and we on this side of the House will welcome it if it is adopted.

“*Village Reconstruction Schemes.*—I can only say that the scheme is of doubtful value. Sir, when a popular Ministry assumes office and introduces new measures it ought to take into consideration all aspects. When the reconstruction scheme is framed, they have to consider the housing problem and various other problems, such as the labour problem and the agricultural problem. A thorough investigation of all the problems confronting the people should first be ordered. All the problems should be embodied in a scheme in a systematic manner and an attempt should be made to put the scheme into execution in a systematic manner. The attempt at village reconstruction in selected firkas will be of no use. It is very doubtful if the proposal adumbrated in the Budget Speech is conducive to the good of all sections of the people. I say they have to make all the people in the firka self-sufficient with regard to clothing and other needs.

“The Ministry want to introduce the production of khaddar. I say that the khaddar scheme from the point of view of rural economics is not a sound one. Khaddar as an economic measure cannot compete with mill production. We are in the days of mills and not in the days of stone, metal and khaddar. When you have the mill producing cheap cloth, khaddar has no value. It should not find a place in the budget. The Ministry ought to have realised what great labour and trouble the villager has to spend for spinning the yarn and weaving it into khaddar. The remuneration he gets is not commensurate with his labour. If really Government want to provide a side avocation for the villager, they have got so many other village industries and they may resort to such industries which can economically compete with any other industry. Khaddar is introduced into the budget proposal as a political measure to consolidate their party position, rather than to benefit the large majority of people who have been contributing to the maintenance of this Government.

“The same arguments apply to village committees also. The scheme may lead to friction generally in all directions.

“On the medical side Government have come out with a proposal to develop Ayurvedic, Unani and other indigenous systems. I lay special emphasis on Unani, lest in their anxiety to develop other indigenous systems, they should forget this system.

“I was glad to hear from the Ministry, with regard to the Highways Department, that they have not decided one way or the other, whether to continue the Highways Department or not. I suggest that a decision upon this matter should be come to only after consulting this House and the general body of the public whether an independent Highways Department can do more useful work than the previous system of entrusting the work to the district and other local boards.

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“With regard to Post-war Reconstruction I only suggest that the Ministry should not rush through these schemes at the present stage. Many of us do not know what really are the post-war reconstruction schemes the Ministry are going to adopt. The present schemes were framed under the section 93 regime. The popular Ministry had no hand in framing them. I suggest that all the post-war reconstruction schemes may be published and thoroughly discussed by this House and their relative importance taken into consideration with reference to the several problems confronting the Province, such as labour, education, land, etc. Before giving effect to any of these schemes a thorough enquiry should be made. Then alone the execution of this plan can be satisfactorily explained by the popular Ministry.”

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO :—“ఆహ్లా! గ్రామ ప్రజల ఆధారాధిపత్యములవలన అధికారమును అధిష్టించిన కాంగ్రెస్ మంత్రివర్గము తరఫున అధిక మంత్రి గారు అసతికాలములో గ్రామ ప్రజల సుఖసౌభాగ్యాధివృద్ధి కనువగునట్లు అధిక ప్రయత్నమును సవరించి సభకు సమర్పించినందులకు హృదయపూర్వక అభివందనములు. ఇందులో ప్రత్యేకముగ పాగడదగిన అంశములు ఒకటి రెండు కలవు. మొదటిది హరిజనాధి వృద్ధికి కోటి రూపాయలు ప్రత్యేకించుట. దీనిగురించి ప్రతిపక్షులెవరూ ఆశ్చర్య అపహేలు పడవలసిన అవసరములేదు. పిందువులు ముసల్మానులు కలిసి ఆతహతాళ మునకు అణగద్రొక్కిన దీనుల అభివృద్ధికి ముఖ్యంగా వారికి నిలువ నీడకు త్రాగునీళ్లకు విద్యాభ్యాసమునకు ఖర్చుపెట్టు మొత్తము కనుక.

“గ్రామోద్ధరణ పథకం రెండవది గ్రామోద్ధరణకై ప్రత్యేకించబడిన మొత్తం. ఈయది పార్టీ బలపరచు కొనుటకు ప్రత్యేకించబడిన మొత్తమని ప్రతి పక్షులైన ముస్లింలీగు సభ్యులు విమర్శించు చున్నారు. ముస్లిం లీగువారికిని ముస్లింలీగు పెద్దలకును కాంగ్రెస్ పెద్దలకును రాజ్యాంగ పరిపత్ సభ సభ్యత్వమునకు ఎక్కువగా కలిగి ఉన్న సభ్యత్వమునకు తగాదా లుండినా ఉండవచ్చునుగాని గ్రామములలో యీ పిందూ ముస్లిం తగాదాలకు అర్థం లేదు. తావులేదు. గ్రామోద్ధరణ కార్యమున పనిచేయుచుండువారికి యీ మొత్త మంత అవసరమే తెలియును. ఖద్దరు ఉత్పత్తి గ్రామోద్ధరణ కార్యములలో నొకటి. అందులో పల్లెలలోని ముస్లిం స్త్రీలే ఎక్కువగా పాటుపడి పడికి పరుండే సంపాదించుచుండునది నే చూపగలను.

“రాయలసీమ అధికాధివృద్ధికి పంచవర్ష ప్రణాళిక. ప్రత్యేకముగా ప్రధానిని పాగడదగిన విషయము మరొకటియున్నది దుర్భర దరిద్రస్థితికి తెచ్చి దీనావస్థలో నుండు రాయలసీమ ప్రాంతాల అభివృద్ధిని గురించి ఒక కలం చూపించినారు. వారు రెవిన్యూ మంత్రిగా నున్నపుడు రాయలసీమను సంద సవనముగా మార్చెదమని చెప్పినదానికి ఆపుడు ఒక సంఘమును నియమించి రిపోర్టు వ్రాయించి యివుడొక అధిక సంఘమును ఆ ప్రాంతాల అభివృద్ధికి ఏర్పాటుచేసినారు. ఆయనది రివిన్యూ బోర్డులో ఎవరికి కనపడని ఒక మారుమూలలో నుండియే పనిచేయు టకు తగు ఉత్సాహము వసతి లేకయున్నది. ఇప్పుడు ప్రధానిగా వచ్చిన శ్రీ ప్రకా శంగారు ఆ ఉపసంఘమునకు ప్రత్యేక అధికవేతలను శాసనసభ్యులను చేర్చి పనిచేయు టకు ఏర్పాటు చేయవలెను. ఈ రాయలసీమ మదరాసు కోస్తా బొక్కనమ్మపై నొకభారముగా నున్నదని పదేపదే తెలిసి సిగ్గుపడుచున్నాము. పక్షవాతంపలెనుండు నీ ప్రాంతము నీదుర్భరము స్థితినుండి తప్పించవలెనని ఆయిదు సంవత్సరముల అధిక

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ప్రత్యేక నోటిఫికేషన్ ప్రతివత్సరము ఒక కోటి రూపాయలు బడ్జటునుండి ప్రత్యేకించి శ్రద్ధతో చూరుకుగా పనిచేసినచో కడు జాగ్రత్తగా అన్ని ప్రాంతములలో పాటు సుఖిక్షవంతముగా చేయవచ్చును. ఇదిగాక నైజామునుండి బ్రిటిషువారికి యీ ప్రాంతాలు దత్తత చేసిన సందర్భములో యీ మండలములనుండి డ్రామమును రోగములను నివారించి పాలించెదమని హామీ యిచ్చినారు. దానికి తోడుగా రెండవ రౌండు టేబిలు సభకు సమర్పించిన ఒక ఆర్థిక డిస్కాంట్ అనగా Financial obligations of British India Toward Ceded areas అనే నివేదిక యీ విషయమును వివరించినది. దయచేసి ఇండియా గవర్నమెంటువారికి కూడా యీ జిల్లాల పరిస్థితి తెలియజేసి మదరాసు ప్రభుత్వపు కోటి రూపాయల తోడుగా ఏ సంవత్సరములపాటు కేంద్ర ప్రభుత్వంనుండి కోటి రూపాయలు ప్రతి సంవత్సరం సంపాదించి తగు నీటి పారుదలలు పారిశ్రామిక అభివృద్ధులు చేసినచో యీ ప్రాంతము చాగుపడి మదరాసు బొక్కసంపై భారం లేకుండా నుండునని సలహా చేయుచున్నాను.

“ దీనికి తోడు మైసూరు మదరాసు నీటి పారుదల తగాదాల గురించి 1892 సం॥లో చేసిన ఒడంబడిక ఆధారముతో యీ భూభాగమునకువచ్చు నీటిసంతయ అడ్డంకుచున్నారు. ఆ ఒడంబడికలో మైసూరువారు యీ ప్రవాహములకు అడ్డుకట్టవలెనన్న మదరాసు ప్రభుత్వపు అనుజ్ఞ పొందవలసినది కాని వీరు వారికి అడ్డదవలసిన అవసరంలేదు. కావున ఒక న్యాయ పరిష్కార సంఘమును యీ నీటి పారుదల విషయమై ఏర్పాటుచేసి తగు విచారణ విమర్శచేసి కరిష్కరించ వలసియున్నది. ఉదాహరణముగా పెన్నార్ కుముద్వతి ప్రాజెక్టు తెలియజేయుచున్నాను. నీటి ప్రధాని నివన్యామంత్రిగా నున్నప్పుడే ఆ ప్రాజెక్టు వెంటనే తీసుకొందునని హామీ అప్పుడు యిచ్చియుండెను. ఇంతవరకు ఆ పని జరగలేదు. అడిగితే మైసూరు వారు అడ్డుంటారు. వారి అడ్డమంత రెక్కచేయ దగినదికాదు. వెంటనే యీ ప్రాజెక్టు నిర్మాణానికి పూనుకోవలెనని వేడుచున్నాను.

“ మూలాదార విధ్య,

ఇక ముస్లింలగు సభ్యులు కొందరు మూలాదార విద్య సవరించి విమర్శిస్తూ మహమ్మదీయుల సంస్కృతికి మతమునకు తమ ఉరుదూ భాషాభ్యుదయమునకు అడ్డమని చెప్పుచున్నారు. దీనికి మహాత్మా గాంధీగారికంటే జోర్ మునేజ్ గారు ముఖ్యులు. వీరు మహమ్మదీయులే. ఈ ప్రాతిపదికవిద్య మాత్ర భాషలో చెప్పవలెననియే గాంధీ మహాత్ముని అజ్ఞ. జోర్ మునేజ్ గారి అభిప్రాయము కూడాను, కాబట్టి వారు అడ్డుపడుట ధర్మంకాదు. ఏ ప్రాంతాల బేసిక్ విద్యాపాఠశాల లేర్పడుచో ఆక్కడ మాత్ర భాషలోనే విద్య గరపజును. సి. పి. లో విద్యాయుందిర్ స్కీముకు ఆక్షేపణ మందిర్ అంటే దేవళం అనే శబ్దానికి ముస్లిములు అడ్డుచెప్పిరేగాని విద్యాపద్ధతికి కాదు. అట్టి అనవసర అడ్డుసవాళ్లు ధర్మముకాదు. మూలాదార విద్య ప్రజాభివృద్ధి కెంతయు అత్యంత అవసరము.

“ ఈ బడ్జెటులో అసంతపురంలో ఇంజనీరింగు కళాశాల స్థాపించుటకు ఖర్చుని తెలియజేసినారు. అసంతపురం పేరుతో ఇంజనీరింగు కళాశాల తాత్కాలికముగా గిండిలోనే ఉన్నది. దానిని వెంటనే అసంతపురం పంపించుటకు వలయు ఖజనము లకు మరి యితర సౌకర్యములకు తగు మొత్తమును వెచ్చపెట్టి జాగ్రత్తగా అసంతపురంలోనే ఇంజనీరింగు కళాశాల నెలకొల్పుటకు ప్రభుత్వం తోడ్పడవలెనని వేడుచున్నాను.”

(At this stage the Hon. the Speaker occupied the Chair.)

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to congratulate the Hon. the Premier on having presented a budget, which may be called the poor man's budget. He has taken into consideration

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the difficulties of poor people, especially of the Harijans and he has been kind enough to grant Rs. 1 crore for their uplift. I am very much thankful to him for this.

“ Now, Sir, some of my friends here have very vehemently criticized the Hon. the Premier in respect of this grant of Rs. 1 crore. I do not understand whether they are really jealous of this Rs. 1 crore or whether they are really not interested in the Harijans, whether they want us to continue to be down-trodden as much as we are to-day. Whether this is the motive of my friends or whether they have opposed the grant for opposition's sake, I am at a loss to understand. Whatever be the view of the Opposition, I request the Hon. the Premier and the Government to start hostels for Harijan boys and girls wherever there is a high school or a college. I hope this amount will be spent also on providing houses. There is no use of spending this one crore alone; their economic condition should also be improved or developed and the only method of doing it will be to socialize the land and to nationalize the industries of this Province. I hope the Government will take immediate steps to see that this object is achieved.

“ I think the Government will find it difficult to find funds for all these purposes. The Government may consider the idea of levying new taxes such as agricultural, income-tax, death duty, etc. These are the taxes wherefrom we can find funds for such nation-building activities.

“ As regards jobs, I hope this Government are aware that the Central Government have raised the percentage of representation of Harijans in the services from 8½ to 12½ per cent. So also, I want the Provincial Government to raise the percentage of Harijans in the services.

“ Now, Sir, as I come from one of the Ceded Districts, I must say that nothing has been stated as regards irrigation in the Ceded Districts. No doubt, recently, as a result of our agitation, the Government have taken up the matter. And the present Tungabhadra project is not the project that was originally contemplated by Sir Henry Cotton. In those days, the scheme that was drawn up was to cost Rs. 50 crores. The present one is however an eye-wash scheme. Under this scheme, we are going to have only three to four lakhs of acres to be brought under cultivation. If you look into the original scheme, you will find that it was intended to irrigate some more lakhs of acres and that would certainly have relieved the Ceded Districts from famine altogether.

“ Moreover, Sir, our present Premier who was the Revenue Minister in the last Ministry, has given us an assurance that he would develop our districts. I agree with him when he says that our country is quite fitted for industrialisation. But yet, nothing has been said in the budget as regards industries. In future budgets at least, I hope the Hon. Premier will take up the question of developing industries in the Ceded Districts and thus once for all relieve these districts from famine.

“ The Hon. Premier stated that he was going to open more medical colleges. As our Ceded Districts are noted for famine and

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pestilence, and as disease and distress prevail there often, in famine-stricken areas I would suggest that instead of having a college at Madura and another at Guntur, he may as well establish one of those colleges in any of the Ceded Districts; but lest I am considered selfish, I suggest that in addition to the opening of these colleges in Madura and Guntur, another may be opened in the Ceded Districts. I hope the Premier will kindly give his attention to this suggestion.

"We have been noticing recently the many strikes in the B. & C. and other mills; why not the Government themselves take up these mills and run them, I ask? In that case, the Government will be in a position to know where the black-market business is going on and they will also gain experience and know how much profit these capitalists have been making all these years. I request the Government to take up these mills themselves, and I hope they will accept my suggestion and thus prevent the lock-outs and walk-outs in these mills.

"Now, Sir, as regards prohibition, I am very much thankful to the Premier for his having kept up the Congress prestige; but I would have congratulated him much more if he had taken up the three neighbouring districts also which are in distress, viz., Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur. It would certainly have been better if he had included them in this budget itself. Even now, it is not too late and it would not be difficult to include them. I understand if they are also included this year, only about Rs. 60 or Rs. 70 lakhs more would be lost to Government in the shape of revenue. When we are having a surplus of more than Rs. 30 crores in the Reserve Fund, it must be easy for the Premier to introduce prohibition straightaway in the Ceded Districts. As I said, even now it is not too late for him to do some justice to the famine-stricken people of these districts.

"With these observations, Sir, I shall close, and reserve my remarks on the major works when the Irrigation Demand comes up for consideration before the House."

5 p.m. *SRI M. P. PERIYASAMI:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, இந்த பட்ஜெட்டில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கி வைத்ததுபற்றி சந்தோஷப் படுகிறோம். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு அதோடுகூட அதேசமயத்தில் எல்லா ஹோட்டல்களிலும் ஹரிஜனங்களை allow பண்ணும்படி செய்யவேண்டும். இல்லாவிட்டால் லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்க முடியாதென்று சட்டம் செய்துவிட்டால் ரொம்பவும் நன்றியிருக்கும். அதோடுகூட ஆலையப்பிரவேசம் முக்கியமான விஷயம். இப்பொழுது மதுரை, பழனி, தஞ்சாவூர் இந்த இடங்களில் ஆலையப்பிரவேசம் செய்துவிட்டார்கள். இம்மாகாணத்தில் நமது காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை திரும்பவும் வந்துவிட்டதனால் மீண்டும் ஆலையப்பிரவேசம் உடனடியாகக்கொண்டு வரவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குத் தண்ணீர் முக்கியமான உணவுப் பிரச்சினையாகும். எல்லா ஜில்லாவிலும் எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குக் கிணறு இல்லை. கிணறு இருந்தபோதிலும் அவைகளை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஜலம் எடுக்க விட்டுக் கொடுக்கிறதில்லை. தண்ணீருக்குப் பெரும் கஷ்டம். ஹரிஜனங்கள் ரொம்பவும் அவஸ்தைப்படுகிறார்கள். இப்போதுகூட கிராமங்களில் அவர்களுக்கு இந்தத் தண்ணீர் விஷயமாக அதிகக் கஷ்டங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. தண்ணீருக்குப் போக வேண்டுமென்றால் caste ஹிந்துக்கள் ரோடு வழியாக வரக் கூடாதென்று தடுத்துவிடுகிறார்கள், அடிக்கிறார்கள், பாணையைப் பிடுங்கி உடைத்துவிடுகிறார்கள், தண்ணீரில் சாணியைக் கரைத்து விடுகிறார்கள்.

2nd August 1946] [Sri M. P. Periyasami]

இந்த ஹரிஜனங்களை பப்ளிக் ரொட்டிக்குட நடக்கமுடியாமல் தடுத்துக் கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். கல்யாண காலத்தில் மேளம் கொட்டிக்கொண்டு போகக்கூடாதென்று பப்ளிக் ரொட்டிக்குடத் தடுத்துவிடுகிறார்கள். இவையெல்லாம் போக காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கியில் ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கி வைத்தது போராக. இப்பேர்ப்பட்ட கஷ்டங்களை சட்ட பூர்வமாக நீக்க சட்டமியற்றி ஹரிஜனங்களைக் காப்பற்றவேண்டும். எல்லா இடங்களிலும் கிராமங்களிலும் வாழும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு வீடில்லை. சில இடங்களில் மட்டுமே வீடு கட்டிக்கொடுப்ப தாகத் தெரிகிறது. அது மாதிரியாக இதுவும் முக்கிய விஷயம்தான். இப்படி பப்ளிக் இடங்களில் caste ஹிந்துக்கள் தடுத்தால் போலீஸார் ஆக்டு மூலமாக ஒரு சட்டம் இயற்றனால் ஒத்தாசையாக இருக்கும். அதோடுகூட இந்த ரேஷன் காலத்தில் சில இடங்களில் அரிசி விநியோகம் புண்ணுமலுக்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்கள் மட்டும் ஒவ்வொரு ஊரிலும் கலப்பு உணவு சாப்பிடுவார்களென்று எழுதி விட்டார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு இடங்களில் அவர்கள் அரிசி சாப்பிடுவதென்று எழுதி விட்டார்கள். நாமக்கல் தாலுகாவில் மோகனூர் 8-வது வார்டிலே சோளம் கம்பு கொடுக்கவேண்டும் அரிசி சாப்பிடுவதவர்கள் என்று எழுதி விட்டார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்கள் வாங்கு எட்டாவது வார்டு, அவர்கள் கூலி வேலை செய்து அரிசிதான் வாங்கிக்கொண்டு வருவார்கள், அப்படியிருந்தும் கூட இவற்றைக் கலப்பு தானியம் சாப்பிடுகிறார்களென்று எழுதிவிட்டார்கள். ரேஷன் கார்டில் 3-நாளைக்கு அரிசி என்றும் மற்ற நாளைக்கு மாவு தான் என்றும் கொடுத்தார்கள். ஆனால் கம்புச் சோர் கொடுத்தால் பறவாயில்லை. 4-நாளைக்கு மாவு, 3-நாளைக்கு அரிசி இப்படி ஜனங்கள் வாங்கமுடியாமல் மாவை என்ன செய்கிறதென்று தெரியாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அவ்விடத்தில் மற்றவர்களுக்கு ஒரு நாள் சோளுமையும், ஒரு நாள் மாவும், 5 நாளைக்கு அரிசியும் கொடுத்துவிட்டார்கள். இது விஷயத்தை Executive ஆபீசிடத்தில் சொன்னேன், முனிசிபிட்டிதிலும் சொன்னேன், ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கும் கவர்ன்மென்டாரிடத்திலும் தெரியப்படுத்துகிறென்று சொல்லி வந்திருக்கிறேன். இன்னும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ரேஷன் ஷாப்பிலே துணி கொடுத்தால் ஸைகரியமாக இருக்கும். அந்த ரேஷன் ஷாப்பிலே துணி கொடுக்கும் காலத்தில் கூட ஹரிஜனங்கள் ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்களோடு சேர்ந்து வாங்கக் கஷ்டமா இருக்கிறது. ரேஷன் கார்டில் துணியும் வாங்கிக்கொள்ளலாமென்று சட்டமிருந்தால் நல்லதாயிருக்கும். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு இப்போது ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருப்பதில் சந்தோஷம்தான். ஆனால் கள்ளுக்கடைகள் வந்திருப்பதால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு செய்தாலும் ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் கொடுத்தாலும் வருமானத்தையெல்லாம் அது இழுத்துக்கொண்டு போய்விடுகிறது. இந்த ஹரிஜனங்கள் மட்டுமல்ல மற்றவர்களும் சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள் முக்கியமாக ஹரிஜனங்களை அதிகமாக பாதிக்கிறது. ஆகையால் பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் கள்ளுக்கடையை அறவே ஒழித்துவிடுவாரென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

"பப்ளிக் கூடங்களிலே அட்மிஷன் காலத்திலே ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகள் கஷ்டப்பட்டார்கள். ஹைஸ்கூல் எலிமென்டரி ஸ்கூல்களுக்குப்போனால் அந்தப் பிள்ளைகளுக்குச் சரியாக இடம் கிடைப்பதில்லை. ஒவ்வொரு செக்ஷனிலும் அவர்களில் குறைந்தது 10, 15-பையன்களுக்காவது ரீலர்ஸ் பண்ணி வைத்து அவர்கள் வராவிட்டால் வேறு பிள்ளைகளை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளலாமென்று சட்டம் செய்தால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஆதரவாய்ருக்கும். ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகள் கஷ்டப்பட்டுப் படித்து அந்த காலத்தில் fail ஆனவுடனும் இடம் கொடுப்பதில்லை. ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகள் fail ஆனாலும் அதே வகுப்பில் இருக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். முக்கியமான விஷயங்களிலே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு இப்பொழுது காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மென்டு வந்துவிட்டதினால் விமோசன மாய்விடுமென்று நான் சொல்லிக்கொண்டு வந்திருக்கின்றேன். உடனடியாக நான் சொன்ன விஷயத்தையெல்லாம் கவனித்தால் உடனே ஹரிஜனங்கள் அந்த காங்கிரஸைத்தான் பின்பற்றுவார்களென்பது என்னுடைய நம்பிக்கை. ஹரிஜனங்கள் உத்தியோகம் வகிக்கிறார்கள். உத்தியோகத்திற்குப்போனால் ஒரு ஸப்-இனிஸ்பெக்டர், டெபுடி கலெக்டர், கிளர்க்கு, இப்படி ஹரிஜனப் பையன்கள் உத்தியோகத்திற்குப் போயிருக்கிறார்கள். பிரமோஷன் கிடைப்பதை

[Sri M. P. Periyasami] [2nd August 1946]

மேல்ஜாதியார்கள் தடுத்து வருகிறார்கள். ஒரு ஹரிஜன் உத்தியோகஸ்தர் மேலே போவதற்கு ரொம்பவும் தடை ஏற்படுகிறது. மேலேயுள்ள அதிகாரிகள் சீக்கிரம் பிரமோஷன் கிடைக்காமல் செய்கிறார்கள். குறைந்தது ஒரு ஹரிஜன் 8 வருஷமோ 10 வருஷமோ ஒரு உத்தியோகத்திலிருந்தால் அவனுக்கு பிரமோஷன் கொடுக்கலாமென்று சட்டம் இருந்தால் நன்றாக யிருக்குமென்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Prime Minister for having presented us with a budget whose major features reflect the most enthusiastic programmes for which our Prime Minister has worked for several years, namely, his programme for self-sufficiency of the rural areas on the one hand, the most enthusiastic programme which our erstwhile leader, Sri C. Rajagopalachari had been working out with a great amount of intelligence and knowledge of practicalities, namely, the problem of prohibition on the other. I submit, Sir, that these two features of the Budget are by themselves very great ones which should make us contented for the present for what are aimed at by these two programmes. But, Sir, there has been a lot of criticism and discontent not only in the Opposition benches but also perhaps among the rank and file of Congressmen (Hear, hear from the Muslim Group). In regard to the programme of prohibition, for the simple reason that the Ministry has not been able to find its way to introduce total prohibition in the whole of the Province, I submit, Sir, there is no lack of enthusiasm for the programme on the part of the Ministry. I know all of them have been making great sacrifices in the cause of prohibition for a long time—some of them for nearly a quarter of a century. Therefore it is not lack of enthusiasm but superhuman difficulties that have come in our way to effectively introduce this programme throughout the Province just at present. (An hon. Member: You have prohibition in your district.) Sir, I am willing to give up Chittoor to satisfy the Opposition for the present and I will take it when the time comes. Well, I am prepared to face the public. If you have not got the courage to face the public, you are not a public man. Sir, I submit with the food problem which has involved us in a huge expenditure on the procurement of foodgrains, on the one hand and with wholly corrupt services inherited from the Adviser Government, we cannot introduce prohibition in the whole of the Province just now. Sir, I have a grouse against the present Government in this respect, namely, in order to achieve prohibition successfully and effectively throughout the whole province, they have not taken sufficient measures yet for removing and rooting out corruption in the services prevalent in almost the whole area of the Province. In all departments worth mentioning, corruption is rampant and no satisfactory agency has yet been established for rooting out this corruption. The appointment of an officer to work in the rooms of the Secretariat to deal only with departmental offenders by way of departmental methods is not sufficient. The employment of one or two C.I.Ds. to root out corruption is not sufficient. Local agencies must be started. Non-official co-operation must be sought in the rooting out of corruption. Otherwise, the existing channels of information will be insufficient and the work of rooting out corruption will be a total failure. I request the Government to open its eyes

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to the urgent need in this behalf and take necessary measures to root out corruption. I am speaking with a sense of responsibility when I am making such a sweeping statement as this. I hope I will not be misunderstood as making an irresponsible statement either. I have known instances in all departments where every order of control with regard to commodities and every single modification of an order of control is taken advantage of to fill the pockets of the public servants. I do not say that the officers at the top are guilty so much as those in the lower ranks of the services. The lower ranks of the services are affected by an economic trouble which is unparalleled. The lower ranks are getting pittance of salaries with which they cannot maintain themselves in comfort or even above starvation level. The salaries paid to them are based upon principles which are antediluvian. I have been thinking, Sir, for a long time to suggest methods of abolishing the principle of salaries itself—the system of paying salary in cash to the public servants, high and low. But the time is not propitious. As we are in difficult times, we cannot think of varying this principle into anything else. I would like to pay all our officials from the Minister or the High Court Judge down to the poorest servant in the office in kind so that the Government will keep them in comfort and above want. But the time is not yet propitious for that. We have to furiously think about a programme very soon. Considering the agitation that we find outside we have to take steps very soon to see that dissatisfaction and discontent are avoided among our public servants as soon as possible. In order to root out corruption, I would advocate on the one hand rigorous measures on the part of the Government to see that they adopt some original methods and on the other to see that the condition of the public servant especially the non-gazetted officer is ameliorated to avoid a revolution.

“ Next, Sir, I find that in this budget, we have got an allotment of one crore for the uplift of the Harijan community. As yet we do not know the details of the programme—we shall have them in due course and I am sure the Prime Minister will see to it. His affection for the Harijan masses has been proverbial and we know that he will do everything for the sake of the Harijans. But, Sir, Harijans themselves do not seem to know their own minds completely. (An hon. Member: Question.) I find that they are thinking on lines of a pecuniary grant for this or for that thing—small thing which will not go a long way for their amelioration. But it is not on such lines, it has to be conceived. I submit with great respect to the Government and the Minister in charge of this subject that the first thing the Government ought to do, if untouchability has to be removed—and if their economic condition is to be raised, is not to force their entry into temples or other places or give him a charka. On the other hand, we have to see that we remove some of their practices, viz., cattle-killing, and the institution of cheris or the ‘ Malavadu ’ as it is called must go from our country before the social condition of the Harijan is ameliorated. His economic condition will automatically lift itself as soon as this institution is abolished and thereafter not much help will be

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necessary for his uplift. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: Where will they go?) They will have to come and stay with us in agra-harams, with our Acharyapurushas, with the Muslims and with the orthodox Hindus. Do not think that I am sensitive about that. I therefore say, Sir, that this one crore allotment will be utilized for the purpose of achieving this object. It involves a housing scheme in substitution of the cheris that we have now got. The housing scheme and the expenditure relating to it will best be utilized only when you shift the house-sites from the cheris to the agra-harams or the village as you may call it. (Hear, hear). The time has now come for it and if you do not do it to-day willingly, it will be forced upon you very soon. (Hear, hear.)

“Then again, Sir, reference has been made about the abolition of zamindaris. Some of the hon. Members in the Congress ranks have welcomed the statement made by the Maharajah of Pithapuram, our hon. colleague in this House that he was ready for parting with his estate and that the zamindars are quite willing to part with their estates now. Time there was when they were nervous about it and now they are themselves coming forward with this offer. I submit that the Government must beware of this move. They are expecting that the Government is going to put lakhs and crores of rupees in their hands as compensation for their estates. That will not be the policy of any decent Government to do as it will demoralise the class of zamindars. To put so much money into their hands for the purpose of squandering and wasting it away according to their likes is not desirable. Very soon we will have to find a method of doing justice to them. In order to see that the money so placed in their hands is put to public utility services and that any amount that is placed in their hands should not be allowed to be frittered away on their own likes and dislikes.

“Then, Sir, with regard to village reconstruction schemes, we find that an allotment of three crores has been made. There is a misconception that the allotment is as a sort of lump sum grant to be utilized without knowing how it is going to be utilized. In fact it is not so, and, believe our colleagues in the House will not misunderstand the position. The real position is that a fund is sought to be created out of which the monies necessary for running the schemes prepared and accepted by the House will alone be financed from out of the fund. Therefore, there need be no misconception on this head of account. There can be no misconception or criticism of this head as to what the implications of fund are, as it has been made already plain in the Budget statement as well as in the other papers placed in the hands of hon. Members, that it is only a funded amount and from that amount alone expenditure will be incurred. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.”

* **SRI M. MARIMUTHU** :—“கனம் அக்கிராசனர் அவர்களே : ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய நிலைமையைப்பற்றி சில வார்த்தைகளைப் பேச முன் வந்திருக்கின்றேன். இன்று ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கும் நிலைமையைப் பார்த்து என் மனமானது நடுங்குகின்றது. கிராமங்களில் அவர்கள் குடியிருக்க வீடின்றி, குடிக்க குடிதண்ணீரில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்பட்டு வருகிறார்கள். இந்நிலைமை ஒவ்வொரு தாலுகாவிலுமிருப்பதை அநேகருக்குத் தெரியும். சண்டை

[2nd August 1946] [Sri M. Marimuthu]

யின்போது காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கம் மந்திரி சபையைவிட்டு விலகியிருந்தது. இப்போது திரும்பவும் காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மென்ட் அதிகாரத்திற்கு வந்ததும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கெல்லாரும் மிகவும் சந்தோஷம் அடைந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால், இந்த அரிசி ரேஷன் வந்ததின் காரணமாக ஹரிஜனங்கள் படும் கஷ்டங்களைச் சொல்ல முடியாது. மிராசதாரர்கள் அவர்களுக்குப் போதுமான உணவைக் கொடுத்தாலொழிய அவர்கள் தங்களுடையவேலைகளைச் சரிவர செய்யமுடியாது. ஆகவே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு அரிசிக்குப் பதிலாக மைதா மாவு, கோதுமை முதலியவைகளைக் கொடுத்தால், அவர்கள் எப்படி மிராசதாரர்கள் சொல்லும் வேலையைச் செய்வார்கள்? மேலும் அவர்கள் செய்யும் வேலைக்கு இந்த கோதுமை மாவைக் கொண்டு ரொட்டி சுட்டுத் தின்பதாயிருந்தால் அவர்கள் என்னென்ன, நெய் முதலியவைகளை எங்கிருந்து சம்பாதிப்பார்களென்று நாம் உணரவேண்டும். காலை 6 மணியிலிருந்து மாலை 6 மணி வரையில் இந்த மிராசதாரர்களுக்காக உழைக்கும் இந்த எழை ஹரிஜனங்கள் எப்படி கோதுமை அல்லது மைதா மாவை ஆகாரமாகச் சாப்பிட்டுவிட்டு இருக்கமுடியும்? இவர்களுக்கு உபயோகிக்கிற முறையைச் சொல்லிக்கொடுத்தாலும் இதைச் சாப்பிட்டவர்கள் வயிற்றுக்குப்பு கண்டு ரத்தம் ரத்தமாக கழிவதை யான் பட்டுக்கோட்டைத் தாலுகா டெபுடி கலெக்டரிடத்திலும், தாசில்தாரிடத்திலும் ரிபோர்ட் செய்திருக்கிறேன். கோதுமை, மைதா மாவுக்குப் பதிலாக அவர்களுக்கு இந்த உணவுப் பொருள்களான சோளம், கம்பு, கேழ்வரகு இப்படிப்பட்ட நவதானியங்களைக் கொடுத்தால் நன்றாயிருக்குமென்று நான் தாசில்தாரிடத்தில் கூறியிருக்கிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கெல்லாரும் கள் குடிப்பதாக எங்கும் சொல்லப்படுவருகிறது. அவர்கள் குடிப்பதெல்லாம் ஒரு நாளைக்கு ஒரு அணு முதல் இரண்டு அணுவரையில்தான் என்று நான் சொல்லுவேன். ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்களென்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ளும் மேல் இனத்தாளைச் சேர்ந்தவர்கள் அதிகமாகக் குடிப்பதினால்தான் இன்று நாட்டில் இவ்வளவு கஷ்டங்கள் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்றன. ஆகவே இந்தக் காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மென்டானது இந்தக் கள் குடியை அறவே யொழிக்க முற்படவேண்டும். இதற்கான காரியங்களை கனம் பிரதம மந்திரியாரவர்கள் செய்யவேண்டும். இதைச் செய்தால், ஹரிஜனங்களிடம் அனுதாபம் காட்டும் முறையிலே ஒதுக்கப் பட்டிருக்கும் ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் வேண்டியதில்லையென்று நான் நினைக்கிறேன். இந்த கள் குடியை மட்டும் நாம் நிறுத்துவமானால் என்னுடைய வகுப்பார்ட்மென்ட், ஜாதி ஹிந்துக்கள் உட்பட எல்லோரும் திருட்டு, கொலை முதலிய கொடிய குற்றங்களை செய்வதிலிருந்து தடுக்கப்படுவார்கள். இது விஷயத்தில் மிராசதாரர்களும் அனுதாபம் உடையவர்களாயிருந்தால், நம்முடைய மாகாணம் நல்ல நிலைமைக்கு வருமென்று நான் துணிவுடன் கூறமுடியும். இதற்கு முன் 1937-38-ம் வருஷத்திலே கள் குடியை யொழிக்க காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபையார் கங்கணக் கட்டிக்கொண்டதைப் போல மறுபடியும் கங்கணக்கட்டிக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். இதற்கெல்லாம் பணமில்லையென்று நாம் எங்கவேண்டியதில்லை. வீடுகட்டுதல், அல்லது விவாக விஷயத்தில் பண மில்லையென்ற காரணத்தினால் அதை யாரும் நிறுத்துவதில்லை, மரம் வைத்தவன் தண்ணீர் ஊற்றுவான் என்று சொல்லுவதைப்போல் அந்தக் காரியங்கள் நடந்துவிடுகின்றன. அதேபோல மதுவிலக்கு விஷயத்திலே கனம் பிரதம மந்திரியாரவர்கள் கொஞ்சங்கூட கவலையில்லாமல் இது விஷயத்தில் இந்தக் கள் குடியை அறவே ஒழிப்பதற்கான சட்டத்தை உடனே கொண்டு வரும் படியாக மறுபடியும் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என்னுடைய சொற்பொழிவை முடித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

SRI K. RAJARAM NAYUDU :—“சபைத் தலைவரவர்களே, ஸ்க 5-30
அங்கத்தினர்களே : நமது மந்திரி சபை, குறிப்பாக பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள், p.m.
குறுகிய கால அளவில் இந்தச் சிறந்த பட்ஜெட்டைத் தயாரித்து நமது சபைக்கு அளித்திருப்பதைச் கண்டு நான் பாராட்டுகிறேன். இந்த பட்ஜெட்டில் பல சிறந்த அம்சங்கள் காணப்படுகின்றன. இருப்பினும் இன்னும் கொஞ்ச காலம் கழித்து கொஞ்சம் அனுபவத்தின் பேரில் பட்ஜெட் தயாரித்திருந்தால் மேலும் சில விஷயங்களுக்கு அவர்கள் அதிக பணத்தை ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருக்கமுடியும். ஏனென்று கேட்டால் ஹரி ஜான்

[Sri K. Rajaram Nayudu] [2nd August 1946]

களுக்கு ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட விஷயத்தைக் குறித்துக் காலை யிலிருந்து அங்கத்தினர்கள் பேசி பாராட்டிக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் பிரதம மந்திரியும் மற்ற மந்திரிகளும் எனது தொகுதியாகிய மதுரை ஜில்லாவில் திருமங்கலத்தில் வந்து பார்ப்பார்களானால் இந்த ஹரிஜனங் களை விட பொருளாதாரத்துறையிலும் சமூகத்துறையிலும் அதிகமாகக் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கும் மக்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு பல கோடிகளை ஒதுக்கி கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் பிரதம மந்திரி அவர் களையும் மந்திரி சபையையும் கேட்கவரவில்லை. ஆனால் ஏற்கனவே இதற்கு முன் இருந்த அட்வைசரி ஸர்க்காரும் அதற்கு முன் இருந்த காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபையும் ஒரு திட்டத்தை வகுத்திருக்கிறார்கள், அந்த திட்டத் தின்படி பெரியார் நீர் பாசனத்தை விஸ்தரித்தால் அந்தத் தாலுக்காவில் பெரும்பான்மையான மக்களாகவுள்ள அந்தப் பிறமலை நாட்டுக் கள் ளர்களுக்கு நீர்ப்பாசன அபிவிருத்தியைச் செய்வார்களானால் சமூகத் துறையிலும் மேலும் பொருளாதாரத்துறையிலும் அவர்கள் மேன் படுவதுடன் இப்பொழுது அமுலில் இருந்து வரும் சி.டி. ஆக்ட் இல்லா மல் செய்து விடுவதற்கு நல்ல சூசகமாயிருக்கும். இந்த மந்திரி சபை இந்தப் பெரியாற்று நீர்ப்பாசன திட்டத்தை விஸ்தரிப்பதற்கு குறிப்பாக இந்த வருடத்திலே இந்தப் பட்ஜெட்டில் ஏதாவது ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருப்பார் களா என்று புத்தகுத் தடவை புரட்டிப் புரட்டிப் பார்த்தேன். தற்கால ஸர்க்கார் பல வகைகளில் பணம் ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் முக்கியமாக எதைச் செய்யவேண்டுமோ அதைச் செய்யவில்லை. மந்திரிக ளிடமும் எழுதிக் கொடுத்தார்கள். அதற்கு வகை செய்கிறேனென்று கூறினார்கள். வெகு சீக்கிரத்தில் இந்த விஸ்தரிப்பு திட்டத்தை அமு லுக்குக் கொண்டு வந்து லெகிசுக்கணக்கான மக்கள் வதங்கிக் கொண்டி ருக்கும் அந்தப் பிரதேசத்திலிருக்கும் கிராமங்களில் அந்த ஜனங்கள் மேன்மையடையச் செய்வதுடன் அதைச் செய்வதன் மூலம் ஸர்க் கார் ஆரம்பித்திருக்கும் “Grow More Food” அதிக உணவுப் பொருளை உண்டு பண்ணும் திட்டத்திற்கு அனுசூலமாகவிருக்கும். இந்த திட்டத்தை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டு வருவதன் மூலம் 20,000 ஏக்கரங்கள் நஞ்சை சாகுபடிக்குக் கொண்டு வர முடியும். அந்தத் தாலுக்காவைப் பொறுத்த வரையில் வெளியிலிருந்து நெல்லு வரவேண்டிய அவசிய மில்லாது செய்துவிடலாம். இதுகாறும் கஷ்டப்படுவதற்குக் காரணம் சி.டி. ஆக்ட் என்பது மாகாணம் பூராவும் நன்றாய்த் தெரியும். சி.டி. ஆக்டை ஒரு சமூகத்தார் மீது போட்டு கஷ்டப்படுமபடி செய்வது தகாது. நம் மந்திரி சபை வந்தும் கூட இன்னும் யோசித்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறோம். அதை எடுக்க அதிகாரமிருக்கிறதாவென்பதைப் பற்றி என்று சொல்லிக்கொண் டிருப்பதை ஜனங்கள் நம்ப மாட்டார்கள். அவர்கள் படும் கஷ்டம் நேரில் வந்து பார்த்தால்தான் தெரியும். காங்கிரஸில் ஈடு பட்டிருந்த தொண்டர் களைக் கூட 1942-ம் வருஷத்தில் மண்டையை உடைத்து சி.டி. ஆக்டில் பதிவு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். என் போன்றவர்கள் சட்ட சபையில் அங்கத்தினர்களாக இருந்தும் கூட என்ன பயன் என்று நாங்கள் எங்கிக் கொண்டிருக்கி ரோம். என்னால் பல மேலதிகாரிகளிடம் எடுத்துச் சொல்லப்பட்டது இன் னும் அதைப்பற்றி கவனித்ததாகப்படவில்லை. சி.டி. ஆக்ட் என்பது 1946-ம் வருஷ வந்தும் கூட இன்னும் உயிரோடிருப்பது கண்டு வருந்தாம லிருக்கமுடியாது. உடனே வேண்டியதைச் செய்து மந்திரி சபை அதை ரத்து செய்வதுடன் நீங்கள் வேண்டுமானால் குற்றம் செய்வோருக்குத் தனியாகச் சட்டம் போடலாமே தவிர அதற்காக வேண்டி குற்ற பறம் தரை சட்டத்தை காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை இன்னமும் வைத்துக்கொண்டி ருப்பது அநியாயம், அங்ஙனம் காங்கிரஸ் செய்யக்கூடாதென்பதை உணர்ந்து அதை ரத்து செய்யவேண்டுமென்று மந்திரி சபையைக் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்

“சிறைக்குச் சென்றவுடன் நாமெல்லாம் எ, பி, சி வகுப்புப் பிரிவினையை மாற்றிவிடவேண்டுமென்று பேசிக்கொள்ளுகிறோம், ஆனால் வெளியே வந்தவுடன் உல்லாசமாக சட்ட சபையில் வந்து உட்கார்ந்து கொண்டு வருகிறோமெதவிர ஒரு அங்கத்தினராவது சென்ற கூட்டத்திலோ இந்தக் கூட்டத்திலோ இதைப்பற்றி கவனித்ததாகத் தெரியவில்லை. எ, பி, சி பிரிவினையை ரத்து செய்து அரசியில் வகுப்பு என்று உண்டு பண்ணினாலும்

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சரி அரசியில் கைதிகள் எல்லோருக்கும் ஒரே விதமான வசதியும் சௌகரியங்களும் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு இதை நமது மந்திரி சபை உடனடியாகச் செய்யுமென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன்.

“நிற்க மலையடிவாரங்களில் உள்ள ஜனங்கள் ஆடுமாடுகளை மலை மேல் கொண்டு போய் மேய்ப்பதற்கு எந்த விதமான சட்டமும் இடம் கொடுக்கவில்லை. மலைகளிலே பச்சைப்புல் இருக்க அது இல்லாமல் கீழே போட்டல் தரைகளிலே அவர்களுடைய ஆடுகள் மேய்ந்து கொண்டிருக்கும் போது தவறி ஏதோ ஒரு மாடு அல்லது ஆடு Forest எல்லைக்குள்ளே சென்று மேய்ந்து விட்டால் அவர்களை பிராவியிடிட்ட் செய்கிறார்கள், கேஸ் போடுகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் படும் அவஸ்தை என் தாலுக்காவில் வந்து பார்த்தால் சொல்லத்தறமன்று. ஆகையால் Forest எல்லைக்குள் இத்தனை மைல் தூரத்திலுள்ள கிராமங்களில் ஆடுகளும் மாடுகளும் வந்து மேய்த்துக் கொள்ளலாம். அவர்களுக்கு அடுப்பு எரிப்பதற்கு வேண்டிய விறகை உபயோகித்துக் கொள்ளலாம், ஆனால் விற்கக்கூடாதென்று ஒரு ஆர்டரையாவது போட்டு அந்த சௌகரியங்களையும் மந்திரி சபை செய்யு மென்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன்.

“நிற்க சில கிராமங்களிலுள்ள கண்மாய்க்களில் அந்தந்த கண்மாயைச் சேர்ந்த பட்டாதார்களே பாசிவரி செலுத்திவிட்டு மீனைப்பிடித்து கொள்ள அனுமதி கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். என்னுடைய தொகுதியிலே ஒரு மீன் பட்டா, பாசிப்பட்டா ஒரு ஐயங்காருக்கு கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அந்த ஐயங்கார் அதை வியாபாரத்திற்கு உபயோகிக்கிறார். ஜனங்கள் அதைச் சாமான்யமாகப் பிடித்துச் சாப்பிட்டால் உணவுப் பஞ்ச காலத்தில் சௌகர்யமாக இருக்கும். ஆனால் அந்த ஐயங்கார் வெளியில் ரூபாய்க்கு என்று எலம்விட்டு பணத்தைக்கொண்டு போகிறோறே யொழிய ஜனங்களுக்குச் சௌகரியமாக இல்லை. ஜனங்களே அந்த மீனைப்பிடித்து சாப்பிடவேண்டும் அல்லது ஸர்க்காரே அதை ஏலத்திற்கு விட்டும் அந்தப் பணத்தை பணமில்லை, பணமில்லை, மதுவிலக்குச் செய்வதற்குப்பண மில்லையென்று ஒலமிடப்படுகிறது இப்படிப்பட்ட பணமெல்லாம் அதற்கு உதவாதா. ஒரு கிராமத்தில் சுமார் ரூ. 1,200 தான் பாசிவரியாக வசூலிக் கப்படுகிறது. அவர்கள் அந்த மீனை எலம்-விட்டதன் மூலம் 11,000 ரூபாய் கிடைத்தது. அதில் 1,200 ரூபாய்தான் ஸர்க்காருக்கு வருகிறது, பாக்கி பொங் கல் நடத்துவதிலும் கனிக் கூத்தாடுவதிலும் செலவிடப்படுகிறது. ஜனங்களுக்கு ஹிம்சை ஏற்படாமல் எந்தெந்த வகையில் வருமானத்தைப் பெருக்க முடியுமென்பதைக்கண்டு பிடிக்க ஆலோசனைக்கமிட்டியொன்று போட்டு பணத்தைக்கொண்டுவர வழி இருக்கிறதா என்று பார்க்கவேண்டும். இதை நான் சொல்லத் தேவையில்லை. மந்திரிகள் அதற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்வார் களென்று எதிர்பார்க்கிறேன். தொழில் சாலைகள் தேசிய மயமாக்கப்பட வேண்டுமென்று பல அங்கத்தினர்கள் பேசிவிட்டார்கள். இப்படி வேலை நிறுத்தங்களும் லாக்கவுட்களும் பெருகிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் இந்த நாளில் கண்டிப்பாக ஸர்க்கார் இதைப்பற்றித் தீவிரமாக யோசிக்கவேண்டுமென்று சிபார்சு செய்யக்கடமைப்பட்டிருக்கிறேன். மேலும் ஜமீந்தாரி முறையை ஒழித்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று கனம் ரெவின்யூ மந்திரியவர்கள் சமீபத்தில் பப்ளிக் மீட்டிங்கில் கூறியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஜமீந்தாரிகள் எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் ஒழிக்கப்படுகிறதோ அவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் ஜனங்களுக்குக் கேஷமமுண்டாகுமென் றிருக்கிறோம். பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் சென்ற காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை இருந்த காலத்தில் தயாரித்த பில்லை அனுசரித்து மட்டும் திருத்தும் பக்கத் தில் பிரயோசனமில்லை. ஆகையால் தயவுசெய்து அந்த ஜமீந்தாரி ஆக்ஷி முறை அடியோடு ஒழிக்கப்படவேண்டும். அந்த நிலம் பூராவும் ஸர்க்கா ருக்கோ விவசாயிகளுக்கு சொந்தமாக்கப்படவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட் டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதற்கு நஷ்ட ஈடு எவ்வளவு கொடுப்பதென்ப தற்கு மற்ற விஷயங்களைப்பற்றியும் யோசிப்பதிலும் கமிட்டி போடுகிறோ மென்று காலதாமதம் செய்யவேண்டாம். வெகு சீக்கிரத்தில் ஜமீந்தாரி முறையை ஒழிப்பதற்கு மந்திரி சபை தீவிரமாக ஈடுபடவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். விவசாயிகள் பல இடங்களில் பலவிதமானதேவை யான உணவைப் பெருக்கவேண்டுமென்று மந்திரி சபை நடவடிக்கை எடுத்து வருவதை பாராட்டாமல் இருக்கமுடியாது. சி.டி. ஆக்ட்

[Sri K. Rajaram Nayudu] [2nd August 1946]

சட்டத்தின் கீழ் ஒருபுறம் நிர்ப்பந்தத்தின் கீழ் இருந்து கொண்டும் ஒரு புறம் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருப்பதோடும் இல்லாமல் அவர்கள் மாடு வாங்கக் கூட பணமில்லாமல் அவர்கள் என்ன செய்கிறார்களென்பதை பிரதம மந்திரி கேட்டால் ஆச்சரியப்படுவார்கள். அவர்கள் காளைமாடுகளை வைத்து விவசாயம் செய்யமுடியாமல் தூற்றுக்கு 98 பேர்கள் பசுமாடுகளைவைத்து விவசாயம் செய்கிறார்களென்பதைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். அவ்விதமாக கஷ்டப்படுவதன் காரணங்களில் சி.டி. ஆக்ட் ஒன்று, பொருளாதாரம் ஒன்று. அவர்கள் வெளியூர்களுக்குச் சென்று பொருளாதாரத்துரையைப் பெறுக்கமுடியாமல் இருப்பதற்கு குற்ற பரம்பரைச் சட்டம், காரணமாயிருக்கிறதே யொழிய வெறொன்றுமில்லை. ஆகவே அவர்களுக்கு மாடுகள் வாங்கிக்கொடுக்க எதேனும் ஒரு வழி செய்யவேண்டும். குறிப்பிட்ட பிரதேசங்களைப் பொறுத்து எந்தெந்த இடத்திற்கு எவ்விதமான வசதி கொடுக்க முடியுமென்று தேர்ந்தெடுத்து அதற்கு உதவி செய்வார்களென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டு பொதுவாக இவ்வளவு சிறந்த பட்ஜெட்டை தயாரித்துக்கொடுத்த பிரதம மந்திரி யவர்களுக்கும் மந்திரி சபைக்கும் பரார்ப்டுலை தெரிவித்துக் கொண்டு என்னுடைய சிறுநரையை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

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p.m.

SRI. D. KADIRAPPA:—“అధ్యక్షా, నాకు యీ దినము యిక్కడ మాట్లాడేదానికి అవకాశము యిచ్చినందులకు నా వందనములు తెలుపుచున్నాను. ముఖ్యముగా నేను చెప్పేది విమనగా, యింత త్వరగా శీఘ్రకాలములోనే గవర్నమెంటువారు విమాత్రము అలస్యములేకుండా బడ్జటును తయారుచేసి, యీ గవర్నమెంటును సక్రమముగా నడుపుటకు ప్రయత్నము చేసినందుకు నా వందనములు తెలుపుచున్నాను.

“నేను ఒక్క విషయము ముఖ్యముగా చెప్పదలచుకున్నాను ఆసంతపురం జిల్లా లో మడకశిర, పెనుకొండ, హిందూపురము తాలూకాలకు తెవిన్యూ మినిస్టరుగారు వచ్చి ఆ ప్రాంతాలలో వుండే కష్టాలను, జిల్లాలోవుండే కష్టాలను అన్ని తాము సంచారముచేసి తెలుసుకొన్నాము. అక్కడ పరిస్థితులను నేను 26 సంవత్సరాలనుంచి చూస్తూ వున్నాను. అక్కడ వర్షములులేవు. వర్షములు లేవు అంటే ఫ్యామిను (Famine) రోడ్లు మాత్రము తయారుగావస్తుంది. చెరువుల మరమ్మతులుగాని, పంకలు కట్టడముగాని, దానికి సరియైన బండ్ బండ్లు చేయడముగాని లేదు. ఇప్పుడు కుమద్వతి (Kumadvati) ప్రాజెక్టు అనేది తయారుచేసినారు. 1937 వ సంవత్సరములోనే కాంగ్రెసు గవర్నమెంటు వున్నప్పుడు, దానిని బడ్జెట్టులో పెట్టుతాము అని చెప్పినారు. కాని అది నేటివరకు జరుగలేదు. మొన్న భక్తవత్సలముగారు మాడ వచ్చి దానిని చూచినారు. ఈ బడ్జెట్టులో ఆది వస్తుందో లేదో తెలియదు.

“తరువాత యిప్పుడు ముఖ్యముగా ఫుండ్‌ది కల్లు అంగళ్లు, సారాయి అంగళ్లు, దానిని 27 జిల్లాలలో తీసివేయవలెను అనేవారు ఒక ప్రక్క, 4 జిల్లాలలో మాత్రము తీసివేయవలెను అనేవారు ఒక ప్రక్క వున్నారు. నాలుగు జిల్లాలలో మాత్రము తీసివేస్తే తలిమ జిల్లాల మాత్రము సేయ్యటాక్సు (Sales Tax) కట్టేది లేదా అని వారు అంటూవున్నారు. పూర్తిగా 27 జిల్లాలలో యీ అంగళ్లు యెందుకు తీసివేయవలెను అని అసెంబ్లీలో కూడ ప్రశ్న వచ్చింది. ఈ విషయమై మనం సూక్ష్మముగా చెప్పవచ్చును, గాని, దానిని మీసే సదివేవారికి దానియొక్క ఆయాసము తెలుస్తుంది. బయటిఫుండ్ ఏమి ఆయినా చెప్పవచ్చును. ఒక యింటిలోని కట్టము యింటి యజమానులకు తెలుస్తుంది. దానికి సరియైన జవాబుదారి తీసికొని సరియైన మార్గములో సదివి బడ్జెటులో హెచ్చు తగ్గులు లేకుండా చూడవలసినది ముఖ్య విషయము.

“తరువాత, హరిజనుల విషయము చెప్ప దలచుకొన్నాను. వారికి యిప్పుడు కొన్ని యిబ్బందులువున్నవి. తినేదానికి తిండి, కట్టేదానికి గుడ్డలు వారికి చిక్కడములేదు. కరంతుగారు మా జిల్లాకు వచ్చినప్పుడు నేను వారితో ఆస్తి ప్రాంతాలు తిరిగినాను. వారు గ్రామాలవద్ద రోడ్డుమీద కారు నిలిపినప్పుడు, ప్రజలువారికి గోధుమల విషయమె

2nd August 1946] [Sri D. Kadirappa]

మనవిచేసికొన్నారు. గోధును పిండి అంటే మైదాపిండి అంటే మాకు తెలియదు. దానిని తింటే మాకు బేదలు ఆవుతావుంది అని మనవిచేసికొన్నారు. అదే ప్రకారముగానే వారు మీకు బాన్సులు యిప్పించుతాము అని చెప్పినారు. ఇక్కడ వుంటే ఫామిను (Famine) అంతా ఆరుమాసాలలో పోగొట్టుతాను అని రెవిన్యూ మినిస్టరుగారు హామీ యిచ్చినారు అని నేను విన్నాను. నా పేర జిల్లాలో సంవత్సరానికి మూడు వర్షాలు కురుస్తుంది. గవర్నమెంటు నుమారు 20 లక్షలు అయినా ఖర్చు పెట్టుతావుంది. ఫామిను రోడ్లు వేయించినపుడు ప్రతి మెంబరు అక్కడకు వచ్చి వుండిరి. రాళ్ల కుప్పలు మాత్రము మెంబరుకు కనపడుతావుంటుంది. అంటే గాని రోడ్లు మాత్రము కొద్దికాలమైనా వుండవు. అట్లా యింత కష్టముచేసి, ఫామిను వర్క్సు పెట్టి, ప్రజల డబ్బు ఖర్చుచేసేదానికంటే, మైసూరులో వుట్టి ఆనంతపురం జిల్లాలో పారుచున్న నెన్నాలోని అక్కడక్కడ పారిపోయే నీళ్లకు ఆనంతపురం జిల్లాలో ఆనకట్టలు కట్టించుటే రి చెరువులు భర్తీ అవుతుంది. మా జిల్లాలో ముఖ్యముగా మూడు చెరువులున్నందుచే మా జిల్లాలో ఫామిను వుండదు. సంవత్సరానికి మూడు వర్షముకురుస్తే మైసూరు బార్లరునుంచి నీరువస్తుంది, అట్లు చెరువులు కట్టించి, ఆ చెరువులు మరమ్మతు చేయించి కాలువలు కట్టించుటే చాల బాగుంటుంది.

“తరువాత, బావులు ప్రవ్వించే దానికి ప్రయత్నము చేసినారు. రూ 190 లు పాతబావుల 8 వేనికి యిస్తారు అని, రూ 310 లు కొత్త బావులకు యిస్తారని విన్నాను. కాని ప్రద్యోగస్తుల చేతులలో రూ 50, 60 లు పోతుంది. అదే విధముగా కంప్లెయింతులు వస్తూవుంది.

“ ఇప్పుడు ప్రజల గవర్నమెంటుచచ్చింది, గనుక, ఈ అన్యాయమును ముఖ్యముగా పోగొట్టవలెను. కొత్త బావులు త్రవ్వించే దానికి 500 రూపాయలు చేసినారని విన్నాను. అది చాల సంతోషించదగిన విషయము. పైముకూడ ఒక్క సంవత్సరము ఎక్కువైనను చేసినారు. గవర్నమెంటువారు కొన్ని కంటేషనులుకూడ పెట్టినారు. కాని రయితో కనీసము దారువద్దకు పోతే కరణం దగ్గర నల్లపిక్వెట్టు కావలెనంటారు, కరణము దగ్గరకు పోతే, ‘నాకు యిప్పుడు అర్జంటు వర్క్సు వుంది తరువాత రా’ అని చెప్పతావున్నారు గనుక, ఈ చిల్లర దేవతలు లేకుండా, మీరు అపాయంతుచేసిన అశీస్సును పెట్టి బావులు త్రవ్వించవలెనని కోరుచున్నాను. ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారు ఈ విషయమును గమనించుతారని నమ్ముచున్నాను.

“తరువాత, హరిజనుల విషయమై చెప్పతాను. ఇప్పుడు అక్కడక్కడ లేబరు స్కూల్స్ పెట్టారు. పేరుకు మాత్రము లేబరు స్కూల్స్ పెట్టారు. కాని పిల్లల వాళ్లు చదువుకునే దానికి బుక్కులు, పలకలులేదు. వాటిని యిప్పించవలెను. ఇప్పుడు మైను అయిపోయింది గనుక బిక్క విషయము మాత్రము చెప్పతాను. మెట్రీకులేషను ప్యాసుకాకుండావున్నా, మా హరిజనులను సెంట్రలు గవర్నమెంటులో ఆపాయెంటు చేయవలెనని విన్నవించుచున్నాను. హరిజనులలో చాలమంది మెట్రీకులేషను ప్యాసు కాలేదు. మెట్రీకులేషను చదివిన వారికి సబ్ యింక్ స్పెక్టరుగాగాని, రెవెన్యూ యింక్ స్పెక్టరుగాగాని స్పెషలుగా గవర్నమెంటు ఎంప్లొయ్డ్ యిచ్చి, తనులు యిప్పించుతారని నమ్ముచున్నాను.”

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Saturday, the 3rd August 1946.

[2nd August 1946]

APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 12 (94) asked by Sri S. Nagappa at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on the 2nd August 1946, page 90 supra.]

Statement showing cultivable waste lands in blocks of 50 acres and above, the extent brought under temporary cultivation as a result of the Grow More Food campaign out of those lands until the beginning of 1944 and the extent of poramboke cultivation in fasli 1354.

Name of district.	Total area in compact blocks of 50 acres and above.	Area under Grow More Food cultivation up to 1944 out of the extents in column (2).	Total extent of poramboke cultivation in fasli 1354.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
	ACS.	ACS.	ACS.
Vizagapatam	7,493.27	6,330.56	2,516
East Godavari	20,975.67	3,030.78	2,862
West Godavari	48,914.00	8,517.25	5,712
Kistna	9,276.40	..	8,956
Guntur	7,636.41	139.29	26,432
Nellore	69,728.01	31,679.16	14,165
Cuddapah	17,929.61	664.15	4,132
Anantapur	35,201.44	..	14,557
Bellary	74,307.76	3,004.17	12,650
Kurnool	25,492.42	18,703.38	10,842
Chingleput	4,609.36	..	3,726
Chittoor	28,602.48	..	2,657
North Arcot	42,690.03	319.30	6,836
South Arcot	4,292.63	..	8,998
Tanjore	17,293.74	..	10,761
Trichinopoly	11,276.84	..	4,737
Madura	24,390.50	6,779.94	4,052
Ramnad	2,113.33	..	466
Tinnevely	4,435.72	..	3,453
Coimbatore	72,345.98	..	4,358
Salem	102,916.81	15,254.1	14,917
South Kanara	16,226.52	90.03	297
Malabar	59,924.59	53.46	784
The Nilgiris	40,476.12	..	3,607
Total	748,556.64	94,565.60	172,473

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, the 3rd August 1946

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASTAN-MUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

N.B.—The numbers within parentheses represent the numbers in the order of receipt of notice.]

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Fire accident in Teynampet.

* 49 (48) Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a serious fire accident in Teynampet recently that resulted in the death of a number of persons; and

(b) if so, the cause that led to the incident?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) The exact cause is unknown. A quantity of waste films were stocked in the premises and a naked light, a match or a cigarette end could have ignited the film. If old films decompose they are liable to spontaneous combustion. The house was not electrified.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state whether the Fire Services have been used for purposes other than those for which they were intended?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Notice.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, if the Government are aware that the Fire Services personnel were used in connexion with the postal strike?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Notice.”

Retrenchment in the Fire Services.

* 50 (60) Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether any further retrenchment in the Fire Services is contemplated; and

(b) whether it is a fact that persons with no qualifications have been promoted to officers' ranks in the services while many with qualifications have been reduced to lower ranks?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) The war-time strength of crews required also for fire appliances and ambulances intended for transfer to new mufassal sections which are yet to be opened in certain mufassal municipal towns is being maintained now. The Government have decided to postpone the construction of permanent fire stations, static water tanks, etc., to next year. It is however proposed to open about 20 new temporary fire stations in mufassal towns this year either by constructing temporary fire stations or by

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renting accommodation and to utilise the excess appliances and trained crews available for transfer.

“(b) No qualifications as such have yet been prescribed for appointment to any of the posts in the Fire Services as the appointments to them were made in war time. It is however reported that as suitable candidates were not available, two driver mechanics were promoted as Engineer Sub-officers in the Fire Services Regional Workshops. There has been no reduction of any qualified men to lower ranks during the last six months.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“On a point of information, Sir. The answers are read out and are not audible to many sections of the House. May I suggest, therefore, Sir, that the answers are printed and circulated to members beforehand.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“These are oral answers and hence they are being read out.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, I myself wanted to raise the question. Will it not be possible for the Hon. Minister to supply copies of written answers as far as possible.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“In the first place these are called oral answers and to conform to it, the present practice is followed. Hon. Members may be aware that under the Montford Reforms answers were printed and circulated to members beforehand but under the present system, during the time of my predecessor, answers were being given orally. I am following this as being in consonance with the procedure obtaining in the British Houses of Parliament where answers are only given orally. If hon. Members have not heard the answers properly, I will request the Prime Minister to kindly repeat the answers.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, the old method seems to be more desirable and that is why I modified my request that printed answers may be supplied as far as possible.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM repeated the answer to starred question No. 50.

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be prepared to extend the Fire Services to Taluk headquarters so as to avoid fire accidents in villages?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The Fire Services would be stationed in such places as could give the required amount of service.”

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—“The hon. Member asked whether by locating the fire services at taluk headquarters fire accidents in the villages would be avoided. At best such a location will only help to put down the fire and not avoid it altogether.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The question put by Sri Venkateswarlu and the answer to it by Sri Kala Venkatarao I thought, were as between themselves.”

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SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Do the Government consider that this is an essential service?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I think it is an essential service. As the service is essential, we should give it protection.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“In that case, have the Government considered the desirability of prescribing qualifications for officers' posts in that service?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I request the hon. member to explain further what he has in his mind.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“I asked, Sir, whether Government do not consider it necessary to prescribe qualifications for officers' posts essential qualifications not being mechanical skill but presence of mind, celerity and diligence.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“To serve fire service is not an easy matter. They have rendered service where they require the exercise of qualifications like strength of mind, daring and courage, presence of mind and not merely educational qualifications. Only these would be best fitted to render fire service whether they have other qualifications or not.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Will the Government call for detailed information regarding the qualifications possessed by those at present occupying officers' jobs in the service?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Yes.”

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—“Is there any training centre not only for the officers of the Fire Services but also for the other employees of the department? If so, what are the qualifications and on what grounds they are enlisted in the Department?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Notice.”

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—“Is it a fact, Sir, that fire engines were rushed to Karur from Madras during the recent fire?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Notice.”

Tour programme of Government officers.

* 51 (71) Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether Government officers send their tour programme to Members of the Legislature in the districts which they visit?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The answer is in the affirmative so far as the District Officers and other Gazetted Officers whose jurisdiction extends over only a portion of the district are concerned. Presidency Officers have also been instructed now to send copies of their tour programme to members of the Legislature in the districts they propose to tour.”

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SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, whether the officers will give previous information to Members about the object of their tour in the district unless it is of a confidential nature? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I should expect Government officers, who go to districts, to give the information required by legislators."

Question No. 52 was put by M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur having been authorized by Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin.

Paid and honorary Medical Officers in Government Maternity Hospitals in the City.

* 52 (142) Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) the number of (1) men medical officers and (2) women medical officers employed in each of the Government Maternity Hospitals in the City of Madras; and

(b) how many of the above (1) men medical officers and (2) women medical officers in each of the Government Maternity Hospitals are holding paid posts and how many are holding honorary posts?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The statement below furnishes the information required:—

Name of Institution (Madras City).	Number of Medical Officers now employed.					
	Paid.		Honorary.		Total.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
Government Hospital for Women and Children, Madras.	4	7	2	4*	6	11
Government Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital, Madras.	Nil.	13	Nil.	1	Nil.	14
Rajah Sir Ramaswami Mudaliyar's Lying-in Hospital, Royapuram, Madras.	2	1	Nil.	Nil.	2	1

* Two are vacant.

The above figures do not include House appointments."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask whether the Hon. Minister does not consider the time has come when we can substitute men doctors by the employment of women doctors? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Yes, Sir, if sufficient numbers of women doctors are available, they will certainly be appointed."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is the strength of medical officers sufficient to man all the hospitals in the presidency? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The suggestion will be considered."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it a fact that the number of lady doctors in men hospitals is sufficiently large who can be transferred to maternity hospitals? "

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THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Yes, they can be transferred."

SRI P. NATESAN:—" Does the Hon. Minister consider that women medical officers are good for maternity work? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Yes, if men are considered skilled for that work, women too may be considered to be equally skilled." (Laughter.)

Number of midwives trained in Training Hospitals in the City.

* 53 (143) Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state the number of midwives that are being trained in each of the Training Hospitals in the City of Madras?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" The information is furnished below:—

Names of the Hospitals.	Number of midwives undergoing training in Government institutions.
1 The Government Hospital for Women and Children, Madras.	95
2 The Government Victoria Caste and Gosha Hospital, Madras.	34
3 The Rajah Sir Ramaswamy Mudaliar's Lying-in Hospital, Madras.	21
Total ..	150 "

SRI A. AARON RAO:—" Do Government think that these institutions are sufficient to cater to the needs of the women in the Province? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" I admit that the number is absolutely inadequate."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—" Have Government any scheme in view to train up a large number of midwives to cater to the needs of the rural parts? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Sir, I may invite the attention of the hon. Member to the provision made in the Budget for training 200 midwives this year."

SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—" Will that 200 be sufficient? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" I know, Sir, it is absolutely inadequate to the needs of the Province. Next year, perhaps we may be able to make more provision."

Application of Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act to agricultural property.

* 54 (172) Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state if the Government propose to undertake necessary legislation to make the Hindu

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Women's Rights to Property Act, 1937, as amended by Act XI of 1938 apply to agricultural property in this Province?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The answer is in the affirmative and the Bill will be placed before the Legislature as soon as business permits."

Minor irrigation works in Malabar and South Kanara.

* 55 (73) Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to investigate the possibilities of establishing minor irrigation works in Malabar and South Kanara; and

(b) what action has so far been taken in this matter?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" (a) & (b) Malabar.—

A proposal to work out a scheme of minor irrigation facilities for Malabar was considered in 1944 but could not be pursued as there were legal difficulties in the way. The question of legislation to remove these difficulties is under the consideration of the Government. Pending the enactment of legislation orders have been issued that some suitable minor irrigation schemes in this district should be investigated immediately.

South Kanara.—In 1944 the Government sanctioned the appointment of a special minor irrigation staff for the investigation of certain schemes in this district. But as the necessary personnel were not available it was not possible to start the investigation. Orders have now been issued to appoint the staff and start investigation of the schemes as soon as weather conditions permit."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister state what were the legal difficulties that stood in the way?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Many of the beds of rivers of Malabar are private property, and therefore the question of acquiring them has to be considered before any irrigation scheme can be carried out."

MR. F. FERRELLY:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state, who is responsible for the delay from 1944 to the present time? Which officer?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Necessarily the previous Government which was in charge, and not officials, who are, after all, only their subordinates."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"May I know whether Government propose to conduct any investigation in the Nilgiris district?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The district of Malabar is different from the Nilgiris."

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K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know who is carrying on investigation under minor irrigation in Malabar? What is the agency that is carrying the investigation into the possibilities of the minor irrigation schemes in Malabar?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The Public Works Department."

K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know when the report of that department is expected?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am unable to say when just at present."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that conditions of Gudalur taluk in the Nilgiris are similar to those of Malabar?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"A separate question may be asked?"

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know how many years will it take for legislation to be introduced?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Not more than two or three months."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that there is a widespread demand for more minor irrigation facilities in the Province?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"A separate question may be put."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that there is a list of minor irrigation schemes published by Government?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am not aware."

Area under dry paddy cultivation in Tiruturaipundi taluk, Tanjore district.

* 56 (52) Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the area under dry paddy cultivation in Tiruturaipundi taluk, Tanjore district;

(b) whether the former Government received any petition from the residents of Vedaranyam range of the said taluk for digging irrigation channel to convert the dry paddy cultivation area of the range into wet paddy cultivation area; and

(c) what steps were taken by the Government on the petition?

digging irrigation channel to convert the dry paddy cultivation acres.

"(b) Yes.

"(c) On investigation it was found that lands are all high level not likely to be commanded by the Mulliar. It was, therefore, considered that the proposal for the extension of irrigation under the Mulliar should be kept in view and taken up again if it was found that such extension was

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possible by improvement of duty under the Cauvery. The question has been examined again by the Chief Engineer and his preliminary proposals for the extension of irrigation to about 2,600 acres at the tail end of Mulliar, Tiruturai-pundi taluk, are at present under correspondence between the Chief Engineer and the Board of Revenue."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In answer to clause (a) I should like to know whether the area now covered is higher than the area covered in previous years?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—"Notice."

Irrigation schemes in South Kanara district.

* 57 (100) Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) the particulars of all the irrigation schemes in the district of South Kanara for which the Government have prepared estimates during the last four years;

(b) whether there are any irrigation schemes in South Kanara under investigation at present; and

(c) the reasons for not giving effect to irrigation schemes, if any, in South Kanara that are ready for execution?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—" (a) The Chief Engineer (Irrigation) reports that the following two schemes have been investigated and that estimates have been prepared:—

(1) Shiriya river scheme and (2) Improvements to the Chantar madaga.

" (b) The following schemes are being examined by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation):—

(1) Hadavamigadda River scheme; (2) Kattinahole River scheme; (3) Thondle Dam; (4) Dam across Bijpur stream; (5) Yederi Dam; (6) Gantinahole Dam; (7) Kathalhole or Kabsi Dam; (8) Harekere tank; (9) Hunthankere tank; (10) Thaimakkikere tank; (11) Gulpur river anicut scheme; (12) Kumbla back water reclamation.

" (c) The reasons for not taking up the two schemes referred to under clause (a) above are—

(1) The cost of scheme as now estimated is very high, being Rs. 7,06,000 for irrigating an area of 351 acres most of which is already raising one crop and even two crops. The possibility of reducing the cost is being examined now. Further, there are objections from lower ryots to diversion at the proposed anicut and this is under correspondence between the Chief Engineer (Irrigation) and the Board of Revenue.

(2) The Chantar-madaga scheme is also very costly, involving acquisition of valuable wet lands on the foreshore. The Chief Engineer considered that definite assurance of availability of extra supply for any new areas for a summer crop could not be given. The ryots were asked if they

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would pay a small extra water rate on the existing ayacut and they declined. The ryots have now offered to pay and the scheme is being re-examined by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation)."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the question of considering the possibility of reducing the cost of Shiriya river scheme will be taken up immediately and the scheme completely executed as early as possible?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—"It is just now being considered, and as soon as the results are known we will take it up for consideration."

Reduction of illiteracy in the Province.

* 58 (106) Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the percentage of illiteracy in the Province of Madras; and

(b) what steps the Government propose to take to reduce the percentage of illiteracy as early as possible?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

" (a) About 84 per cent of the population are illiterate.

(b) The large percentage of illiteracy is due to the fact that most of the adults are illiterate. The Government have been working on the plan of bringing all children to schools and retaining them there till they complete the school course and thereby become permanently literate. By this process they expect to secure *cent per cent* literacy in the long run. To this end they have sanctioned *last year* a scheme of compulsory elementary education in selected villages in each district. This year they have also extended the scheme to other villages in each district. At the same time the Government have called for proposals from the Director of Public Instruction for initiating a scheme of adult education."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Have the Government in their programme of work any item for removing illiteracy completely, and if so, what is the plan?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"I explained, Sir, that this extension of compulsory elementary education is introduced as a method of removing illiteracy, and I also said that Government have been working on the plan of bringing all children to schools."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What is the proportion of the number of persons, as compared with the total population of the Province, to whom this scheme has been extended so far?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"At present it has been estimated, there are seventy lakhs of children of school-going age, who ought to be educated."

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Of these, thirty lakhs of children are receiving instruction. Government sanctioned last year a scheme of compulsory elementary education in selected villages in each district. This scheme had the effect of bringing 1.70 lakhs of children to elementary schools. This year Government have sanctioned the extension of the scheme to other villages in each district. Under this extension scheme two lakhs of children will be brought to be educated. To serve as an incentive to children to attend school, Government have also sanctioned midday meals to school children."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. the Minister state how long it will take for the Government to attain cent per cent literacy in this Province?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The question of adult education is a broad question. There is a separate question the answer for which may be awaited. But in this matter I am speaking subject to correction I hope it will be possible to reach that stage within a period of ten years."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what is the definition that the Hon. Minister has in mind of literacy?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"You know it as well as I do."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. the Minister aware that there is a provision in the District Municipalities and Local Boards Act and if only that provision is set in motion literacy can be attained?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"But it is not merely a matter of setting in motion any provision. We are trying to do our best as it will be known from the answer."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister consider the advisability of following the method as was done in Bombay?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Yes, Sir."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, that the reason why this provision for compulsory education in the district board areas and the municipalities has not been applied is on account of the suspicion on the part of the Government that the municipalities and district boards won't give effect to the penal provisions against the defaulters?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The order has been passed by the previous Government that in respect of municipalities or district boards con-

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cerned not filing cases against the parents the District Educational Officer has been authorised to take up the matter and prosecute the parents who disobey orders. The hon. Member knows as much as I do that district boards have elected members and that they were not punishing the defaulters."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know what is the literacy in the urban and rural areas?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I will be obliged if the hon. Member puts a question."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact that although the Government is chosen from the elected body it will not follow the attitude of the district boards and municipalities but will take up the matter and apply compulsion and see that parents who are defaulters are punished so that illiteracy may be wiped out from this Province?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Whatever method is efficient for the time being will be followed."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that the Hon. the Minister holds the opinion that local bodies are handicapped in reducing illiteracy will he formulate a policy of taking over education entirely from the local bodies and managing it departmentally?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is too large a question to be answered as a supplementary question."

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—"May I know whether any effort is being made by the Government for the removal of illiteracy by opening a campaign of arranging night schools?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The answer is given in the next question."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the Hon. the Minister know, Sir, that the advance of literacy amongst Muslims is being retarded by want of sufficient provision for religious instruction?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I do not understand the connection between religious instruction and literacy."

A MEMBER:—"May I know what steps have been taken by the Hon. the Minister for the representation made to him for additional accommodation for boys in the schools who have been refused admission this year in Salem and other places?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"This matter has been brought to the notice of the Government and the Government have relaxed certain rules. If the

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hon. Member puts a written question, he can get more exact answers."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. the Minister stated that he did not know what connection there was between religious instruction and illiteracy. Does he not know that Muslims consider it an essential part of their education to have religious education and that they consider that an educational system that has no religion in it is not worth having?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is another matter from saying that every literate man is religious or that every religious man is literate."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the Hon. the Minister realise that was the reason why a certain member asked for the definition of literacy?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, according to us any boy who has done the sixth standard is supposed to be a literate."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know if the Hon. the Minister had had the time to see the provisions of the Elementary Education Act whereby the Muslims cannot be compelled unless provision is made for religious instruction."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am glad for the enlightenment."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I think he requires a lot of enlightenment."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In that case will the Hon. the Minister see that sufficient provision is made for religious instruction for Muslim students?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I do not want to say anything about it. If he puts a question it will be examined."

Promotion of adult education in the Province.

* 59 (133) Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government have any scheme for promoting adult education in this Province?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The question of framing a scheme for the promotion of adult education is under the consideration of the Government."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know whether any specific provision is made to give education to workers during nights?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is open to them to open night schools and get grants."

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SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Are the Government aware that propaganda for adult education to workers has been banned?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Hon. Minister look into the record to see if propaganda for adult education to workers has not been banned?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Representations were made to me and the question was pursued. Adult education had not been banned. Only political education which had conduct under the cover of adult education had been banned."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Has the Government taken any active steps themselves to give adult education apart from giving grants to private bodies?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I would like the hon. Member to refer to the latter part of my answer."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Would the Government discourage hearing through the eyes—that is—that is what we are at present doing—and speaking through the fingers?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I do not understand the question."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state what are the age-limits of the adult, maximum and minimum for adult education?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Is it a fact that some of the night schools were closed?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I have no information."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Does the Government propose to lift the ban introduced during the advisers' raj on the cover of political propaganda?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"You must put the question to other quarters. Unfortunately it is not under the Education Department."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Is the Government aware that there are a number of non-official agencies interested in the question of adult education?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I understand so."

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Introduction of compulsory elementary education in the Province of Madras.

* 60 (134) Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) what steps have been taken by the Government to make elementary education compulsory in this Province;

(b) the names of the places where compulsory elementary education has been introduced;

(c) whether Welfare Officers have been appointed to implement compulsory attendance in such areas;

(d) whether local bodies are being entrusted with the introduction of compulsory elementary education;

(e) whether in all areas where compulsory elementary education has been or is being introduced the scheme is applicable not merely to boys but also to girls; and

(f) whether in any area where compulsory elementary education has been introduced any community or any section of any community has been excluded from the operation of the scheme?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“(a) & (b). The hon. Member is referred to the annexure to the report on Public Instruction for 1943-44 in which the areas where elementary education has been made compulsory are enumerated. Compulsory elementary education has been in force in these areas for a long time. Besides these areas, the Government sanctioned in 1945-46 the introduction of compulsory elementary education in selected villages in each district as part of their post-war five-year plan of universal compulsory elementary education. Proposals for the extension of the scheme in 1946-47 to other selected villages in each district have been called for from the Director of Public Instruction and they will be sanctioned as and when received. As the list will be too long, the Government do not consider it worthwhile to furnish a list of villages where elementary education has been made compulsory under the new scheme.

“(c) The answer is in the negative.

“(d) The scheme is worked through local bodies.

“(e) The answer is in the affirmative in respect of the schemes introduced in 1945-46 and those that will be sanctioned in 1946-47.

“(f) Boys who have attained the age of ten and girls who have attained the age of eight are exempted from the operation of the schemes of compulsory elementary education recently sanctioned. No community or section of community has been excluded from the new scheme sanctioned last year (1945-46).”

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“With reference to the answer to clause (c) will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state why the Government thinks that welfare officers are not necessary.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“At present Sir, we are having local committees which are constituted for each area are doing the work.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether in the choice of the compulsory education centres the legislators of the districts will be taken into consideration?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“Now the power has been given to the local bodies and I am not in a position to say whether they will take the legislators into confidence.”

SRI K. RAJARAM NAYUDU:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that in the Kallar schools in the Madura district where there is compulsory education caste people are not admitted?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“Unfortunately it is not in the Education Department.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“Do the Government propose to take special care and immediately start schools for the scheduled castes in their locality?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“Certainly in areas where compulsory education is introduced scheduled classes will also have the benefit.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Minister for Education will be pleased to call for report periodically to find out whether villages where Muslims live have also been included in the compulsory area?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“I must know in which villages the Muslims live before I call for the information.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“My question, Sir, was very definite, specific and even a child can easily understand. I asked the Hon. Minister to call for the reports periodically from local bodies who have been empowered to select villages as far as compulsory education is concerned.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“Yes. Unless specific representations are made with regard to villages in which there are Muslims it is not possible for Government to call for general information.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I request the Hon. Minister, Sir, to call for information as to whether religious instruction has also been provided for in the schools in the areas in which compulsory education has been introduced when you call for the report so far as Muslims are concerned?”

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“Will the hon. Member put it as a separate question so that I may call for the information.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“With reference to clause (f) will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state how many Hindu and Muslims schools have been included?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“Notice.”

K. M. AHMED KUTTI HAJI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know how many villages in Malabar are under the compulsory area?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“If he puts a separate question I shall be glad to answer.”

SRI PATTABHIRAMIAH:—“May I ask the Hon. the Minister for Education whether the Kallar schools in the Madura district are inspected by educational officers?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“I am unable to say that. Kallar schools are not under the Educational Department.”

(Replying to Sri Venkateswarlu), THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“Wherever the choice of villages are made they are made with reference to various aspects and the Scheduled Caste residents will also be brought under compulsion. If they are living in various villages separately they will be also brought under the Act.”

Harassment of the ryots of Mettapeta village by the Taluk Supply Officer.

* 61 (4) Q.—SRI G. KUMARASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Taluk Supply Officer of Narsanapeta taluk harassed the ryots of Mettapeta village in connexion with the procurement of the paddy and other foodgrains in the last week of the month of March 1946; and

(b) if so, what steps he proposes to take to prevent such occurrences in future?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“(a) The Government have enquired into the matter and find that there has been no harassment in the procurement of grains in the Mettapeta village.

“(b) In view of the answer to the above question, this question does not arise. The Government, however hope that as a result of the introduction of the new scheme of procurement under which non-officials are associated with the work of procurement, there will be no occasion for similar complaints in future.”

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SRI G. KUMARASWAMI:—“Is it not a fact that the Supply Officer rushed into the houses of some ryots and procured paddy by force?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“The answer to question (a) as already given says that there is no such case.”

SRI G. KUMARASWAMI:—“Is it not necessary that an impartial non-official committee should be appointed to enquire the truth?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“So many months have passed. Nothing effective can be done now.”

Procurement of foodgrains.

* 62 (55) Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) the total quantity of foodgrains procured in the month of May 1946 and in the first two weeks of June 1946; and

(b) whether the procurement target intended by Government was reached?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“(a) The total quantity procured during the month of May 1946 was:—

	TONS.
Rice	117,652
Millets	14,365

Quantity procured in the two weeks ending 13—6—1946 was

	TONS.
Rice	53,299
Millets	4,987

“(b) Targets have been fixed by the Government for procurement for the whole Kharif year from 1st November 1945 to 31st October 1946 and not for each month. The percentage of procurement to target from 1st November 1945 to 31st May 1946 was

Rice	47.50
Millets	14.00

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Do the Government think that that they will be able to reach the target before the end of the official year?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“Government hope that they will be able to reach the target if the conditions go well.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know what effect the grant of bonus had on the procurement of food?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“Yes, it had a very beneficial effect.”

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(Replying to an hon. Member) THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The procurement figures does not include the import quota."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that the months of July and August are lean months for procurement?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Yes, for the short term crop."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"How then does the Minister expect to reach the target before the official year?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The Government hope that before the end of the year they will be able to reach the target."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, if it is intended to extend procurement to Rayalaseema also?"

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Is the Hon. Minister satisfied that procurement has been satisfactory in view of the fact that an army of officers has been employed for the purpose?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The Government think that procurement has been satisfactory, and there has not been any representation. We have only officers sufficient to make procurement and we have no army."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"In view of the formation of village committees, will it not be possible to dispense with procurement officers at all?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"To that extent wherever procurement officers can be reduced, they have been reduced."

P. P. HASSAN KOYA SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do the procurement figures for this year show any improvement over the procurement figures of last year?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Yes, there was improvement, but I want notice for actual figures."

Control of the price of coconuts and chillies.

* 63 (163) Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been made to Government to control the price of coconuts and chillies; and

(b) whether Government have taken any action in this matter?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Yes.

"The question whether any, and if so what, control should be exercised over the distribution and price of chillies in the Province is engaging the attention of the Government.

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"As regards coconuts also the Government of India are considering what steps are necessary to make adequate quantities of coconuts and coconut products available at reasonable prices. The Government of India have also been requested to secure urgently some imports of these commodities from Ceylon and Indonesia, as such imports may help to bring down local prices."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Have the Government of Madras been asked by the Government of India their opinion as to the advisability of controlling the price of coconuts?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"This Government has addressed the Government of India on this question."

MR. F. FERRELLY:—"Will the Hon. Minister tell us in view of the fact that coconuts are foodstuffs, why this present Government requires to refer to the Government of India for controlling an indigenous foodstuff?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"This is a matter that affects not only our province, but Travancore, Ceylon and Cochin as well."

MR. F. FERRELLY:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the price of coconut in Malabar is 700 per cent higher than what it was before the war?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The prices have risen very much, and that is why Government have tried to bring some control."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government aware that the coconut industry is a very important industry in Malabar and that if the price is controlled, it will discourage the cultivation of coconuts?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question hour is now over. The short notice question of Mr. Abdul Salam will be taken up on Monday."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR 1946-47—cont.

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, I must say that the Budget that has been presented by the Hon. the Premier is practically a conventional one, but yet, there are some welcome features in it. The Hon. the Premier has come forward with schemes for the procurement of food grains, Harijan uplift, sinking of wells and so on. The Government should take effective steps in regard to all these ameliorative measures and see that the money allotted is spent for the purpose for which it is granted. They should see that the funds provided do not go into the pockets of middle men. I have come across a number of cases of petty officials harassing the villagers and putting some money into their pockets, money intended for the uplift of the masses. noon.

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"Sir, Mr. Ferrelly said yesterday that the Hon. the Premier is not right in appropriating 9 crores out of the reserve of 30 crores. After all, the reserve is intended to be used in emergencies. Word has been going round that the ex-Premier of Madras collected Sales tax in order to introduce one of his own pet policies which is Prohibition. It is contended therefore that the reserve ought not to be touched. There is no reason why the money that is available as a reserve should not be used for some other purpose particularly at a time when there is so much food scarcity. It is really good budgeting to spend the money that is available on urgent necessities. Of course the Hon. the Premier will certainly make an attempt to see how best this can be done. There is no such thing as earmarking for any definite purpose. After all, this is money collected from the people and should therefore be spent for the benefit of the people in some way or other.

"With regard to the "Grow-More Food" Campaign I find that a considerable sum of money has been spent for digging new wells and for repairing old ones. It is alright for easing the food situation. But how is the water going to be lifted out of the wells? I say that in places where electricity is available, facilities should be given to agriculturists to obtain motors and pumps. In this connection, Sir, I may point out that it is impossible for licensees like me to do any useful work in this direction however much we would like to help the agriculturists. For instance in my own case I wanted 2,000 casuarina poles to be used as distribution line poles for supply of energy for agricultural purposes. As these are not available in my own district, I got hold of a friend who was willing to let me have them. He, however, said that I would have to get a permit for the transport of this material from his place. I applied to the Revenue Board for a permit and I was told that as casuarina wood is in great demand for supply as firewood a permit for transporting it could not be given. The officers concerned are unable to realise that for purposes of firewood, even junglewood would be suitable. If they could only realise the urgency of my demand, I could give any amount of electrical service to the agriculturists in my area. Sir, I do not wish the House to think that I am talking about my own personal matter. I draw attention to this only with a view to help the agriculturists to make use of their wells for irrigation purposes.

"Sir, in the matter of village reconstruction there is in the Budget a considerable provision for khadi. I am afraid, Sir, that khadi spinning can only be a seasonal cottage industry and a subsidiary occupation for the villagers. It can never be a primary industry. As a sound long term economic policy for the country it can have no place in the planned economic reconstruction. I have worked out statistics which show that even if one crore of people are put on khadi manufacture, they cannot produce enough cloth for this Province. Sir, I understand, the population of Madras Province is about 4 crores. It is estimated

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that the labour required for producing, collecting and transporting the huge quantity of cotton and for implements, etc., will at least be one crore and this huge man-power should be employed in khadi production. I mean a substantial portion of the men and resources of the Province will be absorbed in only providing for the elementary need of clothing. A further one crore of persons will be required to grow our food, build houses, work industries, etc. There would be 2 crores left composed of the aged, the infirm and the disabled unfit for manual work. Although I have got the figures, I am afraid it will be too much for me to go into these in order to convince the party in power which is wedded to the production and introduction of khadi.

"With regard to the Harijan uplift all that can be said is that it may be accepted as symbolic of the Ministry's good intentions, but the provision of lump sums for expenditure without pointing out for what particular ways money should be spent is a novel departure from accepted canons of preparing budgets. The budget provisions are usually made when schemes are ready. To earmark large sums of money and then hunt after schemes is to discard sound budget maxim. If you earmark funds without having schemes ready, what will happen if the Department concerned will, before the close of the financial year, simply try to spend the money whether necessary or not because they will not be in a position to account for the unspent balance. That means whether there is need for the money or not, the officer in charge of the department concerned will somehow manage to spend the money within the year. He will in no case allow it to lapse. The Hon. the Premier has earmarked one crore for Harijan uplift. How did he arrive at this figure of one crore? What is he going to do with this huge sum? He practically says: 'I have earmarked this one crore for Harijan uplift. As and when I want I will utilize it.' This will mean he draws Rs. 25,000 for wells in the Harijan areas. Then he finds that there is a balance of Rs. 75,000 to draw upon. He draws again another Rs. 10,000 for some purposes. Then he will find that there is some money left to be appropriated. This is not proper budgeting. He must come and tell us how he proposes to spend one crore and why he provided this huge sum."

MR. SPEAKER:—"With that fund, say."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Exactly, Sir, It is a fund.

"So far as the cloth position is concerned, we used to buy mill cloth at terribly cheap prices during the war. Why should not mill cloth be encouraged? I consider that if more representations can be made to the Government of India for more yarn, we would be granted more yarn. We can then help the textile people and clothe our people much better.

"The Budget contains provision for grants for Universities and colleges. The Hon. the Premier has observed that University education needs much reform. I do not see the need in such a case for the establishment of more and more colleges which

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simply turn out graduates under a system of education that does not help them in later days. When that is the case, it must be the policy of the Government to see that the present system of education is so re-organized that the boys will have some scientific and technical education to enable them to engage themselves directly on some sort of work.

“With regard to the provision for the indigenous systems of medicine, you have provided 5 lakhs. It is absolutely inadequate. The money will be simply frittered away, one lakh on Unani, one lakh on Siddha and one lakh on Ayurveda and so on. You really require four or five times five lakhs to start with. It is impossible for the Ministers to please everybody. Of course, the Hon. Mrs. Lakshmipathi would perhaps like to see, as much as anybody else, that the Ayurveda system is encouraged. But in her anxiety to encourage Ayurveda she cannot ignore the claims of Siddha, Unani and so on. For these purposes the five lakhs she has provided for would be of no use.

“Next I want to refer to the house accommodation question. The position with regard to this is very bad. As there has been such a large influx of villagers into the city the problem of housing here has become acute. Until you provide more amenities to the villagers, until you make the villages self-sufficient and until you raise the wage level in the villages, you cannot expect them to go back and ease the situation in the city.

“In regard to the post-war development schemes, as a representative of the commercial interests, I have got to be rather frank in my criticisms on the Budget. The Hon. the Premier wants to establish an industrial and finance corporation on the model of the Industrial and Finance Corporation recently formed in the United Kingdom. As far as I am aware, there are two Industrial Corporations in England to-day, one called the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation and the other, the Finance Corporation for Industries. Now the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation is said to have succeeded in its purpose, because the Corporation strictly adheres to commercial principles. Its operations are of two kinds: (1) The Corporation gives well-secured advances at a rate of interest which does not exceed 4.5 per cent repayable in definite instalments over periods ranging up to 20 years. (2) It provides a sort of risk capital which means the taking of shares in the proposed venture. The Corporation mainly looks to the profitability of an enterprise. They demand as the chief security the competence of management and sound business policy. In fact the Chairman of the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation, Lord Percy, effectively says in regard to the Corporation policy: ‘The Corporation exists not to carry lame ducks which cannot swim at all, but only to help the ducks that can swim if aided.’ The terms are very reasonable, but they do not exist to provide capital at artificially low rates, thereby dislocating the ordinary capital market. Though they take shares in the projects they help, the Corporation do not plan to take a primary interest

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in the concerns they help, nor do they interfere in the daily management of the assisted concerns and only in special cases they exercise the right of appointing a Director. Normally they trust in the business ability and experience of their clients. That must be policy of the Finance Corporation contemplated by the Hon. the Premier. Here if you are going to have a Finance Corporation you must see that the finance is given to people who have got commercial experience.

“If the Government propose to start such a Corporation, they must be able to obtain money at a low rate of interest consistent with the conditions in the money market. Any rash action will upset the equilibrium of the money market and there will be reactions in the banks and other stock markets. Normally in Great Britain such institutions have full trust in the business ability of their clients and are able to run them successfully. But so far as the second institution that I have mentioned is concerned, it has not been a very great success, and I do not wish to explain in any detail why it has not been so on the floor of this House.

“Sir, Mr. Ferrelly took exception to the statement of the Hon. the Premier ‘that Trade and Commerce complain that the existing channels have been interfered with, that the kind of business that they do, do not add to the wealth of the Province, that their aim is to make money in easy ways like commission agency, money-lending, etc.’

“Sir, I agree with Mr. Ferrelly. Surely the Premier does not think that there is no regular trade and commerce in this Province and that people are making money as commission agents, etc.; we have a number of spinning mills, electrical industries, sugar mills and any amount of undertakings in this Province and all these certainly go to add to the wealth of this Province.

“The Hon. the Premier has referred to the bangle industry. I understand that this is a flourishing industry in Ferozpur in the United Provinces and in certain other places in that Province. These bangles, I understand, are imported at present into this Province. When once a bangle industry is started in this Province, we must see that we put into the market bangles at a much cheaper price than the imported bangles, without entering into cut throat competition with the Northern Indian Industry, so that people may be encouraged to buy local bangles. Otherwise the import of bangles will go on as usual and the bangle industry in this Province will prove a failure. Therefore in starting industries of this kind, we must find out what industries could be usefully and economically started in the Province and whether Government assistance is necessary.

“Another industry which comes to my mind in connexion with this subject is the electrical industry. With the growth of electricity in this Province, there is a great demand for all kinds of electrical goods. I have in mind more particularly the manufacture of motors, pumps, transformers, etc. We have to depend for all these on foreign imports. Manufacturers in England say

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that they cannot give delivery for the next 24 months and you know, Sir, that an ordinary holder into which we fit the bulbs, cannot be procured here and we have to depend on English market for this material. These are small things and could be easily manufactured in this Province. I suggest that the Government should request persons like Sir Henry Howard who has been responsible for the marvellous growth of electrical development of this Province and the Chief Engineer for Electricity to draw up plans for starting industries, to manufacture particularly motors, pumps, transformers, etc. Even if a start is made to-day, it will at least be three years before we can see the result of the enterprise. If the Government takes interest, I am sure a number of capitalists will come forward, to start similar industries or to take over industries started by the Government. Look at Travancore. The Government there has made enormous progress in the industrialization of the State. They have either started industries of their own, or have encouraged industries started by private enterprises by taking shares in such enterprises. There are now a number of industries in Travancore and the State is becoming highly industrialized. They have a factory for the manufacture of chemicals and fertilizers, a glass factory, a factory for the manufacture of sugar, a rayon factory, a factory for the manufacture of plastics, cables, tyres, etc. Sir, we need industrialization very badly. Sir, I do not think that any of our Ministers would have visited England within the last ten years. I suggest that a couple of our Ministers go to England and other western countries, have a look at the manufactures that are going on there and see how up-to-date those countries are. We are only thinking here in terms of khadi and prohibition. That will not help us to solve the problems of poverty. In order to better the conditions of the workers, in order to afford better housing, better wages and better conditions of living, we must get industrialized. What after all would it cost for deputing a Minister to go to England? Rupees 10,000 or Rs. 15,000 would do for a trip and this would not make any difference in our budget. (A voice: 'Why not to America also?') Sir, America is too far away and I do not think that the Minister is going to get any benefit merely by a visit and we will not be able to get anything out of America for the next two or three years. A visit to England would do. In England there are a number of factories working at a very high pressure and there is certainly a great advantage in going over there. (Interruptions.)

"Sir, I repeat that we are in such a bad position to-day that we have got to depend upon other countries for manufactured goods. (A voice: 'The British Government are responsible for this plight'.) It is no use saying at every stage that the British Government is responsible for everything. We must have sufficient foresight to see that we do not go backwards. (A voice: 'We must get independence first'.) Sir, I would like to get independence for our country as much as anybody else on the other side."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"Please address the Chair."

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* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Then, Sir, with regard to the Government's policy for the revision of the rates of pay, I suggest that the scales to be fixed should be with reference to normal conditions and not with reference to the present abnormal conditions, because it is possible that conditions might improve in course of time, and in a couple of years, probably the prices would come down to the normal level. I know it is certainly impossible for people to get on at the present level of prices. I would therefore suggest that the Government should give an increased dearness allowance, which might be cut out when conditions become normal."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"You have exceeded your time limit Sir."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"I am sorry, Sir. I have got one more point and I am done."

"On page 11 of the Budget Memorandum (1946-47) we have got the following figures under Civil Administration and Police:—

	Budget estimate, 1945-6.	Preliminary accounts, 1945-6.	Budget estimate, 1946-7 (Revised).
	RS. LAKHS.	RS. LAKHS.	RS. LAKHS.
25. Civil Administration ..	327.23	427.36	454.50
29. Police	247.07	295.74	381.78

"From 327 lakhs you go up to 454 lakhs under Civil Administration. From 247 lakhs you go up to 381 lakhs in the case of Police. I am not satisfied with the explanations given for the variations. I should like the Hon. the Prime Minister to explain the increase in the figures."

"Although I have got something more to speak, I do not want to take up any more time and I shall resume my seat."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, although I am in the opposition, I wish to offer my congratulations to the Hon. the Premier for the lucid budget which he has presented this year. At the outset I wish to refer to a statement he has made in his speech in presenting the Budget to this honourable House. Sir in that statement, the Hon. the Premier has stated "The treasury bench is thus again occupied by persons elected by and wholly responsible to the people of the Province." These are very significant and very valuable words. Sir, so far as expression 'persons elected by and wholly responsible to the people of the Province' is concerned, I wish to draw the attention of the House and particularly of the Government to the fact that the people at the very beginning believed that they (the Government) are going to be responsible and wholly responsible to the people of the Province. But the fact is that they have been elected only by a section of the people of the province

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and yet they would have us to believe that they are responsible for all the people of the Province. But, Sir, may I point out that it is not only they who have been elected by the people of this Province, but there are others as well who have been elected by the people of this Province. If the Congress party has come in a majority and has succeeded in getting into office, there is another section of the people of the Province—not an insignificant section at all—who have been elected cent per cent, and yet they do not form part of the Government. (Cries of shame, shame from the opposition benches.) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not sorry for it. But, on the other hand, I am glad of it. (Hear, hear.) We are not there, although we have a right to be there. Mr. Speaker, Sir, even if one or two of us were to be there, I am sure, all that we want for us, could not be got done and the Hon. the Ministers who are now there and who are now giving an assurance that they are responsible to all the people of the Province, will not be discharging that responsibility to the extent to which they will have to discharge it, as they are to-day. So we must be thankful for it. In the case of the Hon. the Premier, I am particularly thankful on this occasion and the Muslim community is also thankful—for his readily accompanying us to Vaniambadi the other day to see for himself the amount of destruction that has taken place and the loss of properties that have been sustained by Muslims. His visit to the place has, to a great extent, appeased the feelings among the community, but something more has to be done and I have no doubt in my mind that he will certainly devise ways and means to alleviate the sufferings of those who have been adversely affected as a result of the communal strife. Sir, these communal riots have taken place, not only in Vellore, but also in other parts of the Province. I plead Sir, that it is very necessary for the Government to find out the root cause of these troubles and earnestly devise ways and means to solve the problem so that the communities may live in peace and harmony, without destroying each others' properties.

12-30 p.m. “Sir, it is a very serious matter and I am sure it will receive the earnest attention of the Hon. the Premier and his Government.

“Mr. Speaker, I am extremely sorry, not only sorry, but sad, that one of the Hon. Ministers has not yet realized that he belongs to the Government, that he is part and parcel of the Government and that he is no longer in the opposition. To be in the opposition of a Legislature, he must know, is different from being on the treasury bench. It is high time, that he realized that he has changed from the opposition to the responsibility of a Government. I would request and appeal to that particular Hon. Minister to realize as soon as possible that he is occupying the treasury bench and that he should not get angry when he is asked questions. He must also realize that after all, we form part of one Legislature. It may be that they are on the treasury benches now, it may be that they may not be there, after some time. Since they are now there they should realize that they are responsible to the whole

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House and not only to one section. They may have a big majority behind them, but they should not forget that they represent the entire House and the entire population of this Province and that they owe a duty to them all irrespective of the facts whether they are Congressmen or Muslim Leaguers or Scheduled Classes, Hindus, Mussalmans or Christians and others. That mentality has to be developed, that realization has to come sooner than later. I hope, Sir, that it will come.

“Sir, while I am on this point, I would also like to take up the question of the policy of this Government so far as Education is concerned. I am not going to deal with this subject at length at present, because there will be another occasion for me to deal with it at length when that demand is moved. But on this occasion, while I am referring to the general policy of the Government, I shall refer to the policy of the Hon. Minister for Education before the wrong is done, before the mischief is done, so that he may realize that he will be doing a great wrong to the entire Muslim community by persisting in the policy that he has formulated. I would request him earnestly and appeal to him to realize that we are a separate entity so far as our religion, our culture and our education are concerned. We require certain definite things. We want to preserve our culture. Do not interfere with our culture. I want the Hon. Minister for Education forming part of a responsible Government to see that he does not do any harm to that culture, language and education.

“Next, Sir, I would like to refer to the Food position in the Province. It is very unfortunate that it has deteriorated considerably. Possibly the Government may say that they have no control over circumstances. I do not agree entirely that they are not responsible for it. I believe that these committees that have been constituted, the village committees, and the taluk committees, instead of enabling the officers to secure large amounts of food-grains have prevented them, because these committees consisting of all-powerful and all-important people, are not prepared, are not willing to give all that they could give. If these committees had not interfered with the work of the officials, I am sure that we would have got more paddy procured than we have been able to. It may be true that they have got some of the paddy and a good part of it from the agriculturist. This was possible not so much on account of the pressure brought to bear on them but because they were given bonuses and subsidies. That is what has been responsible. If the bonuses and subsidies were not forthcoming these hon. gentlemen would not have been willing to part with their paddy. Even to-day if officials are allowed to procure more of paddy, they will be able to do so only if these committee members who have vested interests do not interfere with their work. There is hidden stock which can easily be procured, but this Government will not allow the officials to do so and these committees are there standing between procurement and the people who consume. Sir, it is on this account that the Hon. the Premier and his Government had to reduce the ration from

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12 ounces to 8 ounces of rice. This calamity could have been prevented if the committees were not there and if procurement had gone on without any hindrance or interference from those vested interests in the various committees.

"So far as the constitution of these committees is concerned, in village committees some Muslims have been included by the Tahsildars, poor men, who are helpless and who have had to do the bidding of the powerful Secretary of the Congress Committee there. In Taluk Committees nowhere in the Province has a Muslim been included with some exceptions here and there, except the hon. Members of this House who are there by Statute. This is a state of affairs which ought to be examined by the Hon. Minister in charge of Food and by the Hon. the Premier, who are responsible to the people of this Province, and they should see that it is rectified and the wrong undone. We anticipated what would happen and it has happened that our community has been almost entirely neglected.

"What has happened with regard to Malabar? My hon. Friend representing Malabar will tell you in detail, how one list after another has come and how even the District Collector was prevented from enforcing his list. That is the position so far as the machinery which has been instituted for procuring paddy.

"We should at least maintain the 12 ounces of rice for the people of this Province. Our people are essentially a rice-eating people. It is very difficult for them to go in for wheat to the extent they have had to do. Sir, the calamity of having to reduce the quota of rice from 12 ounces to 8 ounces could have been avoided.

"Mr. Speaker, so far as the production and distribution of cloth is concerned, I shall say this much, that the whole affair has been a failure, a failure because the machinery that has been in existence has been of such a nature that it was not sufficiently decentralized and it was located in one place and hopelessly mismanaged. Naturally in the circumstances of the cases that could not have been avoided. What is going to be done now has been suggested by the Hon. the Premier. Certain departments are going to be constituted and these departments are going to look into the question and see that distribution is done evenly and justly and fairly and that merchants belonging to any particular community will not be penalized, deliberately penalized, wholesalely penalized. I hope, Sir, that their policy will be to make no distinction between merchants of different communities and that justice will be meted out to all.

"There is one thing more with regard to the distribution of cloth. The Muslims require more cloth on the occasion of their festivals than they do ordinarily. The Ramzan festival is fast approaching and the Muslims require cloth on that occasion as do the Hindus on the occasion of the Pongal or Deepavali. I hope the Hon. the Premier and the Hon. Minister in charge will see that instructions are given to the officers concerned that provision should be made for sale of sufficient cloth to the Muslims. In the

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same way when Deepavali comes the same provision can also be made for sale of cloth to the Hindus, for I believe they purchase a lot of cloth on that occasion.

"That is so far as ordinary cloth which is produced by Mills here or brought in by imports is concerned. The cloth that is imported is undoubtedly not sufficient. No efforts have been made to see that the production is augmented. One thing has been suggested in the Budget and that is to increase the production of khaddar. For that I find that a sum of about a crore or two has been provided. I do not know whether all the three crores which has been provided under the Rural Reconstruction Scheme will go for the production of khaddar. I understand, Sir, that a large number of handlooms and charkas will be necessary for the production of khaddar. I do not know whether the charkas and handlooms will be manufactured in the locality, whether every area will produce its charkas and handlooms, or whether manufactured charkas and handlooms on a large scale will be brought to the villages from outside.

"Well, Sir, so far as the economies of khaddar are concerned, my hon. Friend, Mr. Natesan, has said something about it; but unfortunately he did not have the figures or did not have the courage to produce them . . . "

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Please do not say that I did not have the courage to produce figures. I do not have the figures themselves."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am sorry, he has not the figures. But certainly figures can be produced and easily produced and they have been produced on many an occasion by experts.

"Mr. Speaker, whatever you might say about it, Khaddar remains a cottage industry; to what extent can such a cottage industry supply the wants of such vast populations as we have in this Province? There are five crores of people in this Province and the requirements of cloth by them cannot easily be met by the production of khaddar on any scale. I think it will take ages (Mr. Pocker Sahib: 'Centuries') and centuries before we can produce sufficient khaddar which can clothe all the people of the Province. While I am on this, I would like most earnestly to appeal to the hon. the Premier not to compel anybody to spin or to weave khaddar, for it is a political subject. (An hon. Member: 'Stunt.') I do not want to go to the extent of calling it 'stunt.' It is a thing which is very dear to the heart of all Congressmen and they have of course rightly provided a crore or two of rupees of public money for producing khaddar. Well, I think, having accepted to work with a Congress Government we have to put up with it. But there is one thing which I should like to plead. Do not compel any individual. Give them freedom. Whosoever wants to spin, let him spin. Whosoever wants to weave, let him weave. Do not compel weavers who have not been accustomed to weave handspun yarn to weave khaddar when they are not prepared to do so. This is so far as cloth is concerned.

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"Next, Sir, the hon. the Premier in his statement referred to commercial men. He said that the commercial man was making easy money by merely becoming a middleman between the producer and the consumer. If we, the people of this Province particularly, are anxious to raise the economic level of this Province and the well-being of the nation, we cannot easily set aside the commercial man and trader. They have their own place in the economy of the country. They cannot be eliminated. If you do that, you will be considerably reducing the wealth of the nation, for it is they that add considerably to the wealth of the nation and they are also large employers of labour. You want commerce and trade to be substituted by industry. It is good so far as industry is concerned. But do not eliminate commerce and trade to bring in some industry. Industry cannot exist without the commercial man and the trader, for they go hand in hand.

"I now come to a question which has been heard and heard not only from this Government but from the previous Government also which was responsible for introducing Prohibition in four districts. Now I believe the present Government is seeking to re-introduce Prohibition in these districts. I also believe there is a demand even among Congressmen for introducing Prohibition throughout the Province. I as a Muslim am wholly and entirely at one with those who want Prohibition to be introduced in the whole Province all of a sudden and at once. Sir, I ask, while they seek to introduce Prohibition in four districts--and they may revise their opinion and introduce Prohibition in the whole Province--what provision they are making or have made for employing all the officials who are engaged in that department. I know that on the last occasion the higher officials were provided for, they were changed from one department to another. But the lot of the poor menial servants in the department was unfortunate. They were cast to the winds and had to find their own way. If you are going to do that now, you will be answerable not only to man but God also.

"Sir, my Hon. Friend, the Minister for Law, has been expressing his desire to separate the judiciary from the executive. I do not know whether he is separating the judiciary from the executive or the judiciary from the Government itself. Sir, it is a very good thing. There cannot be two opinions about it. Every one will entirely agree that such a step should be welcomed. The executive authority should not interfere with the dealing out of justice, pure and simple justice. Is the Hon. the Minister for Law going to establish such an impartial institution by separating these two sections, so that pure and simple justice could be meted out to the people of this Province? In any case, I have my own suspicion and members of my community, not only of my community but of the backward communities have their own suspicions, whether this is not a thin end of the wedge to help to bring into official life all the top members of the legal profession. Whether this is going to be the case or whether it is going to be solely and wholly for the sake of justice only remains to be seen.

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"I am glad to see, Sir, that the Hon. the Minister in charge of Industries and the Hon. the Premier have come to the help of the major and minor industries in the Province. So far so good. So far as major industries are concerned, I must tell this hon. Government--though they may not be responsible for it, but the previous Government was--that my community was entirely neglected in the establishment of major industries. That is a policy which is certainly and positively wrong. There ought not to be any difference so far as the establishment of industries are concerned between man and man, between community and community. The sooner this differentiation in the distribution of privileges on the basis of communities is eliminated the better will it be for all concerned.

"I would conclude by appealing to this hon. Government and to the Hon. the Premier with regard to this. Sir, the Government is responsible to all the people. I am afraid, that because the Congress Party has come into office once again, some misguided people think that they can do anything and escape. That seems to be the feeling that has overcome some people, irresponsible misguided people. They think they can do anything; they can catch hold of the District Collector and compel him to do this or do that. Sir, the authority of law should be maintained.

"The authority of the Executive should be maintained. When I say that I do not mean that the officers should continue to be arrogant and irresponsible officers that they might have been at any time. I do realise that they should be responsible and responsive too, but nobody belonging to a particular party or community should feel that he has a charter of liberty to do anything he likes because there is a Government composed of men from his own party or community.

"One other important matter is that we should all believe in the very wholesome principle of live and let live. But what is happening in some places shows that there is a feeling among Congressmen that the Muslim Leaguer has no business to exist."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is wrong."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am happy to hear from the Hon. the Premier that it is wrong. That is exactly what I want. I know that there are very many intelligent and responsible Congressmen who do not entertain such a feeling, but they should not stop there. I believe it is their duty to see that irresponsible people do not act in the manner in which they are acting. Sir, I think there may be any number of parties in this country: people can differ on fundamentals, people can fight for their own rights and for their own freedom. But that does not mean that if I fight for my own rights and freedom I encroach on the rights and freedom of the other man. That should not be the attitude of people. If that should be so, there could be no hope of peace in this country. If terror is let loose, it will recoil. Terror is responsible for endangering the lives and property of the people. This is a

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thing which should be put down with an iron hand. I have no doubt in my mind that the hon. the Premier should see that if such a feeling came to the fore it is scotched at once and for all time, because a feeling of that kind would do no good to anybody. If the thing is allowed in the case of one community, it will recoil later on and will be a danger to peace. No Government can continue to exist without creating contentment and peace in the country. I have no doubt in my mind that this Government will seek to establish contentment among all the classes of people in this country not merely by saying things but by doing things."

1 p.m. * SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Budget today just to voice the strength of public feeling in respect of a certain urgent reform. If there had been proper appraisal of the strength of that feeling, I would have had no occasion to dilate on it today. That this comprehensive reform with far-reaching consequences would be introduced was the expectation raised in the minds of the people. The Ministry, Sir, could have universalised prohibition; but if the will to do so is not lacking, why then is this very urgent and necessary reform, which at once rids the country of a crying evil, oppressing millions of the poorest in the countryside and making them pay for their oppression, and also places finance on a new foundation, making it possible to re-align taxation on sound principles, set aside? Are we to remain where we are? Proceeds of taxation from the commercial taxes levied by the last Congress Ministry have been conserved and accumulated into a revenue Reserve Fund of 31.40 crores and what better start could there be for total prohibition? Pledges that were given when these taxes were introduced ought to be honoured, but inescapable obligations seem to make no impression on many of us here. The financial difficulty is not really there; the reason is a simple refusal to understand. By introducing total prohibition in this year's budget, you have only to provide for the writing off of Rs. 6½ crores; for effect is to be given to it only from the latter half of this year. It is true that in the succeeding . . ."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, is the Member reading his speech?"

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I am not reading at all. It is true, Sir, that in the succeeding year the whole of the excise revenue will have to be foregone, but there is enough room in the finances of our province for a proper adjustment of this loss. Even apart from the Reserve Fund which, according to me, ought to be specifically set apart for this purpose, there is ample scope at a time like the present when revenues are mounting and when the administration of the new taxes can be strengthened and increased revenue made to flow in, for the absorption of the loss that will result from prohibition. Initiated as the reform was when the provincial revenue was only Rs. 16 crores with not

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even elbow room left for other economies, prohibition ought certainly to find completion now when revenue has amounted to Rs. 47 crores and there is flexibility at the treasury for incurring fresh obligations. Now, Sir, that is my case on the financial side.

"But then it is said that this is a period of famine and that food must have precedence over prohibition. While I admit that food is important, may I ask, Sir, whether it would not be crime to supplement low food rations with these obnoxious poisons, toddy and arrack? The real objection, therefore, is enforcement. Without wasting argument, I can only say this: it is a sad irony that Congressmen should say this at this time. There is no hope for prohibition, let me tell you, if Congressmen lose faith in themselves. If a vast countryside organization with plenty of talent for propaganda, with a record of practical work unsurpassed by any unofficial organization and assisted at this juncture by the prohibition staff, drawn from both Police and Excise officers, if such an organization cannot succeed, I ask the Ministers, who else will? The experiment under the last Ministry was an assured success and both Government and University publications testify to this fact. Why then, Sir, should we feel nervous? That there will be criminals ever is no argument. They will be few and far between. I readily admit they will even thwart in the first instance a cent per cent success. Here, Sir, let me address my English friends. I thought of addressing a few words to my British friends there, who unfortunately are not in their seats now, but I will say it all the same. You British are ever British. You refuse to transport yourselves even in your imagination to India and Indian conditions, though living on Indian soil. You talk of the impossibility of prohibition. You talk of it as being a dangerous policy. I say, Sir, that you are totally mistaken. You must put yourself in India and think of the peculiar conditions that obtain here for the success of prohibition. Millions in this country have only abhorrence for drink. There is nothing like home-brown liquor in this country. These conditions do not exist in England or in any other country in the world. They record the greatest victory in the pages of history in the fight against drink. Your phrases and your words, Sir, give a totally different meaning to drink. You elevate drink to that dignified chemical terminology of alcohol; but in our language, the word 'kal' (கல்) or 'sara-yam' (சாராயம்) raises only feelings of detestation and horror. Your phrases are made from drink. Was it not Disraeli who made that fine phrase 'inebriate' with the exuberance of his own 'verbosity'? No such phrase exist or existed in the language of our country, be it Tamil, Telugu, Kanarese or Sanskrit. It is a compliment to our nation that we have been able to overcome this vice of drink, that we had long time back begun this fight against drink, not now or during the last five years, but centuries and thousands of years ago. If that were so, Sir, why then talk of setting before these poor millions this vicious temptation of drink. Is it just to keep the temptation before them and rob them of the annas and pies accumulated to the tune of Rs. 13 crores year after year in the Treasury? You take the joy out of their

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homes, the light out of their eyes and the God-given intelligence out of their frames and turn them to devils. Sir, we waylay the poor man, render him inebriate and helpless. Not only that, Sir, have you ever heard in any country of the auctioning of toddy shops; and all for the sake of depriving of the few pias that hard work has earned for them? Is this a fair deal that you give to the poor millions in the countryside, I ask? The urgency of the reform then must be granted; the necessity for the reform must be granted, and the acceleration of the pace on which I set it must be granted. Sir, I will not add any more words about prohibition just now but shall wind up with an appeal. I shall now take up two other subjects in the meantime, about which I must explain myself to this House.

"I raised, Sir, the question of lump grants in the Press. It has been construed as somewhat improper for a member to raise such questions in the Press. I want the Hon. the Premier to follow me rather closely. I make an appeal to him. I do not object to the fund that he has created at page 481 of the Demands for Grants; funds can be created. There is the Famine Reserve Fund; there is the Revenue Reserve Fund; there was the Water-supply Fund; there will be this Village Reconstruction and Harijan Fund. What I objected to was that after putting in this sum of Rs. 4 crores at page 481, you want us to vote straightaway for the sums mentioned without any estimates whatsoever, without any details whatsoever. On page 104, these grants are General Administration Rs. 1 crore; at page 376, Rs. 2 crores for Khadi and Rural work; Rs. 1 crore at page 409 under "Industry and Labour." I am not talking on the merits of these various purposes; the funds will be there; but I ask, why not drop these grants and make reappropriations from the fund after schemes are made and confirmed by public discussion? That is my point, Sir. It was not meant to be any obstruction to progress, but it was meant to uphold the rights of every Member of this Legislature as well as of those of other Legislatures all over the country. Their rights to scrutinize the expenditure should not be taken away even by an iota."

"THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"On a point of explanation. No grants have been intended to be paid. The money will be spent according to the schemes that would be produced."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Now, Sir, my point is gained. But let me elaborate it. The information required in the preparation of a Budget is just as varied and extensive as are the functions and operation of Government. It involves existing Government policy, specially these aspects which pertain to the experience, contraction or elimination of existing established public agencies or the development of new ones, forms of taxation and other sources of income, discharge of other current financial obligations and assumption of additional obligations'.

"Now, Sir, I would only conclude by quoting one more sentence from a very famous writer on Budgets. It is this: 'The only check on waste or extravagance afforded to Members

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of the Legislature is the itemisation of the Budget'. The practical side of the budget procedure is what I emphasise. I should not be misunderstood. On the other hand, I think I should get your support in this matter. Supposing it were not for Harijan uplift but for Police reform that a lump grant provision of Rs. 2 crores was made in the budget, even then I would have raised the same objection. It is not on the merits of any of these questions that I raise this; on merits we may have many things to say, but I will not do so now. The expenditure provided must be capable of rational provision; we must put in only such items as would represent the probable expenditure before the close of the budget year. I object to the padding of the budget. If, according to me, these sums are put in only to the extent that could be spent within the year, then we would have a surplus of Rs. 3 and odd crores which would possibly help to swell the reserve from Rs. 22 to 26 crores and there would be an easier case for prohibition. That is why, Sir, I stress this point.

"Now, I come again to another point. I must not allow a general discussion in this House to pass without a reference to the low standards of salaries we have set for our employees, especially in the lower grades. Government ought to provide for them at least a minimum wage. The whole question of the dearness allowance will have to be gone into with a fresh mind. What is the dearness allowance for? It is to enable a man on the margin to find his level of subsistence and in this light we have to revise the whole scales of dearness allowance whatever the rules made by the Government of India in this matter are. I think the Government of India has given a wrong lead and we in this Province are not bound by that lead except in so far as it may apply to those servants who are recruited under the statutes made by the Government of India. Why not make, I suggest, at least housing provision free for those low-paid employees and also free education for their children and if that were done half their troubles would have gone. The poor policeman—who is not my enemy but my friend, who has no doubt put me into prison—but still to-day I am here to speak as his representative, has his own difficulties. I will have much to say on police and police reorganization when the Demand for Police Grants is taken up. I also wish to include the village schoolmaster, the village revenue official and many others (Interruption) and still have prohibition as Mr. Raghavayya wants me to assert. It does not necessarily mean that we should throw open our treasury for being drawn upon by these employees. There are many branches in which savings are possible. Will the food situation, I ask Mr. Raghavayya, remain as it is. Does he expect that there will be no rain and no improvement in conditions? Will this 1½ crores of rupees provided for the Food Department remain permanent expenditure? I also ask, Mr. Speaker, when controls have relaxed will so much expenditure that is being incurred not in respect of statutes made by us but by the Government of India, continue to remain. I ask the Prime Minister to straightaway apply to the Government of India for a contribution for the service we are

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now rendering on this account. I trust he will do so. That is a measure of economy open to him. I will show him numberless other measures of economy. This year, the extraordinary charges incurred on the expenditure side of this Budget are six crores of rupees leaving aside the Fund for Harijan Uplift and Rural Reconstruction. There would be no need to spend the whole of this six crores in the next year and the year after next when we may land on better times. These are suggestions I make in respect of economy.

"I have only one point more. I tell you, Sir, let not the Government always talk of new taxation. Taxation is a very bad word. Why don't they take to new enterprises instead of new taxation? There are many enterprises to which we can set ourselves. You have taken State Trading. You have already collected the produce of the nation and have nationalized the produce on a large scale. But, Sir, why are you afraid of taking over, for instance, all the textile mills of this Province and thereby adding to the revenues of our Province, avoiding strikes and lockouts and, if necessary, making it a rule, with the co-operation of those interested in labour, that there will be no strike of any kind so long as the scale of wages is settled between the Government and themselves. (A Voice: Bravo.) I think, Sir, that is a feasible proposition. I am glad there is a friend on the other side who agrees with me and I hope from this side also we will agitate on this question remembering the rider that I have put down, namely, that strikes without reference to arbitration would be declared unwise and unjust. (A voice: No, no.) That is my conception of justice. I do not propose to discuss matters across the House.

"Then, Sir, why not nationalize land? Why not nationalize transport and as a first step towards this end, acquire the workshops of various bus-owners in order that an efficient transport service may be built up by Government and a fresh source of revenue found as speedily as possible to replace the loss incurred by prohibition.

"I must wind up with only one appeal which, I hope, will go to the hearts of everybody. Let us not give ourselves away to doubt and distraction, anxiety and apprehension, enveloping our minds with the pale cast of fear but let us take courage in both hands and march to our cherished goal with perseverance and energy—I would even add the fateful word, to which my hon. friend Mr. Daniel Thomas objected, namely, passion, so that millions in the countryside may be saved from utter ruin and destitution. When millions outside are thronged waiting to hear the death-knell of drink and remain with folded hands to receive your blessings from the fullness of their hearts, shall it be said that we did not dare to do the right."

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, just after hearing the speech of the hon. Member who has just preceded me, we on this side were wondering whether he has joined the Opposition. (Hear, hear.) At the outset,

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although I have got to deal with so many other points, I would like particularly to deal with the question of prohibition. At the same time I feel it my duty to explain to this House as to why we Muslims stand for prohibition. It is because our religion enjoins us to abstain from drink. It is not out of any objection, political or otherwise, but purely because our religion says so, that we Muslims stand committed to it. But here I may draw attention of the House that in the year 1943 when there was some agitation in this Province and when the Adviser Government wanted to give up prohibition, we took the right and sensible attitude and we wanted to adopt the same policy, because our religion teaches us to do so. Hearing the speeches of some of the hon. Members on the other side, I can see a similarity between themselves and ourselves in regard to prohibition. But in their case, they support the policy on political grounds, whereas we support it from the point of view of religion.

"Coming to the general discussion of the Budget, we do appreciate the fact that the Ministry had not had much time to go through it in a way which ought to have been done. All the same, on a cursory glance at the Budget, we have come to the conclusion that the Hon. the Prime Minister has failed to take into consideration the conditions arising in the post-war period, conditions arising out of the stoppage of the war. The most important thing to which I wish to draw the attention of the Government is, how are you going to solve the unemployment problem? I am sure, the Hon. Prime Minister is aware of the fact that thousands of people educated and uneducated, skilled and unskilled, have been turned out from the factories of the Government of India and from other places. What is to happen to them? What will be the fate of these thousands of people thrown out of employment as a result of the stoppage of war? Are you going to increase your worries and difficulties? I wish something should be done immediately to solve the problem; otherwise, things will take a serious turn. Therefore, I am sure the Hon. the Prime Minister will give us a categorical answer as to what he proposes to do in the matter of solving the unemployment problem—particularly you know there are persons who were drawing salaries from Rs. 100 to Rs. 300 and who have been thrown out of service. What are they to do? That is a matter which requires the serious consideration of the Hon. the Prime Minister.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is one thing to which my colleague, Abdūl Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur, has drawn your attention. It is this. As far as this Government is concerned, you know that we have no share in the administration of this Province. We are not part and parcel of the Government; our part is only to sit in Opposition and draw the attention of the Hon. Ministers to questions that affect seriously our position and those affecting the Muslims and other minorities. Therefore, I would say, placed as we are in a small minority, that it is not only desirable but necessary for the Government to consult our leaders and other

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representatives of our community in matters pertaining to Muslims. I would take up education as an instance in point. From the replies to questions given by the Hon. Minister for Education, it looks as if he is under the impression that we are asking for special facilities. But the Hon. Minister should know that we are not demanding of him anything but our just and legitimate rights. To Muslims, education is important. Therefore, when we wanted to ask the Government for particular concessions affecting our community in the matter of education, why should he take that in that light? My constituency as well as some other districts where Muslims predominate are greatly perturbed by your recent order saying that children are to be taught in the regional language and not in their mother-tongue. I say that it is absolutely a wrong policy and you have to rectify this. With all the emphasis I can command, I would like to give a warning from this side that if you persist in experimenting upon your pet theories and carrying them out since you have the power behind you, I may say that we are not going to allow you to do so. (Hear, hear.) To us, Muslims, education is important and it is by education alone that our nation has to be developed and organized. You cannot be propounding policies which will surely affect the members of our community by the adoption of certain tactics. Therefore it will be very well for you to take us into your confidence, consult us before putting forward proposals of any importance to our community. We are then prepared to co-operate with you. But, however, I wish to point out that if you go your own way, we also have to go our own way.

"In connection with the salaries of teachers, we do appreciate the fact that the Prime Minister is ready to do justice to them. Limitations there may be. He has to adjust his Budget. Therefore, we hope that the Prime Minister will do his best in this regard. At the same time, we have to say that this class of persons are suffering most, for the simple fault of taking to this profession. This class of persons are paid very meagrely, with the result that we are not getting the right type of people to take up this profession. I am sure the Hon. the Prime Minister will bear this in mind and see that justice is done to them in order to attract the right type of persons to this profession. In this connection, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister that there are so many districts where schools are run by municipalities or district boards. With respect to Muslim education you know the state of affairs in district boards and municipalities where Muslims do not have real representatives.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir . . . I was referring to . . .

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—"On a point of information, Sir. Is there any quorum for the meeting?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"There is quorum. Thirty-six Members are present now."

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* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, in the earlier part of my speech, I was referring to the subject of education of Muslims and I had drawn your pointed attention to the way things are conducted by district boards, panchayats and other municipalities running schools. It is a matter of common knowledge that in certain schools salaries are not paid to the teachers for months together and at the same time, it is my duty to make special mention of the fact that in Muslim schools and also in combined schools, where there are separate sections for Muslims, step-motherly treatment is meted out to them. Therefore, I say to the Hon. Prime Minister it is your opportunity now when you have been proclaiming that you will do not only justice but something more than justice to the Muslim community. Therefore I am sure at least in the matter of education, you will do your best to our community and particularly in those districts where we are backward. As a matter of fact, Muslims in Nellore, Chittoor and Cuddapah are very backward financially, and they are not in a position to have their own institutions. Therefore, I wish the Hon. the Prime Minister and particularly the Minister for Education will consider the advisability and the feasibility of providing separate high schools for Muslims in those districts especially in my district, namely Chittoor.

"Coming next to religious instruction, it has been pointed out by members of our party that we insist on religious instructions being imparted in our institutions. I am sure the Government will help us in this direction also."

"Now, Sir, I come to the allotment of three crores for rural reconstruction. Much has been said and discussed on this subject and naturally, I am not in a position to supplement to what has been said already in regard to this matter. It is really very strange that when in other countries Government propose to undertake financial schemes quickly and particularly in the matter of industrialization for solving the unemployment problem and for increasing the natural wealth of the country, it is really strange on the part of the Minister concerned, to come forward with a scheme for rural reconstruction. After all, what is he going to do with this scheme? It has been the policy of the Congress to come forward with their own petty schemes which are quite unsuitable. You have to face the realities of the situation. It must be remembered that this is an era of scientific progress; this is an era of industrialization and it is too late in the day to try schemes of rural reconstruction and, therefore, what is the point in spending a sum of rupees three crores and forcing people to wear khaddar. I do not find any reasonableness in this proposal. We refuse to be coerced in regard to this matter, not that I am against khaddar but since it is the symbol of the Congress policy I am against it. If I were to be there, I would prefer death rather than be coerced."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"There will be no coercion at all."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am thankful to the Prime Minister for his prompt reply in saying

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that there will be no coercion. But there are other petty officials who in their enthusiasm might coerce the people. I am, however, thankful to the Hon. the Prime Minister for his prompt and timely reply.

"Next, Sir, with regard to the sum of one crore allotted for the uplift of the Harijans. It has been our declared policy to help the down-trodden people and those who have suffered because it has been their destiny to suffer. I am glad that now at least you have realized this. We want to know, as in what manner you are going to spend that money. If it is for making political capital out of that, I say it is quite unfair. Therefore, I suggest to the Hon. Prime Minister that he will do very well to explain in what form and in what way he is going to spend that money.

"Sir, the other item that I wish to place before the House is in regard to medical institutions. Surely, we, Members of the Opposition, do welcome the proposal to start three more medical colleges and also 200 more hospitals throughout the Province. In this field this country is very backward as compared with other advanced countries. There is no medical attention for thousands and thousands of people. Therefore, it is a very good policy on the part of Government to do something in the matter. There is another point to which I wish to draw particular attention of the Government. We have a number of instances where in hospitals, there is not only inadequate but inefficient staff. There seems to be something wrong somewhere and I am sure the Hon. Minister for Public Health will go into this matter and remedy the defect.

"There are other things in regard to this matter. I refer particularly to one matter, namely the food supplies in hospitals, particularly to poor persons, is of the worst kind simply because the supply is left in the hands of contractors. They have naturally to supply the food required at competitive rates with the result that poor persons who get admitted into these hospitals suffer very badly. I, therefore, suggest that something should be done in this direction also.

"Another important thing to which I referred in the early part of my speech is this. We want Government to adopt a clear and broad-based policy regarding industrialization of the Province. As you know, Sir, this Province is very backward in this matter. Therefore, something should be done by the present Government. Otherwise, we have no future as far as this Province is concerned. There is no doubt that policies have been adumbrated for post-war schemes but they remain idle in the Secretariat without seeing the light of day.

"There is another proposal in the Budget relating to Industrial Corporation. I would suggest that something should be done to tackle problems for increasing the prosperity of the Province especially on the industrial side.

"The other subject I want to bring to the attention of the Government is in regard to the salaries of Government servants particularly the lower grades. They deserve all our sympathy and help. We are one with you in doing justice to them. At

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present they are badly paid. It has been brought to our notice that graduates are started on Rs. 30 or Rs. 35 and on seeing the advertisement that postmen are paid better, they are willing to change places. I am sure the Hon. Prime Minister will do something in the matter.

"Coming now to the staff of the Secretariat, Sir, they deserve consideration; they are doing the most responsible work and they should therefore be paid according to the nature of the work they perform. It has been complained that some of them are made to work late in the evening and further some clerks have to take files to their homes. What is the reason for this position? The position is that you have got a lesser number of clerks who cannot cope up with the work. I am sure the Hon. the Premier will look carefully and sympathetically into this matter.

"Sir, I do not like to take much of your time. One thing I wish to say before I finish. It is that it is the policy of the Muslim League to co-operate with the Government of the day wherever it is just, but we are not going to be coerced or intimidated by you. This is all what I have got to say in conclusion."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, first allow me to congratulate the Hon. the Premier on his well-prepared and utilitarian Budget got up within the short time at the disposal of the Ministry. It may be true that we cannot agree with him in all matters. Still the Budget is a very useful and good document prepared in the shortest time possible.

"Coming to the points in the Budget, first I would like to deal with establishment, I should only remind the Hon. the Prime Minister that the establishment charges have been going up during the last 15 or 20 years so much so it has now gone up to 25 crores. I would therefore suggest that this thing has to be looked into very carefully. He should cry 'halt' and see that the establishment charges do not reach a stage when our Budget will reach the breaking point. I would suggest to the Hon. the Minister to see whether we cannot revise the system of provincial civil service by competitive examination by following the usual communal ratio if you wish to do so. (An hon. Member: 'What about you?') I am thankful to the hon. Member opposite when he reminds about me. I am here to say that the Brahman community are even prepared to forego these competitive examinations provided they are given sufficient incentives in colleges and schools and our education is not put a stop to as it is done to-day. Well, Sir, we find Government department with Secretaries at the top, Secretaries at the middle and Secretaries at the bottom and the departments swelling up to such a large extent. The Administration charges have got to be cut down. Take for instance, the new departments like the Food Department, the different Controls Departments and such other similar departments. These departments will have to go and I would not be surprised if my hon. friend Mr. Nambiyar will call in strikes

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when they are abolished in the course of a few months. It will be again a great problem. The other point is with regard to the Police establishment. I know it from my own experience. In my own taluk there was formerly one Inspector for the whole taluk but now it has been split up into two. I would, therefore, request the Hon. the Prime Minister to scrutinize the Budget and to see that this Police Budget is not allowed to go on increasing like this. I would not be surprised if it is not a manoeuvre on the part of the Police department to increase their strength to protect themselves against the growing nationalism and its consequences. Then coming to the agrarian disturbance all over the Presidency, especially in the Tanjore district, it is acute. I would therefore request the Hon. the Prime Minister to look into this deeply, since agrarian disturbances have gone on to a large degree so much so it is reported that there has been even a murder in Mannargudi. I would ask my friend Mr. Nambiar and his friends whether it is not time to cry 'halt' and to see whether we cannot co-operate with the Government so that in these days of food scarcity it is not accelerated still further than what it is at present.

2-45 p.m. "With regard to Prohibition, though my heart is in it, being a member of the Ministerial party, I am not here to attack as vehemently as my friend Mr. Varadachari did, the prohibition policy of the Government and I hope the Hon. the Prime Minister will take the sense of all of us into consideration and see whether he cannot introduce total Prohibition at an early date.

"A large sum of money has been specially earmarked for Harijan uplift. We should not be merely content with that. I would just request the Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject to see whether it is not high time that there are District Harijan Welfare Officers who could look to the welfare of their community and to whom the Harijans could go if the need arises. It is high time that the Harijans must have their own officers who would look to their needs and who would be able to take things to the proper quarter and see that they get their wants attended to. I know in many instances, especially in the villages and even in certain municipal towns Harijans have not been able to get justice when the opposite party happens to be rich or influential and is able to get at officers and have things done to its own liking. I know a case where a piece of land owned for centuries by certain Harijans has been alienated in favour of a capitalist and even the municipal registers have been tampered with and the land has been taken over by the capitalist in spite of our request to the Deputy Inspector and Inspector of Local Boards for the matter being enquired into and nothing has come out of it. I feel, Sir, it is all because Harijans have no officer to take the matter with the officer concerned. It is well-known that officers when they go to the mufassal stay with the rich people, and go about their inspection work. The result is that when the time for report comes, we find that the poor man does not get justice and the rich man receives the favour of the

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officers. I, therefore, feel that Harijans should have their own Welfare Officers who will take up their case to the proper quarters.

"We have heard much about corruption in this House. I may tell you, Sir, that corruption is not a thing confined to the lower grade staff alone. We all know that gazetted officers have been prosecuted for corruption and some of them are being sent to jail. Corruption is only a criminal habit of man and when, in addition to that, he is poorly paid, he is not able to resist the temptation to make up the level between the pay of the high-paid servants and his own. Further, where they cannot make both ends meet, they naturally succumb to temptation of making money. With regard to the high-paid staff itself, it is high time for us to think whether we cannot bring down their rate of pay so that there is not such disparity as obtains now between the rate of pay of the clerks and the top officers of Government. Another thing that I would suggest when I am speaking on the question of the high-paid officer is that we must consider whether we cannot cut off the dearness allowance that is allowed to him. Officers drawing rupees thousand and above have no right for a dearness allowance and they have no right to ask for it. For people who are living luxurious lives, what is the justification for the grant of a dearness allowance? I ask whether they were getting any lower pay during the pre-war days and whether they refunded any part of it when they had low prices? Is it not time, Sir, now that the war has ended that we stop the dearness allowance to high-paid officers?

"With regard to the educational policy of the Government, I am one with the Hon. the Premier and the Hon. the Minister for Education in their educational policy of having the regional language as the medium of instruction in high schools and of discontinuing the teaching of English for the smaller classes. The study of English has created a sense of inferiority complex in those that have not studied it and a sense of superiority in those that have studied it and they consider themselves to be above the level of their fellow beings. I know many officers, I.C.S., men of big families, refusing to talk to their brothers and sisters or even of seeing them when they go home because they have become big I.C.S. officers. English education has become a curse to our culture and it is high time that we stop it and I happily look forward to a time when even in colleges, professional, technical and arts, the medium of instruction will not be English, but the language of the area in which the college is situated. I think it is not a difficult matter. I have known many of our Congress workers addressing public meetings on many abstruse scientific subjects without using a single word of English. I have also seen many men of science addressing gatherings on scientific subjects without using any English word. After all even if we are forced to use an English word for want of a vernacular equivalent, what is wrong about it? What is the harm in borrowing it and incorporating it in our language if the necessity for it is felt?

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"I now come to the question of admission to colleges. My feeling is that the principle of communal representation in respect of admission to colleges must go and everybody must have the same opportunity for his or her education to be completed. We cannot have a starvation of our brains. It may be quite right for you to allow the principle so far as Government service is concerned. But so far as admission to colleges is concerned, I would remind the Hon. Minister for Education that we cannot forego our education and the Brahman community might at least be given opportunity for education by unrestricted admission into colleges.

"With regard to medical colleges, I find that the Ministry has got a scheme for opening two more medical colleges. Why only two more colleges, I ask. 'Is it not time' I ask 'for opening a medical college for a group of two or three districts?' Have we enough doctors in villages, and seeing that we have not, is it not time that we think of having more doctors? The Bhoire Committee have pointed out that there are very few doctors in this country and, therefore, we have got to supplement the number of doctors. Towards that end in view, it is necessary that the number of medical colleges should be increased so that we may have one college for a group of two or three districts.

"I wish to say a word or two about jails. Most of us have been there and we know what is wrong about it. My first suggestion is that the administration of jails must be taken over by the Medical Department and officers of the Medical Department should be put in as Superintendents of Jails. What is the function of the Jail Superintendent except that he is to look after the health of the inmates of jails who are confined to his care for long periods even up to ten or fifteen years? If it is the duty of the Jail Superintendent to look to the health of the prisoners, is not the medical man better qualified for the job than any others? It is necessary that experienced medical men should be put in charge of jails both as the Medical Officer and Superintendent of Jails. There are many other items of Jail administration which require overhauling. Most of us know it and without mentioning any, I would request the Hon. the Minister for Jails who has been himself in it for a pretty long time to see whether all the mistakes inherent in the administration and the irksomeness which we see could not be rectified immediately.

"I would suggest with regard to cloth situation that we take over the mills. The cloth situation has become very acute in mufassal towns and I am not aware of how it is in the City. At least let us appoint officers who will exercise a check on the amount of yarn produced, the quantity of cloth manufactured and see how much is available for the public. It is not unknown to the Hon. Minister that all the cloth and yarn that is produced do not go to the open market; a large quantity disappears into the blackmarket. Recently we read from the papers that some of the biggest millowners have been prosecuted for blackmarketing in cloth. I think it is time that we take steps at least as a

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temporary measure to take over the mills until the crisis is tided over so that people do not suffer from want of cloth. A system of cloth rationing is necessary especially in the mufassal where we see big shop-keepers and capitalists take away all the stock from the quota-holder or the Textile Controller and the cloth never sees the light of day.

"The problem of firewood is very acute in the mufassal. To ease the position, I suggest that buses and lorries which run on charcoal should be taken off the road and reconstructed so as to run on petrol. Or, in the alternative, they might be supplied with coal from factories and mines. Firewood position is becoming very acute and it is difficult even to get a ton of firewood for household purposes. Now that the petrol position has considerably eased, I think it would be possible to convert charcoal buses into petrol buses.

"I have a small reform to suggest in regard to the functions of the District Medical Officer. The office of the District Medical Officer should be separated from the Inspecting Officer. Till now—I do not know how old it is—the District Medical Officer has also been the Inspecting Officer of all the hospitals. Now that the hospitals are popular and they have got enough work, I suggest that the Superintendents of these hospitals should be made Superintendents in reality. But let us have, if you so desire, an Inspecting Officer for a group of three or four districts and he will have no other work than that of inspection. This reform is long overdue and I urge that it be taken up at an early date.

"I find very little of medical research beyond the stereotyped routine work of malaria research. I may tell the Minister for Public Health that kala-azar is endemic in Rameswaram Island and Keelakarai in Ramnad district and I learn from the District Medical Officer of Ramnad that on an average 150 patients suffering from this disease are coming to the headquarters hospital twice a week for taking injections for the disease. I think it is necessary that kala-azar research is taken up at a very early date. I believe there was an officer who was engaged on this business and he was deputed to Assam and afterwards to Bombay for the same research. Should we not avail ourselves of the services of some such people and see that we stamp out this disease from our Province? At present it is endemic in certain parts of the Ramnad district. It is high time that we co-ordinate medical research on the disease and see that endemic conditions do not prevail. I would also suggest that a kala-azar research station should be established in the Ramnad or Keelakarai area."

* M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I feel it is my foremost duty to congratulate the Hon. the Premier on the excellent manner in which he has presented a hastily-prepared Budget, vague in itself and ununderstandable to this House. It is a Budget which gives no information of any kind to the members of this august Assembly. To me, Sir, it appears to be a Herculean task if I should think of finding

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out from the Budget, how much it actually costs to run this administration. Would the Hon. the Premier tell us that he is satisfied that the administration is not top-heavy and that it would not be paralysed if he continued to draw, all the surpluses without finding the ways and means to lay by something for the bad day. Very heavy sums have been withdrawn in the name of rural reconstruction and Harijan uplift, while Prohibition is also to be introduced in four districts only at a time when the country is at the brink of famine. Millions of people are hard up for food, and you do not immediately seem to make headway to wipe off the dangers daggering our faces even though you professed to do what all you can.

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"May I ask the Hon. Premier, Sir, if he meant that after he took up the reins of this Government, the ration which was started at 16 oz. got reduced to 12 and from 12 to 10 and from to-morrow onwards to 8 ounces, is the only thing that the Government means to do everything that lies in its powers? It is really heart-rending to see such state of affairs. Why should he think of other schemes when there is this pressing problem? It should be first and foremost concern of any good government to see that their children are well-fed, and then clothed and then take to do anything else. A Government which cannot perform its primary duties properly, incumbent upon it, has no right to plunge itself into schemes of various kinds which can only come, one by one, as time and circumstances permit. This aspect of it, I may be permitted to say, has been lost sight of by the Premier.

"With these general remarks, I shall proceed to point out certain other features of the budget. First I shall take up Prohibition. The last Congress Ministry introduced Prohibition first in Salem, and then extended it to four districts. Suddenly they had to resign without introducing it in the whole Province. It is wrong for this Government not to take up that scheme first in full, even though they have the benefit of a fully drafted scheme on hand. Rural reconstruction in the garb of a political movement and as a stunt has been taken up. The Wardha scheme of imparting education in the regional language is yet another stunt. Several such half-cooked schemes have been brought forward, about whose success there is much doubt. The duty of a benign Government should be to elevate the down-trodden. I am painfully driven to ask, 'Does this Government mean by all this a more show and nothing in reality?' *Prima facie* it should be the concern of a popular Government to attend to the fundamental needs of the Province. What have they done to eradicate corruption that is rampant in the Province. All say, that evil should be rooted out. It is no good continuing to say that 'We are out to put down corruption' and still don't take drastic steps to do away with it. We are told in the budget 'We are taking stock to try to raise the scales of pay of the non-gazetted officers and low-paid clerks' and such other things. Surely we quite agree with you that it must be the first and foremost concern of this Government to raise the salary, or pay, or dearness allowance, as they deem fit, to low-paid

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clerks, teachers, Police officers or the whole lot of ill-paid subordinates. At the same time we urge it should be its aim also to bring down the level of salary of high-paid officials, who are simply receiving fabulous amounts. If you take concrete cases of teachers and policemen and such others and compare their salary with that of the present-day much agitated scheme of salary for postmen and others, there is no comparison whatsoever. Then, Sir, I would like to impress on the Premier that during Ramzan month, the Muslims must be given their full quota of 10-8 yards of mill cloth per head."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Hamid Khan has already made that appeal. You need not repeat it."

M. S. ATAULLAH SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am only emphasising it. One word more, Sir, about the Wardha scheme. If you persist in the Wardha scheme being carried out, you will have to come back to the place from where you started. I hope the Treasury Bench will not take it as derogatory, but act in a manner giving due consideration to the salient points put forth from the Opposition."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, representing as I do the Harijan community, I feel it my duty to congratulate the Hon. Premier on a budget that has been so clearly presented to this House. Sir, we are aware of what is going on in the country; every day you hear of strike of one class or another. We, the untouchable class, known as Harijans, feel that very little provision has been made in the budget. Sir, I find, member after member in this House, were talking of dearness allowance. But what about the poor agricultural labourers who have been toiling in the field day in and day out without proper wages. Has the present Ministry or the previous Government found ways and means to improve the lot of the agricultural classes? My Hon. Friend, Dr. Subramaniam, speaking just now, brought to our notice the plight of the agricultural labourers in Tanjore. I may say, Sir, what has happened in Tiruturaipundi, where the agricultural labourers went on strike, is due to the inadequacy of the wages now prevailing. They ask for a rise in wages not to have certain luxuries, but to keep their body and soul together. The depressed classes are suffering not merely from economic disabilities. Their difficulties are manifold. Here I must draw the attention of the Hon. Premier, knowing as he does, that we are now living in socialistic times, and that he should bring in measures to improve the lot of the villagers. We see in the budget provision has been made for the extension of compulsory primary education to the extent of 22 lakhs, and we are also told that the surplus funds of several religious endowments would be used for education. Harijan cheris in the districts are a source of epidemic, and wherever you go, you find the cheris in a most insanitary condition. I find two medical colleges are to be opened; two hundred midwives are to be trained and opening of 20 hospitals with 20 beds in each is

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under consideration. I am sure, Sir, that if these people who come from the colleges and the midwives, to be trained, are granted to the chernis it is not the village alone, not the district alone, but the whole Province will be benefited.

"Then there is a provision of 50 lakhs of rupees for water-supply. It must really go to the rural areas where these unfortunate people live. I find that there is provision for relief in the shape of cash and grain to infirm and decrepit persons in famine-stricken areas.

"Sir, I find that the provision of one crore of rupees for Harijan uplift has received mixed reception in this House. In the history of India, if there is one community that has been kept at the outskirts of society and neglected for centuries, it is the untouchable class known as Harijans. Fortunately for us, we have a Prime Minister who has seen their difficulties and has come in time to make this provision. There may be questions as to details. I am sure that he will take the House into confidence and tell us in what form he is going to spend this amount. I received a communication from the Development Secretary asking for my remarks as to the way in which this one crore of rupees should be spent, and I have suggested to him the way in which it should be spent. I feel that the economic condition of the Harijans is at a very low ebb and unless this one crore of rupees is spent on improving the economic condition of this community, it will be a waste. When it was announced that the present Government are going to spend money to make four districts dry, there has been some criticism. Having been in the field of temperance and prohibition for a few decades, I feel that four districts are not enough. At the same time I know that the Ministry, who have been in office only for the past two months, are bound to have administrative difficulties. I appeal to the Hon. the Prime Minister that he must make headway with prohibition. Otherwise, the one crore of rupees that you are going to spend for the Harijans will not be to their best advantage. I know the mentality of my community. What they got during the war time and the little money they earn now is mostly spent on drink and not in improving the condition of their wives and children.

"Then the fact of untouchability is there. Wherever you travel in the interior, the lot of the Harijans is so very deplorable that unless there is some radical change by the introduction of legislative enactment, I fear their condition will grow worse. For instance, even in a place like Ootacamund, the Harijans are not allowed in hotels. When the municipality was forced to insert a clause in the licences to allow all classes in the eating houses, the restaurant-keepers had to go to the Court, and the decision was that the municipality had no power to insert any such clause. I hope that my Hon. Friend the Minister for Local Administration will take up this matter as early as possible and bring forward legislation whereby the untouchable classes can have free access to all public eating places.

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"Another novel feature that I find in the budget is this. In the Government of India Act, 1935, the term used is 'Scheduled Caste,' but in the present budget, I find 'Communities eligible for help.' This distinction, I feel, Sir, is driving the thin end of the wedge for bringing in many more communities who have not been brought in previously.

"When the Poona Pact was concluded, a clear term was introduced in it for substantial allotment for the education of the Depressed Classes. In the budget, the Government have provided Rs. 33,800 towards schooling charges for converts and Rs. 1,25,100 for non-converts, and also boarding grants for converts and non-converts amounting to Rs. 2,59,000. Time and again, I and my predecessors in this House have been pleading that Harijans are quite different from converts. We have no objection to the Government giving any amount to Kallars, Christians and Muslims but why should they be clubbed with this Scheduled Castes? This is a very serious thing, Sir, and I request the Hon. the Prime Minister to look into the matter and make amendments.

"Sir, we have been pleading for the colonization of Harijans and Aborigines. Taking Anamalais alone, where we have more than 40,000 Harijans, there is no colonization, and the Harijans there, I understand, have appealed to the Government that colonization should be brought into force.

"Now, Sir, the Government are aware of the great depletion in forests and livestock in the villages. Practically, all the firewood has been taken away from the forests, and unless forests are improved, there will be a great dearth of firewood. I do not find proper provision has been made for this in the budget. So also for grazing facilities. Except for the provision of Rs. 12,700 for the purchase of Mysore cattle, I do not find any provision for livestock. We import from foreign countries crores of rupees worth of milk powder. I hope the Government will be wise enough to make sufficient provision towards this.

"Sir, very small amounts have been provided in the budget for minor irrigations. I represent a constituency in South Arcot district, where many irrigation works have to be brought into being because, during the drought days, they will help the poor people and make them self-sufficient.

"With regard to cinchona plantations, I would like to say a few words. The present policy adopted by the Government is not fair. There are more than 10,000 labourers in cinchona plantations on the Anamalais, and for getting their patients treated, they go to a medical institution some seven miles away giving Rs. 45,000 by way of cess and Rs. 2,500 travelling charges. They should have provision for a hospital. I see the Government have allotted Rs. 1,11,000 for the purchase of mepacrine tablets. 24,000 acres of land have been reserved for the cinchona plantation on the Anamalais. With good planning we can bring all this land under cultivation and produce quinine. I find that

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in Devarsholai the beautiful forest is ripped off and cinchona clearing is made; so also in Cherambadi.

"Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister said that in the post-war development schemes the Government have provided for a number of industries like the manufacture of bangles and other things.

"I would also request the Prime Minister to make provision for the cultivation of pyrethrum, wattle and camphor and for reviving the jam factory at Coonoor. All the machinery required are stored there and is getting rusty.

"The control system that came into force during the Advisers' regime has, as has already been pointed out, led to a lot of corruption. Getting licences from these control departments is very hard and all the more so for a community like the Harijan. So I hope the Government will see that the control system goes out as early as possible."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to inform the members that to-day the House will sit till six o'clock. I have consulted the Hon. the Prime Minister and other leaders and they have agreed to this."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Hon. the Finance Minister has presented a comprehensive budget, spending every ounce of his energy on it despite old age. No doubt it is very necessary that every care should be taken in framing the budget for the Government of a country. But the circumstances were such that the Hon. the Finance Minister had to do things hurriedly. We have therefore to take a lenient view of the defects in the budget. But that does not mean that we should not point them out to the Hon. Premier and this House. Now, Sir, there are many things—fads I would call them—which we do not think it quite necessary to be tackled at this moment. For example there is the Wardha scheme or the basic education scheme of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh. The other fad is about the production of khaddar. The third fad, if I may be permitted to say so, is what is called the rural reconstruction scheme. There is yet one more and I may be excused for calling it a fad. It is what is called the uplift of the Harijans. Now, Sir, I will give the reasons for my calling them fads.

"Let me take for instance the uplift of the Harijans. What has been done for their uplift so far? To what level have they been raised? It is a pertinent question to ask. After years of labour of the Harijan Sevak Sangh and earmarking of so many funds for the amelioration of the condition of the Harijans, what is their condition to-day? In spite of the fact that they have got joint electorates with reservation of seats, what has happened to their political status? They are getting into the Legislature and the local bodies simply because they have joined the Congress Party. It is only for that reason, I believe, that they, at any rate, the 'candidates' among them, are so very particular about becoming members of the Congress. But otherwise in all other

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respects I do not see any improvement in their condition. Earmarking the large sum of one crore for the uplift of the Harijans without giving the House details of the scheme does not help any member of this House to comment or improve on that scheme. My suggestion is that it would be better for the Government to throw open all hotels and temples by legislation and remove untouchability. That is the first step that any Government should take. If the Government have got the courage, they must come forward with such legislation. I am glad to see that they have accepted the Islamic principle of prohibition, and I would advise them to follow also the Islamic principle of equality and fraternity. That alone will give them a sense of equality and fraternity with the other community. I do not believe in giving them the exalted name of Harijans and not treating them as such. We are all Harijans; all of us who are children of God. These are all things which, I believe, do not go to attach much credit to the very comprehensive budget that has been placed before the House by the Hon. the Finance Minister.

"With regard to the education scheme that has been revealed in the budget, it is definitely stated that the Government are going to adopt basic education or the Wardha scheme of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh. I would on the floor of this House sound a note of warning to the Government, so far as the Muslims are concerned. The Government must know that we form an important limb of the body politic, and every limb must be developed in its own particular manner. We know the famous couplet.

* It is education that forms the common mind.

* As the twig is bent, the tree is inclined."

We know what influence this sort of education will have if it is forced on the members of a community whose genius and tradition repel it. Therefore I say: 'Develop each community, which is a part or limb of the body politic, in its own way, according to its leanings, and according to its own requirements.' There is no use in simply making a categorical statement in the budget that we have adopted that policy. It should not be so. You are in power to-day. Take care not only of the Hindustani Talimi Sangh or the Wardha scheme, but take care of all the subjects over whom you are placed as the ruler. Therefore, Sir, in this matter we have a right to demand what is suited to our need, what is suited to our genius and tradition.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, religion plays an important part with the Muslims as with the Hindu and the Christian communities, and they have to be brought up in their own religious traditions. It is an important factor in our life. There is no use of simply talking of these facts. That is why I call them fads.

"I would also touch upon the food problem with which we are faced to-day. Yesterday the Prime Minister made a statement that the rice content of the ration had been still further reduced to eight ounces. This is not a happy state of things, and we cannot congratulate the Hon. the Premier or the whole Ministry

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for the matter of that on this very sorry plight to which we have been reduced. After introducing the new scheme of food committees all over the province, they should have been able to show some better results instead of curtailing the rice content of the ration. Therefore I would ask the Government to be more careful in such matters as food and cloth. While introducing this new scheme of food committees all over the province, I know many things have gone wrong, and I am afraid these committees will not work satisfactorily. It is said by many people and many have informed me that influential people in the villages are trying to get or have already tried and succeeded in getting into these committees. It is not for public service but for self-service. We know blackmarketing, profiteering and hoarding are going on. The Government will have to be very careful in these matters and see that the shortage of rice is made up by a direct appeal to the people who can still spare some surplus rice from their stock. It is possible and I wish that the Government should send out strong appeals for voluntary delivery of any surplus stock with the people. In this matter the members of the food committees should fully and wholeheartedly co-operate. By that means at least we shall be able to get some more rice. Instead of making these attempts, the Hon. the Prime Minister makes a statement that the rice content of the ration has been reduced.

“Coming to the question of the non-gazetted Government servants, I should say that it is after all only a pious wish or I must say at best only a promise for considering their condition. That is not enough. The Government should realize . . .”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Mr. Varadachari has already spoken on this point . . .”

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Yes, Sir, I am not going to press that point, as it has already been done.

“There is another important matter on which I would like to say a word. It is connected with communications and the provision made for roads. The Hon. the Finance Minister thinks that we should concentrate on the production of food. No doubt he is right in saying that and we should all give our full co-operation to him in that respect. But that does not mean that communications should not be improved. Especially village communications require a good deal of improvement. I know, Sir, that many villages have not got roads and are inaccessible especially during monsoon on the West Coast. Unless the small streams are bridged and culverts built, it is impossible to transport the food that is produced in the villages to other areas. Communication is as important as food. Therefore I say that improvement of communications and construction of bridges and culverts should not be neglected. No doubt irrigation is necessary for production, but what is the use of producing food when you cannot transport it from one place to another? Therefore, Sir, improvement of communications must be given as much importance as the production of food.

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“The Hon. the Minister for Finance has said regarding local boards that it is not a question of abolishing any of them, but of reforming and strengthening them and opening of new panchayat boards. I would at once say that the Government should decide to abolish the district boards. In my view, the district boards have never functioned satisfactorily, mainly for want of funds. We know that they have got a number of elementary schools all over the districts in almost all the villages. Are they able to maintain them? It is impossible for them to manage elementary education in any district. Therefore, I would suggest that in the place of these district boards it is better to have in all the villages, if possible, or for a group of villages what are called panchayat boards, and they should be given more powers. I am sure these local panchayat boards for a group of villages can do much better than what the district boards are able to do at present. There should be more of concentration. There should not be any sort of diffusion as it is now, because the district boards are not able to manage their affairs. I was surprised to see that there was no proposal at all for the abolition of district boards. Therefore I would ask the Government and particularly the Minister for Local Administration to consider this problem seriously. It is quite possible that the district boards might be full of members belonging to a particular party or at least a large majority of them. It is not that that counts. If you want to do real service to the villagers, you must have more concentrated local administration in the province. You should not have the district boards which are not able to manage their far-flung area. That has been the sad experience of the past, and in the light of that experience, I am sure the Ministry will apply their mind to the problem and see that the district boards are abolished at the earliest possible moment.

“Let me now turn to another subject. It is not enough if we simply try to increase irrigational facilities alone. At the same time we must also see that the systems of tenure are put on a proper basis. So far as I can see, there is no use in continuing the zamindari system. That system should go. If the Government can take over and manage cultivation in the zamindari areas, it would, in my view, be a very ideal thing. They can manage it themselves through the Agricultural department. With their own staff and their own experts, it will be possible to produce more food and there may not be any famine lingering in this province. I see that the time-limit for me is almost over.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“You have taken more than five minutes extra.”

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I am finishing. I would make one last appeal to the present Ministry. They should concentrate on the question of prohibition at all costs. It is a most important question. It is a religious question for us and for the Ministry also, I believe, it is a religious question. No religion will encourage drink. Drink is bad from every point of view and we should not try to improve the condition of the people with that p.m. 3-45

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tainted money. I fear that ultimately it will end in disaster for us all. Therefore, if you want to have village autonomy, it should follow from village economy and village economy can be effected only by the introduction of prohibition throughout the province. The introduction of prohibition will benefit the poorer classes especially."

* MR. H. O. FOWLER:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to deal with any of the figures shown in the Budget presented. I would however, like to make a few comments on three of the statements made by the Hon. the Prime Minister when he presented the Budget. I shall first refer to his statement that the Government are aware of the need for raising the status of teachers and are actively considering proposals for raising their salaries. While speaking on behalf of the teachers, I should like to voice the feelings of gratitude of this army of martyrs to the Hon. the Prime Minister and the other Ministers for this statement. Everybody in this House will agree that the teacher is a very important and indispensable unit of our life and society and that his responsibility is a colossal one. It is the teacher who takes charge of our most precious possession, our children; it is the teacher who has the grave responsibility of moulding our children's minds; it is the teacher whose task is to train the future leaders of this province, the leaders of India and perhaps the leaders of the world. (Mr. Hameed Khan: And of Ministers.) Certainly. Everybody expects the teacher to be a living example to the young minds before him, an example with regard to intelligence, an example with regard to culture, and an example with regard to moral character. And yet, in spite of these demands on the teacher, what does he get? Nothing more than a coolie's wage. (A Voice: 'Much less than that.')

"Apart from this, I should like for a moment to refer to a system which an hon. Friend touched upon very briefly, and that is that in some schools and, I believe, colleges, there is a very vicious system of teachers signing for their salaries on blank pages. I would ask the Hon. Minister for Education to look into this matter and put a stop to this scandalous state of affairs.

"That teaching is a vocation every teacher will admit, that teaching demands certain sacrifices every teacher is willing to grant, but surely there must be some limit to this sacrifice. The teacher in India, and more especially in our province, has undergone all these hardships for the past several years and it is high time that we who sit in this House look into these matters and right the wrongs of the past. I should like to convey once again to the Hon. the Premier and the other Ministers my thanks for their assurance to look into this matter. Apart from the justice done, this noble deed of paying a man a fair wage will carry with it its own reward. If you have in this province a band of teachers who are contented and happy, in the years to come you will reap the reward. They will send out into the world men and women of character and ability.

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"The second statement of the Hon. the Prime Minister to which I referred earlier is this: 'In the re-organization, a proper place and importance will be given to the regional language.' Perhaps some of my hon. Friends may believe that I, as an Anglo-Indian, am prejudiced, prejudiced in favour of English. I should like to make this quite clear. Anybody with any commonsense would admit that it is the child's birthright to be educated in his mother tongue. To that I feel that there can be no argument. There is also a desire—a very natural desire—that we should study and reach a stage of proficiency in the common language of India. With due respect to fellow-members of this House who have more experience than I in this matter, I would ask, in all sincerity, whether we are agreed that we have a common language in India? There is a tendency, as can be clearly seen even in this House, to oust English from its present position in our life and in our schools. Now, may I sound a note of warning. If it is your nationalism—which is a very very healthy sign—that wants you to promote the growth of the languages of India, nobody has any right to challenge that; but if your cry against the English language is tainted with bitterness and perhaps prejudice, because it happens to be the language of the former Government of this country, then I would ask you to be careful before you come to a decision in this very important matter. We in India should not push English completely into the background for the simple reason that it is acknowledged all over the world as the world's language. Secondly, anybody will admit that English is the key to the world's storehouse of knowledge and culture.

"The third statement of the Prime Minister to which I wish to refer is this: 'The Government have ordered that prohibition should be re-introduced.' This is a very vast subject. Various issues are involved. I feel certain that every section of the House will agree on principle that prohibition is a step in the right direction. There are admittedly problems and difficulties to be faced. There is also the financial aspect. But there is one suggestion which I would like to make to this House and it is this: Perhaps you might call it the psychological problem or the commonsense problem and it is this: If you want to root out drink, you must plant something more useful in its place; and so I would appeal to all our legislators and the Prime Minister and the other Ministers to see that in those districts where prohibition is introduced they build up, side by side, some other forms of useful and advantageous recreation."

* SRI N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI—"கனம் சபா நாயகருவர்களே, 4 p.m. கனம் சபையிலுள்ள அங்கத்தினர்களே, உங்கள் எல்லோருக்கும் முன்னால் இப்போது பிரதம மந்திரியாரவர்கள் நம்முன்னே கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும் வரவு செலவு விவரத்தைப்பற்றிப் பல நண்பர்கள் பேசி விட்டார்கள். அதைப்பற்றியே நானும் இப்போது பேசப்போகின்றேன். பிரதம மந்திரியாரவர்கள் கொண்டுவந்திருக்கும் வரவு செலவு திட்டமானது அதேக பாகங்களில் நன்றாக விருத்தாலும் இன்னும் சிறிது தாராளமாக இந்த வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தை சரிப்படுத்தியிருந்தால் என்போலுள்ளவர்களுக்கும், இந்த மாகாணத்திலுள்ள மக்களுக்கும் திருப்தியை அளித்திருக்கும். ஆனால், இப்போது தேசம் பூராவும், மாகா

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னம் பூராவும் சென்னை சட்ட சபையில் என்ன நடக்கிறதென்று ஒரே வக்கத்துடன் மக்கள் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதிலும் முக்கியமாக ஏழைமக்கள்தான் சட்டசபையை நோக்கிப் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். சட்டசபையார் இந்த ஏழை மக்களுக்குப் பிராணப் பிச்சை கொடுக்கப் போகிறார்களா இல்லையா? பஞ்சத்தைத் தடுப்பதற்கு வழி காட்டப்போகிறார்களா இல்லையா? இந்தப் பஞ்ச காலத்திலும் மதுபானத்தைவைத்து நம்மை அழிக்கப்போகின்றார்களா அல்லது மதுபானத்தை ஒழித்து காப்பாற்றப் போகின்றார்களா? என்று எதிர்பார்த்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். என் போலுள்ள வர்கள் 27 வருஷங்களாக இந்த காங்கிரஸில் சேர்ந்து மதுபானத்தை இந்த நாட்டிலிருந்து தொலைத்து விடவேண்டுமென்பதற்காக, பிரம்மசாரிய விரதம் பூண்டு இருப்பவர்கள் போல், வைராக்கியத்துடன் எம் கடமையைச் செய்து அதனால் பல கஷ்டங்களையும் அனுபவித்து வந்திருக்கிறோம். நம்முடைய வாலிபர்களும், மந்திரிகளும், பிரதம மந்திரியாரைப் போன்றவர்களும் மதுபானத்தை எடுக்கமுடிய வில்லையெ யென்று எங்கிக் கொண்டிருந்த காலமானது போய் இப்போது நல்ல சமயம் வந்திருக்கும் போழுது அதைச் செய்ய முடியாதாவென்று நான் ஏக்கங்கொண்டிருக்கிறேன். ஆகவே இப்போது மதுபானத்தை இந்த மாகாணம் பூராவும் எடுத்து விடுவதற்கு நல்ல சந்தர்ப்பம் கிடைத்திருக்கிறது; அதை உபயோகித்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்றுதான் நான் கூறுகின்றேன். இந்த மாகாணத்திலே சுமார் 5 கோடி ஜனங்களிருக்கிறார்கள். இதில் பெண்கள் 2½ கோடி போய்விட்டால், ஆண்கள் 2½ கோடி இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்களில் 12 வயதுக்குக் கீழ்ப்பட்ட ஜனங்கள் ஒரு கோடிபோனால், மீதியிருப்பவர்கள் 1½ கோடி அதிலே குடிக்காமலிருப்பவர்கள் ½ கோடி ஜனங்கள்போக பாக்கி குடிப்பவர்கள் ஒரு கோடி ஜனங்கள் ஆவார்கள்."

MR. SPEAKER.—“மதுபானத்தைப்பற்றி பலர் பேசி உள்ளார். ஆதலால் வேறு விஷயங்களைப்பற்றி பேசினால் நல்லாயிருக்கும்.”

* SRI N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI:—“கனம் அக்கிராசனரவர்கள்! மதுபானத்தைப்பற்றி 7, 8 பேர்கள் பேசி விட்டார்கள். அதைப் தவிர வேறு விஷயங்களைப்பற்றி பேசினால் நல்லாயிருக்குமென்று உத்திர விடுகின்றார். அதற்கு நான் சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன். ஆனால், என் வாழ்வையே அதற்காக அர்ப்பணம் செய்துவிட்டு அதற்காகவே சட்ட சபைக்கு ஒரு அங்கத்தினராக தேர்ந்தெடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் நான் அதைத் தவிர வேறெதைப்பற்றி நான் பேச முடியும்? “நாரணனை பாடிய வாயால் நரனைப் பாடுவேனோ” என்று ஒரு ஆழ்வார் சொல்லியுள்ளார். அதேபோல இந்தக் கள் குடியை ஒழித்து விடவேண்டுமென்று ஆர்வத்துடன் சர்வசங்க பரித்யாகம் செய்து கொண்டு வந்திருப்பதாய் நினைக்கும் நான் சமயம் வரும்போது அதைப்பற்றி பேசாமலிருப்பதென்றால், அது உசிதமாகாது. அவ்விதம் செய்வது நான் தேசத்திற்கே செய்த துரோகமாகாதா? தலைவரவர்கள் உத்திரவிட்டால் இதைப்பற்றி நான் சுருக்கமாகப் பேசி முடித்துவிடுகிறேன்.

“ஆகவே இப்போது கள் குடிக்கும் ஒரு கோடி ஜனங்கள்தான் ரூ. 13½ கோடி வரியாகக் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அதிலும் இந்தப் பணத்தை ஏழைக் குடியானவர்களும், ஹரிஜனங்களும், ஹரிஜனங்கள் போன்று தாழ்ந்த நிலைமையிலே யிருக்கிறவர்களுந்தான் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். இந்த 13½ கோடி ரூபாய் பணத்தை அவர்களிடமிருந்து நாம் வாங்கிக்கொண்டு, அதற்குப் பதிலாக ஹரிஜன உபயோகத்திற்கென்று சொல்லி ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயை ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருக்கிறோம். 13½ கோடி ரூபாய் ஜனங்களிடமிருந்து வாங்கிக்கொண்டு ஒரு கோடி ரூபாயை அவர்களுக்குத் திருப்பிக்கொடுப்பதாக இதுவிலிருந்து ஏற்படுகிறது. இது ஒரு திருப்திகரமான விஷயமல்ல. இந்த 13½ கோடி ரூபாய் ஏழை ஜனங்களுக்கு ஆதாயமாகிவிட்டால் அவர்கள் இந்தப் பஞ்ச காலத்தில் கேஷம் மாயிருப்பார்கள். இதுதான் நாம் இப்போது செய்யவேண்டிய முக்கியமான வேலை. இந்த வரவு செலவு திட்டத்திலேயே மதுபானத்தை மாகாண முழுவதும் எடுத்திருந்தால் காங்கிரஸின் நிலைமையும் நம்முடைய நிலைமையும் உயர்ந்திருக்கும். ஆனால் இப்போது அதில் ஒரு கலங்கம் ஏற்பட்டு வியாபார முறை மாதிரி நடப்பது போலத்தான் இந்த வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தைப்பற்றி ஜனங்கள் நினைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த நிலைமை நமக்கு வந்து விட்டதேயென்று

[Sri N. Annamalai Pillai] 3rd August 1946]

சதா கலையுற்றவனாக நான் இருக்கிறேன். வருஷா வருஷம் விற்பனை வரி மூலமாகவும், சினிமாவரி, எலெக்டிரிக் வரி, மெஷின்களுக்கு வரி இவைகளின் மூலமாகவும் 7½ கோடி ரூபாய் வருகிறது. இந்த வருமானத்திலிருந்து இன்று நம் கையில் 31½ கோடி ரூபாய் இருந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த முதலையும் அதோடு வருஷாவருஷம் கிடைக்கும் விற்பனை வரி வருமானத்தையும் வைத்துக்கொண்டு இந்தக் கள் குடியை குறைந்தது ஆறு வருஷங்கள் வரையில் இந்த மாகாண முழுவதும் எடுத்து விடலாம். சாதாரணமாகச் சட்டசபைக்குக்கொடுக்கப்பட்ட வயது 5 வருஷம். கையிருப்பு தொகை செலவுழிவதற்குள்ளாக நாம் வெவ்வேயே போய் விடுவோம். அடுத்த எலெக்ட்ரிக் யார் வருவார்களோ அதைப்பற்றி இப்போது நமக்குக் கலை வேண்டாம். நாம் வந்ததும் முதல் வேலையாக கள்ளுக்கடை, சாராயக்கடைகளை மூடி விடுவதாக ஜனங்கள் முன்பு நாம் சொல்லியிருக்கிறோம். ஆகவே அடியோடு இந்த மாகாண முழுவதும் கள்ளுக்கடை, சாராயக்கடைகளை உடனே எடுத்துவிடவேண்டியது நிரம்பவும் அவசியமானது, அவசரமானது, என்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இரண்டாவதாக கல்விவியப்பற்றி ஒரு வார்த்தை சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன், எனது ஜில்லாவில் கல்வி நிரம்ப பிற்போக்காகவிருக்கிறது. அதிலும் மலைச்சரிவிலேயுள்ளவர்கள், அதாவது ஜவ்வாது மலைச்சரிவிலே, அதேகம் பேர் வாழ்ந்து வருகிறார்கள். மலைச்சரிவிலேயுள்ள கிராமங்கள் என்னுடைய தொகுதியிலே மாத்திரம் 70 கிராமங்களிருக்கின்றன. அந்த ஜனங்களின் கல்வி விஷயமாக முன்பு காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபையிருந்த காலத்தில் நான் வேண்டிக்கொண்டதின் பேரில் எதோ விசாரனை செய்தார்கள். ஒரு பள்ளிக்கூடத்தை வைத்தார்கள். ஆனால், காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபைப்போனவுடனே அட்வைசர் சர்க்கார் வந்தார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு மலையிலே வாழ்கிறவர்களைப் பற்றி கலையில்லாமல் போய்விட்டது. இப்போது மறுபடியும் காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை வந்திருக்கும் போது ஜவ்வாது மலையில் வசிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு கல்வி வசதி; சுகாதார வசதி முதலிய அனைத்தையும் செய்வதற்கு உடனே ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். இந்த மக்கள் இந்த அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பாடு 200 வருஷங்களாக கல்வியறிவில்லாமல், மலையியா ஓரத்தினால் மாண்டுகொண்டும் வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் மலையியாவின் மடிவதைத் தலைவிதி யென்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இந்தத் தலைவிதியைத் தடுப்பதற்குச் சக்திவாய்ந்த சுகாதார அதிகாரிகளை நாம் வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கும்போது, அந்த ஜனங்கள் தலைவிதியினால் சாகிறுமென்று சொல்லும் நிலைமையை மாற்றவேண்டும். உடனடியாக அங்கே கல்வி, சுகாதார வசதிகளை ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். முக்கியமாக, எல்ல பள்ளிக்கூடங்களிலேயும் பையன்களை யெடுத்துக்கொள்ள இட மில்லாமலிருக்கிறது. இது விஷயத்தையும் கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக நீர்பாசனத்தைப் பெருக்க என்னுடைய தொகுதியிலே நல்ல வசதியிருக்கிறது. பெண்ணையாற்றில் இரண்டு மலைகள் சேரும் ஒரு இடம் இருக்கிறது. அந்த இடத்தில் ஒரு அணை கட்டினால், எலெக்டிரிக் கரெண்ட்கூட எடுக்கமுடியுமென்று சொல்லப்பட்டது. இது விஷயத்தைக் கவனிக்க என்ஜினியர் அவர்கள்கூட வந்தார்கள். ஆனால், கடைசியில் ஒன்றுமில்லாமற்போய்விட்டது. சமீபத்திலே நம்முடைய ‘இரிகேஷன்’ மந்திரியவர்கள் கனம் பக்தவத்சல முதலியார் வந்திருந்தபோது அவர்களிடத்தில் இதைப்பற்றி மனு செய்து கொண்டோம், அவர்களும் இதைப்பற்றிக் கவனிப்பதாகச் சொன்னார். 1946-ம் ஆண்டு ஜூலை 28-ம் தேதியில் சென்னையிலிருந்து இன்ஜினியர் வருவதாகச் சொல்லப்பட்டது. ஆனால் அவர் வரவில்லை. இதனால் நாங்கள் மிகவும் ஏமாற்றம் அடைந்தோம். தானியமில்லாத இந்தப் பஞ்சக்காலத்திலே இந்த இடத்திலே நீர் தேக்கத்தை ஏற்படுத்தினால் இந்தத் தண்ணீரைத் திருப்பித் தென் ஆற்காடு வட ஆற்காடு ஜில்லாக்களிலுள்ள பல தாலுக்காக்களுக்கு நீர்ப்பாசன வசதி ஏற்படுத்திவிடலாமென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இதுவும் லாமல் துறஞ்சிலார் அணைக்கட்டு உடைந்திருப்பதையும் உடனே ரிபேர் செய்யவேண்டும். இதைப்பற்றி மந்திரியாரிடத்தில் சொல்லிக்கொண்டோம், அதையும் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

[Sri N. Annamalai Pillai] [3rd August 1946]

“அடுத்தபடியாக இப்போது கள்ள ‘மார்கெட்டுகள்’ அதிகமாகிவிட்டது. இதைப் போக்கவேண்டுமென்றால், என்னசெய்யவேண்டுமென்பதைப்பற்றி யோசிக்கவேண்டும். நாம் கமிட்டியை ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கிறோம். இதனாலே லாம் ஒன்றும் செய்துவிடமுடியாதென்று நான் நினைக்கிறேன். இவை களினால் பதுக்கிவைத்திருக்கிற சாமான்களை ஒரு வேலை வெளியிலேகொண்ட ரை பிரயோஜனப்படுமெய்யாழிய ஜனங்களுடைய கஷ்டத்தைத் தீர்க்க முடியாது. விவசாயத்தையும், மில்களையும் சர்க்காரே எடுத்து நடத்த வேண்டும். பெரிய மிராசதாரர்களிடத்திலிருக்கும் நிலத்தையெல்லாம் சர்க்காரே கைக்குக் கொண்டு எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பயிரிடவேண்டும். அதற்காக வேன்று ஒரு ஸ்கீம்மையும் ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். இன்று கிணறு வெட்டுவதற்கு பணத்தை சர்க்கார் கொடுத்தாலும், அதற்கு ஆள் கிடைப்பதில்லை. ஆரம்பத்திலே கெஜத்திற்கு கூலி 3 ரூபாய் இருந்தது. இப்போது ஒரு கெஜம் வெட்டுவதற்கு 3 ரூபாய் கேழ்க்கின்றார்கள். அதோடு வெட்டுவதற்கு வேண்டிய கட்டப்பாறை, மண்வெட்டி முதலிய கருவிகளும் கிடைப்பதில்லை. ஆகவே, கிணறு வெட்டும் விஷயத்தில் அரசாங்கமே அந்தக் காரியத்தையெடுத்துக்கொண்டு அதற்கு வேண்டிய ஆட்களையும், சாமான்களையும் கொடுத்துவேலை செய்தால், வெகு சீக்கிரத்திலே கிணறு களை வெட்டி பயிரை உற்பத்தி செய்துவிடலாம். நான்கு மாதத்திற்குள் லாகவே மகசூலை அறுத்துக்கொண்டுவந்து விடலாமென்று நான் யோசனை சொல்லுகிறேன்.

“வைத்திய இலாக்காவைப்பற்றி ஒரு வார்த்தை சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில் திருவண்ணாமலையிலேயும், வந்தவாசி, செய்யார் முதலிய ரயில் வசதியில்லாத இடங்களிலே எல்லாம் ஜனங்கள் வைத்திய வசதியில்லாமல் நிரம்ப கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். அங்குள்ள ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளெல்லாம் நிரம்ப மோசமாகவிருக்கின்றன. அந்த ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளிலே பிரசவத்திற்கு வந்தால், இடங்கிடையாது. இந்த ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளின் நிலைமையைப்பற்றி உதாரணமாக ஒரு விஷயத்தைச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். என்னவென்றால் சில வருஷங்களுக்கு முன்பு செங்கத்திலே ஒரு ஹரிஜனபெண் பிரசவத்திற்காக ஆஸ்பத்திரிக்கு வந்தாள். அவள் ஆஸ்பத்திரியிலே பிரசவிக்க முடியாமல் அதிகம் கஷ்டப்பட்டாள். கடைசியில் குழந்தையைக் கை மாதிரம் வெளியிலே வந்தாள். அந்த டாக்டர் கையை வெட்டியெடுத்துவிட்டார். ஆனால் இறந்த குழந்தையை வெட்டியெடுக்க அந்த டாக்டருக்கு சக்தியில்லாமற் போய்விட்டது. அவர் முடியாதென்று சொல்லி விட்டார். இதைப்பார்த்து ஜனங்கள் கூக்குரலிட்டுக் கொண்டிருந்தார்கள். டேனிஷ் மீஷனைச் சேர்ந்த ஒரு அம்மான், இதைக் கேட்டு தன்னுடைய காரிலே ஏற்றிக்கொண்டு அந்தப் பெண்ணை திருவண்ணாமலை ஆஸ்பத்திரிக்கும் கொண்டுவந்தார்கள். அங்கே, ஒரு நாள் இருந்து அந்தப் பெண் செத்துப் போனாள். ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளின் நிலைமையைப்பற்றி மற்றொரு விஷயத்தையும் உங்களுக்குச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். சுமார் 4, 5 மாதங்களுக்கு முன்பு திருவண்ணாமலை ஆஸ்பத்திரியில் ஒரு பிரசவம் நடந்தது. ராத்திரி சுமார் இரண்டு மணிக்கு ஒரு பெண் பிரசவித்தாள். அந்தச் சமயத்தில் மருத்துவச்சி அங்கேயில்லை. பிரசவித்ததும் அந்தப் பெண் மயக்கமாயிருக்கும்போது, ஒரு நாய் வந்து அவளுடைய குழந்தையைத் தூக்கிக்கொண்டுபோய்விட்டது. இந்தச் சபையிலே இதைச் சொல்ல எனக்கு எவ்வளவு மனக்கொதிப்பு இருக்குமென்று நீங்கள் நினைக்கவேண்டும். சென்ற அடவைசர் அரசாங்கத்திலே ஆஸ்பத்திரியிலே ஒரு பெண் பிரசவித்த குழந்தையை ஒரு நாய் கொண்டு போய் விட்டது. காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கம் வந்துங்கூட ஆஸ்பத்திரிகள் அதே நிலைமையில் இருந்துகொண்டிருக்கக்கூடாது. என்னுடைய மருமகளை சம்பத்தில் பிரசவத்திற்காக அதே ஆஸ்பத்திரிக்குக் கொண்டுபோனேன். முன்பு இருந்த நாய் இருக்கிறதா இல்லையா என்று இங்கிருந்த டாக்டரைக் கேட்டேன். அந்த டாக்டர் இப்போதில்லை. நான் வேறொருவனுக்கு அவர் சொன்னார். அந்தக் குழந்தையை நாய் கொண்டுபோனாலே அங்கேயிருந்த டாக்டர்கள் என்னென்னமொ செய்து அந்த விஷயத்தை ‘ஸ்வாஹா’ செய்து விட்டார்கள். அந்தப் பெண்ணுக்கு ஏதோ கொஞ்சம் பணத்தைக் கொடுத்து அரசாங்கம் வரையில் அது எட்டாதபடி செய்து விட்டார்கள். இதையெல்லாம் ஏன் சொல்லுகிறேனென்றால், ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளிலே பிரசவிப்பதற்குப் பெண்கள் வந்தால் அவர்களுக்கு தகுந்த

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வைத்திய வசதிகளை ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும். இப்போது வைத்திய இலாக்கா மந்திரியாக இருப்பவர்கள் பெண்பாலாக விருப்பதால், அந்த அம்மாளுக்கு இந்த விஷயத்திலே நிரம்ப அக்கரை இருக்குமென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன். பிரசவ கஷ்டம் என்னவென்பது அவர்களுக்குத்தெரியும். என் போல ஆண்களுக்கு அதைப்பற்றி தெரியாது. ஆகவே மந்திரியவர்கள் இதற்கான காரியங்களைச் செய்வார்களென்று நம்புகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக இன்று போலீஸ் இலாக்கா எப்படியிருக்கிறதென்றால் அவர்கள் ஜனங்களுடைய ஊழியர்களென்பதை மறந்திருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்கள் ஜனங்களுடைய காவலாட்களென்பதை மறந்து, பெரிய மனிதர்களையும் மிரட்டிவருகிறார்கள். போலீஸ் டிரெயினிங் ஸ்கூலிலே “நீங்கள் ஜனங்களுடைய ஊழியர்கள்; அவர்களைக் காப்பற்றுவதற்காக உங்களை வைத்திருக்கிறோம்; திருடன், கொலைபாதகன் இவர்களையடக்க உங்களுக்கு பாதியைதயிருக்கிறதே யொழிய நல்லவர்களையடக்க உங்களுக்கு அதிகாரமில்லை” என்பதை போலீஸ் பள்ளிக்கூடத்திலேயே அவர்கள் உணரும்படி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். மற்றும் ஒரு விஷயத்தைச் சொல்லிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். ஆகஸ்ட் கலவரத்தின்போது அரசாங்கமும், போலீசாரும், இன்னும் மற்றவர்களும் அநேகநேரமான அரிதும் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். உதாரணமாக திருவாளர், பூலாங்குரிச்சி, ஆறுமுகநேரி, தென்னாவி முதலிய இடங்களிலே போலீஸார் செய்த அட்டோழியங்களைச் சொல்லமுடியாது. இந்த இடங்களிலேயெல்லாம் என்ன நடந்தது என்பதையாகிலும் தெரிந்துகொள்வதற்காக ஒரு கமிட்டியை நியமிக்கவேண்டியது ரொம்ப அவசியமென்று நான் பிரதம மந்திரியவர்களுக்கு தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளவிரும்புகிறேன்.

“இப்போது எங்கே பார்த்தாலும் தொழிலாளர்களுடைய வேலை நிறுத்தம் தாண்டவமாடிவருகிறது. வேலைநிறுத்தம் எங்கேயாவது ஏற்பட்டால், தொழிலாளர்களைக் கூப்பிட்டு அந்த வேலைநிறுத்தத்தை மந்திரி சபை உடனே தீர்க்கவேண்டும். தாமதித்தால் மக்கள் பசியால் மாண்டு விடுவார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி கஷ்டங்களைத் தவிர்க்கவேண்டுமென்று மந்திரி சபையை நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“மற்றும் உபாத்தியாயர்கள் பட்டம் கஷ்டத்தைப்பற்றிச் சொல்ல முடியாது. ‘Fowler’ அவர்கள் இதைப்பற்றி நிரம்ப விரிவாகச் சொல்லியுள்ளார். ஒரே பாகைவில் தேறிய உபாத்தியாயர்களுக்கு எயிடெட் ஸ்கூல்களிலே ஒருவித சம்பளம், பஞ்சாயத் ஸ்கூல்களிலே ஒருவித சம்பளம், முனிசிபல் ஸ்கூல்களிலே ஒருவித சம்பளம், டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் போர்ட் ஸ்கூல்களிலே ஒருவித சம்பளம், இப்படி 5, 6 ரகமாக சம்பளம் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. எல்லோரும் ஒரே ஹைர் கிரேட் சர்ட்டிபிகேட்டான் பெற்றிருக்கிறார்கள். எந்த பள்ளிக்கூடத்திலே வேலை செய்தாலென்ன, எல்லோருக்கும் ஒரே திட்டமான சம்பளத்தை என் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது? காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் இந்தக் குறைகளையெல்லாம் நிவர்த்தி செய்யவேண்டும். உபாத்தியாயர்களுக்கு குறைந்தபட்ச ரூமப் வாழ்க்கையை நடத்துவதற்கு மாதம் ரூபாய் 30 சம்பளம் நிர்ணயம் செய்யப்பட்டால் நலமாயிருக்கும். தேவஸ்தான பணத்தையெடுத்துப் படிப்புக்கு உபயோகப்படுத்தலாமென்று வரவு செலவு திட்டத்திலே சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இவ்விதம் எடுக்கப்படும் பணமானது எந்தக் கோயில் அல்லது தர்ம பரிபாலத்தைச் சேர்ந்ததோ அந்தக் கோயிலுள்ள ஊரின் கல்வி அல்லது அந்த ஜில்லா கல்வி அபிவிருத்திக்காகவே செலவழிக்கப்படவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

“அடுத்ததாக, கிராம பஞ்சாயத்துக்களிலேயும், முனிசிபாலிட்டிகளிலும் நிர்வாகத்தை நடத்தக் கமிஷனர்களைப் போட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அதே மாதிரி ஜில்லா போர்டுகளுக்கும் எக்ஸிக்யூடிவ் ஆபீசர்களை நியமிக்கவேண்டும். பஞ்சாயத்துக்களிலே மைனர் பஞ்சாயத்தாக விருந்தாலும், அவைகளுக்கு ஒரு மணியக்காரன் ரேட்டிலேயாவது ஒரு எக்ஸிக்யூடிவ் ஆபீசரைப் போடவேண்டும். பஞ்சாயத்து பிரசிடெண்டாக யார் வந்தாலும், வரட்டும், ஆனால் அங்கே ஒரு படித்த நபரை நிர்வாகஸ்தராகப் போட்டால், அங்கே வேலை நன்றாக நடக்குமென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன்.

“ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்ற விஷயமாக அவர்களுக்கு ஆலயங்களைத் திறந்து விட்டால், போதுமானது. பிறகு எல்லாச் சௌகரியங்களும் அவர்களுக்குத்தானாகக் கிடைத்துவிடும். பொருளாதார துறையில் அவர்கள் பிறகு

[Sri N. Annamalai Pillai] [3rd August 1946]

முன்னேற்றமடைந்து விடுவார்கள். இந்தக் கோயில்களை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குத் திறந்துவைக்கும் விஷயத்தில் பிரதம மந்திரியார் நிரம்ப தைரியமாக நடந்துகொண்டால், அவர் மூலம் ராமாணுவஜனப்போலக் கீர்த்தி வாழ்ந்தவராக விளங்குவாரென்று நான் நம்புகிறேன்.

“மோட்டார் பஸ் லைசென்ஸ் விஷயமாக, இன்று 20 மோட்டார் பஸ்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறவர்களுக்குத்தான் சர்க்காரில் லைசென்ஸ் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. இதனால், லைசென்ஸ் பெற்றவர்கள் 20 பஸ்களை ஒட்டுவதற்குப் பதிலாக 10, 12 பஸ்களைத்தான் ஒட்டுகிறார்கள். அந்த 10 பஸ்களிலே 20 பஸ்களிலே ஏறவேண்டிய ஜனங்களை ஆடுமாடுகளைப் போல அடைத்துவிடுகிறார்கள். அதே பஸ்களிலே டெப்டி கலெக்டர், டெப்டி சூபிரெண்டென்ட், போலீஸ் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் எல்லோரும் போகிறார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி திக்கற்ற நிலைமை எப்போதும் இருந்தது கிடையாது. ஆகவே, 20 பஸ்களுள்ள கம்பெனிக்கு லைசென்ஸ் கொடுப்பதென்றிருப்பதை மாற்றி 5 பஸ்களைக்கொண்ட கம்பெனிக்கும் லைசென்ஸ் கொடுப்பதென்றிருந்தால் பஸ்களில் ஜனங்களுக்கு தாராளமாக இடம் கிடைக்கும் இத்துடன் நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—“Mr. Speaker, I rise to join in the chorus of praise that has been lavished on our Prime Minister on his presenting a Budget which to all intents and purposes meets with the general approval of this House. I desire also to express a few thoughts which occur to me on two questions, namely, the Educational policy of the Government and the introduction of Prohibition. The Hon. Minister for Education, apparently with the intention of translating his ideologies into swift action, has promulgated at very short notice an order directing the stoppage of the teaching of English in the first four classes of Elementary Schools, and the substitution instead of instruction in the regional language at considerable inconvenience to the heads of schools who have suddenly been called upon to make the necessary adjustments to meet the new situation, and also at considerable inconvenience to the pupils concerned. In addition he has directed that English shall not be taught in the fifth class from this year onwards and in the sixth class from the next year. Consider what the effect of this will be on the students who will have only three or four years' preparation in English for the S.S.L.C. examination.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“May I correct the hon. Member. English is abolished only in the fourth and fifth classes. It is taught from the First Form upwards and there will be six years for preparing for the S.S.L.C.”

MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—“Even after 8 years' preparation the standard of English in the School Final is generally poor; so after only six years the standard will certainly be much poorer. And students contemplating University education will still further be handicapped in working up to the standard required by the University. Without intending to wound the feelings of any one in this House I may say, Sir, that we ought not to allow a deep hatred of British Imperialism to narrow our outlook to the extent of attempting to eradicate the English language.”

“Adverting to the question of instruction through the regional language I think it is not without good reason that several of my

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hon. Friends of the Muslim group have expressed grave concern, a concern which is shared by other minority communities. Consider the plight of officials and non-officials holding appointments in which they are liable to be transferred from one district to another. Take the case of a parent in Tanjore with his children at school being taught in Tamil who is transferred overnight to Malabar. What happens? If there is a school imparting instruction through Tamil, all right, if not the pupil has to learn Malayalam and until he learns Malayalam his educational progress is retarded. That apart, it seems to me that in principle it constitutes an infringement of the inherent right of every individual citizen to have his own culture and religion respected by members of the other communities. It is not playing the game to ram down the throats of unwilling people an ideology simply because one happens to have a majority and can easily have it all his own way. The Ministry is responsible not merely to its Party but to the entire people of this Province. As such important matters should be considered with an unbiased mind and action taken so that the interests of the people will not be adversely affected. To this end the Ministry should give due weight and consideration to the views of the people expressed on the floor of this House by their elected representatives. I am glad that the Hon. the Minister for Education is issuing a questionnaire which seems to be a step in the right direction as he now makes us feel that he is going to take the public into his confidence. It will certainly be to the benefit of all concerned if he does so.

“I come now to that vexed question the introduction of Prohibition. Allow me to assure you that I am neither a protagonist of drink nor do I hold a brief for any vested interests when I talk on the subject. I hold a view which may surprise this House, but I express it because I always express what I feel irrespective of what others think. I am one with the whole House in appreciating the steps taken to relieve the unfortunate lot of millions of poor people who are addicted to this evil as a result of which endless misery is brought on their families. I notice in the Budget that nearly 13 crores of rupees are realized by the sale of country spirit and fermented liquor to these poor unfortunates. But what I feel, Sir, is this. If millions misuse drink, why should you curtail the individual liberty of people who use drink within reasonable limits. We should be allowed to do as we like, and our liberty should not be restrained. When we go wrong, there will be time enough to correct us. I know it is useless to say all this now. But anyway, I express the views which I hold on the matter.”

“I congratulate our Prime Minister on the wisdom of his decision to introduce Prohibition by stages. Many hon. Members have plumped for total Prohibition. The protagonists of total Prohibition have all harped on one point, namely, the legacy left by the Advisers' regime which can be used to make good the loss of Excise revenue. But there are other weighty considerations which must be taken into account before taking a leap in the dark by introducing total Prohibition.

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"Now, Sir, I remember to have seen in the 'Mail' that the result of introduction of Prohibition in the four districts in question will be to throw 125,000 labourers out of employment. Consider what that figure will be if total Prohibition were introduced in the whole Province at once. What are you going to do with this large mass of unemployed people seething with discontent? If Government want to make Prohibition a success they cannot but proceed by stages. They must watch carefully the results in the districts where it is introduced. If the Ministry, on the other hand, listens to the pleadings of some Members of its Party and introduce total Prohibition at once it will prove a thorough failure. The protagonists of total Prohibition will themselves be the first to criticize the Ministry for making a failure of total Prohibition. With these words, I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me an opportunity to speak."

*HAJI K. M. AHMAD KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, as the hon. Members who have spoken before me have dealt with the various issues arising out of the Budget, I like to deal with only one aspect of the matter which has struck me.

"A sum of one crore of rupees has been set apart for Harijan uplift. That is well and good. But I ask, does not the Government have an equally great duty in helping other backward sections of the community who are equally in need of help and encouragement? It is a well known and well established fact that Muslims, especially Moplahs are backward educationally. Is it not an elementary principle of good Government that such a community should be given every encouragement and brought up to the level of the sister communities? The present Government are boasting of the national character of their Party. Then should there not be a generous grant set apart for the uplift of all backward communities including the Muslims? Let the Government understand that they will be judged by their deeds and not by empty talks of unity and brotherhood. I am very sorry to say that the Budget has not made any special provision for Moplah education at all. I draw the attention of the Hon. the Premier to the fact that Moplah women's education deserves special help and consideration of the Government. The Muslim Girls' High School at Tirur is the only institution of its kind in Malabar and it is our fond hope that it should be raised to the status of a College without any further delay as also the Muslim Boys' High School at Malappuram. Surely Moplahs can demand with every right two colleges of their own, to which I hope the Hon. the Premier will give due consideration.

"Mr. Speaker, I wish to record my strong protest at the stepmotherly treatment that Malabar is receiving. While Andhra Desa and Tamilnad have taken the lion's share of the budget grants, Malabar seems to be only contributing to the revenues. I wish the Hon. the Premier will consider this aspect of the question and see that Malabar gets its legitimate share of the benefits. It is high time that Malabar had two more first grade colleges

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and one Engineering College and one Medical College for itself. Is this too much to ask, considering what the other parts of the Province are getting?

"I request the Hon. the Premier to give his special attention to Malabar and especially to the Moplahs, so that they may also be encouraged. I hope he will."

*SRI B. VENKATANARAYANA REDDI:—"అధ్యక్షా! మద్యపాన నిషేధ విషయంలో చాలామంది సభ్యులు రాష్ట్రమంతటా మద్యపాన నిషేధము అమలమని మనవిచేస్తూవున్నారు. వారిలో నేనుకూడా ఒకరిని విజ్ఞప్తి చేస్తూవున్నాను. అయితే, మా ఆందోళనకు ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారు కూడా యీ రాష్ట్రములో మద్యపానం సంపూర్ణముగా నిషేధించబోవలసివచ్చును అని పరిశీలించడం వలన మనస్సులో పరితాపపడతూ వుంటారని అనుకొంటున్నాను. అయితే, కార్యచరణలోవున్నట్టి సాధక బాధకాలు వారు నిర్ణయించుకొని, వారి ధైర్యశక్తిగలవారు ప్రయోగించుకొని, యీ కార్యమును నెరవేర్చి, ప్రజలయొక్క ఆహ్లాదమును బడయవలసినదిగా నేను కోరుతున్నాను.

"రాష్ట్రమును ఆవరించివున్నట్టి ఆహారసమస్య విషయములో ఒక్క విషయము మాత్రము మనవిచేయడము నా ధర్మమని భావిస్తున్నాను. రాష్ట్రములో చాలా నదులలో ప్రవహించుచున్నట్టి నీరు, బావులలోవున్నట్టి నీరు వున్నది. వ్యవసాయానికి ఇది అన్నికూడా సవ్యముగా ప్రయోగపెట్టి, వ్యవసాయమును అభివృద్ధిచేయవలసినదిగా కోరుచున్నాను. ఈ విషయములో చాలా అవకాశాలువున్నాయి. తుంగభద్రా ప్రాజెక్టు మొదలైన పెద్ద పెద్ద ప్రాజెక్టులతో సంతృప్తి పడకూడదు. చిన్న నీటి సౌకర్యములుకూడా కలగజేయవలయును. దీనికొరకై చిన్న చిన్న నదులనుకూడా ప్రయోగించుకొనవలెను. వాటికి సరిఅయిన మరమ్మత్తు చేయించవలెను. ఇప్పటికంటే కూడా యింకా చాలా అవకాశములు పండించడానికి అవకాశము ఏర్పడుతుంది. ఆప్పుడు ఆహార సమస్యపరిష్కారానికి తగినదోహదము కల్పించినవారము అగుదుము. వైస, రైతులుకూడా కాగుపడుతారు. ఈ విషయములో ముఖ్యముగా మన రాష్ట్రములోవున్న జలాశయాలు అభివృద్ధిపరచవలెను. ఇటీవలకూడా ఆహారసమస్య విషయములో మంత్రిగారు సెలవిచ్చివున్నారు. మన రాష్ట్రములో జమీందారీ విరియో మూడవవంతుకన్నా జాస్తిగావున్నది. చెరువులు, జలాశయాలు అన్నీకూడా చెడి విండ్ల తరబడిగా ఏ మాత్రము నేద్యము చేయడానికి ఉపయోగపడడములేదు. రాను రాను, యివిఅన్నీ చాలాఅందర అవుతున్నవి. ఇప్పుడేకాదు, అడ్వైసరీస్ (Advisers) కాలములోకూడా దీనిని గమనించే, 1943 వ సంవత్సరములో ఇరిగేషన్ ఆక్టు (Irrigation Act) సవరణచేసి జమీందారీలలోని జలాశయములు ప్రభుత్వం రివేరు చేయులాగున చేసినారు. కాని, చట్టము చేయడమేగాని, దీనిని అమలుమాత్రము జరుపలేదు. ఇప్పుడు, యీ అవకాశాలలో ఒకతట్టు అన్నములేకుండా రాష్ట్రములో అంతా బాధపడుతున్నట్లే, కేవలము డబ్బు ఖర్చుపెట్టి, యీ అవకాశాలు కల్పించితే, కావలసిన ఆహారాన్ని పుష్కలీచేయడానికి అవకాశమువుంటుంది. ఈ విషయములో ప్రభుత్వమువారు చాలా శ్రద్ధవహించవలసిన నేను మనవిచేస్తూవున్నాను. ఈ వ్యవహారమును చాలాకచ్చితముగా సాగించవలెను. ప్రతి జిల్లాలో ఒక్కొక్క కమిటీ (Committee)ని ఏర్పరచవలెను. అధికారులు, అసభికారులు, ప్రభుత్వము కలసి పని చేయవలయును. ఇప్పుడే దీనికి తగిన సన్నాహాలుచేసి రాష్ట్రములోని జమీను ప్రాంతాల జలాశయములను కాగుచేయడము అవసరము.

"తరువాత ప్రత్యేకముగా యీ బడ్జెటులో హరిజనుల అభివృద్ధికి కోటి రూపాయలు యివ్వడము, మూడుకోట్ల రూపాయలు గ్రామ పునర్నిర్మాణమునకు యివ్వడము,

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యీ ప్రభుత్వానికి హరిజనులపట్ల, గ్రామ పునర్నిర్మాణముపట్ల చాల శ్రద్ధభక్తియుల విరచితుంది. అయితే గ్రామ పునర్నిర్మాణమువిషయములో నేనుకూడా రెండు విషయాలు చెప్పతాను. ఏదో ఒక్క ఫిర్కా నిర్ణయముచేయడంకంటే ప్రతి ఫిర్కా (firka) లోను, ప్రతి గ్రామములోనుకూడ గ్రామ కమిటీలు ఆభివృద్ధిచేయవలయును. వెనుక కాంగ్రెసు మంత్రివర్గములో ప్రధానమంత్రిగారు యీవిషయమై ఒక బిల్లును తయారుచేసినట్లు విన్నాను. ఇప్పుడు గ్రామములలో సంపూర్ణమైన ఆధికారము తమ వ్యవహారాలు చూచుకొనేదానికి గ్రామస్థులకు ఆధికారముయిచ్చి, సంపూర్ణముగా రాష్ట్రమంతటికీకూడ గ్రామ పునర్నిర్మాణ పథకము తయారుచేసి, అందులో కొంత భాగము పంచాయతీలు భరించేట్లు, కొంతభాగము రాష్ట్రప్రభుత్వము భరించేట్లు నిర్ణయించలే వాగుంటుంది. ఈవిధముగా గ్రామ పునర్నిర్మాణ కార్యక్రమానికి పూనుకొనేవారికి ఆవకాశములు కలుగజేయవలయును. ఈవిధముగా పథకము తయారుచేయవలసినట్లే చాలా హెచ్చు డబ్బు కావలసివస్తుంది. నేను సూచించిన విషయమును ప్రధానమంత్రిగారు గమనించవలసిన మనవిచేస్తూవున్నాను.

“మన రాష్ట్రములోపున్న జమీందారీల విషయము యింక చెప్ప నవసరంలేదు ! ఆక్రండి ప్రజలు పడుతూవున్న బాధలు, అనుభవించుచున్న కష్టములు, చెప్ప నలవి కాదు. ఈ విషయంలో ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారుకూడ వెనుక ఒక కమిటీలోవుండి బ్రహ్మాండమైన రిపోర్టును తయారుచేసినారు. కాని, ముఖ్యముగా కాంగ్రెసు పరిపాలనలోకూడా, కాంగ్రెసు మంత్రివర్గము పున్నరోజులలోకూడా జమీందారులు రైతులను బాధించుతూ వున్నారు. వంటచెరుకులు లేకుండా రైతులు అడవులకు వెళ్లి కట్టెలు తెచ్చుకుంటే క్రిమినలు కేసులు పెట్టుతూవున్నారు. వెంకటగిరిలో ముఖ్యముగా యీ కేసులు చాలా జాస్తిగా వున్నాయి. ఎండిన వైల్లకు శిస్తులు కట్టడని బలవంతపరుచుచున్నారు హరిజనులను. సి.టి. ఆక్టు (C.T. Act) లో మొగవాల్సని, అడవాల్సని చేర్చడము, అడవాల్సనికూడా పోలీసుస్టేషనులలో రాత్రి రిపోర్టుచేసికొమ్మనడము జరుగుతూవుంది. ఇట్టి అక్రమాలు జరుగకుండా కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వము చూడవలసిన మనవిచేసికొనుచున్నాను. తక్షణమే జమీందారీలను తొలగించి వీరివలన ప్రజలకు బాధలులేకుండా చేయ ప్రార్థించుచున్నాను.

“వాళ్లు త్రవ్వించుటకు రాయలసీమలో చాల కఠినమైన బండలు వున్నాయని, యిబ్బందులు వున్నాయని గవర్నమెంటు గ్రాంటును 5 వందల రూపాయలకు పెంచినారు. నెల్లూరుజిల్లాలోని మెట్ట తాలూకాలకుకూడ రాయలసీమకు నిర్ణయించిన మొత్తమును యివ్వవలయునని నేను కోరుచున్నాను. జమీందారీలలో రైతుల ఆస్తు దరఖాస్తుల విషయంలో చాలా అన్యాయాలు జరుగుతూవున్నాయి. లోను ఆప్లికేషనులు (Loan applications) సరిగ్గా మంజూరుచేయడంలేదు. వెంటనే అట్టివి మంజూరుజేయవలయు చూడవలసిన ప్రార్థిస్తూవున్నాను.

“ఇక ధాన్యమువిషయములో ప్రభుత్వమువారు యిటీవల బోసనులు (Conus) యిచ్చినారు. దీనివలన ఫలితముకూడా కలిగింది అని అనుకొంటూవున్నాను. కాని దీని బట్టి యింకముందుకూడా అడగగానే రైతులు ధాన్యమును యివ్వకుండావుంటారా అనికూడా సందేహించవలసివస్తుంది. లోకములో ప్రజలు తిండిలేక బాధపడుతూ వున్నారను పాపభీతిచేగాని అధికారుల జులంకు భయపడిగాని అడుగగానే ధాన్యము ముందుగాయిచ్చిన రైతులకుకూడా కొంత మొత్తం బోసను యిప్పించడము అవసరము. ఇట్లు యివ్వడమువలన ముందుముందు ధాన్యము నేకరించుటకుకూడా చాలా అనుకూలముగా నుండగలదు.

[3rd August 1946] [Sri B. Venkatanarayana Reddi]

“మధ్యపానవిషయము విషయంలో కాంగ్రెసు వెనుక 1921 లో యీ రాష్ట్రములో సాగించ ఉద్యమములో నెల్లూరుజిల్లా సాటిలేని మేటిజిల్లా యని కీర్తివహించినది. వెనుక కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వమే మొట్టమొదట యీ ఆవకాశము నెల్లూరు జిల్లాకు యిచ్చివుండవలసినది. కాబట్టి యిప్పుడుఅయినా మొట్టమొదట యీ ఆవకాశమును చూ జిల్లాకుకూడా యిప్పించవలసిన కోరుచున్నాను.”

* MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to first of all congratulate the Hon. the Premier on some of the bold schemes he has included in the Budget; but at the same time I must say I am sorry he has not gone far enough.

“I wish to point out that in giving preference to irrigation proposals and irrigation schemes rather than to highways, the Premier has exercised his discretion well. Of course, it is only by improving irrigational facilities that the production of food can be improved. Sir, it is not only by improving irrigational facilities, but by developing and carrying out irrigational schemes and irrigational proposals that we can solve this problem. Even before we can get water for us to control, we have to get rains and that requires re-forestation which will help us to get as much rain as we have been getting before. Now, owing to the system of coupes and of removing forest manure and of large quantities of timber from the forests, the forests have now become barren and that is mostly responsible for our getting less and less of rain. I have been told, Sir, that about sixty years before, a far-seeing Conservator of Forests made a report that if the present system continued for another seventy or eighty years then the districts of Tinnevely, Ramnad and Madura would become deserts. I now understand it is about fifty years from that time and already we are on the brink of the calamity and are not getting adequate rain. The symptoms are such that his anticipation will prove only too true. Before we are faced with such a calamity, I may suggest that the Ministry should take care sufficiently in advance to make the necessary arrangements for reforestation and avert this calamity. I may also mention here that even the present provision for irrigational facilities, so far as Tamil Nad is concerned, is not sufficient. I do not know, Sir, why most of the irrigation proposals and most of the projects should be devoted to the area north of the City and not either to the west or to the south of the City. Whatever it is, I wish the Ministry will not lose time in making necessary arrangements for investigating in the Tamil Nad as well as in Kerala as to what proposals can be carried out in order to improve irrigational facilities, so that the production of foodgrains may be advanced by leaps and bounds. So far as Tinnevely district is concerned, the Papanasam project does not seem to produce sufficient electricity to be distributed to the outlying villages wherein the ryots and the farmers are badly in need of raising water from their wells. Now-a-days, Sir, bulls are not available in sufficient numbers to the farmers for drawing water from wells for irrigating their fields, and even necessary implements are not available

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for this purpose. Therefore, unless electricity is made available to the farmers even in the remotest villages to draw water from their wells to irrigate their fields and unless improved and advanced implements of agriculture are made available to the farmers, we cannot succeed to any great extent in improving or increasing the wealth of our country. I therefore wish to suggest that the Ministry should make provision for establishing factories and for establishing agencies, either to get or manufacture the necessary scientific implements for the peasants in large numbers and at sufficiently cheap prices which will make them afford to purchase them and use them for good. I also wish to point out, Sir, that more attention should be paid to the industrialisation of our country. It is only by industrialisation that agriculture also can be improved; it is only by the manufacture of scientifically rich manures and scientific implements that production of food grains and agriculture can be improved. Not only that; it is only by industrialisation that we can increase the production of cloth, the scarcity of which is now staring us in our face. It is only by industrialisation that we can produce adequate yarn, so that our handloom weavers can get sufficient yarn to keep them engaged throughout the thirty days of the month. Unless, therefore, you are going to make provision for such industrialisation in our province, I am afraid we will certainly be left behind by the other provinces to our disadvantage. Now, with the most advanced industrial country in the East, viz., Japan, defeated Japan will not be an adversely affecting factor in the field of industry and therefore we can now make a good start. Besides, the other foreign countries in the world are also now not in a sound condition and are in pell-mell as they are still making preparation to start and re-start. This is the time for us to start to be abreast of the times.

5 p.m. "Therefore, if necessary, sufficient provision may be made for the industrialisation of our Province. If we can make a very good start just at this time, it will certainly go a long way towards improving the prosperity of our Province.

"Next, Sir, I wish also to point out that vast areas in zamindaries are lying waste and the abolition of the zamindari system is an indispensable necessity for improving the production and for improving the wealth of our Province. While other Governments in other parts of the country are taking steps to abolish the zamindari system, I do not know why our Government has not made at least a beginning towards that end.

"Next, Sir, I wish to refer to one grievance of our community so far as the procurement of foodgrains and distribution are concerned and that is, in regard to the constitution of village committees. Sir, when the proposal was made on the floor of the House for the formation of village committees, it was declared by the Hon. the Prime Minister that no political considerations will prevail in the formation of those committees. I am glad to mention that the Government Order issued on this subject specifically mentions that only the real representatives of the people

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should be appointed to those committees irrespective of their political affiliations but what is being done in practice is quite at variance with this declaration of the Hon. the Prime Minister and the direction contained in the Government Order. Very often authorities are influenced by Congress Party leaders who give consideration to their political affiliations. The Leaders of Congress Party frequently refer the matter of selection to the Ministers who pay visits to the districts once in alternate weeks, if not every week. I do not know what they say to the authorities, but I do know that they do not emphatically point out to the officer concerned that they should select men who are the real representatives of the people irrespective of their political affiliations and in pursuance of the Government Order. If they say so definitely and unequivocally, I do not think that any minority community will have any reason or any cause for grievance. I request the Hon. Minister to take some care towards remedying this grievance.

"Now, Sir, let me pass to the question of separation of Judiciary from the Executive. It is a long-felt measure. Even in 1937, the Congress Ministry which was then in office was promising to take some steps necessarily and urgently to separate the Judiciary from the Executive. Now, Sir, at the beginning of the formation of the present Ministry, we found that the Minister for Law was very anxious, very enthusiastic in bringing into effect the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive but as days pass on, we find some change in his attitude as well as in the attitude of the Ministry. I had occasion to hear him recently when he was making his reply to the address presented by the Tinnevely Bar Association. There, he made mention of the fact that the present magistrates were drawn from the omnipotent Secretariat of the Revenue Department and were taught law by the lawyers and that they have been well equipped for the responsible positions they occupy. If this change has come over, so soon, Sir, certainly we have reason to feel whether this measure of separation of the Judiciary from the Executive will in course of time be enforced at all. Sir, the only answer to the statement of the Hon. the Minister for Law, viz., that the present magistrates are well-equipped to discharge their functions, will be that whatever may be their equipment, whatever may be their aptitude, whatever may be the lessons that have been taught them by the lawyers, still I am sure they cannot equal a lawyer-magistrate of independent judiciary. In this connexion, I would like to quote a Tamil proverb, viz., "உயர உயர பரந்தாலும் ஊர்க்குருவி பருந்தாகுமா?" However much the magistrate might have been taught, however much he may be well-equipped, still he cannot be equal to a lawyer becoming a magistrate and discharging his functions as such. Therefore, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister for Law to pay serious consideration to this matter and I request him to remember that whatever was his feeling when he was in the Opposition, when he was out of the Government, the same feeling should continue to be with him so that others who are now in his former position may not suffer and feel frustrated as he and his colleagues were once suffering from. I, therefore,

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request the Government that as this is a very important, immediate and urgently-needed measure, the Ministry should not carry it out in an half-hearted and halting manner.

"Next, Sir, I wish also to point out that by carrying out this separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, they will also be serving a great cause, viz., the cause of freedom. The magistracy of the day is the remnant of the bureaucracy which has once been lording over us. It is the last ditch of the foreign rule. If you separate the Judiciary from the Executive, you will be succeeding in doing away with one of the forces that has been keeping down the spirit of equality and the spirit of freedom among the people of our country. I, therefore, Sir, wish to point out to the Ministry that by separating the Judiciary from the Executive, the bahadurism of the magistrates will vanish and the inferiority-complex of the thousands of people of our land will also vanish. Equality will be established and the spirit of freedom will come to prevail. I, therefore, Sir, wish to point out that by separating the Judiciary, you will also be helping a most vital cause in which everyone of us is engaged, namely, the accomplishment of freedom.

"Next, Sir, I wish to point out that the budget lacks in not making provision for increase in the number of officers of the Judiciary in the regular judicial line. Now every presiding officer from the District Munsif onwards up to the High Court Judge is over-worked; besides, they are also asked to dispose of a number of cases in a month. The one factor which is engaging the all-absorbing attention of the presiding officer to-day is the disposal of cases. They are always after finishing a certain number of disposals. Disposing a number of cases is a nightmare to them and they do not pay adequate attention to dispensation of justice or the protection of rights and justice of the individual. Now, Sir, these presiding officers are responsible officers. They are very eminent men no doubt who could be trusted. When they have been chosen to occupy such eminent and responsible offices, why should not Government trust them to discharge their duties efficiently and why should they be asked to dispose of a number of cases within a fixed period with the result that they are always dreaming of the minimum number which they ought to dispose of. The present arrangement, Sir, does not take care of the quality turned out but it wants only quantity. By enforcing this evil rule one does not know what great injustice is being perpetrated to the people in spite of the heavy court-fees collected from the hard-earned monies of the poor people of our country. I, therefore, request the Ministry to make adequate provision for appointing many more officers—District Munsifs, District Judges and also High Court Judges—and to remove the target of disposals so that they may sit calmly and consider the cases in all their merits and dispose of them in order to meet out justice. (Mr. Speaker: 'You have already exceeded the time-limits'.) With regard to the disposal of cases, Sir, may I mention an instance which took place. But in view of the reminder of the Hon. the Speaker, I do not wish to refer to it at this stage.

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"Let me now proceed to the question of education. So far as this is concerned, of course the Ministry has followed a very good principle but in carrying out that principle, due regard must have been paid to the spirit of the principle and not to the letter of the principle. You want to impart education in regional languages. What does it mean? It only means that you want to impart education to increase knowledge through the medium of the mother-tongue. Instead of forcing the students to improve their knowledge through the medium of a foreign language, through the medium of a language which is not their own mother-tongue, it is easy and it is better to impart education to improve knowledge through one's own mother-tongue. It is only by following this principle, I believe, the system of regional language will serve the purpose. If this is so, why should you grudge to give the Muslims or Hindus or Christians or whoever he may be, the facility of taking to his own mother-tongue although the particular group has some other language, a language which is other than the regional language and which you think to be the regional language of that particular locality. You only want to impart knowledge through the mother-tongue. If there is a sufficient number of students available, just to avoid practical difficulties, why not that group be given education through its own mother-tongue. I hope the Ministry will not grudge improving the knowledge of such of those people even though their mother-tongue is different from the regional language of that locality.

"Lastly, the salary paid to the Arabic and Sanskrit teachers, I understand, is very poor and it is only Rs. 6 per mensem (Mr. Speaker: 'Oh! Is it only six rupees?') and it will never be sufficient to make both ends meet. I think the Ministry should have made sufficient provision for improving the salary of those teachers who are following a very noble profession. Sir, with these words, I resume my seat."

SRI B. GOPAL REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very glad to see that the cause of Harijans is receiving considerable attention at the hands of the Government. Large sums have been allotted for their improvement. Educational concessions are given not only in the arts colleges but also in the professional colleges. I hope the Harijans will come forward to take their courses in higher learning. While I am on this subject, I would like to know what Government propose to do about the entry of Harijans into temples. This question has been pending for a long time and no orders have been issued by the Minister in charge. I know of a particular case in my own district where an application has been made to the Government two or three months ago and no answer has yet been received. (Mr. Speaker: 'Is it in Nellore?') Yes, Nellore.

"Again, I would like to press on the Government the urgent necessity for the revision of the communal Government Order because in 1929 when the communal Government Order was first issued, the Harijans got only one out of twelve places. Things have since improved and during this interval many more Harijan graduates have come out of the colleges and the time has come

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when Harijans must get more representation than the one place which he gets at present. I hope the Government will look into the matter sympathetically and add one more and make it two places for them.

"While things are going on well with the Harijans and backward communities, what is happening to the backward taluks in the districts? It was only the other day that the Hon. the Revenue Minister was touring in our districts and he felt aghast at the fact that taluk after taluk had no high school. I therefore, want the Hon. Minister for Education that he should come forward with a scheme to provide one high school for each taluk in this Province. While he is very busy with regional language and with elementary education, I wish particularly to request him to pay attention to secondary education also because without secondary education we cannot cope with the increasing number of elementary schools. So, Sir, the question of elementary education will necessarily bring in its train the question of secondary education and secondary education will take you on to collegiate or University education. So, I want the backward taluks also to be improved. I am particular, Sir, that more high schools have to be provided in the taluks in my own district. As a matter of fact, there are five taluks in my district which have only one high school among them.

"I am glad, Sir, that a Communications Department has been created but I expected that that department would be attached to the Local Administration Department. Instead of giving all the powers to the district boards, they will have to keep them on under Local Administration and continue to vest them in the district boards. I am very glad that the Minister in charge of Local Administration has assured the public that more and more powers are going to be given to the district boards, but I do not know what is the nature of the powers that he is going to confer on them. Roads are essential; rural communications are a vital necessity to the district boards. I hope the district boards will, therefore, continue to have them under their control. In regard to the way in which the Communications Department is being manned, I have to make one suggestion and that is, the District Board Engineers should have a place in this new department even though they have no such experience as the Public Works Department and Irrigation Department Engineers. But, however, in view of their knowledge of the respective districts, they must be given preference in this department and I hope the Hon. Minister for Public Works will pay due consideration to this suggestion.

"I also hear that there is going to be retrenchment in the Communications Department. But when that retrenchment actually takes place, I expect the Public Works Department Engineers to be reverted to their original department and District Board Engineers are given preference.

"Lastly, Sir, I do not want to take up much of the time of the House, but I am very glad to note that the Loyola College is being given two lakhs for its chemistry laboratory in the present

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budget. I do not grudge it. I know the Christian, the Pachaiyappas have also received grants from the previous Government. But what is to happen to the mufassal colleges. For some years past no mufassal college has received any grant from the Government either for buildings or for laboratory or library or for any other branch of expansion. (The Hon. Sri T. S. Avanashilingam Chettiyar: 'I may just tell you that the grant to Loyola was a previous commitment.') I thought I could congratulate the Hon. Minister for this grant but he wants to give the credit to the previous regime. That is an index of their present policy but I hope they will continue their present policy to mufassal colleges also. City colleges have received enough and more—Pachaiyappas, Christian, etc.—while the mufassal colleges have been starved. We all know, Sir, that at the time of admissions, there is a great clamour. I do not know what is being done by the Government. I know a questionnaire has been issued but questions and answers will not serve the purpose. But I want a small committee to go into the whole question in order to see how these students are going to be provided in the colleges. Again in the B.Sc. there is a bottleneck. More and more students are taking to science subjects nowadays but they are unable to get admission into the B.Sc. classes. In the Andhra University, only very few colleges are having B.Sc. courses and it is therefore very difficult for the Andhra students to get admission into the B.Sc. courses. I, therefore, request the Government to come forward with an official committee to go into the question of non-Government mufassal colleges—not Government colleges—to see that they receive fair treatment at the hands of the Government.

"Lastly, in the Andhra University area, the University alone provides Honours Courses, unlike the Madras University where any student can seek admission into Honours Courses in almost every college. According to the Andhra University Act, Honours Courses can be instituted only by the University. In 1930 or even earlier, they have provided laboratories for taking in only twelve students in Physics and twelve in Chemistry. Every year hundreds of students—first-class students—have been refused admission to this course because that is the only centre for all the districts in the Telugu area. I, therefore, request that at least this number is trebled so that 36 students for Physics and 36 students for Chemistry are provided in the Andhra University. Of course, you may turn round and say that you will find it difficult to meet your demand in the budget, but I am sure Government will come forward at an early date with some financial aid to the Andhra University also. I do not know what the Ministry is feeling about the reamalgamation of the five Telugu districts into the Andhra University. In 1934-35, five of the Telugu districts have been, to use the latest phraseology, 'opted out' of the Andhra University to join the Madras University. Now that things have changed and those districts are also prepared to come into the Andhra University. (An hon. Member. Is it so?). Yes. You may ascertain the views of the hon. Members hailing from Rayalaseema in respect of this matter and I am sure Government will come forward to take

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budget has been prepared and presented to the House. If I am permitted, Sir, I may say that this is the first budget of this Ministry since their assumption of office and secondly they had only a short time since their assumption of office within which they had to prepare the budget. Thirdly, it involved recasting and remodeling the budget which had been already drawn up by the previous Government, namely, the Adviser regime. Fourthly, the Ministry ever since it assumed office is being faced with very serious problems which no other Ministry had occasion to face. I mean the acute problem of food and cloth. Every member of the House will certainly agree with me that the attention of the Ministry has been drawn to it in a very large measure and still the future is threatening. Lastly and finally there were the side attractions of mandapam, chatram and street meetings of so-called prominent people carried on almost as a campaign just in the nature of Churchillian opposition to Attlee's Government. Therefore, Sir, we must certainly commend the budget when it has been prepared and placed before us under such circumstances. When I say that, it does not mean that it does not allow of any suggestions being incorporated in it with a view to modifying it on a small scale if found necessary. I, for my part, have got my own suggestions. In view of the desires expressed in every section of the House, I request the Hon. Premier to extend prohibition at least to four more districts, namely, Bellary, Anantapur, Trichinopoly and Coimbatore. I want low-paid officials to be paid more. At a time when the salaries of members of this House were being raised by legislation, it was said that there would be an uproar in the country. Really there was an uproar and there were many who really felt that our salary should not have been raised because it is a known fact to all of us that there are very many low-paid officials. I can make mention in this connection of the low rates of pay the teachers are receiving and I urge that their pay may be raised at the earliest possible moment. It would have been better had the announcement raising of their salaries been made side by side with the many ameliorative schemes mentioned in the budget. I desire that compulsory education should be introduced not in the course of ten years but in the course of five years. I want large sums of money to be set apart for Indian medicine. I want also more and more money to be set apart to eradicate leprosy from this country. I am sure that if my suggestions are worthwhile they would be considered by the Ministry. No doubt irrespective of my suggestions, I say that this is a poor man's budget and will be received in the country with feelings of joy. Outside the four corners of the House, where there may be a few opposers, I am sure people are following the proceedings of this House with immense feeling of gratitude at seeing the nature of the budget because it contains many important items of far-reaching developments. The Ministry has thought it their duty to re-introduce prohibition in four districts. They have thought it their duty to set apart vast sums of money for Harijan uplift; they have a scheme of rural reconstruction; they have got a self-sufficiency scheme for villages and they have a khadi scheme also. I would request the Hon. Premier to drop the term 'khadi.'

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"In place of khadi I would like to have hand-spun and hand-woven cloth. There is nothing in the word khadi. For, what is aimed at is to make the village self-sufficient, to make the villager prepare his own cloth and not make him look for the incoming steamers for purchase of cloth. That is the aim of the Ministry in the khadi scheme. I do not think any hon. Member can take objection to it.

"Then, Sir, there is provision made in the budget for the improvement of a number of thermal schemes, whereby Government hope to get several electrical facilities, with the use of which they perhaps hope to industrialize the presidency. There are also side by side with that, a number of irrigation schemes. Finally, there is a statement about the establishment of an Industrial Finance Corporation. It will certainly go a long way to improve our finance. We all look, Sir, to its earliest functioning.

"In spite of all these improvements proposed if there is going to be a strong opposition to the budget, though not in this House, perhaps from outside; I am strongly of opinion that it may also be out of spite, envy, etc., for there are several advantageous things proposed in the budget, which the discontented few did not ever think of. For instance, there is the separation of the executive from the judiciary which is a supreme measure. And now, Sir, I would say a word to Mr. Ferrelly who said that prohibition is bound to fail. He quoted history two thousand years old, and challenged us to see what happened in America and China. I may say here, we certainly will succeed in prohibition. We are an exception in the whole world. In all other countries drink is a necessity. In our country, Mr. Ferrelly knows, a drunkard is looked upon very low in society; and so, drink will last there for ever, whereas here it can be easily wiped out.

"I am in agreement with Mr. K. Varadachariar when he said that if real Harijan uplift is to be carried on it is not by giving grants here and there. I want their dwellings to be demolished and they must be made to live side by side with the caste Hindu quarters. Finally, Sir, I wish to say that this is not the time to go into the details of the budget and criticise the Ministry. We have only to look at their aim. Their aim is noble; the details may be gone into later and corrected wherever necessary. With these words, Sir, I take this opportunity to congratulate the Ministry on their achievement."

SRI K. P. KAMAKSHI CHETTIYAR:—“கனம் அக்கிராசனரவர்களை, இன்று சமர்ப்பிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தைப்பற்றிச் சில வார்த்தைகளைச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கென்று ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதைப்பற்றி பலர் இப்போது பேசினார்கள். ஆனால், அதே சமயத்தில் அவர்களை விட மிகவும் கேவலமான நிலைமையிலே லக்ஷக்கணக்கான ஜனங்களிருக்கிறார்கள். அநேக கிராமங்களில் எவ்விதமான வசதியுமின்றி, நாகரிக மக்களுடன் எவ்வித தொடர்புமில்லாமல் ஏராளமான ஏழை மக்கள் வசதித்து வருகிறார்கள். இன்று கோடைக்காலவிலிருந்து 50 மைல் சுற்றிலுமுள்ள கிராமங்களை நீங்கள் போய்ப் பார்த்தால், அந்த கிராம வாசிகளுடைய நிலைமை மிகவும் பரிதாபகரமாயிருக்கும். அந்த இடத்தில் எந்த விதமான ரோடும், பள்ளிக்கூடமும், மற்ற வசதிகளும் இல்லாமல் ஜனங்கள் கஷ்டப்பட்டு வருகிறார்கள். இப்படிப் பிற்போக்கான பிரதேசங்களிலே மிகவும் அநாகரிக

[Sri K. P. Kamakshi Chettiyar] [3rd August 1946]

மான வாழ்க்கையை அனுபவித்துக் கொண்டு, பிற ஜனங்களின் தொடர்பின்றி வசிக்கும் ஏழை ஜனங்களின் நிலைமையை உயர்த்துவதற்காகப் பல திட்டங்களை மந்திரி சபை கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று நான் விரும்புகிறேன். இன்னும் ஒரு வருஷத்திற்குள்ளாகவாவது இந்த மலை ஜாதியாரின் நன்மைக்காக ஆங்காங்கு பள்ளிக்கூடங்களையும், ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளையும், மற்ற வசதிகளையும் இந்த மந்திரி சபை செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். இந்த அந்நிய அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பட்டு 200 வருஷங்களாகியும் எந்த விதமான வசதியும் நமக்கு ஏற்படவில்லை. பெரிய அரசாங்க அதிகாரிகள் இந்தக் கிராமங்களுக்கு வருவதில்லை. ரோட் வசதியில் லாமல் 25, 30 மைல் நடந்துபோக வேண்டியிருப்பதால், பொது ஜன ஊழியம் செய்யும் நம்மைப் போன்றவர்களும், அந்த கிராமங்களுக்குப் போக முடிவதில்லை.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, உணவுப் பிரச்சினையைப்பற்றி இரண்டொரு வார்த்தைகளைச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். இப்போது தேசத்தில் பஞ்சம் வரப் போவதாக அறிக்கை விடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இருந்தாலும் பல தனவந்தர்கள் தங்களிடம் தானியங்களை வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த நெல் மூட்டைகளை அவர்களிடமிருந்து கைப்பற்றுவதில் பல சட்டங்கள் குறுக்கிடுவதாகவும், பல இடைஞ்சல் இருப்பதாகவும் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. விடுகளிலே அடுக்கிவைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் நெல் மூட்டைகளை கைப்பற்ற கடுமையான சட்டங்களை நாம் நிச்சயமாக இயற்றவேண்டும். இதைப் பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் உடனே கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன்.”

“அடுத்தபடியாக, உலகத்திலே எல்லா நாடுகளிலும் கைத்தொழில்களை சர்க்காரே நடத்தவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லப்படும் இந்த காலத்திலே, பஸ் போக்கு வரத்தை இன்னும் தனிப்பட்டவர்களிடம் விட்டு வைத்திருப்பதின் காரணம் எனக்குத் தெரியவில்லை. இருபது பஸ்களை வைத்துக் கொண்டால் தான் பஸ் சர்விலை நடத்தலாமென்று விதித்திருப்பது மிகவும் அநீதியான உத்திரவு. இதனால் இந்த சிறு பஸ் சர்வில்கள் பெரிய பெரிய பஸ் ஆதிக்கத்தின் கீழ் வந்துவிடும்படியான பரிதாபகமான நிலைமை ஏற்படுகிறது. இந்தச் சட்டத்தை மாற்றி, குறைந்தது ஐந்து பஸ்களை வைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கிறவர்களும் சர்விலை நடத்தலாமென்று செய்யவேண்டும். அப்போது தான் கொடிய ஆதிக்க முறையின் கீழ் சிறு பஸ் சர்வில போவதை தடுக்க முடியும். இன்னும், சில பஸ்களுக்கு மட்டும் காஸ் பிளாண்ட் எடுக்கப்பட்டு, பெட்ரோல் கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. பஸ்களை கரியின் மூலமாக ஓட்டுமபடிச் செய்தால் அதனால் மிச்சப்படும் பெட்ரோல் மற்ற அத்தியாவசியமான கார்களுக்குக் காரியங்களுக்கும் உபயோகப்படுத்தலாம்.”

“அடுத்தபடியாக, ரேங் வெடினரி டாக்டர்கள் சம்பந்தமாக ஒரு முக்கியமான விஷயத்தைச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். இப்போது இந்த ஸ்தாபனத்தினால் கிராம ஜனங்களுக்கு எந்த விதமான நன்மையும் கிடையாது. என்னுடைய தொகுதியில் உள்ள தாலுகாக்களிலே இது வரையில் அப்படிப்பட்ட ஒரு டிபார்ட்மென்ட் இருப்பதாகவே தெரியாது. கிராம ஜனங்களுக்கு எந்த விதமான நன்மையும் கிடைக்காத இந்த டிபார்ட்மென்டை ஏன் எடுத்துவிடக்கூடாதென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன்.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Before we disperse I wish to announce that on Monday next, after question hour, general discussion on the budget will be continued till 6-30 p.m. with the usual lunch interval. From 6-30 to 7-15 p.m. there will be a short interval. We know it is Ramzan month and therefore members can't afford to be without food. We will assemble again at 7-15 p.m., when the Hon. Premier will reply to the debate.

The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 5th August 1946.”

III.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

*1. Appropriation Accounts, 1944-45 and the Audit Report, 1946.

*2. Finance Accounts, 1944-45 and the Audit Report, 1945.

* Placed on the Table on 2nd August 1946.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, the 5th August 1946.

The House met in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTION.

Release of Political prisoners.

* 64 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have released any political prisoners since 30th April 1946 and, if so, whether a list of persons so released will be placed on the table of the House;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government have yet to release some more political prisoners and, if so, whether a list of such prisoners and the nature of their offences will be placed on the table of the House; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have received numerous representations for the release of Sri K. P. R. Gopalan and the prisoners involved in Morazha, Mattanur and Kayyur cases and for the withdrawal of the warrants against a few political workers in Malabar and, if so, what action has been taken on them and what are the reasons for the delay in issuing orders?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) Government have ordered the release of 83 political prisoners since 30th April 1946 and a list of these persons is placed on the table of the House. There is also one other person convicted under the Enemy Agents' Ordinance who has been released. He is No. 84 in the list.

“(b) According to the report from the Inspector-General of Prisons, there are no political prisoners at present in any of the jails of this province.

“(c) The answer to the first part of the clause is in the affirmative. Sri K. P. R. Gopalan and other prisoners involved in the Morazha, Mattanur and Kayyur cases have all been released. The warrants pending against Sri P. Sekharan and eight others who were out of view, have also been cancelled. There was no avoidable delay in the issue of orders.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state what exactly the Government mean by ‘political prisoners’?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Political prisoners are political prisoners. Those who have not been convicted of ordinary offences under the criminal law, who have taken part in politics and have been convicted for political offences are political prisoners.”

* Printed as Annexure at page 316 infra.

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know what are the reasons for the other political prisoners not yet having been released? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The hon. Member will see that it is stated that there are no political prisoners in any of the jails."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is the Hon. the Premier sure that all the political prisoners given in the list are connected with political cases? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" We are assured that it is so."

* 65^a Q.—Postponed.

* 66^b Q.—Postponed.

Compulsory medical inspection of Elementary and Secondary Schools.

* 67 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state what steps the Government have taken or propose to take in regard to compulsory medical inspection of—

(a) Elementary schools; and

(b) Secondary schools?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHY:—" A scheme for medical inspection of school children was in force till 1932, when owing to the financial stringency it was discontinued. The question of reviving it was considered on more than one occasion. In 1942 it was deferred owing to the war conditions. With reference to the recommendations of the Health Survey and Development Committee of the Government of India, the Surgeon-General has been requested to submit a scheme in consultation with the Director of Public Health and the Director of Public Instruction."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask whether the scheme is ready and if so how many children will be under the charge of one medical officer? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHY:—" The Surgeon-General was asked to consider the proposals made by the Director of Public Health and the Director of Public Instruction. The report of the Surgeon-General is awaited."

Districts not having cheap electric supply.

* 68 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the districts in this province which are not so far having the benefit of cheap electric power-supply;

(b) what representations have been made to the Government in regard to this matter by individuals and public bodies in South Kanara; and

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(c) what action the Government propose to take to expedite the supply of hydro-electric energy to meet the pressing needs of South Kanara?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" (a) It is presumed that by ' Cheap electric power supply ' is meant power from Government power systems. If so, the Districts without the benefit of cheap electric power supply are Anantapur, Bellary, Cuddapah, East and West Godavari, South Kanara, Kurnool and Nellore.

" (b) Representations have been made for the supply of cheap electric power to the South Kanara District either from Pykara or from the Jog Falls Scheme of Mysore for the rapid industrialization of the area.

" (c) Extension of supply to South Kanara has been planned and provided for in the Moyar Hydro-Electric Scheme already sanctioned by the Government."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know Sir, whether power will be supplied from the Pykara station to Cannanore which is only thirty miles away from South Kanara Border? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" That point was considered, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether any scheme is ready or under preparation for extending supply of power to the Ceded Districts? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" Yes, Sir."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Are the Government aware that Messrs. Chari and Chari Electric Co. in Guntur District are demanding exorbitant rates for power supply? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" I take the information from the hon. Member."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Are the Government prepared to insist upon the Company to reduce the rates of the Company? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" We will look into the matter."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—" May I know, Sir, when we can expect power for South Kanara? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" You can put a question, and I shall answer."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask the Minister for Industries whether there is any scheme for extending electric power for agricultural purposes? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" Of course."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know how long it will take to extend power from Pykara to Malabar? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" As early as possible. We are trying to speed up."

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H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know how far is the Jog Falls Electric Supply Works from the border of South Kanara? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" I am sorry I cannot say it to-day."

Opening of new colleges.

* 69 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government propose to establish some new colleges to enable more students to seek admission into them?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" The Government have no proposals at present under consideration to start new Colleges. The University of Madras, at the instance of the Government, have permitted Principals of Colleges to admit an additional batch of students for Science subjects, wherever possible."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether the Government will encourage private colleges? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" If the hon. Member specifies his point, I will consider."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Hon. the Education Minister be pleased to consider the question of converting the Moplah Girls' High School in Tirur into a college? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" Let the hon. Member put a separate question."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that in Bellary, Cuddapah and Kurnool districts there are no colleges at all? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" I understand that there is a college at Bellary."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Will the Minister consider giving all sorts of encouragement such as grant of building and other grants for the colleges that are going to be opened? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" No, Sir, that is not the present policy of the Government."

AN HON. MEMBER:—" May I know, Sir, whether any representations have been received by the Government for converting the second-grade college in Mangalore into a first-grade college? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" No, Sir, as far as I am aware."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—" May I know whether the Government have received any complaints regarding non-availability of admission to students from the Ceded Districts and that blackmarketing is going on in regard to the same? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" No, Sir."

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SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—" Has the Hon. Minister received any complaints or representations that students from the Ceded Districts are not given any quota of admission in the colleges under the Andhra and the Madras Universities? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" We have received representations about the Engineering Colleges. The representations from the Ceded Districts will be looked into. We have issued specific orders that certain number of students from the Ceded Districts should be taken in the Engineering College."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—" Will the Government consider the establishment of colleges where there is no college at all? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" There is no such proposal. It is not possible under the present circumstances."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that students from Ceded Districts getting a larger number of marks than those who have been admitted were refused admission, especially in the medical college? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" The medical college is not in my charge, and therefore. I cannot answer."

SRI H. SEETHARAMA REDDI:—" Has the Hon. Minister received any representations that people not belonging to the Ceded Districts pose themselves as belonging to the Ceded Districts and get admission in the colleges? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" No written representations have been made. It is difficult for Government to go into these."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state whether the Government have revised their policy with regard to admission of students in the colleges now? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" There has been no such revision."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Does the Hon. Minister know that there is terrible consternation in the countryside that novel principles of merit have been introduced in the matter of admission into colleges? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—" If the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall answer. If figures are wanted, I shall be glad to supply. So far as the Arts Colleges are concerned, there has been no reservation."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" May I know the amount of grant allotted to the colleges newly started in Bhimavaram and Ellore? "

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“The hon. Member cannot expect me to answer it in a supplementary question.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give more grants and relax the rules so as to facilitate the admission of students from the Ceded Districts?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“It is impossible for me to answer a general question of this kind. If a specific question is put, I will answer.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Are not the Government aware of the backwardness of the Ceded Districts?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“The Hon. Member knows it as well as I do.”

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—“May I seek an assurance that he will go into the complaints that have been brought to his notice and that future admission will be strictly confined to Ceded Districts' students producing certificates?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“I believe the certificate is demanded even at present and I am speaking subject to correction. If any individual students are not admitted, it is difficult for the Government to take it up. If the hon. Member suggests to me any ways by which this can be prevented, they will be considered.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Will the Hon. Minister appoint a committee in order to be fair in the admission of people from all districts?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“Is the hon. Member sure that a committee will improve matters?”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Certainly, Sir.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“There are other people who think otherwise.”

K. M. HAJI AHMAD KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Government have got any scheme for sanction to remove the high school at Tirur to a bigger building?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—
“Notice, Sir.”

Dismissal of a constable for garlanding the photograph of Sri Subhas Chandra Bose in public at Koilpatti.

* 65 Q.—SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a constable of seven years' service has been dismissed for garlanding the photograph of Sri Subhas Chandra Bose in public at Koilpatti about four months back;

(b) whether he appealed against the dismissal to the higher Police authorities; and

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(c) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(b) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(c) If and when the ex-constable in question submits a petition to Government against the orders of the departmental authorities, the Government will then take such action as they consider necessary.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“Will the Government be pleased to consider the reinstatement of the police constable and other police officers who were dismissed during political agitation?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“There is no question of general reinstatement. If representations are made, the Government will consider them on their merits.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In dealing with cases like this, will the Government always place the need for discipline in the police force as the primary necessity?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Certainly, Sir.”

Departmental action against Inspector of Police for allowing political prisoner to be garlanded by the public.

* 66 Q.—SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an Inspector of Police was proceeded against by the department for giving coffee in 1940 to Sri L. S. Karayalar, M.L.A., who was a prisoner in his charge on his way to the police destination after arrest and for allowing the prisoner to be garlanded by the public while in his custody?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“There is nothing on record to show that any Inspector or other police officer was proceeded against departmentally for giving coffee in 1940 to Sri L. S. Karayalar, M.L.A., and allowing him to be garlanded by the public while he was in custody.”

Powers and Privileges of Parliamentary Secretaries.

* 70 Q.—M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was any representation made on behalf of all Parliamentary Secretaries regarding their pay, service condition, powers and privileges, etc.;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative what the Government have done in the matter; and

(c) whether the Premier will be pleased to state the duties and the responsibilities of the Parliamentary Secretaries?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) No.

“(b) Does not arise.

“(c) The duties and responsibilities of the Parliamentary Secretaries have not yet been defined. They will be considered and decided very shortly.”

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Rickshaw-pullers' strike in the Madras City.

* 71 Q.—M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware that rickshaw-pullers have gone on strike about three days ago in the City of Madras;

(b) whether he is aware that the strike still continues;

(c) whether it is a fact that when the rickshaw-pullers came to Fort St. George to meet the Minister, the admission was refused; and

(d) what steps the Government propose to take in this matter?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“(a) The Government have no official information. No notice was given either to Government or the Commissioner of Labour by any Union or other representative of the rickshaw pullers.

“(b) Yes.

“(c) Admission was not refused. Sri Ramanujam, Sri Sarma and a few other representatives of the rickshaw pullers were given an interview.

“(d) The Commissioner of Labour is taking steps to bring about a settlement.”

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“Are the Government aware that one of the important grievances of the rickshaw-pullers is oppression by the police who force them to pay bribes, and that their another grievance is that they are not getting ration on account of corruption on the part of the rationing officials?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Representations have been made either by the union or their representatives. All the points expressed are being gone into by the Labour Commissioner to effect a settlement.”

MR. A. E. THOMPSON:—“Has the Hon. Minister got in view the adoption of any legislation to ban rickshaws from the roads?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“No, Sir.”

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Are the Government aware of the Rege Commission's Report?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I am not aware.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister does not think it proper to abolish the rickshaw-pulling system once for all, as it is inhuman, and injurious to health?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Not yet, Sir.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know whether rickshaw pulling is not contrary to the principles of non-violence?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I do not know.”

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Complaint of Sri K. Ananda Nambiyar, M.L.A., against the District Superintendent of Police, Trichinopoly.

15 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether he will be pleased to place before the House the complaint made by Sri K. Ananda Nambiyar, M.L.A., against the District Superintendent of Police, Trichinopoly (Mr. Harrison), and the action taken on it by the Government; and

(b) whether he proposes to order an enquiry into the conduct of the Police in Golden Rock on 27th March 1946?

A.—(a) The answer to the first part is in the negative. Government have examined the complaint and consider that the allegations made against Mr. Harrison are groundless.

(b) The answer is in the negative.

Official accounts of the Malabar disturbance of 1921.

16 Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any published official accounts of the Malabar disturbance of 1921; and

(b) whether they are available for purchase or reference?

A.—(a) There are no published official accounts of the Malabar disturbance of 1921.

(b) Does not arise.

Repairs to irrigation channel in South Kanara.

17 Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that estimates were prepared by the Executive Engineer of the Government for repairing and restoring an irrigation channel in the Augadimogru, Badur, Maire and Kudalmerkala villages of Kasargode taluk in South Kanara; and

(b) whether the investigation and final estimates for the channel, in the Augadimogru and Badur villages of the said taluk have been completed, and, if so, why the work has not been undertaken by the Government?

A.—(a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to answer to starred question No. 57;

The Shiriya river scheme for constructing an anicut and excavating a channel has been prepared by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation). It is stated that an old irrigation channel was excavated about 70 years ago, that only small traces of the channel exist and that it is not known if the channel really functioned at any time. At any rate, if it has not been in use for some decades, the Chief Engineer considers that a new channel aligned on steep-hill slopes will be required and that it can be constructed at a heavy cost.

(b) The investigation has been completed and estimates prepared by the Chief Engineer (Irrigation). He

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states that the cost of the scheme is very high being Rs. 7,06,000 for irrigating an area of 351 acres (about Rs. 2,000 per acre), most of which is already raising one crop and even two crops. The possibility of reducing the cost and making the scheme remunerative are being examined now by the Chief Engineer. Further the Chief Engineer states that there are objections from lower ryots to the diversion at the proposed anicut and that this is under examination in consultation with the Board of Revenue.

Forgery of trip sheet of Mettupalayam-Coonoor Service.

18 Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state whether the proprietor of the Mettupalayam-Coonoor Service, Mettupalayam, is involved in a criminal case for forgery of a trip sheet?

A.—There is a criminal case against the Managing Director (Sri S. A. K. Chinnathambi Chettiar) of the Mettupalayam-Coonoor Service, Limited, and also one of his conductors, which is pending on the file of the City First-class Magistrate, Coimbatore. The case is not for forgery of a trip sheet but, according to the charge framed by the City First-class Magistrate, for intentionally fabricating false evidence in respect of a trip sheet an offence under Section 193, Indian Penal Code (latter part) in an enquiry before the Secretary, Road Traffic Board, Coimbatore. On the orders of the High Court, further proceedings in the case are stayed.

Mettupalayam-Coonoor Service Company.

19 Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government, on a petition from the Mettupalayam-Coonoor Service Company, stating that the proprietor has been discharged in a forgery case against him ordered the Regional Transport Officer, Coimbatore, to issue permits to the company to ply buses in Coimbatore town which was originally refused during the pendency of the case;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said case has been restored to the file of the City Magistrate, Coimbatore; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the restoration of the case has been communicated to Government by the Regional Transport Officer?

A.—(a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) Government have no information. But the hon. Member is probably referring to the case referred to in the answer of this date to his unstarred question No. 18.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

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Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II. GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR THE YEAR 1946-7.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Before the general discussion is commenced the Hon. the Premier wants to make a statement."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Controversy has been going on, on the question of prohibition for the last two days. Ministers have considered that. In the light of the opinion expressed by some hon. Members, the Cabinet met this morning formally and they have decided that in addition to the four districts mentioned in the Budget, four more districts should be added. (Cheers.) Those districts are Coimbatore, Kurnool, Anantapur and Bellary. I might say that the Cabinet Ministers have been as anxious as everybody else to have this prohibition on as large a scale as possible. But it was the administrative difficulties and other financial difficulties that made them confine themselves to four districts. The Government could not have hesitated to have prohibition in all the 24 districts at one stretch if it were possible and if it were in the interests of administration. While it was originally intended to start in four districts, now another four districts have been added. I felt it necessary to give this information to the House because, before the discussion concludes, the hon. Members might know exactly the position of the Government."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister, who also happens to be the Prime Minister of this Province, on the preparation and presentation of the Budget. I regret very much to have to comment adversely both on the merits of the Budget and the careless way in which it has been prepared. You know, Sir that the purpose of preparing a Budget is to estimate the sources of income and the items of expenditure. The Budget must be a close Budget, and the items of receipt and expenditure should be detailed as far as possible. There should be no balance. This is in regard to current revenue. With regard to capital expenditure, there is no limit to borrowing, provided the money that we borrow is spent on remunerative ventures. Judged by these canons of budgeting, I am very sorry to say that the present Budget does not at all satisfy any of these canons. In the first place, Sir, there is what is called a very very conservative estimate or underestimation of the receipts. It is said that this year would not be as prosperous as the previous year as the war boom has passed away. But, I do not think, taking the high prices into consideration, the war boom has really passed away. Further, Sir, an advance grant of 448 lakhs is being granted by the Central Government to this Government for post-war development. This item has been included in the receipts and there is an opening balance of Rs. 310 lakhs. Then there is an increase under the head 'Income-tax Grant.' So, taking into consideration all these extraordinary receipts, the receipts shown in the Budget are really not correct. Therefore, Sir, I say there is what is called an underestimation of receipts."

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a.m.

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"Now let us examine the expenditure side of the Budget. This side, I venture to say, show overestimation. As an instance I might refer to the 600 lakhs shown as deficit on an investment of 900 lakhs and odd, on what are called State Trading Schemes. You know, Sir, that last year there was a credit of 299 lakhs. It is no doubt true that we are making subsidies this year, but what will be the amount that will go towards these subsidies has not been mentioned here. It could have been anticipated that there will be ten times more rice forthcoming from the cultivators; and valued at a particular rate, the amount will come to such and such figure. This has not been done. My submission, Sir, is that the inclusion of Rs. 600 lakhs of deficit on a venture of Rs. 900 lakhs and odd on State Trading Schemes is not correct and is an exaggerated figure. Thus the budgeting on the expenditure side is also not correct.

"The third point I would like to mention is about the debiting of expenditure on certain items to current revenues instead of to capital account. The State Trading Scheme is an item in point. This could easily have come under capital expenditure.

"My fourth complaint about this Budget is that there is no estimation of expenditure of very very large sums. You know, Sir, that in a Budget the House must be told and the public must be told through this House what the items of expenditure which this Government propose to incur this year are. Suppose the Government were to say that Rs. 49 crores are our receipts and Rs. 49 or 50 crores are our expenditure in a lump sum, would that do? It would not do. The omission to tell us the details of expenditure under certain items is perhaps not intentional. I looked in vain through all the pages of the Budget estimates and also through the pages of the memorandum prepared by the Finance Secretary to find out how these Rs. 400 lakhs are going to be spent and on what items. I collected some information from pages 38, 76 and 95. On page 76, under District Administration, Rs. 100 lakhs have been provided. The Government have boldly announced on page 95 for village reconstruction Rs. 200 lakhs under the head 'Industries' for spinning and weaving and on page 38 we find a provision of Rs. 100 lakhs under the head 'Labour.' We do not know where they are going to spend and how they are going to spend these Rs. 400 lakhs. It is for us to say: 'This item is correct; this item is useful; this item is not useful.' I submit, Sir, it is not proper for this Government to present us a Budget which gives no details of the items proposed to be allotted for expenditure. They call these items 'lump sum grants.'

"My fifth objection is to the appropriation of the Revenue Reserve Fund which was set apart for a particular purpose, viz., post-war reconstruction. The Adviser Government could have easily spent this amount. I hold no brief for the Adviser Government, but what I say is this: We expected that this popular Government which succeeded the Adviser Government would first repair the war damages suffered by this Province. If the Hon. the Finance Minister has objections to the planning made by the

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Adviser Government, he would do well to review those plans to his liking. But let him not put his hand into this Reserve Fund. Let him restore the *status quo*. I have the most serious objection to the lump sum grants. As I have already stated, it is not proper on the part of the Hon. the Finance Minister to come to us and say: 'Give me Rs. 400 lakhs. I would not give you details for that expenditure.' If the details are not there, Sir, it is open to us to say that we object to even Rs. 100 being spent in this or that manner. Being a popular Government, the Ministry should have confidence in the House and should furnish all the details necessary before adoption of the Budget.

"Now I propose to refer to the merits of the proposed expenditure on certain items. Take for instance the khadi programme. Without hurting anybody's sentiments, let me at once state that these Rs. 200 lakhs proposed to be spent on khadi are going to be spent on a costly experiment. I am quoting the observations made by persons who are competent to speak on the subject. I refer you to the editorial of 'The Hindu' of 1st August 1946 which reads: 'Those who know something about the khadi industry are frankly sceptical about its success. It is an experiment which cannot in any case solve our problems.' Now, I ask whether we can afford to spend on this costly experiment as much as Rs. 200 lakhs when persons who are competent to speak about it are sceptical about its success, more especially when you don't tell us how this sum is going to be spent. Are you going to invest these Rs. 200 lakhs in giving contracts for the manufacture of charkas and give the same to individuals? We have not been told anything about these plans. Now, Sir, as I stated, the nationalist paper, the renowned 'Hindu' of Madras is of this opinion. I leave it at that for the members to ponder over.

"Sir, then we have the question of the Harijan Fund. I am one of those who have always felt, with the members of the Muslim League in the Opposition, that this community called the Harijan community is oppressed to such an extent that it is a blot on the civilization of India and a blot on all communities. I am one of those who would spend hundreds of crores and not one crore only to bring up this Harijan community to the level of the other communities of the land. But how is this one crore going to be spent? I may in this connexion bring to the notice of the Hon. the Prime Minister that the majority of the Harijan community does not belong to the party to which my hon. Friend, Mr. Kurmayya belongs. Most of them belong to the communist party. Will this one crore be spent to the advantage of the party and for the purpose of converting the communist Harijans to Congress Harijans? This is a point worthy of consideration by the Harijans. If the Government intend to spend this sum on the real uplift of the Harijans in general, I have certainly no objection.

"The next thing that I want to mention is this. Even among the depressed classes there are persons belonging to different religions and creeds. Do these persons cease to be depressed and oppressed classes merely because they change their religion. Sir,

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the definition of Harijans must be made clear. Then, is this sum of rupees one crore going to be spent on Congress Harijans, communist Harijans, Andhra Harijans or the Christian scheduled classes? Surely, the Government should not make any distinction between the oppressed classes, to whatever religion they may belong. That is my cardinal objection.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the Revenue Reserve Fund, as I have already said, this fund was created for the specific purpose of being utilized on schemes of post-war reconstruction. One of those post-war schemes is the Highways scheme. This scheme is sought to be scrapped. If the present Government have got any objection to any structure that is already built, they can now change it or modify it according to their wish, but I do not think that it is proper to scrap the Highways Department altogether or to utilize the fund that is earmarked for particular post-war schemes to be diverted to other channels. The Highways Department will be a very useful department as the Hon. the Ministers for Agriculture and Industries—I wish they were here—will bear me out and I hope they will plead for its continuance. For industrial and agricultural purposes trunk roads are very essential. In fact they are an indispensable pre-requisite for the starting of new industries, and the industrialization of the country as also of agricultural development. If a man wants to open a mill, or to start an industry, he should first see whether there are good roads by which he could get raw-materials easily to his mill and to transport the finished products outside. Similarly, the villager must have easy means of communications to facilitate his agricultural operations. I am told that hitherto the amount allotted for this grant used to be between Rs. 25 and 30 lakhs. Now it has been considerably reduced this year. Can we be so indifferent towards our trunk roads like this? We know that on account of cyclones, on account of heavy military traffic and on account of neglect by the authorities, these highways are in a very rotten condition. Can you expect now to improve your industries and agriculture by scrapping this department and using the amount for some other purposes?

"Now, Sir, the next thing I should like to refer is the Government's policy with regard to education. I wish the Hon. the Minister for Education were here to explain what he means by basic education. Frankly, I am unable to understand what is basic education. Surely he must take the Members of the House into confidence and explain to them what is his idea of the basic scheme of education. Is it the basic education propounded by the Wardha hierarchy or any other modified scheme which he has in his mind? We do not know anything about it, but if he has in his mind the Wardha scheme, then Sir, may I draw his attention to the main defect pointed out in that scheme by the National Planning Committee? The National Planning Committee, which is a very competent body, says that 'Education by craft merely to make a boy when he goes out of school competent in his craft is *spiritually harmful*.' We should be glad to know what the Hon. the Minister for Education has in his mind, when he talks about introducing basic education in schools.

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"Then, Sir, with regard to the medium of instruction also, that august body has something to say. It has not mentioned the word 'Regional language.' It has only used the word 'Mother tongue.' We are all agreed that children should be taught through the medium of their mother tongue. Why do you want to change the medium of English to any other language? The first reason is that it will be a burden on the children to learn in a foreign language. The second is that we do not want that they should be a slave to the foreign language. These are the two reasons for teaching our children through our mother tongue. It was said on the floor of this House by a responsible Minister and also by the Hon. the Minister for Education that in Andhra districts, the Muslims talk Telugu better than Urdu. We, Sir, the 29 Muslim Members of this side of the House are the accredited representatives of the five million and odd Muslims of this Province and we know much better than the Members on the other side. Fortunately there is no show-boy Muslim on the other side. Does the Hon. the Minister know the wants of Muslims better than us? When we state categorically that the mother tongue of the Muslims in the Andhra Desa is Urdu, I cannot understand on what authority he denies, or what competence he has to deny that statement. Supposing an Andhra Minister is well conversant with Tamil and is able to speak and carry on his business and correspondence in Tamil, can I say that his mother tongue is Tamil? It is absurd. I cannot say that. It is as absurd for anybody to say that the Chief Minister's mother tongue is Tamil as to assert that my mother tongue is Telugu. What is my mother-tongue? The language of my mother. And for the information of the Congress Ministers, I might point out that especially in the Andhra districts, the language that we speak is Urdu and not Telugu, as has been stated. Perhaps it may not be the Urdu of the type that people in Delhi and Lucknow speak; it may be a little mutilated; but certainly not Telugu."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You have only two minutes more."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Therefore, Sir, it is not correct to say that mother tongue and regional language are one and the same. Further, may I ask, the Hon. the Premier if he is not aware that for a very long time, there were many elementary schools for Muslims in the Andhra districts in which the Muslims boys were taught only in Urdu?

"Further Sir, I may state for the information of the Ministers that all our religious books, all our history and all our traditions and all that is near and dear to us in literature and art are either in Urdu or Persian or Arabic language, and we cannot therefore afford to go to any other language. Enough has been said on this subject by myself and my friends on this side. Even in 1937 when the Congress Ministry was in power, the then Minister for Education, the Hon. Mr. Varkey had consultations with us before he introduced any scheme affecting the Muslims. In the same manner, I wish that the present Ministers, who do not represent the Muslim community at all—it is we who represent the Muslims—will consult us before introducing measures affecting the

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Muslims. All the talk about safeguards of minorities with regard to their culture, language, etc., has become untrue. At least let them now say that the Muslims may have their education in their own language to preserve their culture.

"Now, Sir, in regard to the village committees, I have got one remark to make. I am very sorry to say that in spite of the instructions sent by the Government in the matter of the constitution of these committees, the district authorities are helpless in this matter. It is no exaggeration to say that it is the Secretary of the Congress Committee that is the boss of the whole affair. It is he who dictates to the Tahsildar. He brings pressure upon him to act according to his wishes, by threats, by intimidation and by other means. For Muslim representation, attempts are made to bring some Nationalist Muslims—who are nobody—to keep out the real representatives. That is how the Committees are constituted. This is enough for me to say about this subject.

"Then, with regard to the services, I do not know how far it is true—I shall stand corrected, if I am wrong—that the Communal Government Order is adhered to. But I believe that attempts are made to contravene its provisions, if not to give a go-by to it, by an ingenious method. I am sorry to hear that in the matter of admission to professional colleges the previous Government Order has been changed to the detriment of the communities which had had till now their due share of representation. It is a very serious objection, and if that is true, I wish, if it were set right ere long. In regard to the services also, the Government Order is circumvented by the creation of temporary posts to which the Government Order is not applied. That is also a very wrong thing to do.

"The last and the final thing that I should like to say is with regard to the industrialization of the country. I have been looking into the Budget year after year these 20 years and have been ventilating my ideas about the need for the industrialization of the country. Sir, nationalization of the industries is the only solution for all ills. The Hon. the Premier has taken a very keen interest in the industrialization of agriculture, that is to say, to make agriculture a paying industry. It is a very good principle.

12 noon. "I have already said, Sir, that borrowing is permissible and even desirable if the money is spent on remunerative ventures. That is good, to conserve money out of the borrowings and industrialize. You will be putting down inflation also. It is a very good rule. It may be that this present Government which has been in office only for three months has not been able to do much. But what is the use of dealing out doles? I say, make the people rich. Put more money into their pockets. Give them more salaries. Let them earn the money. That is what we want. It may be that the mill-owners, factory owners and private men employ an enormous amount of labour. But the time has come for us to take this question of industrialization (Sri N. S. Varadachariar: Nationalize) and nationalize it, I have no objection at

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all,—but increase the purchasing power of the people and let them not struggle for their living. It is unfortunate that there is nothing here which impresses me to say a good word with regard to the policy of industrialization.

"Next, Sir, I want to say a word or two with regard to certain matters in the Budget which are in the right direction. I am referring to the Irrigation Schemes. It is a crying need. I am glad to say that in the past this Presidency has been always forward in the matter of electrification. It has started ventures in electricity so many years ago and the Members who were in charge of this subject can certainly be proud of them. We have been earning a lot of money, out of these ventures. Sir, now the villager is not satisfied with living in his dingy room and having only kanji, one or two times and wearing nothing but dirty cloths. He would like to be under the fan. He would like to eat very good food as you and I do and clothe himself well. Sir, we must go into the root of the matter. What is the use of dealing out doles to Harijans or whoever it may be? The real approach to the problem is to industrialize. If we do so, there is the prospect of increasing the supply of electricity and also improving the irrigation system. These are the methods which the Government should follow and they will succeed.

"Another very welcome feature in the budget is the Industrial Finance Corporation. I really thank the Government for having taken up this step.

"Then there are the Post-war Development Schemes. I am sorry, Sir, they are not very satisfactory and there is nothing which is very encouraging in them.

"Geological survey, if they are really going to undertake it, is a very good step, which they must follow up.

"Finally, Sir, I should like to repeat and tell the Government that when they frame a budget they must make it a close budget. Do not show more expenditure than you could make. Then you could have more money not only for extending prohibition throughout the entire Province but also you will have enough money for other important projects."

* KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTIKAD:—"Mr. Speaker, after a sojourn of seven years we have met to hear the budget pronouncement of the Hon. the Prime Minister at the head of a popular Government. Sir, I certainly join with pleasure all those hon. Members of the House who have showered congratulations on the Hon. the Prime Minister for the budget that he has presented to us. We know the circumstances and the atmosphere in which the Ministry is placed to-day and the fact that under these circumstances it has been possible for the Prime Minister to come with the proposals that he has adumbrated in his budget speech is really a noteworthy one of which he can be proud and not only his party but the province as a whole can be proud. Within the short time they have had at their disposal, they have rightly formulated certain plans mainly with a view to see that the next few months are occupied with certain schemes.

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I hope they will also devote the coming few months to formulate bigger plans which they may be presenting to the House next year. After six years of Advisers' regime it is no doubt a welcome feature to know the proposals of a popular Ministry which will enable hon. Members of this House to take a lively interest in the progress of the province. Sir, hon. Members on this side, even though they may criticize the Government strongly, are I presume, actuated by the best of motives in offering suggestions to the Ministry. To-day, when we are within a measurable distance of an independent status for our country, it is necessary that the Provincial administrations that have been set up in all the provinces should function efficiently to demand a National Government at the Centre as early as possible. If a National Government had been ushered in at the Centre, some at any rate would strongly urge that a National Government should function in the provinces also. To-day the Government in this province is no doubt very representative of the people and a popular Government but, even those who administer the present Provincial Government will agree and I may say, they may even be glad, to have a National Government representing all the national elements in the country. (Mr. Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib: Muslims also?) My hon. Friend must realize that patience is a very important factor in the House when an hon. Member is speaking. Mr. Speaker, nobody in the country can afford to forget any important community. Even without my hon. Friend's interruption, I would certainly have brought out the Muslim League point of view as these notes also will indicate. Sir, we cannot live in this country without the co-operation of the Muslim community. (Hear, hear.) (Some hon. Members: Nation.) (The Leader of the Opposition: Muslim Nation undoubtedly.) Whether they are a nation or a community, they are our brethren. As our brethren, we expect their co-operation and I am sure, they are also entitled to the same co-operation. I only pray that God should see that the time is not long when that co-operation and unity will be achieved. Sir, I think I am right in saying, that every one in this country to-day regrets the most unfortunate decision of the Muslim League. Sir, the Muslim League may have its own reasons for coming to the recent decisions it made, but we have strong reasons to feel the regret and I say this only to emphasize the necessity for unity. This is a province which can legitimately look back to the past with pride in the matter of the very cordial relations between the two communities. Sir, the other day when the Muslim League leaders rushed to the Prime Minister's residence at 11 o'clock in the night and acquainted him with the affairs and incidents at Vaniyambadi the Prime Minister rushed to the spot and eased the situation. That is how we have got on in the past and that is how we should get on in the future. Sir, I have no doubt that the lead given by this province to the other parts of India will go home to the leaders of both the communities in Northern India and the time will be much shortened in bringing communal unity. We may belong to different groups in this House, but all of us are one in our desire to have our country free and independent at the earliest possible opportunity.

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"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall not take up the time of the House by speaking at length on the political situation. Regarding the budget and the speech of the Hon. the Prime Minister the main question is the food situation. In view of the long and useful debate that took place in this House six weeks ago on the food situation, there is not naturally so much discussion on the subject during the budget, but the food situation has rightly engaged Government's attention and has been the first care of the Governor and the Ministry for the last three or four months. That the Government has to subsidize food at a cost of several crores is the index to the grave situation we are in. In the matter of the food problem there should be no question of party or community. Whatever be our political differences, whatever be our other relations, whether we may differ for the moment and agree a little later, so far as the food question is concerned, we shall always agree to support whichever Government is in office. It is in that view that many Members of the House gave their wholehearted support to the Ministry in all their measures. Let me hope that in the coming few months the Government will receive the full support of the country in tiding over the crisis. The coming few months are very grave months as you see from the food statement that the hon. the Prime Minister made the other day on the floor of the House and subsequently. Our main concern should be for the poor man. Let us not consider the question of the convenience of the middle class man even. We in South India are accustomed to poor men talking of a famine whenever there was a rise in the price of rice. They are all rice eaters. Now, Sir, even this 8 ounces of rice may have to be reduced to 6 ounces if there is going to be no more imported rice. (An hon. Member: God forbid.) More than God forbid. My hon. Friend must realize that we must make all human efforts to save the situation. In this connexion I should say that it is no use having any grievance against the Madras Government. Our grievances should be against Delhi. I do not think Delhi has played the game all right. Delhi might have a good intention but I do not think other provinces in India are co-operating. It is no use saying on high-sounding words as 'equality of sacrifice' I only want that the Hon. Minister should impress upon the Government of India our feelings on this question and that this House feels that 'equality of sacrifice' has not been put into practice in other parts of India. I won't be far wrong if I say that in other parts of India rationing is not as strictly enforced as it is done in this province. It is a matter for congratulation for the Government and the people of this province that rationing has been made a great success and we have strained our utmost to distribute the available stock to the best of our ability, cutting down and cutting down. That we have endured this is a matter for congratulation. We have every right to demand from the Central Government and other sister provinces to help us. There are provinces in India where people take a mixed diet of wheat and rice. They are accustomed to taking wheat more than we in the South are accustomed to taking wheat.

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Would it be too much for this Government to tell these sister provinces like Bombay and the Central Provinces particularly, that they should take more of wheat and spare the rice that they get, not to me and to hon. Members of this House, but to the poor worker and the poor villager. Particularly, why should not a Congress Government, which has the great advantage of having seven Provincial Governments altogether and a Committee at the Centre, I do not want to use the word High Command, impress upon the Food Ministers of these provinces to come out and send their rice to this province and take wheat instead. In the south we are given more wheat in Madras, why should not they give the wheat to Bombay and send more rice here? That is my point. If I am wrong I shall be glad to be corrected. This House should strengthen the hands of the Ministry with regard to these demands on the other provinces and Delhi. We have seen in the morning's papers that out of the 7 lakhs of tons of rice demanded by India about 270,000 tons alone are being allotted for the second half of the year 1946 and that half of the above quantity is coming from Siam. This 270,000 tons should all come to the Madras province and I implore Members of this House that we should voice our demand that all this rice should be allotted to this province.

"Let me come to prohibition. I should certainly congratulate the Government on having come forward with the introduction of prohibition. When the Advisers' regime suspended the prohibition programme, they were rightly criticized. Now, Sir, we should vigorously pursue it with a view to achieve complete total prohibition subject of course to administrative convenience. That is my strong opinion. While we are strongly in favour of total prohibition we should not oppose in our enthusiasm for prohibition the Government's view if they are not able to introduce prohibition in every district at once.

"Sir, there is one other good step which our Government have taken, namely, the separation of the judiciary and the executive on which question not only this House, but the whole country is at one with the Government and let me hope that it will soon become an accomplished fact.

"Sir, I want to say something about the education policy of the Government and I should like to say it when the Hon. Minister for Education is present in the House. I trust that the Hon. Minister for Education is in Madras; we should naturally expect him here and I shall therefore reserve my remarks for a later time when the Hon. Minister will be here.

"We were all very happy, Sir, that a Highways Department was started. There was agitation for several years that a Highways Department should be built up. Now we are told that the Highways Department may not grow in size. I do not think the Hon. Minister for Public Works will himself be happy. Probably he is not able to make that grow. He will be more anxious than myself to make it as useful as possible. Sir, it is said that the irrigation and other schemes should have preference. Certainly.

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But let me only remind hon. Members of this House that to supplement irrigation schemes, highways are necessary and many roadways are necessary to take our produce to the markets and to the ports. I have no doubt that later on the Government will try not only to retain the Highways Department, but to increase its usefulness in all ways. Sir, when I am talking of highways I may be permitted to mention one detail particularly in view of the fact that it is a major detail.

"Sir, I was glad to hear from the Hon. Minister for Public Works the other day in the course of an answer to a supplementary question that there was a proposal to have a highway along the west coast. A highway along the east coast also is very necessary both from the strategical point of view and from the point of view of relieving the congestion on the railways and providing an alternative route in an emergency like a railway strike. A highway from Vizagapatam to Dhanushkodi and Tuticorin will be very useful. I am not talking here about a highway connecting Calcutta *via* Vizagapatam and that is a matter for the Government of India to consider.

"Sir, I was very glad to see that there was a move to give more powers to the local boards, and that we unfortunate non-officials who also have the luck to represent the people of this country are going to be thought of for being invested with some powers. It will not be out of place in this connexion if I trace the history of local administration in this Province briefly. It falls into two parts, in the first of which more and more powers were invested in the local bodies and the second part—a most regrettable part—more and more powers were taken away from the local boards. The first part was a short period between 1919 and 1926 during the Raja of Panagal's Ministry. From 1926 onwards right up to the present moment, all the enactments of the Legislature regarding local bodies have tended to curtail the powers of the local boards, with the result that to-day if a sweeper has to be appointed in a local board it has to come to the Secretary to the Government in Fort St. George for sanction. That is why I say I am very glad to see that there is a move to invest more powers in the local boards. But when I say this, I do not mean that permanent officials should not be appointed as Commissioners of Local Boards or Municipalities. I would insist on their retention. Already we are having full-time paid Executive officers in certain panchayats and I have no objection to them.

"I now want to go back to the old subject of taluk boards. It was a most regrettable day when the abolition of the taluk boards was decided upon. When these boards were abolished, the figures showed that the financial condition of half of them was sound while the financial condition of only the other half was not sound. I therefore feel, Sir, that all the boards should not have been abolished. And when I now ask for the revival of taluk boards, I hope I will not be accused of party bias, as it is probable that all these boards also will be in the

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hands of the Congress party. The Hon. the Prime Minister has his scheme of panchayats in the rural areas, and if we have the taluk boards on top of them, it will conduce to efficiency and happiness. It may be said that if the taluk boards were revived, we could not have the district boards as they are at present. That is a technical matter of jurisdiction and may be left to be considered by the Hon. Minister for Local Administration. I am not going to suggest the usual procedure of appointing a committee for this purpose. We do not want a committee. The Minister for Local Administration knows sufficiently about local boards and municipalities to consider this question without the necessity of obtaining the views of a committee. Let us not waste time by having committees and more committees regarding the reform of local bodies. I earnestly plead for the revival of taluk boards. Regarding the powers to be vested in the taluk boards, the matter can be discussed at the bill stage. If the powers proposed by Government are not found to be enough, hon. Members might suggest the grant of more powers. The primary schools, dispensaries and such other institutions will be run more efficiently by taluk boards. If the non-official members of the taluk boards are given more powers, even though it be in an advisory capacity, it will have some effect on the officials connected with the dispensaries, schools and village roads, and might I say, taluk highways.

"Sir, when I am speaking about local bodies, I should be permitted to put in a strong plea on behalf of the City of Madras. It has never had a fair deal all these 26 years. The bogey was that the taxes were paid by the people in the mufassal and that the City of Madras was not entitled to much Government grant. I should like, Sir, that the City of Madras be given crores of rupees. I am not now blaming the present Government. I am only saying that they should not fight shy of giving large grants to Madras City. Otherwise what is the earthly use of having an Improvement Trust without money being given to the Madras City? The Improvement Trust and the City Administration should work hand in hand and if both the subjects are not going to be dealt with by one and the same Minister, I suggest that they put their heads together and see that allocation of large sums of money is made for the Improvement Trust. I would ask hon. Members to have a boat ride in the Cooum one day, come here and then they will vote money for the improvement of the City of Madras.

"Regarding education, I want to mention a few words regarding the controversy about the regional language. Sir, I give my fullest support to the Hon. Minister regarding his regional language proposal. It is a long-delayed reform and nobody can accuse him for what he has done regarding the regional language. There can be no doubt regarding the connexion between the regional language and the mother tongue. It is a question of fact and I shall not be a judge on facts. Some hon. Members sitting on this side of the House have questioned the correctness

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of the statement of the Hon. Minister for Education and the latter has promised to enquire into the matter. Only one of the two must be right; both cannot be right. My point is both the regional language and the mother tongue are the same. If anybody questions that fact, an enquiry has to be made. This is not the occasion to debate a question of fact and I am not here as a judge on facts."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Then why use the words 'regional language'? There is some implication in it."

*KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD:—"We have been told that so far as the Muslims are concerned the regional language has been fixed without relation to the mother tongue. It is a question of fact and there will be time enough for the House to know what it is when the enquiry has been completed. That is my humble submission to the hon. Members of the House.

"While giving my support to the Government's policy of regional language, I only want them to pay sufficient attention to the question of teachers' qualifications, text-books and other such things. Till such time when we can have them in plenty—let me hope that that time will be soon indeed—it is very necessary that the Government should grant exemptions here and there and make adjustments here and there. I understand representations have already been made strongly to the Minister regarding the inconvenience to certain communities in certain areas. When all these inconveniences are got over, it will be alright.

"Sir, while on the regional language question, we must also tackle the question as to how far and in what time people should be taught in the regional languages in the higher schools and in the University classes. While we should aim at regional languages being the medium of instruction, it may take a long time for their introduction in the universities and colleges. Even when we reach that stage, considering the necessity for our country to advance in scientific research and technical studies and to keep pace with the other countries of the world, it will be necessary to keep English as an essential feature in our education. Otherwise, we will not be able to get experts in science and other subjects. Therefore, Sir, I would plead for the retention of English in respect of education in the colleges and universities. The only thing is: we should provide facilities for students who want to be educated in the regional language, while at the same time not denying the students similar facilities to read in English.

"Sir, the lot of teachers has been brought to the attention of the Government. They are a very poor lot and they are not on the same footing as the other people in the country. They deserve the full sympathy of the Government and this House; and I urge on the Government to consider the possibility of increasing their salaries and allowances as early as possible.

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"In regard to aided institutions and other smaller institutions, they will be able to pay the teachers more only if the Government give them more grants.

"While on this subject, I should also urge on the Government to give liberal grants for new school buildings. It is time that Government revised their Government Order and gave facilities for new schools to come into existence and for new buildings to be built up. It is no use, Sir, saying that students should be admitted into the colleges without finding out whether the necessary equipment exists; otherwise, the standard of education in these colleges will go down still further. While we may have great enthusiasm for elementary education and regional languages, we should see at the same time that higher education is not starved. That is my only fear; if you don't encourage higher education, you won't have sufficient teachers to spread elementary education.

"Sir, we are now living in days of post-war development schemes and it is an admitted fact that most of the post-war development schemes and planning schemes are formulated by the Government of India. Probably just now there is a lull in the Government of India's activities. So far as this Province is concerned, but I am not sorry about it; for in the earlier months, the impression has gone round that Madras was not getting a fair deal at the hands of the Government of India's Planning department. We are talking about regionalisation of industries and we are yet to know what the position of South India will be in that main All-India scheme. We would earnestly urge on this Government and the Minister for Industries to be on the alert and fight with the Government of India for more industries being started in this part of the country. Unless a strong plea is put forward for more industries and more machinery for this Province, there would not be much of post-war development in this Province. I would not go further into this subject except to refer to the Industrial Finance Corporation mentioned by the Prime Minister in his Budget speech. It is no doubt a welcome thing, but I would plead for a full consideration of the subject before a final decision is reached by the Government. Sir, we who know something about the setting up of the State Aid to Industries organization and the working of it, know what has happened in this Province. I do not think it was as much a success as one would have desired. To-day we have to find out what kind of organization would suit our provincial conditions. As has been pointed out by my hon. Friend, Mr. Natesan, the other day, the Indian mercantile community may be consulted as to whether it should be divided into two parts, i.e., one organization to financially assist the industries; and the second, not only to financially assist them to some extent but for the Government also taking a share in the control and management of the industries. There are certain industries capable of Government supervision and control and there are others which are not. Whether the Government are

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going to set up one organization to look after both the parts or two organizations to look after each one of them, is a matter which the Government should consider in due course. I only plead for the present that the Government should consider the question fully and also consult commercial opinion before they finally formulate their plans for the Industrial Finance Corporation.

"Sir, permit me now to refer to the ports of this Province. The Hon. the Minister for Public Works while answering the other day some questions regarding minor ports said that he is thinking of opening up all minor ports in this Province. Sir, the development of minor ports is a very essential thing for the development of our commerce and trade. There is going to be enormous coastal trade in South India in the near future and it is essential that all the minor ports should be opened up. Hon. Members who were in the last Assembly in 1937 to 1939 may remember the Minor Ports Fund being wiped out for some reason; it was an unfortunate thing. Let us now at least ask the Government to revive that Fund. I am glad to be told that the whole of the Minor Ports Fund was not wiped out, but that only Rs. 25 lakhs was taken out of it and that the balance still remains in the Fund. I shall be glad if whatever remains will be supplemented by further grants from the Government and the Government of India also may be asked to come to our aid and see that the minor ports in the Province are opened up and developed.

"Sir, the Budget as presented to the House, taken by and large, is as satisfactory as one could wish under the existing circumstances and Members in this House should, I think, assure the Ministry that they will have the support of the House in carrying out the various measures mentioned in the budget. Sir, the Ministry have just assumed office; let us wish them all good luck and assure them of our fullest support and let us hope they will usher in an era of peace, prosperity and plenty."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to associate myself with what Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan and Mr. Baig said that this Government, in presenting this budget, has not been wholly responsible but only to some extent. This has to be said because the Prime Minister has taken pains to mention that it is a responsible Government that has occupied the Treasury Benches. I have to mention, Sir, that the Ministers have just returned to the Treasury Benches from jail, that they have put all their ideas here without putting them in proper form. They are in a hurry; they are every day passing executive orders without knowing even the opinions of their own partymen; for instance, Mr. Kumaraswami Raja is not to be seen here. Sir, the party to which I have the honour to belong is very anxious to support the Government; but the lesser Gods in the Congress Party, namely, individual Ministers are spoiling the Premier's efforts, and the more experienced of them are not allowing this party, by their very answers given on the floor of the House, to co-operate with them as far as possible.

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"Again, Sir, this House was very anxious to support the Ministry in the matter of prohibition; but again this morning the Premier comes up and announces that, not one or two but in four more districts prohibition will be introduced. In this way, where is the finality for any budget, I ask? A provincial budget is prepared and placed before the House with all seriousness. If the teachers in this Province or the scavengers of this Province can secure the support of a C. Rajagopalachariar of any other High Command God, the budget is sure to be changed again. What is the purpose of this budget; what is all this discussion useful for, for three days, if the budget is going to be changed overnight without any ceremony? The Premier has announced that he is going to have prohibition in four more districts, but he has not told us how he is going to find the money for it. I do not know what all changes are still going to be made. How are we to produce the money?"

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Fresh taxation is proposed, Sir."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Fresh taxation is not a news to be announced like this; it is a very important thing and the House should be taken into confidence. Why not the Premier postpone the introduction of prohibition in four more districts if fresh taxation is to be made? Will the Premier give an assurance that four more districts will be taken up only after having fresh taxation? The former Congress Government, under the so-called able guidance of Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, even though they were in power for three years, could introduce prohibition only in three districts then. Even though I belong to the party which supports prohibition, I ask where is the hurry? The previous Congress Government was able to introduce prohibition in three years only in three or four districts. Unless they have other motives or want to upset the budget . . ."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Is it in order to revise taxes or to arrange for fresh taxation when once the budget has been presented?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Are you raising a point of order?"

SRI P. NATESAN:—"On a point of information, Sir. For the information of the House, I would like to know if it is in order to say that fresh taxation will be resorted to when once the budget has been presented?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Premier will answer now."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is perfectly in order, if circumstances demand, and the House has to be informed about it."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I agree, Sir, that it is perfectly in order . . ."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is perfectly in order if circumstances demand it and the House has to be informed of it."

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M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I agree that it is perfectly in order but when once such a demand is acceded to and as the Premier is known for his doggedness, anything can be done by him without reference to the House. I therefore appeal to the Premier that in future he will not have recourse to any fresh proposal for taxation without consulting the opinion of this House or the public. It really surprises me to see in the papers that one of the European officers has been appointed to control prohibition. Only the other day the Leader of the European Group said that they do not believe in prohibition and it really passes our comprehension to place an officer who comes from Europe to control prohibition. A question has already been sent for an answer on this matter whether this officer while working in the prohibition area will be given exemption from prohibition rules. Considering this matter, I would ask the Hon. the Minister whether he cannot find a suitable Indian who has got belief in it and not belief in his salary alone to do the job."

"Again, in the matter of education, Sir, it is a question which has been agitating the public of this province—not in regard to the policy laid down by the Minister who has agreed to send out a questionnaire but because of the haughty and absurd answers given by the Hon. Minister for Education. . . ." (Cries of 'Order, Order' from the Congress Benches.)

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I do not know what the hon. Members mean when they say 'Order, Order.' The word 'absurd' is parliamentary."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"On a point of order, Sir. The use of the word 'absurd' is unparliamentary."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Will you kindly withdraw the word, Mr. Salam?"

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I humbly submit that the word 'absurd' has been used in this House by the Hon. the Premier himself the other day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Simply because he has used the word, you should not repeat it. When I say it is an unparliamentary word, you should obey the Chair and withdraw the word."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Before obeying you, Sir, I would like to know . . ."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"No. No. We will withdraw from this House. You know, Mr. Speaker, that it is not an unparliamentary word."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If it is unparliamentary, it is unparliamentary for all. It was used by the Hon. the Premier the other day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If you had pointed that out to me then, I would have asked him to withdraw the word. Will you kindly withdraw it?"

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"If he does not withdraw it, the Speaker must enforce it."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"I know my duty. The hon. Member need not remind me about it."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Before I do anything let me explain. Yesterday there was a question whether manure has been given only for those persons who got permits from Congress officers. The Premier then said that it was absurd."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Why did you not point that out to me then. I would have asked him to withdraw. Mr. Salam, please withdraw the word."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I request the Hon. Speaker to ascertain whether it is unparliamentary or not? As far as I know it is not unparliamentary."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I know it is unparliamentary."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If the Premier assures the House that he will not use the word in future, I have no objection to withdraw it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Premier will explain the position."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, everything depends upon the emphasis laid upon the word. It will be perhaps one of the mildest expressions in certain circumstances if it is not coupled with so many other things with a view to make it more ridiculous. Therefore my submission is that as a matter of discipline when the Speaker says that the use of that word at present was unparliamentary, there is nothing lost if any of us should at once comply with his request and withdraw the word. Owing to the heat that was imported into the word and the manner and other circumstances, the Speaker was forced to say that it was unparliamentary. Ordinarily the word may not be unparliamentary."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is unparliamentary. Will you kindly withdraw and continue the speech?"

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Am I to understand that in obedience to the request of the Hon. Speaker, the Premier has withdrawn the word 'absurd'?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"But I did not understand it so from the Hon. the Premier's explanation."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If he has used it to wound the feelings of your block he will withdraw it."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Let the Premier say so, Sir."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I must have used that word under a different set of circumstances which would not have given any offence to any one. That was why it passed on and if the Speaker had then called upon me to withdraw it, I would have withdrawn it unhesitatingly."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Salam, will you please withdraw the word?"

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M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I withdraw the word, Sir, in obedience to your wishes."

"Sir, the Education Minister has answered certain questions from which it can be clearly seen that he was familiar with some ideas—we do not know where he got them from—very dogmatic ideas. He said he would send out a questionnaire and get answers and then initiate the policy. But I understand he has already passed some orders and it passes our comprehension to find out that orders have actually been passed though when a question was asked in the Assembly, he said that the answer was being prepared. One fine morning, we have seen in the papers that 20 per cent of seats are reserved for 'merit.' What does the Government mean by merit! Merit in England is different from what the Congress Party mean. I think many of the members on the Treasury Benches have got a crude conception of the word 'Merit.' They want to apply the rule only to one community which is only three per cent and which has monopolized during the last 150 years and got the benefit out of it. I know the Treasury Benches are anxious to help the Harijans by granting lakhs and crores of rupees for their uplift. Why not give more seats to the Harijans. On behalf of my party, I request the Hon. Minister to give an assurance to us if he is really anxious to do something for the uplift of the Harijans or whether this is going to be merely political propaganda. We must have a change of heart. Unless there is a change of heart among the caste-Hindus even if you uplift the Harijans, it is not going to do any real benefit to that community. Without a change of heart, and change of conscience on the part of your own people, nothing will happen. You want to give lakhs and crores simply as advertisement as it is being done in every other province. It is really on the authority of somebody else. I think one more crore is necessary to educate the caste-Hindus to behave properly towards the Harijans. (Hear, hear.) If you want to do real justice, have one more crore if you like for this purpose; tear all your Vedas and Bhagavat Gita where there are injunctions against Harijans; tear all your Sastras, so that you can do something for the Harijans. I shall then be very glad and I will be one with you."

"Again, Sir, our party has been very anxious to know whether we have a share in the Government of the country or not, to help the Government in the matter of food. Very crude ideas have been put forward about Charkas and village committees. We have sounded a note of warning already on this. We have gone to the constituencies and what we found there was only a political camouflage. Only local Congress M.L.As. go to the officers concerned and see that their own persons are included in those Committees. Let the Premier deny that there have been no complaints regarding this matter? Can he show any Muslims who are in power and who are returned as the representatives of the Muslim community and not as mere 'show-boys' given places in those Committees. We are not anxious for these seats even as we are not very anxious for the seats in the Central Government

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itself. But we are anxious that the show-boys who are there will not be in any real position. We know the real position. To-day I say on behalf of the Muslim community and also I know as a member of the All-India Muslim League that the mother-tongue of the Muslims of the Andhra Desa is Urdu and not Telugu though the Hon. Minister for Education may not know this.

"Again, three crores have been provided for Khadi. That really shows that the party which is in power is groping in the dark and trying to put the clock back. They are trying to manufacture as stated in the Textile Commissioner's report one lakh of Charkas. I do not know in what way these Charkas are going to be utilized. Then there will be compulsion. The other day, the Hon. the Premier, when a question was put to him, contradicted it by saying that there will be no compulsion. Now I find that there is compulsion in one form or another. It means that unless one learns the use of the Charka, there will be trouble. Otherwise, the only way to save myself is to find a substitute. Sir, is this not compulsion? Why compel people to do anything against their will. If you are going to compel—as you are adepts in doing that—we will adopt our own methods and I am sure we will succeed. Again, Sir, as regards Khadi . . ."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I may tell the hon. Member that there is no element of compulsion in the scheme now placed in his hands and in the schemes that we are going to place in the hands of hon. Members. It is merely offering money to those who are not able to help themselves in return for considerations and there is no compulsion in it; it does not come in anywhere in the neighbourhood of the word 'Compulsion'."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am glad to hear the Hon. the Premier's explanation of the word 'Compulsion'. When questions of Finance are taken up I ask why not give us an opportunity to find out ways and means of finding money for your schemes and not waste so much as you have done. You say you are going to introduce prohibition in four more districts. How are you going to find the additional three crores for this purpose? Are you going to select district after district without any reference to this house and without the consent of the public but only at your own party meetings? If we are also consulted about it, we can also play our part. As one belonging to Guntur, I would prefer Ongole being selected for this. Therefore, instead of wasting these three crores, we have no objection if you utilize these in the new districts selected for prohibition.

"Again, Sir, in regard to the question of financial corporations, no details are given but only the name is given. You are adepts at copying. The Congress has been condemning copying. They are constantly copying everything and Mr. Natesan has given facts and figures to show that this lump sum will not do. Is it Mr. N. S. Varadachariar or somebody else's affair? Is it just like the All-India Khaddar Association? Is it going to be a

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political monopoly on a very limited basis? Are Government going to waste money on political propaganda or are they going to invest their money on a sound financial basis? In spite of what Mr. Natesan has pointed out that no lump sum grants are made to such associations in England, are you going to waste money or are you going to place this Corporation on a sound financial basis. Before the Hon. the Minister in-charge replies to this, I hope the Hon. the Premier will come forward with the requisite details in the matter.

"Again, Sir, in regard to the Medical Department in almost all the departments, nothing has been said. In this matter, fortunately or unfortunately, we have a member in the Treasury Bench who believes in oldest things simply because he is himself old. If there are Ayurvedic and Unani hospitals, I ask, how many of us will go to those hospitals; how many members will go to the General Hospital? I do not understand the over-anxiety of the Hon. Minister in the matter; I was told that she has already appointed a special officer for Ayurveda who does not know anything about medicine."

* THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"On a point of explanation, Sir. It is said that a Special Officer has been appointed who is a non-Medical gentleman. This gentleman has been appointed purely for the purpose of reorganizing Indian Medicine, and for the purpose of reorganization, a medical man is not essential since his functions are merely in connexion with starting of colleges and schools and research institutions."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The explanation of the Hon. Minister is self-explanatory. It is stated that a non-Medical man has been appointed to start Medical colleges but he does not know medicine. I am told he has been imported from a State. I request the Hon. Minister to provide more beds in some of the hospitals instead of going back to antiquated methods.

"As regards the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, no doubt attempts have been made and statements issued without any idea. It is a pity that I have to say that steps taken by the Law Minister are intended simply to create a body to go into the matter of separation of Judiciary from the Executive. I do not know why he has not chosen to include members of my community on the committee appointed to go into this question. In such circumstances, it is impossible for us to co-operate and it is impossible for anybody to understand the policy. You have a non-official private body—a sovereign body just like the Constituent Assembly though some of my friends do not believe it to be sovereign—created by you to go into the question and to submit its report. In that body, you have not included even one Muslim. When such is the case, how do you expect co-operation from us? Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive is a very special matter and we hope that our rights will not be safe in the hands of any Committee in which no Muslim is included. I hope the Hon. Premier will take early steps to remedy this defect.

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"One word more and I have done. Sir, the entire Andhra members have been disappointed to see that only five lakhs have been provided in the Budget for the Andhra University and ten lakhs for the Annamalai University. Is it for this that we have been sitting all these days? No step-motherly treatment should be meted out to the Andhra institutions. Sir, some money has been allotted for the Financial Corporation. I ask the Premier why some more money is not spent on the appointment of a Fact Finding Committee in regard to the separation of the Andhra Province. If the Ministry is really sincere about it, this Budget should have done something for the appointment of a Fact Finding Committee in pursuance of the resolution passed in conference after conference demanding a separate Andhra Province. I ask the Government why they have not done anything in the matter. Will they kindly include some provision in this Budget for this as they have found money overnight for prohibition.

"Again, Sir, I want to close with a wish which the Leader of the Independent Party expressed and that is, we cannot be quarrelling always and if opportunity is given everybody will rise to the occasion. We must close our ranks soon before something happens, before things take a different turn. As stated by Mr. Hameed Khan we have to close our ranks and do something beneficial to the Province instead of frittering away the finances of the Province day in and day out in a very hasty and crude manner."

* SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the framing of the Budget on an occasion like this could not have been a light task for the Ministry. The Minister for Finance has to grapple with several difficult post-war problems which require urgent and serious consideration. The chief among these are first, the three shortages that have emerged out of the war—the shortage of food, shortage of cloth and shortage of housing. Second, the demand for increased wages, salaries and allowances as a result of the high prices and increased cost of living that we are having at present. Third, unemployment due to the cessation of war-time activities. In addition to these, the Budget has to provide for the first instalment of post-war schemes of reform and reconstruction. New and additional sources of revenue have to be found to meet the pressing needs of the present and for the large-scale demands of the future in regard to post-war schemes of development. I think, Sir, these are the essential tasks which face the Ministry at this juncture. Let us briefly consider how they have been tackled in the budget. Regarding shortage of food and cloth, the Ministry have taken several measures and the success of these measures are being watched with anxious interest all over the Province. It is our duty to give our hearty co-operation to the Ministry in the efforts they are making to tackle these two difficult questions.

"Regarding shortage of housing, the matter is still under consideration. The acute shortage of houses is one of the difficulties created by the war. Though it is nearly a year since the

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war came to a close, the difficulty is still there. Now nobody can deny the fact that provision of adequate housing, especially for the poorer section of the people, for the industrial workers, is very necessary for their health and well-being. Government have taken little interest in this matter so far. The Bhore Committee has rightly said that the programme of housing is one of the major problems in this country and Government, both Central and Provincial, should attack it with all the resources at their disposal. They have suggested the creation of a separate Ministry in each province for Housing and Town and Village-planning. We have thirteen Ministers at present. One of these Ministers can be put on this important job of carrying out a provincewide housing and planning policy. If this is done, Madras will be giving a very good lead to the other Provinces. Government ought to see that a comprehensive programme of house construction is launched upon by local authorities, improvement trusts and co-operative housing societies. Financial assistance should be given to them in the form of grants-in-aid and loans at easy rates of interest for this purpose. The provision of adequate housing, especially for the lower income groups in cities and industrial areas, will meet a keenly felt want of the people and it will also provide work during these difficult times and serve to maintain employment at a desirable level.

"The next matter that needs urgent attention is the demand for increased salaries, wages and allowances which is coming from all quarters. Strikes have become the order of the day. This demand is the natural outcome of the high prices and increased cost of living that we are having at present. Government must take prompt steps to control prices of all essential articles of daily necessity and reduce the cost of living. Otherwise they must be prepared to spend large sums of money to satisfy the legitimate demand of the men in the lower grades of service as the Central Government have had to do in meeting the demands of the railway people and the postal employees. If Government do not control prices, they will have to incur huge expenditure for raising the salaries and allowances of their low-paid employees. By doing so, they will be depleting the Budget and they will find it very very difficult to provide sufficient finances for the many schemes of post-war reconstruction and development which are so vital to the welfare of our country.

"Labour unrest has become a grave menace to the peace and prosperity of the country at present. Some of the labour leaders are exploiting the economic grievances of the workers and are creating quite a dangerous situation. All the same, this Ministry must remember its obligation to labour and they must fulfil our party's election pledge to improve the lot of the common man. The Ministry must see that in this Province we have an Industrial Disputes Act as they are having in Bombay. Strikes should be averted and not allowed to occur. We must have an effective machinery of conciliation to deal with disputes as they arise. More than that we must try to prevent strikes by promoting well-considered schemes of labour welfare.

1-15
p.m.

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"It is said, Sir, that the two main causes for many of the ills from which we are suffering are overpopulation and under-production. We must take measures to restrict the growth of population and see that it does not grow beyond the means of subsistence. We must also take necessary steps to develop the resources of the country, both agricultural and industrial. Post-war planning and development is meant to increase production and to provide a higher proportion of employment. It is the duty of the Ministry to increase production, to develop national income, to augment the resources of the State and to spend increasing sums of money in expanding education, in extending medical relief and in such other ways as will raise the level of life, both material and cultural, of the people of the country, and particularly the masses inhabiting the rural areas. This should be the acid test by which we are to judge the merit of the budget and the success of the present administration.

"Before I conclude my remarks, I wish to say a word concerning my district of South Kanara. It is a district whose interests have been neglected for a very long time. Our cry has been a cry in the wilderness. South Kanara is at the tail-end of the Province and its needs are not given the attention that they deserve. We have long been making a demand for establishing in our district a number of minor irrigation works and for the supply to cheap electricity. But our interests have been neglected. I trust that the Hon. the Premier will be pleased to pay more heed to the needs and demands of this backward district at least in future."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, we have not had an opportunity all these years for scrutinizing the budget. We have now before us the budget of a popular Ministry. In offering our remarks regarding the details of the budget, we have to take into consideration the purposes for which provision has been made and the schemes that have been adumbrated, and we have to remember the circumstances under which the budget has been prepared. We must take into consideration the growing unrest amongst the people of our country, the grievances of the workers and the resulting strikes. Up till now, the Advisers' Government did not care to take into account the grievances of the people and they merely carried on the administration. But now we have got the opportunity of giving expression to our views. The popular Ministry is in power and the people are anxiously waiting to see the solution of their problems. There is the problem of food and cloth. But I am sorry to say that the people's Government have not cared to solve the problem in the people's way, that is, in the interests of the people. There is the question of irrigation facilities, the abolition of the zamindari system and developing the industrial resources of the country. None of these, I fear, has been tackled in a satisfactory manner.

"Now let us take the question of the food policy of the Government. During the last session of the Assembly, the Hon.

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the Premier promised that he was going to set up Food Committees which would revolutionize the whole situation. What has happened? He said that Food Committees were not a party affair and that they would be non-partisan bodies. But most of the committees have become partisan affair filled with Congressmen. How are they? A number of representations were made to the Hon. the Premier about abuses but they have been thrown into the waste-paper-basket and none of them were replied to. It looks as if such things will be going on for ever. I can give you, Sir, a catalogue of event after event, particularly with reference to Kistna district, of Congressmen intervening over the head of officials in effecting the formation of Food Committees in their own way. In Gannavaram taluk for instance of the 278 members of the various Food Committees, it will be amusing to know that only 12 men are non-Congressmen. Many instances of this nature can be brought to the notice of the House if given time. These committees, if anything, seem to be partisan committees where Congressmen only can serve and it is nothing more than this, Sir, that they are carrying out their own programme. The unsocial elements like black-marketeers and greedy capitalists and landlords are not wanting who take advantage of the partisan attitude of the Committees and they try to sabotage the work of the Food Committees and sabotage procurement. Let me give you another instance of intervention of Congressmen in the formation of committees. The presiding officer in Bhatlapenumarru with the consent and unanimous decision of all present, formed the committee but in spite of that overnight the whole list was revised to give room for the names recommended by the local Congressmen. I am not so much complaining of the absence of the members of my party on these committees, though they have a right to be there by virtue of our services to the people and next to Congress for its influence among the masses. But what do we see there? The plan seems to be to shut out all people belonging to any other party except the Congress and the local Congress bosses see to it that their henchmen get in. I do not know if this will help rationing or procurement. I fear that a partisan outlook will not solve the problem. Just now we have had a cut in ration and I do not know if in the next session the Hon. the Premier will announce yet another cut of 2 or 3 ounces. If the present policy is not going to be changed, I do not think there is any possibility of restoring the cut in rations. I appeal to the Hon. the Premier and to the other members of the Treasury Benches to reverse the present policy of adopting a partisan attitude in the formation of Food Committees. Let the members of other political parties serve on the committees. There is no harm in obtaining their co-operation in the formation of the Food Committees. If that is done, I assure you that procurement will be speeded up; hoarding will be checked and hoarded food will be unearthed and the cut in ration will be restored. Unless this is done, there is no possibility of a satisfactory solution of the food problem. I feel, Sir, unless there is total procurement in all the

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districts, there will be no proper distribution and unless there is total procurement there seems to be no meaning in imposing a cut in rations. So far as Rayalaseema is concerned there is no total procurement and without introducing it I do not know why the Premier announced a cut in rations. Then there is the non-statutory rationing. It is no ration at all. The ration shops open only on certain days; every week for two or three days the shops are closed. My suggestion is that there should be statutory rationing in all areas both deficit areas and surplus areas and in villages also and there should be total procurement everywhere. Then only there is a possibility of acquiring enough for our food and not till then.

"The Advisers' regime launched a campaign of 'Grow More Food' and introduced the system of grants for sinking wells. The test by which the present policy and success of the Government of the day is to be judged is by the further steps they have taken to bring more waste lands under cultivation. The Ministry, I am sorry to say, did not introduce any further measure than to merely sanction a subsidy of Rs. 500 for wells sunk within a certain period. It is common knowledge that a well costs more than Rs. 2,000 in the Rayalaseema districts and against this what is the grant that the cultivator receives? Rupees 500 only and even this amount will not reach his hands in full. Everybody knows that a portion of this goes into the pockets of Government officials in charge of this department. What the poor ryot will be able to do with Rs. 200 or Rs. 300 when more than two thousand rupees are required is beyond my understanding? Government must boldly come forward with a more substantial subsidy. Another point which I wish to raise is: 'Why not the Military personnel be employed to sink these wells?' They could during this peace time with profit to the country make use of their powder for blasting stones and providing water for the people to carry on agricultural operations rather than use them for practice purposes and breaking the skulls of the people. I request the Hon. the Premier to arrange that Military personnel are made use of for sinking our wells."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member can resume his speech after the House re-assembles after lunch. The House will now adjourn till 2-30 p.m."

(After lunch.)

2-30
p.m.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I was telling, Sir, about the cut in ration when the Assembly adjourned for lunch. We should have a sound procurement policy. The Government have practically done nothing so far as regards procurement. Can the Government place on the table of the House from how many merchants they were able to get stocks of paddy? Can they say how many blackmarketeers they were able to book? There is no information on this score also. In fact, Government have done nothing so far. First of all, before introducing the

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ration cut, I would suggest there should be effective procurement of foodstuffs. Then only we should think of a ration cut. I know in Gudivada taluk, there is enough stock of paddy with grain merchants; they are all stored in godowns. So I suggest the whole food policy of the Government should be re-organized; and black-marketing should be detected and put down with an effective hand.

"In regard to the cultivation of waste lands, I want to say a few words. In this presidency there are hundreds of acres of waste lands. In Andhra Desa alone there are forty lakhs of acres of waste land. What is the Government going to do with them? Are they going to wait till this province also is devastated by famine as Bengal! I hope the Hon. Premier will take immediate steps to prevent famine in this presidency.

"As regards Minor Irrigation Scheme, the policy of the Government is only halting. For instance, I will bring to the notice of the Government two instances. For the Pedalanka channel the estimated cost is Rs. 13.18 lakhs, but Government have allotted only Rs. 3.5 lakhs. For the Romperu Drainage Scheme the estimate is Rs. 92 lakhs but the amount provided for is only five lakhs. I ask, 'for how many years does this Government propose to pull on in this way?'

"In the zamindari area, tobacco is being cultivated on paddy fields even though there is a ban on such cultivation. Most of the tanks in the zamindari area are not repaired. Thus Grow More Food is seriously affected. Now is the time to abolish the zamindari system. It is a welcome sign from the Government bench to hear from Mr. N. S. Varadachari that they are willing to abolish the zamindari system. I am for abolishing zamindari system without compensation. Unless the zamindari system is abolished there is no hope for solving the problem of food shortage. If there are any obstacles in the way, we, people are willing to back up the Hon. Premier in his scheme.

"As regards provision for minor irrigation schemes only Rs. 1.62 crores are provided, which is thoroughly inadequate. Of this amount, a major portion will go to the Tungabhadra Project, and the balance of Rs. 27 lakhs will remain for the rest of the schemes. Unless the Sangameswaram Project and the Middle Pennar Project are completed, we cannot save Rayalaseema from famine. To complete these schemes, even if all the Reserve Fund is to be exhausted I do not mind it.

"During the last session, Government said that they are offering bonus to peasants to induce them to sell their paddy stock. I have to say the peasant could not get this bonus because the merchant came in his way, and he brought so many hindrances. I can give several such instances if only the Hon. Premier is prepared to listen. Another important factor which could not be found in the budget is about fodder. Everybody knows that cattle are dying in Rayalaseema on account of scarcity of fodder.

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The Kistna Ryots' Association are offering to supply fodder; but there is nobody to take it up and implement. There is inordinate delay on the part of Government to move in the matter. The Association now tells me that their offer has not been accepted by Government. Even now, the Provincial Government has not taken any steps to secure fodder for Rayalaseema. As regards the transport question, why not Government commandeered military lorries and vehicles and solve that problem?

"Another important thing I want to mention is about our industrial development. Everybody knows that unless our country is developed industrially there can be no salvation for our people. To solve unemployment problem, to develop our agriculture on scientific lines, industrial development is the best solution. I find nothing in the budget about this. I find only a mention about the manufacture of bangles. I do not know who is anxious to have these glass bangles nowadays. In Rayalaseema, where cotton is grown in abundance, any number of textile mills can be started, both spinning and weaving. How is it Government are keeping mum in this matter? In Bombay, Bengal and other provinces we find new textile mills and industries springing up in spite of the fact they are vociferous about Khaddar production and Khaddar is encouraged by leaders. What I suggest is, why not Government come forward with new textile mills, particularly in Rayalaseema, and save our country from unemployment. We see several weavers starving. Even yarn is going into blackmarket. The Government to-day have no plan to supply yarn to weavers. Of course they have the Khaddar programme. I do not want our province to be experimented upon in this venture. The scheme is bound to fail and it will be all a waste of money. In other provinces where there are mills even big leaders of people have shares in them. Why not our province too have industrial development? So what I suggest is our country must be industrialized forthwith.

2-45
p.m.

"Our country must manufacture not bangles. We must have industries which will clothe our people and provide our other needs. So, I suggest that industrialization is a most important thing. Unless our country is industrialized, our agriculture will not develop. To develop our agriculture and to make it more scientific, I say that the country must be industrialized immediately. It cannot be delayed. In to-day's paper we see that the Central Government have raised a loan of 20 crores. Why should not this Provincial Government raise a similar loan? The people will come forward boldly to subscribe to the loans. So let us come forward with a scheme immediately and see that all these things are done here and now.

"As regards Harijan uplift, we wholeheartedly support everything done for Harijans. During the election time, I saw with my own eyes in Chirala the people of this community were not allowed to go to the hotels. We have to know this fact to our disappointment. Will the Government come forward with

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measures to effectively punish the people who prohibit this community from entering hotels? The Harijans are backward. Unless their social status and economic conditions are improved, there is no hope for them. The Congress particularly should see that their social position and economic condition are improved. There must be a living wage fixed for them. Unless waste lands are given to them for cultivation and also help is given for cultivating the lands their position will not improve, and untouchability will not go. Educationally also, they are backward. They must be educated more. May I ask the Education Minister here and now whether he is prepared to do anything to uproot illiteracy from this backward community? There is not a single satisfactory answer that he has given except that the people of this community will be given as much opportunities as are given to other communities. That is not at all a satisfactory reply. What I suggest is that this community must be shown special favour. Special provision must be made for the education of this community. Unless they do this, there is nothing else that the Government can do to uplift the condition of this community. So immediately provision should be made for their education, and the Government must see that they are given special privileges. They must also be paid stipends. Unless the Government come forward with a plan, they cannot carry on the programme of Harijan uplift. Now the Government have got a chance to spend one crore of rupees. If necessary more sums must be provided, but we must see that these sums are expended in a manner that will not create suspicion. The Government must come forward to appoint a committee consisting of members of all parties to see that this money is spent in a proper manner, instead of giving it to the Harijan Sevak Sangh or any other political organization.

"As regards education in general, everybody knows that the country is backward. What is being done for education? The educational policy is intimately connected with industrialization and the development of agriculture. Of course the Government have said that the Hindustani Talimi Singh's policy is going to be adopted. It is not going to be of any use. It is not going to give people scientific education. The Government will be taking our children back to two thousand years. In these days of radios and atom bombs and advanced scientific inventions, what is the use of going back to two thousand years? I suggest that this policy of basic education must change, and a more scientific view must be taken as regards this.

"Then I would like to bring to the notice of this House one of the greatest injustices prevalent in the whole province. I do not know why preferential treatment should be shown to these Europeans whom we have asked so many times to go away. In spite of that, they are still here. Rs. 12 lakhs have been allotted for their education. What for? For the whole Province, the Government have provided 25 lakhs for secondary education; out of this, 12 lakhs are allotted for European education. Why? I ask the Prime Minister to cancel this just as he has changed his

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prohibition policy by adding four more districts. I request the Prime Minister to cancel this item of the budget. Moreover, the Europeans are rich, they can afford to educate their children, and they can have their own schools and colleges with their own funds. Why should they want our colleges, they who are not at all wanted in our province?

"I want to bring to the notice of this House another injustice done particularly to the Andhras. It is my duty to bring to the notice to this House that the Andhras are not satisfied merely because of an Andhra becoming their Prime Minister. It is nothing for us to have an Andhra Prime Minister. Because he is a great leader he has sacrificed much, we want him to continue in his Prime Ministership. We want more than that. What we want is that an equitable distribution at least should be given to the Andhras also. Now as regards education, I wish to bring to the notice of this House that for the Andhra University only 5½ lakhs have been provided, and for the Annamalai University 12½ lakhs. Why this disparity?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Salam stated that particular point, and the hon. Member need not repeat it."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I am putting it from an entirely different angle."

"Why this disparity? In Andhra Desa most of the colleges are in the mofussal. If he is going to allot any more, are we not entitled to it? The Hon. the Minister for Education, since the last two or three days, has refused to answer a definite question. He is unwilling to take the whole House into his confidence in a manner perhaps insulting to the House. The Madras University is given 8½ lakhs. About 20 to 22½ lakhs are being spent in Tamil Nad, and only 5½ lakhs for the Andhra University. Moreover, is not the Andhra paying revenue at least sufficient to meet its expenditure? This is a problem which every leader has to face. So much of Provincial quarrels are going on nowadays. All this can easily be avoided if the budget provision is distributed equitably, and provision is made for the formation of a separate Andhra Province now and here itself."

"I will just mention a word or two about the subjects I have to deal with."

"Coming to medical budget, I have to congratulate the Minister for Education for providing one college for the Guntur district. In Rayalaseema there is no medical college. They have to go to Vizagapatam or Madras. Instead of giving grants to other colleges, why cannot he start colleges at least where there is none. Instead of building more colleges in Madras itself, I suggest that some of the colleges should be in the farther corners of the province, so that they will be nearer to the people so that much money need not go to the hotel-keepers and so much room rent need not be spent in Madras. I suggest a fair distribution of educational institutions. At the same time I would like to bring to the notice of the House an injustice. The provision for the Vizagapatam Medical College was not properly made. I do

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not know why the Government did not give permission to raise the number of seats in the Vizagapatam College. Our ration has been cut down, and the health of our people is deteriorating. In the circumstances we will require more doctors. Then why should not the Government permit raising the number of seats in the Vizagapatam Medical College, and thus help to produce more doctors? The Government must immediately see that the number of seats is raised and more opportunities given to students to study in the medical college."

"A word on public health. Public health is almost non-existent. Where is public health? All our people are dying like flies. From the Government reports I can quote here:—

It is a melancholy fact that every country in the world is afraid of India because of infectious diseases. India has the highest death rate in the world, the highest infant mortality, and the lowest expectation of life.

Even though they are afraid to come to India, yet they are coming to rob us. They are robbing us. There is no public health in India, and the money allotted to safeguard our public health is only one-sixtieth of the budget. Police is given four times this amount. One-sixtieth of the budget has been allotted for public health, where there is no public health at all!

"Now a word about local bodies. It is long since elections were held. The Congress, the Muslim League and every other party believes (At this stage the Hon. Speaker sounded the bell). Another member of our party is absent. So I must be allowed some more time."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If he is absent, it is not my concern. I will give one more minute."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"The Congress believes in adult franchise. There is no question of time. The lists can be prepared. It will not take much time. Just as my hon. Friend Mr. Varadachariar was saying that they can do propaganda for prohibition and other things, why not you do propaganda for general franchise? Then everybody will co-operate with you."

"Coming to prohibition which is the most important subject here, the Communist Party firmly believes in the complete eradication of the drink evil."

SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, இன்று நம்முன் பாக இருக்கும் வரவு செலவு கணக்கில் முக்கியமாக ஹரிஜனங்களின் நன்மைக்காக 1 கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருப்பதற்காக நான் வந்தேன். இது வரை ஹரிஜனங்கள் விஷயமாக இவ்வளவு பணம் ஒதுக்கியது கிடையாது. இப்பொழுது ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் அவர்களுக்கு இந்த ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் போதுமா என்பது சந்தேகம். அவர்கள் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் போதாது. ஏனெனில் அவர்கள் மிகவும் கேவலமான நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் முன்னேற்றம் அடைந்து வர முடியாத இந்த நிலைமையில் அவர்களை பாதுகாக்க வேண்டியதவசியம்; ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக இன்று 50 கோடி ரூபாய் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்றும் சொன்னார்கள். அப்படி 50 கோடி ரூபாய் கொடுக்காவிட்டாலும் 10 கோடி ரூபாயாவது

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கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இன்னும் கேட்கவேண்டுமானால் அரசாங்கத்தார் எவ்வளவோ கடன் வாங்குகிறார்கள். அதைப் போலவே ஹரிஜனங்களின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக 500 கோடி ரூபாய் கடன் வாங்கி ஹரிஜனங்களின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக செலவு செய்யவேண்டியது நியாயம். 50 கோடி ரூபாய் கடன் வாங்கிக்கொடுக்க வேண்டிய சமயத்தில் ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் அவ்வளவு விசேஷமானதல்ல. ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு இன்னும் அநேக இன்னல்கள் இருக்கிறது. ஆலய பிரவேசம் இல்லாமல் இருக்கிறார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு ஹரிஜனுக்கும் ந.ருக்கு 2 ஏக்கர் பூமியாவது இருக்கவேண்டும். ஒரு கிராமத்தில் 1,000 ஏக்கர் நிலம் இருந்தால் அந்த நிலத்தை சர்க்கார் விலைக்கு வாங்கி ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அது மிகவும் நியாயம். இன்று பாருங்கள், விவசாயிகள் வேலை நிறுத்தம் செய்வதாக சொல்கிறார்கள். இந்த முறையில் ஹரிஜனங்களின் சேவை அத்தியாவசியமாகியிருக்கக்கூடிய காலத்தில் அவர்களுக்காக 2 ஏக்கர் நிலமாவது ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் இருக்கவேண்டும். சொந்த நிலம் இல்லாததினால்தான் அவர்கள் நிலைமை அவ்வளவு கேவலமாயிருக்கிறது. இந்த நிலையில் அவர்கள் விமோசனம் அடைய முடியாது. அதற்காக 50 கோடி ரூபாய் கடன் வாங்கியாவது கொடுக்கவேண்டும். சர்க்கார் வருஷா வருஷம் எவ்வளவோ கடன் வாங்குகிறார்கள். அப்படியிருக்கும்போது சர்க்கார் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக 500 கோடி ரூபாய் கடன் வாங்கியாவது செலவு செய்யும்படி கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த நிலைமையில் ஒன்று சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். மனிதர்கள் மனிதர்களாக வாழவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது பூரண மதுவிலக்கு அமுலுக்கு வரவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஒரு வார்த்தை சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். ஆலயப் பிரவேசம் இப்பொழுது வேண்டாம்; பூரண மது விலக்கு மட்டும் இருந்தால் போதும் என்று சொல்கிறார்கள். அது சரியல்ல. ஆலய பிரவேசம் வந்தால் ஹரிஜனங்கள் வியாபார துறையையும் கல்விற்றுறையிலும் முன்னேற்றம் அடையலாம். ஒன்று வேண்டும்; மற்றொன்று வேண்டியதில்லை என்று சொல்வது சரியில்லை. பூரண மது விலக்கு ஏற்பட்டால் சர்க்கார் அதை ஒழுங்கான முறையில் நடத்த முடியுமா? சந்தேகமாக இருக்கிறது. ஏற்கனவே மது விலக்கு நான்கு ஜில்லாக்களில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த நான்கு ஜில்லாக்களில் பூரணமாக நடத்திவைப்பதற்காக ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் கடன் வாங்கினார்கள். பூரண மது விலக்கு ஏற்பட்டாலும் அதை ஒழுங்கான முறையில் நடத்த வேண்டும். அடுத்தாற்போல் இது ஒழுங்கான முறையில் நடைபெற முடியுமா? இந்த சமயத்தில் உணவுப்பொருள் பஞ்சம் என்ன. இன்னும் பலவிதமான கஷ்டங்களை சர்க்கார் ஏற்றுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த காலத்தில் பூரண மது விலக்கை சமாளிக்க முடியுமா என்பதுதான் கேள்வி. கொஞ்சம் கொஞ்சமாக ஒழுங்கான முறையில் செய்யும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். முன்னால் ஒரு பெரியோர் சொன்னார். 15 கோடி ரூபாய் மது விலக்கினால் வருகிறது. ஏழைகள் தான் அந்தப் பணத்தைக் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். மாகாணம் முழுவதிலும் உள்ள 4 கோடி ஜனங்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு வேண்டுமோ அவ்வளவையும் 5 சத விதிக் வேரிடமிருந்து வசூல் செய்து செலவு செய்யவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால் சரி. 15 கோடி ரூபாய் எங்கிருந்து வசூல் செய்வது. அது நியாயமான கேள்வி. இப்பொழுது கள்ளுக்கடையை சர்க்கார் நான்கு ஜில்லாக்களில் எடுத்து விட்டார்கள். மற்றொரு 4 ஜில்லாக்களுக்கும் மது விலக்கை அனுமதிக்கப்போகிறார்கள். இந்த மாதிரி செய்தால் நன்றாய் இருக்கும். இதற்குமேல் ஒன்றும் செய்யவேண்டியதில்லை. ஆகவே மேலும் தொழிலாளிகள் வேலை நிறுத்தம் செய்தால் அவர்களுக்கு சாப்பாடு இல்லாமல் போய் விடும். சர்க்கார் கள்ளமார்க்கேட் விஷயத்தில் கடுமையாய் தண்டிக்க வேண்டும். அவர்களை சுட்டு விட்டாலும் பரவாயில்லை. இதற்குக் காரணம் கிழ்தர சிப்பந்திகள் தான். எங்கள் ஜில்லா வில் ஒரு தாசில் தார் இருந்தார். அவரிடம் கள்ள சேமிப்பு எங்காவது இருக்கிறது என்று சொன்னால் உடனே அந்தக் கடையில் சோதனை போட ஆரம்பித்தார். இந்த மாதிரி ஒவ்வொரு தாலுக்காவிலும் செய்தால் (black market) கண்டு பிடிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கங்கணம் கட்டிக்கொண்டிருந்தால் அதை ஒழித்து விடலாம். ஆனால் அவர்கள் அதைப்பற்றி கவலையில்லாமல் இருப்பதினால் அது வளர்ந்து வருகிறது. மற்ற களவு

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case களை கண்டு பிடிக்கவில்லையானால் அவர்களை மாற்றி விடுகிறார்கள். போலீஸ் சாதாரணமாக இல்லாத case களையும் உண்டாக்கி விடுகிறார்கள். இவர்கள் இஷ்டப்பட்டு பிடிக்கவேண்டுமானால் அவர்கள் பிடிக்கலாம். இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தினால் அந்த மாதிரி செய்யவில்லையானால் அவர்களை dismiss செய்யவேண்டியதுதான். இந்த black marketஐ ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமானால் தாசில்தார்களும் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்களும் தீவிர நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும். பிரதம மந்திரியையும் black market விஷயத்தில் நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இன்னொரு விஷயம். போலீசார் பெரிய அகரமம் செய்கிறார்கள். ஹரிஜனங்கள் வீடுகளில் புகுந்து குழந்தைகளைப் பிடித்துக்கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். பெண்களையும் அப்படி பிடித்துக்கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். இன்றைய தினம் நடந்த சம்பவம். இந்த மாதிரி போலீசார் ஜனங்களுக்கு அட்பீடியம் செய்யாமல் அவர்களை தங்கள் எஜமானர்கள் என்று கருதி நடந்துகொள்ளும்படி கற்றுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். குற்றங்களை கண்டு பிடிக்கத்தான் அவர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை அவர்கள் உணர்ந்து கொள்ளும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். சாதாரணமாக எல்லாரும் பூரண மது விலக்கு ஏற்படவேண்டுமென்று நினைக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் எல்லாரும் ஒன்று சேர்ந்து எல்லா ஆலயங்களையும் திறக்கும்படி கேட்டுக் கொள்கிறேன். முன் இருந்த மாதிரி மக்களுடைய மனதைத் திருப்திப் படுத்தி ஆலயங்களை திறக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்கள். அது மிகவும் அவசியம். அதனால் எங்களுக்கு என்ன நன்மை என்று சிலர் கேட்கிறார்கள். ஆலய பிரவேசத்தினால் வியாபாரத்துறையிலும் பொருளாதாரத்துறையிலும் அவர்களுக்கு சௌகரியம் ஏற்படுகிறது. அது மிகவும் முக்கியமானது. வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தில் அதிகமாக செலவியம் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். மேலும் சர்க்கார் சாமானை அதிக விலைக்கு வாங்கி ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு சொற்ப விலைக்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

* Mr. SPEAKER:—“More than 30 members want to take part in the debate. I request all members to be as brief as possible. I will allow 10 minutes for each speaker.”

* MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. the Premier for the measures taken to meet the present food crisis. In his speech presenting the budget, the Prime Minister says ‘As part of their measures for meeting the food crisis, the Government have launched a vigorous procurement drive throughout the Province.’ You all know that the South Kanara district is full of Muslims. The Hon. the Revenue Minister who is from South Kanara knows how many Muslims there are in the district. It is a pity that in the South Kanara district, there is not a single Muslim in any of the taluk committees. This is due to the poor representation of the Muslims in the village committees as the selections are not made by the Revenue authorities according to the strength of the Muslim population. There are many Muslim villages in the district where not a single Muslim was taken on the village committees. There are also many panchayat boards in the district. The Government Order says that if there is a panchayat board in a village, it should undertake the work if it is willing.

“But in actual practice, in my taluk, even though the panchayat boards are working efficiently, the food administration is not entrusted to them. The reason for this is that in these village panchayat boards, the Muslims and the Hindus are in equal proportion. It is to avoid the Muslims from being represented on the village committees, that separate village committees

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are constituted, by the revenue authorities. Thus the Muslim community is entirely shut out from both the district and taluk committees. The District Committee has been empowered to co-opt one member from outside. We discussed the matter with the authorities and we stated that there should be some Muslims on the District Committee to deal with Muslim questions, but as there are none on the committee to support the Muslim claims, the District Committee as at present constituted has no elected Muslim representation. These are the measures taken for meeting the present food crises, and I ask the Hon. the Premier, how far such measures are going to be successful, and how corruption is going to be put down under such circumstances?

“Referring to corruption in general, I must say that the ordinary Government machinery will not be sufficient to put down corruption. Now I take the Police department in which I have served once before. The investigating officer is only the Sub-Inspector, and all other superior officers, viz., the Inspectors, Deputy Superintendent of Police, District Superintendent of Police and the Inspector-General, etc., are inspecting officers. So only the Sub-Inspector has much scope for corruption. Now, if an Inspector happens to be honest and if he wants to stop corruption, it will not be possible for him to do so. The Sub-Inspector will say that the Inspector has a grudge against him and that he wants to put him into trouble and that he has made a false report against him. The Sub-Inspector will have many supporters, and those who have actually bribed him will not come forward and support him, and the Inspectors will have no support and will be found inefficient to deal with the subordinates. Those who have any grievance against him will complain that the Sub-Inspector has done them an injustice by taking money from the other party. Those who have actually given him money will have done so by going to the Sub-Inspector's house and handing over the money to his wife. The wife will not naturally give evidence against her husband. The result will be that the petitioners who complained against him will not be able to prove their allegations and the prosecution will be launched against the petitioners by the Police under the Police Act. That will be a lesson for others also. What is wanted is, that everything should go on smoothly. Even if the Sub-Inspector takes money, he should not give any room for the superior officers to hold any enquiry. If he can manage thus, he can pull on well even if he takes bribes and his superior officers will not interfere with him.

“But the minor and innocent mistakes will be made much of. If an officer goes on camp, he takes the Government samans and records with him and engages a coolie for carrying them. For each payment he is required to obtain a voucher, from the coolie. The peons or constables who accompany the officers bring coolies who will carry the samans and receive the charges and go away, but they will get the vouchers marked or signed by some passers-by, say for instance Rama or Dooma. If any conscientious officer wants to avoid this practice, he engages a permanent coolie

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and takes him with him wherever he goes and all vouchers will be signed by him. Thus the coolie is treated as a servant of the officer and he will be punished for paying his servant from Government money. What I wish to say by these instances is, that serious mistakes are overlooked and minor mistakes are taken serious notice of, and this happens not only in the Police Department, but in other departments as well.

“Similarly in the case of the distribution of kerosene and sugar in the villages by the Co-operative Society, the revenue officials, who are expected to see to the proper distribution of these articles in the villages, are not above board. When a Revenue Inspector goes into a village, he does not get much respect from the co-operators and so he goes to the salesman, and tells him that sugar and kerosene are not distributed fairly, and directs him not to distribute them until he issues ration cards. The salesman, afraid of the revenue official, stops distribution and keep the house dark and created much hubub in the matter. By the time the President goes to the village and orders distribution and avoids danger. The Tahsildar sends a note to the President, asking him why the licence to the society in regard to the distribution of sugar should not be cancelled for contravening the orders of the competent authority. Thus, the Revenue officials who are there to do good to the people, actually do more harm than good. What I therefore wish to say is that to put down corruption, the ordinary machinery of the Government is not enough. An extraordinary machinery is required. With these remarks, I resume my seat.”

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN :—“Mr. Speaker, இப்போது நமக்கு முன்னால் வைக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் இந்த பட்ஜெட்டானது மந்திரி சபை வந்து சிறிது காலத்திற்குள்ளாகவே சமர்ப்பித்துள்ளனர். இதை நான் பாராட்டுகிறேன். ஆனால், சில விஷயங்களை நான் சொல்லாமலிருக்க முடியாது. இந்த பட்ஜெட்டிலே அநேகம் ஜில்லாக்களுக்கு விகிதாசாரப்படி பணம் ஒதுக்கப்படவில்லை. ராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவை யெடுத்துக்கொண்டால், அங்கே தண்ணீர் வசதி கொண்டு வருவதைப்பற்றி எவ்வித திட்டமும் போடப்படவில்லை.

“Land rent ஐப்பற்றி ஒரு வார்த்தை சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். இந்த நிலவரி நம்முடைய தேசத்தில் மாத்திரம் போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த வரியை எடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று நீண்டகாலமாக நாம் கிளர்ச்சி செய்து வந்திருக்கிறோம். மேனாடுகளிலெல்லாம், சமீபத்திலுள்ள சிலோனை எடுத்துக்கொண்டாலும் அங்கேயெல்லாம் நிலவரி போடுவது கிடையாது. முற்காலத்தில் நம் நாட்டில் ஆறில் ஒரு பாகத்தான் நிலவரியாக வசூல் செய்யப்பட்டது. ஆனால், இப்போதோ, **resettlement** முறைப்படி அந்தந்தக் காலத்தில் விளையும் விளைவுப்படி நிலவரி மாற்றியமைக்கப் படுகிறது. இதுமாதிரி செய்வது சரியல்ல. **Permanent Settlement** செய்ய வேண்டியது அவசியமென்று நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். அட்வைசர் ஆக்ஷியிருந்த காலத்தில் **Agricultural income tax** ஒன்றைப்போட திட்டம் போட்டிருந்தார்கள். அவ்விதம் போடுவது தப்பு என்று நாங்கள் சொன்னோம். நிலத்திலிருந்து வரும் வருமானத்திலே ஒரு **minimum** விகிதத்தை ஏற்படுத்தி அதற்கு மேலுள்ள வருமானத்திற்கு வரி போடுவது நியாயமே தவிர, நிலத்தை வைத்துக் கொண்டிருக்கும் எல்லோருக்கும் இந்த வரி போடுவது சரியல்லவென்று நாங்கள் சொன்னோம். கடைசியாக, இப்போதுள்ள நிலவரி முறையை யெடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன்.

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“அடுத்தபடியாக, இந்த தேசத்திலுள்ள போலீஸாரின் நடத்தைப்பற்றி நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். போலீஸாரிலே நல்லவர்களும் சில ரிடுக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால், அவர்களில் பெரும்பாலும் தப்பு செய்திருவர்களாகவே யிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால், அவர்களும் நம்முடைய சகோதரர்கள்தான். அவர்கள் பொது ஜனங்களிடத்தில் அநாகரீகமாக நடந்து கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். அவர்களை ஆடுமாடுகளைப்போல நினைக்கிறார்கள். இந்த மனப்பான்மை போய், அவர்கள் ஜனங்களுடைய ஊழியர்கள் என்பதை உணரவேண்டும். அவ்விதம் அவர்களை இந்த மந்திரி சபை திருத்தியமைக்கவேண்டும்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, 1942-ம் வருஷத்திலே நாம் ஒரு போராட்டத்தை நடத்திய காலத்தில் போலீஸார் ஹத்து மீறி அநேக அக்கிரமங்களைச் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில், திருவாடானையிலே போலீஸார் சகிக்க முடியாத அக்கிரமங்களைச் செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். வட இந்தியாவில், சீமூர், அஷ்டி முதலிய இடங்களிலே போலீஸார் பெரிய அக்கிரமங்கள் செய்ததாகப் பத்திரிகைகளிலே படித்திருக்கிறோம். ஆனால், இவைகளை யெல்லாம் தூக்கி எறியும் முறையிலே திருவாடானையிலே போலீஸார் நடந்து கொண்டார்கள். அவர்கள் எவ்வித காரணமில்லாமல் ஜனங்களைச் சுட்டுத்தள்ளினார்கள். பெண்களையெல்லாம் molest செய்தார்கள். Popular Ministry என்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ளும் இந்த மந்திரி சபையானது, 1942-ம் வருஷத்திலே போலீஸார் செய்த அக்கிரமங்களைப் பரிசீலனை செய்வதற்காக ஒரு கமிட்டியை நியமிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த மாதிரி ஒரு கமிட்டி நியமிக்கப்படாவிட்டால், Popular Ministry என்று சொல்லப்படுவது கேலிப் பேச்சாகிவிடும். நாங்கள், காங்கிரஸ்காரர்களாக விருப்பதால், நாங்கள் போலீஸாருக்கு விரோதமாக நடந்துகொள்ளுவதாக நினைக்கக்கூடாது. அவர்கள் ஹத்து மீறி சட்டத்திற்குப் புறம்பாக நடந்துகொண்டதினால்தான், நான் இவ்விதம் ஒரு விசாரணைக் கமிட்டியை நியமிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, கிரிமினல் Tribes Actஐ ஒழிக்கவேண்டும். இந்த சட்டமானது மனிதர்களும், அரசாங்கமும் நாகரீக மடையாத காலத்தில் செய்யப்பட்டது. அந்தச் சட்டம் இன்னும் இருந்து வருவது எவ்வளவு கேவலமென்று பாருங்கள். இந்தச் சட்டத்தை உடனே எடுத்துவிடவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இன்னொரு முக்கியமான விஷயம் இருக்கிறது. இப்போது ஆந்திர மாகாணம் வேண்டுமென்று அநேகம்பேர்கள் பேசியிருக்கிறார்கள். களா வெங்கடராவ், சுப்பாராவ் முதலியவர்கள் பேசினார்கள். அதேபோல தமிழ் மாகாணம் வேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்கிறேன். தமிழ் மாகாணம் தனியாகப் பிரிக்கப்படாதினால், எங்களுக்குப் பல கஷ்டங்களிருக்கின்றன. நாங்கள் இப்போது ஏன் சும்மாக இருக்கிறோமென்றால், ஆந்திரர்களுக்கு ஆந்திர மாகாணம் வந்தால், எங்களுக்குத் தமிழ் மாகாணம் தானாக வருமென்று நினைத்து நாங்கள் சும்மாவிருக்கிறோம். அவ்விதம் நமக்கு வராவிட்டால், ‘we will fight to the last’ நாங்கள் சும்மா இருக்கப் போவதில்லை.

“Blackmarketஐப்பற்றி ஒரு விஷயம். இப்போது எங்கே பார்த்தாலும் blackmarket நடந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது. மதுரையிலே ஒருவன் சாகுந் தருவாயிலிருந்தாலுங்கூட Glucose வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டால் கடைகளில் கிடைப்பதில்லை. அங்கே T. N. C. நாகலிங்கம் கடையொன்றிருக்கிறது. அது ஒரு பெரிய blackmarket கடை. அங்கே சமூகநீருந்தாலும், அவைகள் விலைக்குக் கிடைப்பதில்லை. என்ன அக்கிரமம் பாருங்கள். இந்த யுத்தம் ஆரம்பித்த பிறகு பெரிய வியாபாரிகள் இந்த மாதிரி கொள்ளையடித்துப் பணத்தைச் சம்பாதித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இதற்காகவென்று ஒரு கமிட்டியை வைத்து அவர்கள் யுத்த காலத்தில் எவ்வளவு பணத்தைச் சம்பாதித்திருக்கிறார்கள்; நியாயமாகச் சம்பாதித்திருந்தால் எவ்வளவு பணம் சம்பாதித்திருக்கமுடியும் என்று கணக்கிட்டு, அதிகமாகச் சம்பாதித்த பணத்தைச் சர்க்கார் பறி முதல் செய்யவேண்டும்.

[Sri R. V. Swaminathan] [5th August 1946]

“இன்னுமொரு விஷயத்தை நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். உத்யோகஸ்தர்கள் retire ஆகும்போது அவர்களுக்குப் பாதி சம்பளம் பென்ஷனாகக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. சர்க்கார் வேலையிலிருந்து விலகிய பிறகு வாழ்க்கையை நடத்துவதற்காக இது கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. இப்போது ஒரு கான்ஸ்டேபில் யெடுத்துக் கொள்ளுங்கள். அவர்களுக்கு retire ஆகும்போது ரூ. 12 தான் பென்ஷனாகக் கிடைக்கிறது. ஆனால், அதே சமயத்தில் ஒரு I.G. retire ஆனால் அவருக்கு ஆயிரம் ரூபாய் பென்ஷன் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், அதிகச் சம்பளம் வாங்குகிறவர்களுக்கு ஏன் அதிகம் பென்ஷனைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்? குறைந்த சம்பளத்தை வாங்கி retire ஆகிறவர்களுக்குத்தான் அதிக பென்ஷனைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். லக்ஷம் லக்ஷமாகச் சம்பாதித்து வைத்திருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு ஏன் பெரிய பென்ஷனைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்கிறேன். ‘பெரிய உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களைப் பற்றிய விஷயம் நம்முடையதல்ல; Government of Indiaவின் வேலையென்று சொல்லலாம்.’ ஆனால் இந்த விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி நம்முடைய மாகாண அரசாங்கம் Central Government உடன் சண்டை போட்டு, இந்தப் பெரிய உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுடைய பென்ஷனைக் குறைக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to join in the chorus of tributes paid to the Hon. the Prime Minister for the presentation of his first budget. I am amazed at his marvellous courage in his old age to withstand the stress and strain of comment and controversy where weaker mortals would have succumbed to a sense of despair and would have well said: ‘Better die in the midst of alarms than reign in a horrible place.’ But he has presented his first budget within three months of his regime and no small wonder if an unfriendly critic should discover in the purple patches of his budget probatory exploits of an adventurous promotee. What should be the criterion of a Budget? Sure and certain it should mirror the needs of the people, and, viewed from this standpoint, I must say that this Budget caters considerably to the demands of the masses. It is only in that light that I take his professions for Harijan uplift and for rural reconstruction. These are but two aspects of his mass upliftment programme. After all, I feel ours is a country which lives in the village and the village depends upon agriculture and agriculture depends upon monsoons and so it has been well-said ‘Agriculture, our economics, is a gamble in monsoons.’ I ask the Hon. the Prime Minister whether his measures for rural reconstruction will be enough to satisfy the needs of the masses, short-term and long-term, against this gamble in monsoon? What do we want? We want that we must have not only a Budget that will meet our problem of to-day, but a Budget that will provide for insurance against the risks of the morrow.”

“Sir, the countryside has been suffering for many decades and generations from cyclicity of famines. What is the provision in the Budget that we see against such famines? True, Sir, there is ample provision in order to maintain the supply and demand of food at a precarious equilibrium this year. But, when all is said and done, it is only a problem for this year; but the State is not merely the custodian of the present, but the trustee and custodian of the future. I ask what steps have been taken in this direction to provide for the risks of the morrow. Therefore it is feel that it is no good that we attempt at window-dressing

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and provide for ephemeral measures for this year or that, but we should launch upon a very ambitious scheme for reconstruction. I believe it has been the bane of many members in charge of Finance that they should try to infuse their flesh and blood into the dry bones of public finance based on the principles of orthodox budget-balancing. The time has come when we must cry halt to balance budgeting. We have got, even as it was revealed to us the other day, the glorious examples where great peoples have advanced by vast strides through five-year or ten-year plans, to wit, the examples of Russia and the United States. I need not go far beyond than to illustrate now how it was that during the regime of Roosevelt there had been ever so many schemes to provide for long-term planning. But, judged from this standpoint, what is it that we see in the Budget to-day? I am afraid there has been a considerable drain upon the reserves and upon the revenues of our exchequer, all to meet only the needs of the moment. It is true, extraordinary times require extraordinary measures. I do not question the technique of the Finance Minister that he should have taken steps to drain the reserve of the Province. But I ask how long are you going to keep us in suspense and in a precarious position without insuring against risks of famine? We have got vast tracts, particularly in the Ceded districts. He who runs can read that people have been thrown into the mercies of providence from year to year and there is, on that score, terrible drain upon the revenues of the province; but so far no bold steps have been taken in order to meet the demands of such tracts in this province.

“ Now, I wish to say, ‘ Let us not classify Harijans as a separate element. If really the Congress party desires to consider the Harijans as part and parcel of Hindu Society, let it give the Harijans all the shares in the Province in so far as such shares that belong to the Hindus are concerned and let it try to give every amenity, not only in the administration, not only in the revenues of the Province, but in every walk of life, for the scheduled castes. I say the mere allotment of one crore of rupees will not do. I am very happy to hear that the Hon. the Premier has got at the back of his mind the idea of providing for the construction of houses for the Harijans. But I would say, inasmuch as it would be a fairly productive plan of construction, let there be a much bigger allotment in that direction. We would like to see not one crore or five crores, but if necessary 20 crores if only we can alleviate the distress of the down-trodden. We have to confess to our shame that we have allowed this community to live in this condition for centuries. We have got now to make good at least by carrying through drastic measures by which we can bring up the Harijans to the level of the common run of mankind. It is there I join issue with another member of this House when he said even 20 per cent priority reservation for Harijans is not sufficient in the matter of admission to colleges and other educational institutions. Let more seats, as a matter of duty towards the Harijans, be ear-marked for the Harijans. It is only in that direction we can welcome these

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steps. We have to repair the damage done by our forefathers to these down-trodden people. I would only wish that with our watchwords in the two words ‘ Harijan Uplift ’, the Harijans will come in for a considerable degree of uplift. The pace of their recovery must be accelerated and that must be better done under the auspices of the State. Let every pie that is ear-marked towards mass uplift and towards rural reconstruction go to contribute its utmost towards Harijan uplift. It is only in that sense I believe that we can try and effect, in letter and in spirit, Harijan uplift in this Province. I must congratulate the Hon. the Premier that he has been a pioneer in this field to undertake, under State auspices, Harijan uplift as part and parcel of a programme of reconstruction.

“ Apart from this mass uplift programme there is a very excellent feature that I see in his scheme of Prohibition. I should like to see the day very soon—I do realize the difficulties of administration that stand in his way—when the Excise Department will go lock, stock and barrel. I do not want to see, that Department continuing to exist under State auspices. It is a sin and the wages of sin is Death. I do want to emphasize with all the religious fervour I can command that the Excise Department should not be allowed to continue a day longer and I do not want that drink should continue, to do harm to the people of the country side any more.

“ Everytime I have been asking for definitions, even in my interpellations, it is not without meaning. Sir, we have got in our country for every policy, however broad-based, different definitions and different interpretations. When I asked for a definition of ‘ literacy ’ I had only that in mind. Literacy may be all right. One will be out for cent per cent literacy, but we should like to know what provision there is for religious instruction, because we know full-well that education is not worth having if it fails to inculcate in us a spirit of service and a fear of God.

“ But I would equally like to ask, why should we confine this Prohibition only to elimination of liquor. I was rather amused the other day when an hon. Member of the European Group, I believe it was Mr. Ferrelly, cited the analogy of the United States, but I should seize this opportunity to expose the anomaly of his analogy. I think drink is not racy of the soil. It is, even from the standpoint of religion, taboo. It may be that in the West there may be limited sanction for it in religion in its article of transubstantiation, but here we have none of its kind. In our country our morals are against drink and we would not like to see that there should be drink any longer.

“ But prohibition of drink is not the only thing that we should have at the back of our mind. We want prohibition of all social evils. I was also amused at another argument that the hon. Member of the European Group had used. He sought shelter behind the time-worn, but long exploded theory of *laissez faire*.

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When to-day the State has advanced farthest from individualism to Social Service and is trying to see that it touches the circumference of life at every point and wants to do the utmost in order to repair the harm that has been done to several sections of society, it is indeed a cry in the wilderness now to say that you should not meddle with the liberties of the people. But if such liberties are going to be licentious we have got every right to use the long arm of the State and see that the down-trodden are rescued from the clutches of degeneracy. Therefore we want prohibition of prostitution, prohibition of racing, prohibition of betting, prohibition of gambling, prohibition of Bombay shows, indeed there should be prohibition of every social scandal. It is no good simply crying halt to drink. More harm has been done not only to the masses but even to cultured classes in our society where the flower of our youth has wasted its talents in direction which are detrimental to the progress of society. If really the Ministry wants to have its policy broad-based here is an opportunity where they could try to do justice and try to see that we shall wipe out all the scandals of society. Sir, the racing season is going to come. It is going to bring into our provincial metropolis men from all directions who will be a curse on society. They are going to waste and squander thousands in their speculations of unearned incomes and they are going to add to the burdens of our rationing. I want that before the licence is renewed, the State should think twice and see that racing is not allowed. Sir, it is a sin and a sin that should not be allowed under State auspices. (Hear, hear.)

“There should not only be prohibition of all these intoxicants but there should be prohibition of the worst of all intoxicants—power.” It was Lord Acton who said ‘Power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely.’ This is where, Sir, I feel that a change in the regime has brought about a tyranny of the majority. We have had the other day at one of the nerve centres of this province—Vaniyambadi—incendiarism by hooligans. It was very good of the Hon. the Premier when representations were made to him to have come to the rescue of the minority, the Muslims. We felt the greatest pride and satisfaction when the Hon. the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and so many hon. Members of this House went out to see for themselves the diabolic demonstrations of deliberate and indiscriminate destruction of private property. I want, Sir, that if your Ministry is a popular ministry, it should put a stop to this rioting. I say, Sir, it is a sad commentary that there should be within three months of your regime so many riots when during the six long years of the Advisers’ regime there was not even a single riot. The riots, let me tell you, are a question mark to your popularity and a foot-note to the problem of your authority. It is high time that you infused confidence in the minority, the Muslims. We do not form part and parcel of your administration. We are not trying to get the loaves and fishes of office. We do not want them. We are here for service and sacrifice, but what we want is justice and fairplay.

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Even though there is the best of intentions in the higher circles of society, we see in the countryside, the majority community, which appears to be obsessed with a superiority complex is out to seek opportunities for tyranny and try to do harm to peace. What we as a minority want to-day is not so much prosperity for the minority, as peace, peace and peace.

“I would like to make one suggestion in order that there shall be preservation of peace. On the analogy of the War Risks Insurance Scheme that was in existence during the pendency of the War, there should be a State Security Scheme for the protection of person and property of minorities. I wish that even in this matter a lead is given by this Province to other Provinces and mutual understanding is effected at once. I want to see a statutory obligation on the part of the State to protect the person and property of minorities which will infuse confidence in the minority and put a restraint on the majority if it should think in terms of tyranny. I want that there should be no more room for majority tyranny and for recrudescence of incendiarism and that there should be safeguards against intolerance towards the minority.

“Sir, we have the greatest faith in the Hon. the Premier. We have seen the excellent way in which he conducted himself with regard to the Vaniyambadi riots: he went there to understand things for himself and gave us assurances for the protection of the minority. We are confident he will redress our grievances and give proof of his assurances. We know that even though we are not part of his administration we are assured that he is not against us. But the proof of the pudding is in the eating of it. Let us wait and see. We want to see that the Hon. the Premier should go ahead well and high up with his programme of reconstruction. Let him at the same time give us the assurance that the minority will be free from the tyranny of the majority and from damage to its property.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member will please resume his seat. He has exceeded his time-limit.”

* SRI D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—“Sir, it is with considerable diffidence that I rise to speak after the torrential eloquence poured out by the previous speaker. It seems almost needless for me to say anything. First of all, Sir, the Hon. the Premier and the Ministry ought to be congratulated on the democratic budget which has been presented to the House. No doubt there are controversial points; no doubt there are things which cannot be realised in the immediate future. But it is essentially a democratic budget for which the Ministry and the Premier deserve our congratulations. Sir, within the limited time at my disposal, I can only touch on one or two most important aspects. As a medical man I may be expected to touch on the medical aspect of the budget. Sir, in this connexion I am greatly relieved by the realization that the Minister in charge of the portfolio of medicine is not a medical person. We have been trained as medical men to look at things from our own point of view. We

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have been trained to look at things through the microscope and the test-tube, and we are prone to imagine that what is true of the microscope and the test-tube must be true of the whole world. I am therefore glad that the Minister in charge of the medical portfolio, although she is connected with a medical family, is not hampered by herself being a medical person. Also she can, by the right of her office and by the right of her sex, always have the last word on the subject. Therefore my sense of responsibility is considerably relieved.

"There are two things which the Government seem to have before them with regard to medical education in this Province. For one thing, they realize that so far as the allopathic system of medicine is concerned, the existing hospitals and the colleges are not sufficient to meet the requirements of the present day. Therefore they propose to start two more colleges, one at Guntur and the other at Madura. If they want to equip the colleges completely it would cost the State two crores of rupees for the two institutions. But there are real difficulties sometimes for which India is not responsible. If we are enamoured of recognition by the British Medical Council and by the All-India Medical Council we will not get them unless our institutions are up to a particular standard. If their recognition is absolutely necessary I suppose the Government must face the music and provide the necessary equipment, if not immediately, at least during the next 4, 5 or 6 years at a cost of something like Rs. 2 crores to make those institutions up-to-date and modern. That is one aspect of the question.

"Sir, we realize that all medical systems have come to stay in this country. Millions of rupees have been spent to make the allopathic institutions up-to-date and provided with the most modern equipments. We have also realised that the indigenous systems of medicine have also to be recognized and encouraged. The Ayurvedic, Unani and Siddha systems of medicine have to be recognized and encouraged. I have myself been brought up to recognize the value of the indigenous systems of medicine. I had the honour of being elected a few years ago as the President of an Association of an indigenous systems of medicine. In the early part of my life I came in contact with a good many Ayurvedic and Unani physicians and their sympathy, good-will and desire to resuscitate all that is true and great in our country impressed me considerably. Therefore, I am, if at all, only prejudiced in favour of resuscitation of the indigenous systems of medicine in this country. But, Sir, there are practical difficulties in the way, which I want the Government to take note of. I may not be able to offer any suggestions to meet these difficulties but the Government, with their experience and greater facilities, may be able to solve them in a more satisfactory way than I may be able to do with my suggestions.

"Sir, we have come to a point where we have to decide between the two systems. I have not the necessary authority to decide in favour of the one or the other, but I have my own

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doubts whether you can really run the two systems together parallel for any length of time. Because in the modern world, which is essentially scientific you cannot develop science compartmentally. Truth is universal and there cannot be an Indian truth as against a European truth. The discovery in one part of the world is a discovery for the whole world. We are now face to face with the problem whether what we consider to be the truth of Ayurveda or Unani is really different from the truth brought out by the system known as Allopathy or for the matter of that the system known as Homeopathy. But, Sir, there may be different ways of approach to the question. You may look at it from different points of view. Some years ago, Ross discovered the malarial germ; he discovered it in India, under Indian conditions, but it became a truth for the whole world. Dr. Elliot discovered trephining for the eye. It was done in a hospital, but it became the truth of the whole world. In the same way the other truth discovered with regard to the cataract operation of the eye by H. Smith at Jallundar became the truth for the whole world. Therefore we should realise that we cannot keep things in water-tight compartments. On the other hand, would it not be better to pool our resources and see that all that is best in the country is brought together? It may not be Ayurveda or Allopathy, but it may be an Indian method of approach to the treatment of disease in which all that is best and modern and up-to-date in the treatment of disease has been incorporated. Therefore I venture to make two suggestions. Instead of starting separate hospitals, can you not so equip the many hospitals that you have at present that students who have been trained in the Allopathic system may undergo post-graduate courses of study in Ayurveda and then go out into the world and practise whatever system they think best and appropriate to a particular disease at a particular time? Another thing is that if you think that allopathy is not sufficient, certainly go to Ayurveda, but you cannot run these two systems together and spend large sums of money of the tax-payers needlessly. As we have to face the music of large expenditure, I ask the Government to consider whether it would be wise to proceed with their proposals. Of course, I may have other opportunities to raise this question in connection with the voting of grants, but in the meantime I request the Government to review the matter of their own accord, take the points raised here into their consideration, keep an open mind on the matter and not take drastic steps without taking sufficient time to consider the question."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer my hearty congratulations to our worthy Premier for the able manner in which he has prepared the budget and placed it before us. There is the Prakasam touch about it. It is a good budget and the announcement that he made this morning that the Prohibition scheme will be extended to 4 more districts has rendered it a better budget. I would wish that it were the

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best budget that he could possibly have presented to us. Considered against the background of the economic distress that we are experiencing on all sides, the all-enveloping and ever-deepening economic crisis that is overtaking us, these strikes in factories and the strikes of the agricultural workers in the fields and the inevitable effect they will have on the economic life of the Province when I consider the budget against this background, I must say that it leaves room for disappointment, because we live in a world where hunger, poverty, disease and all other evils of maladjustment of the economic system have a tremendous effect on the psychology of the people. I should therefore have expected the best budget and by the best budget I mean that we should have emboldened ourselves to start what I may call a socialist programme in the Province, the socialization of industry and such other things. We who have been nurtured in the womb of revolutionary thought, and see people live in squalour, dirt and disease, we who are working amidst a suffering and discontented population, see plainly the writing on the walls. That writing on the wall is clear and unmistakable. The other day my hon. Friend the Maharaja of Pithapuram saw this writing on the wall and he said that he was prepared to give up his zamindari. In the same way I should have expected our Hon. Premier also to see the writing on the wall and launch as is characteristic of him, a bold programme of socialistic economics.

“Having said that, I cannot shut my eyes to the very good provisions which he has made in his budget. I may specify the one crore of rupees he has set apart for the Harijan uplift and the three crores for Rural Reconstruction. Prohibition also he has extended to four more districts. The benefit of this could have been enhanced if he had also placed before us a clear-cut policy and programme of what he would do to remedy some of the more urgent evils that we are suffering from.

“The labourers are on strike everywhere. I cannot believe that it is the result of the work of one Party which has its own axe to grind. It is the symptom of a more deep-seated disease and we must attack it where it begins. It begins at that point where the huge disparity between the rich capitalist and the poor labourer in the factory and the field begins. Therefore I should have expected in this budget or in the speech of the Hon. the Premier an indication of what he would do to treat the disease. I would suggest in this connection that the labourers might be promised—the labourers in the field or in the factory—50 per cent of share in the profits that go to the landlord or the millowner or the capitalist who owns the industry. He would have also done well if he had announced that in future there would be no private enterprise in the Province and that all the industries would be taken over by the Provincial Government, so that the workers might get their due share. Similarly I would have expected him to enunciate a policy of abolition of the zamindari system. Also there is a large disparity in the holdings

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of land. Apart from the zamindari system there are rich landholders owning one thousand, two thousand or three thousand acres and there are people, 80 per cent of them, who have no land at all. He must think about these also and see if he cannot remove this disparity. The tillers of the soil must be made owners of the soil and we must also abolish absentee-landlordism. Some of these are vital and urgent reforms and we must have been quick enough to have thought about these so that the workers in the factories and the labourers in the fields might get an assurance from us that we have not neglected them and that we are alive to their needs. That assurance from the head of this Government would have electrified them and we would have heard a different story altogether from them, we would have assured them of decent life and we would have assured them that this Government means business.

“Then let me Sir, come to my own unfortunate districts. Many speakers on the floor of this House were good enough to refer to the economic disabilities of Rayalaseema. We are very thankful to all of them. We members from Rayalaseema are very thankful to them for the case they have made out for the immediate economic uplift of Rayalaseema. In this connection, I would like to place before the Hon. the Premier a definite concrete programme of action so that the economic disabilities may be removed as speedily as possible. I note with gratitude the attention that has been paid by the Government to this subject; but pious resolutions or speeches have done us no good in the past and unfortunately the indications are that this year also our case may be neglected unless it is drilled into the ears of the Government. The one way by which the economic rehabilitation of Rayalaseema might be assured is to create a Reserve Fund for the economic development of Rayalaseema, called the Rayalaseema Reserve Fund, with say Rs. 5 crores or Rs. 10 crores to begin with. That will be the best assurance to the people of Rayalaseema that this Government means business and their disabilities are being investigated and will be removed. I would suggest the constitution of an economic enquiry committee so that they may as quickly as possible draw up a report and place it before the Government for being adopted. For this purpose a concrete programme may be drawn up for removing all these disabilities by a progressive and well-planned action. The irrigational problems of Rayalaseema calls for immediate attention. In this connection, I must with great regret refer to the sort of neglect that Rayalaseema has been receiving at the hands of the Government. I admire the knack with which my friends from the Circars and from Tamil Nad manage to get their things done; but unfortunately we the people from Rayalaseema, somewhat reserved and unsophisticated, have not been successful in pushing our case forward. I take this opportunity, though with great regret, to bring to the notice of this Government and this House that in matters irrigational the case of Rayalaseema has been neglected before. The Mettur Project which was conceived long after many of the projects in the Ceded

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Districts were thought of, is now an accomplished fact. Why, recently, an Adviser to the Governor initiated the Ramapadasagar Project and about Rs. 19 lakhs have been allotted for it in this budget. I ask the Hon. the Premier why there has not been sufficient attention given to the Sangameswaram Project and whether it is at all proposed to carry out the project. After all, it is a project best suited for our districts, and I do not understand why it should have been neglected. You know Rayalaseema is a famine-stricken area; thousands of people die every year; may be they are not dying before our very eyes, but they are dying in thousands next door, as a result of famine and the abundant hunger and poverty and disease. And yet you are not taking sufficient notice of it. Therefore, I ask why the Sangameswaram Project which would remove these evils has not been investigated at all. I was discussing this problem with the P.W.D. Minister the other day, but I was not able to get an assurance. Therefore, I take this opportunity of placing before this House my views. There are many projects to be investigated, the Sangameswaram Project, the Gandikota Project, the Devanahalli, Valgode and Pennar-Kumudavati Project, and others. They must all be investigated and started as early as possible, and particularly the Sangameswaram Project which will irrigate 25 lakhs of acres and is as big as the Ramapadasagar Project. The latter, although of recent origin, has attracted the attention of the Government while the Sangameswaram Project has been shelved. Sir, when I look at the poverty and misery of my people, my heart burns and I am here giving out my feelings without any reserve. I urge that the Government must take the earliest opportunity to investigate and execute this project. Sir, there are numerous other (At this stage, the Hon. Speaker sounded the gong and the Member resumed his seat.)"

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, before I make my remarks on the budget proposals, I should like to make a request to the Hon. Speaker of the House on behalf of my party. I request that he in conjunction with the Leader of the House should allow the Members of the Opposition more opportunity, more chances . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I am giving you more opportunities than to the other members; your leader also knows that."

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am making this request because you are aware that the budget which is now before the House has already passed through the party machine of the party in power; and I wonder why the party members should rise up and speak on the budget now. Therefore, Sir, it is right and fair that I make a demand like this on behalf of my party."

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the exposition of the financial position and prospects of a Province like Madras even on ordinary occasions offers abundant material of interest, not only to this Honourable

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House but also to the public of this province and also anxiety to the persons who are charged with the preparation of the proposals. Particularly on this occasion perhaps that interest and that anxiety are all the greater due to several reasons. The Hon. the Premier represents a party which has been for years indulging in activities which are far removed from responsibility. To-day they have taken upon themselves the responsibility of governance and administration. The party has assumed charge of the governance of this Province with all their utopian ideals and ideologies and it becomes the grave responsibility of the Hon. the Premier to crystallise into realities those ideals and ideologies. He has to perform the task however impossible it may be; and if he does not perform it, he must incur the indignation of an intolerant deity. Therefore, Sir, the budget that is now for the consideration of this Honourable House reflects the attempts of the Hon. the Premier in trying to capture and give shape to those ideals and ideas. Taking the question of the food problem, I would like to remind the House about a statement which the Hon. the Premier made when he placed the draft proposals for the consideration of the House. He said he was inaugurating the village committees, the taluk committees and the district committees with a view to arrange for proper procurement and equitable distribution of food supplies in this province and he said that these committees would be elected or selected irrespective of parties and creeds and affiliations. You are aware, Sir, of what is happening in the districts when these committees are being formed. I represent the South Arcot and Chingleput districts. I had no occasion to meet the Collector of Chingleput; but I had an occasion to meet the Collector of South Arcot. When I went to him and asked "What have you done with regard to representation of Muslims in the district on these village committees?" he simply produced before me a Government Order, wherein he pointed out the sentence "consult the local M.L.As." He meant by that he had to consult the Congress M.L.As. and the local Muslim M.L.As. were 'nobodys' in his eyes. When the draft proposals came before the House, the Hon. the Premier gave an assurance that whenever these committees were constituted, the local M.L.As. would be consulted and he would consider the question of including all M.L.As. Therefore, Sir, I do not know whether there is any special instruction issued about it; I do not however think so; for I believe in the sincerity of the expressions of the Hon. the Premier. And if no instruction has already been issued, I would like the Hon. the Premier to immediately issue instructions to the District Collectors and the District officials that whenever"

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No such instructions were ever issued. Hon. Members must take a little care whenever they give expression to such doubts and suspicions and charges, as it were. It is not fair at all in the least. The Government Order simply said "M.L.As." and the hon. Member himself admitted it included "M.L.As." and he himself is

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an M.L.A. On that basis, he should have asked the District Collector and the Government and not drawn adverse inferences."

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am really sorry for that expression; but I am saying this simply because the Collector told me that he had got to consult the Congress M.L.As. and not the Muslim M.L.As. That was why I brought it to the notice of this House. Sir, in the constitution of these village committees, it is just and fair that we the Muslim League Party in this House should demand that the Muslim League's representatives in the districts and villages should be put in these committees. For, when you believe that a Congress representative is the real representative of the caste-Hindus or the Hindus of this province, I believe that the Muslim League M.L.As. of the Muslim League representatives are the real representatives of the Muslims of this province. This is only just and fair and I only demand that justice should be done."

"Sir, with regard to prohibition, I need not say much. I believe that by mere legislation you are not going to eradicate a moral evil. I always believe that this reformation must come from within and not without. I do not here propose to consider the advisability of introducing prohibition or preventing people trying to undermine the introduction of prohibition. It is going to be a costly affair, particularly when you are creating islands of prohibition areas. The frontiers must be guarded and you will require enormous sums of money to prevent smuggling and illicit brewing of liquor. I believe that with all the powerful engines of propaganda, with all the power the Congress Party and the Ministry command in this province, they will contrive to do propaganda among the masses and see that a moral reformation comes within and not without; for, I know if it is going to be enforced, it will last only as long as the Ministry is in power; and as soon as the power is removed, it will also go. We know how as soon as prohibition was removed from the four districts in which it was last introduced, by the Congress Ministry some years ago, the public of Salem and of the other districts took to drinks and other evils. Therefore I plead that when undertaking such reformation, alongside the introduction of prohibition, they should try to use their engines of propaganda for bringing moral reformation among the people of this province."

"Then, Sir, coming to the question of khadi production, I would like to recall to this Honourable House the statement which the Hon. the Premier has made this morning. He said that there is not going to be compulsion. I accept it. But, taking the scheme itself—I have gone through the note submitted by the Provincial Textile Commissioner—I find he is going to select a firka and in that firka no mill-made yarn, will be supplied, only khadar yarn will be supplied and the result is, a weaver who has been weaving not only to-day or yesterday but from time immemorial, with mill-made yarn, he has to weave only khadar from hand-spun yarn. If it is not 'compulsion,' I ask, what else is compulsion. Leave the choice to the people

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and announce to them that those weavers who wish to take to hand-spun yarn they may do so. That will be the better way of industrialising khadar production in this province. This sort of choosing a firka to see that khadi is woven in that firka is, I say nothing but compulsion."

"Further, I would say that there are several companies which have been recently organized asking for Government permission to register themselves so that they can import machinery, but on the plea of no spindle, these permissions are not granted. I would therefore request the Government to organize more mills, so that there may be more production of yarn and so that we can solve the problem of the weavers themselves. This will be a step in the right direction rather than to introduce the khadar scheme into this province. Sir, I know that it has been the policy of the Congress, not only to-day, but for the last so many years, to try to introduce khadi and they even spent lakhs and crores for capturing the imagination of the public to this, but they have not achieved their object to the extent they wished. Therefore, Sir, the production of khadar should also be left to the sweet will and pleasure of the people of this province instead of trying to introduce it with the finances of the province."

"Then Sir, with regard to Harijan uplift, I welcome the allotment that has been already made, but how that is going to be used, is a question to be considered. As a matter of fact, there are already comments in this province, not only by great statesmen but also by the leading newspapers in the country to the effect that the provision of lump-sum allotment is something objectionable and is contrary to the highest principles of budgeting. You are taking nearly 300 lakhs of rupees of the people to be spent for the uplift of the Harijans and after all what are you going to do to help them in the villages where they live. A Harijan might go to a public well, but he will not be allowed to draw water from that well by the caste-Hindus and then you will construct a separate well for him to avoid it. By this you will again be perpetuating the separation and segregation of these people as it has already been existing for centuries. How are you going to help Harijan uplift? I would put it to you, why not inter-dine with the Harijans, inter-marry with them and see that they become part and parcel of your own religion. This sort of window-dressing as one hon. Member put it, is not going to help the Harijans."

"Then, Sir, with regard to the question of education, Sir, when there is so much of illiteracy in this province, no attempt has been made to wipe it out. On the other hand, we are talking of basic education and Hindustani Talimi Sangh and so on. I have read the famous novel of H. G. Wells "The First Men in the Moon." I think hon. Members would also have read it. In that book, we find that coolies developed their hands; Minister had his head developed and people developed that part which is actually to be put into use. If it is a question of brain and mind, mind is developed and if it is a question of hand, the hands are developed."

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"Then, Talimi Sanghs or Talimi khanas are going to create a peculiar sort of people in this province. There must be absolute freedom but this is almost copying the totalitarian ideas and you are going to suppress the individuality of the individual and to suppress the growth of the brain and scientific knowledge of the people of this province. Let us not import foreign ideals. Let us try to eradicate illiteracy from this land. There is stagnation in elementary schools; children relapse into illiteracy and all public finance is being wasted on higher education. I hope the Hon. Minister for Education will see that illiteracy is removed rather than trying to import new-fangled ideas into the educational system of this province.

"Sir, you are aware that for years there has been an agitation for a Communications and Highways Department in this province and this has been done with a view to see that the villages are connected with urban centres of commerce and industries so that through these channels of roads knowledge can be imported from the urban centres to the villages. I say that the roads and highways are almost the life-lines of our own industries and commerce. But, I find that the department which has come into existence after years of agitation has been reduced almost to a skeleton. I dare say the Hon. the Premier will see that in this country of villages, villages are connected with urban centres of civilization where a villager can get anything he wants. The roads in these darkened villages, backward villages where still there is ignorance and poverty, should be maintained properly by Government. Though it may perhaps be necessary to reduce the Highways Department owing to financial necessity, I hope Government will not lose sight of the importance of the development of the roads and highways in this province.

"Again, Sir, when in this House the Salary Amendment Bill was proposed a note of warning was given in this House that this is going to rouse the people, Government servants, teachers and others who are receiving low salaries and it has done so. To-day we find, everybody is clamouring for higher salaries and it is a legitimate clamour. There is the low-paid Government servant, there is the low-paid teacher: there are munshis and pandits. At a time when the cost of living is very high, at a time when even the rich people are not able to carry on their daily existence, how these poor teachers, pandits and munshis and these low-paid Government servants are going to carry on. Therefore, Sir, when my own salary has been raised from Rs. 75 to Rs. 150, I would demand that the salaries of these people also are immediately raised and the Government would consider question of revising the salaries of the low-paid Government servants. Then only you can satisfy the people of this province. Otherwise, the strikes, hartals and processions are going to be a daily sight in this province.

"Again, Sir, the Province is suffering from want of houses. There is already the food crisis; there is already the cloth famine.

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There is also the housing problem and nobody is able to get any house in this Province; not only in this City but in all the towns of the Province. I hope the Government will soon come forward with schemes for more houses so that they can house the wandering M.L.As., the wandering Ministers and the people of this Province. My time is already over. Therefore, I would request the Hon. the Premier to see that relief in this direction is given as early as possible."

* SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMIAH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Hon. Premier on his courage for adding four more districts for prohibition in this Presidency this year. Sir, I admire the courage and steadiness with which he took the criticisms of the Opposition and he deserves the congratulations of the people of this Province in his intention to give effect to the policy of the Congress. You have been listening to long speeches from the Opposition benches and while they congratulated and admired the Premier, they forget that they are criticising the policy of the Congress too much. They should know that the Congress is in power and that the Congress has come to enforce its policy and that the Congress represents the people. Let there be no doubt about it. But Sir, I may point out certain features of the Budget. The total expenditure of the Province is 57 crores 42 lakhs but the amount set apart out of this for nation-building services is only 15 crores 99 lakhs while for civil administration, which was a prerequisite of the former Government, the imperialistic Government, almost double the amount has been set apart for such Departments as the Police Department, maintenance of law and order, judiciary, jails and such other things. But the pledge of the Congress was to introduce total prohibition. Now our Provincial Government can and should introduce total prohibition as early as possible. We are quite sure and I hope the Hon. the Premier will have the courage to say at the end of the session in his reply to the debate that he would assure the House that he would introduce total prohibition all over the Province from the beginning of the next official year. In answer to a question, the Premier said this morning that he would impose such taxation for enforcing prohibition in these four new districts. I would like to suggest that if at all taxation is to be resorted to, that taxation should be on a graduated scale and that it should fall upon only the rich people and as pointed out by some of the Hon. Members, on black-marketeers, profiteers and hoarders who have made enormous amounts of money during the war period. If it is possible to tax them without an investigation, it will be good. I would also suggest that the nationalization of transport will help our Government in adding to the revenues of our Province. The adjoining States of Travancore and Hyderabad are earning very good sums from this source and we can also take a lesson from them and thus try a plan before the end of the year to take up the transport services and serve the people by such nationalization—nationalization will not only help the people living in outlying parts which are not served by railways but will also add to the resources of the Province.

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"Coming to Education, too much stress was laid for the improvement of education in the various parts of the Province and attention was focussed upon Rayalseema for grants to the Arts Colleges, Engineering Colleges, Medical Colleges and for higher education but in the case of those living in mufassal areas, I am very sorry to say that students are unable to get admission into the secondary schools as most of the schools are overcrowded. Students in the villages are going to those schools from a radius of five miles—not one or two but hundreds of students—who run about from place to place where high schools are situated are refused admission and they have absolutely no other go and they have no remedy; and there is none to voice their grievances. Therefore, the number of secondary schools should be increased before the Arts Colleges are encouraged by money grants. We are talking of improvement of primary education. You are paying so much money to the Arts Colleges but secondary schools are not correspondingly increased and I wish to place this before the Hon. the Prime Minister that while those Colleges require equipment, for these schools not so much money is required. At least some huts may be improvised and as many students as seek admission may be admitted and given education.

"Sir, this is the usual time for ventilating local grievances also. Here I may mention about the Madura district which is very much affected by the Criminal Tribes Act because most of the Kallars are living in that area. Madura has two Superintendents of Police and only very recently, Vizagapatam police district has been bifurcated not because there are Kallars there but because the area was too large. I think, the Police Department itself is responsible for so much of crime in the Madura district. From a perusal of last year's report it is seen that the population is only 5 per cent of the Presidency and the grave crimes committed there are 10 per cent and one of the main causes for that is drinking. Kallars were not drunkards formerly, but now they are tempted to drink. Kallar schools which are opened and maintained by the Police Department are not controlled by the Education Department. Why? Since the Police themselves are creating conditions for crimes, crimes have not decreased. Therefore I suggest that the system of administration pursued by the Police Department should be scrapped because it is rotten and the Criminal Tribes Act must go.

"Coming to zamindari, they pay a peishkush of 47 lakhs but they get a revenue of three crores. Why not try to abolish them immediately by merely paying them a nominal compensation, and you will get 250 lakhs for nation-building services."

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, repeated references have been made to the popular character of the present Ministry. In this connexion, I want to remind the Hon. the Premier—though reminding him is unnecessary, that it is not completely correct. We, on this side of the House who represent, as my hon. Friend, Gopal Reddi said, the Muslim nation in this province, are not represented on the Treasury Benches. Probably it was not possible under the circumstances. I am not complaining about that, but I want to request

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the Hon. the Premier, owing to that very fact, that in matters affecting the Muslim nation he has to be a little more considerate. I have known the Hon. the Premier for some time and I know he has a very large heart and sympathy for the under-dogs and down-trodden.

"Now, Sir, as far as this Budget is concerned, I am not going to deal with it in any detail, because I have already been anticipated in many things by previous speakers. On this question of prohibition, I am told some hon. Members went up to the point of shaking the Treasury Benches a little. But I am glad that the apple-cart has not been upset. Even prohibition, I assert, could wait for a year or so. At a time when we have to avert an impending calamity, I would like the Premier had been given a free hand in this affair. We are all agreed on this matter of prohibition but a more urgent and dire necessity is the giving of food and cloth to the citizens of this Province. The Hon. Premier introduced a scheme for better procurement in this province. In fact, I was one of those who was enamoured, I might even say, in love with the scheme when the Premier drew a very rosy picture as to how that scheme will work. I know it is a favourite scheme of the Hon. the Premier and I was also one of those who liked it very much. Some hon. Friends in my party had real fears that it would work to the detriment of the other parties and interests in the country. Even though I did not share that view at the time, I find that all their fears have come true and too true. With regard to Malabar, I hope the Hon. the Prime Minister will listen to what I have to say because I am very much agitated over things that are happening there. I was one with the Hon. the Premier with regard to the scheme that he introduced, but when I went to my own district, and saw the actual working of the scheme it simply irritated me. I do not think I can find enough words to express my grievances. With regard to my own constituency, what happened was this. My own taluk of Ponnani was subdivided for the purpose of selection of members to village committees into three sub-taluks which were presided over by three Deputy Tahsildars. These Subordinate Officials, I am sorry to say, however well-intentioned you may be—are simply spoiling the thing. In fact, it has been the case even in the matter of religions. The purohits, the pandits and the priests, being over-zealous about their religious beliefs, have ruined even religions. Within such a short time, they have done such a havoc in the working of it and we are feeling, as if we the Muslims are simply not in existence in the district of Malabar. The Deputy Tahsildars have not the courtesy and fairness to care for the Government Order which has been issued and they ignore and simply overlook the Muslim M.L.As. The Deputy Tahsildar, Chawghat, did not consult me at all and asked him why he did not consult us. His explanation was that he heard that I was away in Madras and the Tahsildar who was in charge of Ponnani sub-taluk in spite of the telegram I sent to him that I would meet him on the 14th expedited sending of the list to the Revenue Divisional Officer, Palghat, as if to avoid me. His explanation was that the Revenue Divisional Officer wired to him to send up the list by 13th and when I met the Revenue Divisional Officer himself

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later on he contradicted it. The Deputy Tahsildar, Tirur, concerned consulted us and we drew up an agreed list. But the list was altered overnight when the list came up to the Revenue Divisional Officer. We protested against such things but our protests were of no avail because we were overruled on account of the presence of the gentlemen who represented the Hindu Constituency. Even the gentlemen who represented the entire West Coast in the Legislative Council and who were even mentioned for Premierships and Ministerships were there and opposed us even in the matter of selection of Muslim Members. In this connection, my hon. Friend from Guntur says that he managed everything very well there. But unfortunately every place is not Guntur and all are not Salams. In the face of strong opposition from persons who were even mentioned for Premiership and Ministerships, the Revenue Divisional Officer did not agree and we could only register our protest and we were entirely helpless. I have written down a long memorandum to the Hon. the Premier in the matter. I believe the Premier with his large heart will look into the matter sympathetically. As far as the Ponnani taluk is concerned the Muslims are about 50 per cent there. In the Taluk Committee of the seven firkas, which have sent fourteen members, only three Muslims have come in and one of whom alone is a Muslim Leaguer and that a doubtful Leaguer and they have manipulated it in such a manner that there is no real and adequate representation of Muslims. As far as the Palghat taluk is concerned, we were not even consulted on this matter. I would earnestly request the Hon. Premier to see that due representation is given to Mussalmans on these committees.

“With regard to the educational policy of the Government, I take the Hon. Minister for Education at his word. I would wait for the proposals which he said would be placed before the Members of the House. There is one thing I want to request the Hon. Minister for Finance and Minister for Education, and it is this. We are very glad that you have set apart one crore of rupees for Harijans. We request the Hon. the Premier to set apart at least half the amount for Moplah education. At least for the present, I would be content with having two colleges. We have already two Government schools, one for Moplah boys and the other for Moplah girls. I would request the Minister to see that very early steps are taken in that matter.

“The Hon. the Premier and the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture said that we are living in better times. I think it is only in better times that we should concentrate our attention on the achievement of quick results. My suggestion to the Hon. the Premier is that the idle and useless Agriculture Department and the Veterinary Department which again is useless by itself should be amalgamated, so that they may yield better results and some useful work might be turned out in the matter of the long range programme of this Province with its self-sufficiency objective. It must be the primary and chief concern of any Government to see that such allied departments function as one unit and their activities are co-ordinated.

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“So far as food is concerned, whatever inducement you may offer by way of bonus to speed up procurement it does not solve the question of food. We must see that we are self-sufficient in the matter of food and we should not afterwards go about begging for food.

“In the matter of corruption, I had very high hopes upon this Government when they took up the reins of office. Later in the course of the debate I shall deal at length with it. But for the present I would content myself with suggesting that past deeds of corruption committed by officials be condoned. We know that you have already taken some steps. We are quite in the dark as to what exactly the measures are that have been taken by the Government. A thick veil seems to have been drawn over it. We know that you have simply established an organization; what it is and how it works is all behind ‘purdah.’ I wish the Hon. the Premier takes us more into his confidence.”

* SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to thank on the floor of the House the Hon. the Premier and the Ministry for their patriotic and generous announcement regarding the introduction of prohibition in eight districts as against the four districts they had originally fixed upon. As you are aware, the scheme of prohibition was only to work in four districts. When the hon. Members of this House suggested and requested him, he was kind enough to extend prohibition for four more districts. For this I specially thank the Hon. the Premier and the Ministry.

“Coming to the Budget Estimates, I am not going to deal in detail with the amounts allotted to various departments. I shall deal only with the major policy of the Government which should be adopted in future for the welfare of the province. In the sphere of education which could be put down under three categories, namely, college education, high school education and primary education. There is famine of teachers even as we have with regard to food and cloth; especially it is found so far as the secondary grade trained teacher is concerned. In my own district, in the Salem Municipality they advertised for a teacher; but what was the use? The secondary grade teacher is able to get a salary ranging from Rs. 80 to 100 elsewhere but in a municipality he is paid only Rs. 25. In order that there may not be any dearth for teachers, and to eradicate this evil, I suggest that the minimum salary for a teacher should be Rs. 40 per mensem. Along with the paucity of teachers, we also see there is insufficient equipment by way of building accommodation also. The suggestion has been made by some hon. Members that the number of pupils to be managed by one teacher should be increased. I think the better course would be to introduce the shift system so that another shift of boys might also receive education without constructing new buildings. In a school building which can ordinarily accommodate 1,000 pupils, we can have 2,000 pupils without constructing new buildings. I made mention of this to the Hon. Minister for Education also and I hope he will give his consideration to it. If

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that is adopted, we need not bother about the construction of new buildings immediately. Of course for permanent institutions, we can build but according to the convenience of the finance of the Government. It may be also noted that the system of shift in the matter of education is being adopted in Western countries also.

"I wish to say a word about land revenue and agriculture. The Cauvery is running through or beside my district, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and other districts. There you have what is known as padugai lands which are considered to be forest lands. Several departmental officers have even during the Advisors' regime recommended that these lands be converted into wet lands. It is capable of yielding first-class paddy every season. There will be no need for the grant of any subsidy. If you only dig four or five feet, you are able to get fine water very easily. I strongly recommended to Government that this may be considered immediately so that more than ten thousand acres may be brought under cultivation as wet lands.

"I am sorry to say that the health of the people does not receive so much attention as it ought to. The Medical Department, if I may say so, seems to be an agent for the distribution of foreign pharmaceutical preparations and they recommend foreign medicines to everybody, irrespective of their capacity to buy—I do not blame them for it. I do not mean to suggest that the Western system of medicine is bad. We can have the allopathic system for diagnosis and for surgical treatment and for medical treatment people can adopt either the homoeopathic system or our own Indian system, which will be more useful and economical than allopathic medicines and will be suited to conditions in our province.

"Everybody speaks about corruption and I am also equally emphatic that it ought to be put down. But when the question of proof arises, nobody is willing to take responsibility. Therefore, I suggest that the procedure should be swift and should be gone through with lightning rapidity such as being done in the Military Departments. Formal enquiries, reference to higher authorities and such other things retard serious action and all enquiries ultimately end in the concerned person getting away unpunished and justice is defeated. I, therefore, request that special arrangements be made to find out and deal quickly and efficiently with culprits. Then only people will be satisfied. There is no use merely saying that corruption is rampant. People for their part must also take their share of responsibility and be prepared to give evidence in open court. I know several people have expressed their unwillingness to give evidence in open court concerning bribes taken by the karnam and Revenue Inspectors out of subsidies for wells, though they would tell me in person that they had taken bribes from them. When asked whether they would make a complaint to that effect to the Tahsildar, they will not do it for they fear that the Revenue Inspector would ruin them. This attitude cannot take us far and people must come forward to prove cases of corruption.

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"Regarding food procurement and village committees, I am sorry to say that hon. Members in opposite benches have not taken kindly to them; they have been finding fault with it from the beginning. One hon. Member even pointed out that a Collector said that the Government Order required him to consult M.L.As. which inferentially meant that they were excluded from membership. I am afraid it is impossible and no Collector will say that the Government Order will be used to exclude the Members. It is not at all so; we are all welcome and every aspect of human life will have some contribution for solving the problems of human life. Regarding Harijan uplift, an hon. Member even suggested that if we are so earnest about it, we might just as well intermarry. I assure him that when the occasion comes, we will do it and we will certainly consult him and even we will ask him to solemnize the marriage if necessary.

"Sir, I would request Government to do everything in an urgent manner and not in the usual moderate speed of the previous Government. We have told our people that we are capable of doing everything very urgently. Now we have taken charge of Government it is up to us to do things urgently, as our problems are most pressing, irrespective of attacks from the opposition quarters.

"Regarding Industries, I wish to say only one thing."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon Member has exceeded his time already."

* SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"I will only say one word, Sir, Salem is a very rich district in iron ore. Even from England, from Sheffield, it is certified, that Salem has the best iron ore in the whole of India. Till now nobody had taken care to explore this. If any hon. Member has any doubt about the potentiality of Salem iron ores, I will ask him to refer into Government records and satisfy himself. I would request Government to appoint a committee to inquire into this to see whether it will be profitable to start work. Therefore, Sir, . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—(The hon. Member has exceeded his time-limit and he will resume his seat.)

* SRIMATHI LAKSHMI AMMAL:—"அக்ரானர் அவர்களே, 15 நிமிஷம் இந்த சபையார் பேச அனுமதி கொடுத்து இருந்தபோதிலும் எனக்கு பல விஷயங்களைப் பற்றி பேச ஆசை உண்டு. கடைசியில் இப்பொழுது 10 நிமிஷம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறது. அவ்வளவாவது எனக்கு பேச அனுமதித்ததற்காக சந்தோஷப்படுகிறேன். எழு வருஷம் அட்வைசர் ஆட்சி நடந்த பிறகு காங்கிரஸ் மெஜாரிட்டியாக வந்து காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி பதவி எற்றுக்கொண்டு பிரதம மந்திரி அவர்கள் Budget வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தை இங்கே சமர்ப்பித்து இருப்பதை நான் மனப்பூர்வமாக ஆதரிக்கிறேன். இந்த வருஷம் வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தில் ஜனங்களுடைய மந்திரி சபை என்பதைக்காட்டக்கூடிய அநேக மாறுதல்கள் இருக்கிறதை எல்லாரும் அறிந்த விஷயம். அதைப்பற்றிய வாதாவாதத்தை இது வரை கேட்டோம். அதில் இரண்டு மூன்று திட்டங்கள் மிகவும் ஜனங்களால் வறவேற்கத்தக்கது என்பதை நான் உறுதியாகக் கூறவேண்டும். முக்கியமாக இப்பொழுது இருக்கும் உணவு பிரச்சனைக்காக தாராளமாக ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கி

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[5th August 1946]

[Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal]

ஜனங்களுக்கு உணவு சம்பாதித்து கொடுப்பதற்காக 4 கோடி ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கி வைத்திருப்பது குறிப்பிடத்தக்கது. இன்னும் ஒன்று அந்த விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். நாலு நாட்களுக்கு முன் இந்த சபையில் நம் எல்லாருக்கும் ஓர் அறிக்கை கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. அதாவது சர்க்கார் எதிர் பார்த்ததுபோல் மற்ற விடங்களிலிருந்து அரிசி வராததினால் இருக்கிற அரிசியை ஏற்கனவே அறிவித்திருக்கிறபடி 10 oz. கொடுத்தால் சீக்கிரம் ஆகிவிடும் 8 oz. கொடுத்து இரண்டு மாதங்களுக்கு சமாளிக்கலாம் என்பதாக 8 oz. ஆக மாற்றப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதை என்னுடைய குமாரராஜா Muthiah செட்டியார் காலையில் குறிப்பிட்டார்கள். அது மிகவும் வறவேற்கத்தக்கது. அதாவது நம் மாகாணத்திற்குத் தான் அரிசி மிகவும் முக்கியமான ஆகாரம். மற்ற மாகாணங்களில் கோதுமை முக்கியமான ஆகாரம். இந்த உணவு பிரச்சனை அகில இந்திய பிரச்சனையாக இருக்கிறது நாம் பாராட்டுகிறோம். அகில இந்திய பிரச்சனையாக இருப்பதனால் கோதுமை அவர்களுக்கு முக்கிய ஆகாரமாக இருப்பதனால் கோதுமையை அவர்கள் ஆகாரமாக எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நம்மாகாணத்திற்கு முக்கிய உணவாகிய அரிசியைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அதற்காக 9-ம் தேதி Delhi-ல் கூட இருக்கும் அகில இந்திய உணவு கமிட்டிக்கு Chief Secretary போவார் என்று நினைக்கிறேன். அவர்கள் போனால் 10 oz. அரிசி கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்பதாகவும் அவர்கள் கோதுமையை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நம்மாகாணத்திற்கு அரிசியை அதிகமாக கொடுக்கும்படி வற்புறுத்த வேண்டும் என்றும் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். அடுத்தபடியாக உணவு கமிட்டி அமைப்பதைப்பற்றி பேசியாகிவிட்டது. அதைப்பற்றி அதிகமாக ஒன்றும் சொல்லவில்லை. உணவு கமிட்டி அமைக்கும் திட்டத்தில் குறைபாடுகள் இல்லை. உணவு கமிட்டி அமைத்து இருப்பதில் என்ன காரணங்களினால் குறைபாடுகள் இருக்கிறது என்பதைக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். கிராமாந்திரங்களில் சென்ற சில வருஷ காலமாக ஜனங்களுக்குள்ளே அநேக தப்பான எண்ணம் உண்டு. அவர்களுடைய சீர்கேட்டுக்கு அது தான் காரணம் என்பதைக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். யுத்தம் நடந்துகொண்டு இருந்த காலத்தில் யுத்த நிதி திரட்டுவதற்காகவேண்டி அதிகாரிகள் கட்டாயப்படுத்தி ஒவ்வொருவரையும் யுத்த நிதிக்கு பணம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்பதாக வற்புறுத்தியதின் பேரில் கிராமாந்திரங்களிலுள்ள ஜனங்கள் ஏராளமாக பணம் கொடுக்கவேண்டி வந்து விட்டது. யுத்த நிதி திரட்டுகிற காலத்தில் ராஜாஜி அவர்கள் ஒரு இடத்தில் குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். வரியைக் கொடுக்கிறவர்களிடம் யுத்த நிதி வேண்டுமென்று அதிகாரிகள் கேட்பது மிகவும் தவறு என்று பேசியிருக்கிறார்கள். தமிழில் ஒரு குறள் இருக்கிறது. அதிகாரவர்க்கம் கட்டாயப்படுத்தி நன்கொடை வசூலிக்கக் கூடாது. அந்த மாதிரி கிராமத்திலுள்ள விவசாயிகளை கட்டாயப்படுத்தி அங்குள்ள ஜனங்களிடம் ஏராளமாக சர்க்கார் யுத்த நிதியை திரட்டிவந்த கேட்டினால் இந்த கமிட்டிகள் சீர்கேடாக அமைக்கப்பட்டிருப்பதற்கு காரணம். ஆகையினால் கமிட்டி அமைப்பதில் அதிகாரிகளுக்கும் கிராம ஜனங்களுக்கும் விரோதம் ஏற்படுகிறது. ஆகையால் அதிகாரிகளை அதாவது Revenue, Police Department-களில் உள்ள மேல் அதிகாரிகளை மாற்றவேண்டும். அப்படிச் செய்தால் இந்தக் குறைபாடுகள் கொஞ்சம் குறையும் ஜில்லாவில் லஞ்சம் குறையும் என்று உறுதியாக கூறுகிறேன். அங்கு உள்ள அதிகாரிகள் தாக்கூண்யத்தினால் சில பேர்களை கமிட்டிகளில் போடவேண்டி வருகிறது. இரண்டு மூன்று ஜில்லாக்களுக்கு அப்பாலுள்ள ஜில்லாக்களில் மாற்றுதல் செய்தால் இந்த மாதிரியான லஞ்சத்தை ஒழித்து கிராமத்திலுள்ள ஜனங்கள் நல்ல நிலைமைக்கு வருவார்கள். பயப்படமாட்டார்கள். அவர்கள் இப்பொழுது என்ன சொல்கிறார்கள் யுத்த நிதிக்குப் பணம் கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன் என்னேக் கமிட்டியில் போடவேண்டும் என்று சொல்கிறார்கள். மூன்று ஜில்லாக்களுக்கு வெளியே ஜில்லா Collectors உள்பட மாற்றுதல் செய்யவேண்டும். இதே சமயத்தில் உணவு பிரச்சனை சம்பந்தமாக ஒரு Point குறிப்பிட விரும்புகிறேன். Advisory சர்க்கார் தயாரித்த வரவு செலவு திட்டத்திலே சென்னையில் ரோடுகள் போடுவதற்காக நிறைய பணம் ஒதுக்கி வைத்தார்கள். அதை மாற்றி நீர் பாசன வசதிக்காகவும் நம் காவிரி மந்திரிகள் அதிகமாக ஒதுக்கிவைத்திருப்பது வரவேற்கத்தக்கது. உணவு

5th August 1946] [Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal]

கஷ்டம் காரணமாக ஏராளமாக நமக்கு நீர்பாசன வசதிகள் செய்ய வேண்டும். Advisor ஆட்சியில் ஏராளமான கிணறுகள் வெட்ட ரூபா கொடுக்கப்பட்டது. அந்த ரூபாய்கள் பணக்காரர்களுக்குதான் பிரயோஜனப்பட்டிருக்கிறதாகத் தெரிகிறது. அதைப்பற்றி இங்கு கவனிக்க வேண்டாம். அதில் எவ்வளவு கிணறுகள் வெட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்றும் சர்க்கார் குறிப்பிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். மொத்தத்தில் எவ்வளவு கிணறுகள் வெட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதிலிருந்து எவ்வளவு சாகுபடி ஆகியிருக்கிறது என்பதைப்பற்றி இன்னும் இரண்டு மூன்று மாதங்களில் ஒரு அறிக்கை சர்க்கார் தயாரித்து அனுப்பினால் எவ்வளவு உற்பத்தியாகியிருக்கிறது என்று ஜனங்களுக்குத் தெரியும். கால் நடை விஷயமாக ஒன்று இரண்டு சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். ஏராளமான மாடுகள் இருந்தால்தான் வயல்களுக்கு உற்போட முடியும். மாடுகளை வைத்துக்கொண்டு அவைகளுக்கு தீனி போடுவது அதிக கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது. பருத்திக்கொட்டை புண்ணாக்கு ரொம்ப அதிக விலையாக இருக்கிறது. Control விலை சட்டத்தில் இருக்கிறதெயொழிய அமுலில் நடப்பதில்லை. அதைச் சட்டத்திற்குள் கொண்டு வரவேண்டும். எனவே அரிசிக்கு எப்படி Ration ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறதோ அதே மாதிரி பருத்திக்கொட்டை புண்ணாக்குக்கும் Ration ஏற்படவேண்டும். மாடுகளை வைத்திருந்தால்தான் ஏராளமான உரம் கிடைக்கும். அதிலிருந்து விவசாயம் நன்றாக நடக்கும். அதையும் மந்திரிகள் கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். அடுத்தபடியாக எங்கள் ஊரில் தீர்வை அசாத்தியமாக இருக்கிறது. எல்லா ஜில்லாக்களையும் விட திருநெல்வேலியில் acre-க்கு ரூ. 22-8-0. இந்தத் தீர்வையை குறைக்க வேண்டும். நம்முடைய நாட்டிலிருந்து கள்ளுக்கடையை ஒழித்து ஏழைகளைக் காப்பாற்றவேண்டும். அதே மாதிரியாக விவசாயிகளின் கஷ்டத்தையும் நிவர்த்திக்கவேண்டும். இல்லாவிட்டால் விவசாயிகள் கிராமங்களிலிருந்து ஓடிப்போகவேண்டியிருக்கும். அதற்காக விவசாய இலாகாவிலிருந்து வேண்டிய உரம் அதற்கு வேண்டிய கருவிகள் கொடுக்க முன் வரவேண்டும். தீர்வை குறைக்கப்படவேண்டும். அதற்காக Electricity எவ்வளவு தூரம் உபயோகப்படுத்த முடியுமோ அவ்வளவு தூரம் உபயோகப்படுத்தவேண்டும். வைத்திய இலாக்காவுக்கு ஒன்று சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். வைத்தியம் விஷயமாக எல்லாரும் பேசிவிட்டார்கள். ஒரு விஷயத்தை மாதிரம் குறிப்பிடவேண்டும். இந்த வருஷத்தில் 200 மருத்துவஸ்திரிகளைப் பயிற்சி பண்ணப்போவதாக சுகாதார மந்திரி சொன்னார்கள். இது போதாது. கிராமாந்திரங்களிலுள்ள ஸ்திரீகள் மருத்துவ உதவியில்லாமல் தினம் செத்துக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள் என்பதைக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். மருத்துவ உதவியில்லாமல் உயிருடன் போராடிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் காலத்தில் இந்த வருஷம் 200 அடுத்த வருஷம் 200 என்று நியமித்தல் கூடாது. ஒவ்வொரு Panchayat-லும் Health visitor நியமிக்கவேண்டியதவசியம். அடுத்த வருஷம் அடுத்த வருஷம் தள்ளிக் கொண்டுபோனால் பெண்களும் செத்துக்கொண்டு போவார்கள். ஆகையால் ஒவ்வொரு Panchayat-லும் Health visitor-ஐ நியமிக்கவேண்டும். கல்வி விஷயத்திலும் இந்த மாகாணம் பூராவும் தமிழில் போதும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்திருப்பது வறவேற்கத்தக்கது. அந்த முறையில் அதை சர்க்கார் நடத்தவேண்டும். பள்ளிக்கூட மாணவர்களுக்கு பள்ளி கூடங்களில் தமிழில் Pass செய்தால் தங்களுக்கு உத்தியோகம் கிடைக்கும் என்ற நம்பிக்கை உண்டாகவேண்டும். அப்படி இருந்தால்தான் English-ன் மேல் உள்ள மோகம் போகும். இந்தச் சபையிலும் எல்லாருக்கும் அறிக்கை English-ல் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. அநேகம் பேருக்கு English வாசிக்கத் தெரியாது. இது வியர்த்தமாகப் போகிறது. அவைகளை தமிழில் கொடுத்தால் அவர்களுக்கு நன்றாக விளங்கும். தெலுங்கர்களுக்கு தெலுங்கிலும் தமிழர்களுக்கு தமிழிலும் மொழி பெயர்க்கப்பட்டிருக்க வேண்டும். இதற்காக எவ்வளவு பேர் வேலை செய்தாலும் வியர்த்தமாகாது. ஆயிரக்கணக்காய் ரூபாய் செலவு செய்தாலும் அது வீண் போகாது.”

* Sri M. KANNIAPPAN :—“கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே, நான் தொழிலாளர்களுடைய பிரதிநிதி. இன்று தொழிலாளர்களுடைய குறைகளை அரசாங்கத்திற்கு எடுத்துச் சொல்லவேண்டியது என்னுடைய கடமை. அரசாங்கத்தால் நடத்தப்படும் தொழிற்சாலைகளிலே வேலை செய்யும்

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தொழிலாளர்கள் எவ்வளவு சம்பளம் பெறுகிறார்களென்பதை நீங்கள் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். வெளியிலே கொடுக்கப்படும் சம்பளத்தைவிட நிரம்பவும் கேவலமான சம்பளத்தை அரசாங்கத்தால் நடத்தப்படும் தொழிற்சாலைகளிலே சிப்பந்திகளுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. இந்த மாதிரி நிலைமையை உடனடியாகப் போக்கவேண்டியது நம்முடைய கடமை. அவர்களும் இந்த நாட்டில் சுகமாக வாழவேண்டும். அவர்களுக்கு உணவு உணவும், உடுக்க உடையும், இருக்க இடமும் வேண்டும். அரசாங்கத்தாரால் நடத்தப்படுகிற எந்த டிபார்ட்மென்டாக விருந்த போதிலும், அவர்களுக்கு நியாயமான சம்பளத்தைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டியது நம்முடைய கடமை. ஆனால், தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு அதிக சம்பளத்தைக் கொடுக்கப் போதுமான வருமானம் இல்லையென்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், இன்று தனிப்பட்ட முதலாளிகள் மிஸ்கனையும், இதர தொழிற்சாலைகளையும் வைத்து நடத்துகிறார்கள். அவைகளின் மூலம் லக்ஷக்கணக்கான, கோடிக்கணக்கான ரூபாய் லாபம் அடைகின்றார்கள். இந்தத் தொழிற்சாலைகளை நம்முடைய அரசாங்கமே எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்தினால், அவைகளிலிருந்து வரக்கூடிய பணத்தை நம்முடைய அரசாங்க சிப்பந்திகளுக்கு நல்ல முறையிலே அதிக சம்பளத்தைக் கொடுக்க முடியும். இன்று நம்முடைய சென்னையை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். இங்கே ஆயிரக்கணக்கான பஸ்கள் ஓடுகின்றன. இவற்றின் சொந்தக்காரர்களான முதலாளிகள் லக்ஷக்கணக்கான ரூபாய் லாபமடைகிறார்கள். போக்குவரத்து சாதனத்தை தனிப்பட்ட முதலாளிகளிடமிருந்து அரசாங்கம் எடுத்துக் கொண்டு, அதைத் தானே நடத்தவேண்டும். சினிமா கொட்டகைகளின் மூலமாக ஆயிரக்கணக்கான ரூபாய் லாபம் கிடைக்கின்றது. அவைகளையும் அரசாங்கத்தாரே யெடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்தவேண்டும்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக அரசாங்கத்தாரால் நடத்தப்படும் ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளிலேயுள்ள சிப்பந்திகளை யெடுத்துக்கொள்ளுங்கள். அவர்களுக்கு மாதம் ரூ. 12 சம்பளம் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. இவ்வளவு குறைந்த சம்பளத்தை வாங்கிக்கொண்டு அவர்கள் எப்படி வாழக்கை நடத்த முடியும்? ஆகவே, ஆஸ்பத்திரிகளுக்கு சிகிச்சைக்கு யாராவது போனால், இந்தச் சிப்பந்திகள் அவர்களிடமிருந்து லஞ்சம் வாங்கிக்கொள்ளுகிறார்கள். கேட்டால், அவர்கள் இந்த 12 ரூபாய் சம்பளம் போதவில்லை யென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் சொல்லுவதும் நியாயமாகத்தானிருக்கிறது. இன்னும், என்னுடைய தொழில் வர்க்கத்திற்கு வேண்டிய வசதிகளிருக்கின்றனவா? அவர்கள் வசிக்கக்கூடிய இடம் எப்படியிருக்குறது என்று பார்த்தால், அவர்கள் குடியிருக்க வீடில்லாமல் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்பட்டுவருகிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு சர்க்காரே நல்ல வீடுகள் கட்டிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால், சர்க்காரில் அதற்கும் பணமில்லையென்று சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஏதோ ஒரு திட்டம் போடுவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் இதை உடனடியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும்.”

“அடுத்தபடியாக குடிசைத் தொழிலை அபிவிருத்தி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று மகாத்மா காந்தியவர்கள் அடிக்கடி சொல்லி வருகிறார்கள். இதற்காக நம்முடைய பிரதம மந்திரியார் மூன்று கோடி ரூபாயை ஒதுக்கியிருப்பதைப் பார்த்து நான் மிகவும் சந்தோஷ மடைகின்றேன். இந்த நாட்டிலிருந்து வெள்ளைக்கார அரசாங்கம் ஒழிய வேண்டுமென்று நாம் சொல்லுகிறோம். அதே சமயத்தில் மக்களின் வாழ்க்கை நிலையை உயர்த்தவேண்டுமென்று நாங்கள் சொல்லுகிறோம். இதன் பொருட்டு குடிசைத் தொழில்களை அபிவிருத்தி செய்ய வேண்டும். இதே சமயத்தில் கள் குடியையும் நாம் ஒழிக்கவேண்டும். அதற்காக நான்கு ஜில்லாக்களில் கள் குடியை யொழிப்பதாகச் சொல்லப்பட்டது. இப்போதும் இன்னும் நான்கு ஜில்லாக்களிலே குடியை எடுக்கப்போவதாக பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் கூறியுள்ளார். சென்னையிலேயும், மதுரை, கோயம்புத்தூரிலேயும் அநேகம் மில் தொழிலாளர்கள் வசிக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் குடித்து விட்டு மில்களுக்குப் போனால், அங்கே இயந்திரத்திலே அவர்களுடைய கை, கால்கள் அகப்பட்டுக் கொண்டு கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இதைத் தடுக்க வேண்டுமானால், முக்கியமாக மதுரை, கோயம்புத்தூர், சென்னை இந்த யிடங்களிலே உடனடியாக கள் குடியை எடுக்க வேண்டியது தர்மமென்று என்னுகிறேன்.

[Sri M. Kanniappan] [5th August 1946]

“அடுத்தபடியாக, நாம் ஜமீன்தாரி முறையை ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லி வருகிறோம். இதையும் நாம் உடனடியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். இப்போது கொஞ்சம் நிலம் வைத்திருக்கும் விவசாயிகளுக்கும் வரி போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அவர்களுக்குப் போடப்பட்டிருக்கும் வரியைத் தள்ளுபடி செய்து விட்டு, 10 அல்லது 15 ஏக்கர் வைத்திருக்கும் பெரிய நிலச் சுவான்களுக்கு மாதந்திரம் நிலவரி போடவேண்டும்.

“கடைசியாக, நாம் பெரிய ஜமீன்தாரர்களை யொழித்த பிறகும், சில குட்டி ஜமீன்தார்களிருப்பார்கள். மடாதிபதிகள் என்று சொல்லிக் கொள்ளும் ஒரு கூட்டம், ஆண்டவன் பெயரால் பல கிராமங்களை வைத்துக் கொண்டு அனுபவித்து வருகிறார்கள். இந்த மடாதிபதிகள் செய்யும் அக்கிரமங்களை நம்முடைய வாயால் சொல்ல முடியாது. இது எல்லோரும் அறிந்த விஷயம். இதை பிரதம மந்திரியாவர்கள் கவனித்து சரிவர திருத்தியமைக்கவேண்டும்.

“அடுத்ததாக, வரி போட வேண்டிய அவசியமிருந்தால், அதை பிரதம மந்திரி பணக்காரர்களுக்கும் போட வேண்டும். அப்போது தான் சர்க்காருக்குத் தேவையான பணம் சலபமாகக் கிடைக்கும். எழுகளுக்கு எவ்வித வரியையும் விதிக்கக்கூடாதென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“கடைசியாக ஒன்று சொல்லிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். நான் ஒரு தொழிலாளி. எனக்கு முன்னால் பலர் 25, 30 நிமிஷம் வரையில் பேசினார்கள். அதைவிட அதிகமாகக் கூட சிலர் பேசினார்கள். அவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் பேச இடமிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் எங்களுக்குமட்டும் 10 நிமிஷம் மட்டும் கொடுத்து அதற்குள்ளாகப் பேச வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால், எப்படி முடியும்? எங்களுக்கும் பேச அதிகமான நேரத்தைக் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு, என்னை பேச அனுமதித்ததற்காக தலைவர்வர்களுக்கு என்னுடைய வந்தனத்தைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI P. M. VELAYUTHAPANI.—“சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தை தயாரித்த பிரதமர் அவர்களுக்கு என் வந்தனத்தை தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதோடு கூட அவர்களுக்கு உதவியாக இந்த திட்டத்தில் கலந்து உதவி செய்த எல்லா மந்திரிகளுக்கும் என் பாராட்டு தலைத்தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, Adviser அரசாங்கம் இருந்த காலத்தில் அல்லது அதற்கு முன் நீதிக்கூடியார் இருந்த காலத்திலாவது ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு இந்த விதமான சலுகை செய்ய வில்லை என்று நான் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். இப்பொழுது சர்க்கார், மக்களுடைய அரசாங்கம் இங்கு வந்த காலத்தில் முதல் முதலாக ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே அது போதுமா என்று கேட்டால், போதுமா என்று தான் சொல்ல வேண்டும். எனது தோழர் அண்ணாமலைப் பிள்ளை பேசியபடி மதுவிலக்கு விஷயமாக இந்த ஒரு கோடியில் பேர் பாதி ஹரிஜனங்கள் குடிசைகள் இருக்கிறார்கள் என்று சொல்லுகிறேன். பிற்கால புனருத்தாரணத்திற்காக நிறுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கும் 30 கோடி ரூபாயில் 15 கோடி ரூபாய் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக வரவு செலவு கணக்கில் ஒதுக்கியிருக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லவிரும்புகிறேன். எங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டியது ஒரு கோடி ரூபாய்தான்? சஹஜானந்தம் சொன்னது போல் சர்க்கார் 50 கோடி ரூபாய் கடன் வாங்கி ஹரிஜனங்களின் முன்னேற்றத்திற்காக செலவு செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறேன். இதில் தாமதம் இருக்குமானாலும் சொந்த பணம் இருக்கிறது, அதிலிருந்து செலவு செய்யுமாறு சொல்லிக்கொள்ள விரும்புகிறேன். அது மாதந்திரமல்ல, சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே 3 கோடி ரூபாயை குடிசைத் தொழிலுக்காகவும் கதருக்காகவும் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இந்த கதரை முதல் முதலாக ஆரம்பித்தவர் திருவள்ளுவர்தான். எனக்கு ஒரு பாடல் ஞாபகம் வருகிறது. “நாவில் இழை நல்கி நூல் விரிக்கும் ஏழை அறிவே இதை குழை நல்கும் பிஞ்சுதன் தன் கூத்து.” அதைத்தான் மகாத்மா இந்த காலத்தில் கொஞ்சம் கொஞ்சமாக அமுலுக்கு கொண்டு வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையினால் மகாத்மாவின் வேலையினால் கிடைத்த ரூபா ஒரு கோடியை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக செலவு செய்யுமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே,

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கடந்த மந்திரி சபை இருந்த காலத்தில் ஆலயபிரவேசத்தை ஆரம்பித்து சில ஜில்லாக்களில் வெற்றிகரமாக நடந்தது. ஆனால் இப்பொழுது எல்லா ஜில்லாக்களுக்கும் ஏக காலத்தில் மாகாணம் பூராவும் மது விலக்கைக் கொண்டுவரவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். நான் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதுபோலவே ஆலயப்பிரவேசத்தையும் எல்லோரும் ஒன்று சேர்ந்து ஒரே அடியாக மாகாணம் பூராவும் இந்த ஆலயப்பிரவேசம் உண்டா குமாறு திட்டம் வகுக்குமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆதிதிராவிடரை ஒரு வகுப்பாரும் தீண்டக்கூடாது என்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் செத்த பிணம்! கூட ஜாதி பேதமா என்று கேட்கிறேன். செத்த பிணத்தைச் சுடக்கூடிய மண்ணுக்கும் ஜாதி பேதமா என்று கேட்கிறேன். சில மாதங்களுக்கு முன் மதுரையில் ஒரு ஆதிதிராவிட பிணத்தை புதைத்ததற்காக அவர்களைக் கோர்ட்டுக்கு கொண்டுவர **Case** போட்டு **Jail**-க்கு அனுப்பி விட்டார்கள். ஆனால் சர்க்கார் அந்த நபரை சீக்கிரத்தில் விடுமபடி நேர்ந்தது. ஆகையினால் இந்த விதமாக சுடுசாட்டில் கூட ஜாதி பேதம் கூடாது என்று சட்டம் கொண்டுவர வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதைத் தவிர ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களிலும் எங்கள் ஜாதியில் எவ்வளவு ஜனங்கள் அவர்கள் எண்ணிக்கைக்குத்தகுந்தவாறு பிரதிநிதித்துவம் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். பதினெட்டு அல்லது பத்தொன்பது வருஷங்களுக்கு முன் இருந்த சட்டம் தான் இப்பொழுதும் இருக்கிறது. சீக்கிரத்தில் ஸ்தல ஸ்தாபனங்களில் இந்த சமயத்தில் பிரதம மந்திரி அவர்கள் எங்கள் எண்ணிக்கைக்குத் தகுந்தவாறு பிரதிநிதித்துவம் அளிக்குமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ராவ் பகதூர் சீனிவாசன் சட்டசபையில் இருந்த காலத்தில் எங்கள் ஜாதியினருக்கு **Village Munsif, Karnam** வேலைகள் கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று பேசியிருக்கிறார்கள். எங்களுடைய மக்கள் ஒருவர் உதவி வேண்டுமென்று போனால் அவர்கள் முன்பாக எவ்வளவோ நாள் காத்து நிற்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இந்த மாதிரி கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இப்படி கஷ்டப்பாட்டாலும் அவர்களுக்கு ஞாயம் வழங்குவது கிடையாது. ஆகையினால் அந்த உத்தியோகங்களுக்கு எம் ஜாதியினரைச் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளுமாறு கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். சென்னையில் எங்கள் ஜாதி பிள்ளைகளுக்காக ஒரு **Padison** ஹாஸ்டல் இருந்தது. **Adviser** அரசாங்கம் அதைப் பிடிங்கிவிட்டது. அந்த **Hostel**-ல் படித்தவர்கள் இப்பொழுது பெரிய உத்தியோகத்தில் இருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் இப்பொழுது எங்கள் மாணவர்களுக்கு எவ்வளவோ கஷ்டம். அவர்களுக்காக **Hostel**-களும் **College**-களும் எங்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களை மதிப்பிட்டு மாகாணத்தில் தாலுகாவாரியாகவும் ஜில்லாவாரியாகவும் **Hostel** அமைக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இன்னும் இப்பொழுது ராணிப்பேட்டை, வாலாஜா, ஆற்காடு இந்த பஞ்சாயத்து போர்ட் இடங்களில் பொது ஜனங்கள் ஜல் வசதி மிகவும் குறைவு. குடி தண்ணீர் இல்லை. மந்திரிகள் போனால் பார்க்கலாம். காவிரிப்பாக்கத்தில் ஒரு ஏரி இருக்கிறது. அது 4 Mile நீளம் இருக்கிறது. அங்குக் கட்டியிருக்கிற அணைக்கள் மிகவும் கெட்டுப்போய் இருக்கிறது. அதைப்பற்றி கனம் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்கு மனு கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதை பார்வையிடுவதாயும் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த விஷயத்தையும் உடனே கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். பக்கத்தில் அரசர்கோணம் இருக்கிறது. அங்கே எங்கள் ஜாதியார் அதிகமாகயிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் எல்லோரும் தொழிலாளர்கள். அந்த இடத்தில் சுகாதார வசதி இருக்கிறதா என்று பார்த்தால் தெரியும். எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் கொசு அதிகமாக யிருக்கிறது. ஆஸ்பத்திரிகள் அதிக கேவலமாக இருக்கிறது. தொழிலாளர்கள் வசிக்கக்கூடிய இடம். சென்னையிருந்தும் 40 மைல் தூரத்தில் இருக்கிறது. இந்த இடத்தில் இவ்வளவு கேவலமாக இருந்தால் அதிக தூரத்திலுள்ள இடங்கள் எந்த நிலையில் யிருக்கக்கூடும் என்று நீங்கள் தெரிந்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். திண்டிவனம் சேரியில் 1,000 ஹரிஜனங்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அங்கே 20 வருஷத்துக்கு முன் ரோடு போட்டார்களோ என்று சந்தேகப்பட வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அவர்கள் திண்டிவனம் பஞ்சாயத்து போர்டுக்கு வரி செலுத்துகிறார்கள். இந்த காரியங்களையெல்லாம் சரிப்படுத்திக் கொடுக்க வேண்டும். வாலாஜா பேட்டை பக்கத்தில் புதுப்பாடி என்னும் ஒரு சேரியிருக்கிறது. அங்கே ஒரு போஸ்ட் ஆபீஸ்

5th August 1946] [Sri P. M. Velayuthapani]

இருக்கிறது. அக்கிராமத்தின் அருகே என்னு நண்பர்கள் 15 குடும்பங்கள் இருக்கிறது. அவர்கள் பக்கத்தில் எங்கள் ஜாதியாரின் 300 குடிசைகள் இருந்தபோதிலும் அக்குள்ளே போஸ்ட் ஆபீஸ் ஜாதி ஒந்துக்கள் இருக்கக் கூடிய விடத்தில் இருக்கிறது. போஸ்ட் ஆபீஸுக்குப் பொவதற்கு கூட எங்கள் ஜாதியார் ரொம்ப கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கம் மகாத்மா காந்தி மகான் வார்த்தையால் நடக்கக்கூடிய அரசாங்கம் இப்பொழுது ராஜ்யபாரம் நடக்கிற காலத்திலும் ஜாதி வித்தியாசம் இருக்கிறது என்பதைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த விஷயத்தில் பிரதம மந்திரி அவர்களும் மற்றவர்களும் இந்த காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கம் ஆதி திராவிடர் முன்னேற்றத்திற்கு எவ்வளவு தூரம் பாடுபட வேண்டுமோ அவ்வளவு தூரம் பாடுபட்டு எங்கள் ஜாதியரை முன்னேற்றத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவரும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

* DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to you for 1 caught the eye of the Speaker after two days of waiting and watching. Many members have already spoken before me. I wish to congratulate the Hon. the Premier on this very liberal and memorable budget. I call it a liberal budget because one crore of rupees has been allotted for Harijans. In the previous budgets, we have never seen such a figure as this. One crore is a colossal sum and the Government are going to do something tangible for the uplift of this unfortunate class of people. But I am very sorry to notice the other day one of the hon. Members adversely remarked that this fund should not be utilized for Harijan converts to Christianity and other religious faiths. In this connexion, Sir, coming as I do from a backward area comprising the Ceded districts, Chittoor and North Arcot representing the Indian Christian community of that area I would like to bring to the notice of the House that there are many Christians in that area who have been drawn from the backward classes, mainly the Harijans. I agree with the other members of the Opposition that this sum of money should be utilized for all these classes of men who have been down-trodden all these years. I request the Hon. the Premier to extend to these converts to Christianity all educational concessions and other amenities as it is done in the case of Harijans. 5-30 p.m.

“ Sir, coming to the food problem, the Government is going to spend a considerable sum of Rs. 30 lakhs for fertilizers and sinking of wells under the Grow More Food Scheme. This scheme has already taken root in the rural areas. One of the European Members, Mr. Ferrelly, has remarked whether this sum is going to the actual sinking of wells, or disappear in the thin air. I must say that every pie of this money is going to be spent for sinking more wells for growing more food.

“ With regard to the other points I would like to say a word or two. In regard to the educational demand I am reminded that the poor teachers' grievances have been well represented by the hon. Member for the Anglo-Indian community and I agree with him in saying especially the teacher who is working in the aided schools is very badly treated. This Government have made provision for an increase of Rs. 2 for a teacher of higher or secondary grade. This is insufficient. I plead with the Education Minister to enhance this to at least Rs. 5, making it either equal or on a par

[Dr. M. J. Samuel] [5th August 1946]

with the other teachers in the district board. I know they are given a dearness allowance which is inadequate. I would urge on the Government to make a provision for at least five rupees increment on this account. I do not want to dilate on other matters because members have already spoken. I would like to say a word about the sub-assistant surgeons. The sub-assistant surgeons (the L.M.P. cadre) have been demobilized on the different theatres of war. As you all know this class of men have been entertained in the war as temporary Commissioned Officers on Rs. 500 per mensem. When they return back to their positions in the local boards, they will be reverted as local fund sub-assistant surgeons on Rs. 100 or less. I would like to request the Hon. Minister for Public Health to consider the cases of the few men—it may be half a dozen or a dozen—to provincialize their service and incorporate them in the Government dispensaries. In this connexion I would like to bring home to this House that this cadre should be abolished. The Hon. Dr. Rajan (the former Public Health Minister) has been kind enough to abolish the medical school. But I would ask the present Minister to abolish this cadre also and give a chance for these men to occupy places equal to the Assistant Surgeons,; because in the late war there was no cadre as sub-assistant surgeon. There was only one cadre for all medical men. They were given temporary Commissions. Therefore I request that this matter may be considered by the Minister at an early date.

6 p.m. "Now, Sir, I wish to say a word about the representation of my community in the services. My community is a very small community and it has been tacked on to so many other minority communities in the matter of communal representation. We all know, because of our religion, the Indian Christian community has been clubbed with the Anglo-Indian community, European and non-Asiatic and has been asked to share two out of the twelve places. That is the proportionate representation granted by Government. Sir, I would request this House to note the fact that our community is a fairly growing community. We are nearly 24 lakhs now and this grant of two seats for all the minority communities together leaves us only one seat out of every twelve in the gazetted ranks. I would plead that this matter may be considered by the Hon. the Premier and my community be granted 2 seats out of 12 in the services. As I go around the districts, I find that the Indian Christian community is not properly or adequately represented in the lower services. In certain cadres, for instance in the cadres of Deputy Tahsildars and Tahsildars, the Indian Christian is rarely to be found. Even though there are qualified men among us, men who have passed the B.A. and also the departmental tests, adequate representation has not been given to us. Therefore I request the Hon. the Revenue Minister to look into the matter and do justice."

SREE VEERANNA PADEL:—“అయ్యా, విశాఖపట్టణం, గోదావరి జిల్లాలకు చెందిన మనమిత్రులకుండ ప్రాంతముల, తెనుగుభిన్న జాతుల ప్రజ వేలకొది ఆనెక కష్టాలకు గురి అవుతున్నారు. వీరికి నూటికి నూరు పాళ్లు చదువులేక, వైద్య సహాయం లేక, అనేక రోగబీదలకు లె తినటానికి లిండి లేక, కష్టబుట్టులేక హీనులైయ్యన్నారు.

5th August 1946] . [Sri Veeranna Padal]

వీరిచే విజేస్సీ కొండ ప్రాంతాల్లో ఫారెస్టు డిపార్టుమెంటువారు టేకు తోటలు వేయించి తోటలకు ఆయిన మరాఠత్తు కనులు చేయించుకొని పూటకూలి లేక పూటబత్తము లేక, వెట్టి చాకీరీ చేయిస్తున్నారు. ఇందువల్ల వారు స్వంత వ్యవసాయం కనులు చేసుకొనుటకు వ్యవధిలేక, పంటలు లేనందున లెనుటకు అన్నములేక మలమల చూడుచున్నారు. అడవి జంతువులనుండి రక్షించుకునే నిమిత్తము తుపాకులు పెట్టుకొనగా 43 నువీ లైసెన్సులు పంపిణీరెపని నిర్బంధం పెట్టారు. లైసెన్సు క్రమము వినియోగించుకొన తెలియని అమాయకులపై కేసులు పెట్టి విమోచనాలు విధిస్తూ ఉన్నారు. ఈ దిక్కులేని ప్రజను ఒక కంట దూడాలని ప్రభుత్వానికి విన్నపిస్తున్నాను.

“మా ప్రాంతముల మలేరియా బాగా న్యాపించి వుంది. నిహరణ కార్యాలను ఈ సీబ్బంది అధికారులు క్యాంపులువేసే చోట రోడ్ల దగ్గరనే చేస్తున్నారు. అది మారాలి. వ్యవసాయం పెంపొందించాలి. రోడ్లు వేయించాలి. దక్షిణాది సీబ్బంది గిరిల ప్రాంతాల వెచ్చించినట్లు మన్యం ప్రాంతాల కొండ భనవ్యయం జరిపితే లాభపాటి కాగలదు. మరికనుల మాదిరిగానే వెళ్ళి జీవన జాతులకు కూడా సహాయాన్ని కోరుతున్నారు.”

SRIMATHI ANJALAI ANMAL:—“கனம். தலைவரவர்களே, இப்போது கங்குடியை யொழிப்பதற்காக லக்ஷக்கணக்கான ரூபாய் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. கங்குடியை யொழிப்பதில் தஞ்சாவூர், தென் ஆற்காடு, திருநெல்வேலி, ராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லாக்களையும் சேர்க்கும்படியாக நான் கனம். பிரதம மந்திரியவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். கள்ளுக்கடைகள் அடியோடு தொலைந்ததால் தான் நம்முடைய ஜனங்கள் சந்தோஷமாகவிருப்பார்கள். சாதாரணமாக ஹரிஜனங்கள் தான் கள் சாப்பிடுவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. மற்றவர்களும் அதிகமாகச் சாப்பிடுகிறார்கள். முக்கியமாக குடியாவைவர்கள் தங்களுடைய வேலையைச் செய்துவிட்டு, சம்பாதிக்கும் பணத்தை யெல்லாம் கள்ளுக் கடைகளில் கொட்டிவிடுகிறார்கள். வீட்டுக்கு வந்து பெண்களையும், பிள்ளைகளையும் அடித்துத் தொந்திரவு செய்கிறார்கள். அதோடு, சூடிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு பணக்காரர்கள் பணத்தைக்கொடுத்து, தங்களுக்கு யார் வேண்டாதவர்களோ, அவர்களை அடிக்கும்படியாகவும், துன்பம் செய்யும்படியாகவும் செய்துவிடுகிறார்கள்.

“ வெள்ளையர் ஆகழியில் சில ஜனங்களை குற்ற பரம்பரை ஜாதியினராகக் குறிப்பிட்டிருந்தாலும், நம்முடைய ஆகழியிலே அந்தமாதிரி யிருக்கக்கூடா தென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அந்த ஜாதியினருக்கு சம்பள மில்லாமல் படிப்பு வசதி செய்து தரவேண்டும். குழந்தைகள் 4, 5 மைல் தூரத்திலிருந்து படிப்பதற்காக பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்கு வருகின்றனர். அவர் களுக்கு அங்கேயே சாப்பிடுவதற்கு வசதி செய்து கொடுத்தால், நன்றி யிருக்கும்.

“ கள்ளமார்கெட்டுகளை நாம் கட்டாயம் ஒழிக்கவேண்டும். ஆனால் இப்போது கள்ளமார்கெட்டுகளை நடத்துகிறவர்களையே கமிட்டியிலே மெம்பர்களாகப் போடுகிறார்கள். இப்போது கடைகளிலே 5 பலம் சர்க்கரை கேட்டால் கூடக் கிடைப்பதில்லை. ஆனால் ராத்திரியிலே மூட்டை மூட்டையாக சர்க்கரை கொண்டுபோகப்படுகிறது. ஹோட்டல்களிலே யெல்லாம் பக்கணங்கள் செய்யப்படுகின்றன. ஒவ்வொரு கமிட்டியிலும் உண்மையான ஷாழியர்களைப் போட்டால்தான், ஏழை ஜனங்கள் சுகமாக வாழமுடியும். இப்போது நமக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும் அரிசி மிகவும் கேலவமாக விருக்கிறது. அதைக் கையிலே யெடுத்தால், மாவாகப் போய்விடுகிறது. அதை மாடுகளுக்குப் போடுவதற்குத்தான் உபயோகப்படும்படியாக விருக்கிறது.

“நேற்று நான் கோஷா ஆஸ்பத்திரிக்கும் போயிருந்தேன். அங்கே சரஸ்வதி பாண்டோங்கம் அவர்களுக்கு வயிறு “operation” செய்தார்கள். நோயாளியின் பக்கத்திலே யாரும் வரக்கூடாதென்று அங்குள்ள டாக்டர்கள் விரட்டிவிடுகிறார்கள். சொந்தக்காரர்கள் யாராவது இருந்தால்

[Srimathi Anjalai Ammal] [5th August 1946]

தானே நோயாளிகளுக்குச் சொறு, தண்ணீர் கொடுக்கமுடியும். பணத்தைக்கொடுத்தால் உன்னையிருக்க அனுமதிக்கிறார்கள். இதையெல்லாம் நீங்கள் சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“கடைசியாக என்ஜினியரிங் கலாசாலைகளைப்பற்றி ஒரு விஷயம் கூற விரும்புகிறேன். வாயு செலவு திட்டத்தில் புதிதாக ஆந்திர ஜில்லாக் களுக்காக ஒரு என்ஜினியரிங் கலாசாலையை ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கு பணம் ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதே விதமாக தமிழ் ஜில்லாக்களுக்காக ஒரு என்ஜினியரிங் கலாசாலை தமிழ் ஜில்லாக்களில் ஏதாவதொன்றில் ஏற்படுத்தும் படியாக நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, several of my friends who spoke before me congratulated the Hon. the Premier on the presentation of his budget. I also want to congratulate him and I congratulate him on the fact that he has formulated his budget within the short time which he had at his disposal after assuming office.

“Presently I will have to refer to certain points in the budget on which I have to congratulate him; but in the meantime I want to refer to certain features of the budget which reference may perhaps not be palatable to our friends on the other side. But, before that, Mr. Speaker, I have to say something with reference to the appeal made by the hon. Friend the Leader of the Independents with regard to the unity of the various communities in the province and the country. I did not intend to touch on politics on this occasion, but since my friend has chosen to refer to the subject, I think I cannot but say a few words on the matter. He says ‘Unity.’ What is meant by ‘Unity,’ Mr. Speaker, I am not sure. This is a country and this is also a province wherein we have got a population which is multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-religious and multi-so-many other things. By unity I do not think that anybody means or proposes that all these elements of the population should fuse together into one homogenous people. That is a physical impossibility. But, however, that is no reason why there should be disharmony, there should be heart-burning and there should be quarrel in this country. What our friends really want is amicability and cordiality between the various sections and elements of the population. If we had those qualities with us, I think the province can go on smoothly and happily. So far as the Muslim League is concerned, particularly during the recent few months, it has done all it can to make such an amicable settlement possible. It has tried its best to usher in cordiality and thereby bring in the much-needed freedom and independence to this country. The Muslim League has made concession after concession for an amicable settlement, but the party of the friends on the other side—the Congress side—did not budge an inch, as has been pointed out by our revered leader, the Qaid-e-Azam, from the position which they took originally. Under these circumstances, it is deplorable that we cannot have the much-desired amicable settlement and the Muslim League was left with no other choice but to come to the decision which it has come to in Bombay a few days ago. I do not want to say more on the subject, Mr. Speaker. There are other occasions and other platforms on which we can give expression to these ideas.

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“Now coming to the budget, so much has been said about the demands for a lump sum. The Government tried to meet that objection by saying that it is not really a demand for a lump sum that has been made, and that it is not an estimate, but a fund that has been constituted. For this purpose, the analogy of the water-supply fund has been invoked. I say there is no analogy between the water-supply fund and this fund. Water-supply is a definite item in the scheme of village welfare, prosperity or reconstruction or whatever else you may call it. We all know what that item is. We all know what a huge amount is required for fulfilling the object of the water-supply schemes. But here this is a subject which has not yet been defined. We are not yet given details of the sort of rural reconstruction which they have in view. We do not know yet whether the rural reconstruction which they are aiming is going to be practicable and of real benefit to the people. So I think there is no real analogy between the water-supply fund referred to and the fund which is being constituted now by the present budget. Even this argument of a fund has been given away in the same breath by transferring or withdrawing a sum of Rs. 200 lakhs for khaddar. The round figure of a lump sum of Rs. 200 lakhs has been allotted for khaddar. Therefore I do not think there is in reality even an appearance of a fund in this matter.

“Again, Sir, I want to refer to another feature of the budget, i.e., the loan. The Government say that it is not the practice to include the loans that they may float in the feature in the Budget Estimates. I do not know why it should not be the practice to include loans in the Budget Estimates. It may be said that the Government will resort to the flotation of loans, if there is easy money in the market at the time. But it is also open to the other objection that the Government will always be left with a temptation of making use of that resort and spending as they please.

“Then, the Hon. the Premier in his budget speech says that the Government have made certain changes in order to give effect to the policy of the Congress. ‘The policy of the Congress’; says the Premier, Sir. As I have already told you, Sir, this is a Province which is multi-so-many-things. A party programme being put into force in a country like England may be one thing, because there is a homogeneity of population and interest. But here such a homogeneity is absent. There are different peoples having fundamental differences from each other. They have got fundamental interests, distinct from those of the other elements of the population. A Government which is responsible to every section of the people must take into account these factors. Then alone it can be called good Government and it can give satisfaction to the people. The policy and the programme which the Government adopts for the benefit of the Province must be formulated in consultation with all the elements of the population and must be conducive to the protection and advancement of all the interests.

“Regarding Prohibition, it is indeed a welcome measure. My hon. Friend Mr. Ferrelly said that this is not a practicable

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step. He pointed out that the United States of America and China made a similar attempt, but failed. I do not know about China, but I happen to know something about the United States of America. That country passed a Prohibition measure as an amendment to the Constitution. But they did not seriously and rigorously enforce their Prohibition measure. Therefore it was that the attempt at Prohibition failed in the United States of America. But whatever may be the result and condition in other countries, we know the conditions prevailing in our Province and in our country. While it is prudish to refuse to learn from history to learn the lessons taught by history, it is mental slavishness and intellectual slavery to look for precedents in every case. We know our conditions here and know that our conditions demand the enforcement of prohibition immediately. We also know that it is going to be of immense benefit to the people of the Province. That will do for us and the Government has done well in bringing forward this prohibition measure. Only we wish that they had resorted to wholesale prohibition. In reply to that, it is said that there are difficulties like the frontier question and that the adjoining Indian States have to be consulted. But even in the matter of partial prohibition there are such difficulties. You have to erect barriers between prohibition districts and non-prohibition districts. That means so much money and so much effort. All these can be saved if wholesale prohibition is introduced straightaway in the province.

"I have to refer, Sir, to the fund of a crore of rupees that has been allotted for the Harijans. When I mentioned my objection to the constitution of a fund, it should not be taken to mean that I object to the expenditure of an amount on the Harijans. After all, the amount allotted for the purpose is small. It is only a crore of rupees for eight millions of people. (The Hon. the Premier, *hear, hear.*) It works out only at Rs. 1-4-0 per year per head of the Harijan population. That is to say, one anna and eight pies per month. This is not at all sufficient to bring up these people who have been kept down ruthlessly and mercilessly for generations and centuries. (A voice—*hear, hear.*) (By whom?) I do not think there can be any controversy as to the party that kept them so long under this subjection. Therefore, there is no necessity for any argument on the subject. Now that party, for atoning for what they have done during all these centuries, must come forward much more generously than they have done now. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan—*Liberally, not generously.*) 'Generous', Sir, means more than 'liberal'. Ten lakhs of rupees or even twenty lakhs would not have been considered too much in spending for such a purpose as this. This forms part perhaps of the rural reconstruction, too.

"Referring to another item of rural reconstruction"

* THE HON. MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Ismail, can you finish your speech within five minutes? You have already taken 20 minutes within which you said that you will finish your speech."

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* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I cannot finish within five minutes. I have just begun, Sir."

* THE HON. MR. SPEAKER:—"I have no objection to your speaking till 6-40 p.m. if you can finish your speech by that time. You can break your fast after that and after half-an-hour's interval, the Hon. the Premier will make his reply."

* HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I would suggest, Sir, that the Leader of the Opposition might continue his speech after we meet again after breaking fast, if he could not finish it now."

* THE HON. MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall give you five more minutes, if you can finish now."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I will at least require 20 minutes more, Sir."

* THE HON. MR. SPEAKER:—"It is you who have asked me 20 minutes. You have already taken that time."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, you ought to allow the Leader of the Opposition, to take as much time as he requires to finish his speech."

THE HON. MR. SPEAKER:—"It is the Leader of the Opposition who said that he would finish his speech within 20 minutes. He will bear witness to that."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I do agree, Sir, that he wanted only 20 minutes. But you know Sir, that leaders of parties cannot limit their speeches to the exact minutes like that. It is for the Hon. the Speaker to allow him to continue after breaking his fast." (Cries of 'Order, Order'.)

THE HON. MR. SPEAKER:—"I have no objection to allow one or two minutes more if the Leader of the Opposition could finish it now."

"The Leader of the Opposition will please continue his speech. (Interruption.)"

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I suggest, Sir, that we may adjourn the House now and when we meet again after breaking fast, the Leader of the Opposition may continue his speech?"

HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I entirely agree to the suggestion, if the Hon. the Speaker has no objection." (Interruption.)

THE HON. MR. SPEAKER:—"The House is adjourned for 45 minutes from now, and will meet again at quarter-past seven when the Leader of the Opposition will continue his speech and the Hon. the Premier will then reply."

The House adjourned at 6-30 p.m.

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The House re-assembled at 7-15 p.m.)

7-15 p.m. * M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset now I have to say in fairness to the Chair that I originally said that 20 minutes might do for me. But my party wanted to get the right for its Leader of being allotted more time and there are occasions when the Leader has to submit to be led by his followers. Anyway I am thankful to you, Sir, for the way in which you settled this little storm in the tea cup.

“ I was saying, Sir, that the Rural Construction Scheme is indeed an important programme which any Government in this country must undertake. But what is to be the aim and object of rural reconstruction. We find from the budget speech of the Hon. the Premier that at the outset self-sufficiency in the matter of cloth and food would be the aim of his rural reconstruction scheme and from his remarks in other places and according to Gandhiji's pronouncements we find that village autonomy is going to be the ultimate object of the rural reconstruction scheme. As a concrete item in that programme the Hon. the Premier has mentioned the scheme for the production of khaddar cloth. Sir, by reconstruction we mean something progressive, something forward; but I want to know whether this programme of popularising khaddar is really such a progressive measure as that. There may be a sentimental aspect attached to it, but let us look at it from a common sense point of view. Take khaddar and see what is happening even to-day. There is the charka. What we find is that people are trying to improve the charka more and more and to produce yarn of finer and still finer counts. That means that you are set on improving the instrument, the charka with which you are starting and finally, I tell you, Sir, to be short, you will end in machinery. This is how 500 years ago other countries started and our country also started and they have ended in machinery. Therefore, I ask, is it worthwhile, is it beneficial to the country to wipe out all the experience which the nations have got during these 500 years and go back and begin once again at the very beginning? What I want to say, Sir, is let us learn from the experience of other countries. Let us adopt industrialization as it is being understood in the modern world. There are good aspects as well as bad aspects of it. Fortunately for us we have got all these things before us. What we should do is to try and adopt the good aspects and try to eliminate the bad aspects of modern industrialism and try to adjust it and adapt it to our own conditions. I think therein lies the way of wisdom.

“ Then I come to village autonomy. I ask our friends on the other side whether they really and seriously think that such an idea is possible at all in the 20th century. The days of Greek City States are gone and they have never been revived or restored during all these 2,000 years at any time either in the history of Greece or in that of any other country. Moreover is it also possible from the nature of things to restore village autonomy? Don't you want to set up big factories and plants, say, for producing aeroplanes and locomotives? Then what will be your position?

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You will draw your men from villages. When they have contributed their men, when you are speaking in terms of village autonomy, to which of those villages will these men and factories be taken to belong? Therefore, I say, adapt your measure to the present-day requirements. Let us not go and knock our heads against the inevitable wall and then learn the lesson the other nations have learnt long ago. Sir, Village Autonomy is not possible. The forces of nature and the circumstances which are ruling to-day are not going to allow us to do that experiment successfully.

“ Again, our hon. Friend, the Premier has said that he is going to make a firka in each district self-sufficient for food and self-sufficient for cloth. That means he is going to compel every firka to produce the food that is necessary for it and every firka to produce the cloth that is necessary for it. Suppose in a firka there is a tract of land which is more suitable for the production of groundnuts. Is he going to compel the people there to give up producing groundnuts and to produce paddy? Again in another firka there are lands which will produce a very good amount of paddy. Is he going to restrict the amount of paddy which that firka is going to produce so that it may not be put to the necessity of exporting paddy to another firka or another territory. Are these things possible, this village self-sufficiency in food and self-sufficiency in cloth? (At this stage half the lights and fans in the Chamber went out.) The forces of nature also say that it is not possible.

“ I only want to say a few words indicating my ideas about these things. Perhaps on other occasions, I will have to deal with these subjects at greater length.

“ Coming to Education, the Hon. the Premier in answer to one of the questions put in the House said that the Government have not yet settled their Educational policy. But what do we find in reality? The Hon. Minister for Education is introducing change after change. One fine morning he issued an order, or whatever it may be, by word of mouth or by a stroke of the pen, saying that merit shall be the criterion for admission into the professional colleges to the extent of 20 per cent. Sir, the previous arrangement which is known by the name of the ‘ Communal G.O.’ was evolved as a result of thought and experience ranging over more than a quarter of a century. It was evolved by representatives of the people amongst others. When abrogating such a policy as that, it was due to the Members of the Opposition to be consulted. It was an important step that the Education Minister took in abrogating or modifying the policy which was in existence in this Province for about 20 or 25 years. To simply wipe out such a system is to act like an iconoclast. I must remind him that one iconoclast will produce other iconoclasts. Therefore it is not good to anybody to be dealing with the education of the people in this way, education which affects the people of the Province very intimately and very vitally.

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"Then there is the talk of regional language. That very word implies that matters are not easy in this Province. As I have already pointed out this is a multi-lingual Province and circumstances arising out of that fact must be taken into consideration in matters educational. The Hon. Minister without paying close and careful attention to the representations made to him on the matter insists on pursuing his own policy. He goes even so far as to deny the very fact that a particular language, namely, Urdu is the mother-tongue of a particular community, the Muslims of Madras.

"Then, Sir, there is the Wardha Scheme. The Hon. Premier said that the Wardha Scheme, the scheme formulated by the Hindustani Talimi Sangh or Basic Education Scheme will be the system that will be adopted in this Province in the future. One of the fundamental features of this scheme was said previously to be the teaching through some handicraft. But fortunately even the Congress National Planning Committee has found out the grave defect attached to this kind of teaching. The other day the Committee is said to have decided that it was spiritually harmful to the children to be taught through handicrafts. These handicrafts deaden the minds of the pupils. It is no good to children to be pressed into the drudgery or routine of a handicraft even from the tender age when they go to the primary schools. Then they will fall into a groove out of which they will never be able to get out later on in their life. They will be pressed to learn a handicraft of which they know nothing at the time, and of which we their elders have some idea or liking. It is not fair to them to subject their life to such an experiment as this. Anyway, the Mussalmans, I want to make it clear, cannot agree to the Wardha Scheme being introduced for the education of their children. Our main reason for that objection is the lack of religious instruction. We know that the Mussalmans were backward in the matter of education when the English system was introduced. The main reason for that was not only that it was an alien system, but that it made no provision for religious instruction. Later on, we know from history as and when provision for religious instruction was being extended, the Muslims took more and more to education. This I tell you, Sir, only to let you know how the Muslims attach vital importance to religious instruction being provided for in the syllabus of the schools to which they have to send their children. I have to make it clear that this is a matter of vital importance to Muslims. The Mussalmans of this Province can never agree to an educational system which neglects the provision of religious instruction and they will have to resist such a system being imposed upon them.

"Sir, the Hon. the Premier is saying that he is abolishing the Road Development Department."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Not completely, but only to some extent."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I mean the department which has been created, the Highways Department."

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AN HON. MEMBER:—"They are only curtailing the programme of this Department."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In this connexion I only want the Hon. the Premier to see that the development of roads has a vital connexion with the production of food and cloth. Therefore, the matter should be dealt with carefully so as not to injure the economic interests of the Province.

"Then, Sir, the Hon. the Premier has made himself responsible for an unfortunate statement in his budget speech regarding trade and commerce. He says: 'the kind of business so far has largely been of the type which takes no risks, does not add to the real wealth of the Province and aims at making money in easy ways like commission agency, money-lending, etc.' I say, Sir, that every idea conveyed by this sentence is to say the least thoroughly and completely inaccurate. I have heard recently men expressing similar views, men who have the least knowledge or competence to express them; but I was surprised to find such a sentence finding a place in a budget speech of a Finance Minister. He says, trade takes no risks. The Hon. Premier has seen many places and has seen many businessmen and he ought to have known how many businessmen have been ruined, or have sustained colossal losses and yet people are going on with trade and commerce. I do not know if that is not taking risks, what else is. Then he says, it does not add to the real wealth of the Province. Now take for instance, cotton and also skins and hides. All the cotton that can be produced in this Province or the country and all the hides and skins which are being produced in this country cannot find consumption within the country itself. Then what happens; if there is no trade and commerce to take the surplus quantities of these articles to the countries which need them, they will be wasted here. That means so much loss of wealth, national wealth to the country. Again, trade and commerce is the channel which takes the products and produce from the point of production to the point of consumption. For industry, for production of articles from raw materials or for the manufacture of articles, trade and commerce is a necessary adjunct. The channel may have defects, but that is no reason why that channel must be done away with altogether. We have heard so many of our friends speak of the corruption of the rank and file of the Government services. That is no reason why Government should be abolished altogether and anarchy introduced into the country. This channel of trade and commerce is of fundamental importance and necessity to the development of industries in the Province. Then the next sentence made us expect that the Government were going to show the Province some new lines along which trade and commerce might prosper but the subsequent sentence belied such an expectation by saying that they were thinking of industries and not trade and commerce, and as a measure of development of trade and commerce they were going to set up an Industrial Finance Corporation."

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MD. ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir. Can the Parliamentary Secretary go on reading a newspaper in the House?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should not read the newspaper in the House."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I hope, Sir, that the Government will give facilities that are necessary for the further development of trade and commerce of the Province."

"Speaking about the housing problem, we are not given any indication as to how and on what lines the Government propose to solve this problem. They only say it is possible that legislation might be brought forward for continuing the Rent Control Order. Sir, people must be encouraged and given facilities for constructing new houses and more and more houses. Above all, the slums and cheries which are a blot on humanity must be abolished altogether and decent houses must be provided for these unfortunate people who have to live in these rat-holes which we find in the slums and cheries."

"It is regrettable, Sir, that the other day, the Corporation of Madras has denied the right to the Muslims of having their own representatives elected to the Corporation through separate electorates and they have also refused to allot adequate representation for the Muslims in the Corporation. That is an important matter, Sir, affecting the very existence of the Muslim nation. Not only to the Corporation of Madras, but also to all the local bodies in the Province the principle of separate electorate must be extended. It is on a misunderstanding and a prejudice, Sir, that so many ills which we find in the body politic of our Province are laid at the door of the separate electorate. Separate electorate really contributes to the harmonious working, harmonious coming together of communities, because it recognises the rights and the privileges of different communities to speak for themselves and to send their own and real representatives."

"Now, we find, during the last few months after the Congress Government came into being in this Province riots and communal troubles have occurred in several places. Properties have been destroyed and valuable goods have been looted; people have been killed and injured. I do not know why such things should have happened at this juncture. If anybody thinks that in that way any community, however small they may be, much less the Muslims, can be cowed down and brow-beaten, they are very much in the wrong. I think and hope that the Government will impress upon the people concerned that it is not going to be so."

"Here, I have to acknowledge with appreciation that the Hon. Premier has always listened with courtesy and with due attention to the representations made to him on these several happenings in the several places of the Province and he has been ready, ever-ready, during night and day to do all that he can for the pacification of the Province and I am sure that he will continue the same attitude and impress upon the people that it

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does not pay anybody to indulge in such acts of vandalism, because such acts produce consequences which are good to nobody."

"Then, Sir, representations I think have been received by the Government for compensating the people who have suffered losses of property during these riots. I expect that the Government will give careful consideration to those representations and grant them compensation, because it will, as nothing else will, reassure the people and will impress upon them that the Government is out for securing the life and property of the people in all possible ways."

"With regard to the village and other committees which were decided to be formed as soon as the Congress Government came into being we made representations even at the First Session of this Assembly that they were going to create trouble. The Hon. Premier says in his statement that the procurement drive made by the Government has borne results beyond their expectations. What I say is, if they had continued the agency which was already in existence, the agency which had defects at the beginning but which in course of time had attained a state of tolerable perfection, the results would have been still better. However, I suppose they won't go back upon what they have done. But this much at least is expected of them, that the claims of all the communities, particularly, the Muslim community, must be respected and must be restored, where it has not been respected so far. (Hear, hear.) In the matter of the formation of these village committees and taluk committees, I have received reports from several places saying that the Muslims were not given proper representation in those committees. In some places no Muslims were included; in other places Muslims were not included in proportion to their population in the particular locality and in some other cases, representatives who were not real representatives of the Muslim community have been included. The Government, I hope, will look into the matter and rectify the defects as soon as possible before they also become a source of trouble."

"Sir, It is a welcome proposal that the Government make for 7-45 p.m. the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. It is a long-felt need of the Province and I congratulate the Government and the Hon. the Premier on having taken it up as one of the first measures they are going to inaugurate in the Province."

"We hear so much of corruption. Immediate action has indeed to be taken to eradicate that evil. Corruption corrodes and eats into the vitals of society. It should not be tolerated, but at the same time I also want to urge upon the Government that they must side by side with adopting measures for eradicating this evil, take immediate steps to remunerate Government servants, particularly in the lower ranks, in a sufficient measure. It is really merciless and cruel to expect these low-paid men to work day and night with the starvation salaries which they are receiving at present. It is these low salaries that have to a very great extent led to corruption. Therefore, if you want effectively to eliminate this evil, you must at once raise the salaries of the low-paid Government servants."

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"Sir, in the midst of the liberal allotments that have been made for various purposes in the Budget, I do not find any allotment at all particularly for Muslim education except perhaps an item for the establishment of a college for Muslim women, which was already inaugurated in the previous regime. The Muslims of this Province, Sir, are backward in the matter of education and it is the duty of the Government to do all that is possible and to make special efforts and to provide ample and liberal funds for making them come abreast of the other communities.

"There are complaints, Sir, from Malabar and elsewhere that amounts which were sanctioned even by the previous regime have not been provided for in this Budget. For example, an amount of about Rs. 2 lakhs was sanctioned for a hostel for the Malappuram High School in Malabar; no provision has been made in the present Budget for that purpose. There are various other items about which we shall deal in the course of further debate in the House on the cut motions. I do not therefore propose to take any more of the time of the House now."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Premier will now make his reply."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition spoke at the end and he has given a picture of his own to this House with regard to society, with regard to reconstruction of villages, with regard to the educational system, and with regard to the claim for separate electorates, which was said to have been disallowed by the Corporation of Madras recently. Sir, a late friend of mine, Muhammad Ali, who was leading the Congress and the country until his death (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: No, Sir.) I am corrected by saying 'no.' Perhaps my friend is right when he said that he was not actually leading at the time of his death. But it must be admitted that at least for some time before his death, he was leading this country. He was the President of the Congress, not once but twice and thrice. He was the person who along with his deceased brother Shaukat Ali started this new movement of Gandhiji in 1920 and 1921. That great friend was not merely a politician, he knew everything about the Muslim community and about the other communities. He was evolving a system of joint electorates for Muslims and the Hindus, so that these Hindu-Muslim differences and troubles would be put an end to. The separation has brought the ruin upon this land, and upon all the communities. I have no doubt about that. It is now for all the communities to draw together, to work together and live together. Village reconstruction was taken up by the Congress, not for the sake of any particular community, but for the sake of all the communities. If the Leader of the Opposition and my friend Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan who is sitting, waiting for an opportunity to contradict me if possible (Laughter), can go together with me into certain villages which are dominated by the Muslim population, others being in a minority, they will see how they are living, what they are doing and how they will live hereafter also. They

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will be able to see everything for themselves. You can see in the streets of the Madras City pavements people lying with rags, without having sufficient clothing, all communities there, they lie together, they sleep together, they starve together, they beg together. What are we doing at the top? For the last so many years, this wretched thing has gone on with regard to offices and appointments, and it is that, that has brought all the trouble in this country. How many people can be provided for under any Government, whatever it is? I have known, Sir, the origin, the growth and the death of this communal movement in our Province and in other Provinces also. Yet, we are not able to shake ourselves out of that groove and come together. There was a time when people believed that real power rested round the appointments which some of the people were holding under this Government—appointments high or low, clerks, peons or anything—it was believed that all these appointments were carrying real power with them and the competition came for the whole of these appointments and all the trouble during the last thirty years here in the City of Madras has been round the seeking of these appointments here, there or anywhere else. Sir, it is not in that way that nations can be built, that nations can come into existence and take charge of the destinies of the people. For my part, allow me to tell my friends they said something pertinently, they felt it and they said, that they won't accept any system of education which does not give religious education. I will add to it—if I am a free man to do it—and tell you that every Muhammadan, every Hindu, every Christian and every other boy, all these students must be taught all the four religions side by side (Hear, hear). I am only looking for the time when such a thing could happen. When you go into the whole thing, you will understand from the beginning to the end; if they study all these religious books from the very beginning, they will be able to understand what the whole thing is about. One God, all the religions are worshipping. Everything is common to humanity. It is by some chance that divisions came up and these divisions could be maintained just as they are maintained in a single family where father is of one religion, one son is of another religion, another son is of another religion and a third son is of another religion—all the four belonging to different sections with regard to the worship, the method of worship of the same God. What on earth has been happening in this world of ours? I am not marking out the one or the other. Every one of us has gone wrong to such an extent that we are fighting for trivialities. So, in the reform of education, if we can all pull together, if we can make it possible for all young ones, boys and girls, to understand the truth of all these religions from the very beginning, not one trouble will there be.

"We will then be doing the greatest service to ourselves and to this country. I never knew that Mr. Pocker, such a quiet gentleman—I know him from the time I was practising as an Advocate of the High Court—I never knew this gentleman has so much anger in him. After knowing him now, I have left

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him off as a hopeless man. (Laughter.) I scouted him up to a certain extent and left him off, but I am still hoping that he will recover and every one of us will recover.

“ Sir, coming to education, you were all very much worried and the Education Minister, I know, has been working very hard, from the day he took charge of his office, until now, at the question of regional languages. That is not properly understood and that is perhaps the reason why serious objection was taken to it. I say no serious objection can be taken to the use of the expression ‘regional language.’ You must have been reading what is happening in other parts of India. There, there is no question of congressman or others in the matter of education and there is nothing like Congress or non-Congress in education. Recently, they passed a resolution to the effect that the regional language must be adopted hereafter. Why did they say that. Because, we all believe that so far as the Provincial Governments are concerned today, they are in the hands of the representatives of the people and these subjects will be handled by the Governments concerned and the representatives of the Assembly and also by the people who sent those representatives. (B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Even the Congress resolution says mother tongue?) Yes, regional language only means the language that is used by the people living in the particular regions. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: ‘When several languages are used there?’) Yes, they will become regional language when there are several languages in the same region. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: ‘Not one language, but several languages?’) Certainly, I agree, Sir, that if there are people living in a particular area and speaking in different languages, provision must certainly be made for them (Hear, hear from Muslim Members). I will not hesitate to do it. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: ‘But the Education Minister refused’) Nobody refused. That is the very cardinal principle of the existence of all humanity. So, there is no reason to be offended with the words used. Wherever it is necessary to provide for others living within the same region, it has to be done and it will be done so far as our Government is concerned. I do not think that my Hon. Friend, the Minister for Education, ever intended to say that there will be no provision to that effect. You should not misunderstand and you should not carry a wrong impression in your minds. Separation, separation, you say. I say that during the last hundred years of English education in our own country, Hindus, Mussalmans, Christians and all others have been educated in the same colleges; have been learning and passing out and going out of those institutions into the world to adopt different professions. That has been our position and it cannot be different even hereafter so far as I can understand it. Therefore, Sir, in the matter of education, you should not say each time, everything must be separate, everything must be denominated, everything must be ear-marked and so on. That should not be your policy or the policy of anybody living in this country of ours. (Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur: ‘Then, what about the

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requirements of each community?’) No requirement of each community; all the communities have been there as I told you already for at least 100 years, let us take it and even then, all those requirements and all those institutions have been run and all of them have been educated in those institutions. Sir, I have myself been a student with some of my best Mussalman friends and most of them were my good friends and we never found this sort of difference between the communities. (Muhammad M. Ismail Sahib Bahadur: ‘You were all very good people then.’) No, this wretchedness has come up only on account of the jobs and offices. I am asking the Leader of the Opposition and all my other hon. Friends that if each one of us should say, ‘my community, my community, I must have everything for my community in this manner and in that manner,’ how can you do justice to the people. As a matter of fact, there are Muhammadan High Court Judges sitting there and dispensing justice to all people without caring to which of the communities the parties to the dispute belong. You have got Muslim and Hindu Magistrates and Judges scattered all over the country having received the same education in the Colleges and having got appointment under this Government, each one of them is dispensing justice without caring whether one man is a Hindu or a Muhammadan. (Muhammad M. Ismail Sahib Bahadur: We want only such opportunities to be given to them.) Yes, that is why I say we should not be laying stress upon differences between this community and that community. We must not allow any such thing. If tomorrow my hon. Friend the leader of the Opposition, Mr. Ismail becomes the ruler of this country, does he not represent all the people here and can he talk then, ‘I am a Muhammadan, I do not care for others, whether alive or dead’. No, certainly, you will not say so and no one will say that. (Muhammad M. Ismail Sahib Bahadur: I do not think there is any such prospect for me.) (Laughter.) Sir, let us not digress on this aspect. Consciously or unconsciously, owing to circumstances that envelope us, we commit such mistakes. I am only appealing to all my friends not to have these differences in their minds and wherever there are differences to be recognized, they will be recognized and we will take care of them without any difficulty. And so, as far as education is concerned, there is nothing; if the educational system has to be altered tomorrow, can it be stated that a different system should be given for Christians, a different system for the Parsees and a different system for the Hindus? There will be no such thing at all. We are going to have the educational system under which we are living; recast it and there will be a replanning of the educational system. We have seen the working of these universities, we have seen the working of these colleges and the working of elementary education for such a long period. We have not been able to get free and compulsory education even though we have been agitating for the last sixty years. Now we have an opportunity to replan the whole system of education and we have to sit together and carry it out when the time comes. Therefore, so far as the educational policy is concerned it

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is a common thing for all of us and there is no cause for any difference or disagreement except where certain special provisions have to be made. (B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur: Will the opposition be consulted.) That is why I said that Mr. Pocker has become bad. Let that come. If you will work it, it will come; but if you are in that despondent state, it will not come. (Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur: There can be nothing like village autonomy.) You are cruel, Mr. Ismail, when you say that there can be no village autonomy that there can be no freedom for the people in the villages, who pay you the Government taxes, who maintain you all here. To say let them go and shift for themselves, is cruel. We are now in an age of machines and mills and all those things. We should not drag them down to a degenerated state by talking of village reconstruction and autonomy. (Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur: Autonomy is different from freedom.) Let us wait and see. With your co-operation and good sense, I hope that as we progress, and before the end of the year, we shall see what will happen; then, we shall go together to each one of the Firkas at the end of March next or at the beginning of April and then see what the Firkas are before that date. (Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur: Development of Villages.) Yes. That is why I say there will be no quarrel about the word 'Khaddar'. When it is said, sometimes it troubles some people. My friend Mr. Nagaraja Manigar from Salem is the only man who answered this question. He said 'don't call it Khadi; call it spinning; call it hand-spinning and hand-weaving.' I like that expression very much. This Khaddar has been associated with our struggle with the British Government for the last 25 years. Leave that aside, and let us talk of it only as spinning and weaving. The whole attack was made against us, this Government, that no scheme was given a lump sum and is it legal? they ask. All those questions were considered properly and what should have been done was done. Because it could not be voted as a lump sum it was separated, and earmarked so that money might be drawn from it from time to time for such schemes as may be prepared and put into operation. It is to demonstrate that, I asked the department which was at it, to prepare a scheme for the spinning and weaving which consumes so much money and place it before this House, because so many friends are not able to understand the real significance of it. The friends who have been working the Textile Department of this Government all along were asked to undertake this business. With what remarkable quickness, they have gone through the whole thing, covered the whole area in the Presidency, consulted all possible people and prepared a scheme and placed it in your hands. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: They have been known to be very clever always.) Mr. Hameed Khan is somewhat tired of himself. He cannot feel happy. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: I am always happy.) It is not throwing away all the money but only one crore for weaving. Go through that scheme calmly if you have not done so already. It is a scheme under which one crore had to be spent straightaway, and it is possible to allot rupees ten thousand

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to this or that particular item; it is not squandering all the money. On the other hand, it is a scheme which is calculated and prepared as an investment scheme. Government have kept one crore for investment in Charkas, cotton and all other things because those unfortunate villagers who were flourishing in every way at one time, who were living happily at one time, today they have become broken. Even the thatched roofing upon their houses could not be put up because they have no money. For the last 25 years under the leadership of one great man this work has been carried on. I have seen from the first day until now that it has been physically impossible for that business to flourish. The other day I told you how many bales of yarn have to be procured by the All-India Spinners' Association for making liberal allowances. It could not progress because it got mixed up although we took particular care to see that it did not get mixed up with the All-India Spinners' Association and that this must be worked up as a separate question in order to supply cloth to our people. That was our idea. But unfortunately some people who were connected with that department and with politics got into jails and again the whole thing was shelved. Now this scheme has come about. Whatever money is going to be spent on the scheme, and how much money we are going to waste in the first year, you have only to look into the last pages of the pamphlet supplied to you, where figures are given in detail. Only five lakhs go as subsidy. We invest money and get back the money, after deducting the money we invested from the money that we got it will be seen at the end of March 1947 the amount that would be given by this Government as subsidy would be only five lakhs. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: Ten yards per head.) No. You and I are going to live, when you will see that we give under this scheme twenty yards instead of five yards per head as at present. So this is a scientific scheme. I may tell the Leader of the Opposition, that during the last 25 or 30 years we have made a new political economy, we have made a new political science. Although it could not come to the top, to be demonstrated all these years we are now going to demonstrate to the whole world and also to those who are not able to believe in this village economy and in these village reconstruction schemes, how this village autonomy will work. Macaulay and other great historians in the past had laid down that no nation can have the strength to fight out to earn political freedom unless it has got a standing army, it has got one common knowledge and one common effort to make. We have proved all that. Although we have failed in the past because among ourselves we have not been able to pull together, work together, yet to some extent, we have proved that all those things must be brushed aside and new doctrines have been created by us. Leave aside political dogmas. Take to this village economy business so that you will know how this is going to save this country. You say what is the meaning of this business. Rich people there are. Some of them will lose their monies and so forth. You all know what happened some years back in this very city. I do not know whether you are old enough to remember that—that in his very

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City, when we, sitting in the Central Assembly, passed the Exchange Currency Act and increased the ratio from one shilling four pence to one shilling six pence,—Do you know what the effect of that shange was. In Periamet and in other places, some of the biggest Mussalmans became absolute bankrupts in a single day and they lost all their credit. (Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur: Poor people would suffer from it.) So long as Hindus and Mussalmans go on quarrelling like this without knowing the reason . . . (Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur: Recognition of each other's views will lead to personal understanding.) I am only telling you how the currency trouble will be solved by the village reconstruction scheme. I may tell you it is called only a Firka. On an average we have calculated on the basis of 25 villages for a district and for all the 24 districts, you will have about 500 villages. I have not worked on any single village after I became a Minister. How these things will work, you will understand in due course. (Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur: We do not want big industries. I do have it there.) It will be evident from the fact that provision has been made for an Industrial Financial Corporation. It is a big institution which you and I cannot ordinarily establish because we do not know the working of it, the secret of it, and it is only the British people and the Americans who are notorious for all kinds of institutions which bring in money to themselves and ruin to others (Laughter). Now, we have provided for big industries. Under the village reconstruction scheme, if this Firka becomes complete as I understand it, I may tell you that you must have the cloth, you must have the food within our limits. You must have bulls, ploughs, water, etc., so that they can cultivate and produce their own vegetables in the country-side. Everything will be got within a radius of ten miles especially because under the scheme we have rural roads. There is no compulsion. Every provision is there. They will have merely to use the whole thing. They will grow their own vegetables, their own paddy and every other thing required for them.

“With regard to cloth, I may tell you old women of 80 and 90 are spinning. When some collectors paid surprise visits to some villages, they were astonished at the way this was going on because some gentleman reported to them that it is all a bogus affair and that nothing was going on. When the particular Collector along with his Deputy Collector went there without notice, they found to their surprise it was a creation by itself. Even with 25 years of preaching by the greatest man of the world who has himself been spinning whether inside or outside the jail, whatever the way the world was going about and he has been doing it still, we are not able to understand the spirit of it and follow what he has been stating. Now, so far as this reconstruction is concerned, you would not be sorry. Public money is not being wasted. We are giving two crores. But the officers are already sitting over the money. They will only be taking the money into the Firkas to all the poor houses and provide Charkas where there is none. We are not also doing it

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free of cost. We have divided them into three classes: one, those who can pay away the cost readily, those who would be able to pay the cost, not the whole of it but only a part of it and those poor people who cannot pay anything. Even in the case of the last category, we have provided for an instalment system.

“Even for the poor people who cannot pay, the instalment system has been prescribed. As they earn money, they must pay from their earnings. There is thus no wastage of funds and not a pie is being frittered away. You are not alone in your doubts; the learned Secretary of the Development Department also had such doubts and the scheme became clear when it was explained to him that he himself would have to render accounts for the monies passing through him and recoveries thereof. I appeal to Hon. Members not to labour under any mistaken impression about the scheme. There is no wastage about it. S-30 P.m.

“I like to tell the House that another scheme will be presented to the House as we are proceeding with our business. Under that scheme—I shall explain it to you only in bare outline—other cottage industries will be established; they will be bodily fitted into the firka scheme, and people will be made to work there. Our endeavour is to see that the activity of every Department of Government should be carried down straightaway into that firka to establish itself there for the benefit of the masses. I was astonished some time ago to hear when I was discussing the situation with the Director of Public Health and the Sanitary Engineer that they have been preparing a scheme not under the present regime or under the auspices of the present Government but even before that, regarding sanitation, hospitals and other things whereby they would be developed and established in villages. Personally, I say, Sir, I am confident of the success of the scheme. You know, Sir, that we are people who would destroy our own efforts and that is why I was cautious. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: What about the position of Muslims in the scheme?) I assure the Hon. Member that he will be one of the officers entrusted with the execution of the scheme. I am so confident of the scheme that even at the outset I want to associate members of other communities with that scheme and I am on the lookout for Muslim officers for the firka scheme. I think, Sir, I have explained in brief sketch the scheme and I shall now take up the question of food and cloth.

“Mr. Ferrelly said that State Trading Schemes are not run for profit but to ensure steady supplies and keep the cost to the consumer as low as possible. In the case of imports from outside the Province, all food grains are sold at subsidized rates. The State Trading Scheme will necessarily show a loss, and this loss is the result of subsidizing, as the prices of food grains are to be kept within the means of the poor. This point is conceded by Mr. Ferrelly himself whose objection is that the cost of living continues to go up and should be kept down. There are very slight variations in the price of food grains. The rise in the cost of living from time to time is due to the rise in the prices of other minor commodities like chillies, onions, oils and pulses. Control

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over the entire field of consumption articles and services is an unmanageable undertaking, but wherever it is found that the price of any particular commodity has gone unduly high, Government will take immediate steps to bring it down.

"It is true that the price of Sind wheat products was higher than the price of wheat products imported from Australia. Allotments are made by the Government of India, and Madras, in view of its urgent need of food grains, is not in a position to dictate terms. Our difficulty has been this. The Government of India take particular care to have the whole control in their own hands. The scheme is so designed that everything procured is drawn towards the centre—collection is done from all the outside world and they are doled out to us as we are starving here. The whole system has become much involved. Even to-day you might see that rice, which is wanted here, is, going elsewhere, and wheat comes to us, and that is not so much in want here. They know that we protest—we have protested not once but thrice or four times. They also know that we are people who are protesting without any sanction behind us. In order that we may not go by default, I am requesting the Food Secretary and the Additional Food Minister, Mr. Raghava Menon, to proceed to Delhi to explain the whole position and to make them treat us better. I hope we shall be getting better facilities in future. That is being done now, because till now we have not had our own representatives there. There was none there to urge the requirements of Madras and to tell them what people here liked and hence some mistakes have occurred in the past. That is why we are pressing the Government of India to allow our representative there so that what we want may be directed to this place without allowing it to be taken to any other place where they would not eat it. I have been contacting the Central Provinces to let us have rice in exchange for wheat of which we have got a good supply; but we are not able to consume it for our people are not used to it. That is why all this propaganda for wheat, and we are also obliged to spend on that account. To meet the situation and to urge our needs, we are requesting them to let us have our own men there.

"I was speaking about the price of wheat products charged by Sind. The grains have to be purchased at the rate charged by the supplying Governments. As the price was very high in some cases, the Government of India have fixed statutory maximum prices for wheat in supplying provinces. But that is not going to affect us, as Sind has ceased to supply any wheat products for us, and all the allotments in recent months of wheat products are from imports overseas.

"There has been some criticism that minority communities have not been properly represented in Village Committees, and that Muslims have not secured adequate representation (particularly in Malabar). Instructions have already been issued to all the Collectors to see that the officers in charge of the constitution of these committees take care to see that all communities are

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properly represented. Special instruction has been issued in the case of Malabar to see that there is adequate Muslim representation in the Village Committees."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In case any injustice is done?"

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I will go personally into any case of injustice that may be brought to my notice.

It is understood that in Ernad and Walluvanad taluks large numbers of Moplahs have taken shares in the Producer cum Consumer Co-operative Societies, and everywhere the election of the directors was unanimous. In two places Moplahs have been elected Presidents. In Ernad and Walluvanad, Congress and Muslim League M.L.As. sat together, and the decision in the representation of communities was unanimous, and the Muslim League has been given representation.

"There have been complaints from some districts against the constitution of the committees. Parliamentary Secretaries are being deputed to examine these reports and settle the disputes in consultation with the local authorities. I hope that when the selection of the committees is finally completed, all interests will be satisfied. If there are still any glaring inequalities or injustice, the Government will set them right. These committees have a very important part to play in the distribution schemes and all other matters affecting the village welfare. As these committees are only just being formed, it is too soon to express an opinion about their work. I suggest that they be given a fair chance before they are judged.

"The Government of India have called for a Conference of Food Ministers on the 9th and 10th of this month to survey the food position. Every effort will be made to secure from the Government of India as large a share of imports of rice from overseas as possible to improve the rice position in the Province.

"Coming to the cloth situation, I have been anxious to do something useful. There is no good merely pointing out to one or two isolated orders and then struggling hard with consequent waste of time. I stayed in Ooty for a few days, and some time ago I went down to Coimbatore. We invited the mill-owners to a conference at the Collector's office, and the representatives of the Labour Unions also attended. I thank God that I did not miss that opportunity of getting real information as the weak points and how to meet the situation. Since returning to this place, we have been putting our heads together with a view to evolve a method by which we will be able to get sufficient cloth for the poor people."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. the Premier establishing a permanent agency for the purpose of getting more quota for yarn and cloth for the Province?"

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"We have suffered a lot by default. Now I shall tell you what we are thinking of doing with regard to the cloth situation.

Government will be putting into effect very shortly a scheme for preventing unscrupulous mills from diverting into the black market yarn and cloth not shown by them in their return to the Textile Control authorities. Steps are also being taken to ensure that no yarn or cloth is moved from mills in violation or evasion of the control measures.

"Government expect blackmarketing in yarn and cloth at other stages to be put down to a considerable extent with the assistance of the Village and Town Committees constituted under their recent orders. It is also proposed to eliminate blackmarketing in yarn by weavers by adopting the following measures, as far as possible:—

(a) organizing co-operative societies for weavers which will see to the conversion of all the yarn given to them into cloth and to the marketing of the cloth at reasonable prices; and

"(b) by making arrangements under which every weaver or master-weaver will have to account for all the yarn received by him before he can get the next supply of yarn.

"Government propose to pursue a policy of eliminating unnecessary middlemen as the effective way of putting down violations and evasions of the textile control measures. Government would issue orders shortly for the issue of ration cards for mill yarn to cooly weavers, who have left their master-weavers, and have acquired looms on which they can work as genuine independent weavers. I am not inclined to give out more details just now. Our idea is to check the flow of mill yarn into black-market at the mill gate itself. There are certain constitutional difficulties in the rules framed by the Government of India. We are trying to make all yarn supplied in the market converted into cloth so that there would be no black market business at all.

"My Hon. Friend, Mr. Bhaktavatsalam, who has been in charge of Public Works, has been doing so much from day to day even without rest. He told you about the policy Government have been adopting with regard to various schemes. Some criticism has been levelled in the course of the debate against his department, and in reply to that I may tell this."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Before you go to the next subject, may I know what provision has been made for the supply of cloth during Ramzan festival?"

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Special arrangements have been made in that behalf."

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Will similar arrangements be made also for the Pongal festival? (Laughter.)"

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes, Sir. Criticism was made with regard to the Highways Department. There is no question of scraping the Highways. The Highways Department has

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been formed with a view to enable local bodies to devote better attention to the roads in their charge which have been neglected so far. The Government have taken up the Highways so as to maintain the main trunk roads and the marketing roads at a uniform standard. Government do realize the importance of roads for the development of industry and agriculture. They may not take up big schemes presently in view of the urgent need to concentrate on new irrigation projects. But necessary attention will be bestowed particularly in areas like South Kanara and Malabar which have been neglected. The Government will give every facility to the District Boards to develop rural communications. Necessary attention will be bestowed on improving irrigation facilities, particularly in areas neglected so far. Government do realize that the Tungabhadra Project alone will not cover the famine-ridden Rayalaseema. We are taking necessary steps in each of the districts to take up new schemes. The Pennar-Kumudavati Project will be taken up soon, in spite of the hurdles referred to, for solving which necessary steps will be taken, as also several other projects, which are now being examined. The taking up of the Vaigai scheme so as to expand irrigation under Periyar which would cover the dry Tirumangalam taluk, the Lower Bhavani Project which should cover the dry area of Coimbatore district and the Sathanur scheme under the Pennar which would cover parts of the North and South Arcot districts, referred to by hon. Members are under the active consideration of the Government, as also several schemes in other districts including South Kanara and Malabar.

"The Government are also bestowing necessary attention on the drainage question in the matter of irrigation facilities in the delta areas, as was pointed out about the Guntur district. The Romperu Drainage Scheme has been already taken up, and we shall be examining other similar schemes also. Regarding the neglect in the matter of repairs to irrigation tanks in the zamindari areas, Government are quite well aware of the complaints, and are taking necessary steps to have the repairs executed without delay.

"The question of improvement of Minor Ports in this Province is also being examined by the Government. The suggestion to develop the Port Trust Fund with contributions from the Government of India will be taken up for consideration. Sri Venkateswarlu complained against a provision in the budget of only five lakhs of rupees for the Romperu Drainage Scheme and wanted completion of projects within the year. Apart from the question of finance, it would be physically impossible to complete the execution of projects within a short period.

"Another subject that agitated the minds of hon. Members was about Prohibition. On Prohibition, all hon. Members on the Opposition Bench, from the leader to the last member, levelled a terrible attack against the Government, saying the whole province must be brought under Prohibition at once. Mr. Ismail and others sitting with the Leader of the Opposition may talk like that, because they are not sitting on this side.

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(Laughter.) If they have been sitting on this side, they would have had an opportunity of seeing the debit side and credit side of details, and how sometimes things go wrong. Amongst us, Congressmen, there was a difference of opinion on the question of Prohibition. But I was always confident, whenever such differences existed, they would disappear on our re-examining the situation. Those friends who took a different view from me, even went to the length of saying 'Let us not have any Prohibition for any district this year; let us have it all over the province in one sweep next year.' But we had to look into the whole situation and do the right thing. I discussed the matter with our friends once, twice; and this morning, with His Excellency the Governor presiding, I had this discussed in the Cabinet, and we came to the conclusion that since there is a strong feeling in the country, Prohibition should be extended to four more districts. When I had been to Coimbatore I saw what was happening there, particularly labour troubles. All the mills struck work during the last war; then everybody was pleading his inability to supply you cloth; the only thing you can get was five yards of cloth per head per year. The two contending parties in Coimbatore, communists and non-communists, lost their heads in such a way that murders were committed in front of mills in drunken brawls. At a glance I found out who was responsible for it. The last election also created a situation there. Therefore, I thought, Coimbatore district must be included in the Prohibition area. I saw mill workers going every evening into toddy shops, coming out fully drunk and creating scenes and troubles. Of course we made the necessary Police bandobust to prevent the recurrence of such scenes. So we have included Coimbatore district in the Prohibition area. The inclusion of the other three districts of Bellary, Kurnool and Anantapur, cost us only 40 lakhs of rupees each, aggregating to 120 lakhs of rupees, while Coimbatore district alone costs over one crore and forty lakhs of rupees. In the beginning we did not see how we could meet this expenditure. We thought we could introduce some new measure of taxation to cover up the expenditure. There is one Agricultural Income-tax Bill ready. It was got ready in the Advisers' regime. Mr. Strathie, when he handed over charge to me, put that file in the drawer and drawing my attention to it said, 'I tried hard with the Governor for his sanction for introducing the Bill, but failed. So, you try your luck.' "

MR. F. FERRELLY:—"That is Strathie's legacy. (Laughter.)"

* THE HON. T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes. And then by increasing sales tax by half a per cent we propose to get more revenue. That is how we were able to satisfy our friends. I am not a doubter; I am one who would plump for the whole thing if circumstances permitted. That is why I said to my friends 'we should not make fools of ourselves.' That shows our *bona fides* in the matter. At the end of the year we have to settle about other districts for Prohibition. We will meet, discuss and decide, up to what extent we should go next year. We must all do the right thing in a right manner and in a successful

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manner. The belief among some friends is that this Prohibition will be a total failure. I do not believe in it. Its success is in our hands. It is in the hands of our own people to make it a success or failure. I know practically all the districts in the province. I know the people there. I know they have not been tainted in the least. Only when circumstances changed during the Advisers' regime there was a relaxation. As regards illicit distillation, I don't believe it will disappear; because from the beginning of the universe, when God created this world, there were people who were prepared to say to God, 'You are not God. (laughter)'; in spite of them God had to create this world. Similarly we have to make the whole thing a success ourselves. That is about prohibition."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What 9 p.m. about the peons and other poor people of the Excise Department who will be displaced?"

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"For that the Excise Department people came and gave a written memorandum. They said: 'we should not be left out. We worked in that department for one purpose as the Government directed. For the other purpose also, we are the best people, and not the new people. So you should not desert us.' We are considering the question of rooting out the evil of Drink now. We are asking the Excise people to destroy the evil, as they will be the best people to do it."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government thinking of schemes to convert the coconut juice into jaggery?"

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Certainly, Sir. Schemes like this will be coming now under 'other cottage industries'. How jaggery could be made, and how alternative employment would be found for our people will be looked into, if not by the Director of Industries, by an assistant under him, who will be asked to get all these things done. This is not an orthodox scheme. This is not the bullock cart scheme which Mr. Salami referred to. We have selected firkas also to put in electricity where there is no water. If there is no irrigation facility, we will be sinking wells and water will be lifted with electricity. We all know what difference it will make to cultivate with water lifted with electricity and with bullocks. That is how an honest effort is being made by all of us in order to show that an arid area will be converted into a fertile land."

"I will only tell you something so far as the educational matter is concerned. Apart from the additional provision of grants to managements of aided primary schools, to enable them to pay higher dearness allowance at Rs. 16 per mensem to their teaching staff and for the supply of midday meals to poor children attending primary schools in selected areas, the budget includes a provision of Rs. 22 lakhs for the extension of compulsory primary education to further selected areas in the current year. To provide teachers for the increasing number of primary schools, the

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Government have also planned to train 4,000 additional teachers and have arranged for the payment of enhanced rates of stipends to teachers undergoing training. The Government are aware of the need for raising the status of the teachers and are actively considering proposals with regard to raising their status. As a token of their sympathy towards the low paid teachers in aided primary schools, the Government have decided to give from 1st August 1946 an increment of two rupees a month on the grant paid in respect of each teacher in the aided primary schools because these teachers are about the lowest paid in the ladder. This decision was taken after the budget estimate was fixed and involves an extra cost of Rs. 7½ lakhs in the current year and Rs. 13 lakhs in a full year. Having regard to all these schemes, we have put in only four districts in the original proposals. Now we have increased that.

“The educational system will have to be thoroughly overhauled so far as I understand. The University Act must undergo a thorough revision, and the Universities must be converted into a different type of Universities which will be really serviceable and useful to students. Therefore so much waste we have got in the educational system. I do not wish to deal with all the details of that. The idea is to get rid of all this waste and produce really useful people. The people and the Government have been simply following the old system that has been introduced long ago without caring for the consequences. So, about that also you will hear more very soon, and the educational system will have to be recast and all of us will have to put our heads together. There is no question of one doing it and others keeping quiet.

“Then about this fund and the lump sum provision. If only what the office have given to us in their note for the Cabinet meeting of 2nd July 1946 had been put into my budget speech, all this attack would not have been made at all against the Government that the Government were foolish fellows who did not know the difference between lump-sum voting, and the rules relating to lump-sum provision. The arguments were like that, because they were not told what was put in the note for the Cabinet by the office on the 2nd of July. I will just read that in order to remove any misunderstanding that may still be lurking in the minds of hon. Members and its validity. ‘A provision of one crore may be made for the removal of general disabilities and the uplift of Harijans in selected areas of each district. A scheme for this will be made ready very shortly. A copy of the Prime Minister’s note explaining the general scope of the scheme is circulated with this note.’ Look at the note of the Finance Department. ‘If a provision of four crores is made in the revised budget for 1946-47 for the above two schemes, it is likely that a large portion of it will lapse and it is also against the spirit of the rules to make large lump-sum provisions for schemes, the financial implications of which have not been fully considered.’ That is the office note. I could not obstruct you at that time when you were speaking. You did not know all these. We knew and we deliberately arrived at that decision. In this form it

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was not put in my speech. That was your handicap. ‘It is therefore suggested that to give effect to the policy of the Ministry, a special fund may be constituted for village reconstruction and Harijan uplift, and a sum of Rs. 4 crores may be transferred to it from the revenue account. If such a fund is opened, the Government could draw upon the fund as and when necessary, and the unspent balance will be available for expenditure in future years.’ Suppose by the end of March, only 5 lakhs of rupees is spent, the balance will be available for expenditure in future years. There could be no legal or constitutional objection to that. Because it is a recognized method, that procedure was adopted, and not out of stupidity. (Laughter.) ‘The present large balance in the Revenue Reserve Fund makes this an appropriate time for constituting such a fund.’ This is a thing which was not placed before you.

“Let me tell you one thing, Sir. One crore of rupees for the Harijan Fund has somewhat shocked. The Leader of the Opposition said that this was too small an amount to lift up any community and to have any effective reform. Let me tell you how many crores of rupees are being lost through this currency and exchange policy of the British Government ever since it was established in 1803. Until 1803 the East India Company was maintaining their accounts in gold coins. It was in 1803 that the accounts were converted into silver coins. While moneys were sent for payment there, the whole process changed. From 1803 the country has been bled white. Unless and until you control that currency policy, you can never see freedom in this country. We may all talk of threats of rivers of blood. You will get everything else in the name of constitution, saying this is right and that is right. In the Constituent Assembly you have to know what you have to do. You have to provide yourself against this currency. How can you make a constitution in such a manner that the currency does not do that. With your co-operation within one or two years, when firkas are reconstructed, you will find that the people are doing everything without your currency note. They will manage things as if on a barter system. Long ago I wrote to a Congress leader about adopting the barter system. Why are we going each time to jail. Put that jail programme along with the economic programme also. Of course it was not possible by that time.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Do the Government propose to introduce barter system in future?”

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“If I say that, Mr. Salam will at once get up. He is a lawyer. He will ask, ‘is it legal, can you do it.’ I am doing it. I am requesting you to do it. It is the duty of everybody to do it.”

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“If it is beneficial to our people.”

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“That is all. No question of compulsion or any such thing. I am only suggesting to you. I will have a grain bank in each village if everything goes well.

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I will have a yarn bank for those people who are spinning yarn—those old women of 80 and 90 years—and they will thus be enabled to get sufficient wages. If with that yarn they go in the evening, they can come back with grain. If you want some other commodity, it will come. These are what are called multi-purpose societies. We are not creating them for ourselves alone. It is out of these multi-purpose society schemes that the idea of self-sufficiency suggests itself. If you work like that, the villager would not be put to the necessity of going to the sowcar of the village or the outside marwari. All problems will be solved in such a manner if we work this out. I assure you we have started it, and within eight or nine months we shall be able to know where we stand.

“About the Harijan, I have so many schemes in my head. The Finance Department said, ‘you need not send any scheme.’ I scribbled something from Ootacamund, and I sent these schemes. It was with break-neck speed, they were rushing to have these few pages printed. They would have done it leisurely according to the Secretariat principles. When I became Finance Minister, who was always on their throats and troubling them without giving them the least time for doing anything at leisure, such people had to undergo all these difficulties. I sent my own schemes for Harijans as I had in my head. They are being developed now. To uplift the Harijans from their present level of untouchability, what has been employed hitherto? They are separated and put in cheries or some such thing. If you wish to lift them up and make them live like other peoples in a neat style, you require money. Gandhiji has gone to the length of saying that you must go and live inside these cheris.”

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ They must be made to live in your village agra-haram.”

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ Both ways, I say, according to circumstances and conditions. This money would not be wasted. That is in the hands of the Government and the Secretariat. We have to work out the whole thing, and see the result after the whole work is done. It pains every one to see people live in those cheris. How can you possibly bring a reform? It cannot be done ordinarily by ordinary methods. That is why this one crore of rupees fund. If it had been made into 5 crores, it would have been a better fund to make those people understand that their sufferings are nearing the end.”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“ May I know when will that scheme be ready?”

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ It is being prepared. It will come as early as possible. Apart from our country, there are other countries where this untouchability prevails. Schemes are being prepared by them—not dark men like us, but white men. In what manner, have you any idea? They built houses without making any distinction of caste or religion—One Hindu house, one Harijan house, one other caste-gentleman house; all people put together and a common school will be established there to which all students must go and study. There will be a hospital

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there to which all people must go and receive treatment. I prepared colonization schemes before we resigned in 1939. They were left on the tables of the Secretariat, and we have to trace them again. I have asked for them. There are so many ways of evolving schemes through which you can serve these Harijan friends. All these are big gentlemen—this Nagappa, this Shanmugam and others. They have become big gentlemen already because they have become M.L.As. and they can plead, fight and argue here. For those fellows in the cheries, how will you do service? I know what those people are giving them. (Laughter.) I know what treatment they get when they go there. Such was the difficulty of their own people. They could not go and do real service. This problem we are trying to solve in all possible ways. The money will not be distributed in hundreds and thousands for all and sundry. Nothing of that sort will happen. They must be made human beings. They must be made to feel with you and work with you. That is the object of the Harijan fund and the Harijan scheme.

“ There are other points which I have not covered. It is 9-30 now. I think you will excuse me.”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“ I adjourn the House to meet again at 11 a.m. on the 14th of this month.”

The House then adjourned.

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ANNEXURE

[Vide answer to Starred question No. 64 asked by Sri K. Ananda Nambiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 5th August 1946, page 213 supra.]

List of political prisoners released since 30th April 1946.

Ramnad district—	Madura district—cont.
1 Sri R. M. Annamalai.	47 Sri D. Ramakrishnan.
2 „ Karuppiiah Pandithan.	48 „ M. D. Neelakantam.
3 „ Asirvadham.	49 „ Gomathi.
4 „ Janakiraman.	50 „ E. K. Rajagopalan.
5 „ Nannipayal.	Coimbatore district—
6 „ Avadai.	51 Sri Arumugam alias Arikutti
7 „ Shanmugam.	Goundan.
8 „ Arumuga Mudali.	Tinnevely district—
9 „ Ratna Kone.	52 Sri Kasirajan alias Ramalinga
10 „ Karuppaiah.	Nadar.
11 „ Vellayan.	53 „ Rajagopalan.
12 „ Kumaran.	Ramnad district—
13 „ Kuppu Thevan.	54 Sri Soman alias Somasundaram.
14 „ Sathi Thevan.	Malabar district—
15 „ Ramayya Pillai.	55 Sri P. V. Achuthan Nambiyar.
16 „ Valuthi.	56 „ E. Narayanan Nayanar.
17 „ Vania Muthiah Chettiyar.	57 „ Mangadantakath Ibrayin.
18 „ Veda Thevan.	58 „ Kuppayat Govindan.
19 „ Samiyya Ambalam.	59 „ K. P. R. Gopalan.
20 „ Chinnadorai Thevan.	60 „ A. K. Kuchiraman Nambiyar.
21 „ Pidaram.	61 „ V. P. Narayanan Nayar.
22 „ Sonayan.	62 „ Theendakara Raghavan
23 „ Karutha Muthayan.	Nambiyar.
24 „ Nagasami.	63 „ P. V. Govindan Nair.
25 „ Muthu Kamachi Pillai alias	64 „ Payyatakan Sankaran Nambi-
Virabhadr Pillai.	yar.
26 „ Sethuraman Servai.	65 „ Kongat Achu.
27 „ Mukaliappan alias Peria	66 „ Kuppayat Kunhi Koran.
Karuppan.	67 „ Thuvakkunnon Gopalan.
North Arcot district—	68 „ K. Kunhikrishnan Nambiyar.
28 Sri Angadi Govindaswami	69 „ K. V. Kunhiraman Nambiyar.
Nayudu.	70 „ Kunnumal Polkan.
29 „ Chengiah Nayudu	Coimbatore district—
30 „ D. G. Arunachalam.	71 Sri Marappa Goundan.
31 „ A. M. Govindaswami.	Ramnad district—
Malabar district—	72 Sri Ramiah Thevan.
32 Sri V. Govindaswami Pillai.	Coimbatore district—
33 „ T. Balakrishna Nair.	73 Sri Palaniappan, son of Kond-
Ramnad district—	appa Goundan.
34 Sri S. Shanmugam Servai.	74 „ Marutha Goundan alias Thot-
Coimbatore district—	tam Palani Goundan.
35 Sri Velathi Palaniappa Goundan.	75 „ Ramaswami Naicken.
36 „ Sokanna Mudali.	76 „ Shanmuga Pallan.
37 „ Chinnadurai.	77 „ Sinaai Goundan.
38 „ Vyapuri Goundan.	Ramnad district—
39 „ K. P. Tiruvenkatam.	78 Sri Kalimuthan.
40 „ Ramaraj.	79 „ Vema Muniandi Ambalam.
Malabar district—	80 „ Kalimuthu Koravan.
41 Sri Krishnan.	Madura district—
East Godavari district—	81 Sri Palani.
42 Sri Thatanki Lakshmi Narasimha	Malabar district—
Sarma.	82 Sri Chcorikadan Krishnan Nair.
Coimbatore district—	Coimbatore district—
43 Sri Narayanaswami.	83 Sri Thirumalai Chetti.
Malabar district—	Travancore—
44 Sri K. K. Balan.	84 Mr. Boniface B. Pereira (was
45 „ T. Raghava Kurup.	convicted under the Enemy
Madura district—	Agents' Ordinance).
46 Sri Lakshminan.	

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Wednesday, the 14th August 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

MR. SPEAKER :—“ Question No. 72. The Hon. Member is not in his place. The answer will be printed in the proceedings.”

Assault on Police Sub-Inspector at Lakshmangudi (Tanjore district) during communal riot.

* 72 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Police Sub-Inspector and others at Lakshmangudi (Tanjore district) were beaten during communal riot between League Muslims and Majlis Muslims and Hindus on 7th March 1946;

(b) whether the Government received any report from local Revenue and Police authorities regarding the abovesaid communal riot;

(c) if so, whether the Government will place copies of such reports received on the table of the House; and

(d) what steps were taken by the Government on the reports?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—“ (a) On 7th March 1946 certain Congressmen arranged an election propaganda meeting with members of the Muslim Majlis as the principal speakers. Some Muslim Leaguers objected to the Muslim Majlis taking part and there was a disturbance. The Police Sub-Inspector intervened but he was assaulted. Some of the people assembled also received injuries.

“ (b) Yes.

“ (c) The Government do not consider it necessary to publish the reports. They will be shown to the hon. Member, if he wishes to see them.

“ (d) The Government accepted the District Magistrate's opinion that in the darkness and confusion no individual was identified satisfactorily as having done any particular act.”

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Cars for the use of Hon. the Ministers, Hon. the President and Hon. the Speaker.

* 73 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) how many cars have been purchased by the Government for the use of the Hon. the Prime Minister and other Ministers and for the President of the Legislative Council and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly; and

(b) what is the make of each of those cars?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) Twenty-one cars have so far been purchased by the Government. Of these fifteen cars are retained for the use of the Hon. Prime Minister, other Hon. Ministers, Hon. the President, Madras Legislative Council and Hon. Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly and the remaining six cars will be sold and sale-proceeds credited to the Government.

“(b) One Chevrolet Master Deluxe 1941;

One Hindustan Ten;

One Citroen;

Six Studebakers; and

Six Ford V8s.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I inquire from the Hon. Premier how many cars were sold after the cars were purchased, and other cars bought instead?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Notice.”

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know what is the price of these cars? How much money was invested in these cars?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“A separate question may be put.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I inquire whether the Hon. Ministers are not interested in encouraging indigenous industries, and if so, why more Hindustan Ten cars were not purchased for the Ministers?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Sir, I do not know whether even Hindustan Ten cars do constitute ‘indigenous industry’.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“At least, as the parts are assembled here, they are more indigenous than Studebakers and Chevrolets.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“That is your view. It is not a supplementary question.”

MUHAMMAD RAFFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Hon. Prime Minister consider the question of issuing permits for new cars to the Members of the Legislature?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Certainly.”

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N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will Members of the Legislature have the highest priority in the matter of permits?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“They do have a priority over all others. There is no doubt about it.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I ask whether these cars were got free, or any amount paid for them?”

THE HON. T. PRAKASAM:—“The question must be more clear than what it is.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I respectfully put to the Hon. the Prime Minister, whether the cars were got free or any amount paid for them?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“It is difficult to understand Mr. Hameed Khan. Free from whom, and for whom? I have not been able to understand still.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, I have put a question. My question to the Hon. Finance Minister is, for how much the cars were bought. The Finance Minister's reply is that he wants notice. I thought as this was an important question of finance, the Minister for Finance would know whether any amount was paid for it from the coffers of the Government, and if so, how much?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I said ‘notice.’ The Finance Minister is not expected to note the price of each car purchased and carry it in his memory. It is a difficult question even for the Finance Minister.”

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is it a fact that the Leader of the Opposition was refused permit to purchase a new car?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I have not got the information; yet, I take note of it. I shall go into it.”

SRI P. NATESAN:—“Will the Leader of the Opposition have any preference over other members of the Legislature?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“He will have equal right with other members.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I inquire how many legislators have been given permits for new cars?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Even this question should be more clear, and there must be notice to enable Government to place the information before the House.”

Re-employment of superannuated men in the medical services.

* 74 Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) how many superannuated men are re-employed in the medical services;

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(b) how many extensions of service have been given to the Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General; and

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to adopt the policy of terminating re-employment of superannuated men in the medical service?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“(a) There are on the whole 15 superannuated men re-employed in the Madras Medical Provincial and Subordinate Services.

“(b) Khan Bahadur Dr. Allam Sahib Bahadur, L.M.S., Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General has not been granted any extension of service. He has been re-employed with effect from 11th September 1943.

“(c) The policy of the Government is that no person who has been retired from service should be re-employed unless there are exceptional circumstances justifying such a step. Under instructions from the Government, Civil Assistant Surgeons and two Civil Surgeons in the general line including the officer referred to at (b) who have been re-employed have been given notice of discharge and have been relieved. The question of retaining the services of Specialists who have been re-employed and who cannot be easily replaced will be considered on receipt of the Surgeon-General's report.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Are Government aware that if re-employment of superannuated men is made even in a few cases, it blocks the promotion of junior men?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“Yes, Sir; I am aware of it.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Hon. Minister be kind enough to give the names of the other officers who have been given such extension or who have been re-employed?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“Dr. Madhavan's services have been dispensed with along with the services of Dr. Allam, and notices will be given in the case of others.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Who are the others?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“Notice.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Will Government take note that even in cases where ‘exceptional qualifications’ are pleaded, there are many civilian doctors who have returned from army services, who are qualified to do this ‘exceptional’ work?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“When specialists are available and when they are demobilized, their cases will certainly be considered.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that now that the war is over it is

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high time that superannuated men should be substituted by young officers, and that the former should no longer be allowed to block the promotion of junior men?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“That is the policy of Government.”

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether it is not detrimental to the interests of the public to appoint old men in service?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“It is certainly against the interests of the public, I admit.”

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—“So, will that mistake be corrected?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“Yes, when suitable men are available. The previous Government appointed superannuated men. Therefore, in that sense, the mistake will be corrected.”

SRI N. SANJEEVI REDDI:—“Is there any proposal to appoint a Lay Secretary to the General Hospital?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“No, Sir; not that I am aware of.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the age-limit for superannuation applies in the case of women doctors in the department?”

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—“There will be no exception in the case of women. The same principle will be applied.”

Supply of electricity from the Gersoppa Hydro-Electric Works.

* 75 Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether the Government have approached the Government of Mysore for the supply of electricity from the Gersoppa Hydro-Electric Works in the Mysore State to the neighbouring districts in the Madras Province, and if so, with what results?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“Yes; for supply to the Ceded Districts Grid of this Government. The Mysore Government have agreed to afford the supply required. The Ceded Districts Scheme has been sanctioned by this Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 50 lakhs. The agreement with the Mysore Government is expected to be completed shortly.”

Textile Control Board's decision to increase the price of textiles.

* 76 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government of Madras have protested to the Central Government against the Textile Control Board's decision to increase the price of textiles; and

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(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, what reply has been received from the Central Government in regard to the matter?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“(a) As the Government of India have themselves deferred the introduction of the new prices pending a re-examination of the whole question, it has not been considered necessary to enter a protest against the proposal of the Textile Control Board to enhance the prices of cotton textiles.

“(b) Does not arise.”

ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—“As most of the representatives on the Textile Control Board represent only vested interests, will the Hon. Minister see that the Board is reconstituted with popular representatives?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I am not aware of the fact. I shall take the information from the hon. Member.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that the Government of Bombay protested to the Central Government with reference to this matter?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I am not aware, Sir.”

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—“Cannot this Government recommend to the Central Government to reconstitute this Board?”

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“I shall look into this matter.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Question No. 77. Mr. A. B. Shetty is not in his place, and so the answer will be printed in the proceedings.”

Steps for bringing down the price of hand-loom cloth.

* 77 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to bring down the price of hand-loom cloth?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—“The answer is in the affirmative.”

Revival of taluk boards and reconstitution of the Malabar District Board.

* 78 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any proposal to revive taluk boards; and

(b) when the Government propose to reconstitute the Malabar District Board?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“(a) Not at present.

“(b) Elections to the district boards including Malabar will be held in September and October 1946. The new boards will begin to function on and from 1st November 1946.”

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KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD:—“Will Government consider the advisability of reviving taluk boards at an early date?”

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—“The question of revival may have to be considered after the reorganization of the village panchayats has been implemented.”

Punam cultivators of Kalliat and Patiyur amsams in North Malabar.

* 79 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a memorandum on behalf of the Punam cultivators of Kalliat and Patiyur amsams in North Malabar was submitted to the Government on 23rd May 1946 and, if so, whether a copy of the same will be placed on the table of the House;

(b) whether the Government have considered this memorandum and if so, what action they have taken on it;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is a strong public feeling against the behaviour of the local police in the trouble in these two villages and if so, what action the Government propose to take in the matter; and

(d) whether it is a fact that, in March last, representations were made to Government regarding the oppression of the Kalliat janmi and if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“(a) & (b) The Government have received the memorandum, dated 23rd May 1946, referred to. The memorandum does not contain any new facts or circumstances and the Government do not consider that any action is called for on it. The Government do not consider it necessary to lay a copy of the memorandum on the table of the House.

“(c) The Government received telegrams from various associations and individuals alleging repression on the part of the police at Kalliat. They have obtained a report from the District Magistrate, Malabar. They find that there have been no cases of ill-treatment by the police.

“(d) In March last the Irikkur Firka Kisan Sangham and the Malabar Kisan Sangham represented to the Government that on account of the refusal of the Kalliat jenmi to lease out his lands to peasants for punam cultivation, a large extent of land would go uncultivated this year and a large number of peasant families would also be thrown out of employment and starve. They also complained that the jenmi caused criminal action to be taken against the peasants. The Government obtained a report from the Board of Revenue in the matter. The Board's report showed that the jenmi had leased out or was willing to lease out all the lands available for cultivation and that interference by the police

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was necessitated by the obstructive tactics adopted by some of the peasants. The Government found that there was no substance in the allegations. They accordingly refused to interfere in the matter."

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—"That means that the Government fully believes the reports of the Board and also the Police, and no action is taken by the Government."

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That is not a question, Sir. It is a statement."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Question No. 80. Sri A. B. Shetty is not in his place. The answer will be printed in the proceedings."

Increase of pay and allowance for village officers.

* 80 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government have considered the demands made by village officers for increase of pay and allowance; and
- (b) whether they have come to any decision in the matter?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" (a) & (b) The Government hope to pass orders soon on the memorials of the village officers and servants asking for increased remuneration which are now under their active consideration."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Question No. 81. Sri A. B. Shetty is not in his place. The answer will be printed in the proceedings."

Tenancy legislation.

* 81 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government propose to have tenancy legislation that will affect cultivators in ryotwari areas; and
- (b) if so, what the principal features of such legislation will be?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" (a) & (b) The question of undertaking legislation to regulate the relationship between the landlords and the tenants in the ryotwari areas is under the consideration of the Government. The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the note issued to the Press on 27th June 1946 by the Hon. Minister (Revenue), a copy of which is laid on the table."

Cancellation of certificates of teachers for taking part in political activities.

* 82 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) how many certificates of school teachers have been cancelled for their taking part in political activities; and
- (b) whether any of them have been restored?

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

" (a) The number of certificates cancelled by the Director of Public Instruction in 1942 movement is 31.

" (b) Eleven certificates have already been restored. The other certificates will be restored on receipt of applications."

Appointment of the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Madras.

* 83 Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Vice-Chancellorship of the Madras University is a full-time appointment;

(b) if so, whether the Vice-Chancellor finds enough time to do his work as honorary physician in the hospital for women; and

(c) how many days he attends to the hospital work.

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) He apparently finds enough time for this.

" (c) On days when the Vice-Chancellor is in Madras, he attends hospital for about an hour or two in the forenoon."

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I understand, Sir, that clauses (d) and (e) have since been withdrawn."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government make it clear, Sir, that the Vice-Chancellorship of the University is a full-time appointment? The full-time appointment should be really made full-time."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"That question has already been answered in clause (a)."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Does Government think, Sir, that the work of the hospital will suffer greatly if the Vice-Chancellor attended full-time to his University work?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"The Government may not think that the work of the hospital will suffer greatly. The Government do not think that the work of the University has suffered."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is this question an offshoot of the Vice-Chancellor's speech in the Council, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"You may put that question to the Hon. Member himself."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I enquire whether the Government are intending to amend the Madras University Act?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"Yes, Sir."

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Educational facilities to the physically and mentally handicapped children in the province.

* 84 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) what steps the Government are taking or propose to take in the near future for providing suitable educational facilities for the physically handicapped and mentally handicapped children in the province; and

(b) whether the Government have collected or propose to collect at an early date statistics in regard to physically and mentally handicapped children in the province?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

“(a) There are 14 special schools for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb and other defective children in this Province—Two under municipal and 12 under private management.

“Teaching grants are paid to the latter under the provisions of the Grant-in-Aid Code. The question of providing more facilities for the education of the defective children will be considered.

(b) No statistics has been taken in this regard till now but will be taken as soon as possible.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I enquire whether the 14 institutions are Government institutions or aided institutions run by Missionary bodies or other Associations?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

“There are 14 schools for the Blind, Deaf and Dumb and other defective children in this Province. Out of the 14 schools, 2 are run by the Municipalities of Coimbatore and Karaikudi and the remaining 12 are under aided management.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Will the Government consider the desirability of establishing themselves, institutions for the benefit of the physically and mentally handicapped children in this Province?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

“The suggestion will be considered, Sir.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that both the Sargent Committee and the Post-War Reconstruction Committee on Education suggested that as a preliminary measure statistics should be taken about the number of mentally and physically handicapped children in the Province?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

“Yes, Sir.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Will the Hon. Minister expedite the matter so that something may be done for the defective children?”

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

“We will do our best.”

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION *RE* SCAVENGERS' STRIKE.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Sri P. Venkateswarlu has given notice of an urgent motion for the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance. It is about the Scavengers' strike in the City of Madras and in Andhra Desa. Regarding this question, I wish to give my ruling. Rule 37 of the Assembly Rules says ‘The right to move the adjournment of the Assembly for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance shall be subject to the following restrictions, namely:—

“(iv) the motion must not anticipate a matter which has been previously appointed for consideration or with reference to which a notice of motion has been previously given, regard being had to the probability of the matter anticipated being brought before the House within a reasonable time.”

“The House will be aware that we are discussing the demands now. In a day or two, the Hon. Minister for Public Health will move the demand for Public Health. Then the House will be in a position to discuss the subject. I rule this motion out of order.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“I request you to read the motion.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I need not read it.”

III.—ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE BOARD OF INDUSTRIES.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I have to announce to the House that Sri R. V. Swaminathan is the only candidate duly nominated for a seat in the Board of Industries. I hereby declare him duly elected.”

IV.—ELECTION OF A MEMBER TO THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE MADRAS AND SOUTHERN MAHRATTA RAILWAY.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I have to announce to the House that Sri Gopavaram Venkata Reddi is the only candidate duly nominated for a seat in the Advisory Committee of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway. I hereby declare him duly elected.”

V.—ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I have to announce to the House that the following candidates have been nominated for election to the House Committee:—

- (1) Sri K. Varadachari.
- (2) Sri R. S. Manickam.
- (3) Sri S. K. Govindaraja Naicker.
- (4) Sri A. Y. S. Parisutha Nadar.
- (5) Chinna Kaziari Haji S. A. F. Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur.
- (6) P. K. Mohideen Kutty Sahib Bahadur.

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"As the number of candidates nominated is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, 6, I hereby declare them to have been duly elected to the House Committee.

"In addition to the above, under rule 152 of the Madras Assembly Rules, I nominate the following two members to be members of the said Committee:—

(1) Mr. A. E. Thompson.

(2) Srimathi K. Lakshmi Amal.

"Regarding the Public Accounts Committee I shall make an of the demand under discussion."

VI.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1946-47

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE

MR. SPEAKER:—"The Demands for grants are before the House. I wish to bring to the notice of the House the rule on the voting of Demands:—

'127 (1) The voting of demands for grants shall take place on such days not exceeding fifteen as the Governor exercising his individual judgment may allot for the purpose.

'(2) Of the days so allotted, not more than four hours shall be taken up by the Assembly for the discussion of any one demand. As soon as the maximum limit of time for discussion is reached, the Speaker shall forthwith put every question necessary to dispose of the demand under discussion.'"

"The Speaker has been given the power to fix the time limit under rule 126 (3). I have fixed 15 minutes for the Mover of the cut motion and 10 minutes for other speakers. If need be I can allow one or two minutes for any member who wants it.

"The Hon. Sri K. R. Karanth will move the Revenue demand."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move that the Assembly do assent . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You must address the Speaker."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am sorry, Sir. Mr. Speaker Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment, during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947, of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946 will amount to Rs. 27,81,400 in respect of the head Land Revenue. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 3,26,400.'

Particulars of this demand are to be seen at page 57 of the Budget Memorandum and the details are all given there."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur and B. Pocker Sahib Bahadur are not in their places. Sri P. Venkateswarlu will move his cut motion."

Vide page 37 *infra*.

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* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information; Sir, should we not wait for the full one hour . . . ?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"As soon as answers are over, we can proceed to the next item on the agenda."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. 11-30 Speaker, Sir, reorganization of the land tenure system has not yet received proper attention from the Treasury Benches. The Hon. Minister for Revenue says that he is still studying the problem when millions are dying for lack of food. The Ministry is still contemplating. To-day we are faced with such a serious food crisis that unless the whole system of land tenure is completely overhauled, there is very little scope to save our people from starvation. The main and worst feature of our land tenure system is the perpetuation of absentee landlordism and the zamindari system. But the Ministry is only contemplating to reform them, but has not taken proper steps. I fear they are not taking proper steps because they are afraid of the zamindari and vested interests who will put all obstacles in the way of the Ministry from going ahead. These vested interests must be fought out. Unless the zamindari system is abolished, we cannot overhaul our land revenue system entirely. Let us look at the historic role played by the zamindars, the creatures of British imperialism. During the last sixty years of our national fight these zamindars have always been siding with British imperialism. They have been on the side of the British imperialists and against the people ever since the Indian National Congress started the fight. Yet they are still there continuing the zamindari system, and the Ministry has not yet come forward to abolish that system. To-day they are sitting tight on their lands. The Advisers' regime tried to coax them. But these blood suckers do not yield. The Advisers' regime could not bring more land under cultivation because they did not take radical steps to reform the land revenue system by abolishing the zamindari system entirely. In the Andhra area alone, 88 lakhs or 23 per cent of the total acreage is under the zamindars and about 7 per cent of the land under the inamdars. This means 30 per cent of the lands is under the control of the parasites who do not raise their little finger to help production.

"The zamindari tenants are the most rack-rented and even the legal taxes they pay are many times higher than the ryotwari tenants are paying, and above that there are illegal exactions. These zamindars are killing the peasantry. More than this, huge acreage of kamatam lands is at their disposal which they would neither cultivate nor allow others to cultivate. The abolition of the zamindari system and landlordism means relief and rehabilitation to one-third of our peasantry and a tremendous impetus for the production of more food. No doubt it is a welcome feature with which everybody agrees. Some people and most of our friends here advocate abolition of the zamindari system after paying compensation. Paying compensation means perpetuation of the zamindari system in another form. So we advocate that

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the zamindari system must be abolished without any compensation being paid. These zamindars who have been up till now almost killing their peasants do not deserve any compensation at all. If at all compensation is to be paid to anybody, it should be to the tenants under the zamindars who have up till now sucked the very life blood of the peasantry. The zamindars are also making illegal exactions. All these things must be banned.

“Even from the point of view of revenue, what is it that the zamindars are paying? If you just refer to page 2 of the Detailed Budget Estimates of Revenue, you will find peshkash 47 lakhs and ryotwari revenue 900 lakhs, whereas the total income, both legal and illegal, of the zamindars is 900 lakhs. It is evident that the zamindars are paying a disproportionately small sum to the revenue, whereas they collect exorbitant rates from the tenants. What the 67 per cent of the ryotwari peasantry is paying to the land revenue, the zamindars are collecting from their tenants who form only 23 per cent of the population.

“I would like to bring to the notice of the House another glaring factor. Out of the total 47 lakhs of peshkash the zamindars are paying, about 42 lakhs are being expended by Government for the maintenance of village officers in the zamindari areas. Thus, the Government get only a revenue of 5 lakhs out of the 47 lakhs. So I say that unless the zamindari system is abolished we cannot increase our land revenue, the poor people will be unnecessarily taxed, and the poor peasants are hit hard. So, to improve the economic position of the tiller, to grow more food, to enhance the revenues of the State, to place our agriculture on a more scientific basis, we have to abolish the zamindari system without compensation immediately. In this connexion I would like to bring to the notice of the House a resolution passed in the United Provinces Legislative Assembly recommending the abolition of the zamindari system. The zamindar members who were opposed to the resolution walked out of the Assembly and the League Members also followed the walk-out. We can visualize the zamindars opposing such progressive measures and putting all obstacles in our way. The Popular Ministry must come forward with legislation in spite of the obstacles of the zamindars and their agents put in the way of the abolition of the zamindari system or any other progressive measure. We demand that the zamindari system must be abolished immediately without any compensation. I quite remember how in the previous debate our friend Mr. Kala Venkata Rao reported that even the Maharajah of Pithapuram was coming forward to give up his zamindari to the Government. It is a welcome sign. I want to know whether the Maharajah of Pithapuram is prepared to give up his zamindari without any compensation.

“As regards the ryotwari system, another obstacle for the growth of our agriculture is absentee landlordism. The absentee landlords hold a large percentage of acreage, and they live on rack-renting. In some cases as much as three-fourths of the produce is taken away by them. They charge exorbitant rates

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from the tenants, and there is no fixity of tenure. When there is no fixity of tenure, there is no guarantee that the tenant, who applies fertilizers to the soil to produce more yield, will enjoy the fruits of his labour. When there is no guarantee that the tenant can maintain his family through his labour, how can you expect him to produce more food? So the question of the abolition of absentee landlordism must also be taken up immediately. Unless legislation is resorted to, we cannot have enough food. Ever since the outbreak of the war, we have been depending on other provinces and imports from outside countries for our rice, and the same thing will continue next year also. Why should it be so? We have got enough of waste land which can easily be brought under cultivation. Why cannot we take immediate steps to bring all this land under cultivation? That is why we want the abolition of the zamindari system and the absentee landlordism. Because absentee landlordism is there our agriculture is slowly deteriorating. The tenants must have guarantee of tenure. To-day absentee landlordism is very exacting. It must be done away with. In this connexion I suggest that no landlord should be allowed to have more than 100 acres, because it is impossible for any landlord to cultivate more. So land over and above 100 acres owned by individuals must be taken away and nationalized. The common people must be put in control of such land. A minimum acreage must also be fixed. I would suggest a minimum holding of 5 acres for a cultivator. Every landlord must cultivate the land himself. Unless he cultivates the land he shall not be the owner of the land.

“After the abolition of the absentee landlordism and the nationalization of land, free distribution of the land has to be taken up immediately. We must see that there is no accumulation of land, that is, if any man were to sell his property, only the State must be entitled to buy and not the greedy merchants. Unless this is done, absentee landlordism will revive.

“We have heard so many members speak in this House that they are for State farming and State control of the land. As far as I can understand from the speeches made, State farming and State control are suggested in order that the Government may come to the rescue of the mirasidars and big landlords to put down the unrest prevailing now-a-days among the agricultural labourers. This should not be done, and the Government should not accede to such requests. Government must come forward with proposals immediately to nationalize the land and put the peasants in charge of it.

“Another point which I want to bring to the notice of the House is that the zamindars, fearing legislation which may usurp their rights, are resorting to all sorts of illegal transactions. They are alienating their lands either to their relatives or friends. Such illegal transactions must be banned. It must be made clear that such alienations will not be accepted by the Government as lawful.

“One word about the agricultural labourer and especially the land. We know that the State itself is the biggest land-owner, because about one crore acre of waste land is under the

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control of the State. What is it that we are going to do with this land? Why cannot it be distributed among the agricultural labourers? Moreover, it is not an impossible thing to bring this waste land under cultivation. If we give a fillip to irrigation resources, all these waste lands can be brought under cultivation. The agricultural labourers and the Scheduled classes must be given a guarantee that there will be legislation for a minimum living wage and fixed hours of work. There are very many agricultural labourers who are employed as domestic servants, and there is no protection for them at all. The Government must come forward with legislation for guaranteeing a minimum wage and fixing the working hours. Unless this is done, there is no salvation for the agricultural labourers; they will be exploited all the more. After all, it is the agricultural labourers who are responsible for production. The agricultural labour is part and parcel of the article produced. Just as legislation for land reform is necessary, legislation for improving the position of the agricultural labourers is equally necessary. Their condition is very poor. They have no housing facilities. They are living in huts and under trees. The Government must immediately come forward to build houses for, and allot lands to them. The Government must also realize that to produce more, they must be supplied with manure and other agricultural implements. Instead of putting these waste lands to good use, there is a tendency on the part of the Government themselves to put them to auction. It is a wrong policy. If only all this waste land pass into the hands of the rich, the agricultural labourers and the poor peasants will be deprived of their rights. The Government must immediately see that all the waste lands are given to the needy peasantry, particularly to the agricultural labourers. Living wage must also be fixed and they should see that the domestic servants do also have holidays with pay.

"One word about the taxation principle and with that I will close. The present taxation system is very oppressive. The poor is bearing the heavy burden of taxation. The rich are not paying proportionate to their income, and they escape by all possible means. But the poor peasantry is forced to pay about 90 per cent of the land tax, and it is very hard that we should be collecting most of the land revenue from the peasantry. Hence, I suggest that this system of taxation must go, and it must give place to a steeply-graded agricultural income-tax, which our Hon. Premier was suggesting yesterday. It must be immediately resorted to. It should not be viewed as a mere expediency to have more revenue to make good the loss arising out of prohibition. It must be viewed from the point of view of the just demands of the peasantry. To get more tax from the rich, graded income-tax must be operated upon. Our land revenue system must be completely reorganized. Instead of land-tax, there must be agricultural income-tax. Peasants not having even a minimum living wage are forced to pay tax. Not satisfied with the already burdensome taxation, the Advisers' raj began collecting additional tax based upon the Marjoribanks

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Report. The last Congress Ministry suspended collection of this additional tax, but did not annul it. The Advisers' raj revived the tax. The Ministry must immediately come forward and annul the unjust enhancement without any delay. I know all this legislation will take a long time and perhaps there will be many hurdles for the Congress Ministry both from within and outside. What I suggest is that the people's need to-day demand that our land revenue system must be completely overhauled, that the basic principle should be that the rich should pay, that the zamindari system must be abolished without any compensation and that land should be nationalized and distributed to the needy peasantry. With these words, I move the cut motion standing in my name, namely—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,81,400 for Land Revenue by Rs. 100'."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, for a very long time I have been a member of this legislature (Kumararaja Sir Muthiah Chettiyar of Chettinad: 'The oldest member') representing the City of Madras. As a member representing the City of Madras, I did not interest myself in regard to what was happening in the country, as to how the land was divided, who were the owners of the land, how much cultivation was taking place, etc. Now that I represent a district, particularly belonging to the Andhra area ('Hear, hear') I have to say a few words on the land revenue system. Since we met last under the old Government, we have found a remarkable change so far as the amount of revenue we are able to collect from various sources. The amount of revenue that we were previously able to collect from land was the highest. But to-day we find that the highest revenue collected is from Excise. Perhaps there are very good reasons for such a change. But I wish to ask whether it is not also due to the fact that sufficient land has not been brought under cultivation and also because of the existence of the zamindari system which is holding under its control a good portion of the land for which Government have not been getting adequate revenue. Perhaps that is one of the reasons why Government have not been able to augment their resources so far as the revenues are concerned. There are hon. Members here who have been speaking very vehemently about the zamindari system and demanding its abolition. It is true that times have changed and that the way in which administration has been carried on and the revenues derived under various sources have also to change unless we choose to remain under the old system even to-day. The demand for the abolition of the zamindari system has been made for very cogent reasons. The main reason is that the administration of the province has not been able to get the revenue from the land, particularly from the zamindari land as they could have done if they had abolished the zamindari system. The second reason is that the ryots under the zamindari system are not as happy and contented as they are in the ryotwari system. These are the questions which have been investigated by various

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commissions and I remember the Hon. the Premier, when he was the Revenue Minister under the last Government, made an enormous study of the question and was prepared to come forward with a Bill for the abolition of the zamindari system. Now that this Government have come into being, I do not know what will be the attitude of the present Government with regard to that question. The abolition of the zamindari system as has been suggested by one hon. Member is not so easy as he would like it to be. Even the zamindars have their own rights accrued for a very long time. If at all the system has to be abolished, adequate compensations will have to be made. In what way, how and to what extent compensations have to be made will have to be considered. It will deprive the rights of a certain class of people who have been enjoying the rights for years, if the zamindaris were abolished and no compensations were given. While on this subject of the zamindari system and its abolition we have to emphasize the fact that if this Government wish to revolutionize so far as the economic condition of the people in this Province is concerned, there is should be no question of taking up the subject piecemeal. Unless Government are prepared to revolutionize the entire economic structure, there is no meaning in tackling the question of the zamindari. We have to take up the question in its entirety and deal with it and unless Government are prepared to do it, they will not be well advised in dealing with the question of the zamindari law. The zamindari system can be reformed and yet retained. The zamindars may be asked to pay more revenue to Government for one thing and secondly they may be asked to rectify things in their rent system and also in their dealings with the ryots. That is one of the ways in which the question may be solved.

“Then, Sir, for a very long time people have been asking for land revenue legislation. Land revenue legislation has been demanded for many years. The last Congress Government were not able to bring in legislation of that kind. I really do not know what the policy of the present Government is and in what period they will be able to bring forward such a measure for regularizing the land revenue system in this Province.

“While the Advisers' Government were functioning, they came forward with a Bill for taxing agricultural incomes. Well, we have not yet known what the policy of the present Government is on that question. It is true that while certain classes of people have to pay income-tax, another class of people who are also deriving vast incomes from land go scotfree. Why should they not also pay income-tax on their income? That seems to be the argument in favour of introducing legislation for taxing agricultural incomes. Well, various taxes are levied for various reasons, the main reason being to collect revenues for carrying on the administration. And so far as land is concerned, the land tax is already there. Would the Government be justified in levying another tax in addition to the land tax which is already there on the owners of land? If the Government are really desirous and

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anxious to introduce a Bill for taxing agricultural incomes, I would suggest—and I am sure other hon. Members will also agree with me—that certain classes of agriculturists should be exempt from any tax. Land tax should be levied on owners of large tracts of land and not on small holders. The latter should be exempt from any tax.

“Sir, the third point that I should like to refer to, in this connexion is this. The Government during the past years—I do not say the present Government—have allowed vast tracts of arable land to remain uncultivated. They were not brought under cultivation and we now see the effect of such a neglect. We see to-day that our Province is famine-stricken. If cultivation had been increased, and if the Agricultural department had paid due attention to the needs of this Province and its growing population, we would not have been in the pitiable and deplorable plight in which we, the people of this Province, are to-day. Why are such vast tracts of land allowed to remain fallow, without being cultivated? What are the reasons? Why have the Government neglected their duty? Possibly one reason is that big landholders did not come forward to take over fallow lands for cultivation and the other is that they wanted to utilise the land for growing what are called ‘cash crops’ for they were getting a larger amount of income by cultivating cash crops than by growing foodgrains. A good portion of the land has now been utilized for cash crop cultivation with the result that to-day there is not enough food-grains raised from the land to feed the people. May I ask why such extensive lands, which could have been brought under food-crop cultivation, were neglected? Sir, the Government, I am sure, will be able to give reasons for such a neglect. If such neglect had not taken place, I am sure we would not have been in the plight in which we are to-day. The Hon. the Additional Minister for Food has already warned us that the ration is going to be reduced from 8 ounces to 6 ounces. (A voice: ‘To 4 ounces!’) I do not know what exactly the Minister intends to do, but I think that there is going to be a reduction from 8 ounces to a less quantity. Sir, our Province is one which wants rice and not wheat. It should have been the duty of the previous Government to have increased rice cultivation on a larger scale. On account of the neglect of the previous Government, the people of the Province are now suffering. What is the present Government going to do? There is no use our depending upon imports of foodgrains from outside, like Burma and Siam. That a country like India with its vast cultivable lands is not self-sufficient and should have to depend upon other countries for its foodgrains is a thing which one cannot understand and certainly the Government which was responsible for bringing about this deplorable plight deserves to be condemned.

“Then, Sir, I wish to say one thing in regard to the assignment of land to people who have returned from war. There are a large number of ex-soldiers who have no work to do and the Government want to provide them with work by assigning them

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lands for cultivation. What I want to say in this connexion is that the Government should see that only such extent of land as the ex-soldier could cultivate, is assigned to him and that he should not be allowed to become an absentee-landlord as many landlords are. He must be encouraged to devote personal attention to his land and carry on cultivation himself. It is on account of the fact that owners are not paying personal attention to the cultivation of their land that we have all this trouble. We know there are a number of big landlords and advocates in Madras who have acquired vast extents of lands in the Province, and who do not pay personal attention to the cultivation of their land.

“Sir, on the question of assignment of land, I know on the last occasion we did bring to the notice of the Hon. the Minister in charge of Land Revenue that Muslims have not been assigned lands when a demand was made by them. In many districts, there were requests made by poor Muslims who have no other profession, for assignment of land for cultivation, but they were refused. I hope, Sir, under the present condition, under the condition in which these poor Muslims are—I do not want to be a beggar again in this matter—the Government of the day will not follow the same policy, but see that when assignments are made, they do not neglect the rightful claims of the various communities in this Province.”

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no gainsaying the fact that God has created Mother Earth as the source of all prosperity for humanity. Therefore land is the permanent source of prosperity for us all. The Government might be having so many sources of revenue. But it is land that carries us through and that will not fail us. Therefore, I wish to say that the present Government which is a popular Government, established by the will of the people, should pay more attention to land and especially at a time when we are faced with a food crisis. There are ways and means of improving land and increasing the production of food. Therefore, Sir, I would first draw the attention of the Government to one important fact. While they are trying to find sources of income from land in so many ways, such as by the levy of agricultural income-tax, I would say that at the same time, they should also try to increase the production of land and the extent of land that has to be brought under cultivation. For this purpose, we can divide the subject into two or three parts. The most important of these is the provision of more facilities for irrigation by means of which the land can be made to yield more. For instance, a piece of land that is producing only one crop can, by the provision of irrigation facilities, be made into a double-crop land. In the same way, where lands have been abandoned and where cultivation has been given up for various reasons, the Government should help the agriculturists to bring such lands under cultivation again by providing all facilities. I know, Sir, there are vast tracts of land which are lying uncultivated in the sub-ghat areas and the ryots could not cultivate

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them, and hence they have been abandoned. There are two main reasons for it. One is the depredation of wild animals and the other is the prevalence of Malaria in those areas. The Government should remedy these things. They should take steps to eradicate the disease from those tracts or to mitigate it as far as possible and thus afford all facilities to the agriculturists to cultivate those lands. By that means alone could labour be made available. Otherwise it would be impossible for labourers to go to those areas and cultivate them. In the matter of depredation of wild animals, the Government should see that the agriculturists get gun licences to kill those depredators that come and destroy their crops. In that way, the produce can be increased and in such a case alone will the Government be justified in levying agricultural income-tax. Otherwise, there is no meaning in saying that they are going to increase the land-tax or impose fresh taxation called agricultural income-tax without taking sufficient steps to help the ryots and agriculturists to cultivate more land and without seeing that all impediments are removed as early as possible. Mr. Speaker, I know personally that large tracts of cultivable lands have been abandoned by the landlords. Some of these gentlemen, who pay an assessment of Rs. 500 and more, told me that they had to give up cultivation. How is it that it was possible to cultivate those holdings at one time and how is it and why is it that it is not possible to cultivate them now? Perhaps the Government have not been very careful in the matter or have not paid any attention to the matter. It had concerned itself mainly with the revenue it got. True, there is no doubt that it is the business of a Government to see that it gets as much revenue as possible; but, as the Government desire to increase production in this emergency, they may as well just overlook the revenue side. More attention should be paid to these matters when you are thinking of legislating for the levy of more tax and agricultural income-tax. I do not wish to take up the time of the House with more suggestions at this stage. When the Demands under the heads ‘Irrigation’ and ‘Electricity’ are moved, I shall deal with the other aspects of the question of cultivation, land revenue and so on.”

* MUHAMMAD REFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion moved by my hon. Friend. The object of moving the cut motion is not to criticize the policy of the Government but, as is evident from the wording of the motion itself, it is to discuss the revenue policy of the Government.

“Sir, the first thing that strikes one’s attention, while considering the revenue policy of the Government, is the question of the zamindaris. Sir, while on this question, I wish to remove a misunderstanding on the part of some Members of this honourable House. One hon. Member said, just a few minutes back, that the Muslim League party in the United Provinces Assembly staged a walk-out against the zamindari policy of the Government there. This is incorrect. What happened was this: The Muslim League

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party in the Assembly found that the Government there did not agree with the amendment moved by them and so walked-out in protest. They did not join with the zamindars in staging the walk-out. I wish to draw the attention of the House to the amendment moved by the United Provinces Muslim League party which was the question at issue. The amendment was to the effect that not only should the zamindari system be abolished, but that all capitalist and vested interests should go along with the zamindari system. Sir, the zamindari system is a part of the economic problem that faces this country, the problem, viz., the existence of a vast difference between one strata of society and another. Sir, the Madras Government also, when legislating on the zamindari question, should have this in mind. They should see that all the causes that tend to make this inequality remain are removed. I, therefore, suggest that not only should the zamindari system should go, but that all capitalist systems and all vested interests should also go with it. This is the attitude of the Muslim League party in this matter.

"As regards the land revenue policy of the Government, the whole policy is a question of assessment. Now it is said that while prices have gone up very much, the income that the Government have derived from land has remained steady. For this, I suggest that, instead of taxing the agricultural income, the Government should levy the assessment in kind and not in cash. With these words, I support the cut motion before the House."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, if I rise on this occasion to speak on the revenue policy of the Government, it is on account of my humble desire to speak of the policy that is in vogue in this presidency and the connexion that there is between the land and the agricultural labourer. The existing system was brought into existence over a hundred years ago. Due to this system, large areas of land are held by landholders, zamindars and mirasidars and vast tracts have been endowed to very big temples. Unfortunately, the man who tills the soil and the man who brings the soil to a cultivable condition has no sort of right to the land. Whatever the land is made to yield by the worker is appropriated mostly by the landholder and the intermediary. The agricultural labourer who toils on the land night and day gets no share of the fruits of his own toil. I think the time has come for the Government to note this situation and take steps to let the tiller of the soil, the agricultural labourer, get some benefit. As we see to-day, the awakening is coming to the Harijans who are labouring in the fields that they have been ill-paid and that they have no protection whatever from either the landlords or the intermediaries. The recent events in Mannargudi taluk and in Tanjore have shown that unless some radical step is taken to remove the suspicion that has been aroused in the minds of the agricultural labourers, I feel that it would be a very hard job for the Government to see that all cultivable lands are cultivated. I appeal to the Government to bring in legislation as early as possible to remedy these matters.

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"Moreover, most of the lands in some districts are held by absentee landlords. Some time back, I think, an enactment was contemplated for Malabar to wipe out this system of absentee landlords. We now see that a similar state of affairs exists in the other parts of the province also. I know, as a matter of fact, many of the big temples have got extensive lands. These are not made use of. Recently, the Government passed orders that such lands should be brought into use under the Grow More Food campaign. In this connexion, I suggest that permanent tenancy to such lands should be conferred on the actual labourers.

"Another thing I wish to impress upon the Hon. Minister in charge of Revenue is the need for granting more facilities to the Harijans in the matter of assignment of lands. To a question put in this House recently we elicited the answer that there are 748,556 acres of waste lands available for cultivation. On this point, the Administration Report for 1945 says that 185,207 acres were assigned for the Grow More Food campaign and that out of this only 167,073 acres were cultivated with food crops. What we wish to impress upon the Government is that only when we see that we are driven to difficulties by war and famine that we look about and arrange for lands being given to agricultural people who would cultivate them themselves. But the difficulties felt by Harijans are greater in the matter of getting lands. They appear before the monigar and the karnam asking for details about the lands available. Mostly these monigars and karnams live in aghrahams where Harijans could not approach. Even when the Harijans have access to those places, the information supplied is found to be insufficient or incorrect with regard to survey numbers and the like. Consequently, these people are driven from pillar to post in their search for correct information. I, therefore, suggest that the details concerning all available lands may be exhibited in a choultry or in a place to which all people have access. Such lists may be brought up to date once in six months so that the Harijans may know where the lands lie, what their correct survey numbers are and so on and apply for them for raising crops.

"Even in the matter of assignment of lands, I find from the Appropriation Accounts for 1944-45 that the Government were not able to spend much of the money that was allotted for the grant of land to the depressed classes. On page 145 it is said:

'Some of the land acquisition cases did not reach the stage of award. Though the Government made a grant of Rs. 15,100, they had to surrender Rs. 2,365.'

From this, it is clear that, under the rules obtaining for the assignment of lands, it is not easy for the unfortunate Harijans to get lands assigned to them. I hope the Hon. the Revenue Minister, in view of the state of affairs existing in the province due to the

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discontent of the labourers, will do something to enable the Harijans to get the lands easily. I hope the Harijans will get a large part of the area now set apart for the Grow More Food campaign."

12-20 p.m. Mr. Speaker called Mr. Sinna Kaziar Haji Moulvi S. A. F. Ibrahim Sahib. The hon. Member was not in his seat.

Swami A. S. Sahajananda was called and was found not in his seat.

Mr. M. A. Baig was called and found not in his seat.

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Government the system of tenure that is obtaining in our Presidency in regard to land. Sir, there are a variety of tenures obtaining throughout the Presidency. There is the ryotwari system and the zamindari system. Even in the zamindari system, there are different varieties. There are the karaiedu villages and villages in which there is a rotation of crops. One block of land is cultivated with one crop in one particular year and another block is cultivated with another crop in another particular year, so much so one is not sure of the whole position. That is the condition prevailing throughout the Presidency. I want to press this aspect of the case, namely, the abolition of the various interests in land and create one sort of interest, namely, ownership or peasant-ownership. Each man should have full interest in his land. There cannot be any two interests in the same land. There should not be the occupancy right and the melvaram right in the zamindari system. Every man should have absolute right upon his piece of land and he should be the proprietor of his land. Of course, I grant that this would involve a great deal of legislation because it affects not only the present land revenue policy, but also the personal law of the various communities, namely, the Muslims, Christians and others also. It is a vast problem. But at the same time, I think, it is time for this popular Ministry to tackle this problem and simplify land tenure and place it on a uniform basis.

"The next point I wish to refer is the basis of land assessment and the necessity for a uniform basic rate with occasional surcharges and if necessity arises, income-tax also. Sir, the present assessment varies according to the places. So far as some places are concerned, they take the labour charges and other cultivating expenses into account in fixing the assessment; there is also a periodical rise in assessment and in some cases the rate proposed by Government is not uniformly adopted. In certain cases, Sir, the assessment is very heavy and the cultivation of one set of crop is not profitable. I, therefore, suggest that this popular Government should see that there is one basic rate as applied to all the land, i.e., Rs. 5 per acre or Rs. 3 per acre and if occasion arises at some critical time and prices of foodstuffs have gone up, the Government can come forward with proposals for surcharge on these pieces of land. Further, in the case of vast holdings they

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can levy income-tax also on agricultural income. I, therefore, want the Government to devote their attention to this problem and see that a uniform policy is adopted towards particular classes of lands. It will be better if the Government reduce all the taram class of lands into one simple category and introduce one basic rate for the taram class. There should not be any difference between the tax-payers in regard to the burden of the taxes, but at the same time the Government can levy surcharges occasionally and also agricultural income-tax in certain specific instances. To bring forward these points, Sir, I have given notice of my cut motion."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the cut motion that stands in my name."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not move it. It has been agreed that only one Member will move the cut motion and other hon. Members will speak on the motion."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, let me say, at the outset, that I do not wish to embarrass the present Government, a popular Government. (An hon. Member: 'Popular Government?') The Congress is supposed to be a popular party. . ."

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"Only supposed?"

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"I wish to draw the attention of this hon. House, Sir, to the serious discontent prevailing amongst the non-gazetted officers of the Government to-day."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Sir, while I do not dispute the right of the hon. Member . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the Hon. Minister please speak through the mike?"

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"What I want to submit, Sir, is that 'Heads of Provinces, Ministers and Headquarters staff' will be the demand that will be moved by the Hon. Prime Minister and—while I do not dispute the hon. Member's right—that this sort of motion which affects not merely the Revenue Department but others also would be more appropriately discussed then, than now . . ."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Why not allow him to go on?" (Aside.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the Hon. the Premier has anything to say, he may go to the mike and address the Chair."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I must apologize to you, Sir."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I proceed, Sir?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes, you can proceed."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, this discontent is due to the high cost of living and the low salaries that the non-gazetted Government servants are getting. We have been reading of strikes all

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over. Strikes are a sign of the times and show that there is something wrong and when we find the Government servants who have always been very calm, who never came anywhere near anybody, because they are Government servants, have also threatened a sort of direct action, I consider, Sir, that it is imperative that the House should take note of that fact. Sir, I have got here a sort of budget made out by a non-gazetted officer—we may call him a lower middle-class man with a wife and two children. It costs him Rs. 116 and odd to maintain himself and the family. This is with the minimum ration rice, dhol, salt, chillies, etc. I have got the prices of all these here and we know,—we have a number of lady members here and they will also certainly bear me out when I say that prices have gone up abnormally and it is time therefore that we looked into the cost of living of every individual. Sir, oil which used to sell at 10 annas per viss is now selling at Rs. 2-8-0 and ghee which used to sell at Rs. 1-12-0 and Rs. 2 per viss now costs three or four times more and sells at Rs. 6 or Rs. 7 per viss and even then we are not getting good ghee and as my hon. Friend says, it is adulterated. What about the rationed rice? Rotten stuff is being supplied to us now and again but we have to pay a much higher price to-day. Sir, the cost of living has gone up so much that it is absolutely impossible for Government servants to live with minimum comfort. You know, Sir, that the popular Ministry is very anxious to introduce prohibition. In the case of prohibition . . . (Interruption.) I am not talking of Excise. I just want to give it an example. In the case of prohibition, it was said, that the man who is supposed to get Rs. 2 per day spends 8 annas on drink and gets drunk and kicks up a row with his wife and starves his children. What about the non-gazetted Government servant? He is in the same position as a drunkard. (An hon. Member: 'Drunk with power.') He probably gets Rs. 80 a month, out of which he has to pay interest at the rate of 2 annas per rupee. There is the Pathan waiting at the door. He has to go home through the back-door. (Interruption.) I do not want to be interrupted, Sir. Sir, this Government servant gets Rs. 80 per month, out of which he gives 2 annas in the rupee as interest, i.e., Rs. 10 gone for interest; then he has to pay something for the capital, i.e., another Rs. 10 gone. With Rs. 60 the man goes home and kicks up a row with his wife. She says, 'How can I get on with this Rs. 60? There are the children waiting for medical treatment, there is no rice, no clothing.' The poor clerk behaves like a lunatic. Sir, I ask, what is the difference between this man and the drunkard? I only want the Hon. Premier to realize that men are all equal so far as living conditions are concerned. (Hear, hear.) It does not matter whether he is a poor man or whether he is a middle-class man. Every man has got his own demands. If the Government want to bring in prohibition to prevent the labourer from having his drink and to save him, the non-gazetted servants whose families are living miserably should also be given substantial relief to make

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them contented. Sir, they are the back bone of the Government. If these people non-co-operate, where will the Government offices be? What will the Secretariat do? Sir, the whole thing will go to pieces. That is why I say that the request of the non-gazetted officers should be thought of at once as seriously as possible. I know, Sir, that there was a Government communiqué this morning to say that one or two Cabinet Ministers and somebody else are going to form a sort of committee and that they will look into the matter and give their result as soon as possible. When is it going to be? This 'as-soon-as-possible' business may be months, it may be years. Sir, these people are threatening direct action. They are going to have a conference on the 25th at Saidapet. I want the Hon. the Premier to take notice of this attitude of the non-gazetted officers. Let us not make a mistake. It may be said that it will fizzle out. I do not think it will fizzle out. They are quite serious. Sir, this strike is a contagion. In Nagpur the Government officers have given notice of a strike. In Bombay the employees of the National Bank of India and in Bengal the Imperial Bank have gone on strike. All these people are having this contagion and they are quite right, because it is impossible for them to live comfortably.

"Sir, there is the Government Servants' Conduct Rules which says that insolvency or habitual indebtedness will entail the dismissal of a Government servant. If only this rule is strictly enforced, I am sure 75 per cent of the personnel will have to get out of Government service.

"Sir, during the Advisers' regime there was a proposal for building houses for these poor non-gazetted officers at Saidapet. The Advisers were good enough to provide as much as Rs. 17 lakhs for 162 buildings in Saidapet. The present Government has abandoned this scheme. (A voice: 'Shame.') I do not know why my hon. Friend says 'shame.' After all these were buildings urgently needed. It is alright for rich people who can afford bungalows. (Interruption.) I am told that the cry of 'shame' was in appreciation of my remarks. I really thought that the hon. Member was not in favour of the provision of Rs. 17 lakhs for these 162 buildings. I believe that tenders were invited for constructing these 162 buildings and that the work was about to be given on contract. Then it was withdrawn and God knows what happened to those tenders. I also understand that Collectors of various districts have given proposals for the construction of quarters in mufassal areas. Sir, I think it is necessary that we take all these matters into consideration and see what best can be done. Even in the case of the mufassal people it must be said without fear of contradiction that they form the very pivot of the administration and it is very necessary that their case also should be looked into. I need not take up the time of the House by putting forward a number of proposals and I only hope that the Hon. the Premier will take notice of the discontent at once and see that proper encouragement is given to the staff.

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Even if it becomes necessary to increase the taxes, I say that the taxes will be paid by the very same Government servants although not directly by themselves but by their fathers or mothers or fathers-in-law. (Laughter.) I am sure, Sir, that the tax-payer will not grumble when he sees that the very foundation of Government is going to pieces. I am not saying that you should raise the taxes. I am only pointing it out to show that the prohibition and the khadi programmes are not so very urgent as this most important question. Because, if you are going to distribute khadi, etc., through these village officers and taluk officers, you must get the co-operation of all non-gazetted officers. Once they begin to non-co-operate, what happens to your schemes? I believe there are about 70 to 80 thousand non-gazetted officers and on an average if you give Rs. 5 to each one of them, the total cost would come to nearly a crore of rupees. But I am sure that that money can be found by the Treasury Benches. After all the very people who prepared this budget can prepare another budget providing for this increase in expenditure also. They know how to manipulate the figures. (Laughter.) Debit will go to the credit side and credit will go to the debit side and if the Premier asks, 'What is it you have done?' they will explain and say that this debit should have been a credit there and that this credit should have been a debit there, that there is nothing to worry and everything is all right. It is these non-gazetted officers who prepare the whole thing and pass it on through the Assistant Secretaries and Secretaries to the Hon. the Premier.

"Somebody has sent a chit here drawing my attention to the fact that the Government communiqué restricts the inquiry to people getting Rs. 200 and under and asks, 'What about the rest?' I consider that at least Rs. 200 is the minimum that one should get at the present moment. Well, people who draw more than Rs. 200 can manage for some time more. The poor Premier is pulled to pieces on all sides—strikes here and strikes there, murder here and looting there. I quite sympathise with him. But what can we do with these Government officers? We should give them some help. You see many of them wearing their 'distress' labels even here. You see them with their badges walking up and down under the very nose of the Premier, and they are thinking of taking drastic action. It is therefore time that we did something for them. I wish that the Hon. Premier should take my remarks in the spirit in which I have made them. I do not want to criticise his schemes; I only say that his schemes can wait and that these people should get their proper wages here and now."

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTY SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to one or two points. I feel, Sir, that the whole land revenue system is rotten and the method of collecting the taxes is also rotten. First of all, Sir, the whole administration has become

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top-heavy. I do not know what has happened to the pet theory of the abolition of the unwanted Board of Revenue. As far as the collection of taxes in the villages is concerned I think you may, in view of the threatened strike of the officers, try the experiment of collecting the taxes through the village committees about which you are so fond and thus lessen the cost of administration.

"The other point to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is the utter lack of representation of Muslims in the Revenue department in Malabar. Of course we have a Collector and he is a European. There are three Revenue Divisional Officers and none of them is a Muslim. There are ten taluks and one or two Muslims at the most we may have as Tahsildars at present. But as a result of the war we have had so many officers in the Revenue department—assistant tahsildars, deputy tahsildars and so on—and you will be surprised to know that in none of these cadres have we got Muslims. I request the Hon. Premier to see that justice is done.

"With regard to the salaries of non-gazetted officers I want to point out that this war has brought so many evils and corruption is one of them. The chief cause of corruption is mainly the poor remuneration that is paid to the non-gazetted officers and other low-paid officers. As far as officers who draw Rs. 250 or more are concerned, as my hon. Friend Mr. Natesan said, they can afford to wait for some time more. In this connection there is no use saying that there are not sufficient funds, because it is not like a family budget where you have to adjust your expenditure to your income. As far as Government is concerned it is their duty to find the necessary funds to run the administration. In fact you have what is called the Revenue Reserve Fund and you can draw on that Fund to meet very urgent demands like financing the increased cost of Government administration.

"There is another matter which is particular to Malabar district. There are lot of cases in the district of Malabar where superannuated men about to retire, have been given appointments by some corrupt Sarishtadar. Even lower division clerks have been directly promoted as deputy tahsildars. If you only enquire into the matter, you will come across a number of cases where the claims of very efficient and even upper division clerks have been overlooked and ignored simply because those old people who are about to retire want to get some more money by foul means and they were able to bribe these already corrupt superior officers like the Sarishtadar. These are the points which I wanted to bring to the notice of the Government."

* KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is customary in this House to have a serious important debate when the land revenue demand is moved. Sir, though I agree with the Hon. Minister for Revenue that it would be appropriate to raise the question of the pay of

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the non-gazetted officers when the other demand is moved, I think that in view of the fact that a number of non-gazetted officers are working in the Revenue department, it will be equally appropriate to raise the question even on this demand. It will be particularly more appropriate at a time when the non-gazetted officers of this Province are greatly agitated if this question should be discussed on the first day itself. I think, Sir, that the House should be grateful to the Hon. the Premier, the Hon. Minister for Revenue and yourself for agreeing to allow hon. Members to express their views to-day on the question of the conditions of service of the non-gazetted officers. My hon. Friend Mr. Natesan has spoken wonderfully well on behalf of the non-gazetted officers and I do not think I will be able to improve upon the case he put forward. There is nobody in this House who wants to deny some help to the non-gazetted officers. I know the Ministry is anxious to give help, but how to give is probably engaging their attention. I am very glad that Government have already announced the appointment of a Committee. In the case of a labour union giving notice of strike, straightaway the Government appoint a conciliation board or arbitration court. But when the demand is made by the docile non-gazetted officers of Government even for their barest minimum needs, the thing is different. I am very glad that the Government have appointed a Committee of some Ministers to go into the question. The non-gazetted officers of this Presidency have earned a reputation for loyalty and efficiency for so many decades. Their reputation has spread not only in this Presidency but throughout the whole of India. Indeed the Madras Provincial Service and the Madras Subordinate Service are among the most efficient in the whole of India and I hope they will bear up with the administrators and the legislators of the country for some time more till they find out what are the proposals of Government with regard to their grievances. I am very glad, that very sensibly, they have, instead of giving a strike notice staged a mild demonstration, by wearing a badge which is of course a very effective demonstration. I do not think the Ministry and the legislators can have any grievance against the non-gazetted officers for wearing these badges which has helped to bring their grievances to the forefront.

"I need not take up the time of the House in dilating upon what should be a living wage and how the increased cost of living has made it difficult for the Government servants to make both ends meet. The whole thing centres round the cost of food and other necessities of life. The food crisis has come as a result of the war which has been going on for the last six years. There has been so much shortage of food throughout the world, more so in this part of the country. It is a well-known fact and we have had elaborate discussions on the floor of the House as to how to bring down the prices of foodstuffs and other necessities of life.

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"Sir, while Government should consider that it is their primary duty to look into the grievances of the non-gazetted officers, it is equally necessary that they should bring down the cost of foodstuffs and other necessities of life. It is only then that they will be able to have a balanced budget in the future. Otherwise, they will have to be only increasing their expenditure and increasing taxation. That we have got to subsidise food to the tune of so many crores is an index of the food problem. How serious the problem is can be seen from the fact that we have considered it necessary to subsidise food. It is absolutely necessary to subsidise food; otherwise, you will have to give more dearness allowance and more pay for the non-gazetted officers and the subordinate staff. Sir, I do hope that the non-gazetted staff of this Province will get a fair deal at the hands of this Government. They deserve all support; they deserve all consideration. Some members have also referred to housing schemes for Government servants. Sir, it is very essential that Government should provide houses for these people to live in until such time as they will save some money, probably at the end of their career, to build their own houses.

"Sir, while on the question of land revenue, I should certainly take this opportunity to mention what I feel about the present land tenure system. I see here a press note issued by the Hon. Minister for Land Revenue regarding the enquiry he has set on foot about ryotwari tenure. Sir, as for zamindari tenure, it is fresh in the memory of all of us here that there was an epoch-making report by our Hon. Prime Minister when he was Minister for Revenue nine years ago. Some members of this House who were members of the Assembly in 1937 to 1939 do remember vividly the discussion on the floor of the House over that Committee's report. Sir, much water has flown since those days and I do not think that to-day the zamindars are obstructive to any legislation that Government may bring forward. I am not here to put forward any special plea on behalf of the zamindars. But, Sir, it is not for the first time that I am saying this; on the floor of this House nine years ago, I asked the Government to consider the case of the zamindar and I do not therefore put any special plea to-day. The zamindars to-day are not asking for any special concessions. That is what I think. Let me not however take up the time of the House in going into the details of the zamindari legislation that is likely to come. Let me only hope that before any legislation is launched upon the Hon. the Premier will give the House full opportunity to have a full dress debate on the lines of the legislation that is to be thought of. I am very glad, Sir, that the Government are also considering the question of the other land tenures existing in the Province. I know, Sir, that when the Government take up the question of legislation relating to ryotwari tenure it will evoke more opposition from the mirasdars in the deltas of the Andhradesa and the Tamilnad than from the zamindars with

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[Kumararaja Sir Muthiah Chettiyar of Chettinad]

regard to zamindari legislation. I am not able to know from this note, but I can imagine there must be many details to be gone through in the first instance. I am very glad that the Government are making this enquiry. Sir, I think it is very essential that an elaborate enquiry should be made even with regard to the ryotwari tenure before any legislation can be thought of. That is the only plea I would put forward to-day, and I think it is sufficient to stop there for the present.

“Sir, I heard a member suggesting the abolition of the Board of Revenue. It used to be said by the Congress Party for a long time before, that the Board of Revenue should be abolished, but they themselves did not abolish it. Sir, I am one of those who felt happy at the second decision of the Congress Party not to abolish the Board of Revenue. The Board of Revenue and the Revenue officials of this Province are about the best officials in the whole of the world, let alone India. It was said, when the Bengal famine took place, that it was mainly due to the inadequacy and inefficiency of the land revenue staff there. If we have been able to tide over the food crisis in this Province so far, the credit must go to a great extent to the land revenue staff who are carrying out the instructions of the Government of the day, whether it be the Advisers' regime or the present Ministry. We have an elaborate system of land revenue officials from the village karnam right up to the Hon. the Minister for Revenue; and it is a matter of gratification that this Province is fully equipped with such a staff. I think it will be a sad day when we give up the Board of Revenue; it may consist of three, four or five members, but that is a matter of detail; I will certainly put forward a plea for the existence and continuance of the Board of Revenue at least for the sake of efficiency and for the sake of carrying out the policy of the Government and the Legislature.

“Sir, let me wind up by saying that in respect of all proposals affecting the land tenures, whether it be zamindari or ryotwari, or relating to the amendment of the Malabar Tenancy Act, we do hope that the Ministry, before they actually bring forward Bills they would be good enough to put up a resolution on the subject for the discussion of this House, to elicit the opinions and views of the various interests and of members representing the various areas of this Province, so that Government may take note of the suggestions and consider useful amendments to the draft Bills which they may have in the archives of the Secretariat. I am sure that will go a great way to reduce discussion and amendments when such Bills are introduced in the Legislature.”

* SRI BOKKAI GOWDER:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to speak on this Demand, I do not propose to speak on any cut motion that has been moved to-day; but I want to speak on the policy of the Government in regard to my native district.

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“Sir, the Nilgiris district has been entirely forgotten and neglected in regard to every aspect of the nation-building programme of the Government. The other districts are getting subsidies, grants, etc., but the Nilgiris district is ignored. The plight of potato on which most of the ryots subsist is miserable. The position is serious and the Government do not seem to give any heed to the representations made by the potato-growers and the ryots. It is just like Nero fiddling when Rome was burning.

“In regard to the marketing of potatoes, on the one hand there is control over the export of potatoes and on the other, there are no facilities given for marketing and transporting the produce to the various consuming districts. During the war years, the Government were advancing loans to the potato-growers which system has now been discontinued; and the result is that many of the potato-growers find it very difficult to continue their work and have gone into debts. I request Government that they should at least renew the practice of advancing loans for the cultivation of potato and other foodgrains. Sir, there is at present great distress in some of the districts which are deficit in rice. I suggest, Sir, that potato although it is a perishable foodstuff, is a substantial and valuable foodstuff; and so, it may be purchased by the Government and subsidised in the deficit districts of the Province. When the Government are subsidising food to the tune of about Rs. 10 crores, I think about 40,000 to 50,000 tons of potato may be purchased by the Government and subsidised and it may not be a great loss to the Government. I also request the Government to commandeer all the lorries, both private and public, to transport the potato from the Nilgiris to the various districts of the Province. With the threatened railway strike, the plight of the ryots will be worsening, and I therefore request the Government to see that this perishable foodstuff is moved to the consuming districts as early as possible and without any delay.

“Then again, Sir, I want to speak about soil conservation in the Nilgiris district. As you all know, the sub-soil is likely to be washed away during the time of floods. I therefore request the Government to see that some soil conservation scheme is initiated and carried out in this district.

“Again, Sir, there are about 24,000 acres of land lying idle in Ootacamund taluk known as Wenlock Downs which can be given over for cultivation, either by assignment or by lease. I hear the Government have reserved the land; for what purposes I do not know, if it is not for cultivation even in these days of “Grow more food” campaign. The Government should see that this land which is suitable for cultivation, is given over, either by assignment or by lease; or I suggest the Government may start sheep-breeding and cattle-farming in that area or see that a woollen industry is established there.

[Sri K. Bokkai Gowder] [14th August 1946]

“Sir, I want to say something about prohibition, but I shall wait for the Excise demand. With these words, I request the Government will consider the suggestions I have made just now.”

* SRI K. A. NACHIYAPPA GOUNDAR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on this Demand with a view to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity for surveying all lands in the estates. As it is, most of the estates are not surveyed so much so the ryots are not able to have proper land records for their landed properties. This drives them to the necessity of going into good deal of litigation in which they are wasting a lot of money. Furthermore, these people are not able to get the benefit of loans from Land Mortgage Banks, because the Land Mortgage Bank loans are given only in places where there are proper survey and land records for the lands. Thus estate ryots who are a good many in number all over the Province, are put to great disadvantage on account of survey not being made in their areas. I therefore feel that the zamindars themselves should undertake a survey of their estates; and if they do not do it, the Government should press them and get it done. Irrespective of a decision on the question whether zamindari are to be left over with the Zamindars or taken over by Government, I wish that immediate steps should be taken by the Government to undertake a survey of zamin lands, and the ryots helped.

1-15 p.m. “Then, Sir, I would like to mention another point and that is in regard to the street survey in panchayat areas where we find a large number of buildings are constructed and the encroachments detected long after the construction and the buildings demolished, resulting in great inconvenience to the public in these areas. If action had been taken by the panchayat and the panchayat surveyors at the right moment, that is, when the buildings were taken up for construction, it would have avoided this sort of trouble. I would therefore suggest that an adequate number of surveyors should be employed under proper control and construction undertaken in these areas only after verification of the limits and on obtaining a licence for the construction of the building. In this way, the question of encroachments can be obviated to a very great extent and the people saved a good deal of trouble.

“Besides this point, Sir, I would like to say a few words on the question of land revenue. It has been found, Sir, that a good portion of the state revenue comes from the land in this country and that people who own the land are made to pay for all sorts of expenditure incurred in running the Government. Only during the last Congress regime, the Government had taken upon themselves to explore other avenues for increasing the revenue and brought in the sales tax. It was believed that this tax would bring some relief to the poor agriculturist who has been already groaning under taxation but it has not done so. We must at least hereafter give relief to the poor ryots who are unable to make their living by cutting down or even abolishing this tax on small and uneconomic holdings. As far as I know, I can say with confidence that if the sales tax is properly augmented and assessed by shutting out all the loopholes, it is bound to yield a very

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good income and from that Government can very well undertake major problems such as prohibition and the like and at the same time give some relief to the poor agriculturists as well. Furthermore, they can go a step further to tackle the problem of land revenue by converting this into one of agricultural income-tax to be paid by people who can afford to pay. In this way too great relief can be afforded to the poor agriculturist. I wish, Sir, that these things receive the consideration of Government.”

* SRI P. KAKKAN:—“சபா நாயகரவர்களே. ரெவினியூ டிபார்ட்மெண்டார் ஹரிஜனங்கள் விஷயத்தில் அதிக கவனஞ் செலுத்தினால்தான், ஹரிஜனங்கள் முன்னேற்றமடையமுடியும். இன்றைக்கு ரெவினியூ அதிகாரிகள் கிராமங்களிலேயுள்ள ஹரிஜனங்களைப்பற்றிக் கவனிப்பதே கிடையாது. கிராமங்களிலே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக ஒதுக்கப்பட்டுள்ள நிலத்திற்காக அவர்கள் பெடிஷன் (petition) போட்டால், அதை இந்த அதிகாரிகள் கவனிப்பதே கிடையாது. அது உங்களுக்காக ஒதுக்கப்படவில்லை. மற்றவர்களுக்காக ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது,” என்று சொல்லிவிடுகிறார்கள். நன்கு வினியக் கூடிய நிலங்களை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருந்தும், அவைகளைக் கொடுக்க ரெவினியூ அதிகாரிகள் மறுத்துவிடுகிறார்கள். கனம் ரெவினியூ மந்திரியவர்களும், கலெக்டரவர்களும் இந்த விஷயத்தில் தகுந்த சிரத்தையெடுத்து கவனித்தால்தான், ஹரிஜனங்கள் முன்னேற்றமடைய முடியும்.

“இன்று கிராமங்களிலே நடப்பதற்குப் பாதை கிடையாது. இது விஷயமாக ரெவினியூ இன்ஸ்பெக்டர்ருக்குச் சொன்னால், அவர் ஊரார் மீது பழி சுமத்தி சுமமா இருந்து விடுகிறார். பிணம் சுவதற்குக்கூட சில கிராமங்களிலே சரியான மயாணக்கரைகள் கிடையாது. இந்த மாதிரி விஷயங்களையெல்லாம் ரெவினியூ டிபார்ட்மெண்டார் அதிக சிரத்தையுடன் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். இன்று ஹரிஜனங்கள் முக்கியமாக பொருளாதார விஷயத்திலே முன்னேற்றமடையவேண்டும். இது விஷயத்திலே ஜில்லா கலெக்டர்போன்ற பெரிய உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் சிரத்தையெடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். இல்லாவிடில், கிராம உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய நன்மையை நாடமாட்டார்கள்.

“இன்று எங்களுடைய தாலுகாவிலே ஒரு செட்டியாரின் நிலத்திலே அநேக ஹரிஜன விவசாயிகள் உழுகிறார்கள். அந்தச் செட்டியார் தன்னுடைய நிலத்தை “வாரத்திற்கு விட முடியாது; குத்தகைக்குத்தான் விடுவேன்,” என்று அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லி வருகிறார். இத்தகைய விஷயங்களில் ரெவினியூ அதிகாரிகள் தலையிட்டு, ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய நன்மைக்கான காரியங்களைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, நான்-கெஜட் ஆபீஸர்யைப்பற்றி ஒரு விஷயத்தைச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். நான் நேற்று அரியலூருக்குப் போயிருந்த போது, அங்கே அநேக சர்க்கார் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் “பேட்ஜ்களைப் போட்டுக் கொண்டு ஆபீசுக்குப் போனார்கள். அவர்களைப்பார்த்து, “உங்களுக்குக் குறைகள் இருப்பது வாஸ்தவந்தான். ஆனால், இப்போது தான் ஜனநாயக அரசாங்கம் அதிகாரத்திற்கு வந்திருக்கிறது. ஆகவே நீங்கள் கொஞ்சம் பொறுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்.” என்று சொன்னேன். அரியலூரில் உள்ள ஒரு வக்கீல் ஆபீஸ்களிலே லஞ்சம் தாண்டவமாடுகிறது. அதை நாம் முதலில் ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமென்று பொதுக்கூட்டத்தில் சொன்னதற்காக அந்த வக்கீலை தம்முடைய ஆபீசுக்கு வரக்கூடாதென்று முன்சீப்கோர்ட் ஹெட்கிளாரிங் ப்யமுறுத்தினார். அவர்களில்லாவிட்டால் அந்த ஆபீஸை நடத்த முடியாதென்று இந்த உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இவர்களுடைய மிரட்டலைக்கண்டு நாம் பயப்படப்போவதில்லை. அவர்களுடைய மிரட்டலுக்கு இடங்கொடுக்காமல் காரியங்களைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று அரசாங்கத்தைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just want to speak on one or two facts in respect of the administration of the Zamindaris and the appointment of village officers and the collection of land revenue by the zamindars. I need

[Sri M. G. Natesa Chettiyar] [14th August 1946]

hardly mention to the House, Sir, that there are varieties of zamindari system. There is one variety which goes by the name of Zamindari Estates purely entrusted for revenue collection and there are certain other estates which were handed over by the British East India Company for reclaiming forest tracts and encouraging agricultural industry. A foreign Government or foreign company had arranged with such sets of people to fix their terms of payment of peshkush permanently and to get their revenue assessed. This was done merely to facilitate the collection of revenue easily and for other administrative conveniences. That set of people were asked to improve the lands by getting tenants from outside, finance them and make them settled in the tracts and estate villages, develop the land and add to the agricultural wealth of the country. It was done duly by these set of people and thus they helped the agricultural industry by investment of money, time and energy. Well, Sir, the commercial system on which the land revenue system of the country was based, was certainly a profitable concern not only administratively, but also executively and financially. Sir, these zamindars were asked to administer, to look into the assignments, look into the construction of tanks and buildings, look into repairs and other things pertaining to the agricultural industry; and they carried on certainly to our advantage as things stood then. It was for this purpose that the zamindari system was established and rightly or wrongly these set of people who got these estates treated it as property and hold it as such up-to-date and many investments had been made by money-lenders. Now the time has come—as the system has been played out—when the zamindari system must go. It must go, not because it is uneconomic for the Government but on economic grounds of tenancy and the growth of agricultural industry. We are now here, Sir, to administer them and bring into existence one system of land revenue throughout the Province. These zamindars who have been considering these estates as their own property, must also submit themselves to the interest of ryots for an uniform system of land revenue. I know some of them are prepared. That does not mean that they will be treated improperly; they are not foreigners; they are not our enemies, but they are our own people and if there is going to be any abolition of zamindari or any other vested interest, they must not be exploited by mere names and slogans and must be compensated for what they are entitled for their labour and interest.

“Again, Sir, in respect of the nomination of village officers, there is what is called the hereditary village officers and these nominations have to be proposed by zamindars. This hereditary system has been in vogue and usually followed even in the non-hereditary districts whether the village officers have passed their tests or not. I suggest that for better administration it is absolutely necessary that these village officers should not claim any hereditary right or plea unless they are trained and pass their tests. These details should be looked into by the Revenue officers when the nominations are proposed by the zamindars.

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“In regard to survey of estates, I have very many things to say. No doubt we want to know what exactly is the area under cultivation, what are the porambokes in particular zamindari areas and so on. In order to give facilities for tenants in zamindari areas also as in the case of ryotwari tenants it is necessary that these estates must be immediately surveyed and the areas brought into account. The survey must be recognized so that, as my hon. Friend Mr. Nachiappa Goundar has pointed out, the ryots in the zamindari areas also may be enabled to obtain all the facilities from the Land Mortgage Banks and other institutions which are available to the ryotwari tenant.

“As regards collection of land revenue from the zamindari areas, I feel, Sir, that it is a great nuisance. I am one of these zamindars who directly deal with the tenants. They know me and I know their lands. They know my inclinations. In view of the personal attention and personal obligations which the zamindars and tenants owe to each other, the tenants should not be treated as servants. As a matter of fact, in my own house, I feed them as members of my household, and they are treated as cultivators of our own land and we gave them almost every facility that is required by them. Probably there are troubles in Northern Circars or in other rich zamindari tracts. Though I belong to that community, fortunately or unfortunately—I can say that many of the zamindars in southern districts consider the tenants as their equals and they are one among the tenants. There are no such differences in treatment and the tenants' lot is better and is not subject to treatment of the kind talked about on the floor of this House. In the collection of revenue, there is trouble, and suits have to be filed and the proceedings go on for months and years. . . .”

* Mr. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member can continue his speech after lunch. The House will now adjourn for lunch and meet again at 2-30 p.m.”

(After lunch.)

VII. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

* Mr. SPEAKER:—“This morning I told you that I would make an announcement regarding the Public Accounts Committee.

“I have to inform the House that the following candidates have been nominated for election of nine Members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the first session of the Madras Legislative Assembly:—

1. Sri K. Raghavan.
2. Sri B. Anantachar.
3. Sri M. Bapineedu.
4. Sri N. S. Varadachari.
5. Sri K. A. Nachiappa Goundar.
6. Sri A. Aaron Rao.
7. Mr. W. J. Fernandez.
8. D. Abdul Rawoof Sahib Bahadur.
9. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur.

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“As the number of candidates is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, namely, nine, I hereby decide them to have been duly elected to the Committee on Public Accounts.”

VI. DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1946-47—*cont.*

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE—*cont.*

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter of collection of land revenue has become a very difficult affair. It is not quite easy to collect the revenue directly unless these zamindars serve on every tenant a notice in writing but during the period of scarcity of paper, it has not been possible to do so and if and when resorted to courts for collections, it takes years and years. I have personal experience in this matter of revenue collections and I may tell you that in my own office there are decrees worth about Rs. 80,000 in an estate where the total annual revenue collection amounts to Rs. 40,000. Unless these revenue collections are made easier, I am afraid, payments to Government will also be affected. I know of several cases of default due to want of proper investment of power in respect of revenue collections, and their staff, every zamindar is involved in debt and the tenant is also subject to hardships. I may personally apprise the House that the zamindars of Tamilnad are not as leisure-loving as the zamindars of the other parts of this Presidency and their indebtedness is mostly due to difficulties in collecting the revenue from the tenants.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“This morning you have taken more than ten minutes. I will give you only two more minutes to finish your speech.”

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“I just want to impress on the House and on the Government about the handicaps in the matter of revenue collections. They should be immediately done away with and both in the interests of the zamindars and the tenants, compulsory survey should be introduced as early as possible.”

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“On a point of order, Sir, the other day you asked the Parliamentary Secretary not to read newspapers in the House. Now, I find a member spinning in the Assembly.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, will you kindly discontinue your spinning. You are here to listen to the speeches and this is not the place to do Thakli work.”

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—“Sir, I think it is not the hand that hears but the ear that hears.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Parliamentary etiquette requires that members should listen to the speeches and not do any other work.”

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—“Excuse me, Sir, I thought I was carrying out the Ministry's programme.”

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the fact remains that the land revenue system as it exists to-day in our Province and in fact in some of the other

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provinces in this country is a legacy left to us by the East India Company. In those days, as you are aware, their main concern was to collect taxes and do policing in this Province. Now things have changed and the present situation demands that the whole system should be overhauled and changed thoroughly and a new system introduced. No doubt attempts have been made during the past so many decades to make certain improvements but those improvements were not on a provincial basis but only on a district basis. The system in Tamilnad differs from what it is in Malabar. I do not know whether it is the same system or something different in other districts. Now that you are trying to change the whole system, we should remember that in regard to the question of land revenue, which has been the main source of revenue in this Province, we should see that the burden is shifted from this class of people to other classes who are in a much better position to pay. After all, in the course of a century, our main concern was to collect taxes from this class of people without giving them the benefit which they deserved. Therefore, Sir, I am sure the Hon. the Minister for Revenue, while introducing the Bill regarding the revision of land revenue system, will bear in mind that a new and thorough system is required which will be in keeping with the present situation.

“Sir, another point on which I would like to draw the attention of the House is in regard to the non-gazetted officers. True it is that the Hon. the Minister for Revenue has said that he is concerned only with Government servants in his department. Therefore, it will not be in the fitness of things to deal with that question as it affects the different departments. But, however, as the question has come up before the Assembly, I may say that we, members of the Muslim League, are one with you in seeing that justice is done to this class of servants. They deserve our sympathy, fullest sympathy. At the same time, we, the members of the opposition, do appreciate the fact that the Hon. the Premier and the Ministry are doing the best in the matter and they can see that justice is done to them. At the same time, whatever may be their rights, whatever may be their justification, we must not allow the non-gazetted officers to precipitate matters. They have submitted a memorandum; they have brought the matter to the notice of the Assembly; they have brought the matter to the notice of the Ministry and we can assure them that justice will be done to them, but for God's sake, let them not follow the methods adopted by other associations, organizations and other trade unions.

“Sir, in passing, I may say that although it does not deal with the subject, these are days when we are facing so many troubles, so many difficulties. Really we have sympathy with the Hon. Ministers and particularly with the Prime Minister. Now we see a number of strikes all over the Province. Of course troubles there may be. But those leaders who are engaged in these strikes instead of giving a sort of warning and drawing your attention to sufferings of the lower-paid classes and others, are fomenting some trouble or other in

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the services. They are not doing real service but they only want to make political capital out of this. It is not fair to make political capital out of miseries of the poor people. No doubt their demands may be justified and may be reasonable but there is a way of getting redress for them. Let them not feel that by launching out strikes their demands will be met; on the other hand, they are only doing a positive disservice to themselves. Therefore it is not playing a fair game.

“ Sir, I feel that the Hon. the Revenue Minister has to give us an indication of his policy clearly with regard to the land revenue system and what changes he contemplates in the policy, because this thing deserves the attention of the Ministry and something should be done in this connection. There is not much more to speak on this subject, except as I said in the earlier part of my speech that measures have to be undertaken to see that the class of persons do get what they have to and what they deserve.”

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, after hearing the speech made by my hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan, I am glad to note that he has become rural-minded; but having become the representative of the rural areas, now, I am sorry to note that he has not changed his angle of vision. He more than once said that the present Government is bullock-cart minded. But when zamindars are themselves prepared and willing to part with their estates, Mr. Hameed Khan is so much bullock-cart minded that he wants to retain them and reform them. My hon. Camrade, Mr. Venkateswaralu said, that the top limit for owned land for the existing pattadar should be hundred acres. I do not know how many Communist friends do own hundred acres. But I own only 25 and so I do not fear much from that quarter also.

“ Well, Sir, in spite of these things, it is difficult to carry on the reform of land revenue. The agrarian policy of the state must combine and solve all the three problems together—the problem of tenure, the problem of tenancies and the problem of taxation—and unless all these are tackled together, there cannot be any desirable progress in the agrarian position in our country. The present system as is well-known, is exploitative and inefficient. The system saps initiative; it obstructs economic progress and leads to inequitable distribution. In India, we have got three systems—zamindari, ryotwari and Melguzari. All these systems resulted in destroying the communal responsibility in the village and brought about a revolution in rural economy which went against the tradition of this country, whose culture and tradition spread back to more than 3,000 or 4,000 years. After 150 years of this revolutionary change we have to aim at and bring about another revolution in land reform today. This revolution must suit our age and our needs. This must be directed towards sociological ends, and for creating happy homes in villages. Well, Sir, tenure is the relationship between the Government and the landlord—let it be the zamindar or the ryotwari pattadar. Regarding tenures, the latest position is the demand

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for the abolition of the zamindaris. I need not argue on this question. More than once it has been advocated by me and many others on the floor of this House.

“ The problem of tenancy arises when the land owner lets out his land to someone else (tenant) on terms defined by contract or custom. A tenant is his own manager, a little bit of an entrepreneur too. His reward fluctuates according to crop, outturns and prices. But the agricultural labourer receives a wage and works under another's supervision and control. He has no right to land like the landlord or to the product like the tenant. Tenancy legislation is the paramount need of the hour and such legislation must accomplish fixity of tenures, determine fair rents and also provide for free transfers of land. Till now all tenancy legislation has tried to do away with the gross abuses of the unprotected tenantry that were prevalent at the time. The legislation was not based on fundamental principles bearing on the questions I have referred to. The first item of the programme of the Ministry of whose party I am a member is to bring about tenancy reform that will be revolutionary in character. Lands should not be allowed to pass from the actual cultivators to mere rentiers. The urban man, the industrialist and the retired official, all try to invest their money on lands and try to deprive the cultivator of his land. Now, Sir, it is calculated that 70 per cent of the cultivated land in this country is being cultivated by people who do not actually own that land. This is a thing which requires quick reform. The owners, many of whom are absentee landlords do not discharge their economic functions. Tenancy is increasing and rents are increasing. Alienation is increasing and farming is rapidly becoming uneconomic and unremunerative. Therefore, I say that the system of ownership should be made the foundation of rural economy. It is useless and impossible to improve agricultural methods without introducing this reform. Mr. R. H. Tawney, speaking of China, which resembles our country in many ways, says:—

“ It is idle to preach that doctrine (the doctrine of improved agricultural methods) to cultivators so impoverished by the exactions of parasitic interests, that they do not possess the resources needed to apply it.”

Therefore, improved methods of agriculture which will bring about increased outturn must be preceded by the reconstruction of the entire land system of the Province and then modernization of both the technique and the business side would follow automatically. There should be no landlord and no agricultural labourer in future in this Province. There must be only the Government and the cultivating tenant and that cultivating tenant should be the owner, the manager and the labourer, all combined into one. Agrarian problems can be solved if this is brought about.

“ Now, I come to the question of land taxation. I stated when I spoke on the occasion of the general debate on the Budget, that land revenue should represent the share claimed by the State in

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the yield of a land with due regard to the taxable capacity of the party paying it. This would imply that uneconomic holdings should be exempt from taxes and that the principle of progression should be introduced into the system. There should be elasticity of procedure and of making the burden equitable, taking in view diverse climatic conditions and price factors. In the Punjab, you know, Sir, a maximum tax is fixed on the land but that need not be paid every year as it will vary according to price levels obtaining in a particular year. This system is in vogue in the Canal Colonies of the Punjab. I think it would be better if we have a basic land tax, to which may be added the agricultural income-tax. Every piece of land will have to pay a basic land tax and in the case of a person with more land than a stated upward limit and an outturn exceeding a certain figure, he may be made to pay also on his agricultural income. I think this would suit the conditions of our country today. There is also a fear in certain quarters that, if an agricultural income-tax is introduced the burden will be shifted to the cultivating tenant by way of a higher rent. Legislation to meet this position must be undertaken and the share of produce that has to go to the actual cultivator will have to be fixed. We may remember that the previous Ministry gave remission to the tune of 75 lakhs of rupees in the land revenue assessment of the Province. This year's Budget does not contain such a provision—it ought to have found a place there—but let me hope that by the time the next Budget is introduced, I think the Hon. the Premier would try to announce a percentage cut in the present assessment. For my part I would suggest a cut of 33-1/3 per cent of the present tax schedule. I would plead that bits of land paying an assessment of one rupee or less should be exempt from assessment. I would like also to advocate the abolition of consolidated wet assessment. There should be a basic dry rate and the water-rate should be added to it. The water-rate should depend upon the amount invested upon that particular irrigation work if it can afford to bear it. Even as early as 17th December 1856, the Board of Directors decided in paragraph 13 of their report, that there should be a separate rate for water. This was approved by the Secretary of State on 18th December 1857. On 12th March 1858, the Government of Madras finally directed that a separate water-rate should be levied. But subsequently these two seem to have been combined and, therefore, we see that a number of difficulties have arisen. I would, therefore, plead that the water-rate should be a differential rate, added to the basic rate of land assessment.

“I wish to say a word or two about lanka lands. By their very situation, they are liable to erosion and the area under cultivation will not be the same always. There should be a comparative reduction in rates or bid amounts in case of erosion. I would plead for a comprehensive legislation for affecting the reforms I have mentioned. As an immediate measure, I would suggest the abolition of the Board's Standing Orders and with them their authors, the Board of Revenue. I am not sure of the grounds upon which my hon. Friend Mr. Muthiah Chettiyar wants this

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archaeological find to be retained. I feel that there is no need for it. On the other hand more efficient work can be turned out and better administration can be ensured without the Board of Revenue.

“My feeling about departmental enquiries by individual officers is that they will be no good, however efficient they may have been as officers. One cannot expect them to be progressive. If any comprehensive legislation is wanted the departmental official's report would be found lacking in so many respects. How can you expect a Rao Bahadur to take a progressive view of things and look at them from the angle of an ordinary person demanding agrarian revolution? If reforms are contemplated on questions of taxation or of tenancy, what will serve the purpose will be a committee of the House or a committee appointed by the Government, which can report in a month or two. I plead for early legislation by the Government.

“I have to say a final word about the village officer. I am glad that the question of the salary of the village officers and servants is also under consideration and I plead that something should be done for them at an early date. I plead, Sir, for the welfare of the tenant, for the agricultural labourer, for the village and its officers and for the welfare of this country. Sir, I support the demand.”

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the demand moved by the Hon. the Minister for Revenue and in supporting the demand, I have to make a very few suggestions. First of all, I would urge upon the Hon. the Minister the abolition of the Board of Revenue. It seems to me that this Board is functioning only as a sort of post office and every paper that is sent through it lies there for not less than three months. I can say and the experience of some of my hon. Friends bears this out that every paper that is sent through the Board lies there from three months to one year. In the interests of the Government as well as in the interests of the public as also for expediting disposal of pending matters, I suggest that the Board be abolished.

“The next point is the question of cultivable waste lands lying uncultivated. I come to understand from an answer given to my question No. 94 that the total area in compact blocks of 50 acres and above is about 748,000 acres. Of this an area of 94,000 acres only has been brought under cultivation in connection with the ‘Grow More Food Campaign’ during the Advisers' regime. I request the Hon. the Minister for Revenue and the Government to see that the whole of the waste lands is turned over to cultivation by distributing them among the landless poor. In view of the present food situation and the need for procuring more and more food, it is highly necessary that we entrust the cultivation of these lands to agricultural labourers and the landless poor.

“I have one thing to be brought to the notice of the Government in connexion with the lanka lands. I am thankful to my hon. Friend who preceded me (Sri Kala Venkata Rao) for having

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raised the question on the floor of the House. These lands were for the most part leased to Harijans but during the Advisers' regime orders seem to have been issued to the effect that fishermen also could be given the lands for purposes of cultivation. I bring to the notice of the Government that cultivation is not a thing to which anyone can take to with ease. One requires experience and a lot of it to make a successful cultivator. The work of the fishermen is not akin to agriculture and his profession is fishing, for he cannot make a successful cultivator. I suggest that instead of entrusting these people with lands for cultivation purposes, it would be better if the old system of giving the lands to Harijans is reverted to.

"Hon. Members have been urging that the zamindari system should be abolished and there is a great degree of unanimity about it. At the same time, I wish to urge upon the Government to see that the tiller of the soil becomes the owner of the soil also and enjoys absolute ownership of the soil. My hon. Friend is saying that it is so already; I do not know who the owner of the soil is in his zamindari; probably he means his farm-servant whom he is treating as his slave. My suggestion is that so long as he tills the soil and raises crops, he must be considered to be owner of the soil and he should be furnished with documents like the patta, etc., to show that he is the owner of the soil. It has also been stated by certain hon. Members that a man might be allowed to possess undisturbed about one hundred acres of land. In my opinion, it is not possible for any agricultural labourer to cultivate more than 20 acres of dry land and 5 to 10 acres of wet land. My contention is that no man should have more than 20 acres of dry land and 10 acres of wet land.

3 p.m. "I request Government to bring forward legislation to that effect. To-day agricultural labour is ill-paid; there is nobody to look after its interest, and so we have a number of strikes as regards wages. Whenever cash payment is beneficial to the landlord, he insists on cash payment to the tenant, and whenever payment in kind is beneficial to him he pays only in kind. I want Government to bring in legislation to regulate this payment. Government must also establish a wage board or arbitration board to settle disputes between the landlord and the agricultural labourer, so that the interests of both may be safe.

"Now, as regards revenue collection, it is now entrusted to village officers. We know the tyranny of these village officers. If I were to bring to the notice of Government their actions, they will be surprised to note them. For example, they do not inspect land at all. Without inspecting the land, they give accounts of land under cultivation. Actually several plots will not be under cultivation. If anybody asks them why they made that sort of report, they coolly would reply 'you cultivated it last year; you should have cultivated it this year also.' In the name of cultivation of poramboke land, hundreds and hundreds of poor peasants are penalized and asked to pay penalties. Last year, in

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Kurnool district, thousands of rupees were collected in the shape of penalties under this head. If you want really to prohibit cultivation of poramboke, why not do it in the beginning, that is, when the ryot begins cultivation, which usually happens at the commencement of the agricultural season.

"As regards the hereditary system of the village officers, it should be abolished. For you do not know what sort of tyranny and power these people are exercising. Now that village committees are formed, it would be better if the responsibility of the karnam is removed. At present what the karnam says about crop outturn is gospel truth. As it is, he is causing a good deal of trouble by giving a wrong estimate of the yield. Practically, what he calls a six anna crop, or eight anna crop, will be worth nothing at all. Government should see that the karnam is made to give a right estimate of the yield. Most of his reports are exaggerated reports. The village committees may be asked to attend to this work.

"Now, Sir, it would be better if the present system of land revenue is abolished; and in its place agricultural income-tax is levied. Thereby Government will be improving the lot of the ryots, especially those who are owning small extent of land. Ryots owning eight to ten acres should be exempted from any agricultural income-tax, as they are only leading a hand-to-mouth life. If you want to establish an equitable revenue system, you should abolish the present revenue system. Finally, Sir, I would appeal to Government to issue orders at least this year not to penalize people for cultivating poramboke lands. With these few words I urge on Government to bring in legislation to set up a wage board."

* SRI N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, கனம் அங்கத்தினர்களே, இன்றைக்கு ரெவினயூ மான்யத்தைப்பற்றி பேசுகின்ற நிலையில் நான் சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல விரும்புகின்றேன். நெல் வருமானத்தைச் சரியாக சரிக்கட்டுவதற்கும் விருத்தி செய்வதற்கும் போதுமான வழியை இப்பொழுது உடனடியாக கண்டுபிடிக்க வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. இம்மாதிரி நெருக்கடியான சமயத்திலே காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபையை ஏற்றுகொண்டிருக்கிறது. எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் பசி, பிணி, எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் கூட்டம், வேலை நிறுத்தம், ஒரே கூக்குரலாக இருந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறது. இந்த சமயத்தில் காங்கிரஸ் பதவியை எத்தகொண்ட வேலையை சமாளிப்பதற்கு இந்த சபையிலுள்ள அங்கத்தினர்கள் எல்லோரும் அதற்கு உதவி செய்தாலொழிய சரியாக நடைபெறுது. இப்பொழுது ஜனங்களுடைய தரித்திரத்தைப் போக்குவதற்கு தகுந்த வழியைத் தேட வேண்டும். இதைச் செய்வதற்கு பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் லாண்டு ரெவினயூ திட்டத்தை தயாரித்திருப்பதோடு கூட இன்னமும் அதில் மாறுதல்களைச் செய்வார்களானால் ரொம்ப சீக்கிரத்தில் இந்தக் கஷ்டம் தொலையும். இப்பொழுது நெல்லு கிடைப்பது கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது, விவசாயம் நடத்துவது கஷ்டமாக இருக்கிறது, விவசாயம் செய்யாமல் போனால் நெல்லு, கம்பு கிடைக்காது, விவசாயத்தைச் செய்வதற்கும் கிணறு வெட்டுவதற்கும் சர்க்கார் கிரான்ட் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். கிணறு வெட்டும் வேலை சரியாக நடைபெறாமல் ஸ்தம்பித்துப்போயிருக்கிறது. கிணர் வெட்டுவதற்கு ஆள் கிடைப்பது கஷ்டமாய்விட்டது. இப்பொழுது கொடுத்திருக்கும் கிரான்ட்களுக்கு கிணர் வெட்டி முடிய இன்னம் வெகுநாளாகும். கிணர் வெட்டி தான்யம் தயார் செய்து தற்போதுள்ள கஷ்டத்தை போக்குவதென்பது முடியாத காரியம். ஆகையால் விவசாயிகள் கிணறுவெட்டுவதற்கு முடியாத

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நிலைமையில் இருக்கிறார்கள் என்பதை நான் தெரிவிக்கின்றேன், கிணறு வெட்ட ஆள் கிடைக்கவில்லை. அரசாங்கத்தார் உடனே இந்தப் பொறுப்பை ஏற்றுக்கொண்டு கிணறு வெட்டுவதற்கு ஆட்களை அரசாங்கத்திலே வைத்து கிணறு வெட்டிக்கொடுத்தால் சீக்கிரத்தில் தானிய உற்பத்தியெய்ய முடியும். அதனால் கஷ்டம் நிவர்த்தியாகும். ஒரு உதாரணம் நான் உங்களுக்கு இப்பொழுது எடுத்துச் சொல்லுகிறேன். 2, 3 திணங்களுக்கு முன்னே ரெவின்யூ இலாக்காவிலுள்ளவர்கள் பிரசாம் செய்யப்படாத அதிகாரிகள் இந்த மாகாணம் பூராவிலும் ஒரு ஊர்வலம் நடத்தினார்கள். தங்களுக்குச் சம்பளம் போதவில்லை, கஷ்டம் அதிகரித்துவிட்டது; உணவு தானியங்கள் கிடைக்கவில்லை; அதனால் இனி சமூகிக் முடியாதென்பதாக தங்களுடைய கஷ்டத்தை வெளிப்படுத்தினார்கள். இது ஒரு வகையிலே காங்கிரஸினுடைய நிர்மாண திட்டத்தில் ஒரு வேலை வெற்றி பெருவதற்கு ஒரு படி மேலே போயிருக்கிறது. 1921-ம் வருஷத்திலே மகாத்மா காந்தி சட்ட மறுப்பு ஆரம்பிக்கிற காலத்தில் எட்டு திட்டங்களைச் சொன்னார். அதில் ஸர்க்காரிலுள்ள உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் வேலையை விடவேண்டுமென்று ஒரு திட்டமுண்டுருந்தது. அந்தக் காலத்திலெல்லாம் அதிகாரத்திலே இருந்தவர்கள் அது ஏதோ பைத்தியக்காரத்தனமான காரியம் ஏதோ காந்தி சொல்லுகிறார் அது பயனற்றதென்பதாக என்னம் செய்தார்கள். என்னி நகையாடினார்கள். அவ்வியக்கத்தை அடக்க சர்க்கார் பல மாறுதல்களைச் செய்துவைத்தார்கள். சர்க்கார் ஊழியர்களும் அதற்கு உதவியும் செய்துவந்தார்கள். ஆனால் இன்றைக்கு அவர்களே சத்யாக்ரகம் செய்கின்ற முறையிலே சாத்வீகமாக தங்களுடைய கஷ்டத்தைத் தெரிவிக்க வெளியே வந்து போர்களைக்கழுத்தில் மாட்டிக்கொண்டு நெருத்திக் வாசுச் சுற்றிவருகின்ற நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்றால் அதில் அதிகாரிகளைக் குறைவு படுத்தவோ அல்லது ஒருவித அதிகுப்தியைப் பறப்பவேண்டுமென்ற எண்ணத்தோடு அப்படி ஊர்வலம் வருகிறார்களென்று சொல்ல முடியாது. 'குடை நிழலிலிருந்து குஞ்சரமூர்த்தோர் நடை மெலிந்தோரார் நன்னிலும் நன்னுவர்' என்ற மாதிரி, யானைமீது குடை பிடித்துக்கொண்டு ஊர்வலம் வரக்கூடிய அரசனாக இருந்தாலும் ஒரு காலத்தில் கால் நட்டையாகப்போகும்படியான காலம் ஏற்படும் என்று ஒரு பெரியார் சொன்னார். அதுபோல இப்பொழுது இந்த ராஜதானியிலுள்ள விளம் பரம் செய்யப்படாத அதிகாரிகளெல்லாம் தங்களின் கஷ்டங்களை காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கத்திற்குத் தெரிவிக்கவேண்டி ஊர்வலம் நடத்தினார்கள். இந்த நிலைமை ஏற்படவேண்டுமென்றால் அதில் என்ன விசேஷமிருக்கிறது என்று கவனிக்கவேண்டும். சகிக்கமுடியாத கஷ்டம் நாட்டில் ஏற்பட்டு விட்டது. உயர்ந்த வாழ்க்கையில் இருக்கக்கூடியவர்கள் உத்தியோகத்தில் இருக்கக்கூடியவர்கள், நடு வீதியிலிருந்து பசி பசி என்று வெளியே கிளம்புவார்களானால் கிராமந்திரங்களில் இருக்கின்ற ஏழைகள் கோடிக் கணக்கில் மடிந்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்களென்றதான் அருத்தம் செய்ய வேண்டும். இந்தக் கஷ்டத்தைப் போக்குவதற்கு வேண்டிய நடவடிக்கையை நாம் உடனே எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். பாரதியார் 'தனி ஒரு வனுக்கு உணவிலே யெனில் ஜகத்தினை அழித்திருவோம்' என்று சொன்னார். அதிகாரத்திலிருக்கின்ற, ரெவின்யூ இலாக்காவிலிருக்கின்ற உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் பல உயர்ந்த சம்பளம் வாங்கப்பட்டவர்கள் கூட அந்த ஊர்வலத்தில் வந்தார்களென்றால் அதனுடைய பொருள் என்ன? ரெவின்யூ இலாக்காவிலிருக்கின்ற தாழ்ந்த சம்பளக்காரர்களுக்கு இவ்வளவு கஷ்டமிருக்கிறது என்பதை காட்டவில்லையா? 2 படி 1½ படி அரிசியிலே உயிரை வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இது சகிக்கமுடியாததாக இருக்கிறது. அவர்களுக்கு சம்பளம் உயர்த்தி கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று ஊர்வலத்தில் கலந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்களென்று நாம் நினைக்க வேண்டும். பாரதியார் சொன்னதுபோல் ஒருவனுக்கு உணவிலேயென்றால் அவனை போஷிக்க நாங்கள் ஆதரிக்கத் தயாராக இருக்கிறோமென்று எடுத்துக் காட்டுவதாகத்தான் நினைக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களுடைய குறைகளை நிவர்த்தி செய்யவேண்டியது அரசாங்கத்தினுடைய கடமை. அவர்களுக்கு நிவர்த்தி செய்ய வேண்டுமானால் பணம் கொடுத்து உதவ வேண்டும், சம்பளத்தை உயர்த்தித்தான் ஆகவேண்டும், சம்பளத்தை உயர்த்துவதற்கு வருவாய் இல்லை ஜனங்கள் மீது வரி போடவேண்டியிருக்கும். வரி போட்டால் ஜனங்கள் கொடுக்கமாட்டார்களென்று கவலை

14th August 1946] [Sri N. Annamalai Pillai]

வருகிறது. ஆனால் அதிகாரிகளும் இப்பொழுது இருக்கின்ற மந்திரி சபையானதும் இன்னும் கொஞ்சம் கடுமையான நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக் கொண்டால் தானியங்கள் நிறையவரும் என்பதாகத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இன்னமும் பல பெரிய முதலாளிகள் 20,000, 10,000, 40,000, 30,000 ரூபட்டைகளைப் பதுக்கி வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இது விஷயம் ஸர்க்காருக்குத் தகவல் வந்திருக்கவேண்டும் அல்லது வரும். இந்த நிலைமையை மாற்றுவதற்கு அதிகாரிகள் இருக்கின்றார்கள், பிரதம மந்திரி இருக்கின்றார். நடவடிக்கை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுவதுடன் வவசாயத்தை நடத்துவதையும் ஸர்க்காரே எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்தவேண்டும். நிலச் சுவாந்தார்கள் பயிரிட்டு நமக்குக் கொடுப்பார்களென்று நங்கள் நினைக்கவே கூடாது. அப்பொழுது ரூ. 5, ரூ. 2, ரூ. 4, விற்பனை ஒரு கைம் நெல்லு இன்றைக்கு ரூ. 16, ரூ. 18, விற்கிறது. நாம் பதுக்கவைத்தால் இன்னும் கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டில் விற்கலாமே என்று அரசு போதும் வருகிறது. ஆகையால் அவர்கள் விளைந்தாலும் சரியாகக் கொடுக்கவே மாட்டார்கள். அரசாங்கத்தார் தாங்களே நிலச்சுவாந்தார்க்கிடத்திலிருந்து நிலத்தை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு ஒரு ஒப்பந்தத்தைச் செய்துகொண்டு பயிரிட வேலையை அரசாங்கமே மேற்கொண்டாலொழிய இந்த தரித்திரம் திரவே திராது. கஷ்டம் போகாது, கொள்ளை ஸாபம் அடிப்பவர்களும் மற்றவர்களும் மாறவே மாறாது. ஆகையால் பிரதம மந்திரியார் இதிலே கவனம் செலுத்தி அரசாங்கமே நிலங்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பயிரிடுவதற்கு புதிய முறைகளை ஏற்பாடுசெய்யவேண்டும். இந்த வேலை செய்பவர்களுக்கு முன்னே இருந்த கூலி ஒரு ரூபாய் அதை ரூபாயிருந்தது, இப்பொழுது 10 அணு, 9 அணு, 11 அணு, 12 அணு, ஒரு ரூபாய், 1½ ரூபாய் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் அரிசியோ, கம்போ, கேரளா ரூபாய் ஒன்றுக்கு மூன்று மடங்கு இருந்தவை இப்பொழுது ஒருமடங்காய் விட்டது, அரிசி 6 படி இருந்தது 2 படி ஆய்விட்டது, ஒரு தூக்கு ஒரு ரூபாய் இருந்த மினகாய் 3 ரூபாய் ஆய்விட்டது. அப்படி யிருக்கும்போது நெற்று 16 ரூபாய் சம்பளம் வாங்கியவன் இன்றைக்கு அதேவே ஜீவப்பா எனென்று நினைப்பது முடியாத காரியம். ஒரு அளவுதான் ஜனங்கள் தாங்கமுடியும். அந்த அளவு முடிந்துவிட்டது, ஜனங்களுக்குக் கஷ்டம் அதிகம் ஏற்பட்டுவிட்டது. அதனால் எங்கும் கூட்டமும் குழப்பமும் இருந்து வருகிறது. இதை நிவர்த்திக்க அரசாங்கத்தார் உடனடியாக கைவசமிருக்கும் மூல தனத்திலிருந்து சில கோடி ரூபாயை எடுத்து தானியங்களை வாங்கி 2 படி அரிசி இருப்பதை 4 படியாகக் கொடுத்து அந்த நஷ்டத்தை ஏற்றுக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். இது பழைய தர்மம். முற்காலத்திலே அரசரது கேடும் நிதி என்று வைத்திருப்பார்கள், பஞ்சம் வந்துவிட்டால் ஜனங்களுக்குப் அந்நியை பகிர்ந்து கொடுத்துவிடுவார்கள். அதுதான் சரித்திரத்தில் எழுதப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் இந்த அரசாங்கத்தார் தாங்களே விலைக்கு வாங்கி 2 படி அரிசி இருப்பதை 4 படியாகக் கொடுத்து இந்தப் பஞ்சத்திலே ஜனங்களைக் காப்பாற்றவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது எஸ்.ஜி. ரெயில்வேயில் 3½ படி அரிசி கொடுக்கிறார்கள், அவர்கள் 2 படி வாங்கி ரயில்வே ஊழியர்களுக்கு 3½ படி கொடுக்கிறார்கள் என்பதைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன். இந்த மாகாணத்திலிருக்கின்ற 5 கோடி ஜனங்களாகிய, வரி கொடுக்கப்படுவார்களைக் காப்பாற்றுவதற்கு கேடும் நிதியில் உள்ள தொகையை எடுத்து தானியத்தை உயர்ந்த விலை கொடுத்து வாங்கி குறைந்த விலைக்கு கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இதை நாம் செய்தால் ஒரு வாராக நன்மை செய்தவர்களாவோம். ஸர்க்காரே நிலங்களை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு பயிரிடவேண்டும். நிலச் சுவாந்தார்களைப் பயிரிடவிட்டால் அவர்கள் விளைந்தவுடன் அதை மறைத்து வைத்துவிடுவார்கள் என்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன். உடனடியாக தானிய உற்பத்தி செய்யவேண்டிய வேலையிலே கவனம் செலுத்த வேண்டும், அதை ஸர்க்காரே செய்தால்தான் முடியுமென்று தெரிவித்துக் கொண்டு இந்த ரெவின்யூ, மானியத்தை ஆதரித்து இன்னமும் அதை தாராளப்படுத்தி கஷ்டத்தைப் போக்க வழி காண்பிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என்னுடைய வார்த்தையை முடித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.

* SRI A. KAMESWARA RAO:—"Jai Hind! Mr. Speaker, Sir, the countryside is now brewing with an agrarian revolution. 3-15 p.m.

[Sri A. Kameswara Rao] [14th August 1946]

If not this Ministry, at least the British Government will have to face it one fine morning, because they want to be here and they do not want to go away. (Mr. F. Ferrelly: 'You want us to get out!') (Laughter.) ('How can you do it?') I know this Constituent Assembly or any reforms that they promise are not going to materialise. As a revolutionary, I would welcome an agrarian revolution or any revolution to overthrow this Imperialist Government by all revolutionary methods. It is because we have Mahatmaji who is giving a non-violent programme, I am following him. But if there is a leader that comes and says that these methods have failed and that we have to take up guns and fight, I will be the first man to take the gun and fight for my country, and I hope there are many such men who will take part in the agrarian revolution that is brewing in the country.

"The agriculturists are put to a lot of difficulties. The man owning under 5 acres is not able to feed his children and get them educated. That is why I propose that all those uneconomic holdings should be exempted from revenue taxation. I propose that a progressive taxation should be introduced. That is, a man who has got 20 or more acres and who is earning more must be taxed more and all those who have got less than 5 acres and have not an income to feed their children must be exempted completely from all taxation. Then I propose the agricultural income-tax, that is, the people that are earning more money in having 100 and more acres must be taxed more. When such taxation is introduced, I hope we will have more money for other ameliorative measures such as prohibition, free and compulsory education, and so on. I want the Revenue Department to take note that unless there is an intensification of agriculture we are not going to tide over the famine that is facing the country to-day. Intensive agriculture means that we should not keep quiet. The ryot should not be allowed to keep quiet. He should be shown how he should improve his land. He must be supplied manure free of cost. He must be supplied with agricultural implements and told that he should raise another crop also.

"Then, Sir, as regards the minor irrigation problems, there are many tanks in dry taluks where they have not been repaired at all for all these years. During the last cyclone many of them have been damaged and very few have been repaired. In spite of bringing this to the notice of the Revenue authorities, the tanks have not been repaired. One or two have been repaired this year, and others are expected to be repaired only next year. For this the Revenue authorities and our Ministry must immediately take steps and see that these minor irrigation works are repaired immediately. Now, look at Hyderabad. There are many tanks they have improved there. They are having more crops, more rice and more cholam. We see the same in Mysore State and in other places. But, here, in British India it is not the case, and nobody is taking any care of these minor irrigation schemes.

[14th August 1946] [Sri A. Kameswara Rao]

I had been to Sattenapalle taluk, and there I had seen some of the tanks and I am going to submit a report to the Hon. the Premier shortly about these things.

"Then, Sir, about village officers. The village officers are the men that are very poorly paid. Of course, the village officers are powerful in the villages in some places, but those days have gone. To-day a ryot does not care for a karnam or a munsif. Formerly, if you pay Rs. 2 for surveying the land or for writing a petition or for any other purpose, it will be done. On the contrary, now, the ryots threaten these village officers. These poorly paid (Rs. 15) village officers have to shoulder the burden of writing all the accounts and going door to door, and have to supply their corrupt higher officials with rations and other things when they visit those places. Their lot must be improved. They must be paid more. My time is up, and I am going to resume my seat. Before that I would like to advise the Ministry that they should at once purge these departments of corrupt officials. Unless you purge these departments of corrupt officials and put in good people, you cannot do anything, you cannot progress in any way, and you cannot introduce anything new. With these words, I support the Budget, and I resume my seat."

* SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to say a few words regarding the revenue policy of the Government. Nowhere in the whole world, land revenue is so high as in India. Yet, our people, who are agriculturists, do not take proportionate advantage and proportionate facilities, for the tax they pay. Every member of this House wants to reduce this revenue. The departments think that the expenditure is an inconvenient drain for the Government. Governments in the world chiefly depend upon income-tax, profession tax, and commercial tax. (European benches: 'Excise?') These are all taxes useful to a country, and are got from those who get benefit from the State. These taxes will be perennially flowing into the Treasury, because the trade of a country will be bringing money into our land. The trade of a country should be so adjusted that it will fetch money from other lands. The industry of our country should be so developed that it will fetch money from other countries. Here, 80 per cent of the population are engaged in agriculture, and they are asked to pay the taxes without proportionate advantage. Therefore, Sir, I would suggest to Government to take away the whole land revenue. They can appoint a Committee of Experts to find out new taxes in its place and a new way of income for Government apart from the land revenue. We can levy taxes where crops are grown. Simply because a particular individual holds a number of acres, he should not be taxed more. We should take into consideration the yield of his land before we tax. Therefore, my humble suggestion to Government is that they must find out fresh taxes which will be more reasonable and more useful to the State, and which will be advantageous for the betterment of our country.

[Sri P. Kandaswami Pillai] [14th August 1946]

"Sir, if the industries of our country are developed, we can supply the requirements of the whole world. India is very rich in mineral resources and in electricity also. We have got the best iron and steel, coal mines and all kinds of things which are required for the best industry in the world. But the pity is that we do not pay any attention to this. We do not care to develop these industries. We simply follow what our elders have done. That is not sufficient. There should be revolutionary ideas even in the Budget estimate. I expected a revolutionary Budget. Our predecessors were simply forming, tabulating and calculating 'this is our income and this is our expenditure.' That is no good. We have to find out new ways. The world is moving rapidly. We were fighting all along with guns. Now the atom bomb has come. The western world has rapidly developed. We should copy them in all ways which are useful and profitable. West or East, it does not matter. We should take into consideration all the new things, essential and advantageous, for our betterment.

"One word regarding village officers. The lowest paid official in the Revenue department is the karnam. The whole responsibility of the department lies on him. He wants to be both an official and a non-official. He wants to be a non-official and at the same time he wants hereditary appointment. He wants to be a Government servant for enhancement of pay. He must be considered a Government servant for enhancement of pay. The karnams must qualify themselves for the post, and on merit they must get the appointment. They must serve well, and, of course, the Government must increase their pay according to their status.

"In India, only 13 per cent are literate. All the quarrels spring from the house of the village munsif and the karnam. So we must give them moral education. Now the Government are opening so many centres for training village munsifs. The chief thing to be taught there should be not to read and write. Moral education should be given to them, that they must think that they are there to serve the people honestly and sincerely and not to make money out of the villagers' ignorance or create trouble for the villagers. If we infuse this idea in the minds of the village munsifs, litigation will decrease and the courts will be free from congestion. Therefore, Sir, I would request Government to pay more attention to village munsifs, village karnams and village teachers. If these three classes of officers are given very good moral and religious education, a lot of trouble will be over and we need not spend so much money upon magistrates and police. Therefore, I would request the Government to change the land revenue policy, namely, to reduce land revenue as much as possible and increase other taxes like commercial-tax, profession-tax, etc., and new taxes may also be levied."

* SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN :—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, இப்போது விவசாயத்தைப்பற்றிப் பலர் பேசினார்கள். விவசாயம் இன்று எந்த நிலைமையிலேயிருந்துவருகிறதென்பதைப் பற்றி இங்குள்ள எல்லா அங்கத்தினர்களும் அறிவார்கள். விவசாயத்தைப் பெருக்காமல் இன்று நாட்டிலுள்ள பஞ்சத்தைப்போக்க முடியாது. பஞ்சத்தின் கொடுமையினால்

[14th August 1946] [Sri M. Kanniyappan]

மக்கள் வாடுவதை நாம் எங்கும் பார்க்கிறோம். இந்தப் பஞ்சத்தை ஒழிக்க விவசாயத்தை எப்படிப் பெருக்குவதென்பதில் நாம் முதலில் கவனஞ்செலுத்தவேண்டும்.

"விவசாயத்தின்மீது வருமானவரி போடவேண்டுமென்று இப்போது சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், இந்த வரியை எப்படிப்போடுவது என்பதை யோசிக்கவேண்டும். அதிகமான நிலத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு ஏராளமான வருமானத்தையடையும் நிலச்சுவார்தார்கள், அல்லது ஜமீன்தாரர்களின்மீது இந்த வரியைப் போடவேண்டும். இல்லாவிட்டால், பெருத்த நிலம் படைத்த மடாதிபதிகளின்மீது இந்த வரியைப் போடவேண்டும். இதை எல்லாம் விட்டுவிட்டு குறைந்த அளவு நிலம் வைத்திருக்கும் விவசாயிகளின்மீது வரிப்போடுவதென்பதை எந்தமுறையிலும் நாம் அனுமதிக்க முடியாது. குறைந்த அளவு நிலம் வைத்துக்கொண்டு விவசாயம் செய்கிறவர்கள் தங்களுக்குப் போதுமான வருவாய்க்கிடைப்பதில்லையென்று இன்று ஒவ்வொரு கிராமத்திலுமுள்ள விவசாயிகள் கூக்குரலிடுகின்றனர்.

"இன்று விவசாயத்தில் ஈடுபட்டுள்ள தொழிலாளி எந்த நிலைமையிலே இருக்கிறான் என்று நாம் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். அவனுக்கு நிலத்திலிருந்து சரியான ஊதியம் கிடைப்பதில்லை. அவன் உழும் நிலத்திலிருந்து கிடைக்கும் ஊதியத்தை அனுபவிக்கிறவன் சாதாரணமாக ஒரு பெரிய ஜமீன்தாராக இருக்கிறான். இந்த நிலைமையிலே கொஞ்சம் நிலம் வைத்துக் கொண்டு விவசாயம் செய்கிறவர்களுக்கு வரி போடாமல், அதிகமான நிலம் வைத்துக்கொண்டு ஏழைத்தொழிலாளர்களுடைய ரத்தத்தை உறிஞ்சிக்கொண்டிருக்கும் முதலாளி வர்க்கத்திற்குத்தான் இந்த வருமான வரி போடவேண்டுமெனியொழிய ஏழை விவசாயிகளுக்கு இந்த வரி போடக்கூடாதென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"அடுத்தபடியாக கிராம கர்ணத்தைப்பற்றி இப்போது பேசப்பட்டது. கிராம உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு இன்று கொடுக்கப்படும் சம்பளம் ரூ. 5, ரூ. 7 அல்லது ரூ. 12 ஆக இருக்கிறது. இது அவர்களுடைய வாழ்க்கைக்குப் போதுமானவென்று கவனிக்கவேண்டும். ஆகையால், கிராமங்களிலேயிருக்கும் வெட்டியான், தலையாரி, கர்ணம் போன்றவர்களுக்கு உடனடியாக சம்பளத்தை ஏற்றவேண்டும். இது மிக மிக அவசியம். இவர்கள் தான் கிராமங்களிலேயுள்ள விவசாயிகளிடத்தில் சென்று வரி வசூல் செய்து அரசாங்கத்திற்கு அனுப்புகிறார்கள். பிரிடிஷ் ஏகாதிபत्यம் இந்த நாட்டில் ஆட்சியை நடத்துவதற்கு முக்கியகாரணஸ்தர்கள் இவர்கள்தான். இன்று நாம் அவர்களுக்கு அதிகமான சம்பளத்தைக் கொடுத்தால், அவர்கள் சமயம் வரும்போது நம் பக்கத்திலிருப்பார்கள். அந்தச் சமயத்தில் நாம் அவர்களை உபயோகப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளலாம். அப்போது நாம் இந்த வெட்டியான், தலையாரிகளைக் கூப்பிட்டு, 'இப்போது இங்கே இருப்பது பிரிடிஷ் ஏகாதிபत्यம். அதற்கு விரோதமாக உடனடியாக ஸ்டிரைக் செய்யவேண்டும்' என்று சொன்னால், அவர்களும் அவ்விதமே செய்வார்கள். அவர்களெல்லோரும் நம்பக்கம் வந்துவிடுவார்கள். ஆகவே, அவர்களுக்கு நாம் உடனே அதிகமான சம்பளத்தைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். 'அவர்கள் தொந்தரவு செய்கிறார்கள்; கூட்டம் கூட்டமாக வருகிறார்கள்; காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கத்தை பிரமிக்கச் செய்வதற்காகத்தான் இவ்விதம் செய்கிறார்கள்,' என்று யாராவது சொன்னால், அவர்கள் முதலாளி வர்க்கத்தைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களாகவே இருப்பார்கள். அவர்கள் விவசாயிகள், ஏழைமக்கள் இவர்களுடைய நன்மையைக் கருதுகிறவர்களாக இருக்க மாட்டார்கள். நாம் விவசாயத்தைப்பற்றி பேசும்போது கிராமங்களிலே வேலை செய்யும் பாட்டாளிமக்களுக்குச் சரியான சம்பளத்தைக் கொடுக்க தகுந்த நடவடிக்கைகளை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லிக் கொண்டு என்னுடைய பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* SRI V. PONNUSWAMI GOUNDAR :—"கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, அங்கத்தினர்களே, இப்பொழுது ரெவின்யூ இலாக்காவில் எந்தெந்தமாதிரி குறைத்தும் உயர்த்தியுமிருந்தால் நம் மாகாணத்தில் ரெவின்யூ நிலைமையும் விவசாயிகளுடைய நிலைமையும் சரியாயிருக்குமென அநேகம்பேர் சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஏதோ நானும் சிலதை ஸர்க்கருக்குச் சொல்லிக்கொள்ள முன்வந்திருக்கிறேன்.

[Sri V. Ponnuswami Goundar] [14th August 1946]

“தலைவரவர்களே, நம் ரெவின்யூ இலாக்காவானது பணம் பெருத்த பொக்கிஷ சாலையாக இருக்கவேண்டும். அப்படி இல்லாவிட்டால் விவசாயிகளுடைய உயர்வும் மற்ற டிபார்ட்மெண்டுகளுடைய உயர்வும் ஒருக்காலும் ஏற்படமுடியாது. எப்படி இந்த ரெவின்யூ இலாக்காவில் அதிக வருவாயை ஸர்க்கார் எதிர்பார்க்கமுடியுமென்பதை இரண்டொரு விஷயங்களில் சொல்லிக்கொள்ள ஆசைப்படுகிறேன். ரெவின்யூ இலாக்காவுக்கு அதிக வருமானம் விவசாயிகளிடமிருந்து வந்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறதென்பது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். ஆனால் அந்த விவசாயிகளிடமிருந்து நாம் நிலவரியாக வாங்கும் அத்தனை பணமும் அவர்களுக்கு ஏதாவது ஒரு பாகமாவது பிரயோசனமான வழியிலாவது செலவழிக்கப்படுகிறதாவென்பதை முதலாவதாக கவனித்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்; ஒருக்காலும் இல்லவே யில்லை. விவசாயிகள் வரியைச் செலுத்துகிறார்கள், ஆனால் சர்க்கார் அவர்களுக்கான நன்மைகளைச் செய்யாமல் வேறு காரியத்துக்கு உபயோகிக்கிறார்கள். தவிர அவர்களுடைய குறைபாடுகளையும் இன்னல்களையும் அவர்கள் கூடித்தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ள வகையும் வசதியும் கிடையாது. சாதாரணமாக இப்பொழுது தொழில் வேலைகளிலெல்லாம் ஸ்டரைக்குகள் ஏற்பட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. நாங்கள் கஷ்டப்படுகின்றோம். எழைக்குடியானவர்கள் என்னோடு தினசரி வாழ்பவர்கள் என்னோடு சேர்ந்து பாடுபடவேண்டிய விவசாய இலாக்கைகள் என்பதாகக் கோட்டை வாயிலில் கூட்டமாகவந்து சர்க்காரிடம் முறையிட்டுக் கொள்ளவில்லையே என்று நான் வெட்கப்படுகிறேன். தலைவரவர்களே, விவசாயிகள்தான் ராஜாங்கத்தின் முதுகெலும்பு என்பதை ஸர்க்கார் உணரவேண்டும். அநியாயமாக நில வரியைச் செலுத்துகிறார்கள். எல்லா பிரஜைகளும் செலுத்துகிறமாதிரி மற்ற வரியையும் செலுத்துகிறார்கள். அதிகப்படியாகத்தான் நில வரியை செலுத்துகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் செலுத்தும் வரிகளுக்கு பிரதியுபகாரமாக ஸர்க்கார் எந்தவிதமான நன்மையையும் தருதபடி செய்து கொடுப்பதில்லை. ஸர்க்காருக்கும் விவசாயிகளுக்கும் இடையில் ஜமீந்தாரர்களும் மீட்டாதாரர்களும் ஒரு தடையாக இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்கள் விவசாயிகளுக்கு வேண்டிய வசதியை ஏற்படுத்துவதற்கு குறுக்கே நிற்கிறார்கள். காட்டில் மாடுகளை மேய்க்க விவசாயி வரி செலுத்தவேண்டும். எருவுக்குத் தழைகளை உபயோகப்படுத்திக்கொள்ள விவசாயி வரி செலுத்தவேண்டும். கலப்பை முதலிய மரச் சாமான்களுக்கும் வரி செலுத்தவேண்டும். அதுவும் தவிர ஸர்க்காரில் விவசாயிகளுக்கு இரும்பு சாமான்கள் கிடைக்க வசதி செய்துகொடுப்பதும் கிடையாது. அப்படியிருக்கும்போது விவசாயி எப்படி அதிக வரி கொடுப்பான், எப்படி இந்த ரெவின்யூ இலாக்காவானது விவசாயியிடமிருந்து வரியை எதிர் பார்க்கமுடியுமென்று கேட்கின்றேன். பெரியோர்களே, நீங்கள் நன்றாக கவனித்துப்பாருங்கள். விவசாயிகள் அன்றாடம் செத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு துணி இல்லை, உணவிலலை, கிராமங்களிலுள்ள ஒவ்வொருவரும் அதைத் தெரிந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். நண்பர்களே, அதற்கு நாம் என்ன செய்தோம். கட்டாயமாக அவர்களுக்கு நாம் பாதுகாப்பளிக்கவேண்டும். அந்தப் பாதுகாப்பளிக்க இடைஞ்சலாயிருக்கும் இந்த ஜமீந்தாரி முறையை அறவே ஒழித்துவிட வேண்டும். அந்தத் தடை போனால் விவசாயிகள் தங்கள் இஷ்டம்போல் இருக்கவும், சர்க்காரை எஜமானாக வைத்துக் கொண்டும் தங்களுடைய வாழ்க்கையை உயர்த்திக்கொண்டு ஸர்க்காருக்கும் வரி செலுத்துவார்கள். விவசாயிக்கு மாடாவாது, உழவுக்கு அல்லது மற்ற எந்த வேலை செய்யவோ சரியான வசதியும் கிடையாது. இப்பொழுதுதான் இந்த யுத்தகாலத்திலே அதிகமாக இந்த நேரம் பறவி விட்டது, என்ன அது? அதுதான் மாடுகளை மனித உணவுக்காக அடிப்பது. இதிலோ ஸர்க்கார் முக்கியமாகப் பங்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். அதாவது கோ சம்ரக்ஷணை; இதைச் சட்டமாக்கவேண்டும். இல்லையானால் விவசாயம் ஒருக்காலும் வளரவே முடியாது. நன்றாக வேலைக்கு உதவுவதும் உழுவதற்கு உபயோகமானதுமான மாடுகளை அடிக்கக்கூடாது. மாட்டை மனித உணவுக்காக அடிக்கிறதென்றால் இப்பொழுது ஸர்க்காரால் ஏற்பாடுசெய்யப்பட்டிருக்கும் உணவுக்கமிட்டி மூலமோ அல்லது பிரத்தியேகமான கிராமக் கமிட்டி ஏற்படுத்தி அதன் மூலமோ தாலுக்கா உணவுக் கமிட்டி மூலமோ வேலைக்கு உதவாத உணவு மாடு, என்று அவர்கள்

14th August 1946] [Sri V. Ponnuswami Goundar]

அபிப்பிராயம் தெரிவித்து அதன்பேரில் ஸர்க்கார் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களை அல்லது தாலுக்காவின் பிரத்தியேகமான உத்தியோகஸ்தரோ ஸர்ட்டிபிகேட் கொடுத்தபின்புதான் அந்த மாட்டை அடிக்கவோ அல்லது அடிப்பவர்க்கு விற்கவோ ஏற்பாடுசெய்யவேண்டும். ஸர்க்கார் இதைச் சட்டமாகச் செய்ய வேண்டும். இல்லையானால் இப்பொழுது நீங்கள் சந்தைகளிலே அடிக்கடி போகிறவர்கள் பார்க்கலாம், அடிப்பதற்கு எப்பெரிக்கொத்த மாடுகளை வாங்கிக்கட்டுகிறார்களென்று, அந்த மாடுகளை யெல்லாம் அடிக்கக் கொடுக்கிறதினால் நம்முடைய இந்தியா தேசம், பசு வதை மஹா பாடம் என்ற நம் நாடு, பசுமாட்டைக்கூட ஏர், கவலை கட்டி அடிக்கிறார்கள். இப்படி நடக்கிறது நூற்றுக்கு 80 பங்கு பசுமாடுகளைத் தான். அந்த மாட்டைக் காப்பாற்றவேண்டும். கோ சம்ரக்ஷணை சாலைக்கு விலைக்குக் கொடுத்துவிடவாவது வேண்டும். தலைவரவர்களே, விவசாயிகளுக்குப் போதிய உதவி செய்யவேண்டும், மாட்டு வசதியும், எருவு வசதியும், மாட்டு வைத்திய வசதியும் இல்லையானால் அவர்கள் எப்படி சரியாக உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்யமுடியும், எப்படி விவசாயம் செய்யமுடியும். அவர்கள் செய்யும் விவசாயத்திலிருந்து எப்படி ஸர்க்கார் அதிக வருமானத்தை எதிர்பார்க்க முடியும், முடியவே முடியாது. சாதாரணமாக வரிச் சுமை விவசாயிகள் தாங்கமுடியாமலிருக்கிறது. விவசாயத்திற்குத் தேவையான வசதிகள் ஸர்க்கார் ஆதிக்கத்தில் கட்டாயமாக வந்துதீரவேண்டும். இல்லையெல் தானியம் உற்பத்தியாகாதென்பதைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு என்னுடைய சிற்றுறையை நிறுத்திக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I quite agree that the ryots of our Province particularly have got a good deal of complaint against the land revenue policy of the Government. The way in which this revenue has been levied and collected has been a sore, a pestering sore, on the agricultural economy of this Province, for many decades past. It is said that the Government are getting one-half of the net income which the ryot gets after deducting the outgoings and the cost of cultivation which the ryot has to defray. It is also said that that land revenue is nearly a fifth of the gross yield of the land. In this connexion, by the way, it will be very interesting to know what the Government think of this revenue—whether it is a tax or rent. Whatever it may be, it is said that Government get only a portion of the income of the poor ryot and the ryot is left with a good portion of the income which he derives from the land. But in very many cases, Sir, after the ryot pays his tax, precious little is left. I do not think any argument is necessary for impressing on the Government that relief and immediate relief must be given to the poor ryots of this Province in the matter of land revenue. Again they speak of remissions and concessions to the ryots in cases where they met with loss or partial loss owing to scarcity of rain, pests and diseases and other causes. But these concessions and remissions are very small and niggardly. They do not in reality and in substance give any relief to the suffering ryot, particularly when he needs relief most. In this connexion I would urge upon the Government to appoint a committee to entirely overhaul the present procedure of land revenue administration and revise the Board's Standing Orders so as to give substantial relief to the suffering ryots of this Province.

“Again and again, reference has been made to the low remuneration paid to the Government servants in the various departments.

[M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur] [14th August 1946]

Very strong references have also been made to the corruption rampant among Government servants. But what I urge is that, before the Government take any measure to deal with corruption, they must in all humanity and in all fairness to the Government servants take steps to revise their salaries. I will say that all those salaries falling below one thousand rupees per mensem must be revised. If that is not possible at present, I would urge upon the Government to take immediate steps straightway to revise salaries of five hundred rupees and below. I do not know what has happened to the report and recommendations of the salaries committee which was appointed some time ago. I would like that the report of that committee is published and copies made available to the members of this hon. House. If the Government think that the recommendations of that committee do not go sufficiently far to remove the grievances of Government servants, particularly of the low paid Government servants, they must take steps to go further still.

“Then I have to make a complaint that the representation of the Mussalmans in this department is not adequate. The figures of course I cannot produce now, because the Government have ceased to publish figures regarding Government servants communitywar, which they were doing some time ago. It will be very useful to revive that publication so that we may know whether the rights and privileges of all the communities are being respected and maintained so far as services are concerned. It is said that under the communal Government Order the Mussalmans are to get 16½ of the total services. But I do not find anywhere that the Mussalmans are getting this share and it is so in the Revenue department also. If we put a question to the authorities that be at times, we are told that there is a Mussalman clerk here and he is set against a non-Muslim Tahsildar in the same department and then we are told that in the matter of numbers we have attained our proportion. Sir, that is very unfair and unreasonable. So far as representation is concerned, unit by unit if not cadre by cadre must be taken into consideration, and the total amount of salaries paid to these communities must also be taken into consideration if fair representation is to be given to the communities. One feature regarding this complaint is very striking. The Mappillas of Malabar form one-third of the population of that district and one-third of the Mussalman population of this Province. It will be very astonishing to you also when I tell you that there is no District Collector from among the Mappillas and there is only one Deputy Collector and one Tahsildar from among them. This is really a grievous injustice to the Mappillas of Malabar, and I hope the Government will take early steps to remedy this grievance of the Mussalmans.”

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Sir, I am thankful to hon. Members who have spoken to-day for the very helpful and constructive criticisms made by them on the various points raised which I shall try to answer as briefly as possible. It is true that the tax system in this Province about which many of the speeches have been made, is a bit antiquated. It is only now, Sir, when we have

[14th August 1946] [Hon. Sri K. R. Karanth]

got almost famine and scarcity of food that we have opened our eyes. Because till now when there was not that trouble and when we used to get cheap rice from foreign countries there was not much interest as to how our lands fared and what crops they grew. When outside supplies were cut off, we opened our eyes to see how it is that there is so much scarcity. There is no doubt that the present land system contributes a great deal to the present distress. On this question hon. Members are aware of the Famine Enquiry Commission in which there was a representative from the Madras Government, I refer to Sir S. V. Ramamurty. The commission went into this question. In their final report this question is dealt with at page 253 and this is what they say:—

‘On a review of the replies received from Provincial Governments we find that the problems requiring investigation may be classified under three heads:—

(i) *Size of holdings and fragmentation.*—It is well known that a large proportion of land is held in small holdings. There exists a tendency, directly relatable to the ryots of inheritance and the transfer of land, which, through subdivision, causes a progressive diminution in the size of holdings and their fragmentation. The need for legislative and administrative action in relation to this tendency is a matter for examination. This applies to all the different land systems.

(ii) *Occupancy right holder and non-occupancy tenant.*—Another class of problems is the tendency for land to be held by occupancy right holders who do not attend to its efficient cultivation, and who lease such lands to tenants on terms which inhibit such cultivation. This again is a matter for examination in respect of all the different land systems.

(iii) *The permanently settled estate system.*—There is a growing body of opinion that, apart from the defects already referred to, which are common to all the systems, there are defects peculiar to the permanently settled estate system which make it desirable that the system should be abolished and the ryotwari system introduced in its place.’

“Sir, referring to the various heads under which discussions proceeded in this House may I point out to hon. Members that the guiding principles of the Congress in regard to this land problem have been stated very clearly and definitely both at the election of 1937 and also in the last election. I would place them before the House.

“Soon after the elections of 1937, the policy in the legislature was laid down by the Congress Working Committee as follows:—

‘Congress members should press for the carrying out of the Congress programme as enunciated in the election manifesto and the Congress agrarian resolution. In particular, they should work for—

(1) a substantial reduction in rent and revenue;

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(2) assessment of income-tax, on a progressive scale, on agricultural incomes, subject to a prescribed minimum;

(3) fixity of tenure.'

" At the last election it was further added as follows:—

' The reform of the land system, which is so urgently needed in India, involves the removal of intermediaries between the peasant and the State. The rights of such intermediaries should therefore be acquired on payment of equitable compensation. While individualist farming or peasant proprietorship should continue, progressive agriculture as well as the creation of new social values and incentives require some system of co-operative farming suited to Indian conditions. Any such change can, however, be made only with the goodwill and agreement of the peasantry concerned. It is desirable, therefore, that experimental co-operative farms should be organized with State help in various parts of India. There should also be large State farms for demonstrative and experimental purpose.'

With these as our guiding principles, we have tried in the short period of three months that we have been in office to tackle the various land problems.

4 p.m.

" Foremost among the questions that have been raised in the House to-day is that relating to the reform of the ryotwari system. With regard to this, hon. Members are aware that, about four-fifths of the area of this Province is governed by this system. I myself come from a district in which there is no zamindari system, but only the ryotwari system. And yet, with my experience of about 20 years and more, I have known that there is a good deal of rack-renting in respect of the cultivating classes. They have no security of tenure. They can be evicted at any time. While the landlords clamour for reduction of assessment, they are not prepared to show the same concession to their tenants and the assessment bears hardly any reasonable relation to the rents which they collect from their tenants. It is quite true that the cultivating classes can have no interest in the land in such circumstances. I know that in many cases the cultivating classes have to go as estate labourers to coffee plantations in Mysore in order to be able to pay the rent to their landlords. I know my district fairly well, but not the several other districts of the Province. Conditions vary from district to district. That being the case, it is felt that, before legislation is introduced in regard to the relationship between the landlord and the tenant in ryotwari tracts, it would be wiser for the Government to know the actual conditions in the various districts of the Province. It is for that purpose that, as soon as this Government took office, it set up machinery for investigation of the various factors. No such enquiry has been held in the past and therefore it would be helpful to us to know all the facts. The officer who has been put in charge of this work will also issue questionnaires and take the assistance of public bodies in this Province and of hon. Members and collect full facts. Armed with this data,

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we can take up legislation on proper lines and on safe ground. Hon. Members will, I hope, find this better than rushing in legislation in haste without knowing what sort of a new system we are substituting and what sort of people we are dealing with. This investigation also includes the amendments to be made to the Malabar Tenancy Act.

" As regards landless labourers, Sir, I quite realize the importance of this problem from what I saw recently in Anantapur and Bellary. From local enquiries made, particularly in the dry areas of this province and in the upland areas of Nellore, I find that, on account of the recurrence of famine from time to time, all those who were actual cultivators and owners were obliged in the past to sell their lands to Sowcars and big landlords. Almost all land is therefore now concentrated in the hands of a small percentage of the population and the rest of the people have become reduced to the position of agricultural labourers. The Government realize that they have to take up this question in the near future in the form of a Land Settlement Bill. Under this bill we intend to afford facilities for the landless to settle upon land and to see that the land does not remain only in the hands of large holders to the tune of several hundreds of acres which they themselves do not cultivate.

" Then, Sir, as regards the zamindari system, there have been speeches by several hon. Members in this House both to-day and on earlier occasions. Hon. Members are aware how in 1937-38 a full investigation of this problem was made. But even in this matter, hon. Members will realize that things have moved and are not in the same state as they were in 1937. I was very happy to see that more than one zamindar was kind enough to come and see me and say that they would rather have some compensation and give up the zamindari system now rather than that it should continue for some more years when it may disappear without any compensation at all. They were very prominent zamindars. They told me that ten years hence they expect to get no compensation whatever whereas under the existing conditions they expect a more equitable solution of the problem. They think it would be wiser to take what they may be now offered rather than wait for the time when they will be removed wholesale. These are aspects which have to be considered. During the short time I have been here I have seen myself the hardships of the zamindari tenants. In several districts I have seen their position with regard to rack-renting, with regard to tanks that have breached thirty years ago and more and so on. These are all questions which I dare say will be dealt with fully, always bearing in mind the happiness of the millions of tenants rather than the comforts and luxuries of the few zamindars who, I hope, will excuse my saying so.

" I come next to the question of the land-tax system. From 1928 to 1930 I myself have expressed strongly against this system both in the Old Legislative Council and elsewhere. This is an

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oppressive system introduced by others long ago for the purpose of merely collecting land revenue. It has no consideration to the wellbeing of the people of this province. It has been moving on in an antediluvian fashion. But to-day it is up to us to revise it. I have heard several speeches by hon. Members that peasants form the backbone of the people of the province and that therefore the tax should sit very lightly on them. They have suggested—I have noted the suggestions of various hon. Members—a standard basic rate and said that agricultural income-tax should be levied from those who are getting high incomes from land. I believe hon. Members are aware that in the State of Travancore very recently a basic system has been introduced together with agricultural income-tax over a certain level. It may be that we may not be able to follow that system to the same extent; because, after all, the position of land revenue in the whole of our income has a material bearing on the question. I was told by the Dewan of that State whom I met a short while ago that out of a total income of 8 crores, only 80 lakhs are by way of land revenue. They have reduced the basic rate to 14 annas per acre. I am afraid I would be wrong if I give any such hopes in our province, because out of our total taxation of nearly 4,500 lakhs, land revenue is responsible for as much as 850 lakhs. But still that shows the way in which we shall have to work. Even here, in 1938-39 the previous Congress Ministry has done much spade-work. In fact they prepared a land revenue bill involving the increments of the various re-settlements. At that stage they had to go out of office. That bill involved a reduction of about 76 lakhs in the total land revenue amounting then to about 650 lakhs. But at that time I may also say the question of agricultural income-tax was considered almost unthinkable. To-day, however, we are in a different frame of mind. We have people who have made substantial sums from agricultural income and there is no reason why we should not have a graded and increasing taxation on such incomes. Of course any such taxation of higher incomes will involve the consideration of a system of a moderate levy of revenue on lower incomes.

“ Now, with regard to the total abolition of tax on small holdings I may just give one or two figures so that hon. Members might know what it would amount to. There is also this drawback that in any contemplated abolition of taxation altogether of small holdings, it is our experience elsewhere that the moment you say that for one rupee and less the tax will be remitted there will be a tendency to take out the pattas in the names of so many members of the family the revenue will vanish rapidly and the fragmentation of holdings, which it is the wish of every one to avoid will increase. Therefore, I understand that this total abolition was avoided in the basic system adopted in Travancore. If taxation is remitted on holdings paying one rupee and less of land revenue, it will amount to Rs. 9 lakhs; and if remission is granted to holdings on Rs. 10 and less, it will amount to Rs. 153 lakhs. I have already indicated the danger of fragmentation. Then there is this consideration that some system of land record at the cost of the

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State has to be kept even in regard to small holdings. My submission on this question is that the revision of land taxes will also be undertaken by this Government as early as possible.

“ On the question of lands for Harijans and the landless labourers, I notice a lot of misapprehension. I may remove it by stating that about 44 land colonization schemes are before the Government and 23 of these have been approved. In all these cases care is taken to see that land is assigned to co-operative societies so as to prevent alienation to third parties. All these lands are given to landless people, so that the claims of the Harijans will be fully met. There are I understand some separate schemes for Harijans only. Apart from these, as the House is aware, there is the lump sum of one crore of rupees set apart for Harijan uplift. The question of temple lands, so far as I know, has not been considered till now. The suggestion made, viz., that temple lands should also be given will be considered. The several suggestions made in regard to landless people will be duly considered before the lands are permitted to be assigned. All I can now say is that a ban has been put on the assignment of lands. There need be no apprehension that lands will be assigned to rich people. It has been decided that till the claims of various colonization schemes including the claims of the demobilized soldiers are considered and disposed of by Government no lands should be permanently assigned to anybody. Therefore there need be no fear that lands will not be given to deserving people or that the claims of the landless will not be met.

“ Then, Sir, as regards the complaint made by my hon. Friend 4 p.m. Mr. Nagappa that in the assignment of waste lands, the rights of Harijans have been neglected and that other communities have been given such lands, all I wish to say is that if he brings any particular case to the notice of the Government, Government will be only too glad to look into it.

“ With regard to Muslim representation in the services, so far as I know, I can say that the rule *re. communal rotation* (i.e., 2 out of 12) is being observed in the Revenue Subordinate Service, and among higher officers, I may inform the Hon. Leader of the Opposition that out of 217 Deputy Collectors in this Province, as many as 36 belong to the Muslim community, so that they have full representation in that service. If the point is to be stretched further that there should be a definite percentage of Moplah representation or that there should be so many Shias or Sunnis and so on, I would say, Sir, that it is carrying things too far. The community is taken as a whole and no discrimination is made within the community. This rule has been in operation for many years and I find at least in one cadre as I have already submitted there are 36 Muslims out of 217. My hon. Friend Mr. Nagappa wants to know how many Harijans there are. I have to say, Sir, that there are none, so far as listed posts are concerned. But amongst Deputy Collectors I know that there are more than one. If he puts down a separate question on this matter, I shall be only too glad to supply him the answer.

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"Then as to the general question of revision of salaries, I may submit, Sir, that it should not at all be thought that the present Government are unmindful of their difficulties. It is not paying merely lip-service when I say, Sir, that the Government are aware of their difficulties and are giving the matter their fullest consideration. As the House is aware, a Committee of the Cabinet has been appointed yesterday itself and it will work as soon as possible so that the necessary relief might be afforded soon. The Government are well aware, Sir, that prices of things have gone up. I read only last week that the cost of living index is somewhere near 232 per cent in the Coimbatore district, where it seems to be the lowest, about 292 per cent in Ellore and about 243 per cent in Madras. Thus their difficulties are real and I can only request these services—and as was rightly stressed by some Members and particularly by the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Independent group—not to indulge in any threat of strikes. After all, I may tell them and everybody else that if threats are given every day, they lose their value. We all realize their hardships; we shall bear them in mind and we shall do our utmost to see that their just grievances are redressed.

"Then let me come to the question of raising the pay of village officers which concerns my department immediately. We have gone into this question and the matter is under the immediate consideration of the Government and a decision will be come to in the next few days. There has been some delay, but I would request the House to give us some indulgence, because in these three months there were not one or two but dozens of urgent questions which have been engaging our attention and this one also will be settled soon. With respect to this question also, I must ask the village officers to be reasonable. Out of the land revenue of about Rs. 825 lakhs at present the salaries of the village establishments come to nearly Rs. 200 lakhs and if their present demands are to be fully met, it will come to about Rs. 420 lakhs. I would request the House to realize what this would mean. It would mean that out of the land revenue, we shall have to give half of it on salaries alone. A further consideration which the village officers should bear in mind is that when the system was introduced somewhere in 1800 or so, they were supposed to be honorary. Even to-day it is more or less an honorarium that is given to them. They are not in any regular or wholtime service. They want that the hereditary system should continue with all its privileges. Some hon. Members in this House have strongly expressed their objections to the retention of this system. Therefore I would request these village officers to have some consideration for the difficulties of the situation in meeting their demands.

"One other matter that was mentioned was about the corruption of Revenue officials. On this I will not say more than this. The Government are quite anxious that corruption should cease. I am myself personally aware that there is a good deal of corruption in the department. Before I took up office, as a non-official I have myself gone into villages and understood the difficulties of villagers in the matter of procurement and at every stage there used to be

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trouble. At the same time hon. Members are aware that a new department has been created to deal with corruption. It will help us and the Government if definite cases of corruption are brought to our notice. During the last three months a number of petitions were received by me with false names and false signatures. They were sent for enquiry and no such persons were traced and it is no use sending petitions in the name of 'Truth,' 'Anti-corruption' and so on. It will help us greatly if hon. Members and, more particularly, those outside could bring definite charges and be prepared to substantiate them. Otherwise it would be rather difficult to put down corruption though we are in duty bound to see that these corrupt practices do not continue any longer.

"I have tried, Sir, to deal with most of the points raised by hon. Members. I would request the House to remember that we are fully alive to the importance of questions regarding taxation, land tenures, fixation of reasonable rents and so on. The whole system has to be revised and I would only request hon. Members to give us a little more time so that we may bring forward measures which would be acceptable to the House and which would be reasonable and just. In the short time at our disposal it has not been possible to do more and I would therefore request the hon. Member who moved the cut motion not to press it."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM :—"Sir, I would not have got up to offer any remarks on this item, but for the fact that it has become necessary to supplement the speech of the Hon. the Revenue Minister and to explain the policy of the Government on this subject a little more in detail with regard to certain items. On the question of the abolition of the zamindari system, most of the hon. Members who spoke are in favour. The abolition of the zamindari is not a step that could be taken immediately by this Government or by this House because of certain technical difficulties. During the time of the last Congress Government the question regarding the reduction of rent of the zamindari tenants was also considered by the Estates Land Act Committee. The Committee considered all aspects of the question including also the abolition of the zamindari system as it stood. Having regard to the technical difficulties of obtaining the assent of the Secretary of State, without which the abolition could not be effected, that Committee deliberately left out that course and then considered which was the best way of giving relief to the zamindari tenants who have been groaning under unbearable taxation. They examined the question from all sides. They took considerable time to investigate the whole question and the reason for not having brought forward that Bill to the Legislature was, to a large extent, due to the length of time taken up by the Committee in the investigation stages. It was least thought that the war would be coming upon this country and that the Government would be forced to go out of office. ((Mr. Hameed Khan : 'Who forced?'))

"Now what was considered then is also being considered by this present Government. What is the relief that the Government can give to those tenants, both in the zamindari areas and also to those

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in the governmental areas, by way of reduction of taxation in the one case and rent in the other. This is a matter that has been engaging our attention since we took up office. You will remember, Sir, that when this subject was taken up last time, it was explained in full, it was subjected to the criticism of the public and it was subjected to the criticism of those few members who took a different view in the Committee and recorded their dissenting minutes as well. The question was examined how when the zamindars were enhancing rents from time to time the Government also were enhancing the taxes on the ryotwari lands from time to time. These questions were discussed at great length during the period of the late Congress Government. So far as the Government jirayati lands were concerned, the policy of the Government with reference to the enhancements made by the Government from time to time was discussed and it was decided that all the resettlement enhancements made from time to time should be cancelled just as in regard to the zamindari areas all the enhancements made by the zamindars from time to time should be cancelled. It was decided that a proper rate of tax or rent to be paid by the tenants in both the cases should be fixed by the Government.

“With regard to the zamindari system, the Committee went to the very bottom of the whole matter and then it was ascertained that between the years 1802 and 1810 the permanent settlement was introduced into this country and the Government issued sanads or other documents to the zamindars in which they declared that the rents then fixed were permanently fixed and were unalterable. It was also ascertained from the permanent settlement deeds that were issued that these rents were fixed once for all and that there should be no enhancements in them in future. Therefore the Committee came to the conclusion that the rates fixed from 1802 to 1810—there were different dates for different zamins when permanent settlement sanads were issued—should be the rates which the tenants were bound to pay and all the enhancements made from that date by the zamindars were unauthorized and the tenants were not bound to pay the enhancements which should be cancelled.

“The Committee's report was published, thoroughly examined by the public, criticized by them and a Bill was prepared and it was ready for presentation to the House. But for some reason or other there was an unfortunate delay in introducing that Bill in the House. On account of that delay and on account of the declaration of war, the whole thing was dropped. Now, Sir, in the present Government myself and the Hon. Minister Mr. Giri are the only two connecting links between the old Government and the present Government. Both of us could perhaps say something about what happened at that time, what the policy of the Government was and how it was intended to carry it out. Now the Hon. Minister for Revenue has put the case very carefully and considerately. The whole question is again under the consideration of the present Government. They are examining how best to give relief to the tenants in the zamindari areas. I want to emphasize what the Hon. Minister for Revenue has said, that

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after what has been done in that period by way of preparing the report, drafting the Bill and making it ready for presentation to the House, we have not abandoned that policy and we stick to that policy now. Some hon. Members stated that the zamindari system should be abolished immediately. And some of the zamindars who were our old friends seeing that many long years had elapsed after the Committee had reported had been putting up a strenuous fight against even the reduction of rent on the basis proposed by the Committee. Now during this period the zamindars have understood that the country has taken up the whole matter into its hands and was pressing that the Bill should be passed into law. During all these years there has been an incessant demand all over the country that the rents of the zamindari lands should be reduced immediately, if the system itself could not be abolished. We cannot think of introducing a Bill for the abolition of the zamindari system even now. What the United Provinces Government have done is this: A resolution was moved to the effect that the zamindari system should be abolished and the resolution was passed. When that was passed, some Members walked out of the House. They are just beginning to tackle this question. We have taken up this question long ago and the unfortunate tenants of the zamindari areas would have been reaping the benefits of our legislation for the last 7 or 8 years if it had been an accomplished fact. The tenants have suffered immeasurably and it is not easy to describe their sufferings in a few words. During the last few months it has been made clear to every one that a zamindari legislation is coming in. Some of the careful zamindars have taken care, good care to see that certain rights which will devolve upon the tenants according to the proposals of the report could not possibly be exercised by them. They have been cutting the forests and encroaching upon other rights which have been declared in the report to belong to the tenants and not to the zamindars. The tenants who had been enjoying certain rights from very ancient times, such as rights over forest produce, grazing rights, etc., have been shut out from their enjoyment. But we cannot do anything straightaway with regard to this matter. I have consulted the Hon. the Revenue Minister and we think that it has become our duty before this session is over to introduce a Bill, a short Bill calling upon the zamindars not to continue their operations of denuding the forests and reducing all the rights that will belong to the tenants. It is our policy to adopt the best possible method to give immediate relief to the tenants. We cannot postpone these things until the zamindari system is abolished once for all. Before that date whatever relief we could give, we have to give them and that will be done by this Government and I hope this House also will support the Government in the matter. A small Bill will be introduced by the Hon. Revenue Minister calling upon the zamindars not to do anything which had been prohibited in that particular report on the basis of which a Bill has been prepared, and requesting them not to pursue that policy.

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“With regard to Government jirayati lands the Hon. Minister for Revenue has explained the position and the Government are considering how best the tax on ryotwari lands could be reduced and the ryots relieved of the burden. During the interval before legislation could be introduced remissions were given because legislation would have taken time. My hon. Friend Mr. Kala Venkata Rao said that the relief given during that period had not been mentioned in the budget. I may assure hon. Members that whatever can possibly be done by this Government by way of redemption or reduction of taxes on Government jirayati lands would be done. As Revenue Minister in the late Government I had considerable difficulty to have another committee formed through the legislature to consider the question of reducing the taxes on Government jirayati lands similar to the zamindari committee that was appointed. The Revenue department then decided that that department itself should undertake to produce a Bill and a Bill was actually prepared by me with the help of my good Friend Mr. Holdsworth, the then Revenue Secretary, a very able and conscientious man. With his help we thought we could do something by way of reduction of tax on Government jirayati lands in the same way in which it was proposed to be done in the case of the zamindari lands. At that time some of the zamindars were not in a good mood as they are today and they challenged me on the floor of the House: ‘You have undertaken legislation for zamindari areas, have you thought of doing a similar thing for the ryotwari areas?’ I told them: ‘Exactly the same thing I am going to adopt with regard to the Government jirayati lands.’ Just as in the case of zamindari lands the Government took as the basis the rents fixed in the period 1802 to 1810 so also in the case of the Government lands we went into the old records and decided that the 1810 rates were the proper rates for the Government lands also. It was on that basis that the Bill was prepared by myself and Mr. Holdsworth. That Bill is there. We have not examined it. Both these Bills will be placed before hon. Members and before yourself. We are hoping that the zamindari legislation will come very soon within the next two or three months. Whenever we go out to any part of the country, we hear one cry: ‘What about the zamindari legislation?’ Some people have come to think that this legislation would not come after such a long period. Some people may have thought that those who are responsible for this legislation have been locked up in jail and perhaps would never come back. Sir, we have come back not with a view to do any harm to zamindars or to any other person needlessly, but with a view to do our duty to the people of this country. That is the position so far as the two systems are concerned.

“The country demanded relief long ago and if proper arrangements had been made to prevent the agriculturists from becoming chronic and hopeless debtors, matters would have been quite different. But such a thing was not possible. My hon. Friend has spoken about the landless labourers. Let me tell you,

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Sir, that the landless labourer was not a labourer from the very beginning. Most of the so-called landless labourers today were persons who, or whose ancestors, once possessed land in this country. But out of the wretchedness of their financial position they were obliged to borrow small sums from other persons and not being able to repay those small sums they had to abandon the land to the very persons who lent them money and become landless labourers on the same lands. That is the wretched system, the tragedy that has been enacted in this country. We are bent upon doing all that is possible to introduce necessary reforms and improve the lot of these people. My hon. Friend asked what would be the result if those who owned only one acre of land were exempt from taxation. If you take a little higher than that there may be a little difference. The whole matter will be examined. If it is only possible to get other sources of revenue and completely redeem the land from all taxation this Government would not hesitate to take that step also. But the system has become so involved that it is not easy to solve the problem in a few days or even one or two years. It will require good time to consider the whole thing not only by ourselves, the Ministers, but also with the help of the experts who could bring their knowledge to bear upon the subject.

“Therefore, Sir, so far as the criticisms of hon. Friends are concerned, they may take it that although the Government may not take their suggestions as they come bodily and try to put them into execution, the intention of the Government is to see that the whole thing becomes comfortable for all the sufferers in this land, particularly the land owners.

“I do not propose to deal with all the other items on which my hon. Friend has already spoken. With regard to these revenue matters, other systems of land revenue also are being examined. Even in those days, we appointed a Committee to go into the Malabar land tenure question, but it was not done to perfection. I myself was not very much satisfied with it. But I may say that whatever changes have to be made will be made. With regard to South Kanara there is a peculiar system and my hon. Friend the Revenue Minister will be able to put it in proper order. So far as the Revenue Department as a whole is concerned, the House may take it that the Hon. Minister in charge is such a capable man that he will give every bit of his energy for bringing the best possible reform in this direction.

“One thing was said about the Harijans. One crore of rupees the hon. Members of this House and yourself were good enough to keep aside for the uplift of the Harijans. But it was stated that the schemes had not come before this House. I say, Sir, that the schemes will come before this House and hon. Members will see how best the funds will be utilized for the benefit of the Harijans. There is a wrong impression in certain quarters that lump sums of Rs. 1,000, Rs. 5,000 and Rs. 10,000 would be put in the hands of various people to do what they liked with the

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money. Nothing of the sort will happen here under this Government. Under this system whatever might have been the drawbacks in the past every pie will be accounted for. This is only an investment and not anything given away to anybody in charity. In a couple of years you will see how this money has been invested to the benefit of the poorest of the villagers who have been abandoned for a long time. In the first year we will not be spending more than Rs. 5 lakhs as subsidy, i.e., the difference between what we spend and what we get back. In the second year it may go to more than a crore of rupees. All this will be spent for the benefit of the Harijans who should be entitled to what all others are entitled to have or are having in other parts. This money will be advanced for their uplift.

"I now come to the Muslim League claims. They should have no complaint, my hon. Friends on the other side, on this score. The Muslim community is so much on the higher plane than the Harijan community. If anything had been offered to them by way of setting apart Rs. 1 crore they would have asked me, 'What on earth are you doing? Are we going to take doles like this?' and hon. Members would have resented this."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"This is a very good way of explaining things."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"There is no question of explaining things. If Mr. Hameed Khan thinks that this is an excuse . . ."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"You can give it even now."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"They are not depressed classes."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"They are not depressed classes, Sir. I will be able to show that they are the topmost class. All others are depressed classes."

"Hon. Members may take it from me that it is never the intention of the Government to treat one community differently from another community. As regards the Harijan community most of you admitted that something extraordinary had to be done for them. How that could be done you will see when the scheme is produced before you; not merely a paper scheme, but a scheme which can be put into execution. You will understand that it is not a scheme merely for Harijans. If a land colonization scheme is adopted for the Harijans, keeping them as the chief factor there, it will not be the Harijans only that will be enjoying the benefits but also the Muslims, the so-called Brahmans, the Non-Brahmans and all other names by which you may call the people. As far as possible they will be brought together and they will be made to work together. Not merely that. If we have a list of all the lands available . . ."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"There are only three minutes more."

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes, I know. I have seen the time, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"But you must give me some time to put the demand to the vote of the House."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"In that statement I was not exhaustive. If I take an area of 1,000 acres of land and I put up a new colony there, all the wells, the schools, and the hospitals in the colony will be for the common use and the common enjoyment of everybody. Not only that; there will be land set apart for the common cultivation of the persons living in the colony. So many acres will be for the joint cultivation of the people. The joint income will be deposited and the taxation, the cost of schools, hospitals, etc., will be met out of that joint income. In addition we propose to make provision—because the joint ancestral property system has been abandoned by the people and they have got used to separate properties—a few acres will be set apart for separate cultivation. In that way we will try with your support and co-operation, perhaps in one or two years, to bring into existence some colonies. Then my hon. Friend Mr. Hameed Khan will go with me along with my Friend Mr. Ismail Sahib and others. This has nothing to do with the political question. All will be brought together."

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Brahmans also along with the Harijans?"

* THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Brahmans also will be with the Harijans . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The time is up."

Sri Pillalamarri Venkateswarlu's cut motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

Demand I was put and carried and the grant was made.

The House adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. on Thursday, the 15th August 1946.

VIII.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

Notification appended to G.O. No. 1224, L.A., dated the 15th July 1946, making certain alteration in the jurisdiction of the Madura and Ramnad District Boards.

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APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 81 asked by Sri A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Madras Legislative Assembly held on 14th August 1946, vide page 324 supra.]

Enquiry into Land Tenure—Note issued to the Press on 27th June 1946.

With a view to implement the Election Manifesto of the Congress in regard to the reform of the land tenures in the ryotwari areas of this Province and with a view to bring in legislation on the matter as early as possible, this Government have sanctioned the appointment of an officer of the grade of a Collector to make the necessary investigation into the whole subject. It is well known that the tenancy conditions in the Province vary from district to district and some times even in one and the same district. In regard to the ryotwari areas there has been legislation only in Malabar. Before, however, any new legislation can be introduced to meet the needs of other ryotwari areas of the Province, it was thought desirable that a full and proper investigation should be made regarding the conditions of tenancy including security of tenure, duration of tenancy and fairness of rent. Sri Rao Bahadur N. Raghavendra Rao has been just appointed to the post and taken charge of his office. He will carry out the proposed investigation in detail in some of the typical districts of the Province and generally in other districts also. For the present the period of work has been sanctioned for three months. It will be extended if necessary. In the course of the enquiry which he will undertake, the assistance and co-operation of the public will also be sought.

In regard to the Malabar district, the public are aware that there has been a report submitted by the Committee appointed by the late Congress Government in 1939 on the working of the Malabar Tenancy Act. The report is at present under the examination of the Board of Revenue. The Special Officer referred to above will also go into the investigation of the conditions in Malabar in the light of the said report.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 15th August 1946.

The House met at the Assembly Chamber at eleven of the clock on Thursday, the 15th August 1946, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Re-employment of Sir Sidney Burn to the post of Chairmanship of the Public Service Commission, Madras.

* 85 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the public are much dissatisfied that Sir Sidney Burn has been recently re-employed after retirement and appointed to the post of the Chairmanship of the Public Service Commission, Madras;

(b) what is the exact age of Sir Sidney Burn and that of his immediate predecessor, Sir John Hall, who has just retired; and

(c) up to what age the Chairman and members of the Public Service Commission can be retained in their posts?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) The Government have no information.

“(b) Sir Sidney Burn has completed 65 years and Sir John Hall, 64 years.

“(c) No age limit has been prescribed.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Are the Government aware that the insistence of some European civilians to cling to jobs in India in this manner serves as a hardship on Indians and has given rise to the demand that Britishers should leave this country?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I may answer this question by saying that it is not due to the mere holding on to offices that has produced the present atmosphere and the demand made by the people of the country. Several other causes have contributed towards that.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“When the age of retirement even for the Judges of the Federal Court has been fixed by the Government of India Act at 65, is there any justification that a man who has attained the age of 65, which is the maximum age that has been prescribed for people in this country to serve, should be appointed to any post?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I hope this question would be considered by the authorities concerned.”

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"In view of the fact that so much of dissatisfaction is prevailing in the public mind as regards the Service Commission and its functions, will the Government consider it desirable to abolish the Service Commission and appoint a Board consisting of all classes and interests?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member may note that there are limitations for the exercising of the authority of the Provincial Government; and sometimes some things are not within the scope of the Provincial Government."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether any period has been fixed during which Sir Sidney Burn has been appointed?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I will get the information and tell the hon. Member."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Since aged people cannot be very efficient, will the Government consider the desirability of imposing some age-limit for the retirement of the Chairman and the Members of the Public Service Commission?"

AN HON. MEMBER: "What about the Premier?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I think such limit has already been fixed in most cases; and it was not fixed only in cases where that could not be done."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"In view of the fact that the present Service Commission is to select only candidates for the Provincial Services, will the Government think of the desirability of abolishing the recruitment of Europeans to the Public Service Commission?"

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR: "On a point of order, Mr. Speaker; this question does not arise."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Let him answer."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The question does not arise, and the hon. Member should be looking to somewhere else."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. the Premier aware that there is a considerable feeling among the minorities that there is a combination between the Congress and the Europeans in this country?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"What has that got to do with this question? I rule it out of order."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Sir, what are the principles underlying the selection of the personnel of the Public Service Commission?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"That question also does not arise out of this; information could be supplied to the hon. Member later."

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of appointing a Harijan in the next vacancy?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No such undertaking will be given to the hon. Member or to anybody else."

Export licences for handloom cloth.

* 86 Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) the policy underlying the issue of export licences for handloom cloth; and

(b) whether in the past such export permits were issued to persons unconnected with the handloom industry?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" (a) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Press note issued by the Provincial Textile Commissioner on 5th July 1945. Four copies of the note are placed in the Legislative Assembly Library.

" (b) The question is being examined."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Are the Government aware that these permits are being sold after being reduced into half or a third or a fourth of the quantities?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I shall be delighted to have the information from the hon. Member; and if it is so, the question will certainly be examined."

DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of controlling the export of handloom cloth through the medium of the Provincial Co-operative Handloom Weavers' Society?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"We will consider."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Minister explain what are *ex-gratia* permits?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Ex-gratia is ex-gratia."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Does the Minister propose to ban all exports of handloom cloth?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"No."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of restricting the issue of permits to those who organize production and not to those who want to sell these permits in public auction?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Certainly it will be considered."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the Madras Provincial Handloom Weavers' Society are asking for tenders for handloom cloth and exporting it at enormous price?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I am not aware, Sir."

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SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Are the Government aware that in most of these cases where permits have been issued, a quantity above the quota permitted under the licence is being exported, and have Government recently captured any such cases?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—"Notice, Sir."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"Are the Government aware that some of these licences have been restored to the parties and that on some ground, several licences have not been restored to the parties?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Notice."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that because of the indiscriminate issue of licences to non-producers, the production of handloom cloth available for local consumption is being reduced?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"The matter will be gone into."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, when our province is experiencing an acute scarcity, what is the policy of the Government in issuing licences in order to export cloth outside the province?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"In order to maintain the custom."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government guarantee that a uniform policy will be pursued in respect of the cancellation of licences in respect of those who have not fulfilled the terms of the licence?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Certainly the matter will be considered."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Do the Government want to keep the custom in spite of the acute scarcity in the province?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"It might become necessary."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know why some of the members on the Treasury Benches are becoming members of the Opposition?" (Laughter.)

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government consider the advisability of restricting the issue of the permits to the producers?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"The hon. Member has already asked the question twice."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister the number of export licences issued?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Notice."

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Muslim women teachers in the mufassal.

* 87 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state what steps have been taken to relieve Muslim women teachers of the hardships that they suffer in the mufassal because residential quarters are not provided for them?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"Instructions have been issued that accommodation should be reserved for Muslim women teachers in all hostels attached to the Government educational institutions for Muslim girls in which they serve. Inspectresses and heads of institutions have also been circularized to make all possible arrangements to provide residence for women teachers who are in need of it, in the hostels attached to schools. The Director of Public Instruction has also been asked to submit proposals for providing staff quarters attached to Government schools for Muslim girls, as and when such provision becomes practicable."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Is the Hon. Minister aware that provision of accommodation for Muslim women teachers in hostels has not proved very satisfactory, and will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of providing these teachers with separate accommodation?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"I wish, Sir, the hon. Member puts each question separately instead of joining them all together?"

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Are other than women teachers also provided with residential quarters in the mufassal?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"This question refers only to women teachers."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the provision of accommodation for women teachers in the hostels has not proved satisfactory?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"No."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I point out, Sir . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"You cannot point out."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"My question was: are other than Muslim women teachers provided with residential quarters in the mufassal?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"This question refers only to the housing of Muslim women; if the hon. Member wants to put a question regarding other than Muslim women teachers, I shall answer it."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Will the Hon. Minister enquire into the matter and if necessary provide separate accommodation for Muslim women teachers?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The hon. Member will kindly look at the latter part of the answer."

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1946-47.

DEMAND II—PROVINCIAL EXCISE.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

* THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—*'that the Assembly do assent to a Demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as, together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 48,64,700 in respect of the head "Provincial Excise". The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 3,23,662.'*"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The motion before the House has been moved by the Hon. the Minister for Excise. Mr. Muhammad Ismail, the Leader of the Opposition, will now move his cut motion."

11-15 a.m. M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have the honour to move the motion standing in my name, i.e.,—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 48,64,700 for Provincial Excise by Rs. 100.'

At the outset, Sir, I have once again to congratulate the Government on the prohibition policy which they have introduced in the Province, though partial this year. I hope and expect that the whole Province will be brought under prohibition very soon. If the matter is tackled properly and judiciously, I am sure that it will prove not only a success but will also prove a very good precedent to the other parts of the world in the matter of prohibition. It is said, Sir, that this prohibition ought to have been preceded by education, both propagandist and general, literary education. That will simply mean, according to me shelving, the question for ever, because people are never going to be educated in the matter before they are going to accept it. That it is not possible can be seen from the fact that the Americans and other Western nations though they are as fully educated to-day as they can be under conditions prevailing in their countries, have not introduced prohibition and even people there are not for prohibition, if what I am told is correct. Therefore, Sir, I say education need not necessarily go before the introduction of prohibition. On the other hand, education—general as well as propagandist education—in favour of prohibition might go hand in hand with the execution of the prohibition policy.

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"Again, it is said that toddy and certain other drinks in this country have got a nutritional value and that prohibition would deprive the people of their food value which they get through toddy and it is also said that drink gives them relief from weariness, and so people who take to it as a matter of recreation and to forget their weariness must be allowed to do so. Much has been said on this question. But I would simply point out that there may be food value in toddy as there is in many other things but this food value is much more than counter-balanced by the evils which attend the drink habit of the people. It undermines the mind, and the mental vigour and the health of the people. Any amount of food value cannot compensate the evils which the drink perpetrates on the mind and the health of the people.

"Again, it is urged that prohibition is a matter which interferes with the individual liberty of the people. Individual liberty of course is a sacred thing but it is not an absolute thing; as everything else, it is also a relative term. A man is not free to do anything he chooses. His liberty should be exercised in justice to society and in justice to himself. But I may say that one is not free to do anything he pleases. He is not even free to injure himself. He owes it to society that he should not injure himself. In his own interest and in the interests of society certain curtailments and restrictions have to be placed upon individual liberty. If I remember correctly, it is Tenyson that said: 'Freedom bound is freedom gained'. Therefore, it is in the interests of the individual as well as in the interests of the society at large that certain restrictions have perforce to be placed on individual liberty and it is particularly so in the matter of this drink habit. Sir, this is an important item in the welfare of the people the Government have taken up; I mean this prohibition. They must see that it is a success and a very good success; if not, it will be worse than their not having introduced prohibition. While they must enforce it in all earnestness, they must at the same time see that in such enforcement the people are not harassed. They must steer clear between these two evils—indifferent enforcement and harassment. Otherwise, the success that we all expect and which we all want out of this policy might not be attained.

"Sir, there is the Excise staff who have been carrying out the Excise policy of the Government for so long. They know this field thoroughly well. They know the habits of the people; they know the activities of those who are engaged in this field and also those who are engaged in the illicit manufacture of liquors and they also know how to prevent such illicit activities. Therefore, I say in the name of the success of prohibition, the enforcement of prohibition law must be entrusted to the Excise staff rather than to the Police.

"Another important factor which I would urge and that too for the success of this policy is that the people who are now engaged in tapping the trees and who deal in toddy and liquors

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must be provided for. Very earnest attention should be paid to see that they are not thrown out of employment for that will produce a clamour and induce them to indulge in activities which will go against the success of prohibition. Therefore, Government must seriously think of measures to absorb them in other fields of employment; for example, they may encourage very vigorously the manufacture of jaggery. There is of course some jaggery manufacture in the Province and the Government also is paying some attention to the matter but I say that is not sufficient. Jaggery must be manufactured out of all the juice that is tapped now; and many other products can be manufactured out of jaggery. Even though private effort may not be so very enthusiastic as is necessary, I think Government must give all active and enthusiastic support to the advancement of this industry which is only in its nascent and initial stage just at present.

"In this connection, I would like to point out that the Inspectors, Assistant Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors of the department are not given time-scales in the matter of their salaries. It is not at all fair to deny them this facility which the Government servants of other departments enjoy. It is not fair that they should be asked to remain on the same salary for years together until they are promoted to the higher ranks. It is therefore really a serious matter which ought to engage the attention of the Government. Again in regard to the peons of the Excise department I am told that their pension is only one-third of their salary while the pension of the other Government servants is half their salary. The Salaries Commission, the result of whose activities I do not know, I understand have recommended that these peons also might be given half their salary as pension. Equity demands that these poor Government servants also must be placed on the same level as the others. Apart from this, there is the question of lowness of the pay of the servants of this department as well. The whole service must be reviewed from the point of view of raising their salaries.

"Finally, Sir, I would mention that the Muslims are not having their adequate representation in this department. I hope that Government will look into the matter and redress this grievance of the Muslims. With these words, I move the motion."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to prohibition, there is a controversy raging as to in how many districts it has to be introduced or whether total prohibition should be introduced or not. But the Government have decided that eight districts should have it now. As a matter of fact, Sir, when every one of us, particularly our party, wholeheartedly supported the demand for the introduction of total prohibition to root out the drink-evil from our land, we viewed it entirely from a different angle. It is not because that prohibition is a panacea for all evils. By itself it is not going to solve the

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problem. To-day the country is facing other problems much more vital to us, and we expect the Congress Party and other responsible leaders to give more attention to such problems instead of going on with prohibition—partial or total—in eight, twelve or twenty-four districts. Apart from the issue facing us we have to look to the grievances of the workers and the people as a whole. Sir, with prohibition, another question arises. Prohibition creates another problem, the question of finding employment for the toddy-tappers. Even the previous Congress Government did not do much in the case of toddy-tappers and did not solve their problem. It did not provide alternative employment to these toddy-tappers. The Leader of the Opposition has suggested that enforcement of this Act should not be entrusted to the police. Sir, we know how the police are doing the jobs entrusted to them in other spheres and how they are merely arresting people and breaking the heads of people. For instance, we are seeing the Madras City Police breaking the heads of people when they are going on peaceful strikes. To-day, I have received reports that a Sub-Inspector beat people who were sitting in a line and peacefully picketing. I would therefore request the Hon. the Prime Minister not to entrust this duty in regard to this department to the police but to accept the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition in order to avoid violent means and harassment of these people."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir. Does the hon. Member mean to suggest that by bringing this matter under discussion on prohibition, the people assembled there were drunk?"

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I did not hear the hon. Member properly."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You told the House that the police gave trouble; were the people drunk at that time?"

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"The people were quite sober; they do not drink in morning hours; they were peaceful. Perhaps the police might have been drunk. (Laughter.)

"Now, Sir, as regards providing alternative employment to these toddy-tappers, manufacture of jaggery and other industries can be developed, though these by themselves cannot solve the problem of unemployment of the toddy-tappers. I therefore suggest the starting of other separate industries to help these people. It is unfortunate that no provision has been made in the Budget for the development of jaggery and other industries. I request the Hon. the Prime Minister to take some amount from out of the village reconstruction fund for the development of these industries so that these toddy-tappers may be provided with alternative employment and saved from starvation.

"Apart from providing employment for these people, their welfare also should be looked after. It should be noted, Sir, that it is not for the sake of pleasure that they resort to drink; on the

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other hand, it is due to their ignorance and lack of other recreation. No propaganda has been carried on; they are not at all educated. Educated people, because of their education and training and because they move in other spheres do not frequent these toddy shops. If these workers are also educated and if propaganda is carried on among them and if facilities are given to them by means of other recreations, I am sure this evil will be rooted out, instead of taking the help of the police for this purpose. In this connexion, I would like to bring to the notice of the House the suggestion made in the papers regarding the opening of banks for the workers to enable them to save money. I am amazed at the idea. I do not know how workers can be expected to save money and invest it in banks. How much they are getting now? I do not know whether those responsible leaders who have made the suggestion, have ever gone into the family budget of the workers, to see how much they get, and how much they could save after spending for their necessities of life. That is a question which requires an answer. I am sure the Government are aware that the worker has not got enough money to save and to invest it in banks or to utilize it for his own needs.

“In this connexion, I would like to bring to the attention of the House another aspect of the question and that is in regard to the question of increased tax on foreign liquors. Since it is only the rich that resort to foreign liquors they can easily afford to pay the increased tax. Sir, it will be seen that out of a total of 13.6 crores of revenue, we are getting only 54 lakhs from foreign liquors and last year it was 74 lakhs. I am sure, Sir, that if the tax on foreign liquors is increased, we will be getting a greater revenue.

“Here, Sir, I would like to refer to another question and that is in regard to the question of opium. At present, the Government themselves are trading in opium; they purchase it, sell it and make a profit out of it. Only the poor people resort to this opium habit and it should therefore be banned by the Government, because they cannot stop it at their own will. In the rural areas, owing to lack of knowledge and education, the native doctors have been using opium as medicine and thus spoiling the health of the people. So, Sir, it is necessary that this trade in opium must be stopped altogether. As a matter of fact, I find opium worth about 6 lakhs of rupees was purchased last year by the Government and this year they propose to purchase about 8 lakhs worth of it. Whereas the revenue from this source last year was 57 lakhs, it is hoped to get about 60 lakhs this year. After all, we are not getting much revenue from this source and for the sake of the health of the people, I suggest this trade in opium should be stopped at once.

“There is another evil allied to opium and it is ganja. It has also become a trade. It must also be banned because of its evil effects on the health of the people. I need not expatiate on the harmful effects of ganja.

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“In conclusion, I would suggest to Government that while introducing prohibition, they must take care to see that the toddy-tappers are provided with alternative employment, because they have no money left with them to stand on their own legs, and that recreations and other alternative drinks are provided for the drinkers, so that they do not resort to the liquor habit again. With these words, I resume my seat, Sir.”

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the motion that is before the House, I wish to ask the Hon. the Minister in charge of this subject whether he does not think it feasible to pay a little more attention to the prohibition policy of the Government. I know that in the beginning this Government sought to introduce prohibition in only four districts, but how did it happen that instead of four districts, it is sought to be introduced in eight districts? Did not the Government, in the first instance, consider that policy demanded that prohibition should be introduced not only in four districts but throughout the Province? Did they examine that question at all and what is the result of their examination? I thought the House would have been taken into confidence by the Hon. the Minister in charge of the subject. He could have told us in the beginning itself so that the discussion that is now taking place would be on more important lines. He could have told us that the question of introducing prohibition throughout the Province was examined and on what grounds the Government gave up the idea and why they limited its scope only to four districts. On what basis were these four districts chosen? What is sacrosanct about these four districts? Is it because the last Congress Government selected those districts or is it for any other reason? What is the principle on which they selected these districts? Subsequently, what exactly was the basis on which the other four districts were selected? These are the things on which I thought, the Opposition, at any rate, if not the whole House, deserves to be taken into confidence and given information. Sir, there has been a demand from all sides of the House with the honourable exception of my European friends that prohibition should be introduced throughout the whole Province but the Government have thought for reasons best known to themselves that prohibition could not be introduced in the whole Province at the present stage and therefore they have restricted its scope only to eight districts this year. They have not also told us—although in the statement of the Premier, there was some such suggestion that prohibition would be completed throughout the Province within the course of the next three years—they have not told us how and when, in what stages, in which districts and in what manner they propose to introduce prohibition in the rest of the districts. They have not also told us whom they are going to employ on this business, whether the Police or the Excise staff as suggested by our Leader or whether they propose to employ both the Police and the Excise people. Have they examined the question? I think, Sir, that a combination of these two sets of people would certainly be far better than handing over the work

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entirely to the Police or to the Excise people. Perhaps if the police are not to be relied upon, police powers may be given to the Excise officers—powers more than what they at present possess. I know that even the Excise officers have certain powers which are almost like that of the police, but, Sir, in order to make prohibition a success, possibly they will have to be empowered, to a larger extent, so that illicit distillation and many other evils may be prevented.

“Now, Sir, prohibition is sought to be introduced in eight districts. I want to know from the Hon. Minister, if his party really, honestly and sincerely believe in the efficacy and usefulness of prohibition and the need for removing the drink evil throughout the Province, whether they have considered the question of doing something for the rest of the Province. Are they satisfied with merely introducing prohibition in eight districts and sitting quiet and allowing people to drink more and more in the other districts of the Province? Why do you allow other people in the rest of the Province not only to drink but drink more and more? What steps have you taken to see that along with the eradication of this evil in the prohibited area, people in the adjoining districts are prevented from drink? In the districts round about prohibition districts, surely the sale of toddy and other drinks will certainly go up. Even from past experience, we have seen that sales went up higher and even contractors doing their job in the prohibition districts had a very good business in the adjoining districts.

11-45 a.m. “What have the Government done in order to prevent such a catastrophe? I ask, Sir, again whether it is not necessary for this Government to prepare the other districts to be ready for prohibition in the coming year. I would like to know what they have done so far and what they propose to do in the future. Do they want to bring in prohibition suddenly, which is bound to fail? Until and unless precautionary measures are taken and the districts prepared for prohibition, there is a possibility of failure. It is not enough if you merely introduce prohibition as you have to carry out your policy of prohibition. My point is if you are really going to do some good to the people by redeeming them from this evil of drink and not merely introduce the thing which forms part of your election programme, then very many more things than are done at present have to be carried out. It is no good saying ‘We will allow people in the non-prohibition districts to go on merrily with their drinks.’ There is no use merely paying lip sympathy to our people. Something good in reality must be done and it should be practical and useful. I wish that this evil should be mitigated and with that end in view, I should like to know whether to prepare the other districts for prohibition, there is any proposal for limiting the quantity of toddy to be sold or for reducing the number of shops so that those who are accustomed to this baneful habit may not feel it in case prohibition is introduced at a later date. This is a subject which requires

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thorough examination on the part of the Government so that whatever steps they might take might be real and effective and not merely formal.”

* BRIGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry that as I have been ill all these days, I was unable to participate in the general discussion of the budget. I am glad it is now possible for me to express my views on this Demand. At the outset, I wish to make it clear that as a Muslim I lend my whole-hearted support to the policy of prohibition, seeking as it does to implement one of the fundamental principles of Islam. Of all religions, Islam has been most emphatic in its condemnation of intoxicants, it having been enjoined in the Holy Quran

‘يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا إِنَّمَا الْخَمْرُ وَالْأَيْصَابُ وَالْأَخْلَامُ رَجَسٌ
مِنْ عَمَلِ الشَّيْطَانِ فَاجْتَنِبُوا لَعَلَّكُمْ تَتَّقُونَ *’

which means:

‘O you who believe, intoxicants and games of chance are only an uncleanness, the devil's work; shun them so that you may be successful.’

It is narrated in that famous book the Sahib of Bokhari that when this verse was revealed, a crier proclaimed in the streets of Medina that wine had been prohibited. Thereupon, every jar of wine in a Muslim household was emptied in response so that the streets of Medina were soon over-flooded with wine. Never in the history of man kind has such a deep-rooted evil as drink been so suddenly yet so completely eradicated as was the case in Arabia during the time of the Holy Prophet Muhammad. Hence, Mr. Speaker, no Muslim can ever conceive of deprecating the policy of prohibition. Again as a woman, the cause of prohibition intensely appeals to me, for as a matter of fact, the curse of drink lies more heavily on women than on the addicts themselves. It is women who have to bear the brunt of this evil which converts men into brutes; it is women whose homes are rendered miserable and cheerless; it is women who are subjected to agonies and tortures, both mental and physical. One of the attacks levelled against womanhood by that misogynist, the late Signor Mussolini was that the women of America were partly responsible for the failure of prohibition in that land. But it must be remembered that the women of India are different. Indian women, whether Hindu or Muslim, are united in their demand to stamp out drunkenness. (Hear, hear.) It is usual for those who hold a brief for intoxicants to declare that it is a mistake to import ethical standards in administrative matters. But I wish to emphasize that it is the lack of ethical standards in politics and political administration that has reduced the world to its present plight. I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the well-being of humanity and the resuscitation of this dying world of ours depend upon the pumping of the oxygen of ethics into every department

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of human life and above all into the sphere of politics; otherwise the future of this country, the future of humanity will be dark and black. There can be no gainsaying the fact that of all measures for the poor man's benefit, of all schemes to promote his well-being, to mitigate his misery and squalor, few can equal prohibition. Hence, Mr. Speaker, I wish to urge that prohibition be proceeded with apace and extended to the entire Province. I am sorry to find that the present Government are intending to introduce prohibition only in eight districts and not in the whole Province. For the success of prohibition it would have been easier if the scheme were made operative province-wide. It is inconsistent to have prohibition in some districts and legalized drinks in others. (Hear, hear.) Prohibition is fraught, I am afraid with possibilities of failure because it is to be only partial and not total. The happy position in which this Province is placed financially at present did warrant the introduction of total prohibition straightaway. When the last Congress Government initiated this reform, the revenues of this Province were only 16 crores of rupees. To-day it has mounted up to 48 crores of rupees. In order to meet the cost of prohibition, the last Congress Government introduced the sales tax and the proceeds of this tax, I understand, have now accumulated to 31.40 crores. This should legitimately be spent on promoting the cause of prohibition. I wish to urge that the commercial taxes should be earmarked for meeting the cost of prohibition and not utilized for any other expenditure. I think it is right to demand this because the commercial taxes were introduced for furthering the cause of prohibition. I understand that the commercial taxes yield an annual revenue of 7 crores of rupees. If the commission agency frauds are detected and prevented, I understand that the yield will be still higher. I should like the Government to maintain separate accounts showing the amount realized from commercial taxes on the one hand, and the loss sustained by the Government on account of the reduction in the Excise revenue on the other. Since the Government get an income of 7 crores of rupees per annum from the commercial taxes, during the next five years the proceeds from these taxes would amount to 35 crores of rupees. This together with the amount in the Revenue Reserve Fund would make a total of 65 crores of rupees. Hence it would be possible to have total prohibition for five years without resorting to further taxation as the annual loss of revenue that would be incurred by the Government, from total prohibition would be about 13 crores of rupees. I am surprised to learn that for introducing prohibition in four more districts, the Government are contemplating additional taxation. There seems to be no justification for this, having regard to the satisfactory finances of the Province at present. The Adviser administration, Mr. Speaker, left this Province with its revenues expanded by nearly 300 per cent and left a revenue reserve balance exceeding the total revenues of the last budget year of the 1937-38 Ministry. I mention this not by way of compliment to the Advisers, because I am aware that the accumulation of reserves was the outcome of

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the adoption by them of an apathetic and indifferent attitude towards nation-building activities. My purpose is merely to point out that the Adviser regime left a big legacy to its successor, the present Congress Government, which should enable the latter to initiate and undertake many beneficent schemes without having recourse to taxation.

"We find that during the past two years the average expenditure of this Province has been nearly 30 crores. But for 1946-47 according to the Budget of the present Ministry the expenditure is estimated to be 57.5 crores. Now when there is an abnormally huge addition of 27.5 crores to the current expenditure it should be possible for the present Government to carry on prohibition in four more districts without raising the burden of tax on the people. We find that in the Budget, the expenditure has been overestimated under many heads. If this is rectified, if the lump sum grant for khadi production is reduced and other adjustments made, surely it should be possible for the present Government to carry on prohibition in eight districts without having recourse to additional taxation. I notice, Mr. Speaker, that the task of implementing prohibition in this Province has been entrusted to a European official. This seems to be a paradox, in view of the adverse attitude of the European residents in this country towards prohibition, strong expression to which was given the other day by Mr. Ferrelly. It may be pointed out that the gentleman is one who has had actual experience of the work. That may be so; but unless experience is fortified by faith one cannot achieve the requisite amount of success."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has already exceeded the time-limit."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"I am speaking rather slowly as I was not well recently. It is one thing, Mr. Speaker, to feel compelled to perform a certain act for the sake of one's bread and butter and quite a different thing to undertake a measure by reason of the faith that one has in it. It is faith, it is conviction in the utility of the scheme that one launches upon that can evolve the necessary amount of enthusiasm, call forth the requisite effort and inspire one with the utmost zeal. Surely, Sir, more things are wrought by faith than this world dreams of. I am aware that the gentleman in question is a competent officer. I myself had occasion once to pay a compliment to his ability at one of the meetings of the Post-war Reconstruction Committee. But, what I say is, why subject the poor Britisher to the taunts and ridicule of his countrymen; why make him get the appellation of Dr. Cove; why not spare him all those taunts and torments and entrust the work to some one else, for instance, to a devout and competent Muslim officer (hear, hear, from Muslim benches) who will not merely put his head into the work but his heart and soul as well. Another point that I should like to mention is that the Government should launch upon the scheme not merely for satisfying

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the electorate, but in real earnestness, so that there may be no increase of revenue from the evil source of drink in those districts which do not come within the purview of the prohibition scheme. What happened on the last occasion was that while there was a reduction in excise revenue in the districts which were declared dry there was an increase of excise revenue in other districts. To prevent this, some restrictive methods should be adopted, such as the reduction in the number of toddy shops in the non-dry areas and the removal of the toddy shops to the outskirts of the towns and villages. Further, the prohibition staff should be sufficient. There must be co-operation between the Police and Excise officials and special raiding parties should be kept in reserve at district headquarters for the purpose of detection. Moreover, it is necessary that village vigilance committees should be formed, so that there may be no illicit distillation within the limits of the village and also to carry on propaganda about the evils of drink. Finally, side by side with prohibition steps should be taken to provide in the dry areas suitable recreation, like games, cinemas and radios, so that people may not brood during their leisure hours. Further, it is necessary to devise some savings bank scheme for these people, so that the money that they may be saving as a result of prohibition may not be squandered away by them on another evil, namely, gambling, which is also making much headway in this province, nor on ceremonies or festivities. With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, drink is a sin, and that it is an unmixed evil is admitted by all, even by nations with whom it is not merely a habit but an essential item of food in their luncheon, dinner and cocktail parties. Therefore, Sir, from all points of view drink is bad for the moral and material well-being of a people. Now, Sir, I would like to ask the present Ministry, why it did not find it convenient to introduce prohibition throughout the Province? Let them reflect and find out what the position was before the War, when prohibition was introduced in this Province for the first time. That was in the year 1938, if I am not mistaken. If the War had not intervened what would have happened? I am sure the policy of prohibition would have been pursued, and the whole Province would have gone dry by now. And what would have been the state of revenue? They would have the same revenue as it was before the war. So, would it not have been possible to extend prohibition to the whole Province? Yes, it would have been done. Therefore I say, it should not be difficult for this Government, with an inflated budget on account of war conditions and inflated revenue, now to introduce prohibition throughout the Province at once. I say, it should have been much more easy and convenient for this Government to introduce total prohibition. There is no justification at all to say that there are practical difficulties in the way, and also to say that our finances will suffer on account of loss of revenue. I may tell the present Ministry that if they only made up their mind to accede to the united demand of the whole country

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they could have done it and they should have done it. Now, from the moral or ethical point of view, if you look at the problem, what is it that the present Government is doing? If prohibition is for the good of the people, to improve the lot of the people and to improve the moral and material well-being of the people, then they should not discriminate. All are equal to them. All people should improve equally and at the same time they should all be given equal opportunities. Why this discrimination? Why should the people of the eight districts alone be favoured, while those of the remaining sixteen districts suffer?

"Then, Sir, what is it that we find in the Budget Memorandum? It is stated that the increase in excise revenue of 268.68 lakhs was, to quote the very words of the Budget Memorandum, 'mainly the result of increased consumption'. That is not a very happy state of things to be placed before this House or the country outside. It is also stated that the increase is due to larger receipts from tree tax and higher rentals realized from arrack and toddy shops due to keen competition among bidders. That statement is rather damaging; it is derogatory to a popular Government which seeks to look to the welfare of the people. Therefore, I would earnestly ask this Government to introduce total prohibition throughout the Province at once and not by stages. Had the previous Ministry continued in office and had the war not intervened, we would have by now total prohibition with the same revenue as we had before the war. Therefore, I ask, instead of setting apart huge funds for Harijan uplift and village reconstruction, could they not introduce prohibition by creating, if necessary, a sinking fund, like the Famine Fund. I hope they can adopt some such measure. If they make up their mind they can do it. So, I say, the prohibition policy pursued by this Government is not at all satisfactory. It is half-hearted and halting. They may make up their mind and introduce total prohibition by the end of this year. That is what I appeal to them on this occasion.

"Now, Sir, as I said, drink is a sin, and it is said that it is the mother of all evils. If the present Government want to have village reconstruction and Harijan uplift, the very first thing they should do is to make prohibition the basis of it. If they want to have real reconstruction in all our villages, the first step to that is to introduce prohibition; and if they want to uplift the Harijans the first step to that is complete stoppage of drink among that particular community.

"I know, Sir, Harijans are addicted to drink. Not only the Harijans, even the other classes of people, including the upper 12-1 p.m. classes are taking to drink more and more. In these days it has become a sort of fashion. If you attend parties in higher circles, you will find drinks provided. Is it a satisfactory state of affairs? Therefore, I say, that the first stepping stone for village reconstruction and Harijan uplift should be prohibition, and unless you introduce prohibition throughout the Province at once, I do not know how you can build up a nation of happy people in this Province. Having said so much about total prohibition and the

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need for introducing it throughout the Province at once, I would like to suggest a few ways of preventing the manufacture of illicit arrack and toddy entirely. When you have got dry areas in eight districts, these areas will be surrounded by a larger wet area all round. Naturally there should be a belt area where you should have sufficient vigilance and where you should post men and chowkidars for patrol duty. For this purpose, I will suggest that the men of the Excise department would be most competent. Of course, they may have Police aid whenever necessary. It is the men of the Excise department who will do it best. That is my view. They know the secrets and the ins and outs of the Excise department, and they also know the people who are in the habit of manufacturing liquor stealthily. It would be easier for them to detect cases and prevent this. I would also suggest that in the surrounding belt areas the number of shops should be reduced gradually and the number of trees that have to be tapped should also be gradually decreased. If all these measures are taken in the area round about the prohibition areas, I am sure, we can prevent the illicit manufacture of arrack and toddy to a great extent, and at the same time, if you find that it is not possible for you to introduce prohibition at once throughout the Province, you will be preparing the ground in the wet areas for future prohibition by reducing the number of arrack and toddy shops, and also by reducing the number of trees that are to be tapped. That is my suggestion, Sir, I do not want to say anything more except to press once again on the present Government the need for total prohibition throughout the Province in a very short time."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"This question has been discussed threadbare during the general discussion of the budget. Here I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that we have still got 39 demands and 12 days have been allotted by His Excellency the Governor. So, I would request hon. Members to be as brief as possible."

* MUHAMMAD RAFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question of prohibition, I may say, is purely academic so far as the Muslims are concerned. It is a well known fact that our religion enjoins prohibition, and in actual fact also, I feel that this question of prohibition does not affect the Muslims very greatly. In fact, I may say that this question of prohibition affects perhaps one per cent of the population. But if we are to urge prohibition on the ground that it is enjoined on us by our religion, perhaps, Sir, Government may not feel inclined to acknowledge that principle, because if that were so, it would be establishing 'Pakistan' in the Madras Province. But if it is viewed from the point of view of a social evil, even then I feel, Sir, that the Government is treading upon dangerous ground because the policy of social reform, if taken to its logical conclusion, would lead to so many other matters which require reform. For instance, it is well known that the increase in our population is a growing menace to our economic society. Therefore, is the Government going to enact a measure for birth control? Then again, Sir, it is well known that much domestic

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unhappiness is caused by polygamy. Is the Government going to enact a law prohibiting polygamy? Of course, I know, Sir, that most people think that the best punishment for having two wives is to have two mothers-in-law. (Laughter.) Still I feel that if the Government were to adopt"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"May I know the connexion between mothers-in-law and wine?"

* MUHAMMAD RAFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I say prohibition should be taken as a social reform; and one of the matters that affects social life is polygamy. So, Sir, I do not want to admit as a Muslim that we should submit to any law restricting the having of more than one wife. Then again there are other social evils, for instance, smoking, prostitution, and snuff taking, once the Government take upon themselves the role of a social reformer. I feel, Sir, that the present Ministry has enacted this prohibition legislation more out of compulsion than out of their willingness. It is, I think, a liability which the present Ministry has inherited from the previous Congress Ministry. But when once the Congress Ministry decides to adopt this measure why should they do it piecemeal? After all it is wrong in principle to enact a legislation and restrict it only to a few districts. The people of the districts which are affected by prohibition may feel that they have been unnecessarily victimised or, conversely, they may feel that they have been unnecessarily favoured and the people of the districts who have not been included in the prohibition programme may feel in the same way that they have been neglected by the Government or that they have been denied the favour. Therefore, I urge on the Ministry, as a good principle, that if they want to introduce prohibition at all, let them introduce it in all the districts. With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition."

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the cut motion on the Provincial Excise, I, on the one hand, feel happy that the Hon. the Premier has agreed to extend prohibition to four more districts in addition to the four districts which he has already included in his original budget. On the other hand, I feel sorry that he has not extended prohibition throughout the Province. While saying this, I am not unaware of the difficulties of the Hon. the Premier, the insurmountable difficulties, namely, to try to compensate for the big financial gap that would result if the whole Province becomes dry. Knowing this, it would be sheer irresponsibility on my part or on the part of my party to urge complete prohibition. Therefore, when I urge complete prohibition I must make proposals for new sources of revenue. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall just place for the consideration of this Honourable House and also for the consideration of the Hon. the Premier certain proposals which are sure to yield him much revenue by which he can introduce complete prohibition in this Province. At one time the handloom industry

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and trade required all the support, assistance and protection of the Government; and when normal conditions prevail and when the textile mills, not only in this country, but also in other countries, come to work full blast, I think those assistance and protections may be required. But at present they are having, if I may say so, I mean the handloom industry and trade, a boom. This can be seen from the high ruling prices of handloom products. When the industry was in dire need of help, Government gave that help in several ways. Besides subsidies and subventions, Government removed the once existed excise duty on yarn and also gave exemption to the handloom products from the operation of the sales tax. In order to fill up the huge gap that would be created by the introduction of complete prohibition, I suggest the imposition of an excise duty on yarn and the levy of sales tax on handloom products. I have figures available with me to work out the financial effect of such an action. What is the effect of the imposition of an excise duty on yarn? Government are fully aware of the fact that Madras produces nearly 42,000 bales of yarn."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"We are on the subject of Provincial Excise."

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am just showing the effect of collecting excise duty and how complete prohibition can be introduced in this Province. As I said, the Government are aware of the fact that Madras produces 42,000 bales of cotton yarn per mensem. Of this, 8,000 bales are diverted to weaving sections of the mills. For purposes of calculation of excise duty, I think even this 8,000 bales must be brought under excise duty. Therefore, I am calculating the excise duty on the total yarn produced, which is 42,000 bales. The duty may be worked out on the basis of lb. and each bale contents 400 lb. of yarn. The duty may be collected on the value of yarn. You are aware, Sir, that the value of yarn differs from counts to counts. Of the total production, about 20,000 bales are 20 to 26 counts, 5,000 bales 30s, 12,000 bales 40s, 1,300 bales 60-100, and 3,200 bales 20s. The total value of yarn calculated on ex-mill rates, as fixed by Government count-war, is Rs. 256 lakhs. If one anna per bale is levied as excise duty, Government would get yearly Rs. 192 lakhs. If the calculation of excise duty is by weight, the effect of that will be this. If we impose a duty of 2 annas per pound, the total yearly income works out to Rs. 250 lakhs. Some of the hon. Members would think that this excise duty would increase the price of handloom cloth. I would like to point out to you, Sir, that the increase, compared to the huge margin of profit that the handloom industry is earning to-day, is almost nothing. Every pound of yarn yields 4.57 yards of cloth, and the duty will work out to 5½ pies per yard.

"Coming to the imposition of sales tax on handloom products, I shall in as brief a compass as possible show its effects. Madras produces about 366 million yards of handloom cloth. The average cost per yard is Re. 1-4-0. The total turnover of the producers of

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this cloth is about Rs. 450 lakhs per month. Sales tax at the rate of 6 pies in the rupee yields a revenue of Rs. 168 lakhs. While proposing this tax, I suggest that its imposition should be only at one stage, that is, at the stage of production. Then I suggest that if the sales tax is to be levied at three stages of the transaction as contemplated . . ."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"On a point of order, Sir, I find the hon. Member is making reference to sales tax and excise duty on textile goods and not to prohibition."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"To introduce prohibition throughout this Presidency, we can have money by these ways. That is his argument."

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Therefore, Sir, by imposing an excise duty on yarn and bringing handloom products within the operation of the Sales Tax Act, Madras Province will get about 300 or 350 lakhs of rupees. This amount can be used to introduce complete prohibition in this Province. I am making this suggestion in the confident hope that the Hon. Premier will introduce complete prohibition in the Province and thus set an example to the whole of this country and the world. With regard to the question of prohibition, we, on this side of the House, feel that it is almost an article of faith with us. Perhaps it, to the party in power, may be a political creed, but to us, as I have already said, it is almost an article of faith. Therefore, Sir, I make an appeal, in the name of humanity and in the name of all that is sacred, to the Hon. Premier, in view of the suggestions which I have made with regard to new sources of revenue to try to introduce complete prohibition as early as possible and thus bring health and happiness, sanity and sobriety to tens of thousands of darkened and desolate homes of families in this Province. With these words, I support the cut motion."

* SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Mr. Speaker, while supporting the demand made by the Hon. Minister, I wish to make a few observations."

* D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether the hon. Member is moving a cut motion or whether he is supporting the demand?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Allow some time so that he himself will answer that question."

* SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"I have already said that I am supporting the demand. I want to make a few observations as to how prohibition can be made a success. The hon. Leader of the Opposition observed that no preliminary educative campaign is necessary before prohibition is actually introduced in any area. I am afraid few will agree with him in this matter. No administrative or legislative measure can achieve the desired goal unless it enlists public opinion in support of it. Therefore, it seems to me quite necessary that, in the districts in which the Government propose to introduce prohibition in future, they must conduct a preliminary campaign to educate the people and see that public opinion

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is created in favour of the measures they propose to introduce. Propaganda is an essential part of any campaign against drink evil. As my hon. friend Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan observed, it is necessary to prepare the ground before we introduce prohibition in any part of the Province.

“With this in view, I think it would be wise on the part of Government to exercise stricter control over the existing liquor shops and to prevent the opening of new shops particularly in places where the poorer section of the people and industrial workers live. They will also be wise if they restrict the hours of sale of drink and also reduce the alcoholic content of the beverages and take such other steps as would prepare the people for total prohibition when it comes. The Government should also provide alternative refreshments. They can arrange to supply non-alcoholic beverages either near the toddy or liquor shops or in the shops themselves. They should also make suitable provision for the treatment and rehabilitation of confirmed and habitual drinkers.

“Doubts have been expressed by a certain section in this House regarding the wisdom of introducing prohibition. I think the Government will do well to conduct a survey in select towns and villages both before introducing prohibition and also some time after prohibition is in operation to find out its effects on the health of the habitual drinkers and on the economic condition of the drinker and the members of the family who are depending on them. If such a survey can be made, then the Government will be in a position to say how far prohibition has been really useful. With these words, I support the demand.”

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support the cut motion for two reasons. The first is to discuss the prohibition policy, and the second is to specially urge upon the Government the necessity for exempting mass wine from the provisions of the Prohibition Act. I have already stated that I agree with the rest of this House in the desire to alleviate the miserable condition of the masses who are the unfortunate victims of drink, and of the wives of the drunkards who suffer anguish and torment. But I differ from the rest of this House in that I question the propriety of forcing total prohibition on the people in this Province. Notwithstanding all that has been said by advocates of total prohibition, I still maintain that total prohibition is neither necessary for the attainment of your goal nor practicable nor justifiable. The object underlying the prohibition move is, I presume, to save the masses from the evil effects of excessive drink. If that is so, then by all means stop the sale of arrack and fermented toddy which the masses apparently drink as the bulk of the excise revenue comes from this source. Other liquors are obviously beyond the purchasing capacity of the masses, then why seek to introduce total prohibition? It is obviously unnecessary. Secondly total prohibition is an impracticable proposition. It has been tried elsewhere and has failed. Illicit distillation will arise and drunkards will still get their drink though not

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perhaps as extensively and easily as they now do. Lastly I say that prohibition is not justifiable. I maintain that the state has no right to impose restrictions on, or curtail the liberties of, the individual citizen who knows how to exercise his rights within reasonable limits. It is on this score that I oppose total prohibition with all the emphasis I can command. Temperance among the masses cannot be achieved by a sudden stoppage of the supply of liquor and toddy or even by coercion and penal laws. Temperance can be achieved to a considerable extent by a gradual process, by peaceful persuasion, by educating the masses to the evils of excessive drink, by restricting the quantity of liquor saleable to individuals, and lastly by restricting the number of hours during which liquors and toddy may be sold in the taverns. By these means, you can gradually wean the drunkard away from the drink habit.

“I come now to my second point. The Catholic Church teaches temperance and imposes it on its faith. She will always collaborate in any work which has for its aim the betterment of the people, especially the poor. Without discussing the principle of prohibition which can be challenged, she looks upon it as a temperance movement and although it may seem drastic in the way in which it is conducted, she will always co-operate with the authorities in helping to make it a success. This should not however interfere with divine worship. All know that in the Catholic Church the principal act of worship is the daily mass where each priest is required to use every day a small quantity of wine called mass wine or sacramental wine which is made from fermented grape juice. This cannot be called either liquor or alcoholic beverage. The quantity required also excludes it from the scope of the Prohibition Act. We feel, Sir, that by including mass wine within the provision of the Act, the civil authorities are interfering in a religious sphere which is outside their Province and are encroaching on the fundamental rights of a minority who seem to be penalised in what is most sacred to them the daily mass service. True, on the last occasion, arrangements were made for the grant of permits, but all the same this was an infringement of rights. It would seem wise to come to an understanding with the Ecclesiastical authorities and allow the Bishop in every diocese to supply, under his direct responsibility, the quantity of wine required for the year. This will avoid hurting the religious feelings of a minority who feel that their rights are not considered. I suggest this for the consideration of the Government, and trust that they will give it the attention and consideration which it deserves.”

* D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to the Hon. the Premier for introducing prohibition in the famine stricken districts of Bellary, Anantapur and Kurnool though it may be on some pressure being brought by members of his party. They have always suffered on account of recurring famines and this reform which has been introduced,

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I am sure, will go a great way to help the poor and suffering population of these districts. I know, Sir, there are people who think otherwise but it really is to the benefit of the lower class and a percentage of the upper middle class. For the information of these hon. Members who do not seem to have an idea of the amount spent on this drink, I may inform them that even at a place like Bellary with a population of 58,000 persons the amount realised by the sale of toddy and arrack alone comes to about Rs. 2,000 per day or Rs. 60,000 per month or seven lakhs and odd per year. This is speaking of one town like Bellary. I know in the Ceded districts there are places like Kurnool where the sale-proceeds of these intoxicants come to more than that of Bellary. There are smaller places in the district. If prohibition is introduced and worked as it should be worked and made a success all this amount would go to improve our national economy. At this stage let me make a suggestion. If this prohibition policy is to be a success the Government may have to be stringent and I submit it is absolutely necessary that stringent measures must be enforced. Just before this party assumed office for the information of the Government let me say that expecting the Government to introduce prohibition people in the districts started purchasing jaggery in large quantities and stored them hoping that they will be able to start illicit distillation and make huge profits. Very stringent measures will be necessary as otherwise every house in this area will be converted into a distillery. Figures relating to illicit distillation and conversion are not generally correct. As a highly placed friend once observed when a report is called for by the Government it is sent to the Collector who sends it to the Tahsildar and he sends it to the Revenue Inspector who sends it to the karnam and village munsif and it finally goes to the talayari who asks his sister to take statistics. This is the story relating to the statistics. During the time prohibition was introduced in Salem I was deputed to collect figures. At the time when I toured the Salem district I found illicit liquor was everywhere and I found a large number of people who were drunk. Well, Sir, there is a snag in the Act which has got to be remedied. I wish to suggest that in the area you introduce prohibition it is impossible to detect or get evidence or proof that a man is taking arrack and to prove that arrack is being sold in particular places. If you make it an offence for a man to be found drunk I think you will succeed. That is a thing which has not been done in the previous regime. Well, Sir, with regard to Bellary district in particular, I may bring to the notice of the Government that the Nizam's State and the Mysore State being on the borders, there is always the possibility of smuggling of intoxicants into the district. Even now I know people from Hospet walk across the district to have their drink just because toddy is sold quarter anna less than what it is sold at Hospet town. I am supporting prohibition, Mr. Varadachari, and that is why I am making a very strong case in regard to the border villages to prevent illicit distillation. It is absolutely necessary that we should take very stringent measures and see that while we lose a large portion of our revenue, a corresponding benefit to

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the people must be the result. Let us not lose revenue without its benefit intended. At the same time let us allow this crime to continue.

"I know, Sir, some hon. Members of the House have said that the State is encroaching on individual liberty. Another hon. Friend made reference to other countries. I do not think our country can be tested by their standards. Their standard of morality, as Mr. Varadachariar put it, is quite different from ours. What we need is total prohibition here. I support the policy of prohibition of Government and make this suggestion."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the cut motion under Demand II—Provincial Excise, I want to discuss the necessity for introducing total prohibition throughout the Presidency. The problem, Sir, can be viewed from two aspects. One is that prohibition is one of the important items in the programme. If the party in power has given some importance to this item in their programme and if they had given real importance, they should come forward with total prohibition policy throughout the Presidency. The question of cost does not count here. Prohibition is a social measure. It is, I think, second to law and order or defence or the salaries of Ministers. Therefore the Ministry should view this social measure as of very great importance and if they so view it, they should introduce this social measure at once without looking into cost. From the other point of view, viz., the cost to be reckoned with, I shall here point out to the House the real nature of public finance. In public finance, the programme of the party determines the actual estimate of the expenditure but not expenditure that determines the programme of the party. If really the party in power wishes to have this measure adopted, they have to give up other schemes and introduce this measure first. Coming to the financial point of view, I say this programme of total prohibition is feasible within our limited resources. Our own provincial resources are inelastic. We have to reckon with the 13 crores of revenue. Nevertheless, if we look into the financial aspect, I say this programme is still possible. Our revenue reserve fund amounts to 31.4 crores. It is rather satisfactory that the Provincial Government are being paid by the Central Government under income-tax about 4.85 crores whereas last year we have been given only 3 crores and odd. It is also satisfactory that Government of India will be contributing adequately or substantially towards our own revenue resources. Further, in this connexion. I remind the Ministry that the Government of India should be asked to contribute much more than what they are actually paying, because we get this portion from the income-tax income of the Government of India which has risen from 60 to 300 crores. It is time for us to cry for an adequate quota out of the revenues derived from income-tax. Then there is another source, viz., retrenchment which is also possible in highly paid services. If Government adopt a measure to retrench highly paid services to the extent of 2 to 3 per cent, it is possible to have some more amounts with which to launch this policy of prohibition.

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"Another thing I suggest is that a little scrutiny over the budget estimate would give possibilities of economy in various directions. As illustrations, I will give one or two instances. Under Demand XIV—Police, the actuals for last year was 2.95 crores, whereas the budget estimate for this year (1946-7) is 3.82 crores. Under Demand XI—District Administration, the demand has increased from 2.8 crores to 3.85 crores. Under Demand XIII—Miscellaneous, the demand has increased from 68 lakhs to 95 lakhs. Under Demand XIV, the estimate has increased from 1.28 crores to 3.29 crores, and under Demand XXV, the increase is from 80 lakhs to 2.64 crores. I only point out all these things to the House in order to show that if a little scrutiny is made over all these items of the budget, it is possible that Government might have funds from various resources and they may launch the prohibition scheme without any fresh taxation.

1 p.m. "Sir, I do not say that all the other schemes are not so important or that expenditure should not be incurred on them. But prohibition is comparatively far more important and urgent than others and I submit that one or two or even four of the new schemes may be deferred for the present and the prohibition scheme given effect to immediately throughout the whole Province. If this is done, no question of finance will arise, and there will be no need to impose fresh taxation.

"The point that I wish to place before the House is that by adopting the various suggestions I have made above, the Ministry can secure Rs. 32 and 8 or 9 crores. Altogether they may be able to make up about Rs. 40 crores for launching prohibition immediately and they can carry on prohibition for two years without any fresh taxation. Calculating it from this point of view the loss of revenue from Provincial Excise would be about Rs. 13 crores and charges on administration, about Rs. 3 crores. Altogether the total amount that would be required for enforcing prohibition would be Rs. 16 or 17 crores. Out of the 40 crores mentioned above, wholesale prohibition can be carried on for two years successfully.

"Another consideration that I should like to place before the House is that while prohibition is in force, the purchasing power of the masses would increase considerably. The Provincial Excise Revenue Rs. 13 crores, represents more or less 20 per cent of the actual amount spent by the people on liquor and other intoxicants. That is to say, if total prohibition is enforced, about Rs. 100 crores would be distributed in the hands of the labouring and other poorer classes of population and their purchasing power would correspondingly increase to 5 times. Naturally the economic activities of the people of the country would also increase with corresponding increased returns from Sales Tax. Thus, from these points of view, I submit that even without any fresh taxation, the total prohibition policy would be quite successful. With these words, I move my cut motion."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise from my place to thank the Hon. the Premier for the great

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gesture he has made in bringing four more districts into the area of prohibition. It is not myself alone, but all those who seek to raise the moral and economic condition of the Harijans would welcome this beneficent act on the part of the Ministry. Sir, I have been in this House from 1926 and year in and year out I have been pleading for total prohibition in this Province. I think Sir, that this may be my last appeal to this Government to see that the whole Province is brought under total prohibition. Whether we go to urban area or to rural parts, the economic condition of Harijans and the poorer classes is so appalling that no sane man can feel complacent over their lot or stand in the way of the reform. Sir, one of the hon. Members representing the Anglo-Indian Community sitting close to me said that total prohibition will mean interfering with the liberty of the minorities. Representing as I do, an important minority community, I say, Sir, without fear of contradiction, that it is the duty of the State to see that the moral and economic condition of the citizens is improved. My late lamented friend Mr. J. A. Davies, who happened to be a member of this Council representing Anglo-Indians for many years, had been advocating total prohibition during all his lifetime. With the co-operation of some good friends, it was possible for introducing partial prohibition, to save the hill-tribes, in the Nilgiris. Unfortunately, Sir, the reform that was brought into force, did not bring all that we wanted, because there was a flaw in the application of the rules relating to partial prohibition in the Nilgiris. The man who possessed intoxicant drinks was not penalised. The only thing that a man should not drink in an arrack shop, was all that was enforced. Sir, the Nilgiris has a population of about 209,000, but the income derived from Excise to-day according to the last year's figures is Rs. 28,56,884. I submit, Sir, that the Hon. the Premier and the Hon. Minister in charge of Excise should see that possession of liquor is made a penal offence.

"Sir, I also represent a portion of the South Arcot district. The condition there is also appalling. The population of the district is about 18 lakhs and odd and the revenue derived from Excise is about 94 lakhs in 1945-6. There also, illicit distillation is very prevalent. During my tour in that district, cases of illicit distillation used to come to my notice very often and this has been going on in spite of the efforts of Excise officers. I feel Sir, that something should be done to stop this curse of illicit distillation, though the district is not under prohibition.

"Sir, going through the figures, I find that before the war the total revenue by way of Excise was only Rs. 3 crores and odd, but the latest figure is given as Rs. 16 crores and odd. The burden of this indirect taxation is not on the rich, but it is weighing heavily on the poor and the depressed. About a third of the total revenues of the Province is derived from Excise and to utilise this tainted revenue towards education, towards the maintenance of dispensaries and welfare associations, will not earn a good name for any Government. I feel Sir, that the earlier this curse

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is removed from this country, the better. As I have already pointed out, this matter was discussed threadbare in various places and I know from the speeches and assurances of the Hon. the Prime Minister, the whole of this Province will go dry in the course of next year. I appeal to Government, Sir, on behalf of Harijans and the poorer classes of this Province who have ruined themselves and their families by this drink habit, to stop this evil at any cost.

“ One more point, Sir, and I shall be done. My hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu referred to the problem of unemployment that would be caused by the introduction of total prohibition. Reading through the Report of the Administration of the Excise Revenue in the Province for 1939-40, I find the following statement bearing on this point. It says—

‘ There is no indication of the existence of any acute problem of unemployment among the ex-tappers in the prohibition districts. In Salem district, most of the tappers were employed in the tapping of sweet toddy. Considerable progress was made in connexion with the land colonization scheme for tappers in the Salem district. Orders were issued permitting the assignment of lands to the Kanavoidpudur-Kothunayakampatti Land Colonization Co-operative Society. The extent assigned was 430.36 acres.

“ It is possible, Sir, by diverting them to such colonization schemes or absorbing them in several other industries, to solve the problem of unemployment among tappers.

“ Sir, during the war the Government instituted what is called a savings drive and I would like to know if such scheme has helped the Harijans and the poorer classes to save anything at all. I am sure prohibition will go a long way towards improving the moral and economic condition of Harijans. I feel sure, Sir, that the Hon. the Premier with the co-operation of the other Hon. Ministers will bring about total prohibition in this Province at least by 1947.”

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the cut motion moved by an hon. Friend who did not want prohibition. On the other hand, along with my hon. Friend who spoke before me just now, I must thank Government not merely for their expressed policy of prohibition starting with four districts but also for promising to extend it to eight districts even in this budget year itself. But I would urge further that there should be total prohibition and that immediately and now. The reasons why it should be so have been urged again and again on this occasion by almost all sections of the House, with very insignificant exceptions. In the first place, so far as the Ministry itself is concerned, it is formed by a party which has got a long and honourable record, and which has the greatest stake in this country. And so far as that party is concerned, it has, since it began to acquire strength, taken prohibition as one of the strongest

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planks, as the most immediate plank, not merely as a political plank but as a plank intended for the social and moral uplift of the whole country. It is because of the immense power that was afforded by this particular plank in its programme that the Congress is now so strongly entrenched in the minds of the people and is beloved by the people. Any scheme of popular reform that is envisaged by any party now-a-days also falls in with total prohibition.

“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, after waging war for a century, when we are well in the saddle, when the British have promised to quit and P.m. are quitting, when we are safely in power, if we do not fulfil our promise that we would bring about total prohibition at the first opportunity, we will not be satisfying the hopes that have been raised by us.

“ So far as the difficulties against the introduction of prohibition are concerned, it will be seen first that what is urged is that there is illicit distillation and that every step taken to enforce prohibition is followed or even anticipated with counter-measures on the part of people engaged in illicit distillation. That is hardly an answer. We have not repealed the provisions of the Indian Penal Code because crime has increased. We have not dropped the sections relating to murder from the Code because murders have increased; nor have we scrapped the sections relating to riots because riots are on the increase. The enforcement of law is more important than any other thing. If there are faults and irregularities, they should be dealt with as such. That is my answer.

“ The next thing is the fear that the finances of the province cannot bear this sacrifice of income. Several answers have been given in this House with regard to that. Of these, two or three answers deserve to be considered. The first is that we are talking now of eliminating the zamindaris by paying compensation. If you really want money, if your finances are not in healthy state, there are sources which will give you almost unlimited income. To-day, the persons who are making phenomenal gains from mills and machinery are the greatest stumbling block in the path of progress. Why not, as a matter of fact, nationalise all the spinning and weaving mills and collect for the State the crores and crores that now go into the pockets of people who are responsible for raising the prices in the country, and who happen to be the economic ‘ Old Man of the Sea ’ twisting themselves round the neck of the poor people? It would be a beneficial act if the Government nationalise all the mills and it would, at the same time, enrich the coffers of the State.

“ I now come to deal with the second item. Sir, the question of transport has not received the attention it deserves. The transport problem in the country is in a sad state and requires immediate attention. In all countries having a popular programme, nationalisation of transport is being treated as an

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important question. We all know that transport owners make enormous profit. Why not nationalise transports by taking charge of all the buses and the bus companies? You will find the income from this source very satisfactory.

“Now, the other argument against prohibition is that to give effect to it you require some crores and that we have no money on hand. The argument is that you do require some money for some other kind of constructive programme. Let us leave alone the food programme and the cloth programme both of which require money. After meeting the charges on these programmes, we have still allotted sums for constructive schemes. These schemes, I suggest, can afford to wait and give precedence to prohibition. So far as prohibition is concerned, the drink evil is like a vital disease. It is like cancer affecting the most important parts of the body-politic. The community depends for its well-being mainly upon the workers and among the workers, the Harijans form the great majority. So far as these people are concerned, what is the use of trying to raise their wages whether in towns or in villages, when you are certain that they will directly go to the toddy shops and empty their pockets and enrich the exploiters? Therefore, I tell you that, instead of seeking to raise the wages and meeting with strikes all around you, if you stop the big gap through which all the resources of the State and the poor are flowing out, the Harijans and workers will be in a position to take care of themselves and not feel any inferiority complex in having to look up to you for this and that help. They will become self-sufficient and strong. Therefore my suggestion is that all the other reconstruction works may wait. Looked at from a long range point of view, how are these construction works going to help our people? You are going to invest a crore and the utmost you will get in return is 5 per cent on the investment. On the other hand, if you invest this crore also on total prohibition, you will not only save the moral worth of the community, but will save also six times the money you will give up in the shape of excise revenue. It is not a better investment to get 600 per cent return for the poor rather than get 5 per cent for yourself by way of taxation? I put it to you, looked at from the moral point of view, the social point of view and the political point of view, the endeavour to make the communities look after themselves and to see that they do not get submerged in drinks, total prohibition is the best reconstruction programme that can hold the field to-day. Therefore I am appealing to the Ministry, Sir, to take courage in both hands and undaunted by figures go ahead. We have got absolute autonomy and we are aiming at sovereign status. It is for us to lay down the policy. If you say that you will have total prohibition to-day or to-morrow, you will get the necessary help.

“Then, Sir, there is the much more fundamental objection to drink. It is this: we have all been feeling for the last 25 years and preaching from public platforms led by the Saint at Wardha that to encourage drink is a sin. Sir, so far as India is concerned,

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the position is utterly different from the other countries in respect of prohibition. In India, the arrack distillation is a monopoly; opium is a monopoly and ganja is a monopoly—and all of the Government. Now, as a matter of fact, we are ourselves the Government responsible for these monopolies and for these sins. It is likely to be said that we ourselves are parties to these sins. It is not a question of politics purely. It is a question of conscience. For years we have been saying that we would not be parties to this sin and yet, in the budget presented what do we see? At page 6 of the Detailed Budget Estimates of the Government of Madras for the year 1946–47 we find the following account:—

Cost price of opium, Rs. 7,51,500.

Duty on opium, Rs. 23,26,100.

Licence fee for the sale of opium, Rs. 29,70,900.

And, as the Government has the sole monopoly, they propose to take Rs. 60,49,600 out of the poverty of the people. Then we have ganja and bhang. As you know, if a man takes these drugs, he becomes a nerveless wreck and yet, what do we find further down page 6 of the Budget Estimates? ‘Ganja, Rs. 20,09,500 and bhang, Rs. 80,200.’ Are we to be parties to these transactions? Are we to sanction the purchase and sale of these drugs for consumption by our people? Sir, now look at page 4. We have budgeted for an income of Rs. 2,22,29,600 from the duty on distillery spirits and of Rs. 3,88,34,700 from licence fees for the sale of distillery spirits. Then again, from country fermented liquor we propose to make Rs. 5,34,25,500. Now, Sir, should there not be a difference in this respect between our own people running the Government and the Britishers running the administration? We have been saying that it is a sin for any Government to be a party to these transactions. And now, to-day, when we are in power, we are daunted by Secretariat figures. We are to-day going to distil liquor and sell both ganja and bhang. I say, as a man of conscience, as people who have protested against the Government action in this matter, let the Government ask for double the demand under other heads, we are prepared to pass it. But let opium be substituted by machinery for prohibition and let ganja be substituted by total prohibition.

“Sir, I heard friends on this side of the House treating this subject as a mere political question. To me it is a question of faith. It is purely, totally, a cent per cent question of faith. It is not as a question of politics that we treat the matter. Sometime back we introduced prohibition in a village. It was not a scheme of the Government. We persuaded the Harijans to completely stop drinking. They stopped for one year. But in the next year the toddy shops were opened. The renter was a casteman and straightaway people began to indulge in drink. I was ashamed to go again amongst those people, my constituents, lest they come to me and say ‘Let us have total prohibition. It was promised by you last time.’ Sir, when the Government tried to repeal the

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prohibition but maintain the sales-tax, there were protests by speeches at Madras to the Governor that he had to ear-mark the tax towards prohibition as the continuation of the tax would otherwise be wrong. Therefore, I request you to carry out our promise to the people.

“One other point I want to mention. To-day the whole country is rocking with any amount of trouble. There are strikes everywhere. There are blackmarkets in every business. I do not know of a single article that does not find its way into the blackmarket. Corruption is there right through. To eradicate this, it is not figures that are wanted. It is the heart that is wanted to root out corruption. It is rare to find a good merchant. All that is required to put an end to the blackmarkets is moral pressure. This moral pressure you cannot secure unless there is absolute prohibition. On my knees I entreat the Hon. the Premier to see that total prohibition is introduced.”

* SRIMATHI VALLABHANENI SITAMAHALAKSHMIAMMA:—“అధ్యక్షా, ఈ నాడు మన రాష్ట్రములో మద్యపాన నిషేధమును 8 జిల్లాలలో అమలు జరిపేటట్లు మన ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారు బడ్జెటులో ఏర్పాటు చేసివున్నారు. దీనివలన మన రాష్ట్రములో ప్రజలు సంతోషించుచున్నారు. అంతేకాకుండా, దీనిలో ముఖ్యముగా భాగస్వాములై యీ మద్యపానమువల్ల బాధపడే వారందరు దీనివలన ముఖ్యముగా సంతోషిస్తున్నారు. విందునల్లనంటే, యీ మద్యపానము దురభ్యాసము వలన అనేక కుటుంబాలు యీ విపాసకులైనై, చాల దరిద్రములో మునిగివున్నాయి.

కాంగ్రెసు యీ దురభ్యాసాన్ని తొలగించటానికిగాను యిప్పటికి దాదాపు 20 సంవత్సరములనుండి కృషిచేస్తూ వచ్చింది. దానికే, 1937 వ సంవత్సరములో మన కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వము వచ్చినప్పుడు, యీ రాష్ట్రములో 4 జిల్లాలలో మద్యపాన నిషేధాన్ని అమలు జరిపింది. కాని, అంతలో ముఠావర్తము కదవీ పరిత్యాగము చేయవలసివచ్చింది. అందువల్ల యీ మద్యపాన నిషేధాన్ని వారు పూర్తిగా సాగించలేకపోయినారు కాని, యీనాడు, కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వము అధికారానికి వచ్చిన వెంటనే, దీనిని కొనసాగించి, 8 జిల్లాలలో పెట్టినారు.

మొన్న జరిగిన ఎన్నికలలో కాంగ్రెసుకు అకుంతిత విజయముచేసారనిదంటే, యీ మద్యపాననిషేధము కాంగ్రెసుయొక్క ఎన్నిక ప్రణాళికలో ఒక అంశమై వున్నందువల్లనే నేను యీ ఎన్నికలైన తర్వాత బందరు వెళ్లినప్పుడు, ఒక యాదవ శ్రీ నావద్దకు వచ్చి, “మా వోట్లు అన్నికూడా కాంగ్రెసుకే యిచ్చి, దిగ్విజయము ఎందుకు చేకూర్చినామా తెలుసునా” అని అడిగింది. ఎందుకను అని అడిగితే, ఆమె యీ విధముగా చెప్పింది. “మన రాష్ట్రములో కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వము అధికారమునకు రాగానే, వీలైనంత త్వరలో రాష్ట్రములో మద్యపాన నిషేధమును అమలుజరిపి, మా కష్టములను హృదయములో పెట్టుకొని, మాకు సహాయముచేస్తారనే భుత్యాహముతో మా వోట్లు యిచ్చినాము. ప్రతిరోజు, నా భర్త కష్టపడి, సాయంకాలానికి ఒక రూపాయ సంపాదించుతాడు. కాని, నేను, నా నలుగురు పిల్లలకూడా తిండిలేక వున్నాము. ఈ రోజులలో, ఆ వచ్చిన రూపాయకూడా మద్యపానానికి భుజయోగించినట్లులైతే, ఏ పావలా డబ్బులో మిగులుతే, యీనాటికి దానికి నూకలుకూడా దొరకవు. కనుక, వెంటనే యీ ప్రభుత్వము మద్యపాన నిషేధమును వీలైనంత త్వరలో అమలు జరిపేటట్లు చూడవలసినదని ఆమె కోరినది.

[Vallabhaneni Sitamahalakshmiamma]

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“మన ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారు చాలా శ్రద్ధవహించి, క్రజల కష్టములను తెలుసుకొని, ముఖ్యముగా శ్రీలయొక్క బాధలను తెలుసుకొని, యిప్పుడు 8 జిల్లాలలో మద్యపాన నిషేధమును అమలు జరుపుచున్నందులకు వారికి వందనములు సమర్పించుచున్నాను.”

(After Lunch—2-30 p.m.)

* Mr. H. S. TOWN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I gathered from one or two speakers this morning that they would have no objection to excluding Europeans from any prohibition programme of the Government. The kindly thought behind this seems to be that alcoholic liquors sap the strength, waste one's money and generally bring about degeneration of the intelligence and rapid death. I thank them for this and I am quite sure that my community and the members of my group in particular will be pleased to be the guinea pigs for experiments on this subject. Other speakers have given one the impression that it is only the poor and the working classes of this country who are addicted to drink. We are given to understand, so I gather, that most of the working classes are drunkards. On behalf of the working classes I must repudiate any such charge. I have many employees and it is a very very rare thing to see any of them under the influence of liquor. I know the large majority of them take their glass of toddy when they want it, but I do not think there is any excessive drinking amongst them. It may be that in the villages there are men who drink to excess, but of course everywhere there are bound to be a few who drink to excess in any country. But the vast majority of the working classes are not drunkards and it is an insult and a slander to pretend that they are.

“Now, Sir, we are talking about prohibition. What is prohibition? It is a wholly negative programme. It is a command not to do a thing. It will lead you nowhere. ‘Thou shall not’ never led anybody anywhere. Every man with any spirit in him, when you say to him ‘Thou shall not’, will reply ‘I will’. Whether you like it or not enforce prohibition as much as you like, every man who wants to drink will drink.

“Sir, here we have a great political party which claims that it can lead the masses. It has led them some say astray and some say in the right direction. But this great political party cannot lead the masses into reasonable and limited drinking! It must start with a ‘Thou shalt not’ programme. I say, Sir, that no amount of expenditure can ever lead the masses where the masses do not want to go.

“In the forty years that has passed since my childhood, I have seen a great and mighty nation deal with its drink problem and deal with it effectively. As a schoolboy I had to pass along two miles of one of London's biggest high roads every Saturday

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afternoon and I can assure you that for a boy of the age of 14, it was a most terrible and terrifying experience. When the factories closed, one could see large number of drunken and reeling men about and I was terribly afraid. But to-day any child can walk along these same streets. There are more working men in that district, but there will never be seen or only very very rarely indeed will one meet a drunken man. Now, Sir, that was not due to any policy of prohibition. It was the result of a policy of education, of gradually weaning people away from the dangers of excessive drinking. Not only has Great Britain done this, she has gained increased revenue from the sale of liquor. Last year it was 600 million pounds every bit of which was used to reduce other taxes. This has been achieved by very simple methods and I see no reason why similar methods should not succeed in this country.

“ Now we are told openly by the advocates of prohibition that we will have to pay other taxes. In other words those who do not believe or follow the ideals of the Congress are to be taxed for the pleasure of enforcing those ideals upon unwilling people. Sir, during question time recently, some hon. Members sought to get the prices of second-hand cars controlled and a Member of the Cabinet three times mentioned ‘ If there are people who are fools enough to pay the prices, let them.’ Now, Sir, why does not that Member adopt the same principle with reference to drink and say ‘ People who are fools enough to drink to excess, let them.’ ”

“ I know it is quite useless for me to ask this Government to give up its policy of prohibition. Even if it wanted to, the Cabinet could not, for the power behind the throne insists and whatever happens that power will go forward with its insistence. I cannot, however, view without considerable fear, the re-introduction of prohibition, for I have seen the benefits accruing to North Arcot district from the abolition of prohibition, definite benefits. During the war I had to move a portion of my workshops out of Madras and we unfortunately went to North Arcot. We were appalled at the drunkenness amongst our people. We had greater absenteeism, more drunkenness and less efficient work than we had among our people in Madras. Even the work people we took from Madras fell a victim to the evil. Their health broke down and they became drunkards which they were not while in Madras. Immediately prohibition was removed in North Arcot, we saw improvement in the health of the work people. We had better work in our factories and less absenteeism. This is evidence given to me by a life-long teetotaler, a man who would not do anything to forward the cause of drink. This was forced upon him willy-nilly. These are facts and cannot be gainsaid and I have learnt a lesson from them. I have heard about prohibition, I have read about prohibition but North Arcot was where I saw it at work and I tell this House prohibition will not work. We know that large sums of money were spent in the past to enforce prohibition and every one knows in spite of Government reports to the contrary that it was a miserable failure. Prohibition has been a failure wherever tried. It was a failure in India well over two thousand years ago.

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It has been a failure everywhere. And wherever prohibition came in, the man who has been told ‘ thou shalt not do this ’ has always found means of doing the very thing he was prohibited from doing. In this country where the raw materials of alcoholic drink are on everybody's doorstep, you cannot enforce prohibition. It is impossible.

“ Now, Sir, the drink problem has to be tackled. Let us tackle it in another way. Let the Government consider teaching people temperance and moderation in their drink. There is no use telling a man not to touch the first glass of drink. What you have got to teach a man is to stop with the first drink. If you will only do that, Sir, it will go a long way. You can keep your revenue and will have a contented working class free from the wiles of the racketeer and the illicit distiller. I know it is a forlorn hope but this House shall not get away without my expressing even a forlorn hope. I suggest that Government should now immediately take up one of the non-prohibition areas and set up standards whereby the toddy shop will be a clean, airy and well-lit place where a man can go openly in broad daylight and get alcoholic drink, where he can also, if he wants take his family with him. It should be made compulsory on the toddy shop to sell non-alcoholic drinks as well. There is no reason why the toddy shop should not sell non-alcoholic drink as well. If a man is going for a glass of toddy or arrack and if he finds that his wife can also take a glass of milk at the place, it is far more likely that the man will come back a sober man than if he had to leave his wife at home and secretly go to a toddy shop in a dark, dirty and dim corner. Let him go where everybody can see him. Sir, by this means the income you will get will be increased and you can devote a proportionately large share to teaching the people temperance and the rest to education. Educated men do not as a rule drink to excess. It is the uneducated who do not see that it is a disgrace to be a drunkard. There is no harm in drink as drink; there is harm in excess and therein lies the disgrace.

“ Sir, I am sure that the Government will go forward with their prohibition policy. The cost of the enforcement will more than swallow up any new taxes you may impose, and it will be beyond the capacity of this Presidency to impose prohibition and also carry out any social work for the uplift of the underprivileged. Sir I have stated that I have no hope of getting my words listened to by the Government. But they shall be on record, because I am certain that prohibition, though imposed, will not last long. I have put my suggestion forward, Sir, because this Government shall not go forward with this policy without being told that it will do calamitous damage to this Presidency and that all the social work will stagnate, and that we shall in a few years be farther behind than we are to-day. I am confident that the cost not only of imposing prohibition, but of enforcing law and order will increase at a terrific pace. Once a man realises that prohibition is not very effective and that any man who wants to have his drink can have it, law and order will be disregarded in this

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province and the Government will eventually have to give up its prohibition policy. You will recognize the failure in ten or fifteen years. In the meantime you will be behind-hand in your uplift programme, in your education programme and everything that goes towards the improvement of the conditions of life of millions of people in this province. Sir, let Government regulate the hours at which drink can be obtained, regulate the alcoholic content of drink, make it a punishable crime to be drunk and then allow a man to have his drink in moderation. But let not the people be made pawns in the game of a political party which wants to enforce its programme."

* Dr. D. S. RAMACHANDRA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is with considerable diffidence that I rise to oppose the cut motion. In doing so, I recall an instance in my life that occurred over a decade ago. It was during the Second Round Table Conference in which Mahatma Gandhi was taking part in London. America was then on the tip-toe of expectation. One group wanted him to visit America and another was against his visit to the United States. At that juncture a friend of mine cabled to me to go over to America and place before the American public the Indian national aspirations. Within a month I was able to find my way into the United States. I believe it was in New York that a large meeting was held where several of the prominent and experienced men of the city were present. A dinner was organized and I was to speak about India after dinner. Suddenly somebody got up and said 'If India is to become free to-day, what will she do to-morrow?' I was at my wits end. I did not know what to say and how to begin. A young American woman, very cultured and abreast of modern ideas, rose up and flung at me a helpful suggestion. She said: 'I know what India will do if she becomes free to-day. She will go dry to-morrow.' And that gave me an opportunity to speak about Indian aspirations after dinner.

"Sir, this question of prohibition has been thrashed out threadbare from many points of view. A great deal of emotion on both sides has been introduced into the discussion. I think we have to look at it from the scientific point of view. We have been told that statistics could be manufactured to prove either point of view. Sir, it is perfectly true that we want to reach our objective, namely, prohibition. It has been proved over and over again that small quantities of alcohol imbibed continuously would create physical, mental and moral degeneration more insidious than occasional excesses would. I therefore tell my hon. Friends who say that prohibition will not help to make India sober but that it will only make India more alcoholic and that drink will become illicit, that all their arguments are untenable. Sir, we have found by experiments that when once small doses of alcohol are introduced into the body, it gets into the nerves and the nerves crave for it, and rightly or wrongly, the nerves demand satisfaction. There are two ways of meeting such demands; either you must have counter attractions which will take away the craving, or when a person makes up his

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mind to drink, he will drink at any cost. But that does not mean that the State has no obligations of its own. It should not lie supine and allow people to do what they like. Even Shakespeare, the poet belonging to the country from which my hon. Friend Mr. Town hails, said:

'Oh, that men should put

An enemy into their mouth

To steal away their brains.'

It is the social conditions of today that make people drink; it is because of the hopeless and helpless conditions in which we compel great masses of people to live that this vice thrives. The great palaces which we have built for ourselves are out of the labour of these millions. Sir, their status must be improved. I do not hold that prohibition is a simple thing by any means. It is a gigantic task. I wonder whether the Government really realize the enormity of the problem and the responsibility that they have undertaken on their shoulders. (Some hon. Members: 'No, no.') Sir, I want the Government to realize that America has tried it and America has failed. Of course there were many reasons for it. There, far from being purely a social question, it got mixed up with politics. But whatever it be, prohibition has created expectations in this Presidency; the whole of India is looking up to Madras; nor is the interest confined to Madras, it has spread to the whole of the country. Everybody is hoping that if prohibition should ever be a success anywhere in the world, it would be in India. Therefore, Sir, it is up to the Government to take their time, and see things in all their bearings; once it is decided to introduce prohibition, they should see that it becomes a success. Otherwise, if it is allowed to become a failure, they will be only playing into the hands of those who do not want prohibition.

"One word more, Sir. My hon. Friend said that if prohibition is introduced, the Catholic Church should be protected by permitting the mass wine. I believe it is exempted. They should be allowed a very small quantity only. It is only an emblem, and it is symbolic of the recognition or remembrance of the passion and the crucifixion of Christ. The wine is really unfermented and it is diluted to the extent necessary. Sir, it is not only the Catholic Church that uses the wine, but the Protestants also use it sacramentally. It is only a very small quantity that they require. If you ask the church leaders what is the smallest quantity they require they will co-operate with you by asking for as small a quantity as they deem absolutely necessary. Sir, this is a great and vast problem, and I would only suggest that the Government should look before they leap."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"The House has already taken two hours and forty-five minutes over this demand. I am going to allow discussion on this demand till 3-30 p.m. and then the hon. Minister will make his reply. I am going to allow 5 minutes for each speaker."

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* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in spite of the mournful note or should I say lugubrious note Mr. Town has struck, I speak to-day on prohibition with the same confidence and the same conviction with which I spoke the other day. Public opinion, Sir, demands that there should be total prohibition throughout this province. It is the most urgent task that faces Government. It is the best form of post-war reconstruction if you like so to call it. In fact, it will leave every poor man's home clean and dry, so that he may live in conditions of security, health and happiness in his own immediate neighbourhood. I do not propose, Sir, to urge arguments in favour of prohibition to-day. Prohibition is past the stage of argument. But I propose, Sir, to deal with one or two new-fangled notions so sedulously circulated in the press and outside, that the Revenue Reserve Fund is something sacred which should not be touched for prohibition. I propose to deal with that aspect of the question now. The very name "Revenue Reserve Fund" indicates that it is a reserve intended to be drawn upon when revenues are insufficient to meet expenditure. If, for instance, Government could use up Rs. 10 crores of that Revenue Reserve Fund for food subsidies in a year of famine, is Government going to call this post-war reconstruction? Famine is stark reality. It has to be met. Expenditure has to be incurred and I take it that Government has with open eyes sanctioned all the expenditure and debited it to this Revenue Reserve Fund. There is nothing sacred about this Revenue Reserve Fund. In fact, all Government revenue is a fund from which all expenditure, legitimate, is met. If famine exists to-day, we do not hesitate to touch current revenues, and even put down this overwhelming burden of Rs. 9 crores in one year and charge it to revenue and not even spread it over successive years as it ought to be done on principles of sound budgeting. I go further, Sir, and say that prohibition is a policy and even as we would not allow people to starve and die if there was famine in this country, we should not allow this imposed cruelty upon poor people to remain a minute longer even if it costs Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 crores in this very year. Suppose for instance we did propaganda so effectively throughout the country and stopped the sale of drink even without the help of the Act. Does Government propose to go round from house to house and ask everybody to drink because it found its revenues were diminishing? Certainly not. Take it for the purpose of argument that such a position can be attained even without the force of law; what would happen then to the Revenue Reserve Fund? I say that this Revenue Reserve Fund is a first charge upon prohibition and only after that a charge for other reconstruction work. Congress Ministries must have a continuity of policy. It may not be right to say that all this Revenue Reserve Fund is an accumulation of all the commercial taxes collected from year to year; and yet all the same, this Revenue Reserve Fund should and ought to have been drawn upon to enforce prohibition throughout this province.

"I may give you, Sir, some figures . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You have got only one minute more."

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* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"I will give you some figures which will show the astonishing rate at which expenditure has grown in this province. In 1944-45, it was Rs. 29 crores, in 1945-46 it was Rs. 30 crores and in the coming year 1946-47, it is to be Rs. 57 crores, because we have included extraordinary items like food famine in the budget which according to the theory propounded in unofficial notes, should never have been debited to the Revenue Reserve Fund. In effect, I wish to say this. I cannot be a party to new taxation unless all expenditure is gone into and this House is satisfied that there is need for fresh taxation for particular programmes. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'Threatening rebellion!') it is not rebellion. What is needed is swift relief for people suffering under this evil of drink. In fact, Sir, it is just restitution to our poor people. We have taken last year Rs. 16 crores from these very people and year after year, we are taking huge sums of money which ought to be restored to them. That in short is my case for total prohibition."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I am sorry, I cannot allow any more time."

* SRI G. KUMARASWAMI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Government demand for grant under the head 'Provincial Excise.' It is certainly most welcome to work up, especially for those people who picketted some time ago these toddy and arrack shops and sales as well, and went to jails several times—it is certainly welcome for them to see that total prohibition is introduced in the whole province. Sir, introduction of total prohibition will be welcome by one and all in the country, but the difficulties which lie in the way of the Ministry ought also to be considered. Sir, 'He who controls the finances of the State controls also the destiny and policy of the nation.' That is what a high budget authority has stated. If to-day a Pitt or a Peel or a Palmerston is still remembered, it is because they were able to steer the ship of Great Britain out of financial stringency to a position of financial security and safety. We know, Sir, when Cobden had to fight against the Corn-Laws, he had to stake everything for the country and he and his party men were the benefactors. Similarly our able Premier who like Cobden staked everything for the freedom of his country, has with his ripe experience presented the budget to both the Houses of Legislature and won the universal applause of the whole country. We know that the income of the Madras Government is about Rs. 57 crores and the income from the Provincial Excise is Rs. 13.61 crores. Of course, from the commercial taxes we get about Rs. 7½ crores and from the sales tax alone we get Rs. 5½ crores. But what about all the other departments for which money is to be spent? We see, there is marked improvement in Medicine, Public Health, in rural reconstruction, in famine relief, etc. Changes are being introduced in regard to land tenure and so many other departments. It is no joke to tackle all such problems as these. As I said, the budget that has been presented by the Premier which has won the applause of the whole country must be supported here not only by the Congress Party but by the Opposition as well. Now, Sir, I am happy to congratulate the Hon. the

[Sri G. Kumaraswami] [15th August 1946]

Premier once more on what he has achieved. I am glad he has assured us that in three years' time he is going to introduce total prohibition in the whole province. Originally it was introduced in only four districts and the Prime Minister made a statement the other day that in four more districts prohibition would be introduced this year, and he has done it. It is certainly a marked improvement. Now, I would suggest that we must prepare all the districts in the province for the introduction of total prohibition next year. What is required is intense propaganda in the country side of the various districts of the province. We must go to the villages, talk to the people and show them by magic lantern lectures and other things what great advantage will accrue as a result of prohibition. The Government must also appoint special and additional staff to get the country prepared for the introduction of total prohibition in the coming years."

* **SRI M. GOVINDASWAMI**:—"அக்கிராசார் அவர்களுக்கும் சபையில் வீற்றிருக்கும் எல்லோருக்கும் நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுவதென்னவென்றால், இந்த நெருக்கடியான காலத்தில் கள்ளுக்கடை முதலிய கலால் விஷயங்கள் எடுத்துவிட முடிவு செய்ததற்காக நான் மத்திய சபைக்கு என்னுடைய வந்தனத்தைத் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். நமது தேசத்தில் பஞ்சம் தலைகாட்டி நிமிர்ந்து நிற்கும் இந்தக் காலத்தில், பஞ்சத்தையொழிக்க நாம் முற்படவேண்டியது அவசியமாகும். இருந்தாலும், கள் குடியானது அதிக காலமாக நம் எதிரியாக இருப்பதால், அதையும் உடனடியாக நாம் ஒழிக்கவேண்டும். மக்களிடையே கல்வியறிவு இருந்தால்தான் கள் குடி முதலிய கலால் உபயோகத்திலே ஒழிக்கமுடியுமென்று பலர் பேசியுள்ளார்கள். ஆனால், கள் குடியினால் மக்களில் பலர் கஷ்டப்படுவதைப் பார்த்து வருகிறோம். ஆகவே கள் குடியை ஒழிப்பதை நாம் தள்ளிப்போட முடியாது. இன்று முதலாவதாக நமது மாகாணத்திலே 8 ஜில்லாக்களில் மதுவிலக்கு கொண்டுவரப்படுகிறது. கள்ளுக்கடைகள் எடுக்கப்படுவதினால் ஏழைகள் பெருந்த நன்மை அடைவார்கள். ஏழைகள் என்று சொன்னால், அவர்களில் பெரும்பான்மையினர் தொழிலாளர்கள் தான். அவர்களுக்குக் கள் குடிதான் முதல் எதிரியாக இருக்கிறது. கள், சாராயம், கஞ்சா முதலிய போதைப்பொருள்களை ஒழிப்பதற்காக இந்த மாகாணம் முழுவதும் பிரச்சாரம் செய்ய ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். இதுதான் நாம் இப்போது ஜனங்களுக்குப் போதிக்கக்கூடிய கல்வியாகும். இதைவிட முதலில் கல்வியை அளித்து, பிறகு போதைப்பொருள்களை ஒழிக்கலாமென்றால், அது முடியாததாரியம். புதைப்படிமம், நாடகம், பிரச்சாரம் முதலியவைகளினால் நாம் கள்ளுடியின் பாதகத்தை ஜனங்களுக்கு எடுத்து விளக்கவேண்டும். பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில் மாணவர்களுக்கு இது விஷயமாகக் கற்பிக்கவேண்டும். உபாத்தியாயர்கள் இப்போது அதிகசம்பளம் வேண்டுமென்று கேட்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு இப்போது நாம் அதிகச் சம்பளத்தைக் கொடுத்து அவர்கள் மூலமாக கள் குடியை ஒழிக்க நாம் பிரச்சாரம் செய்தால், அதை நாம் வெற்றிகரமாக ஒழிக்கமுடியும். கடைசியாக இப்போது 8 ஜில்லாக்களில் மதுவிலக்குத் திட்டத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்திருப்பதை இந்த மாகாண முழுவதும் பூர்த்தியாகும்படியாகச் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

3.15 P.M. * **SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI**:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate the Ministry for introducing prohibition in eight districts. Still I feel if they had to introduce complete prohibition, it would go a long way to relieve the sufferings of the masses. Prohibition introduced piece-meal may have more impediments, more obstacles than prohibition introduced in all the districts."

15th August 1946] [Sri K. Chandramouli]

That is the only point upon which I want to dilate for a few minutes. There was one point that has been raised by my hon. Friend, Mr. Fernandez, and that is that individual liberty should not be interfered with when a social reform or any other thing is coming before us. At times, it is but proper, right and also just that individual liberty should be subordinated to the higher interests of the people and the society at large. In every reform or in every act that we are doing, it is true that we are interfering at every stage with individual liberty. I do not know when prohibition, especially complete prohibition, is sought for by the people and wanted by almost all sections of the people irrespective of creed and caste, why should this bogey of individual liberty be brought forward. Can there be any reform that can be done with this argument. I think it is not proper on the part of members to argue in that way; it is neither proper, nor rational. I want to say one more point. So long as there is no prohibition in this country, there cannot be better economy; there cannot be an upward movement in the moral direction. Especially when the country as at present is in need of food and is hungering for food, prohibition comes partly to its rescue, because you are poisoning the better and valuable food by converting it into alcoholic and highly harmful liquors. Even in the interests of the ordinary people, to save these people from this hunger, it is but proper and right that we should introduce prohibition in all the other districts also. Therefore, I appeal to the Ministry to take this step and go forward especially when all sections of the people are wanting it and are ready to make it a complete success."

* **DR. M. J. SAMUEL**:—"Sir, I rise to speak on this occasion to support the prohibition policy of this Government, but I am surprised to hear members both from the Opposition and from the ministerial benches speaking vehemently on total prohibition. I come from a district, Sir, where prohibition was introduced last time and I know what amount of trouble the Government and the supervising staff had in putting it down in seeing that drink does not get into adjoining districts. The trouble that we are going to have in introducing prohibition throughout the Province is, untold. I fully agree with the present Ministry in introducing prohibition by stages. Sir, some of the members remarked that by introducing prohibition they will put down black-marketing and profiteering. I do not know how the member has arrived at this view. Prohibition is quite different from black-marketing, because there is no black-marketing in liquors, toddy and other substances as it is in foodstuffs, cloth, yarn and other articles necessary for life. In this connexion, I would like to raise a point which some hon. Members from the opposition, especially from the Anglo-Indian community, raised. On the previous occasion they were very keen on amending the Prohibition Act by changing the word 'permit' into 'authority' for taking mass wine by the priests and bishops in Catholic and other Churches. I would request the present Ministry to go a little

[M. J. Samuel] [15th August 1946]

further and remove that 'authority' even. You know in India, every religion is against drink; drink is an offence and it is considered a sin and more so by Christian religion. (Hear, hear.) Therefore, Sir, this clause in the Prohibition Act must be deleted and more freedom should be given for the priests and bishops to take this wine for their sacramental purposes. Again, Sir, in this connexion, I would ask the Hon. Minister for Religious Endowments who is also in charge of Excise, what arrangements Government are going to make in regard to the neighbouring States in the Royalseema area. For example, the Banganapalle State is a small one in Kurnool district; and this Government is catering to its needs in regard to alcohol and other things. The Banganapalle State is paid Rs. 80,000 as compensation for the suppression of the ganja plantation. I would like to know what the Ministry is going to do in this matter in regard to prohibition."

* SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN—"அக்கிராசனாதிபதியவர்களே, எக்ஸைஸ் இலாகாவுக்கு கேட்டுள்ள மான்யத்தை ஆதரிக்கையில் சில விஷயங்களைப் பேச விரும்புகின்றேன். இப்போது 8 ஜில்லாக்களிலே மது விலக்கை கொண்டுவருவதாகவும் கூடிய சீக்கிரம் மாகாணம் பூராவும் கொண்டுவரப்படுமென்பதையும் கேட்டு மகிழ்ச்சியடைகிறேன். சென்ற கூட்டத்திலே பிரதமாவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள்: "பூரண மதுவிலக்குத் தான் எங்களுடைய கொள்கை. அதை விரைவிலே கொண்டுவரப் போகின்றோம். அதற்காக ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கின்ற விற்பனை வரியை அதற்காகவே ஒதுக்கி வைக்கின்றோம்" என்று. இதைக் கேட்டு எல்லோருக்கும் திருப்தியளித்திருக்கிறது. முன்னாலேயே மதுவிலக்கை நம் முடைய பிரதான கொள்கையாக அமைத்திருக்கின்றோம். ஆகவே இப்பொழுது எவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் மாகாணம் பூராவும் கொண்டுவருகிறோமோ அவ்வளவு சீக்கிரம் நம்முடைய வாக்கை நாம் காப்பாற்றியவர்களாவோம். மதுவிலக்கின் அவசியத்தைப்பற்றி இந்தக் காலத்திலே சொல்லவேண்டிய அவசியமில்லை. வாதிக்கவேண்டிய அவசியம் ஒன்றுமில்லை. எல்லோரும் நன்றாக அறிவார்கள். அதை எவ்விதம் அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டு வருவது என்பது தான் பிரச்சனை. இப்பொழுது மதுவிலக்கு பூரணமாகக் கொண்டுவந்துவிட்டேண்டுமென்றும் ஆனால் அதனால் ஏற்படக்கூடிய கஷ்டம் பணக்கஷ்டத்தோடு அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவரும் கஷ்டம்தான் பிரதானமென்று பிரதமர் சொன்னார்கள். அது மிகவும் உண்மை. கொஞ்சநாள் கழித்து நாம் கொண்டுவந்தாலும் மதுவிலக்கை திறமையுடன் அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டுவரவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது எவ்விதக் குறைவுமில்லாமல் கொண்டுவந்தால்தான் பயன்படும். சென்ற தடவை மதுவிலக்கு கொண்டுவந்த காலத்தில் குறைபாடுகள் இருந்ததாகப் பேசியிருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த மாதிரி நிலைமை வராமல் பார்த்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும். எப்படியும் சில தவறுகள் ஏற்படத்தான் செய்யும், ஆனால் நாம் முன் ஜாக்கிரதையாக என்னென்ன ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டுமோ அவ்வளவையும் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன். இப்பொழுது மதுவிலக்குக்கு இருந்துவரும் கஷ்டங்களை நாம் ஒவ்வொருவரும் அறிகிறோம். அந்தக் கஷ்டங்களைப் பார்த்து மதுவிலக்கைக் கொண்டுவராமல் தள்ளிப்போடக்கூடாதென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அந்தக் கஷ்டங்களை நீக்குவதற்குத்தான் நாம் முற்படவேண்டும். ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லாவிலும், எப்பொழுது மது விலக்கு வருகிறதென்று கேட்கிறார்கள். கோயமுத்தூருக்கு வந்துவிட்டதால் மதுரைக்கு எப்பொழுது வருமோவென்று ஆசையோடு இருக்கிறார்கள். அந்த ஆசை விரைவில் பூர்த்தியாகுமென்று நம்புகின்றேன். ஒவ்வொரு ஜில்லாவிற்கும் இந்த விஷயம் மிகவும் அவசியம். அடுத்த பட்ஜெட்டுக்குள் பூரண மதுவிலக்கை நம் மாகாணத்தில் கொண்டுவரும்படி கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகின்றேன். மதுவிலக்கைக் கொண்டுவருவதற்கு வேறு விதமான ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்பதைப்பற்றி எனக்கு முன்னால் பேசின

15th August 1946] [Sri N. M. R. Subbaraman]

வர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். மனதைக் கவரச் செய்யும் வேறு வழிகளைக் கண்டுபிடிக்கவேண்டும். விளையாட்டுக்கள், நாடகங்கள், போட்டிகள் முதலியவைகளை ஆரம்பித்துக்கொடுத்து அவர்கள் மனதைத் திரும்பும்படி செய்யவேண்டும்.

இந்த மதுவிலக்கினால் ஏற்படும் நஷ்டத்தை ஈடு செய்வதற்கு சிலர் சிலவழிகளைச் சொன்னார்கள். கைத்தறிக்கு வரிபோடவேண்டுமென்றும் சொன்னார்கள். கைத்தறி இப்பொழுதுதான் ஏதோ கொஞ்சம் நல்ல நிலைக்கு வந்திருக்கிறது. மறுபடியும் அந்த நிலைமை மாறினால் மீண்டும் கஷ்டப்பட நேரிடும். ஆகையால் அந்த நிலைமை வரும்படித்தான் இன்னும் வரிபோடுவதென்றால் இருக்கிற கைத்தறி நெசவாளர்கள் தொகை குறைந்துவிடும்; நெசவுத் தொழில் மிகவும் பாதிக்கப்படும். ஆகையால் நஷ்டத்தை ஈடு செய்ய வேறு வழியைத் தான் பார்க்கவேண்டும்."

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, most probably I am going to be the last Speaker on this side of the House. (Mr. Speaker: 'You are.') Therefore, I deem it my duty to join the other members in congratulating the Hon. the Premier for having given a lead to the other Provinces in the matter of prohibition. It is now too late in the day to go into the question of not introducing total prohibition or for its introduction only in eight districts, but the one thing on which we are all agreed is total prohibition and the Premier has given us an assurance that total prohibition will be introduced within the course of the next three years or so. I, therefore, feel that no purpose will be served in going into the matter at this stage and arguing that point again and again. However, Sir, as has been said by the Leader of the Opposition and other Members of the Muslim League, if we support total prohibition, it is mostly out of our religious viewpoint because Islam stands for that. My hon. Friend, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, was making a reference—I do not grudge it—that this policy was enunciated by the Congress during the last 25 years. But I may bring to the notice of the House that this was the thing taught by Islam more than 1300 years ago. Let me take this opportunity to assure the Hon. the Premier that in regard to his policy of introducing prohibition in eight districts, with a desire to introduce it in the other districts of the Province within the next three years—its introduction in other districts will no doubt depend upon its success in these eight districts—we, the members of the Muslim League and the whole Muslim public, will give our support and render all help and co-operation to the Government so that this scheme may be a success and that it may be introduced in the other districts of the Province as early as possible. Sir, we are not here to make political capital out of it. I would not have referred to this matter but for the fact that during the course of the debate, it was found difficult to find who is the Member of the Opposition and who is the member of the Treasury Benches. We find, in regard to this demand, that some members while supporting the demand for Excise were actually opposing it. We do not want to do any such thing. Let us be fair. We support the ministerial policy and there will be no playing such a game so far as we are concerned and that is the one thing for which we take credit.

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"Now, Sir, in regard to the question of taxation, it is not for me to suggest ways and means. It is your duty to find out ways and means. When a lot of agitation is going on all over the country, about new taxation, we are not going to shift the burden on our shoulders and we cannot take up the responsibility. Of course my hon. Friend Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar has given a very good suggestion and that is the nationalization of important industries such as transport and other things. But he has forgotten one thing. I may add—the nationalization of the legal profession—(laughter) because there is no point in making thousands in that profession. Therefore, I hope the Hon. the Prime Minister will keep that in mind, i.e., the nationalization of the legal profession, if that is possible. Sir, as I have said, there may be illicit distillation and boot-legging, because people will be preparing themselves even from now. Therefore, I hope Government will adopt suitable measures to prevent this. I also hope that Government will take necessary and proper steps to prevent drinking and illicit manufacture in the neighbouring States so as to make it a complete success."

* THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"Sir, my task today has become easier because barring two exceptions, every member of the House has supported the Government in its policy of bringing about total prohibition in this Presidency. Any attempt on my part to convince the two gentlemen that it is the duty of the society and the Government to infringe on the liberty of the individual in cases where it is considered necessary in the interests of society, will not prove successful and so, I shall not make any attempt to do so. Suffice it to say, that so far as this country is concerned, 99 per cent—probably, I might even say 99.9 recurring per cent—are in favour of introducing total prohibition at the earliest time possible. I will only say this, that the tendency in the modern world is to the effect that, wherever society considers that in the interests of society, if it becomes necessary to curtail individual liberty, it does not hesitate to do so. I need not go to the extent of citing the example of Russia in regard to the interference in individual liberty in many directions. Time there was, mainly in the western world, when interference with the liberty of the individual was considered very obnoxious and even in that country, it is now considered necessary in certain cases to do so. What is after all this penal code and penal law which are enforced everywhere? If this idea of individual liberty is driven to its logical conclusion, society cannot exist and there will be anarchy everywhere. If to-day liberty is given to you to kill your neighbour and you cannot be prevented or punished for it, because you must exercise your individual liberty, is the society going to allow it? Certainly it cannot. That may be an extreme example but it shows that in certain cases where it is very necessary to curtail liberty it has to be done."

"Sir, having the example of many people in the world addicted to drink and who in doing so, are not only harming

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themselves but are harming others, what else can society do but curtail their liberty? Even if it is only a case of not hurting himself, even then I say society has a right to interfere with individual liberty in order to prevent him from doing a thing which is ultimately harmful to society. You have the standing example of one of the greatest men, one of the greatest commanders of the world, one of the greatest kings in the world, who met his death at the early age of 33, after having conquered half of the then known world merely on account of drink. I refer to Alexander the Great. Sir, I do not want to cite another example I have in my mind, because it moves my feelings. Whenever I think of prohibition and drunkenness, it always comes to my mind—I mean the example of a revered professor of mine in Oxford who later became the Chief Justice of this High Court. He was one of the greatest legal luminaries and he met his death on account of this drinking habit. Coming down to the ranks of the lower order, I would like to quote one or two examples to my hon. Friends in order to show them the evil effects of this drunkenness. We had a servant of ours who served my father-in-law for some time; he got from him something like Rs. 15,000 worth of property and in the course of two years he sold away most of it on drink without paying any consideration for his family. Not only that, but what did he do? The man who owed practically everything to the family, used to steal money in the evenings in order to satisfy his own hunger: not only stealing money but stealing even little trinkets including clothing of the family and such other things on which he could lay his hands. I know another gentleman, a neighbour of mine, earning Rs. 2 to Rs. 3 per day as a carpenter and when his wife died he had not even a pie to bury the body. Thousands of instances like this can be quoted. I only say, Sir, that in this country people believe in preventing such cases at least in future. Sir, I have been feeling that there is one difficulty in this. Whatever you may say, whatever you may talk of temperance and things like that, one finds it not easy to maintain a golden mean. Everyone of you can find examples in your own life, how it is not easy to maintain that golden mean. I, for one, would not consider it, as my hon. Friend, Mr. Vaidyanatha Ayyar, would put it, a matter of conscience that we should prohibit drinks altogether. I find, Sir, that in a majority of cases, however much we may try, this drink habit, which begins in a temperate manner easily leads to excess. It is why therefore that we have been trying to find a way out of this demon of drunkenness by bringing in this enactment."

"My Friends in the Opposition have questioned the sincerity of the Government in trying to introduce prohibition in this Presidency but I may assure them that we on this side are as keen as my hon. Friends of the Muslim community in regard to this matter. It may be that prohibition according to Hindu Sastras is not of the same type as prohibition under Islamic religion, but most of us, if not all of us, do believe that it is a sin;

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at any rate, Hindu society abhors drink. With that before us, I have no hesitation in saying that apart from the policy that the Congress has adopted, everyone in the country is as keen as anybody else to effect prohibition. If today we have taken up this programme, it is not on account of any slogan as our friends may say,—it is not a fashion as one member of the Opposition would like to call it—but it is on account of our sincere conviction that prohibition is in the interests of the people and that whatever may be the sacrifices, financial or otherwise, it has to be brought about at the earliest possible moment. The question whether prohibition could not be immediately introduced or not throughout, owing to financial reasons, will probably be dealt with by the Hon. the Premier who is in charge of Finance. I will only say this that we sincerely believe in it even though it may involve loss of revenue to Government. Though it may mean a loss of revenue to Government it will mean a lot of saving to the people in the shape of energy that is now being spent uselessly in tapping, transport, and selling. Those who are now engaged in this trade can be usefully employed. But is it possible within the short time at our disposal to find sources of revenue, to see that the revenue we lose by this will be got back by the Government? It is only on account of such considerations and other administrative difficulties that Government were forced to adopt the decision they have arrived at, namely, so far as this year is concerned, they could not introduce it in more than eight districts. If and when financial and other administrative difficulties are got over, it will be necessary to see that prohibition is brought about throughout the whole Presidency. It is not so very easy to brush aside some of the administrative difficulties that we have to encounter in introducing total prohibition immediately. For instance, there are States round about our Presidency who may not be prepared to introduce prohibition simultaneously with us. Some negotiations have to be carried on with them to see that they also follow our example in order to make prohibition effective. Then there is the question of the preventive staff, for instance; whether immediately on the introduction of total prohibition we can get sufficient staff either from the Police Department or from the Excise Department in order to enforce it effectively. Some hon. Members raised the question whether the enforcement of prohibition will be entrusted to the Excise or to the Police Department. I know, Sir, there is a difference of opinion on this point. Last time when it was introduced by the Congress Ministry, the whole work was entrusted to the Police, but since prohibition was introduced last time district by district the difficulty of absorbing the excess staff in other departments was not felt to be so great as it is now. We are going to do it in eight districts this year and probably throughout the Presidency in the next year.

3-45 p.m. “If total prohibition is to be introduced in the next year or two, and if the Excise staff is not given a chance to work out the scheme of prohibition, it may not be an easy thing for the

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Government to find work for them, as it would be unfair to disperse with their services altogether. It is also doubtful if the Excise Department cannot take up this responsibility and there is a keen desire on the part of the Excise staff that they should at least be given a chance this year. The Government have now decided that this year the chance may be given to the Excise staff in some districts. After studying the working of this system till the next financial year, we may decide whether the responsibility could not be taken over by the Excise Department themselves. If unfortunately they are not able to enforce prohibition effectively, we have to think of other departments and probably the Police Department may have to take it up.

“I am glad to see that many hon. Members of the House are very anxious to see that prohibition is enforced effectively. It is true that we much rather have no prohibition at all unless we are convinced and we are sure that it can be effectively enforced. There may be some doubts in the minds of some hon. Members. I come from a district where prohibition was in force for some time and I can testify to the fact that so long as the Government was run by the Congress, we had no trouble at all regarding illicit distillation in the district. From my own experience, I entertain no doubt that prohibition in this district can be enforced effectively. If there is one country in the world where prohibition could be enforced, it is India. It is our bounden duty on that ground alone to show to the world that total prohibition is possible. The example of America was cited by some hon. Members. I know the habits of the people of that country and if they failed in the matter of prohibition, it ought not to be considered that we shall also fail. Conditions differ. We are a people the majority of whom are not accustomed to drink. Here are people whose religious sentiment forbids drinking and people are ashamed to go and drink in public. Conditions are so congenial to the introduction of prohibition and it is from that alone I am very keen and I feel quite confident about it that we can show this country of ours to the world as the one in which prohibition worked successfully. In spite of the habit of drinking having been here for some years, prohibition is possible and prohibition could be effectively enforced. My hon. Friend, Mr. Abdul Rawoof, said that in Bellary district in expectation of the introduction of prohibition they have stored large quantities of jaggery and I had a communication from one of my friends suggesting to me the idea of rationing of jaggery. If rationing of jaggery could be introduced, a good deal of the trouble on account of illicit distillation of arrack will vanish. I am investigating how far it is possible to ration jaggery. I am sure it would be really good if it can be done.

“The question was raised as to what the Government proposed to do in the areas round about a prohibition district. When prohibition was introduced in certain districts last time there were some arrangements by which liquor was not supplied in

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larger quantities than were supplied on an average for the last three years. The same was the case with regard to the number of trees which are tapped for toddy. Any other suggestion regarding any measures to be taken in the belt areas will certainly be considered by the Government. Whatever may be the steps taken by the Government for enforcing prohibition, in the end the responsibility and the success of enforcing prohibition would depend upon public co-operation and I have no doubt that public support will be forthcoming. It was said that public support was not forthcoming during the time when the administration was being carried on by Advisers. I have reason to believe that the public were not at all apathetic. It must be due to some peculiar conditions at that time. It is admitted that public support was forthcoming in a large measure during the time when the Congress Government was in power and why was it not forthcoming during the Advisers' Government? Now that we are here, I am confident that public support will be available and we can show to the world and to the people who have no faith in its success that we in this country can effectively enforce prohibition. My appeal to every hon. Member of every section of the House is that he should take as much interest as it is possible and devote his time and energy to see that this experiment is a success. The whole world is looking up to this country to find out whether even as an experiment it could be tried in their country. We have no doubt about our success and it is our bounden duty to show that it is possible. We have shown to the world that we can advance in certain directions in which they could not and this is really one of them.

"The Leader of the Opposition raised the question of the pension of the excise peons. I may tell him that orders have been issued according to which peons will get not one-third of average emoluments by way of pensions but one-half, just like what others get.

"He also raised the question why the grade system was introduced and not the incremental system. Recruits were forthcoming not from the highly educated classes but from those having school final qualifications and the work that was required of them was of a special nature. It was considered necessary that the grade system must be introduced so that people who were found successful in their work and were intelligent and keen might be given some encouragement by way of promotion to the higher grade rather than merely advance by annual increments. But now since we intend introducing prohibition throughout the whole country, the question of the grade system may not call for examination.

"With regard to the representation of Muslims in the Excise staff, I feel that the Muslims have no cause for complaint as will be evident from the statistics which I shall presently give. In a cadre of 517 Sub-Inspectors 75 are Muslims, out of 57 Assistant Inspectors, 4 are Muslims; out of 53 Inspectors, 5 are

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Muslims; out of 10 Assistant Commissioners, 2 are Muslims; and in the cadre of Deputy Commissioners which comprises two posts only, there are no Muslims. Their representation works to 15 per cent in the case of Sub-Inspectors, 7 per cent in the case of Assistant Inspectors, 9 per cent in the case of Inspectors and 20 per cent in the case of Assistant Commissioners. The representation is not unfair when you remember that the Muslim population forms only 8 per cent of this Province. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: '20 per cent.') If my hon. Friend would show that the population figure as it pertains to Muslims is 20 per cent, he can take it from me that his community will be given 25 per cent representation, but I challenge my friend to give me figures. Even according to the communal Government Order, the Muslim community has been given two out of every twelve posts and it is more than that here in some cases. It would be unworkable if in the higher ranks which consist of one or two posts you demand that there should be a representation for the Muslim community. When their chance comes they get it and you cannot ask that the communal proportion should be observed. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'It will apply in the case of appointments to the category of peons. In their case the representation percentage will be higher.') I have a word to say with regard to the point raised by my hon. Friend Begum Amiruddin. She raised the question why a European should be entrusted with the work of prohibition. Personally I see no objection and I say that such appointments must be welcome. Here is a European gentleman who from his past work and vast experience has shown his aptitude for the work and it would be uncharitable now to say that he ought not to have been given that place, because he is a European.

"A question was raised regarding alternative employment to the people who are at present employed in this trade. The question is engaging the attention of the Government and Government will do what is possible for them. The question of finding recreation for the erstwhile drinkers was also raised. It is a thing which is under the consideration of Government.

"Once more, I appeal to hon. Members to see that this experiment—we have indeed crossed the point and we have definitely taken long strides towards the accomplishment of our object of prohibition—is made a success and I appeal to them to devote a part of their time and energy for this very laudable purpose. For those that have any doubts on this question, I can assure them that in the course of two or three years we will bring about total prohibition and there is absolutely no foundation for doubts and fears. Doubts and fears will exist as long as this world exists. Regarding those that have raised the question of the exercise of individual liberty, I say that in the interests of society some curtailment is necessary and without that there cannot be liberty itself."

MR. SPEAKER:—"At the end of the peroration, it is usual for the Minister to appeal to the Member who has moved the cut motion to withdraw his motion."

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* THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"In view of the replies to the various points raised in the course of the debate, I appeal to my hon. Friend to withdraw his cut motion."

4 p.m. The Hon. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not got much to say on this matter because, as you all know, this matter was debated at great length before. The question was raised 'when you first fixed four districts for prohibition, why did you increase it to eight districts, and when you increased it to eight districts why should you not increase it to sixteen districts, and why should you not increase it to 24 districts?' We had to do our duty, Sir, by this House and to all those who are behind the hon. Members of this House. Government represent all the hon. Members of this House and all the people who sent these representatives to this House. Under democratic Government although power rests in the electors, and in the people generally, they are not expected to come together to one place and discuss matters but appoint their own Ministers. That is why elections are held and representative Governments are established. That was why hon. Members of this House were elected, and the Ministry had come to be formed. It is not humanly possible for millions of people to carry on the administration. If they were to gather together and begin to argue, there would be no longer any Government, but there would be a situation, where each one would not agree with the other and finally the gathering dispersing, not in non-violence but in violence. That is why a constitution has been framed and Ministers have come into existence. When we were put in this place by you on your behalf, it became our duty to work according to the constitution and the rules laid down thereunder. We prepared the budget providing for prohibition for four districts. You ask 'why did you change it to eight districts?' We changed it because we were appointed as Ministers on behalf of this House and on behalf of the people who sent all hon. Members into this House. But I may tell you, Sir, that all, in any part of the world, are not aware, how budgets are prepared, how administration is carried on, whose is the responsibility to prepare the budget and whose is the responsibility to carry it out. We had to prepare the budget very cautiously, not with the belief that we were masters of the situation, that we could write whatever we liked and that we could force it upon this House or upon the people generally. As representatives of the House and people, as servants of the people and members of the House, we had to keep to rules and regulations with regard to the formulation of the budget. Now, Sir, sometimes people outside, I mean the voters who sent hon. Members to this House, might be feeling, 'we gave the vote, we are the electors, we are the persons who formed this Government; these people are doing things in their own way, so we are the people who can do anything with them.' Such wrong ideas will be lurking in the minds of many people who cannot be expected to know all the details and technical part of the duties of the ministerial Government. Therefore, Sir, originally we thought we could omit this prohibition altogether this

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year, because we had to take charge of Government in the middle of the year. So I thought 'why not we postpone it to next year.' That was in my mind. But I was inclined to suggest that only one district which was chosen first by my hon. Friend in the last Government, Salem, alone be brought under prohibition. But as we sat together and discussed all the aspects, we realized the scheme was in force in four districts when the last Congress Government came out of office and the Advisers' regime stepped in. The latter after some time decided to cancel the Prohibition scheme. Naturally the Congress felt a wrong step had been taken by the Advisers' Government. All of us who were in jail then felt the same. We, the representatives of this House, had to discuss all this and decide as to the minimum that we could do, namely, 'is it only Salem district, or the four districts that were worked by the previous Congress Ministry that should be brought under prohibition this year?' For the sake of honour and prestige we decided to restore the four districts. That is how four districts came to be included. We knew our difficulties. We are all not experts in the art of government or in the art of finance or in the art of attending to so many things that are woven round a constitution such as ours. We had to look into all these matters; and we had expert advice. I do not condemn the experts of the Finance Department, who had bestowed their full thought and who had advised, as some of our own friends later on advised us that we might drop it altogether this year. 'Let us have prohibition for all the twenty-four districts next year.' But our feelings were swayed by the feelings of others. So we said 'we will start prohibition this year.' Originally we decided four districts should go dry. Later on agitation was started by people who honestly believed, that 'because there are so many crores of rupees in the reserve fund, why not we use up that money and start prohibition in all the twenty-four districts simultaneously.' That was their honest belief, and they naturally agitated. Whether they were from our own party or from outside, it made no difference; because it is a question in which everyone was entitled to give his thought for the benefit of the country.

"We thought that however much we tried we would not be 4-15
in a position to convince some of our own friends. I have no p.m.
quarrel with those friends who differed from us on an important matter like this. So, we had to consider the whole matter and when the feeling was growing more and more we thought that we should take necessary steps to satisfy the feelings of those friends who put this Government in office here. They may not have understood the difficulties of the Government from the executive point of view, but still we have to satisfy them. Unless we satisfy them there is no good for the Prohibition scheme in the four districts. Therefore, Sir, it was decided to discuss it again in the Cabinet. Fortunately for us, the Governor, who is at the head of this Government, is one who has been taking an independent and liberal view with regard to any matter that came up before the Cabinet over which he was presiding. We discussed the whole matter. What is it that we should do to appease the

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feeling in the minds of the people? Even though it may be difficult for us to do anything effective in this half-year, we agreed and decided. I was not sure, because I did not believe at any time after the budget was prepared and placed before the House, and when discussion started, that there was any occasion when the whole thing could be revised in the manner it had been done by us. We have done it because we felt that it was our duty to do it although technically it may not have been in order. Nowhere perhaps under the British Constitution was such a question raised during recent years. Nowhere under the British Constitution was a budget prepared by the Chancellor and by the Ministry. It was done here because we are building our own constitution. We are trying to pull through this chariot as well as possible, understanding our own position and difficulties. That is why it came about. Nobody need be surprised or be under any mistaken impression that it was done out of any extraneous pressure. What is the extraneous pressure so far as the present Government is concerned and so far as all the hon. Members of this House are concerned? It is a pressure, a legitimate pressure that was put upon the executive. It may be that those who are putting pressure are not aware of the constitutional rules and regulations that are adopted in all parts of the world, and particularly in Great Britain, whose constitution we have adopted and are trying to work out. It may be that even under this constitution it was our duty to make it clear and we have done that. Therefore, nothing wrong has been done. I only wanted to express my thanks to all hon. Members who at one time were not in a calm mood to consider what could have actuated the Ministry to extend prohibition to four more districts. As time passed on and as we were able to understand one another, things have become calmer and quieter, and to-day, although some friends expressed their views strongly and vehemently, we have no reason to grumble about it. I am very much thankful to all hon. Members of this House for the way in which they have received this demand and for the manner in which they have given their support to Government. Some things have been said, Sir, about opium, ganja and perhaps horse races also. All these things have been put forward in the course of the debate. I may assure hon. Members of this House that so far as this Government is concerned, the opium trade would not be allowed to be carried on. At one time, opium revenue formed the biggest item of Government receipts. Now, we will not have, I think, opium revenue or ganja revenue or any tainted revenue, as far as possible. Mr. Fernandez raised the question of mass wine. That will be attended to. No difficulty will be caused. Everything that is necessary will be done and the suggestions made will be noted, and I have no doubt that they will be carried out.

“It was said, Sir, that expenditure had increased. Yes. Has the expenditure increased as soon as you put us in office? If the expenditure had increased before we came into office, before you put your men into office, what was it due to? One must consider that dispassionately. We saw sometime back how people

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died of starvation in Bengal. You found dead bodies all round because of starvation. Starvation was there even though there was available stuff locked up on account of maladministration and maldistribution. All that is a matter of history now. The Advisers' Government came. The Advisers' Government should not be condemned merely because they have been Advisers. When they were faced with a famine, food crisis and cloth crisis, when they were unable to procure enough for eating or produce cloth for wearing, what is it they have done? They formed the Food department. The Food department is a very big department, which undertook the task of getting food, not raised here on this soil, but from outside and distributing it. When I looked at the map soon after I assumed office, I found how it was planned. It was an enormous thing. If we had not been in prison but in office some reduction in expenditure could have been made. Later on we saw one or two items of very high expenditure. Milk, for instance, had to be got in tins from America and other places, and the charges were so heavy that under one head was put two and a half crores of rupees. When we found this out we stopped this, but so far as those goods that were already shipped we could not curtail. We have been going into the question of the Food department. As a matter of fact, the Food department has been shifted from the Board of Revenue to the Secretariat. We have been trying to solve these problems, slowly, as we are all new men and the time at our disposal is short. If expenditure during the Advisers' regime had increased it was not your fault, or our fault, or anybody's fault.

“We have to reduce expenditure as far as possible. We have decided upon a committee of members in order to make arrangements to find moneys for the non-gazetted officers, teachers, and all others who have been agitating. This is a period of strikes. A strike wave has been going on in the country from the Himalayas to Cape Camorin. All other agitations have gone out of the field. One starts a strike, because in one place it was started and some little good result came out of it. Others say ‘some compromise was effected, so, let us follow it up.’ In that way, knowingly or unknowingly a continuous wave of strikes has been going on in the country. I am appealing to this House and to all hon. Members who, without knowing the results and consequences of strikes, think that strikes alone will solve grievances, not to think that the whole Government will collapse and everybody who is opposing an increase of salaries will collapse. Let there be no such feeling in the minds of the people. It will come on the head of everybody in this House. I have been telling this to my friends in the districts, and after I came here I have been telling every one that any word that comes from the lips of hon. Members of this House or even from a Minister will work greater havoc than the agitation started by Sri P. Venkateswarlu or Sri K. Anandan Nambiyar.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“We are not the only two members who started it.”

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I am saying that every one must be careful with regard to these matters. This is a people's Government. This Government is backed up by the people. No one can break the back of this Government merely by making them trip here and there. (Hear, hear.) Even if we go out, the Government that must be set up in its place must be a people's Government. Breaking the back of the Government means breaking the back of the people. Millions of people must understand that people's back cannot be broken. I have become used to all kinds of threats within this short time."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Your speech is not audible. You should speak through the mike."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I am trying. I shall adjust myself. I have heard complaints that, even though I am talking face to face, sometimes my speech is not audible. There must be something wrong in the mike. (Laughter.) I am going to get it overhauled for the benefit of all so that there may be no difficulty about hearing. I do not think, Sir, I need keep the House any longer. I thank all hon. Members and I thank you, Sir, for the way in which you have been managing us all. (Laughter.)"

4-30 p.m. The motion was by leave withdrawn.
Demand II was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND III—STAMPS.

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 12,32,000 in respect of the head Stamps. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 1,18,375.

This demand relates only to the expenditure connected with the manufacture and sale of stamps and the particulars are given at page 59 of the Budget Memorandum."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in moving the cut motion under Demand III—Stamps, I want to draw the attention of the House to the necessity for lowering the stamp duty on both judicial and non-judicial stamps. The House is aware that so far as judicial stamps are concerned, the rate of duty changes from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to $11\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. and in the case of non-judicial stamps it changes from 1 to 5 per cent. upon the various instruments or deeds. I want to draw the attention of the House to one consideration that should prevail in fixing the

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duty on stamps. The rates of duty should be fixed in such a manner that the levy should not be oppressive on *bona fide* litigants and *bona fide* people who conduct transactions in mortgages, sales, etc. I submit that the present rate is a high one, and it cannot be justified on any possible ground. Here I should not be misunderstood that, in asking for lowering the stamp duty. I am advocating increase of litigation in this province. There are ever so many ways for the Ministry and this House to adopt to put down litigation. By splitting up the jurisdiction of the courts by giving power to panchayats and other village bodies, a large percentage of litigation may be put down. What I am now suggesting is that the tax as levied at present has become oppressive to the public.

"Another consideration in this connection is that the increase in stamp duty recently made was explained away as a measure of anti-inflationary nature. During war time currency circulation amounted to thousands of crores and there was a tendency on the part of the Government of India to increase their currency circulation. As a measure to counteract this inflationary tendency, they decided upon the increase of duty on non-judicial stamps. Since the war is over, the defence expenses of the Government of India have fallen considerably. The question for the Government to consider is whether the revenues they have estimated under this head will be derived in future. My submission is that it is generally oppressive upon the public, that lowering is desirable and that it should be lowered to a certain extent. There may not be such a large expenditure in the country because the defence services are being disbanded, and possibly they may not be there within a short time. There is expansion of trade and industry to cope up with the large currency circulation in the country and therefore I would say that it is desirable to devote some attention to this part of the programme and lower the stamp duty so that it may not be oppressive on the public. With these words, I move the cut motion, i.e.,

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 12,32,000 for stamps by Rs. 100.'

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am impelled to make a few general suggestions in the matter of the sale of stamps especially the court-fee stamps. We find that stamp vendors are not allowed to purchase and sell stamps of higher denominations, and the legal profession is put to the necessity of waiting on the taluk officers from morning till evening and sometimes for days together to get these stamps, and a lot of inconvenience is being caused to the litigants in filing their claims in time. The danger of losing their claims by way of bar by limitation is an ordinary feature as a consequence of the non-availability of stamps in time in the taluk offices. At present the taluk officers are loaded with so much work which is not legitimately their own. Work connected with food, cloth and several other things is being foisted upon them and that is taken as an excuse for their absence from the office for a long time. It is an ordinary experience of

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lawyers to suffer inconvenience in the matter of purchase of stamps. I therefore suggest that stamps of higher denominations—it has been recently raised from Rs. 100 to Rs. 200 and that too is not enough—should be available with the stamp vendors so that they can easily vend them to the public in time.

“One other thing, and that is a matter of local interest, I have to suggest. Sometimes taluk offices are situated at very long distances from the seats of the courts. Take for instance the District Munsif's Court at Tirupati. The taluk office is located at Chandragiri, and for every little thing, the litigant has to go there to get stamps. Stamp vendors themselves have to go long distances to provide the litigant public with the necessary stamps. I request that the Deputy Tahsildar at Tirupati may be empowered to keep stamps in his custody and vend them to the public then and there.”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Sir, two points have been raised. One is with regard to the raising of the rate which was made in 1943 by an Act of the Governor-General. That was done in order to reduce and check the inflationary effect at the time. It was urged by the hon. the Mover that the war was over and that there was no longer any inflation. I believe it is not quite a correct statement. Though the war is over, we still find that the prices are going up. Anyway I can assure that the effect of this measure by which the stamp duty on business transactions was doubled that is by 100 per cent and 50 per cent in the case of non-business transactions, has been asked to be examined by the Board of Revenue and reported upon. Anyway at present it is bringing in good revenue and the effect will be seen and the matter will be considered.

“With regard to the Court Fees Act, I may submit that the previous Government appointed a special officer Mr. Satyamurthi who is unhappily no more. He has prepared a report on the overhauling of the whole Act. The Act was made in 1870 or so, that is more than 70 years ago and there are lots of anomalies; some litigants go up to the High Court on eight annas whereas in some other cases, very heavy penalties have been paid. This was published in 1939. But the matter was not proceeded with by the then Government on account of pre-occupation with the war as we were told. It is the intention of the Government to consider the matter to see in what way the whole Act can be overhauled so that the difficulty in working might be remedied. In regard to the other points, already a section of the department has been detailed to find out in what way this report could be implemented.

“With regard to the points raised by the hon. Member from Chittoor, I can say that the difficulties of getting Court-fee stamps will be looked into. More than 20 years ago the limit was only Rs. 50; and on a motion brought by me in the Council of 1926–29 it was raised to Rs. 100; now we are told it is Rs. 200. I am quite aware as a lawyer of the difficulties of obtaining stamps when money will have to be paid before 12 o'clock on the last day of limitation but court-fee stamps cannot be obtained till 5-30. It is a matter which will be looked into. So also the other matter—

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the Tahsildar's office being at Chandragiri and the court being at Tirupati. With that assurance, I hope the hon. Member will not find it difficult to withdraw the motion.”

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand III was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND IV.—FOREST.

THE HON. SRI B. VEERASWAMI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

‘that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 74,60,100 in respect of the head Forest. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 4,69,801.’”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I move the cut motion standing in my name, i.e.,

‘to reduce the allotment of Rs. 74,60,100 for forest by Rs. 100.’

“In doing so, I have to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the valuable resources of the forests in this province have been depleted to a great extent. This can be seen by the figures given in the Administration Reports for timber. In the year 1914–15, the yield of timber was 32,000 and odd tons. In 1943–44, the yield was 104,000 and odd tons. In 1944–45, the yield was 87,840 tons. This shows that in spite of the vast pressure that was put upon the production of timber, the forests do not yield so much as they yielded in the year 1914–15. That shows that the wealth of the forests is being over-exploited and depleted rapidly. In other ways too, for example in the matter of fuel, we find that over-exploitation is taking place. At the same time, we do not find measures commensurate with this over-exploitation for restocking the forests. The Forest Utilization Department might do so many things to make our forests more useful and to reserve the wealth of the forests not only for us, but also for the future generations. The Government speak of certain compensatory measures for restocking the forests with timber. But I find these measures are meagre. Again, we do not know anything about such forest products as tanning bark, honey, lac, sandalwood, etc. Of course, they say something about sandalwood. The price of sandalwood has gone very high, even twenty-times of what it was some years back. Nowadays we hear so much about sandalwood from Mysore and other places. We hear only very little about sandalwood and sandalwood products of our own province. For example, we do not know how much of sandalwood oil and sandalwood soap are being produced in our province, whereas we hear of sandalwood soap produced in neighbouring provinces.

“Tanning bark is an important material required by a premier industry of this province. One of the standing ingredients, wattle

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bark, is being imported from South Africa in large quantities year after year. Our Forest Department might have gone into this matter and might have tried to cultivate or plant wattle-bark trees in our forests the extent of which is more than 18,000 square miles in our province alone. I find from the Administration Report that only a few hundred acres have been planted with wattle-bark trees. Much more might have been done. There is another tanning bark yielding plant called avaram. It is a very valuable and precious plant yielding one of the best tanning ingredients in the world. It is on account of that tanning ingredient that the Madras tanneries command very high prices in the foreign markets of the world. The Forest Department might have paid some attention to the production of this bark in the forests. These plants might have been planted as undergrowths in forests containing big trees. Then again, they might have also paid some attention to the production of lac, and vegetables and plants yielding dyes. The department might have also tried to find out whether there are other barks which are suitable for tanning. All these would have augmented the wealth accruing to the country from the forests.

“ Finally, Sir, I come to the question of Muslim representation. The Hon. Minister who spoke said that the Muslims had sufficient representation in the Excise Department, but the figures he produced did not prove that. With regard to this department, I have got a few figures, which also tell the same tale of inadequate representation of Muslims. Of the total number of Deputy Conservators of Forests which is given as 33, the Muslims are only 2 in number; Assistant Conservators of Forests are 14 in number, and the Muslim is only one. If figures for other cadres and ranks of the Forest Department are available, I think the same story will be revealed. I hope the Government will pay some attention to this matter, redress the inequality and maintain the communal ratio in this department as well.

III.—ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ I move, Sir, that the House might not sit to-morrow and that it may be adjourned to the 17th. We, the Muslim members of the Assembly, cannot attend to-morrow because of the celebration of the Direct Action Day. Therefore I request you to adjourn the House, in deference to the feelings of the Muslim members of the House, to the 17th.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“ The hon. Leader of the Opposition has moved a motion that this House be adjourned to the 17th. I wish to inform the House that this meeting which is called the “ Budget session ” has been convened under rule 124 by His Excellency the Governor. Regarding adjournment of the budget session, the rule is clear. Rule 63 says:

“ A motion that any meeting or business be adjourned or postponed or that the House pass to the business next in order in the list of business may be moved at any time and without previous notice as a distinct question, but not so as to

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interrupt a speech. If the motion is carried, the meeting or business shall, subject to the provisions of sub-rule (3) of rule 15, be adjourned or postponed accordingly, or if the motion carried be that the House pass to the business next in order in the list of business, the business then under discussion shall be considered to be disposed of:

“ Provided that nothing in this rule shall enable a member to move that any meeting or business fixed by a special order of the Speaker or the Governor for a purpose for which they have power to appoint a day under the Act, or rules, shall be adjourned or postponed.”

So, I rule the motion out of order.”

The House adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 16th August 1946.

The House met at the Assembly Chamber at eleven of the clock on Friday, the 16th August 1946, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Irrigation wells sunk in Malabar and South Kanara.

* 88 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) how many irrigation wells have been sunk this year with the aid of the subsidy given by Government to help 'The Grow More Food' campaign;

(b) how many such wells have been sunk in Malabar and in South Kanara; and

(c) whether Government intend to continue this form of aid and if so, till what period?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“(a) (i) The Government have sanctioned several schemes for subsidizing the sinking and repairing of irrigation wells. The first scheme was introduced in 1944 in the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot, Chittoor, Salem, Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevely and in the Ceded Districts. The second scheme—called the Accelerated Scheme for the sinking of wells—was sanctioned in February-March 1946 for all the districts of the province except the Nilgiris. The third is the modified scheme sanctioned in June 1946 specially for the Ceded Districts.

“(ii) Under the first scheme, 41 wells were sunk during the quarter ending with 31st March 1946. From the commencement of the scheme up to 31st March 1946, 65 wells were sunk, out of 403 wells for which subsidies were granted. Later figures are not yet available.

“(iii) Under the Accelerated Scheme, time has been given up to 30th September 1946 for completion of wells. On 30th June 1946, 3,177 new wells were completed and the sinking of 41,365 wells was in progress. The number of old wells repaired by that date was 1,797 and the number in the process of repair was 15,756.

“(iv) As the third scheme, i.e., the Modified Scheme for the Ceded Districts, came into force only from 24th June 1946, no wells would have yet been sunk under that scheme.

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“(b) The figures of well works completed and in progress, as on 30th June 1946, are given below:—

	New wells.		Old wells.	
	Completed.	In progress.	Completed.	In progress.
Malabar ..	58	150	14	62
South Kanara ..	4	45	3	9

“These wells come under the Accelerated Scheme.

“(c) The first scheme will be in force till the end of March 1947. The Accelerated Scheme, i.e., the second scheme, has practically ended as no fresh subsidies will be sanctioned after 15th June 1946. As regards the third scheme, i.e., the Modified Scheme for the Ceded Districts, it will be in force till 30th June 1947. The Government have under consideration a new and a separate general scheme for the grant of subsidies for sinking and repairing irrigation wells during the next two years. In view of the fact that the Accelerated Scheme was of little value in South Kanara and Malabar owing to the south-west monsoon, provision will be made for those districts in the general or special scheme for giving subsidies not only for irrigation wells but also for irrigation tanks, in the coming year. Details of these schemes have not yet been settled.”

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“May I know why Chittoor has been excluded from the Modified Scheme, Sir?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Because Chittoor is not in the Ceded Districts.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“May I know, Sir, why the Nilgiris was left out of the scheme?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“I made enquiries and I understood that there was no need for wells in the Nilgiris.”

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“Does the Hon. Revenue Minister know that the whole of Madanapalle revenue division was added on to the Chittoor district from Cuddapah, and will he consider the question of extending the scheme to the Madanapalle area also?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“I was told, so, Sir, and the question is under consideration.”

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTI-NAD:—“Will the Hon. Minister place on the Table of the House a districtwar statement of the new wells sunk?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Yes, Sir, that will be done.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“As a third of the Nilgiris is situated in the plains, will the Government consider the need for irrigation facilities to these areas also?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“It will also be considered.”

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KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTI-NAD:—“Will the Government also consider the question of sinking tube wells?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“These wells are intended for irrigation purposes and not for rural water-supply. I do not know how far the tube wells will go into this picture.”

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTI-NAD:—“If the Hon. the Minister will make enquiries in other provinces, he will find that tube wells are also resorted to for irrigation purposes.”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“I will have that point considered, Sir.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to show me where the provision for the sinking of wells be found in the budget?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“At the appropriate time when that demand comes.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“In view of the rocky nature of the soil of the Ceded districts, will the Hon. Minister consider the question of increasing the amount of subsidy for sinking wells?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“The subsidy has already been increased from Rs. 300 to Rs. 500 per well, Sir.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“May I submit, Sir, that this amount is not sufficient and that it should be increased?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“I am afraid, I cannot agree to that suggestion. After all, it is only a subsidy and we are not prepared to meet the entire cost of sinking the wells.”

SRI KALLUR SUBBA RAO:—“May I know, Sir, from the Hon. Minister whether representations were made by the districts for increasing the subsidy?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Yes, Sir, they have been made.”

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“Will the Government be prepared to give the technical help that will be necessary for people to sink wells?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“It may not be possible, Sir, because there are more than 40,000 or 50,000 wells being sunk.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“Is the Hon. Minister aware that the Collector of Kurnool has estimated that the minimum that is required to sink a well in that district is about Rs. 2,000 and that Rs. 1,000 should be given as subsidy?”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“I am not aware of that, Sir. A general statement like that may not be correct.”

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SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Have the Government considered the question of employing the Military personnel for sinking wells?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Yes, Sir, it is being tried in the Salem district."

MR. F. FERRELLY:—"In view of the statement made by the Hon. Minister on the grant of subsidy for sinking wells, will he give us an assurance that no further funds will be spent in repairing the new wells which are just being sunk?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That assurance can be readily given."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Is the Government satisfied that most of the wells sunk with the aid of Government subsidy are being used for raising food-crops? Will this question be investigated?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That is one of the conditions for granting the subsidy. To some extent, it has been a success."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government have in mind any scheme of intensified sub-soil survey in the deficit districts?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"A separate question should be put for that, Sir."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know whether the Government will consider the desirability of providing a special staff for giving technical advice and assistance to people who sink new wells or repair old wells?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have already answered a similar question, that it may not be possible."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government give an assurance, before proceeding with the scheme, that the wells sunk with the aid of the subsidy will be used for the purpose of raising food-crops?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"No such assurance can be given when there are thousands of wells being sunk."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"Is the Government aware that in Northern India in the Gangetic plains a number of tube wells have been sunk for supplementing irrigation purposes? Will the Government consider the feasibility of sinking such tube wells in the Cauvery delta and other suitable areas?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That matter will be considered, Sir. I can say nothing more than that."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Do not the Government consider the advisability of not spending any more money on the scheme unless the assurance is forthcoming that these wells will be used only for raising food-crops?"

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THE HON. MR. SPEAKER:—"Are you making a statement or are you putting a question?"

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"It is only question, Sir. I shall put it this way. Are the Government satisfying themselves before proceeding with the extended scheme, that the wells sunk with the aid of the subsidy will be used for raising food-crops?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have already said that that is one of the conditions of the grant. I have personally seen a large number of such wells being used for raising food-crops, and there is no reason to suppose that they are not being used for that purpose."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMA AYYAR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that hundreds of applications for sinking wells under the scheme from Dindigul have been rejected without any explanation?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"A separate question may be put, Sir."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—"As there is a difference of opinion regarding the full utility of the grant under the accelerated scheme of sinking wells, may I request the Government to strengthen the Minor Irrigation department, and make it supervise the scheme and make suggestions for putting the scheme into effective use?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"A separate question is needed, Sir."

DR. R. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"Will the Government extend the Ceded districts scheme to the Ramnad district in view of the peculiar conditions of that district?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Sir, the Ceded districts are far away from Ramnad and it will not be possible to extend that scheme." (Laughter.)

Salaries of village officers and servants.

* 89 Q.—SRI D. DORAIRAJA PANDIAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the salaries of the village officers, talayaris and vettians; and

(b) whether they propose to abolish the hereditary system?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" (a) Certain memorials of village officers and servants asking for increased remuneration are under the consideration of the Government.

" (b) There is no such proposal at present."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know from the Hon. the Minister whether it is the hereditary character of these appointments that make these village officers and village servants stick to their jobs, in spite of their low salaries and that these village officials are also efficient on that account?"

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THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I cannot say, Sir."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Do the Government propose to consider the salaries question before these people resort to strike?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"As I said, the matter is under the consideration of Government now."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"May I ask how many months will the Government take to complete the consideration of this question?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Not many months."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Will it be days?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I can give no undertaking, Sir."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Are the Government aware that it is this hereditary system that is responsible for the tyranny under which the villagers suffer, and if so, whether the Government propose to abolish the hereditary system?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I do not agree that the hereditary system has anything to do with the alleged tyranny."

SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—"May I ask whether the question of amalgamating the village offices in the coming 'Rural Republic Legislation' will be considered?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The suggestion is very useful. It will be considered at the proper time."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"May I ask whether the Hon. the Minister is aware of the fact that the real grievance of the village officers is that in recent times they have been experiencing visitations by several officers which means great inconvenience for them?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I suppose such visits have been there all the time."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I ask whether the Communists are dominating the Village Officers' Association?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I cannot say."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I cannot allow that question."

SRI D. DORAIRAJA PANDIAN:—"With reference to clause (a), may I know what scale of salaries is proposed for the village officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I submit, Sir, that is anticipating what is going to be done hereafter."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I ask, Sir, whether the Government are considering the question of the abolition of the hereditary system?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have already answered that there is no such proposal under the consideration of Government at present."

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SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know why the hereditary system obtains only in some districts?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"It is difficult to answer that question now."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Will the Hon. the Minister consider the undesirability of giving up the hereditary system?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I can give no such assurance. If need arises we may have to change the present policy."

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"May I know whether the Government consider it advisable to fix salaries to village officers in zamindari areas also?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That is also under consideration."

SRI T. K. T. N. R. TATACHARI:—"Are the Government aware that there are village officers in zamindari areas who do work for the Government but do not receive any pay or allowance?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am not aware of that."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"Will the Government treat the village officers as Government servants and give them certain scales of pay and introduce religious and moral education as part of the study in centres meant for village officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The question may be split up and put separately."

SRI T. K. T. N. R. TATACHARI:—"Will the Government consider the cases of those village officers who do not receive pay now?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That will be done."

SRI W. S. SRINIVASA RAO:—"Will the Government introduce the system of transfers of these village officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That can be done only when the hereditary system of village officers is scrapped."

SRI V. V. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR:—"Do the Government propose to place these village officers on a permanent footing or is it their proposal to keep them as part-time officers?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Under the present system if they insist upon keeping them on a fulltime basis and qualifications, they must be willing to give up the hereditary system."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMA AYYAR:—"What is the policy of the present Government in continuing the schools for the education of the village officers by the former bureaucratic Government?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The hon. Member will have an opportunity to raise the question when this demand is under discussion."

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SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMA AYYAR:—"May I ask whether a uniform policy cannot be followed for all districts by appointing hereditary officers for all village offices?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The matter will be considered when the system is to be changed."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I enquire whether the Government are aware that if they abolish the hereditary system it will be costlier?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I do not agree. I believe that if the hereditary system goes we can have less officers, less cost and better efficiency."

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1946-47.

DEMAND IV—FOREST—cont.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

* MR. SPEAKER:—"As the Hon. the Minister for Forests is not keeping good health, the Hon. the Minister for Revenue will deputise for him."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Sir, our Province with 20,793 square miles of forests has the largest forest area in all India, and yet, I am sorry to see we have not derived as much benefit from it as we could especially in the matter of the supply of fuel and food to our people. What we expect the Military to do is to immediately take steps to improve by the exploitation of our forests, the food and fuel position. In this connexion I wish to bring to the notice of the House how some of the zamindars are carrying on disafforestation in their estates. The zamindars of Mutyala and Munagala are felling the forest trees in large number and trading in charcoal. The Hon. the Prime Minister has given a promise that he will bring in a Bill to prevent such things. Unless this legislation is passed very soon, the forests in Munagala estate will be completely mowed down. Forestry is closely linked to agriculture and the existence of forests influences the climatic conditions. That being so we should see to the regeneration of the forests."

"Sir, now I wish to congratulate the Ministry for restarting the Forest College. If our forest wealth is increased economically our position will be better. As a matter of fact our province grows very little teakwood. We are at present getting this valuable timber from other provinces. If we could start teakwood plantations in our forests the income from forests would greatly increase."

"In this connexion I wish to point out that the administrative charges of this department seem to be heavy. This I notice is due to the fact that the officers at the top, just as in other departments, draw huge salaries. Not content with this they take also bribes from the poor people. They fine very heavily the poor peasants if their cattle strays into the forests in search of fodder. I suggest that the peasantry in the neighbourhood of forests should

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be allowed to graze their cattle there without hindrance. Not only that. The peasantry should be allowed to remove from the forests fuel for their personal needs, though not for trade. These facilities must be immediately given to the poor people."

"Regarding the forest panchayats, it seems there is a proposal to abolish them. That will be a very undemocratic step to take. It should not be done. Instead of abolishing the forest panchayats, you should democratise them by having elections held for them. (A voice: They are even now elected bodies.) The forest range officers have extraordinary powers. Their powers must be curtailed and they must be made subordinates to the forest panchayats."

"There are tanks in the forests in a bad state of disrepair. If these are promptly repaired it will be of immense help to the people of the neighbourhood and production of food will also be increased."

"The question of fodder should also engage our attention. In Rayalaseema there is scarcity of fodder. In our forests there are vast tracts which could supply fodder for the needy districts. This may be looked into."

"You now make a revenue of Rs. 2.81 lakhs from forests under the care of the forest panchayats. This revenue should be returned to the respective forest panchayats to be made use of for the benefit of the people of the neighbourhood."

"I desire in this connexion to refer to the question of the salaries of the low-paid staff. The disparity in the salaries paid to the highest officer of the department is very striking."

"The Chief Conservator of Forests is paid from Rs. 2,500 to Rs. 2,750 and his Personal Assistant gets more than Rs. 300, whereas these peons are paid from Rs. 12 to Rs. 20. Sir, see the disparity between the pay of people who do little work and the pay of the persons who do much work. I would therefore request the Ministry to take up this problem immediately without hesitation. It is the disparity in these salaries that leads to strikes. It is because of the very low pay that they are getting, these people are resorting to strikes, such as the one we are seeing in the Madras City itself to-day. Sir, they are not able to make a living. The strike wave has spread throughout the Andhradesa. There the municipal workers are going on strike. The Health Officers, the Chairmen and the Commissioners have gone to the extent of engaging the Police and rowdies. I want to bring to the notice of the House an incident which had taken place . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"We are now in the Forest Demand. The hon. Member must confine his remarks to that Demand. I cannot allow him to speak on other subjects, such as the salaries of other workers. He must speak on the Forest Demand alone."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I am talking about the question of salaries . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Whose salaries?"

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* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ The salaries of the forest peons and guards, Sir.”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member may continue.”

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ Now, Sir, the salaries of the forest guards are very low and for the same reason the municipal employees also are going on strike. When these incidents take place rowdies are engaged by the Health Officers and Commissioners and they are resorting, for instance, in Bezvada . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“ Order, order. I wish to know whether forest peons were beaten by the police.”

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ It is not the forest peons that I am referring to. The municipal workers . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member cannot refer to municipal workers on this Demand. We are in the Forest Demand and he must confine his remarks to that Demand.”

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ I regret I am not allowed to give a comparative picture, Sir, how because of their low pay the staff are resorting to strikes and how these atrocities are being committed by the rowdies and the police. Anyway I will confine myself to the conditions of the staff, particularly the guards and peons, working in the Forest department. I request the Ministry to raise their salaries immediately so that they may not go on strike and so that they may not be treated like this.”

* SRI K. VARADACHARI :—“ On a point of order, Sir. Can a Member incite public servants to go on strikes?”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“ The hon. Member is simply giving information to the hon. Minister. He can continue his speech.”

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—“ It is future information, Sir.”

* MR. SPEAKER :—“ I have already given my ruling. The hon. Member may go on.”

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ So, my suggestion is that the salaries question must be immediately taken up without any delay and hesitation before any such agitation which is taking place before our eyes and before our nose in the City of Madras takes place there also. Their salaries must be raised at least to a minimum living wage. The Ministry must come forward boldly with a statement as to what extent they are going to raise the salaries. Otherwise a repetition of what is happening here may take place in the distant forest villages among the people who have voted for us and who have put this Government in charge.”

* SRI KALA VENKATA RAO :—“ I consider there are no Communists in the forests.”

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* SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member who moved the cut motion yesterday spoke of the exploitation of forests that has gone on during the war time. It is true that in Government-managed forests there has been advance-felling and over-felling due to war demands and even in the private forests there have been excess fellings during the war time on account of the high prices offered for timber. I think, Sir, the Government have recognized how our forests have suffered on account of this over-felling and they have laid down two matters as the objective of their post-war forest policy. One is the rehabilitation of the existing reserved forests and of other forests and the second is the extension of afforestation. I think, Sir, the officers of the Forest department are already attending to the first task, namely, the restoration of the forests, which have been denuded on account of advance-felling and over-felling. Regarding the second matter, namely, the extension of afforestation, the Government of India have said that in every province we must aim at having 20 to 25 per cent of the area under forests. In this Province, I understand that we have got 18,000 and odd square miles of forests covering about 15 per cent of the area. We would like to know what programme the Government have in view for the extension of forest areas, whether they propose to acquire private forests or to take over control of those forests for their better management.

“ Sir, it is considered desirable that village forests should be formed with a view to supply the needs of the agriculturists in the matter of fuel, timber, fodder and manure leaves. We would like also to know what the Government are doing in this matter of creating village forests for the purposes of meeting the needs of the agriculturists.

“ Next, Sir, the Government have had a proposal to extend casuarina plantation to about 150,000 acres with a view to increase the supply of fuel and divert cattle dung which is now used as fuel, for the more useful purpose of manure. We would like to know in which all districts this casuarina plantation scheme is being worked or whether they are having it in all the districts.

“ There is also a proposal to investigate the possibility of developing industries by utilizing the minor forest produce. I should like to know what investigation is being done in the matter.

“ Sir, the forests exist for two purposes, one for protective purposes, such as the prevention of floods and soil erosion. This is a matter which can well be left to the technical men of the department and I believe they are paying due attention to it. The second object is to utilize forests for the purpose of meeting the needs of the village agriculturists in the matter of fuel, timber, manure leaves and fodder, as I have already said. Sir, it seems desirable that a belt of one or two furlongs should be demarcated and set apart in all places where cultivated lands lie close to reserved forests and the ryots belonging to those particular

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villages should be allowed to remove from the belt area the undergrowth and manure leaves for agricultural purposes. I know that this concession is being given in certain areas but it is desirable to extend this concession to all places where it is required. In the matter of grazing, it is necessary that the grazing area which is available should be divided into blocks and the rotational grazing system should be introduced.

“One great trouble arising from the proximity of forests to the cultivated land is the damage done to crops and the destruction of cattle by wild animals. The number of wild animals has increased of late due to the reduction of gun licences and the difficulty of getting gunpowder, shots and cartridges. It is desirable and necessary to give gun licences on a more liberal scale to villagers for the purpose of protection of crops. The supply of gunpowder, shots and cartridges also should be made on a quota basis for gun licence-holders in villages lying near the reserved forests. At present it so happens that the people in the towns are mostly supplied with these materials. The stringent forest game rules should also be relaxed to encourage people to shoot wild animals in larger numbers in the interests of crop protection and also in the interests of the Grow More Food campaign.

“Another great trouble that is due to the proximity of forests to cultivated lands is Malaria. Malaria of course we know is a very widespread disease that takes a very heavy toll of life. The adverse effect of Malaria on the health of agricultural labourers is very well recognized and cultivation work in lands near the reserved forests suffers much. The malaria problem has become one of the serious economic problems that we have to face. All possible measures for the control of malaria should be taken. The Forest Department, the Agricultural Department and the Public Health Department must act together in this matter. We know that during war time the Allied Forces who were fighting in malarial tracts were effectively protected by the measures taken for the control of malaria. New discoveries have been made. More effective remedies for malaria have come into use such as mepacrine and paludrine and wonderful insecticides such as the D.D.T. have been also used with good effect in the malaria-infested places during war-time. War-time experience in the control of malaria may very well be used to reduce the ravages of this scourge, particularly in cultivated lands near reserved forests. The control and eradication of malaria in those areas is very necessary in the interests of agriculture and whatever money the Government may spend on this will be very good investment.”

11-45 a.m. * SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the demand moved by the Hon. Minister in charge of Forests, I should like to offer some suggestions in the interests of the Forest Administration. I find from the budget that the Government expect to get Rs. 117 lakhs from Forests and they expect to spend about Rs. 74 lakhs under the Administration of Forests. As has been explained by my hon. Friend Mr. Shetty, there has been

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an over-exploitation of our forests recently for getting fuel for the cities and also for meeting the needs of the Military and the Railways.

“Sir, a sum of Rs. 8,66,700 has been earmarked for regeneration. Out of this a sum of Rs. 1,35,400 is intended for casuarina plantations and for all other regeneration they have allotted Rs. 2,08,900 leaving the entire balance for salaries and allowances and so forth. Taking regeneration alone, I do not see any proper proportion between the amount allotted for regeneration proper and the amount they are going to spend on salaries.

“Some years ago a thorough investigation was made as to the number of District Forest Officers and Conservators of Forests that were required for the department and it was found that there were more than 20 officers in the cadre of District Forest Officers in excess of the requirements. Recommendations were made to retrench these officers. During the war, many officers have been appointed for various purposes such as the cultivation of pyrethrum and the supply of fodder, fuel and timber to the military soil erosion and so many other things. The Government should see whether we are still in need of these officers. Taking the case of pyrethrum cultivation in the Nilgiris, they have got 2,300 odd acres under cultivation, but they have been able to produce only 67 tons of flowers. What I suggest is that pyrethrum cultivation can be converted into a village industry and the ordinary ryot without much of exertion and cost can raise this flower and supply it to the Government if the Government fixes a reasonable rate.

“Sir, in an agricultural country like ours, it is very necessary that forests must be preserved. After all, our province has only a very small area under forests as compared with the other provinces. It has been stated in the report that we are having only 15 per cent of the area under forests. But this includes the area that comes under village panchayats also. From our experience, we have seen that owing to the war during the last 6 or 7 years there has been a great exploitation of the forests and most of them have been denuded. Whether near the town or in the interior, we find that most of the lands have been set apart for the grow-more-food purposes, and in the course of bringing the lands under cultivation most of the trees have been cut away. The result is the moisture could not be preserved and the villages could not get the fuel they want. It is high time that a big amount is spent on a go-back-to-the-forest campaign so that the forests may be set right and the villages improved.

“There is one other item in the budget under Post-war schemes. A sum of Rs. 1,34,400 has been provided for the Madras Forest College. Some years back when the old Madras Forest College was closed down, it was found that there was a large number of students in the college from other provinces and that there were only a few students from this province. Taking into account the facilities available at the Imperial Forest College at Dehra Dun, the Government decided to send out students to that college and closed down the Madras College. But during the Advisers' regime we do

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not know what reasons there were to bring back this Forest College once more. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how many students from this province have been selected to undergo training in this Forest College. If there are enough students from this province there could be no opposition of any sort for running a college of this kind.

"Sir, I find in the budget that provision has been made for researches in pyrethrum and such things, and for the appointment of special officers for such purposes. When we are having a separate college for this purpose, I do not know why separate officers should be maintained for research work as this could very well be done in the college itself.

"The Hon. the Leader of the House speaking on this demand yesterday brought home to us the necessity of improving wattle cultivation. I do quite agree with him, Sir. We have been importing into this province wattle bark or essence of wattle bark to the tune of Rs. 25 lakhs. As the country is interested in the tanning industry, it is highly necessary that the improvement of the wattle bark cultivation must be taken up. For this purpose, several experimental plots or nurseries were started and I know as a matter of fact they came up very well. Even the ordinary ryots were allowed land some eight years ago to undertake potato and wattle cultivation. When the wattle plant grows up, after 3 or 4 years, potatoes and other things are lifted and the wattle trees are left on the land. It is therefore highly necessary, Sir, that wattle cultivation should be extended so that our tanneries may be given the necessary bark for tanning purposes.

"Sir, there is also necessity to produce more lac to meet the demands of the various offices. Experiments were carried on in Madura, South Kanara and some of the Andhra districts and it was found that they yielded good results. I do not know, Sir, what has happened to the lac experiment carried on in 1938-39 in Andhra desa.

"Sir, another thing is about camphor which we have been importing from Japan and Formosa to the tune of Rs. 20 lakhs every year. Some time back we ordered a camphor nursery in the cinchona plantations in order to see whether camphor plants can be produced. I know as a matter of fact, it was possible to produce camphor plants. In some parts of the Nilgiris we see traces of camphor trees; we also find them in one or two plantations near Coonoor; in the Hallakurai Estate where there are about sixty acres of camphor plantation. It has given very good results and it has been possible to produce camphor and camphor camphorodine oil. As the province is becoming more and more self-sufficient and as camphor is required for all the ceremonial purposes and for worship in the temples and as we should also see that our people should take to camphor cultivation in these hard days, I would request the Government to give subsidies to the people who undertake camphor cultivation, because camphor is not a short crop as it will take at least 9 to 10 years to come to maturity.

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"The next point, Mr. Speaker, which I want to urge upon the Hon. Minister is with regard to the welfare of the people inhabiting these forests—the aborigines, the hill tribes and so on. These people have helped the Forest department in various ways—in putting out fires, attending to various regeneration operations and so on. But they have no medical aid, no maternity facilities for their women and no veterinary aid even for the small number of cattle they have. No agricultural demonstrators visit these people. I request the Hon. Minister to see that these unfortunate people are given some medical aid, maternity facilities and similar things. The Hon. the Prime Minister knows, Sir, that during 1938 when we traversed the whole of the agency we came across hundreds of Koyas and other hill tribes of the district who were in very bad health due to malaria and some other diseases. At that time efforts were made to give some assistance to these people. Further, Sir, these people have been collecting the minor produce from the forests especially tamarind, but the middlemen have been exploiting them by not giving them what is actually their due. It was then ordered to have a special forest officer who would work out a scheme of collecting the tamarind on a co-operative basis and give the benefit of the same to the people. I do not know, Sir, what is the position to-day.

"Coming now to the Nilgiris, Sir, the hill tribes, the aborigines, known as the Todas, have been enjoying what is called the Toda patta land for a long time; but of late most of the land has been taken away from these people and given to others on leases. These people who form a pastoral community have been devoid of all facilities, with the result that they are now driven to the towns for eking out their livelihood, leaving the rural areas. Sir, it is highly necessary that such a picturesque community should be encouraged and given necessary facilities. I would also like to impress upon the Government the necessity to look to the welfare of the communities known as Irulars, Kurumbar and Panniers in the Nilgiris and in the various areas of the Coimbatore district, especially the Attapadi valley. These people were given facilities at one time by way of Kumuri cultivation. I feel, Sir, the time has now come when the Government should look after the interests of the aborigines, the hill tribes and the depressed classes. These communities should not be neglected.

"Again, the forests form the backbone for the grazing of cattle both in towns and in villages. Of late much of the forest land has been utilized for other purposes, with the result that now there is practically no grazing ground at all. I should like that some provision is made to see that we have more grazing areas.

"Sir, it has been found that the forests in this province can produce many kinds of useful medicinal herbs. On an examination conducted at Dehra Dun, it was found that this province could supply many of the herbs. An investigation was started in the year 1938. I do not know with what result. I should like the Hon. Minister to examine the question, because we have

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been getting extracts of these herbs from foreign countries to the tune of many lakhs of rupees. I would also urge upon the Government to see what arrangements can be made to have more fuel available to the villagers from the forests and to make this one of the primary duties of the District Forest Officers.

“I want to point out, Sir, the paucity of men of the depressed classes in the Forest department. Service in this department does not require much of collegiate education or any high standard of education. The only thing required is a certain amount of intelligence. An examination will show that you can get any number of people from the depressed communities for working in forest areas. I would request the Hon. Minister to consider this question. With these words, I support the Demand.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I wish to inform the House that the hon. the Leader of the Muslim Group told me yesterday that the Muslim members of the Opposition would not be present in the House to-day. So, our interval for lunch to-day will be from 1-30 p.m. to 2-30 p.m. and not from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.”

* SRI P. NATESAN:—“Sir, my object in supporting the cut motion is to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Minister for Forests, who unfortunately is indisposed to-day, the urgent necessity for finding wooden poles for electric purposes. (An hon. Member: ‘What about white ants?’) We have of course to keep in mind the danger from white ants. There is the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun which has made any amount of research into this matter and has come to the conclusion that creosote and ascu treatment are fairly good protection against white ants. I myself, as a licensee, have used more than a thousand casuarina posts, which according to the Forest department split sometimes, but which after treatment, are found to be quite as satisfactory as any other poles. Every hon. Member in this House has been asking for electricity. ‘Sir, when is electricity coming to my place, why has it not come; what is the trouble’ and all such questions are put. If you really want to help the rural population by giving them electricity, you will have to make necessary arrangements for felling poles. I cannot understand what the Forest department does here. Of course, many hon. Members have spoken about the way in which forests have to be conserved or improved. I say that with a bit of drive in the Forest department, trees can be felled, I mean trees which can be found to be useful for transmission and distribution line purposes. Here the Department of Electricity also must co-operate; or it may be the other way. The Department of Electricity may be asked to give its programme of work so far as rural distribution is concerned and the Forest department may see that the necessary poles are felled and got ready. Sir, in England, for all purposes for which we use steel poles here, they use wooden poles. The same thing is happening to-day in the United Provinces where more than a thousand miles of transmission lines have been laid with the help of wooden poles. The Government of Mysore have done the same thing; you

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have only to go to Mysore and Bangalore to see the enormous number of wooden poles which carry the transmission lines. Go to Travancore State again and see what the Forest department has done there. They have a regular department there to fell trees year after year, get them treated by the Government department itself and the Forest department issues them to the Electricity department for use as transmission poles. What have we done here? Sir, this is an important matter. I just want to impress on the Cabinet that there must be a policy as to how the Government should help the users of electricity. You must know, Sir, that about 75 per cent of the cost of supply of electricity is on account of the high cost of distribution mains. When they find the capital outlay becoming a little too big, both the Government department and the Electrical licensee think that the scheme is not a paying one. So what happens is that the agriculturists in a certain area are told that the capital cost is too much and it is not possible to bring the line to that particular area. If you only revise your policy and say ‘We shall hereafter, in addition to the rails or steel poles that are used, use wooden poles also’ and if you can make it a policy, the Forest department can go ahead in this respect and the Electricity department can take advantage of it.

“Then again, Sir, so far as technical advice against white ants is concerned, there is the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun who will be willing to give you any amount of advice. I only want you to follow what is being done elsewhere. In our forests there is any amount of timber available—there is the pali, the irul, the ventek and other varieties. I have no doubt that with the help of the so-called technical people in the Forest department, you must be able to find out exactly what poles would be useful for electrical purposes. I myself have taken the trouble on my own, to use (No. 1) untreated poles, (No. 2) poles treated with ascu; now I am experimenting with cashewnut oil application. If we people take this trouble, why should not the Government take the trouble and do something by way of reducing the capital cost? In pre-war days, I think during the days of the late Yakub Hasan, an attempt was made to introduce wooden poles, but with what result I do not know. In the olden days, 41½ lb. South Indian Railway rails (28 feet) used to cost 8 annas a foot, and that means Rs. 14 a rail, and the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway 50 lb. rails cost 12 annas a foot, i.e., Rs. 21 a rail. Even in those days, we used to go in for wooden poles. To-day these rails are at least four times as costly as they were in pre-war days. Getting steel tubular poles is absolutely out of the question now. In such circumstances, how will electricity progress? Licensees are being asked what about electricity to a particular village? Can they take electricity there and all that? What help are you going to give not only to the licensees but also to the Government departments? In the Chief Engineer for Electricity to-day, you have an excellent man who will give you ideas. I want the Electricity department and the Forest department to make use of him and ask him what exactly is wanted and what should be done. I do not want all that I

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say to be brushed aside, because I am sure that during these budget debates many things are spoken here, they go on record, but nothing happens. If you really want to help the rural population, I would only say that the Forest department must be asked to do its best and the Electricity department also must be asked to take advantage of what the Forest department can do in this respect. I want both the Hon. Ministers to sit together and see how best they can improve the rural electrification schemes that are sponsored by the Hon. the Premier. Of course the Premier is anxious that everybody must get electricity. You are giving so much subsidy for wells; the water in them must be lifted; how are you going to do it? If you depend on electricity, give wooden poles and make special efforts to get them in sufficient quantities. I would be very anxious to know next year what attempt the Government have made during this year in this respect."

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to urge on the Government one or two important points. Of course I support the demand and oppose the cut motions. The greatest hardship that the peasants in proprietary villages experience under tyranny of the zamindars, aghaharamdars and mokasadors and other proprietors is with reference to forests. Forests are considered by these proprietors as their own private property. The peasants are not allowed to graze free their cattle therein, to get fuel, brushwood, thatch materials and timbers, etc., for constructing houses. All these are very necessary amenities for rural life, for peasant life. So, the struggle between the proprietors and the peasants has been going on ever since the permanent settlement was introduced by the East India Company in about a third of the area of this province.

12-15 P.M. "Before that, Sir, every inch of land in the village, not only the cultivated land but the forest pastures, hills, tanks, porambokes, the river sources and everything else belonged to the village community and in the words of Justice Fielding, every village was a republic. It is the village community, the village industry and the village panchayat that maintained the prosperity, the Dharma and the civilization of this ancient country for centuries whatever might have been the changes in the dynasties at Delhi. These institutions have been ruthlessly destroyed after the advent of the British East India Company, because these three do not find a place in their mode of administration. So, Sir, ever since that time, the zamindars, who are called proprietors in their Sanads of 1802, began to think that they were the owners of the soil. When they went to Courts in the early days the English judges gave decisions in their favour but later on some changes in the ideas of the judges also have come about, for instance, in 20 Madras and 23 Madras and so on. Then, Sir, some illustrious Indian judges, like Sir Subrahmanya Ayyar, began to say that this proprietorship in the permanent settlement is not the same as that prevailing in England. In England it is the feudal system whereas here it is the village community system. The villagers—the cultivators have their rights, and the permanent settlement has not specifically destroyed them. But the zamindars have

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become too powerful and begun to suppress the rights of the villagers and have taken possession of all the forests, tanks, etc., in the village so much so, the peasants, artisans and others became helpless. After 106 years, the Estates Land Act has come but it has only conferred permanent occupancy right with the existing rates of rent on the cultivating ryot for cultivating land. In regard to the other things under the Estates Land Act, it is extremely doubtful whether the peasants had any rights in regard to grazing and other amenities in the forests. Pastures and forests have been practically given over to the zamindars; mines also were given to the zamindars—zamindars, aghaharamdars and mokhasadors have all been given the same tenures under the permanent settlement. So in all these states or proprietary villages, the condition of the ryots is very miserable; in regard to their amenities, they have to depend upon the mercies of these proprietors; sometimes they take money and give permits; but they are not allowed to use them and that is the precarious condition these ryots live under. Later on, when the ryots became conscious of their political, economic and social values in society, they began to assert themselves and so on. Now, Sir, it is the declared policy of the Congress Government as per the Election Manifesto, to remove all these intermediaries between the peasant and the state—the zamindars, the aghaharamdars, the mokhasadors, jagirdars and all these dars—who are between the State and the peasant. And who the peasant is, should be a matter to be thought of later on—whether he is actually a cultivator or a pattadar. . . . I would urge on the Hon. Revenue Minister . . . "

* MR. F. FERRELLY:—"On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, may I know whether my hon. Friend is speaking on agriculture, land revenue or forests?"

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Forest is the fulcrum round which the whole of our Estates Land Act has to be built up. Forests, tanks and all these things go together. They are the amenities without which lands are useless and cultivation worthless. Therefore, I am speaking on forests and forests alone. That is the reply that I can give to my European Friend.

"Sir, there is the question of absentee ryots, etc., which might be taken up later on. But I would urge upon the Hon. Revenue Minister to take up this question of the peasants in proprietary villages immediately because it is an urgent problem. No doubt, I think he is also in a hurry about it. Now I want to draw his pointed attention to an emergent situation that has arisen in Kistna and in the other neighbouring districts. The position is that in all proprietary villages whether they are zamindaris, or aghaharams, including the zamindari of Mukhtiyal about which my hon. Friend, Pillamarri Venkateswarlu seems to be keen the proprietors are in a hurry and because they know they are going to be removed, they therefore cut down trees and sell them away, and they take the help of new-comers to remove the forests and cultivate the land. As a result of this, there are incessant quarrels between the zamindars and the peasants, resulting in riots and bloodshed. This is the emergent situation to which I want to draw

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the attention of the Government, and I want them to take emergency measures to stop all this."

* SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demand. Forests are the natural and the national assets of any country and upon forests depend rainfall, control of floods, and pasture. So far as our province is concerned, we never had any policy regarding forest control and forest administration, but we are having only deforestation of the forests and not reforestation. It was more so during war years when petrol had become insufficient and when it was used only for war purposes, the forests were used for supply charcoal to run buses and for fuel. I would therefore urge on the Government to chalk out a definite policy or a plan so that they can get facts and figures to show what varieties of timber are available in our forests and how much of fuel can be made available and for how many years they can supply. Sir, in the United States of America they have a plan according to which they can give you the total number of trees in all their forests and the amount of timber that they can supply. In the same manner, I would like our Government also to chalk out a plan in regard to forests, because they are an important factor and as I pointed out already, on them depend rainfall, prevention of floods and many other things. My friend Mr. Shetty has already pointed out the immediate necessity of introducing rotational grazing and I heartily support it because grazing is at present neglected. In the Ceded districts, Sir, we are not having fodder and I am told by my friends that as a result of this cattle are being sold away to the neighbouring districts. If only we have systematised and scientific pastures for a block of 500 acres with tanks, bulls, etc., and the dry cattle being brought in during the off-season, what amount of food and wealth could they contribute to society? You know, Sir, in a country like China, it is only after the denudation of the forests, floods came in and ruined the country; forests control the flood and the current and it is the forests that supply green manure. As such, we must have a systematic plan for the improvement of the forest wealth to enable greater supply of green manure. In western countries at present, there is a cry for green manures because scientific manures, such as sulphate of ammonia and other artificial manures are not found useful for the land but on the other hand detrimental. It is green manure that gives natural manure to the land. In these circumstances, we must apply our mind to see that green manure is supplied in more quantities to the farmers.

"We must also have what is called the 'tree-planting days' and everyone must plant trees on a particular day each year in the wider interests of the nation and that day should be fixed for the whole Province. This tree-planting will naturally lead to the improvement of other allied materials also.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, has pointed out many other aspects of the forests problem. He drew particular attention to the preparation of camphor. When he was Minister, I remember with what great enthusiasm he brought a piece of camphor prepared from the leaves that were grown in his district. So, there is also a prospect in that direction.

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"Another point, Sir, is that in the Agencies they are cutting down a lot of trees but not growing trees again. I suggest that the Government should take up a survey of the whole range of forests and find out what new trees we can introduce into this Province. In the United States, they send their men all over the world to find out what new trees they can import and grow in particular lands and in particular areas. Similarly, we must send our men from the Forest Department to other countries for the introduction of new trees and other new methods that are followed in those countries for the development of forests so that our forests may be improved a great deal.

"Sir, for teak and other important timber, we have at present to depend upon Burma. Burma to-day may be friendly with us. But since we are aiming at self-sufficiency we must try to be self-sufficient in the matter of good timber for our Province.

"In the agencies, we must pay particular attention to the hill tribes in the forests. Attention has been drawn by my hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, to this aspect of the question and I do heartily endorse what he has said in that direction.

"I once more urge on the Government to have a definite policy in regard to the Forest department and also in regard to planting trees because you find almost all the hills in the Province have been denuded of all trees, thus affecting the climate of the country, reducing rainfall and increasing the temperature of the land. With these few words, I once more support the demand."

* SRI PYDAH VENKATANARAYANA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I find that Government are spending large amounts on milk powder and allied preserved foods. May I request the concerned Minister—I am sorry he is not here, rather the Hon. Revenue Minister is acting for the Hon. Forest Minister—to extend the necessary concessions and facilities to the public to get more grass, green leaves and other foliage to supplement the food for the cattle so that the milk-yielding capacity of the cattle will be greatly enhanced. Further, we need not waste large amounts on these preserved foods as the nutritional value in natural foods is much more than in preserved foods. I am also told that during war time forests were greatly disturbed and unless Government take immediate precautionary measures to preserve the forests and pursue a policy of re-afforestation, I am afraid the present resources may not be able to meet the public demand even for a few years to come. There is one more point, Sir, and that is in regard to certain hill tract areas in the forests of the Vizagapatam district. I mean Chintapalli and Lambasingi should be converted into summer resorts and Government should take necessary action on this matter. In order to give effect to that, they should bring forward anti-malarial operations and other things. Sir, the altitude of these places is between 2,000 and 3,000 feet above sea-level. The need for such health resorts is greatly felt in the northern districts."

* SRI K. T. KOSALARAMA NADAR:—"தலைவர் அவர்களே, இப்போது கொண்டுவரப்பட்டிருக்கும் டி.மாண்டை ஆதரித்து நான் பேச விரும்புகிறேன். யுத்த நெருக்கடியின் காரணமாகவும், விறகு பஞ்சத்தின் காரணமாகவும், 12-30 p.m.

[Sri K. T. Kosalarama Nadar] [16th August 1946]

மாகவும், காடுகளில் மரங்கள் வெட்டவேண்டிய நிர்ப்பந்தம் ஏற்பட்டதினால், விவசாயத்திற்கு மழை இல்லாமல் தண்ணீரில்லாமல் கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது என்பதை நாம் அறிவோம். இந்த நிலைமையில் கரியினால் ஓடும் மோட்டார் வண்டிகளுக்கு அதிகமாக பெட்ரோலைச் சேகரித்துக்கொடுத்து கரிக்காகக் காடுகளிலுள்ள மரங்களை வெட்டி நாசஞ் செய்யாமலிருக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டியது அத்தியாவசியமாகும். எனது நண்பர் ஸ்ரீ வி. ஜி. முனுசாமி பிள்ளையவர்கள் முன்பு பாரஸ்ட் மந்திரியாக இருந்தபோது திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவுக்கு வந்திருந்தார்கள். அங்கே திருச்செந்தூர் தாலுக்காவில் ரிசர்வ் பாரஸ்ட் குதிரை மொழித் தேரியிருக்கிறது. அது ஒரு மணற்பாங்கான பிரதேசம். அந்தப் பிரதேசத்தைச் சுற்றியுள்ள இடத்தில், அரைமைலுக்குள்ளாகவே, பல ஏரிகளிருக்கின்றன. அங்கே விவசாயத்திற்கேற்ற நல்ல நிலம் இருக்கிறது. அதை ஸ்ரீ முனுசாமி பிள்ளையவர்கள் முன்பு பார்த்தார்கள். அந்த நிலத்தை அந்தப் பிரதேசத்திலுள்ள ஏழை ஜனங்களுக்கு எலத்தின் பேரிலோ, அல்லது நீண்டகால குத்தகையின் பேரிலோ கொடுத்தால், விவசாயத்தை அதிகரிக்கமுடியுமென்று அப்போது அவர்கள் உணர்ந்தார்கள். அப்போதே அவ்விதம் கொடுக்கப் படவேண்டுமென்று உத்தரவு போடப்பட்டது. ஆனால், துரப்பாக்கியவசமாக அட்வைசர் அரசாங்கத்திலே அந்த உத்தரவு காற்றில் புறந்து விட்டது. இன்று அங்குள்ள ஜனங்கள் விவசாயம் செய்வதற்கு எவ்வளவோ முன்னுக்கு வருகிறார்கள். ஆனால், சர்க்கார் அதற்கு இணங்கவில்லை. இப்போதும் அந்த ஜனங்கள் மனுக்கள் போட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். “நாங்கள் அங்கு விவசாயம் செய்யச் சித்தமாக இருக்கிறோம். எங்களுக்கு நீண்டகால குத்தகைக்கு அந்த நிலத்தைக் கொடுங்கள்; அல்லது அதை எலத்திலே விடுங்கள்” என்று அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் செய்வதினால், சர்க்காருக்கு எவ்வித நஷ்டமும் இல்லை. இன்னும், அந்தப் பக்கத்திலே சவுக்கு மரத்தைப் பயிர் செய்ய ஜனங்கள் சித்தமாக இருக்கிறார்கள். முன்னால், கொடுக்கப்பட்ட ஒரு இடத்திலே வெகு அழகாக சவுக்கு மரத்தை ஜனங்கள் பயிர் செய்திருக்கின்றனர். ஆகவே, நீண்டகால குத்தகைக்கு அல்லது எலத்தின்மூலம் அந்த இடத்தைக் கொடுத்துவிடுவதன் விஷயமாக சர்க்கார் அதன் பாலிசியை உடனடியாகப் பிரகடனம் செய்யவேண்டும்.

“அடுத்தாற்போல், மலைகளிலேயுள்ள மரங்களை யுத்தத்தின் காரணமாக வெட்டி நாசஞ் செய்ததினால் இன்று குற்றலத்திலே season எவ்வளவு மோசமாகப் போய்க்கொண்டு வருகிறது என்பது எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும். இன்று விறகு பஞ்சம் காரணமாக மலைகளிலேயுள்ள மரங்களை யெல்லாம் வெட்டுகிறார்கள். இதனால், அந்த இடங்களில் மழையின்றி விவசாயம் பாதிக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆகவே, மலைகளின் மீதிருக்கும் மரங்கள் எந்தக்காரணத்தினாலும் வெட்டப்படக்கூடா தென்று சர்க்கார் உத்தரவு போடவேண்டும். விறகு, கரி பஞ்சத்தை நாம் எலெக்டிரிசிட்டி மூலமாகவோ, அல்லது வேறு வழிகளிலோ சரிப்படுத்திக் கொள்ளலாம்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக, பல அதிகாரிகள் அநேக வருஷங்கள் ஒரே ஜில்லாவிலே வேலை பாக்கிரார்கள். அவ்விதம் அவர்கள் தொடர்ச்சியாக அதிக காலம் இருப்பதால், பொதுஜனங்களுடைய நன்மைக்கு எந்தக் காரியத்தையும் செய்வதாக எனக்கு தோன்றவில்லை.

“மற்றொரு விஷயம், எங்கள் ஜில்லாவில் குற்றலத்திற்குப் பக்கத்தில் பாரெஸ்ட் ஏலம் 1943-ம் வருஷத்திலே விடப்பட்டது. 300 ரூபாய்க்கு அதிகமாக ஏலம்கேட்ட ஒரு நபருக்கு அந்த எலத்தைவிடாமல், 134 ரூபாய்க்கு ஏலம் கேட்ட ஹார்வி மில் எஜெண்டுக்கு அது விடப்பட்டது. ஏலம் அதிகமான தொகையைக் கொடுக்கிறவர்களுக்குத்தான் கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும். ஆனால் இவ்விஷயத்தில் அவ்விதம் செய்யப்படவில்லை. அவ்விதம் குறைந்த தொகைக்கு எலத்திற்கு விடவந்தான் இன்னும் அங்கே பாரெஸ்ட் ஆபீஸராக இருக்கிறார். ஆகையால், ஆங்காங்குள்ள ஒன்று, இரண்டு வருஷங்களுக்குமேல் ஒரே இடத்திலுள்ள எல்லா அதிகாரிகளையும் மாற்றிவிடவேண்டுமென்று நான் சர்க்காரைக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என்னுடைய பேச்சை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

16th August 1946] [Sri A. Rayappa]

* SRI A. RAYAPPA:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demand brought forward by the Hon. Minister for Forests. Sir, we should not forget the fact that forests stand as the backbone for several industries in India. In Southern India, tanning industry is one of the most important industries. For tanning skins, we require raila bark and tangedu bark. We have been tanning skins by means of these barks. In the meantime, there came the wattle bark from South Africa and thousands of bales of this bark are being imported every year into India; because the essence of this bark is proved to be practically stronger than the essence of the tangedu and the raila barks put together. The price of wattle bark to-day is considerably cheaper because Government have controlled its price. Though it has been controlled at Rs. 225 per ton—I am telling you from yesterday's report—it was sold in the black-market at Rs. 600 odd in Periamet, Madras. In order to help the tanning industry, Government should arrange for the plantation of these wattle trees in forests wherever possible in India and particularly in this Province, and if we do not take to it in time, I am afraid we have to fall back on the indigenous tangedu and raila bark and we have to depend upon foreign material. Therefore, I suggest to the Government to plant wattle bark trees and thus enable the tanneries to improve in Southern India.

“In the Anantapur district, Sir, there are two forests, one is at Nagasamudram, in the Gooty taluk, and the other at Bukkapatnam in the Penukonda taluk. Originally, they were decorated with all sorts of plants and trees but now you see mere stones and earth in the hills and the forests. The Forest department should plant all sorts of trees, so that when they grow up, they will be of immense help to the ryots. They may also attract clouds which will bring more rainfall. Sir, the banks of the river Pennar in our district are being washed away year after year and the lands on either side of the river there become unfit for cultivation due to deposit of sand drifts. I therefore suggest to Government that big trees may be arranged to be planted on either side of the river bank so that the lands may be destroyed but brought always under cultivation.”

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“Sir, I wish to make a few observations with this request to you, Sir, that we should be helped in our debates on the demands in the following days if Ministers will come forward with positive statements of policy. I want them to state, for instance, what are the targets they have fixed for themselves for achievement, so that we might, in the coming year, measure the achievement against the effort. Let them now give us on this demand the information as to what amount of work they are going to put on teak or wattle plantations and I would even say, on small things like tamarind, which are as important as teak and which are likely to be forgotten. Sir, I want also to draw the attention of the House to the fact that it is far more easy to assess and judge the result of the work only if a constructive policy is placed before us.

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“Regarding forests, generally, I have only a few words to say. War has come upon the forests as a big scourge and it has helped to bring about a tremendous denudation of forests, which has taken place during the last four or five years; immature teak has had ruthlessly to be cut down in areas which were not easily traversed even on elephant's back; areas have been exploited in a manner that would have been impossible to think of before the war. It is therefore our duty to put back all the wealth that we have stolen from these forests for the sake of carrying on the war. I want Government to show the same zeal and industry which they have shown in denuding these forests in the matter of re-planting and re-afforestation of these areas. The problem to-day does not merely affect timber but affects also fuel. There are very many fuel forests in our country which can supply big cities like Madras, Madura and Cocanada, for instance. We must therefore pay immediate attention to this aspect of the problem. The expedition with which coupes are cut and the rapidity with which supplies are rushed to the cities make it impossible to keep pace with afforestation. In this matter we have to acquire new areas. Forests in panchayat areas should be immediately taken over by the Forest department for this very purpose of improving our fuel position. They may not perhaps be suitable for being converted into timber forests but they may be eminently suitable for purposes of fuel forests. I would suggest vast areas of casuarina plantations being undertaken along our coastal belt beginning in the area round about Madras and extending up to Vedaranyam in the Tanjore district. Let casuarina be planted on a large scale so as to help the fuel supply of this Province. That is a very important need.

“There is the second thing to be attended to, namely, the collection of hay and fodder for the use of cattle. It is more important than fuel supply but it is likely to be forgotten. The policy of the Government concerning fodder and hay must be stated in this House here and now. I would like to know what the Forest department is doing to collect hay and fodder and keep them in reserve for use during scarcity seasons and that is a question which demands our immediate attention.

“The only thing that has to be done to rehabilitate our forest wealth is first to extend the areas under forests. With that end in view, I suggest to the Hon. the Premier that he takes over to the State all the zamindari forests in this country and particularly those which are easily available, namely those in the hands of public institutions. The Tirupati Devasthanam's forests, for example, would be valuable for the fuel supply for the City of Madras, in the future and these must be forthwith taken over. We should not allow in these areas a single tree to be cut; and people must not be allowed to get away saying that the trees are in the area in which they live and that they might cut them for making ploughs with or for making rafters for their houses. Forests have suffered dreadfully during the past because of our utter neglect. I made a suggestion years ago that areas suitable

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for teak plantation in the Tinnevely and Malabar districts under the zamindaris there might be immediately taken over. Mr. Speaker, the area under forests differ considerably. Those who know forestry will tell you that areas in the south are far more fitted for being developed into timber forests than, say, the areas in the Ceded districts or in Chittoor district which are eminently fit for raising fuel coupes. We must put back into the forests what we have taken from them and no purpose will be served by saying that people's rights are there and nothing could be done. If each man in a zamindari area begins to cut a tree for his use, the result will be dreadful. Unless the State takes over all the forests and works them on a systematic and scientific plan, there will never be any hope of adding more areas under forests.

“I wish to say a few words upon expenditure on forests. I notice, Sir, that all the forest divisions that we had cut down have been restored; I do not know if all the Conservators' divisions have been restored. I understand the importance of retaining certain divisions, for instance, the Working Plans Division and I, for one, would maintain it. There are several items of expenditure which are being added from year to year and I am asked in this House to vote 74 lakhs of rupees for Forests. I want a thorough scrutiny of this expenditure and I wish to know if the staff employed is commensurate with the work set before them. I do not mind one crore of rupees being spent upon Forests, but I wish to know if it is all for enriching our forests; I wish to know your programme; how much fuel you are going to raise; how many timber plantations you are going to maintain and how much bamboo you are going to raise in the forests. Bamboo has been much in requisition in the war years for it was required for war purposes. My hon. Friend Mr. Natesan complained that he has not been able to get wooden poles. At one time he did not take so much interest in wooden poles; he is now unable to obtain metal poles and that is why he comes to the forest for wooden poles. I want him and other people to take a pledge from now that hereafter they will largely use wooden poles for electricity transmission lines. If the programmes, I have briefly outlined were put into effect, forest would be a source of inexhaustible source of national wealth. You can take something out of it year after year. Look after this hen laying eggs with care and it will give you eggs; but if you kill it, the eggs too will disappear; and the whole country will suffer.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Mr. Ponnuswami Goundar.”

* SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOWNDER:—“Mr. Speaker, looking at this Forest Budget, under the major head, I find there are a number of minor items (a) to (d). I cannot understand why more details have not been given.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I called upon Mr. Ponnuswami Gounder to speak.”

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* **SRI V. PONNUSWAMI GOUNDER** :—“ தலைவரவர்களே, இப்பொழுது யுத்தம் முடிந்த இந்தக் காலத்திலும்கூட காடுகளிலிருந்து சர்க்காருக்கு திருப்திகரமான வருமானமோ விவசாயிகளுக்கு உபயோகமோ கிடைக்காமலிருக்கின்றது. காரணம் என்னவெனில் முன்பு ஸ்ரீமான் கோசல்ராம் அவர்களுக்கூட தெரிவித்தார்கள்; யுத்தம் காரணமாக மரங்களை வெட்டிக்கொண்ட உற்பத்தி செய்து காட்டை அழித்துவிட்டார்களென்று; அது மட்டுமல்ல இப்பொழுதும் கூட அதே மாதிரிதான் நடந்துவருகிறது. அதனால் காடு அநியாயமாக அழிந்தேபோய்விடுகிறது. நம் காட்டிலுள்ள உபயோகமான விருகங்கள் அதாவது புங்கைமரம், புளியமரம், விளாமரம், பூவாங்காய்மரம், சாய மரங்கள், இவைகளெல்லாம் வெட்டப்படுகின்றன. அந்த மரங்களை வெட்டி நஷ்டத்தை ஏற்படுத்திக்கொள்வதுடன் காடும் அழிந்துவிடுகின்றது, ஆகவே அந்தப் பிரயோசனமான மரங்களை வெட்டக் கூடாதென ஏற்பாடு செய்ய சர்க்கார் முன்வரவேண்டும்.

“இன்னொரு விசேஷம், எங்கள் தாலுகாவில், அதாவது திருப்பத்தூர் தாலுகாவில் கங்குந்தி சமஸ்தானத்தைச் சேர்ந்த காடு பரவி இருக்கிறது. அந்தக் காடு அநேகமாக இப்பொழுது அழிந்தேபோயிருக்கிறது. எங்கும் அழிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அது அழிந்ததிலிருந்து அநேக நஷ்டம் என்பதை சர்க்காருடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவருகிறேன். முன்பு சர்க்கார் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் பாலாற்றுத்தண்ணீர் குறைந்திருப்பதற்குக் காரணம் என்னவென்று விசாரணைக் கமிட்டி ஏற்படுத்திச் செய்த காலத்தில் மைசூர் சமஸ்தானத்தில் தடைப்பட்டிருக்கும் தண்ணீர் தடை மட்டுமல்ல கங்குந்தி ஜமீன் காட்டில் காடு அழிக்கப்பட்டதிலிருந்தும் அந்தத் தடை ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதுதான் தண்ணீர்ப்பஞ்சத்திற்கு முக்கியமான காரணமாயுள்ளது. அதனால் அந்தக் காட்டை ஸ்மரகூளை செய்யவேண்டுமென்றும் தெரிவித்திருக்கிறார்கள். காட்டு அடி பாகங்களில், அதாவது காடு ஓரங்களில் சாகுபடிக்கு நிலங்களைப் பட்டாக் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் என்ன செய்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்களென்றால் காடு ஓரங்களிலிருக்கும் கால் நடைகள் மேச்சலுக்குப் போய்க்கொண்டிருந்த வழிகளெல்லாம் அடைப்பட்டுப்போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன. அது எல்லாவற்றையும் அந்தப் பட்டாதார்கள் ஆக்கிரமித்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவைகளை அவர்கள் சுவாதீனம் செய்துகொள்ளாதவாறு ஏற்பாடு செய்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். இல்லையெல் அந்தக் காட்டு அடிவாரங்களிலிருக்கும் பட்டாதார்கள் ஜனங்கள் பிரவேசிக்க முடியாமல் வழியை அடைத்துவைத்து விடுவார்கள். திருப்பத்தூர் தாலுகாவில் சில கிராமங்களில் காடு களைல்லாம் தரிசாகக் கிடைக்கின்றன. எப்படித் தரிசாய்க்கக்கூடுமென்றால் காட்டிலிருந்து எந்தவிதமான வருமானமும் இல்லாமல் எந்த விதமான ஒரு மேய்ச்சலுக்கும் புல்லுகூட இல்லாமல் லாயக்கற்றிருக்கும் இடங்களைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். சர்க்காருக்குச் சொந்தமான காடுகளை சர்க்கார் பார்வையிடும் ஜமீன்தார், மிட்டாதார் இவர்களுக்குச் சொந்தமான காடுகளைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். மிட்டாதார் என்றால் மிராசுதார் அல்ல, சின்ன ஜமீன்தாரர்களென்று அர்த்தம். தலைவரவர்களே, அந்த இடங்களை பக்கத்து கிராமங்களில் நிலமே இல்லாத விவசாயிகளுக்கும், குறிப்பாக ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கும், பட்டாக் கொடுத்தால் நிலவரியாவது கிடைக்கும். நிலவரி கிடைப்பது மட்டுமல்ல, உணவுப் பஞ்சமும் ஒரு வகையில் நிவர்த்தியாகும். ஆகவே அந்தக்காடு விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி சர்க்கார் இவை எல்லாவற்றையும் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொண்டு இதை நான் நிறுத்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.”

* **SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOWNDER** :—“ Sir, I began with the suggestion to the Hon. the Minister for Forests that some more details might be given, so that the revenue derived from fuel and coupe may be separately shown and the public may be in a position to understand where they stand in the matter of the sale of fuel and the revenue derived therefrom and so also from grazing, etc. Timber supply is an important matter but I feel that the supply of fuel is equally, if not more, important.

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[Sri V. C. Palaniswami Gounder]

We know the acute position about fuel; we can live without timber but we cannot live without fuel. Grazing is equally important for it is connected with cattle and manure. Manure is a great problem nowadays. Of course, the Government are making arrangements for the supply of groundnut cakes and sulphate of ammonia and such other chemical manures. But the Department of Agriculture does not minimize the importance of farm-yard manure as it is also very suitable for agriculture. In order to improve the manure position, an agriculturist has to maintain several heads of cattle and for grazing them, he must have vast areas of grazing lands. He cannot afford to feed all his cattle on fodder. There are certain areas where to a limited extent fodder can be grown for maintaining the cattle with; but there are other areas where he cannot command all the facilities, namely grazing lands. For maintaining the cattle in such cases, grazing lands are absolutely necessary. In these days of increased population and diminishing supply of food crops, we look upon the forest to help the ryot in the matter of grazing lands. Government must make special arrangements for grazing facilities for cattle without detriment to fuel coupes and timber plantations. Now, Sir, graziers are put to a lot of inconvenience and trouble at the hands of forest subordinates. I request the Hon. Minister in charge of Forest to levy only a small grazing or fuel fee. I also plead for improving grazing areas by allotting special areas 1 p.m. for the purpose of rotational grazing and for water-supply to the cattle. I know in Coimbatore district, in Satyamangalam forest area, there are plenty of dry lands, where during summer, graziers are not able to find water for their cattle. The Forest Department must make it a point, wherever possible, to dig wells or tanks and thus afford water supply for cattle.

“ Now, Sir, the Forest Department is following a policy of regeneration. Of course, regeneration is absolutely necessary. There are vast tracts of hills and plains, where you can do away with shrubs and jungles and carry on afforestation, planting with such forest species which will serve both as fuel as well as green-leaf-manure. At present, the Forest Department lease out these areas on a contract system for cutting leaves for green-leaf-manure to contractors. Sir, the period of contract should be so adjusted as to be helpful to the ryot in the matter of utilizing green leaves as manure in the proper cultivation season. This is my own humble suggestion, Sir, and I hope it will receive sympathetic consideration. (At this stage the Speaker rang the bell.) Another point, Sir, as regards manure, of course compost manure can be very easily made in forest areas, where lot of green and dry leaves go to waste and where they could be easily collected and converted into compost manure. At present collection of leaves, both green and dry, is not freely allowed in forest areas. I understand, Sir, in South Kanara, from what my friend Sri A. B. Shetty said, that ryots have been given concessions there. From the forest point of view, I do not know whether the Forest Department will generally approve of that.”

[Mr. V. C. Palaniswami Gounder] [16th August 1946]

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You have taken more than the allotted time. Please resume your seat."

* SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOWNDER:—"With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat."

* SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to make a few observations on the administration of Forest Department. Of course I support the demand under this head. However, with the meagre information that is placed before us, it is difficult to assess the work of the department. The Forest Department, as it is constituted to-day, is one of the most idle and corrupt departments that I can specify. I think the Forest Act was framed in 1882, and the antediluvian character of that Act has to be closely scrutinized, and a new orientation of our forest policy has to be urgently enunciated. Unless this is speedily done, I am afraid, we cannot get any useful and efficient work done by that department. As it is, the Forest Department consists of officials who are not only idle, but more tyrannical than zamindars, against whom some of my friends complained the other day on the floor of this house. Without the enunciation of a clear cut policy and programme, it is very difficult to say whether the sums that have been allotted under this demand will be usefully spent for the good of the people. It is for this reason, Sir, I said that the antediluvian character of the Forest Act, under which this department now works, should be scrutinized."

"Sir, I come from the unfortunate Ceded districts, which have been experiencing, for the last century and more, continuous famine on account of dis-afforestation of forests. I think it was in 1902-03 that the Indian Irrigation Commission visited Madras and conducted an enquiry into the irrigation conditions in this Province. As a result, they remarked that the continual failure of rainfall in the Deccan, was partly due to the dis-afforestation of forests in the Ceded districts. Sandur State and large areas in Bellary district had vast forests, but on account of indiscriminate dis-afforestation Bellary district is subject to frequent famines. Fortunately, in Kurnool district we are still left with very good forest and that is the reason why we see portions of Kurnool district free from famine now, whereas Anantapur and Bellary districts are experiencing famine. The fact that we are continually subject to famines must be an eye-opener to Government to see the urgent need for a reform in forest administration. So, I submit Government must take up an active programme of afforestation immediately and thereby promote increased rainfall. Unless this is done, I am afraid, the Ceded districts cannot be protected from famine. There is another method of protecting those districts from famine, and that is by irrigation. Increased rainfall and irrigation constitute the two ways by which these districts can be protected from famine. Without sufficient rainfall we cannot have any useful irrigation schemes. So the two aspects of the problem are intertwined and must be carefully borne in mind."

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[Sri N. Venkatasubbayya]

"Having said that, I cannot omit certain other aspects of the problem also that need immediate attention. Forests form the backbone of our existence, economic as well as agricultural, and therefore the wealth of the forests must be closely and carefully protected. Supply of fuel and green-leaf-manure and such other articles as are of help to the ryots in their day-to-day agricultural operations must be ensured so that we can get from forests the maximum benefit possible . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has exceeded his time limit. He will please resume his seat."

* SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"With these few words, Sir, I resume my seat."

SRIMATHI LAKSHMI AMMAL:—"அக்கிராசனாதிபதியவர்களே, காட்டிலாகா விஷயத்தில் நான் அதிகம் பேசவேண்டுமென்று நினைக்கவில்லை. இருந்தாலும் ஒன்றிரண்டு விஷயங்களைமாதிரம் சொல்லிவிட்டு நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எனது நண்பர் ஸ்ரீமான் கோசல்ராம் அவர்கள் பேசும்போது, விறகுக்காகக் காட்டிலே அநேக மரங்கள் வெட்டப்படுகின்றன என்று சொன்னார் அதுபோல அம்மாதிரி அனுமதிக்கக் கூடாதென்பதையும் எடுத்துச் சொன்னார்கள். இப்போது எப்படி உணவுப் பஞ்சம் இருக்கிறதோ, உணவுக்காக நாம் எவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்படுகின்றோமோ, அவ்வளவு கஷ்டம் விறகு விஷயத்திலும் இன்று இருக்கிறதென்பதை சர்க்கார் தெரிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டும். இன்று விறகு கள்ளமார்க்கெட்டிலே அதிகமாக விற்கப்படுகிறதென்பதையும் சர்க்கார் தெரிந்துகொள்ள வேண்டும். நம்முடைய மாகாணத்திலே அதிலும் முக்கியமாக திருநெல்வேலி ஜில்லாவிலே மலைகள் அதிகம் இருக்கின்றன. அப்படிப்பட்ட ஜில்லாவில் டன் ஒன்றுக்கு ரூ. 40, ரூ. 45 என்று விறகு விற்கப்படுகிறது. 'கவர்ன்மென்டார் நிர்ணயித்துள்ள விலை ரூ. 26 ஆக இருக்கும்போது ஏன் அதிக விலைக்கு விற்கிறார்கள்,' என்று கேட்டால், 'நாங்கள் அதிக தொகைக்கு ஏலம் எடுத்திருக்கிறோம். அதிக விலைக்கு விற்காவிட்டால் நஷ்டமாகிவிடுகிறது,' என்று அவர்கள் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அங்கேயுள்ள பாரஸ்ட் ஆபீஸர் யார் அதிகமான தொகையைக் கொடுக்கிறார்களோ அவர்களுக்கு ஏலத்தை விடுவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், இதே சமயத்தில் என்னுடைய நண்பர் கோசல்ராம் அவர்கள் சொன்னபடி ரூ. 300-க்கு ஏலம் கேட்டவருக்கு விடாமல் ரூ. 134-க்கு ஹார்வி மில்லுக்கு விட்டிருப்பது வாஸ்தவம். அம்மாதிரி அனுமதித்தது தப்பென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆகையால் ஹார்வி மில்லுக்கு விட்ட மாதிரியே குறைந்த தொகைக்கு ஏலத்தைப் பொது ஜனங்களுக்கு விட்டிருந்தால், விறகை அதிக விலைக்கு கள்ள மார்க்கெட்டில் விற்காதபடி சர்க்கார் நிர்ணயித்துள்ள ரூ. 26-க்கே விற்கும்படியாகச் செய்திருக்கலாம். இதைக் காட்டிலாகா மந்திரி அவர்கள் முக்கியமாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எனது நண்பர் ஸ்ரீமான் பழனிசாமி கவுண்டர் அவர்களும் இந்த விறகு விஷயத்தைப் பற்றிக் கூறியுள்ளார். இன்றைக்கு எங்கும் விறகு பஞ்சம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. எங்களுடைய ஜில்லாவில் சென்ற வாரத்திலே 400 ஏக்கர் ஏலத்திற்கு விட்டார்கள். அதை இப்போது கவர்ன்மென்ட் மதிப்பு போட்டிருப்பதுபடி ஏலத்திற்கு விட்டால் 'Contractor'-கள் ஜனங்களுக்கு சௌகரியமாக விறகை வெட்டிக்கொடுக்க முடியும் என்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்."

"அதோடு கால் நடைகளுக்கு மேய்ச்சலைப்பற்றி நாம் கவனிக்க வேண்டியது மிகவும் அவசியம். இதைப்பற்றி அநேக நண்பர்கள் இங்கே தெரிவித்துவிட்டார்கள். கால் நடைகள் விவசாயத்திற்கு அத்தியாவசியம். ஆகவே மேய்ச்சலுக்கென்று தனியாக நிலம் ஒதுக்கப்படவேண்டும். இது விஷயத்தை காட்டிலாகா பஞ்சாயத்து போர்டின் அதிகாரத்திற்கு விட்டால், அவர்கள் காடுகளில் மேயும் மாடுகளை பவுண்டில் (pound) அடைத்து விடுகிறார்கள். மாடுகள் மேய்வதற்கு வேண்டிய சௌகரியம் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டியது அரசாங்கத்தின் கடமையாகும்."

[Srimathi Lakshmi Ammal]

[16th August 1946]

“யுத்த காலத்தில் மரங்களை வெட்டி எவ்வளவோ காடுகளை அழித்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவசியம் நேரும்போது, காடுகளிலே மரங்களை வெட்ட வேண்டியதுதான். ஆனால், அவைகள் வெட்டப்பட்ட இடங்களில் புதிதாக நடவேண்டும். ‘விறகுக்காக எந்தமாதிரியான மரத்தை வெட்டவேண்டும், இந்த மரத்தை வெட்டு, அந்த மரத்தை வெட்டக்கூடாது,’ என்று சொல்லுவது கூடாது. எந்த மரத்தை வெட்டினாலும், புது மரங்களை நடவேண்டும். ஏராளமான காடுகளிலுக்கும் நம் நாட்டில், விறகுப் பஞ்சம் ஏற்படவேண்டிய அவசியமே இல்லை. இதைக் காட்டிலாகா மந்திரி முக்கியமாகக் கவனிக்க வேண்டுமென்று தெரிவித்துக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* **SRI P. S. VELUSWAMI GOUNDAR** :—“ஸபாநாயகரவர்களே, பாரஸ்ட் மான்யத்தை ஆதரிக்கும் முறையில் பேசுகிறேன். இந்த தேசம் 5 விதமான இயற்கைச் செல்வங்களைக்கொண்டது, மலைபடு திரவியம், கடல்படு திரவியம், காடுபடு திரவியம், நாடுபடு திரவியம், நகர்படு திரவியம், இவைகளைக் கொண்டது. காடு, பாரஸ்டிலே மலையும் அடங்கியிருக்கிறது. அந்த மலையைப்பற்றி நம் பெரியவர்கள் நூல்களிலே சொல்லியிருக்கிறார்கள்

‘அளக்கலாகா அளவும் பொருளும்
துளக்கலாகா நிலையும் தோற்றமும்
வறப்பிலும் வளந்தரு உம் வண்மையு மலைக்கே’

(நன்னூல்)

என்று சொல்லியுள்ள அப்பேர்ப்பட்ட மலைகள் இன்றைக்கு எப்படி இருக்கின்றனவென்றால், இந்த பிரிட்டிஷ் ஏகாதிபத்திய காலத்திலே குமிக் கையெல்லாம் மொட்டையடித்துக்கொண்டு நாம் கிராப்பு வைத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறமாதிரி அந்த மலைகள் இருக்கின்றன. அதற்கும் மேலாக பசு மாடுகள் எங்கள் பாகத்திலே வீடுதவராமல் 100, 150 மாடுகள் இருந்தன. தற்சமயம் கொஞ்சம் பணக்காரர்களிடத்தில்தான் இருக்கின்றனவே தவிர பாக்கியையெல்லாம் மாட்டுத் தீர்வைக்காக விற்பனையாக விற்பனையாக விட்டார்கள். பசுக்களெல்லாம் ஸர்க்கார் கொடுக்கக்கூடிய பொலிகளை களின் பலத்தைத் தாங்கக்கூடிய நிலைமையிலில்லை, அவைகள் வத்தலும் தொத்தலுமாக இருக்கின்றன. நம் மலைகளிலே உள்ள குழை, நார், கலப்பை, தடி, புல், இவைகளை எடுக்க மக்களுக்கு உரிமையிலில்லை. தவிரவும் மரங்களை வெட்டும் விஷயமாக லெக்ஸிமியம்மாள் சொன்னார்கள், பச்சை மரத்தை வெட்டுவது பச்சைக் குழந்தையை வெட்டுவதற்கொப்பாகும் பச்சை மரங்களை வெட்டக்கூடாது. பட்ட மரங்களை வெட்டி எடுத்து விறகுக்கு உபயோகிக்கவேண்டும். பட்ட மரங்களை ஸர்க்காரில் சேகரித்து அதை விற்பனைக்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். தலைச்சமையில் எடுத்துச் செல்லு கிறவர்களுக்கு இனம் உரிமை கொடுக்கவேண்டும். யுத்த காலத்திலே அங்கே வீடுகளுக்கு கம்பங்களுக்காக மரங்களை வெட்டியும் கால் பிளாண்ட் மோட்டாருக்காக மரங்களை வெட்டிக்கறியாக்கியதனாலும் மரங்கள் குறைந்து அதனால் மழை குறைந்து இப்பொழுது நாம் பஞ்சத்தினால் வாடக்கூடிய நிலைமையில் இருந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறோம். இந்த மலைகள் இருக்கக்கூடிய இடங்களிலெல்லாம் மலேரியா இருக்கிறது. எங்கள் பக்கத்திலே கம்பம் ரேஞ்சிலே பாரஸ்ட் இலாகாவிலே சம்பந்தப்பட்டவர்கள் உத்யோகஸ்தர்கள் முதல் குடியானவர்கள் வரை வீட்டிலே பெண்ணாதி, குழந்தைகள் முதல் கொண்டு இந்த வியாதியில் அடிக்கடி படுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இவைகளை யெல்லாம் சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யவேண்டும். அந்த மலைகளிலிருந்து எங்கள் பக்கத்தில் யானை கூட்டமாகவந்து விவசாயத்தை அழிக்கிறது. மராமத்து இலாகா மந்திரி கனம் பக்தவத்சலம் அவர்களும், ஸ்ரீ ராஜாராம் அவர்களும் நானும் ஒரு வாரத்துக்கு முன் பெரியார் அனைக் கட்டுக்குப் போனோம் யானைக்கூட்டங்கள், எருமைக்கூட்டங்கள், மான் கூட்டங்கள் வந்ததை அவர்களும் நானும் நேரில் பார்த்தோம் அந்த விவசாயிகளுக்கு துப்பாக்கி லைசென்ஸ் இருக்கவேண்டும், இருந்தால்தான் யானைகளை அடித்துத் தூரத்தலாம். எங்கள் பக்கத்திலே வண்ணாத்திப் பாதை ஓரத்தில் கப்பவா மடை பிளாக் வேலாந் துண்டு புலத்தில் 900 ஏக்கர் காடு இருக்கிறது அதிலே 300 ஏக்கர் பட்டாளத்தில் சேர்ந்தவர் களுக்கு ஜாரி செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது, பாக்கி 600 ஏக்கரை ஜாதி, மத பேதமின்றி

[16th August 1946] [Sri P. S. Veluswami Goundar]

நிலமில்லாத ஏழை விவசாயிகளுக்குக் கொடுத்தால் அவர்கள் விவசாயம் பண்ணி அதிக உணவு உற்பத்தி செய்வார்கள். பாரஸ்ட் இலாகாவில் சில்லரை மகசூல் என்று இருக்கிறது. அரப்பு, பழரகங்கள், தேன், சீயக்காய் இவைகளைச் சில்லரை மகசூல் குத்தகையாக விடுவதினால் ஸர்க்காருக்கு வரக்கூடிய லாபம் கொஞ்சம். ஆகையால் ஏழைக் குடிகள் மலைக்குச் சென்று இவைகளை எடுத்துவந்து விற்பனை வயிற்றுப் பிழைப்பு ஜீவனம் பண்ண இலவச சலுகைவேண்டும். ஒரு சமயம் அவர்கள் ராத்திரியிலே மலையிலே ஏறிச் சென்றார்கள் ஒரு பாரஸ்ட் ஆபீசர் அவர்களைக்கண்டு பிடித்துச் சென்றபோது ராத்திரி வேளை அவருடைய கைகளைப் பின் கட்டாகக் கட்டி நீ என்ன சொல்லுகிறாய் கேஸ் போடுகிறதில்லையென்று சொல்லு என்று சொன்னதாகவும் சொல்லப்பட்டது. அந்த கேஸ் நடந்தது, என்னுடைய தொகுதி நாலு பக்கமும் மலைகள் சூழ்ந்தது தெற்குப்புறம் ஒன்று மேற்குப் புறம் ஒன்று புலம் தெற்கேபோனால் 6 அணு மேற்கே போனால் 6 அணு தீர்வை மாட்டுக்கு மாசி, பங்குனியில் திருவாங்கூர் ராஜ்யத்தில் மேயப்போகும்போது 8 அணு. ஆகவே விவசாயிகளுக்கு மாடு 1-க்கு ரூ. 1-4-0 தீர்வை அதிகம் ஆகையால் மாட்டுத் தீர்வையை ரத்து செய்து விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஷே விஷயங்களிலும் ஒத்தாசை புரியும்படி கேட்டுக் கொண்டு முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* **SRI P. KAKKAN** :—“கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, பாரெஸ்ட் டிபார்ட்மென்டார் ஹரிஜன முன்னேற்ற விஷயத்தில் இன்னும் அதிக சிரத்தையெடுத்துக்கொள்ளவில்லையென்றே சொல்லவேண்டும். Forest பஞ்சாயத்துக்களில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஸ்தானம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களுக்குத்தான் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய குறைகள் நன்கு தெரியும். ஹரிஜனங்கள் பெண்கள் பகல் முழுவதும் நடடோ, அல்லது வேறு வேலை செய்து விட்டோ பட்ட சள்ளிகளை எடுத்தால் அங்கேயுள்ள watchman லஞ்சம் கேட்கிறான். அப்படி கொடுக்காவிட்டால், பச்சை மரத்தை வெட்டியதாகச் சொல்லி Forest பஞ்சாயத்துகளின் முன்பு கொண்டுவந்து விடுவான். இந்தப் பஞ்சாயத்துக்களில் watchmen சொல்லுவதைக் கேட்பார்களே தவிர விறகு வெட்டும் ஏழை பெண் பிள்ளை சொல்லுவதைக் கேட்கமாட்டார்கள். உடனே மேஜிஸ்திரேட் கோர்ட்டுக்கு அனுப்பிவிடுகிறார்கள். மேஜிஸ்திரேட் 10 ரூபாய் fine அல்லது ஒரு வாரம் ஜெயில் தண்டனை என்று சொல்லி விடுகிறார்கள். ஆகவே, ஒவ்வொரு Forest panchayat-லும் ஒரு ஹரிஜனப் பிரதிநிதி இருந்தால்தான், பட்ட சள்ளியை எடுத்தார்களா, அல்லது பச்சை மரத்தை வெட்டினார்களா வென்று உண்மை தெரிந்துகொள்ள முடியும். கையினால் செய்யப் படும் காகிதத்திற்குவேண்டிய புல், மூங்கில் இவைகள் சுலபமாகக் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்யவேண்டும். இதற்காக காகிதம் செய்யும் ஸ்தாபனங்களுக்கு Free licence கொடுத்தாலும் காகித உற்பத்தியைப் பெருக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். 1937-ம் வருஷத்திலே காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை இருந்த காலத்தில், மலை அடிவாரங்களில் உள்ள விவசாயிகளும் அவர்களின் ஆடுமாடுகளும் செழிப்பாக இருந்தன. ஆனால், இப்போது மலை அடிவாரங்களில் மாடுகளை மேய விடுவதில்லை. இது விஷயத்தில் அரசாங்கம் செளகரியம் செய்துகொடுக்கவேண்டும். அப்போதுதான் சமுசாரிகள் சுகமாக வாழமுடியும்.”

“இன்றைக்குக் கிராமங்களிலெல்லாம் உணவு கமிட்டிகளை ஏற்படுத்தியிருக்கிறோம். இந்த Forest panchayat-களில் இந்த உணவுக் கமிட்டி மெம்பர்களில் ஒருவரை நியமித்தால் நன்றாகவிருக்கும். அவருக்குத் தான் விவசாயிகளுடைய கஷ்டம் நன்கு தெரியும் அவர்களுடைய தேவைகள் என்னவென்பதும் தெரியும்.

SRI KANKIPATI VEERANNA PADAL :—“అధ్యక్షా, మన రాజధానిలో 7,46,000 రూపాయలు ఫారెస్టు డిపార్టుమెంటువారికి ఆలాటుమెంటు యిచ్చినారు. ఇందులో విశాఖకుట్నం జిల్లా మనస్సు కొండ, పాంచకు లంబింగు, చింతలపల్లి గ్రామాదులలో టేకు ప్లాంట్షనులు డిమాండ్షనులైనవి క్రియింగు నిమిత్తం ఆయాన లేదు వాళ్ల ఇన్వెస్టుండ్ల ప్రజలవద్దను ననలు చేయించుకుంటున్నట్లు చాలామంది ప్రజలవద్దనిన్నాను.

[16th August 1946 [Sri Kankipati Veeranna Padel]

“ప్రస్తుతము కొండప్రాంతములలో పుట్టిన విలువగల అడవిని పోడు కల్లివేషము క్రింద కొట్టించి తేకు తోటలు వేయించుచున్నారు. ప్రభుత్వంవారికి అందువలన 60, 70 సంవత్సరములకు లాభసాము కాగలదు. గాని ప్రస్తుతం వున్న అడవిని పాడుచేసి రెండవది ప్రజలకు లేబు ఇవ్వకుండా పనిచేయించుటవలన ప్రజలకు చాలా ఇబ్బందిగా వున్నది.

“కొండ ప్రాంతములలో ఉన్నటువంటి గ్రామాదుల చుట్టు దిమార్కేషను రైనులు వేసినందువలన పంట పండవలసిన మొట్టె పల్లము భూములు రిజర్వులో కలిసి ఉన్నందువలన ప్రజలకు వ్యవసాయము చేసుకుందాకే ఇబ్బందిగా ఉంది. కావున రిజర్వులో కలిసిపోయిన భూములు ఆ రిజర్వులోకి మార్చి ప్రజలకు భూములు ఇచ్చిన వ్యవసాయము అభివృద్ధి పొందగలదు అని ప్రభుత్వంవారికి విన్నవిస్తున్నాను.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The House will now adjourn for lunch. As soon as it reassembles after lunch the Hon. Minister for Revenue will reply.”

(After Lunch.)

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government are thankful to the hon. Members for having offered so many suggestions on the working of the Forest Department. It was asked, or rather doubted, by my hon. Friend Mr. Bapineedu whether we have any forest policy at all, and another hon. Friend on this side—I find that he is not in his place; I am referring to Mr. N. S. Varadachari—said that we must not merely state the policy, but also all the details as to what we are going to do *here and now*. I may tell him, Sir, that when he and I accepted office as members of Government in 1937, we took a little time to consider things. Therefore, what he is now asking is a little too much, for we have been in office only for a short period and we are asked to give all the details of all that we are going to do. I can assure him, Sir, that in the next budget all the details of our programme will be laid before the House. Now, so far as the main policies are concerned, I can say what they are going to be.

“The forest area in this Province is only 13.2 per cent, not even 15 per cent as was stated by some hon. Members. It has been recognized all over that at least 20 per cent of the area in a country should be under forests in order to meet the demands of its people. The Government accept this figure as the minimum required. It is quite a fact that there has been a great denudation of forests in this Province. It is largely due to the last war in which timber had been exploited for various purposes. This denudation has been going on in all districts, and if one were to see some of the areas, one has to feel very sorry about the denudation that has taken place. It was said by an hon. Member that the constant famine in the Ceded districts, particularly in Bellary and Anantapur, is due to the destruction of forests. Having personally seen some of those areas, I believe that is so. The same process is going on in the district of Chittoor which I toured recently. The forest in the Kangundi zamindari near Kuppam was referred to particularly by one hon. Member. I was told that for about ten years past the cutting of this forest has been

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going on. I myself went about ten miles into the forest. Shortly after my return, the zamindar, of his own accord, was pleased to write to me that the cutting now going on is without his notice and against his wishes, though, I am told, Sir, that there is an agreement regarding the sale of fuel entered into by him. Again, I went to another forest in the Punganoor zamindari in the same district about 22 miles from Chittoor town, where similar cutting of forest was going on. The position in regard to the cutting of forests is everywhere the same and more particularly in the zamindaris where probably due to a feeling that some legislation might be passed and that they must make the utmost during this hour, forests are being cut with great harm and danger to the future of this Province. As was announced by the Hon. Premier two days back, I can assure the House that before hon. Members go home at the end of this session, legislation will be introduced which will contain stringent provisions to prevent the further denudation of these forests.

“With regard to reafforestation policy, the matter is under the immediate consideration of Government. Mr. Sathe, who was a Conservator of Forests, was appointed as a special officer. He has produced an exhaustive report in which various suggestions have been made regarding the future policy and reafforestation in this Province. One of them is to acquire forests. That, however, may not be possible in all cases, because acquisition of all private forests means a lot of money. But an easier and more effective way will be to control all forests including those in private lands. Already there are provisions in Chapter IV of the Madras Forest Act, 1882, which enables the Government to control the cutting of forests even in private lands. But there are no penal provisions therein under which an owner who disobeys can be punished or proceeded against. In this matter also, it has been suggested in the report that the control of forests should be made more stringent.

“Then there is the other matter which also is being investigated into as to what all extra lands should be brought under forest management. This is receiving the immediate attention of the Government.

“A fourth point upon which there was criticism by my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu relates to the panchayat forests which are under the immediate control of the Revenue Department. In 1912, it was suggested by a forest committee appointed at that time that certain of the village forests should be transferred to the villagers, and so this transfer of management took place. Though a final decision has not yet been taken, the matter is being reviewed because it has been the experience that these forests are not being managed properly. There also a great deal of cutting is going on and no attempts to check this are being made by those in charge of the forests. So, whether, in the interests of the forests themselves and the needs of the people as a whole, the panchayat forests should be taken over by the Forest Department is one of the points that is being considered by the Government.

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"I may also say one thing, Sir. While a great deal has to be done by the Government themselves, I wish to say that the people themselves have to change their outlook on forests. It was quite rightly said here by an hon. Member that they should not cut forests and that tree-planting should also be undertaken. After travelling through some of the Ceded districts, I found that the people were most apathetic and were themselves cutting trees recklessly. When I went along the road from Bellary towards Hospet for a distance of 5 or 6 miles, I found that the avenue trees reared and maintained by the Local Boards Department are being cut wholesale one after another by peeling off the bark at night so that the trees may die and be available for cutting for fuel. It almost breaks one's heart to see that these avenue trees should be so cut. Everywhere else I was conscious of a feeling that the people who clamour that there should be no famine do not realize that famine is the direct result of their own action in cutting the tree growth. The sooner they realize this, the better for all those not merely in that area, but also everywhere else. I myself come from a district, which is the heaviest district of the Province from the forest point of view barring perhaps the Agency Tracts of the Andhra country. By reason of a large afforestation policy there extending over a period of 40 or 50 years, there has been so much of rainfall that sometimes we feel there had been less of afforestation. I may tell hon. Members that the rainfall in my district ranges from 120 inches in Mangalore in the sea coast to about 250 to 280 inches in the Ghat section which is only 50 miles away. There is so much of surplus rain water which we can easily transfer to other areas if only our scientists can find out some way for it. The poor Ceded Districts hardly have 6 or 8 inches of rainfall a year, whereas elsewhere, as in my own district, we have more rain than we need and the waters of which we cannot ever fully utilize and which result in reducing the fertility of the soil. So with regard to the policy of afforestation, I can assure hon. Members that very early steps will be taken for the adoption of a systematic reafforestation on an examination of all the aspects in the report of Mr. Sathe.

"Then with regard to the question of casuarina plantation which was raised by my hon. Friend Mr. A. B. Shetty and others. Something is being done here also. Whether this is enough or something more could be done in order to supply fuel from the forests to towns and cities is also engaging the earnest consideration of Government. The target for casuarina plantation in this Province has been fixed in the past at 150,000 acres, and the area under cultivation up to January 1946 was only 5,244 acres. Proposals are under immediate consideration for adding another 79,934 acres. It will be examined whether more cannot be done.

"Then with regard to exploitation of the forests and the timber supply, the hon. Leader of the Opposition, who spoke yesterday, gave certain figures and said that our forests were yielding much less than what they did in the past. Though he is not here to-day, I may state that the figures which he seems to have got are not

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quite accurate. He said that in 1914-15 the yield of timber was 132,000 and odd tons, in 1943-44 104,000 and odd tons and in 1944-45 87,840 tons. The figures which we have got show that the figures are not declining as was stated, but are increasing. In 1941-42, the total was 125,780 tons and in 1942-43 it was 195,320. (A voice: Overworked.) The hon. Member was not here when I said that every step will be taken to see that they will not be overworked so that there need be no apprehension on that score.

"Then with regard to the supply of certain essentials required. We do feel that the policy has to be changed and made more progressive than in the past. I can assure this House that this Government have a different and a newer policy than what was followed for years past. I have known a little of this department having myself been agitating all along against its activities in not supplying many of our requirements, and I can say that a good 'shake-up' is required in this department as in so many other departments as well. We are here for that. We have our own ideas and we shall try to carry them out.

"One point was raised by the hon. Leader of the Opposition yesterday and also by Mr. Rayappa to-day. That is with regard to the supply of wattle bark for tanning. This, I understand, Sir, was being planted formerly in pursuance of the previous Congress Government's policy. But it had to be stopped during the war, as all labour was diverted to planting pyrethrum. The question of immediately undertaking the production of so essential an ingredient for the tanning industry will be considered, especially when it is found that crores of rupees are going out of the country for its purchase now.

"About the cultivation of pyrethrum itself, I understand that this was undertaken at the instance of the Government of India for the war which was going on in Burma at that time, as they could not get other insecticides. My hon. Friend Mr. Ferrelly told me this morning that pyrethrum was now no longer considered good for use as an insecticide. Probably D.D.T. is considered more efficacious. Anyway the matter will be considered.

"With regard to the question raised as to why our own department is simply content with selling sandalwood, whereas neighbouring states like Travancore and Mysore are having so many sandalwood industries and are making profit, I may tell the House that this matter also will be looked into very carefully in the interests of the Province.

"Regarding the useful suggestions made by my hon. Friends the production of more lac, minor produces including camphor and medicinal herbs, they also will be considered.

"Then with regard to the question of fodder supply. It is quite a good thing, Sir, that this should be looked into from the point of view of the needs of agriculturists. Suggestions have been made in regard to this. A special feature of this year has been the lack of fodder supply to the famine or semi-famine areas of the Ceded Districts (interruption by Sri K. Varadachariar). My

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hon. Friend from Chittoor is always trying to bring in Chittoor into the Ceded Districts though only two or three taluks of that district formerly were in them. The Government have been trying to do their best in the matter, and I may explain the position clearly. Even recently orders were passed for engaging special trains at our own cost without charging the ryots for transshipping fodder because it was realized that the position in those areas was serious, as I myself saw. But the difficulty has been that the Railway Administration have not been able to supply the wagons as we wanted. So that a lot of fodder which has been cut from the forests is awaiting to be put into trains in Bezwada and the Nallamalai hills in the Kurnool district. By reason of this, an official was recently appointed to take special charge of this fodder business. If we run special trains, the food requirements of the Province will be very seriously interfered with so that we are between two dangers. It is a question also of getting the necessary wagons.

"The general question of grazing will also be looked into. One of the suggestions is rotational grazing. So far as this is concerned, orders have been passed in the past to enforce it. Another thing asked was that whilst during the war the Forest Department sold hay and made money out of it to the tune of several lakhs of rupees from the War Department, why should not people be supplied in the same manner? That is also a matter which will be looked into to see if the supply cannot be made as during the war.

"The next question is one of fuel. Government are aware of the great scarcity with regard to fuel. One matter which was mentioned was regarding high cost of fuel in the Tinnevely district as mentioned by the hon. Member from that area. She said that a hundred acres were sold at the low rate Rs. 134 per acre to a certain company, whilst other areas were auctioned for excessive amounts. We have not got any information about this. The information will be got and the matter will be scrutinized as to why it was that when high rates prevailed preferential treatment was given to a particular company.

"Another matter with regard to which the hon. Mr. P. Natesan spoke was about wood poles. On this, Sir, I must confess that all that could have been done has not been done. In 1938-39 during the time of the last Congress Ministry, orders were passed that as far as possible the Forest Department should supply wood poles treated by either Ascu or Creosite. In 1939-40, the number of poles supplied was 931, in 1940-41 it was 987 and in 1941-42 it was 1,453. Later on, nothing has been done. I quite realize that it is insufficient for a department with about 20,000 square miles of forests under its management in this Province when it is found that in the neighbouring state of Mysore wooden poles are being used almost everywhere and the clamour for extension of electricity is being made in every district. Whether this department will be able to supply the requirements of the local industrialists in this behalf is a point which will be considered.

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"Then another matter that was made by hon. Friend Mr. Muni-swami Pillai is the top-heavy nature of the department. Here also, Sir, we shall see what can be done. He made reference also to the question of research. These are matters that require further thought and consideration.

"Then as regards the inadequacy of the Harijans and the Muslims in the services (the latter point was raised by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday and as regards Harijans to-day), I must say that as regards Harijans the numbers are very few. In the low-paid menial establishments, certainly they could be taken in as it does not require much training as was stressed by the hon. Member. Government will look into this matter. As regards the higher posts, there is the communal representation fixed and the only reason could be that sufficient numbers are not forthcoming. With regard to Muslims, I will give a few figures for the information of the Members of the Muslim Party though they are not here to-day. In the permanent gazetted appointments, out of 49 only three are held by Muslims, the percentage being six. The figures are all for old appointments and not for recent ones. Recently in the Madras Forest Service from 1943-46, 14 candidates were taken and out of these four were Muhammadans. That is more than the usual rate of 2 out of 12. So that the figure must be encouraging to my hon. Friends of the Muslim community.

"Then with regard to points which were raised by the hon. Member Mr. Shetty as to whether people should be allowed to remove the undergrowth, etc., he is aware that this is allowed in the district of South Kanara. Whether this may be adopted in other places also without detriment to the forests will be looked into. With regard to the question of Malaria in the forest areas of our Province raised by him the matter will engage the attention of the Health Department.

"Another point raised by another Member was the welfare of the aborigines who are working in the Forest Department and the way in which the forest areas and lands of the Todas in the Nilgiris are being taken away by others. These, Sir, will also be considered by the Government and the necessary steps taken. I think, Sir, I have dealt with most of the points raised and considering, Sir, that Government have not had much time to look into all matters in the short time at their disposal, I hope hon. Members will show their indulgence and not press the cut motion, so that before we come with the next budget our plans will be as full as possible."

As the hon. the Leader of the Opposition was not in his seat, the motion was deemed to have been withdrawn.

Demand IV was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND V—REGISTRATION.

* THE HON SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

[Hon. Sri K. Bhashyam]

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'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1947, will amount to Rs. 41,17,600 in respect of the head Registration. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 3,41,974.'

"Particulars relating to this demand will be found on page 61 of the Budget Memorandum."

"SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move my cut motion and in doing so, I want to speak only from the common man's point of view. Here also I feel generally for the poor people of the country and what I want to suggest is that the registration fees must be reduced on documents relating to transactions below Rs. 1,000.

"Another point I want to refer to is the corruption prevailing in the Registration department. This is more prevalent in this department than in others. Poor people come to the registration offices from distant villages and they have to wait for long hours before they could get their documents registered. Unless they give some bribes to these officers, they cannot easily or quickly get their work done. I think the Government must take serious action in this matter and put a stop to such corrupt practices without any delay.

"As regards registration fees, what I want to suggest is that there must be a graded scale of registration fees and that the fees for documents involving transactions below Rs. 1,000 should be considerably reduced and for those above Rs. 1,000 the scale of fees should be on the increase in proportion to the amount involved. Thus the department will be able to derive its revenue on a graded scale, in accordance with the value of documents involved.

"Another point I want to refer to is the frequent transfers of lands. These transfers are taking place because of the present system of land-ownership. If the Government introduce such reforms as the nationalization of lands, then there will be no transactions in land and the Registration Department can easily be dispensed with, at least so far as that portion of the work is concerned. Not only that, the peasantry is now forced to sell its little bits of land to the merchants and richer landlords, because it is involved in debts under the present cheap debt facilities afforded by the latter class of people. These will be saved from debts and their properties will be safe, if lands are nationalized.

"I may bring to the notice of this House that in this department too there is a great disparity between the pay of the highest official and that of the lowest-paid one. I may be a bit hard, but being a representative of labour and the poorer classes of the population, it is my duty at every stage of the debate and in every cut motion to bring this aspect of the matter to the notice of the Government, until such disparity is remedied. The lower-paid staff, as will be seen from the budget, is getting only Rs. 12, 13 and 15 whereas

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the higher officials are getting Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000 per month. The highest official in this Province, that is, the Governor is getting Rs. 12,000 per month. I am ashamed to see these figures in the pages of the Budget prepared by the Congress Ministry. The Congressmen made very huge promises to the lower-paid staff before they came to office, but what do we find in the budget that is presented? Only the same Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 for the under-dogs! I do not know when the Congress Ministry is going to rectify these hardships. We are seeing before our very eyes in this very building clerks and peons wearing badges and carrying placards, saying how ill-paid, ill-clothed and over-worked they are. It is high time that the Congress Ministry comes forward and raises the salaries of these poor people and imposes necessary cuts on the salaries of those who draw Rs. 500 and more so as to meet the demands of the budget.

"While on this question of salaries, I should like to refer to the unrest everywhere. In every department including the Registration Department, there is this unrest. We may not be able to see it here before our very eyes. But when I go to my constituency, the first question that people put to me is this:—'What have you done about our salaries? You have raised your salary from Rs. 75 to Rs. 150; what have you done for us? We are ashamed to show our faces to them. Even the Ministers, if they go to the public will be put the same kind of question. We see before our eyes how the strikes are developing, and how the Government is meeting them. In Vizagapatam, all the public meetings and demonstration parties have been banned and the Secretary of the Union has been arrested. This is how things are going on even under the present Congress regime. I expected a change in their policy, but to my surprise and disappointment I see none. I have waited and waited in vain to see any change. I remember how under the previous Congress Ministry these things were happening.

"And now, so far as the Registration department is concerned, I once again request the Hon. Minister to come forward at once and let us know what reply he is going to give to these starving and poor people. I request the Government with all respect—I have the greatest respect for the Members of the Treasury Bench; I admire them and I love them as I love my co-workers—I request them with all respect to come forward and do something for these suffering people. At the same time, I would sound a note of warning that these poorly paid people and these workers cannot wait for long. They have waited for this budget and these figures can give no satisfaction to them."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Venkateswarlu, please do not repeat the same thing again and again."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Well Sir, these figures have been printed and when we go back, we have to say to our constituents with shame that we have done nothing and could do nothing. Now at least I hope that the Hon. Minister will see that something is done either by legislation or by other

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means to satisfy these poor people and the working classes of this country. With these words, Sir, I move my cut motion, namely,
(To reduce the allotment of Rs. 41,17,600 for Registration by Rs. 100.)

"SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, some years ago during the budget debate, I had occasion to draw the attention of the Government to the need for giving some training to document writers. The then Minister promised to look into the matter, but though several years have elapsed since then nothing seems to have been done. I believe, Sir, that there are nearly 600 sub-registry offices in this Presidency. There must therefore be at least 10,000 to 12,000 document writers attached to these offices. Most of these men have little or no education. They are not properly qualified. They have no sort of training given for doing this responsible work. In fact, many of them do not know enough of the Stamp Act or the Registration Act or any of the rules. The result is that documents are not properly written. This often gives rise to law suits and the poor people who engage the services of these incompetent document writers are made to suffer in various ways. I understand that recently the Travancore Government have introduced licence rule for document writers. They give licences only to qualified people to set up practice as document writers. They have prescribed certain tests which a candidate should pass before he is given the licence. I think it is high time that this Government should copy the example of the Travancore Government and introduce a similar system in this Province also. They may also prescribe a suitable test for these people. It would be a wise and desirable thing to do. It is very necessary in the interests of the poor and illiterate people who go to the registration offices frequently that they should have the services of competent and properly qualified document writers. It will help these poor people and at the same time facilitate the work of the registration officers.

“ Then, Sir, I find in the Budget that there is a proposal to create six new registration districts. I should like to know where these registration offices are proposed to be opened. There has been a complaint for a considerably long time from South Kanara that there are not sufficient number of registration offices there. There are villages from which people have to walk 15 to 30 miles to go to registration offices. A demand has been made that one office should be opened at Mangalore, two offices in Udupi and two more offices in the Kasaragod taluk. I hope that the Hon. Minister will give his attention to this very legitimate demand of the people of South Kanara.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ Those who have already given notice of cut motions have spoken. Now, any other hon. Members who want to speak on the motion may address the House.”

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not a communist, but, if things are allowed to go on as they are there is every likelihood that some time or other most of us

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would find ourselves in the camp of Mr. Venkateswarlu. (Hear, hear.) We have been, for a long time, led to believe that public service is one that is intended to be done in the interests of the community and that remuneration therefor is to be expected as a subsidiary thing, that what really counts is service, even in the Government. That, at any rate, is the kind of thing which we, the Congress people, have been asked to propagate and we have been doing propaganda likewise, and I suppose it necessarily follows that we ourselves should only plan on that basis. You find that again and again; from Wardha comes the mandate ‘ You must really try to eliminate the wide distinctions between the highest officials and those who work down below.’ Now we are in office, and once we are in, we must necessarily take courage in our hands. ‘ We must kill the cat on the wedding day,’ otherwise we may never have the chance at all to do it. Once you are in, and put in a budget, you will find it difficult to change and you will be only following it year after year. What do we find now? The Inspector-General gets Rs. 1,200 to 1,400 and his personal assistant gets Rs. 250—400. Down below on the same page of the Budget, you have three attenders each getting Rs. 19—30 and one peon on Rs. 12—17—a magnificent sum. Similarly in every department the disparity in pay is very noticeable. All the pages of this bulky volume reveal the same state of affairs, viz., the pay of the top man is in four digits while the pay of the man at the bottom in the official ladder is only in one digit, Rs. 6 and so on. I am putting it to you whether it is not time for you to lay down your policy in regard to this matter. Perhaps three months time is not enough to give effect to your policy. But should not these three months be sufficient time for you to enunciate your policy? The Ministry may now give an assurance that in times to come the disparity will be removed and things will be adjusted properly by raising the pay of the lower man and lowering the pay of the higher man. It should be the aim of the Ministry not to leave a big gap between the scales of pay of these services. The Ministry could have given in this Budget a general indication of the lines on which it is going to adjust the salaries of its officials. People have for long been accustomed to having three grades in the official ranks, those at the top living in the land of luxury, those at the centre having a fair amount of conveniences and those at the bottom having to serve everybody above them. Sir, this division is fast giving way. In the cities and even in the countryside the people have awakened. Unless therefore we give them an assurance that their status will be raised and that the status of those higher up will be correspondingly lowered, it will be very difficult to satisfy the people. I wish to invite the attention of the Ministry to this need.

“ I wish next to refer to the assurance if not promise made that at the earliest possible opportunity this sinful revenue from excise will be wiped out. The Hon. Minister almost gave an assurance that, if possible, it will be done in the next budget. That is the impression I gathered from the speech of the Hon. the Premier on the excise debate. That would cut off 16 crores. You

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p.m.

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would not have a budget with a reserve fund from which you can replenish your resources in the years to come. Further you have schemes on hand. Therefore if you are going to take up the examination of the pay of the services it is time you think of it and calculate from now and plan accordingly. We ought not to go on spending on the lines and to the extent laid down by the previous administration. Here we are supposed to work according to popular notions. If in your attempt at carrying out your policy you have got to be unpopular with this or that class, you should not mind it. This is my request to you."

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"I have fixed 5 minutes for each speaker."

* Sri M. P. PERIASWAMI:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே. எந்த சர்க்கார் டிபார்ட்மென்டை எடுத்துக்கொண்டாலும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு 12-ல் ஒன்று உத்யோகம் சாதாரணமாகக் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் இந்த ரெஜிஸ்ட்ரேஷன் டிபார்ட்மென்ட்டில் ஹரிஜனங்களை அதிகமாக வேலைக்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளுவதில்லை. 12-ல் 2-கொடுப்பதாகச் சொல்லப்பட்டுக்கூட ஹரிஜனங்களில் ஒருவர்தான் ஜில்லா ரெஜிஸ்ட்ராராகவிருக்கிறார். ஆனால், அவரை மேலே போகாமற்படி தடுத்து அவர்பேரில் ஏதோ பொய் சாക്ഷியத்தைக் கொண்டு வந்து, அவரை மாற்றி விடுகிறார்கள். ராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லாவில் ரெஜிஸ்ட்ராராக விருந்த ஸ்ரீ செல்லசாமி அவர்களைக் குறிப்பிடுகிறேன். அவரை அங்கிருந்து ஒரு ஆந்திர ஜில்லாவுக்கு மாற்றிவிட்டார்கள். மந்திரி கனம் கூர்மையா அவர்களுக்கும் ராமநாதபுரம் ஜில்லா ஹரிஜனங்களின் தீண்டாமை விஷயம் நன்றாய்த் தெரிந்திருக்கிறார் அவரும் இன்னும் பல M.L.A.-க்களும் செல்லச்சாமி அவர்களை ஆந்திர ஜில்லாவுக்கு மாற்றக்கூடாது. தமிழ் நாட்டிலேயே வைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று சொன்னார்கள். அப்படியிருந்தும் அவரை ஆந்திர மாகாணத்திற்கு மாற்றிவிட்டார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு டிபார்ட்மென்ட்டிலும் இப்போது இருப்பதைக் காட்டிலும் அதிக சலுகை எங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். முக்கியமாக ரெஜிஸ்ட்ரேஷன் டிபார்ட்மென்ட்டிலே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குத் தகுந்த பிரதிநிதித்துவம் கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும். அப்போதுதான் ரெஜிஸ்ட்ரேஷனுக்கு வரும் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய நன்மையைக் கவனித்துச் சரியாகக் காரியங்களைச் செய்வார்கள். எங்களுக்கு உத்யோகத்திலே 12-ல் ஒன்று என்ற விகிதாசாரம் போதாது. 12-யிலே 3-வது கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும். அப்போதுதான் எங்களுடைய சமூகம் முன்னேற்றமடைய முடியும். அப்போதுதான் காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை எங்களுடைய சமூகத்திற்கு அதிக நன்மை செய்தவர்களாவர்கள். காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு உத்யோகத்தில் அதிக பிரதிநிதித்துவம் கொடுத்து ஆதரித்தால் நலமாயிருக்குமென்று சொல்லிமுடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* Sri N. VENKATA SUBBAIYA:—"Sir, I have only one point to refer to on this demand and that is about the prevalence of corruption in this department. It is very regrettable to make reference to the existence of corruption every time a demand is moved. Sir, corruption spoils the fair name of the administration. It is well known that the Registration Department is the most corrupt one. I have visited some of the Registration offices. During the off-season when the ryots are free from work they attend to the business connected with registration. As they cannot attend to this work during the agricultural season, hundreds of them go there for registration of their documents during the off-season. Seeing such big crowds the Registration staff take full advantage and get from the poor villagers double or treble the Government fees by way of bribes. This could be put an end to by asking the Sub-Registrars like Revenue Inspectors to

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tour in the villages for receiving applications for registry. If this is done the ten or fifteen witnesses and others who usually go with the persons who want to get documents registered would be saved the need to travel long distances to the sub-registry office spending Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 on hotels and the like there. I request the Government to consider this suggestion. It will be a great improvement upon the existing arrangement and put an end to corruption. If the Government could pay travelling allowance to the Sub-Registrar when he tours in the villages the problem won't be solved. I hope the Government will consider this suggestion, of making Sub-Registrars, touring officers."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as this demand is concerned, the point made against the department is mainly about corruption. All that I can say in respect of that matter is that if any case of corruption is brought to the notice to the head of the department or the Government it will receive immediate attention. I wish to say, however, that if any general charge of corruption is made it will not be possible for the Government to take any action. Therefore I ask the public and the persons who have business at the registration offices to come forward with specific cases and with proof to enable the Government to take action."

"The question of providing conveniences and amenities for persons who visit the sub-registry offices on business will be certainly looked into. As may be noticed, the Government have already sanctioned about six more districts and 7 or 8 new offices have already been opened. Proposals to open 9 more sub-registry offices are on hand and some 17 proposals are under examination in addition. Therefore wherever necessary more sub-registry offices will be opened. In this way we hope to meet the demand of the public and obviate the need for waiting at the offices to get their registration work done promptly."

"The suggestion to get the Sub-Registrars' tour in the villages is an interesting one and perhaps somewhat attractive. But there are immense difficulties in the way of accepting the suggestion. The carrying of various registers and other books of the office to the villages is a difficult problem."

"I come next to the demand made for raising the salaries of officers in the department. It was pointed out that there is great disparity between the salaries of the Inspector-General and of his subordinates. We are aware of this. The Congress has committed itself to see that the salaries are not pitched high in view of the poverty in the country. So far as this matter is concerned it is a question of policy affecting not only this department but every department of the administration. That being the case this suggestion will be considered when chalking out a policy for all departments."

"So far as the question of raising the pay of the lower officers is concerned, there is already a proposal before the Government for raising the salary of the low-paid staff. I think there is a proposal to raise it from Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 and for the Sub-Registrar from

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Rs. 60 to Rs. 90. So far as this is concerned it is being looked into and a sub-committee of the Cabinet has been formed for the purpose of looking into the question of salaries of the staff. They are dealing with cases of officers below Rs. 200 and will do justice to the low-paid officers of Government. But I should like to mention one thing in this connexion. If all the demands of the subordinate and other officers are to be met perhaps the revenue we derive will not be enough to meet the demands in full.

3-30 P.M. "The leaders must have some responsibility in the matter. It is not enough if they put forward the demand, but they must show how the demand can be met with the resources that we have. It should not be merely for the purpose of demonstrating in the streets and before the Secretariat as if the Government can be coerced to do something which they do not consider reasonable. It is not just not only to the persons concerned but to the other sections of the population. Therefore I would like the leaders of the movements and the men who are at the bottom of these demonstrations to take note that if they really want to represent anything, they should do so in a constitutional and peaceful manner so that the matter may be gone into. We as Congressmen are sympathetic and in favour of raising the salaries of the lower-paid staff and equalizing to the greatest possible extent the salaries of the higher-paid staff to those of the lower-paid staff. I am therefore appealing to these leaders not only to be more reasonable in their demand but also to be reasonable in the way of demonstrating their demand for higher salaries."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"As regards the question . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is it on a point of information that the hon. Member is rising? If it is on a point of information, he can go on."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"On a point of information, Sir. Does the Hon. Minister think the demands are not reasonable?"

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"So far as the Registration department is concerned proposals have already been made and I cannot say anything till the Cabinet Committee meets. So far as other departments are concerned I should like the leaders of these movements to be more reasonable. Whether they are reasonable or not in a particular case is a matter for the Cabinet Committee to decide.

"So far as the question of high salaries is concerned, it is a matter of policy which as I said will have to be dealt with separately in its proper place.

"As regards the question of training document-writers, Sir, there has been a demand about this. But I should certainly advise persons who want their documents written to give them to trained lawyers instead of these untrained, ill-equipped . . ."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Trade unionism!"

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* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I am accused of being partial to my own profession. But they had served a very useful purpose and if they are employed in these matters, there will be less trouble and litigation that arise out of documents prepared by ill-equipped persons. On the suggestion of some Members, some years past, there was a proposal for licensing these document-writers. There is a big report on that which had been shelved during the period of the war and so far as this matter is concerned, I shall take it up and if anything can be done, I shall do it.

"Then comes the Harijan problem, just like the Muslim problem, in the case of Government jobs. This is of course a matter to be considered very sympathetically, no doubt. But what I would like to point out is this. So far as the Harijans are concerned, I have got the figures here. Out of 25 permanent appointments, there are three Harijans. Of course, more than the proportion they are entitled to . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister has not told the House to which appointments he is referring."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I am referring to District Registrars, Sir. I am thankful to you for reminding me about it. Out of 25 District Registrars now filled up there are 3 Harijans. As regards the First-grade Sub-Registrars, there is nobody, yet in that department. As regards Second-grade Sub-Registrars there are 492 posts of which 24 are occupied by Harijans, permanent and acting. Of course, this figure is not much. But, Sir, I have to point out that so far as initial recruitment is concerned there are not enough Harijan candidates coming forward for the purpose of being recruited, in spite of the fact that the minimum qualification prescribed for the Harijan community to be entertained in this department is S.S.L.C., while for the other communities it is B.A. and B.Sc. In spite of this there are not enough candidates coming from the Harijan community. That is why their percentage in the Registration department is somewhat low. Perhaps the Harijan thinks that the prospects are not very bright in this department and therefore Harijans with S.S.L.C. qualification go elsewhere for getting employed. Indeed his value in other departments is certainly much higher than it is in this department. Therefore, if the leaders of the Harijan community will induce a greater number of people belonging to the community to offer themselves for being recruited into the Registration department, nobody will be more happy than myself. The question of Harijans being properly represented in this department certainly depends upon the community itself and the candidates coming forward for recruitment.

"As regards the treatment of Harijans in the service a case has been brought to the notice of the House by my hon. Friend, namely, the question of Mr. Chellaswami, a District Registrar in Ramnad who has been transferred to Bellary. It was complained to me by this friend that a Tamilian should not be transferred to Bellary and that there was some difficulty about his going there.

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Being a Harijan, a privileged class, I thought I could interfere and if I could manage, see that the transfer was stopped. But on fully looking into the papers, the question of stopping that transfer involved so many complicated further transfers which made the position very difficult and this fact was communicated to the friends who interceded with me on behalf of Mr. Chellawami and I thought they were satisfied. I have to make mention of these, Sir, as the matter has been brought specially before the House and for special mention.

“Then, precedence to Harijans in the matter of registration. No complaint has come to me so far about this matter and I do not know if there should be precedence for Harijans over other classes in the matter of registration. That may not be the proper procedure to adopt. The documents must be taken in the order in which they are presented for registration. The Harijan must take their turn along with other classes and they cannot be treated as superior to others.

“I think, Sir, I have answered all the points raised so far as this demand is concerned. In view of what I have said, Sir, I ask the hon. Member who moved the cut motion to withdraw it.”

The motion moved by Sri Pillalamarri Venkateswarlu was by leave of the House withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND VI—MOTOR VEHICLES ACTS.

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—
‘that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 3,54,300 in respect of the head Motor Vehicles Acts. The expenditure incurred in April 1946, is believed to be Rs. 38,646.’”

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

‘that the allotment of Rs. 3,54,300 for Motor Vehicles Acts be reduced by Rs. 100.’

“First of all, Sir, I must refer to the fact that this Motor Transport is in the hands of private and individual owners. I propose to suggest that this Motor Transport including the Tramways must be given to the local bodies and they must be run by the local bodies. Just now we heard from the Hon. Minister for Revenue and the Hon. Minister for Law that there are not enough funds to meet all the demands. If these transport systems, namely, the Motor Transport as well as the Tramways, were taken away by the Corporation and other local bodies I think the municipalities and the Corporation will have enough funds. They can also run the transports efficiently and in the interests of the public and not for private profit. That is why I suggest that the Government must immediately recommend to the local bodies that the motor

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and other transports must be immediately taken up by them and run only by them. Only recently in Bezwada, wherefrom I am coming, and where motor transport is being started, it was given to a private individual. Sir, if the municipality were to take up this motor transport and run it in the interests of the public, it will have enough funds and individual profiteers will not have the opportunity of exploiting the people as they had done. I would request the Government in the interests of both the people as well as their revenue—of which they are so fond and of which they make so much and say that their revenue is exhausted—they should hand over the motor transport and the tramway transport to the Corporation as well as the local bodies and then the question of raising funds for the local bodies will be solved in a way.

“Then, Sir, what is happening in the districts? How is the motor transport run? They are run in a most awkward manner and it is very difficult to get a seat there. Bribery is going on. The drivers and conductors are the worst paid. They are not getting even a minimum living wage. The Hon. Minister for Industries said that the motor transport workers will be included in the Wages Act. Until then this condition will continue.

“In certain places there is the Police control. How is it working? Everybody knows the Police, including the Hon. Prime Minister and how bribery and other things are going on, how they are behaving, everybody knows that. Passengers have been hit and everybody has been hit, by this Police. In this connexion I have to bring to the notice of the House an incident that took place at Gannavaram. It was because the police refused to pay the fare. Everything has been spoiled there by this police, special police, who are stationed there. So much havoc has been done. This is how this motor transport system is being controlled by the police zoolum and how people are being hit.

“In Nellore the workers are on strike and adjudication is going on. I do not know for how long it is going to be like that. It is therefore we say that under private management workers are suffering and people are suffering for lack of seats and other things.

“Then there is another point. Till now vehicles supplied were 1937 models. In spite of the fact that the war is over none of these new vehicles has been brought on our district. Old vehicles are being supplied and therefore transport difficulty is growing from bad to worse.

“Another thing is about the lorries. Even just now we heard the Hon. Minister for Revenue saying that because there were no waggons they could not transport fodder to the famine districts. I suggest that if these lorries were to be taken over by the Government on requisition there will be no hardship in taking fodder to those areas. This lorry trade is also under private management. There again blackmarketing is going in broad daylight and during night. All these things can be prevented if this trade in lorry traffic is controlled and taken over by the Government or by the local bodies.

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“One more point and that is with regard to the Motor Vehicles Act. Sir, quite often the drivers and the conductors are put to lot of difficulties by policemen and they are even charged unnecessarily for the mistakes committed by the owners or somebody else. They are even beaten sometimes. The Government must rectify all these things at once. We are said to have a people's government with a people's leader at the head and with so much popular backing. I agree that the Government has much popular backing. Therefore we expect the popular demands to be met and any impediments which come in the way of meeting the popular demands should be removed. It is no use merely saying that the Government revenue cannot meet the expenditure. If the industries are taxed or taken over by the Government, if the high salaries are reduced, is it difficult to get revenues? If really the imperialistic framework is broken, it is not difficult to get revenues. There are revenues and we can get them. It is not the Governor that stands in the way. I can remember pretty well the Hon. Prime Minister saying that the Secretary of State may not give permission for the abolition of the zamindari system. If the Secretary of State will not give permission, the Prime Minister with the backing of the people behind him will not have anything to do with him. But of late it has been said that the Secretary of State has given independence to this country. I cannot reconcile both points of view. If the British have given independence, then how can the Secretary of State or the Viceroy or the Governor stand in the way of fulfilling our people's demands? What is there to prevent this Government from nationalizing the lands, taking over the industries and so on? There is no question of revenue at all and I cannot understand any question of revenue standing in the way of meeting the just demands of the workers and the peasants. I request him not to raise any questions of revenue but meet the just demands of the people. The people's leader should not stand before the people who are asking him to fulfil certain just demands and say that somebody is provoking trouble and somebody is promoting strikes. Sir, everybody is behind him and everybody wants that he should fulfil the just demands of the people.”

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, while supporting this demand I should like to say one or two points in connexion with motor vehicles. The motor transport is the poor man's facility for going from place to place in addition to the train which is always over-crowded. With regard to the composition of the Road Traffic Boards . . . (Interruption.) I hear from my hon. Friend that the Boards have been abolished. With regard to the Regional Road Traffic Board, I urge that some people from the country-side who know the difficulties in motor transport, and the passengers could be usefully added to the Board so that what is actually happening in the district parts may be brought before the Board. Wherever we travel in the interior, as has already been pointed out by the mover of the cut motion, there is great difficulty. People have to stand in queues for hours together and even the very vehicle in which they have

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to travel is in a very bad state. It is not at all comfortable even though the maximum fares fixed by the Government are collected. Further, Sir, the way in which permits for the motor transport is granted; they mostly go to a few rich people who monopolise this traffic. The time has come for Government themselves or Government through the agency of the local boards to undertake the motor transport business. Sir, during the war many motor vehicles could not be imported and what were available in the country were used and these people who owned these motor transports have made enough and more money over this business. At the same time, I must here join my hon. Friend who said that the motor drivers, the conductors and the cleaners are not well paid. When the owners make huge profits, it is but reasonable that they must see to the comforts of the poor people.

“Moreover, Sir, in the case of getting G permits for the lorries undue inconvenience is caused to those who go in for these permits. I think a simpler method must be found so that there may not be much of inconvenience for these people who apply for permits for their motor lorries either for hire or for their own purposes. In some places, Sir, the route through which motor buses go is fixed with the object of giving facilities for certain privileged communities. I may cite a case, Sir, where the children of the District Superintendent of Police had to go to school and so the motor bus had to go through a particular route and the motor bus used to be stopped on Saturdays and Sundays when there is no school for the children. I think, Sir, that this invidious distinction must disappear even now. With these few words, Sir, I support the Demand.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Those who have given notice of cut motions have already spoken. If there are other hon. Members who wish to speak, I am prepared to allow five minutes for each.”

* SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the previous speakers have already spoken about the necessity of these motor services being taken over by the local bodies. There is every justification for the local bodies taking over this responsibility. It is high time that the public interest should be considered before any private interest. The present system is only one of giving monopolies to certain individuals in every district. It should be done away with at once. The local bodies are making the roads and maintaining them in the interests of the public. They spend the money and here are the vested interests and monopolists who reap the benefits of the services rendered to the public by the local bodies. Among the local bodies the Coimbatore District Board was the pioneer in taking over the motor transport services during the last Congress Ministry. They had a very good case for taking over the services under that management. The Coimbatore District Board had then a railway running from Coimbatore to Pollachi and the former motor service owners were competitors to this railway and they were running their service to the detriment of the railway. Therefore the then Coimbatore District Board moved the Government and succeeded in

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getting permission for running the bus services. Unfortunately owing to certain changes in the administration and owing to the war conditions the District Board Bus services had to be stopped and some other monopolists have come in their place. Now the Coimbatore Municipality, District Board—of course it is not a popular body now—has given the licence to private owners. There too the monopoly system comes in. Therefore it is high time the monopoly system should go and the interests of private individuals give place to those of the general public. I therefore strongly support the proposition that the motor transport services should be taken over by the local bodies if not by the Government."

* SRI B. GOPAL REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the cut motion and in doing so I wish to impress upon the Government the necessity for their taking over the motor transport services themselves. We all know that road-making is in charge of the Highways Department. Previously it was in charge of the local boards and the recent changes in the organization have given it over to the Highways Department. Sir, I urge on the Government that there is need for a separate Communications Department. Instead of calling the department a Highways Department, it must be called a Communications Department and Motor Transport added to that department. In the Government of India, all communications including radio and the railway are under one department, and I also request this Government to see whether they cannot constitute a Communications Department with the Motor department also added on to it. A small beginning was made in 1937-38 and the necessary legislation was undertaken by the previous Congress Government in order to enable local bodies to run their own motor transport. There was vehement opposition to the proposal, but in spite of that opposition, the Coimbatore District Board was given permission to run its own motor buses from Coimbatore to Pollachi. The district board could not immediately undertake to run all the buses required for the purpose, and it entered into a contract with a company. The company ran the buses and the collection was made by the district board. Within less than twelve months, the district board was making over Rs. 2,000 over a mileage of 27 miles a month. From Coimbatore to Pollachi the distance being 27 miles the board was able to make that Rs. 2,000 on that one route. So, if the district board had taken over the entire district, the income of the board would have been much more. I find, Sir, in the neighbouring States of Hyderabad and Travancore, the entire motor transport is being taken over by the Government and I do not see why the Madras Government cannot also take over the entire motor transport and take all the profits out of the road. By transferring road-making to the Highways Department, they have taken a huge responsibility. What they were spending on the trunk roads has been trebled and quadrupled: where they were spending Rs. 500, they are now going to spend Rs. 2,000 and more. That is a step in the right direction; but they must make up the loss. He who is making the road must

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also be able to take away the profits from the road. So, nationalization of transport, whether it is given to the local boards and the municipal councils or is taken over by the Government, is one to be considered by the Government. I therefore urge upon the Government to take early steps to see that the entire motor transport in the Province is taken over by them.

"Sir, the recent act of the Advisers in abolishing the District Traffic Boards is, in my opinion, a retrograde step. They abhorred non-officials' association in these matters and they have scrapped the District Traffic Boards which were working for five or six years. They have now instituted what is called the Regional Transport Board where, I think, non-officials are not given any place. It is entirely administered by an officer of the rank of a District Superintendent of Police. I do not know, Sir, why this monopoly of the police with regard to motor transport. Is it necessary that the whole thing should be administered by Police officers and nobody else? I do not know; it is a matter for the Minister to say whether the police alone are competent in regulating motor transport in these five or six regions. I do not know how many retired people also are employed in this department, and I want the Minister to tell us when the petrol rationing is going to be abolished."

* SRI A. SUBRAHMANYAM:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, தற்போது மந்திரியவர்கள் கொண்டு வந்திருக்கும் மோட்டார் வாகன மானியம் சம்பந்தமாக நான் சில வார்த்தைகள் சொல்ல விரும்புகின்றேன். தற்போது இந்த மோட்டார் பஸ்களுக்குப் பர்மிட் கொடுக்கும்படியான விஷயத்தில் சில மாறுதல்கள் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று விரும்புகின்றேன். அதாவது 20 பஸ்கள் வைத்திருக்கும்படியான ஒரு முதலாளிக்கே பஸ்களை ஒட்டுவதற்கு பர்மிட் கொடுக்கப்படும் என்பதாக இப்பொழுது அரசாங்கத்தாரால் ஒப்புக்கொள்ளப்பட்டிருக்கின்றது. அந்த முறையிலே ஜனங்களுக்குப் பெரிய கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கின்றது. இன்று அவர்கள் 20 பஸ்களுக்கு பர்மிட்டை வாங்கிக்கொண்டு 7 அல்லது 8 பஸ்களைத் தான் விடுகிறார்கள். மற்ற பஸ்கள் கெட்டுப் போனதாகவோ, அல்லது எந்தக் காரணத்தினாலோ அவர்கள் விடுவதில்லை, அந்த 20 பஸ்களில் பிரயாணம் செய்யக்கூடிய அத்தனை பேர்களையும் இந்த 7, 8 பஸ்களிலே கொண்டு போய் நிறைத்து விடுகிறார்கள். இன்னும் கிராமங்களிலோ, அல்லது, சற்று பொது ஜன சஞ்சாரம் அதிகமில்லாத வழிகளில் டாபு மீது கூட ஜனங்களை உட்கார வைத்துக்கொண்டு போகும் நிலைமையை ஏற்படுத்தி விடுகிறார்கள். ஆகையால் இந்த முறையை அடியோடு மாற்றிக் கொள்ள வேண்டும்.

"மற்றொரு விஷயம் சின்ன முதலாளிகளுக்கு அதில் பங்கு கிடையாது. பெரிய முதலாளிகளுக்கு இந்த சட்டம் உதவி செய்கிறதே யொழிய சின்ன முதலாளிகளுக்கு கிடையாது. பெரிய முதலாளிகளுக்கு நன்மை தேடிக்கொள்ளுவதற்கு அது வசதியாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகவே 20 பஸ்கள் வைத்திருப்பவர்களுக்குத்தான் பர்மிட் கொடுக்கிறதென்ற முறையை மாற்றிக் குறைந்தது 5 பஸ்களை வைத்திருக்கக்கூடிய ஒரு முதலாளிக்கு பர்மிட் கொடுக்கலாமென்கிற சட்டத்தை கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் செய்வார்களானால் அது பொது ஜனங்களுக்கும் மற்றும் எல்லா ஏழை முதலாளிகளுக்கும் ஒரு நல்ல வழி காட்டியாக இருக்குமென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"அடுத்தபடியாக இந்த பஸ்களிலே front seat என்று சொல்லுகிறானே அதிலே போலீஸ் உத்யோகஸ்தருக்கு ரிஸர்வ் செய்து இருப்பதாகச் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இதை எல்லோரும் ஞாபகத்தில் வைத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டும். "திடீரென்று காலையில் போய் ஒரு போலீஸ் உத"

[Sri A. Subrahmanyam] [16th August 1946]

யோகஸ்தர் அந்த பஸ்வில வருகிறேனென்று சொல்லிவிடுவாரானால் அதில் யாருமே உட்கார முடியாது. அவர் வருவதாயிருந்தாலும் சரி வராவிட்டாலும் சரி நாம் டிக்கட்டு வாங்கிக்கொண்டு உட்காருகிறோமென்றால் அது ரிஸர்வ் செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறதென்றும், யாருக்கு என்றால் சொல்லமுடியாதென்றும் சொல்லுகிறான் கண்டக்டர். எங்களுக்கு போலீஸ் என்றால் பயமென்று அந்த மோட்டார் டிரைவரும் கண்டக்டரும் சொந்தக்காரர்கள் உள்பட சொல்லுகிறார்கள். மற்றொரு விஷயம் மோட்டார் டிரைவர் ஒரு வழியை விட்டு மற்றொரு வழியில் திடீரென்று ஓட்டிக் கொண்டே போகிறான். ஒரு தெருவிலே புகுந்து ஒரு வீட்டை பஸ்ஸை நிறுத்திவிடுகிறான், என்ன அப்பா நான் அவசரமாகப் போக வேண்டியிருக்கிறது இங்கு நிறுத்தி வைத்திருக்கிறேயென்றால் ஸ்ப் இனிஸ்பெக்டர் வருகிறார் சம்மா இருங்கள் என்கிறான். நான் அவசரமாகப் போக வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னால், முடியாது நீ வேண்டுமானால் இறங்கிப் போ என்கிறான். ஆகவே, இவ்விதமான ஒரு காரியம் இனி நடைபெறாதவாறு மந்திரிகள் கவனித்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். போலீஸ் காரர்கள் பிராயாணம் செய்யும்போது ஜனங்களுக்குச் சேவை செய்பவர்கள் என்பதை அவர்களுக்கு உணர்த்தி உடனடியாக உத்தரவு போடவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக இந்த டிரைவர் கண்டக்டர்கள் போலீஸ் காரர்களிடத்தில் பயப்படுகிறார்கள். பஸ்ஸை விட்டுக்கொண்டு போய்க்கொண்டே இருக்கிறார்கள் திடீரென்று நிறுத்துகிறார்கள், ஏனென்றால் ஸ்ப் இனிஸ்பெக்டர் வருகிறாரென்கிறார்கள். அவசரமாகப் போகவேண்டுமென்று ஒரு வழிப்போக்கர் நிறுத்தச் சொன்னால் stopping place கிடையாது நிறுத்த முடியாதென்கிறார்கள். ஆனால், ஒரு போலீஸ் உத்தியோகஸ்தர் அல்லது ஒரு Head Constableயை இருப்பவர் நிறுத்திவிடுவார்கள். பஸ்களிலே ‘standing’ நின்று கொண்டிருப்போக வேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறதே, அதில் ரொம்ப சிரமம் இருக்கிறது. உடனடியாக அதை நிறுத்திவிடவேண்டும். அதற்கு பதில் அதிக பஸ்களை விடுவதற்கு பர்மிட் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இந்தக் காரியங்களைச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நான் முடித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish only to say that it is high time that the Government should take up public transport under its own management. In the election manifesto, we have told the people that we shall nationalize the railways, shipping, public transport, mines, mineral resources, forests, waterways and all things which help the moral and material development of the people. There are two reasons, very important, for doing all this; firstly, to prevent the growth of a capitalistic class in this country. Capitalism is growing; we must put a check to it as soon as possible. If we allow capitalism to grow, communism is bound to come. In order to prevent communism also, we must adopt this policy of socialism which will nationalize the key industries, the important industries of the country and the means of production and distribution, banks, currency and insurance, and all these things. The second reason is that this Provincial Government should augment its revenues considerably. Hereafter, the Provincial Governments will have all the departments under them except a few departments that are allotted to the Central Government. We are at the threshold of getting complete independence. We must begin administration with that vision. All departments are coming to us and more or less they have come. Therefore the Ministry must not go in the old rut, on the old lines of the bureaucratic budgets. It is time that all these things are nationalized.

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“ There is only one point I wish to refer to. If the Government wants to augment its revenues by taking up industries, by trading, by nationalizing means of production, transport and such things, then it will not on every occasion when new schemes like prohibition are introduced, create a scare that it is going to tax the people. Why should we tax the people? As far as possible, new taxation must be avoided and augmentation of revenues must be made by these means, from now onwards.

“ With these words, Sir, I am not supporting the cut motion, but I am supporting the ideas given by my friends, Messrs. Muniswami Pillai and Gopal Reddi.”

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir . . . (An hon. Member: ‘ Mike, please.’) Sir, why I am afraid to speak in the mike is that I may injure my good self. The space between the mike and the seat is so small that I have to stand at great inconvenience.

“ I rise to speak on this Demand and in supporting the motion made by the Hon. Minister for Motor Transport, I am simply rising to support the suggestions made by several members, members with experience, with regard to the need for nationalizing motor transport. It is an urgent necessity. The Government makes the road, some other man uses it for remunerative purposes. It is the most uneconomic and improper use we can allow to be made by monopolists or capitalists or by middlemen. This venture will have to be considered in all its bearings by reason of the fact that in this matter we are not completely masters of the situation. The Provincial Government, I presume, has its powers limited by the control which the Government of India exercises in the matter of motor vehicles, taxation, and all such things.

“ My friend does not know there is a control. Mr. N. S. Varadachari will bear with me and I shall develop the subject later on. (Interruption.) I am addressing the Speaker, Sir. (Laughter.) There is a principle enunciated by the Central Government with regard to the co-ordination between rail and road transport. The Provincial Government has to bear this in mind because railways also are a national asset. We cannot ruin the railways for the purpose of encouraging motor transport; one acts and reacts on the other and a policy has to be evolved to see that this principle of co-ordination between motor transport and rail transport is observed and the maximum benefit is derived from both and public conveniences secured to the maximum extent possible. The way in which the motor transport administration in this Province is being run is on the lines of co-ordination. Licences and permits are being granted with a view to see that the railways will not suffer from other transport by means of motors on the roads either for passengers or for goods. I am therefore convinced that my Friend Mr. N. S. Varadachari will now see the point that I was making with regard to the control by the Government of India and that he will not disturb me any further.”

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* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"He will not disturb you. I will not allow disturbance; I am here to give you protection."

* **SRI K. VARADACHARI**:—"Therefore, Sir, while there is need for urgent nationalization of this motor transport business, I also wish to warn the Government against accepting the suggestion made by some of our friends on the other side that this nationalization may be utilized for the purpose of conferring the privilege of running this business on the local bodies. It is my firm conviction that such a thing should not be entrusted to the local bodies or municipalities except perhaps in the City of Madras where the need for enhancing the revenues of the Corporation should be the major consideration for handing over the transport completely to the Corporation of Madras. (Mr. H. S. Town: 'Including trams.') Including trams or even aeroplane service if we require it. I strongly object to the nationalization for the purpose of diverting to local bodies or municipalities. It must be national enterprise and the provincial administration should have complete control and should be the sole recipient of all the revenue derived from motor transport business. The second thing is this. While my friend Mr. Subrahmanyam on the other side was expatiating on the grievances of passengers, I felt that he was anticipating me and that I was prevented from making a point out of that class of grievances but any way the grievance that has been mentioned is a real grievance. Unless this department is taken over by the Government, this grievance will never vanish. We find that in spite of representations made to the district officials in the Police department—Circle Inspector, Sub-Inspector and others—a lot of overloading is going on. Sometimes, buses which have a capacity of 20 to 30 are loaded up to 60 or 70. I have seen this with my own eyes. In my own constituency, there is a small route between Pallipat and Nagari. Between these two places two buses are running from morning till evening, every hour or every two hours and the two buses are said to be part of a fleet. In that small route of ten miles, we have got heavy traffic which is resulting in the overloading of buses to a very dangerous extent, people on the top, people on the mudguards, people on the side-boards and so on—and this large number of people are put into the buses like cotton being stuffed into pillow cases. Any amount of representation to the Police department never has any avail or any result, the simple reason being, as my friend Subrahmanyam said, that even a constable gets a lift whenever he wants it at his sweet will and pleasure; the bus has to be stopped anywhere he wants to get down and he therefore shuts his eyes to whatever is being done. These two or three buses which I have mentioned are said to be affiliated to a fleet company but it is so only in name. The proprietors of these buses are still running them by themselves collecting money and controlling them, though in name they are called part of a fleet. Such anomalies are taking place. Therefore I submit that with regard to the question of redressing these grievances, the only remedy is nationalization. No departmental checks or any other contrivances within the present system will

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be of any use. I therefore request the Government to take up this question as soon as possible and take away motor services from the middlemen."

* **SRI K. A. NACHIAPPA GOUNDER**:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my hon. Friend the Minister for Motor Transport and in doing so, I would like to make a few observations with regard to the management of motor transport. During the time of the last Congress Ministry, there was an attempt made to take over the motor transport to the district boards and as a matter of fact some of the presidents of district boards and the representatives of other interests connected with it met at a conference and discussed the matter but unfortunately, it had been left at that stage of discussion and I do not know what became of it further. Previously local bodies were realising the fees from the motor vehicles direct and the same is now being collected by the Government and only a certain amount of it is paid to local bodies. The district boards and municipalities which are the beneficiaries of this tax have no scrutiny to make in the collection and expenditure and so much so the income derived from this source was not up to the expectations and so they were obliged to find more funds from other sources. As soon as the Congress first came into power, the Ministry originally adopted a policy of allowing the district boards to undertake running of motor vehicles. At that time, the Coimbatore District Board took up one route as an experimental measure and they got a very good profit. They got more than Rs. 15,000 per year by allowing the bus route for running on a contract basis to some company. In that way, it was expected that more money could be got from this source, but unfortunately the system of allowing the routes to be run by the district boards was put an end to on some plea or other. If the motor transport is taken over by the local bodies, I am sure, it will go a long way to help their revenues and relieve the financial difficulties from which they are suffering now. Even supposing these local bodies are not able to run the service by owning the vehicles for themselves they can auction the runnings in each route and get good money as they do in the case of markets, ferries, etc. If this is done, it is possible to solve the financial problem of the local bodies to a great extent. Even if the Government think that the local bodies cannot manage it well, it is up to them to take this under their own management and control and realize good money out of it besides affording facilities and convenience to the travelling public. In the matter of management of motor transport by private individuals, I would say that they are not run on efficient lines but if they are managed by local bodies or by Government, this sort of inefficiency also can be put an end to and much of public good and convenience can be brought about. Now under the present rules and instructions, the buses in a route are obliged to be run on a monopoly basis and if additional buses are to be introduced in that route the same persons will have to be given preference.

[Sri K. A. Nachiappa Gounder] [16th August 1946]

Thus there is only one bus service in each route. It is resulting in a lot of inefficiency. Originally this rule was brought into force since each bus owner was having one or two buses and they did not have any steadiness due to unhealthy competition. Now under the present arrangement only owners of twenty buses and more are recognized to run a bus service and allowed licences to run on specified routes. Such being the case, two or more services having convenient headquarters may be allowed to run to timings one after another on each route, and it will certainly create a healthy competition and it will also achieve good results, and the public will be greatly benefited by this course. Hence I urge upon the Government that they must pursue a policy of breaking this monopoly in the good interest and welfare of the public. With regard to lorry transport, Sir, on the instructions of the Central Road Traffic Board as they exist at present, the lorry owners also should have a number of lorries to continue in that profession and the owners of one or two lorries and those who have a little capital and want to run a lorry for their livelihood are not given permits to run their lorries as public carriers. This makes the individuals with a small capital suffer a great deal. If these people are allowed to run under public carrier permits given to them, it will enable the running of lorries at a cheaper rate and afford greater transport facilities. A number of lorries will also come into existence and be of much use to the public to transport their goods easily. So, I urge on the Minister to see to this aspect of the question also."

* **SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN** :—"கனம் தலைவர் அவர்களே. போக்குவரத்து சாதனங்களைப் பற்றி இப்போது பலர் பேசினார்கள். இது விஷயத்தில் அவைகளை ஒட்டக் கூடிய தொழிலாளர்களைப் பற்றித்தான் நீங்கள் முதலில் சிந்திக்கவேண்டும். ஒரு பஸ் டிரைவர் ஒரு நாளைக்கு 100 மைல் அல்லது 200 மைல் போகின்றான். அவர்கள் இத்தனை மணி நேரத்தான் வேலை செய்வது என்ற ஒரு நிர்ணயமில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்படும் நிலைமையை ஊன்றி நோக்கினால், உடனடியாக அவர்களுக்கு வேலை நேரம் நிர்ணயம் செய்யப்பட வேண்டிய முடிவுக்கு எல்லோரும் வரவேண்டியதாகவிருக்கும். ஒரு மோட்டார் டிரைவர் 200 மைல் 300 மைல் வண்டியை ஒட்டினால், அவனுடைய உடல் நிலைகுன்றி விடுவதால் அவன் அதிகநாள் ஜீவித்திருக்கமுடியுமாவென்று பாருங்கள். ஆகவே அவனுடைய நிலைமையை நீங்கள் முக்கியமாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும்."

"இன்று பஸ்களில் பிரயாணம் செய்கிறவர்களுக்கு அதிலுள்ள கஷ்டங்கள் நன்றாய் தெரியும். ஜனங்களை ஒருவர்மேல் ஒருவரை புனி மூட்டைகள் போல அடுக்கிக்கொண்டு போகப்படும் நிலைமையைப் பார்க்கிறோம். பஸ்களில் இத்தனை பேர்கள் தான் ஏற்றவேண்டுமென்ற சட்டம் இருந்த போதிலும், பல சமயங்களிலே அதை மீறி, மோசமான நிலைமையிலே பஸ்கள் ஒட்டப்படுவதை நாம் பார்க்கிறோம். இங்கே மந்திரிகள் இருக்கின்றனர். அவர்களும் இந்தக் கஷ்டங்களை அனுபவித்தவர்கள்தான். ஆகவே, பஸ் தொழிலாளர்களுடைய கஷ்டங்களை உணர்ந்து அவைகளை உடனடியாகப் போக்கவேண்டுமென்பதற்காகத் தான் நான் அவைகளைப் பற்றி இங்கே பேசுகிறேன்."

"இரண்டாவதாக, பஸ் முதலிய போக்குவரத்து சாதனங்கள் அனைத்தையும் இந்த அரசாங்கமே எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்தவேண்டுமென்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். இன்று தனிப்பட்டவர்கள் அவைகளை நடத்தி வருவதால், ஜனங்களுடைய நன்மையைக் கவனிக்காமல், அதிக

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மான லாபத்தை அடைவதையே நோக்கமாகக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றனர். இந்த நிலைமையை உடனடியாக நீக்கிவிட்டு, இப்போதைய மக்களுடைய அரசாங்கம் போக்குவரத்து சாதனங்களைத் தாங்களே யெடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்தினால், அதிலிருந்து கிடைக்கும் வருமானத்தைக் கொண்டு பெருந்த ஜனங்களுக்கு வேண்டிய நன்மைகளைச் செய்யலாம். மற்றும், பஸ்களிலே இவ்வளவு பேர்களைத்தான் ஏற்றவேண்டுமென்று அப்போது கட்டியிட்டால், தொழிலாளர்களும் அதன்படி நஷ்டபாக்கள் அல்லாத மில்லாமல், இன்று முதலாளிகளே போக்குவரத்து சாதனங்களை நடத்துவதால், மக்கள் அதிகம் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இது விஷயத்தை அரசாங்கத்தார் உடனடியாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும்."

"அடுத்தபடியாக, பஸ்களிலே முன் சீட்டிலே பேர்லீஸ் சப் இன்ஸ் பெக்டர்களுக்கோ, அல்லது வேறு அதிகாரிகளுக்கோ இடம் கொடுக்கப் படுவதாக தோழர் சுப்பிரமணியம் அவர்கள் இப்போது சொன்னார்கள். அது வாஸ்தவம். இல்லையென்று யாரும் மறுக்கமுடியாது. சாதாரணமாக ஜனங்கள் வண்டியில் ஏறியவுடன் சப் இன்ஸ்பெக்டர் வீட்டுக்கு டிரைவர் பஸ்ஸை ஒட்டிக்கொண்டு போகிறான்."

* **MR. SPEAKER** :—"அந்த விஷயத்தையே திருப்பித்திருப்பிச் சொல்லக்கூடாது."

* **SRI M. KANNIYAPPAN** :—"ஏன் இதை நான் சொல்லுகிறேனென்றால், இந்த நிலைமையை நாம் இன்று எங்கும் பார்த்து வருகிறோம்."

"உண்மையாக தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு நன்மை செய்யக்கூடிய முறையிலே போக்குவரத்துச் சாதனங்களைத் திருத்தியமைக்க வேண்டுமென்று நான் அரசாங்கத்தைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அந்தத் தொழிலாளர்களுடைய வேலை நேரத்தை நிர்ணயம் செய்யவேண்டும். அத்துடன் போக்குவரத்துச் சாதனங்களை அரசாங்கமே நடத்துவதென்ற உன்னத லக்ஷியத்தையும் கைக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லிக்கொண்டு, என்னுடைய வார்த்தையை முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* **SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR** :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in opposing the cut motion, I have got to add one or two observations. First is, I not only appeal but I urge that the motor transport should, as a matter of fact, be taken over by the Government. As I said, the one subject which will ever and ever be dropped upon this House is prohibition and this will form a very important accessory and help with a view to introducing total prohibition. Secondly, in so taking over, I heartily agree with the hon. Member, Mr. Varadachari, that it is the Provincial Government that must take it up and that this should not be allowed to be handed over to local bodies. Of recent years, as on all other departments in this country, the war has had its repercussions mainly on transport. Owing to the exigencies of the war and the difficulty of obtaining petrol it was found necessary, as far as possible, to reduce the overhead cost, by having companies owning more than twenty buses each while all the other small individual owners were asked to go. Now, Sir, that necessity has ceased. On the other hand, we find from Tuticorin to Nellore the motor transport is centred round three companies and they are like whales which have swallowed all the other smaller fish. This sort of thing should not be allowed and you must take them over and run them under Government management. Then, you also find that so far as motor transport is concerned, at present, it is the one machinery which is doing and aiding the greatest evil. In several cases,

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I know, where there has been black-marketing of yarn in Coimbatore and Madura, these motor lorries were helping yarn to be taken out of the mills direct. As a matter of fact, these mills themselves are causing a considerable amount of trouble about distribution. Recently some black-marketing where lorries were used had been discovered but we do not know what the Ministers are going to do in regard to them and what is to become of these motor transport services which serve as an effective instrument in aiding black-marketing? In my own district, Madura, much trouble has been caused by lorries which were used to transport yarn for black-marketing. When this was taken to the notice of the District Supply Officer, he said it was too late and the lorries went beyond the border of the district thus defying control and he could not do anything in the matter. In these circumstances, it is much better that the lorry transport are brought under the management of the Government itself. There were also cases of motor lorries having been used for transporting palm-jaggery from Tinnevely to be sold in black-market and the result was, the prices of palm-jaggery at once rose from Rs. 2 to Rs. 10 in the course of ten days and that is the situation, so far as this is concerned.

“Then again, Sir, in spite of all our pious wish to the contrary, there is a tendency to see that as a matter of fact, monopoly is formed. When the matter is brought to the notice of the Government, they say, ‘we are against monopoly.’ Take the instance of Kodai Union Motor Service. The said motor transport company alone can go near them because it is again a monopoly, by whatever name they may be called. You will find that the rates quoted by them are actually much higher than the rates permitted by the rules. Nobody is able to enquire into the matter; people are suffering and there is no alternative.

“Another matter in this connexion is, on account of want of a sufficient number of buses you find black-marketing has started in motor tickets also. People take a number of tickets at each mufassal station, as in the case of railways. Now, Sir, people are supposed to have purchased the tickets but they have to pay one or two rupees extra in order to get accommodation in the buses. The best way to remedy this evil is to see that more buses are immediately put on the road.

“Sir, there is one other danger which the Government should guard against in taking over the transport services. The transport companies are demanding a much higher price for their vehicles. There was also an article about this recently in the papers. Government tried to take over some vehicles from some company, but found that the purchase price put up by the company for buses which had been running for several years was nearly three times the original cost price. If therefore Government propose to take over these vehicles, there should be no question of applying the present black-marketing condition in regard to prices, but in so taking them over, you will have to fix

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the price after taking into consideration the depreciation value also. That is how it will at all be possible to do justice to the Government itself.

“There is one other matter, Sir and I have done. You will find that out of the many difficult pieces of ordinances under which rules have been issued, there are certain complicated rules put in there and the people who administer them seem to think that they should merely deal with the rules without due care and not look to the conveniences or facilities for the people at large. There is a rule that in cases where Government want to put buses to be run elsewhere in the interests of the public, orders should be given for the purpose, but if these orders are disobeyed by the transport companies, Government may stop the service. While so in the case of a company without any such direction, the authorities immediately pass orders stopping the service. What happens is, the motor owners are really dependent upon the police for the supervision of the permits and licences and also on the other authorities concerned. There is therefore a likelihood of difficulties since they have to submit to the authorities without being able to get justice. I hope that Government will take note of all these things and see that this department is administered in the interests of the country at large.”

* SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL :—“அக்கிராசனாதிபதி அவர்களே, மோட்டார் சாதனங்கள் விஷயமாக இரண்டொரு வார்த்தை நான் சொல்லிவிட்டு நிறுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். எல்லா ஊர்களிலும் பஸ்களைப் பற்றித் தான் இப்பொழுது பேசப்பட்டது. பஸ்களில் ஏராளமாக overload போடுகிறார்களென்றும் பஸ்களை நல்ல நிலைமையில் நடத்துவதில்லை யென்றும் கவர்ன்மெண்டார் பஸ்களை எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டும் அல்லது ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்கள் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லப்பட்டது. அதை நானும் ஆதரிக்கின்றேன். ஆனால் ஸ்தலஸ்தாபனங்கள் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்துவதை விட இப்பொழுது திருவாங்கூரில் கவர்ன்மெண்டாரே எடுத்து நடத்துகிறார்கள். அது மாதிரி கவர்ன்மெண்டாரே அதை ஒரு தனி டிபார்ட்மெண்டாக வைத்து நடத்தினால் ஒரே மாதிரியான நிலைமையில் அதில் வேலை செய்யக்கூடியவர்களுக்குச் சம்பளம் கொடுக்கவும் எல்லா ஊர்களிலும் ஒரே மாதிரியாக overload போடாமல் பாஸஞ்சர்களை எற்றிக்கொள்ளுவதற்கும் சாதகமாக இருக்கும்.

“இதைத் தவிர பிளெஷர்கார் வைத்திருப்பவர்கள்பால் அநேக தவறுகள் இருக்கின்றன. ஒருவர் இரண்டு, மூன்று, அல்லது ஒரு பிளெஷர்காருக்கு லைசென்ஸ் வாங்கி விட்டு லைசென்சில்லாமல் 7, 8, 10 கார்களைச் சேர்ந்தார்ப் போல் வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இப்பொழுது என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் நூற்றுக் கணக்கான பிளெஷர்கார்கள் லைசென்சில்லாமல் ஓடிக்கொண்டிருக்கின்றன, அது போலீஸ் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு நன்றாகத் தெரியும். அவசர நேரப்படம் ஏற்பட்டால் அதே காரில் போலீஸ் அதிகாரிகளும் ஓடுகிறார்கள். இவை மந்திரியவர்களுடைய கவனத்திற்கு நான் கொண்டு வருகிறேன்.

“இரண்டாவதாக இந்த பஸ்களிலெல்லாம் ஓடிப்போய் ஏறவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. ஸ்திரீக்களால் அம்மாதிரி புருஷர்களுடன் சண்டை போட்டுக்கொண்டு ஏறி உட்கார் முடியவில்லை. நம்முடைய ஊரிலே chivalry என்பது கொஞ்சங்கூட அனுஷ்டிப்பதாகத் தெரியவில்லை. ஆனதால் கண்டக்டர்கள் ஸ்திரீகள் இருந்தால் அவர்களுக்கு முதலில்

[Srimathi V. Lakshmi Ammal] [16th August 1946]

இடம் கொடுத்து ஏறவிட்டு பிறகு புருஷர்களை ஏற விடவேண்டுமென்று ஒரு திட்டம் வேண்டுமென்பதாகக் கேட்டுக்கொண்டு நிறுத்திக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that I am the last speaker on this subject . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ You are not the last speaker; there are also others who want to speak on this demand.”

* SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—“ Sir, the hon. the Speaker can of course allow any number of speakers and allow any amount of time. I was thinking that I was the last speaker in view of the opinions already expressed by several members on this demand.

“Coming to the question of motor transport, Sir, I wish to say what all members have said about overloading of buses, is true; cent per cent it is correct. Motor owners do not deserve any sympathy. When a police officer wants to travel in a bus or his servant, the police officer can command much more control over the buses and lorries than the owners themselves. If the servant of a police officer comes and tells the driver of a bus that it is wanted by a particular sub-inspector in a particular street, he will first go there and ask all the passengers to keep quiet and wait for hours together. Once in my own district, Salem, I had to complain about this to the Superintendent of Police and there the passengers were asked to wait for more than an hour and when the Superintendent of Police was asked why they were made to wait for such a long time, he excused himself by saying ‘I am very sorry’. ‘Please take your bus’ he said to the driver. The bus man thanked me very much, saying that they wanted to put a heavy box on the top of the bus, which would have crushed the top and that on account of me his bus was saved. Not that the trouble arises only on account of the police. There is too much congestion of traffic and the bus people are not slow to take advantage of it. If the bus rate is one rupee, they will demand two rupees as soon as the bus has passed the municipal limit. There is no use merely saying that these things are there. Some remedies should be found. So far as I am concerned, I would suggest that powers should be given to important public workers at district and taluk centres to take cognizance of bus offences. At present passengers have to prefer their complaint to the Regional Inspector and he seldom takes note of the complaints. Bus owners are generally rich people and in case any complaint is made, they are able to employ lawyers to argue their case and manage to get away scot free. So I suggest that in district and taluk centres, powers should be vested in public men for dealing with bus complaints and in the villages the members of food committees may be entrusted with such powers. It is no use the Superintendent of Police or his subordinates or the Collector and his subordinates dealing with bus complaints. Cases enquired into by them will always end in nothing. Whenever any complaint is received from a member of

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the public with or without evidence, they must straightway enquire and try to find out themselves whether there is any foundation for the complaint. You are aware that in the Excise Department if a complaint is made, they do not wait to ask for evidence in support of the complaint. They employ their own special staff to find out whether a forbidden article is sold or not. In a like manner all bus complaints should be enquired into and on the basis of the investigation the magistrate must take immediate action, so that the trouble might be immediately put down.

“I have to utter a word of caution regarding the suggestion made by some hon. Members that buses should be taken over by the Government and run, so that it might yield some profit. My fear is that whenever an institution is taken over by the Government, that is the time that the employees think of striking and they do strike. You know, Sir, what the Railway men did. Though well paid and well looked after, as soon as the Government took over the Railways, they said that they had been under-paid and wanted better conditions on pain of strike. Similarly also, the bus men are likely to strike and paralyse passenger traffic and our people will be at their mercy. I would, therefore, ask the Government to think a hundred times before they decide upon taking over bus transport or for that matter any institution conducted by private individuals. Instead, for the better comforts of the passengers and for their safety as also for regulating the pay of the staff, rules and regulations might be made. One line in which Government might intervene is with regard to auctioning of timings. If this is done with reference to the trips performed by a bus from morning to evening, I assure you, Sir, you will be able to clear as large sums of money as you are getting by way of commercial taxes. I suggest that Government take up this question immediately.

“There is another thing I have to say with reference to the emoluments of the drivers, conductors and other employees of bus companies. They are working all the twenty-four hours and they are giving their life to their work. I would suggest a scheme of insurance for them and the system of provident fund should be instituted and by that means they must be made to take more interest in their work. Otherwise, it is likely they lose interest in their work and do their work in a haphazard manner. I would request the Government to make necessary arrangements to provide safeguards for the workers in the bus services of the Province.”

* SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—“ Mr. Speaker, in supporting the Demand, I wish to say a few words about the grievances of the motor transport trade. The motor transport administration is run by the Regional Traffic Board which is a new organization and you do not know the difficulty that is experienced by motor owners. I wish to bring to your notice and through you to the notice of the Hon. Minister in charge of the subject that the whole of the Andhra area is divided into two regions and you can just

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imagine the difficulty in going to Rajahmundry or Cuddapah as the case may be even for getting a permit. Though the Regional Transport Authority is functioning for all the districts, it so happens that only such of the members as belong to the particular districts attend when it is held at a particular district headquarters and they have to decide questions for all the districts of the region. The other difficulty is that in case the consideration of the subjects is postponed from one meeting to the other, though it is the same authority, a different set of members attend and the result is that the voice of the Regional Transport Officer is the deciding factor. members have already requested that the Board must be reconstituted, one for each district and that on the recommendation of the Board, the Inspector or Regional Transport Officer must act.

“Another grievance of the fleet owners is that they are the heaviest taxed in the whole of the country. For a 21-seater bus, the fleet owner of Madras pays Rs. 1,400 against Bombay Rs. 392, Bengal Rs. 114, Bihar Rs. 380, Orissa Rs. 358, Central Provinces and Berar Rs. 352, the Punjab Urban Rs. 165, Rural Rs. 56, Assam Rs. 150, North-West Frontier Province Rs. 44 and Sind Rs. 114. Having regard to the high rates of taxation that our motor owners are subject to, I would plead that the minimum rate per ticket might be fixed at 4 annas. This will be to the benefit of long distance travellers. Supposing a bus starts in the morning, any and everybody who is prepared to pay the rate for the first station can board the bus and to that extent a person wishing to travel to the terminus of the bus is denied room for want of space, which is occupied by a person travelling a short distance. Then, Sir, if you want to have an honest and efficient administration, the mileage rate should be put up to at least 9 pies, though there is a strong case for raising it to 1 anna. The present position is that twenty buses form one fleet. I suggest that it would be better if five could make one fleet so that it would be compact and could run efficiently as long as it is on the road. I for one am not against nationalization of bus transport, if it is profitable to the State, but I feel it is not advantageous. After having investigated into the question, the Government may take over the same. I am surprised, Sir, that even now prosecutions are being launched under the Defence of India Rules. There is nothing to be defended, now that the war has ended; and I plead that any action if it is warranted must be taken under the ordinary law of the land.

“There are a number of suggestions that have been made from time to time on the question of motor transport. I suggest, therefore, that a committee might go into the rules so that they might be reviewed and any objectionable features removed.”

The House adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, the 17th August 1946.

The House met at the Assembly Chamber at eleven of the clock on Saturday, the 17th August 1946, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Temples in the Province thrown open to Harijans.

* 90 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Hindu Religious Endowments be pleased to state—

(a) all the temples in this province which have so far been thrown open to Harijan worshippers; and

(b) whether the Government propose to take any further steps to facilitate the spread of temple entry?

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“(a) Twelve temples have been thrown open and a list ^a is placed on the table of the House.

“(b) The trustees or other persons in charge of temples are being persuaded to take advantage of section 3 of the Temple Entry Authorization and Indemnity Act (Act XXII of 1939) to throw open temples. The Government are considering whether any and what further steps are necessary to attain the object.”

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“May I know, Sir, whether to the temples now thrown open, Harijans are freely going?”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“I expect so.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“May I know whether the Hindu Religious Endowments Board has been doing any propaganda for temple entry?”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“Yes, Sir, I have asked the President to do so.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“May I know, Sir, if there are any other classes of people who are not allowed entry into temples among Hindus?”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“I think there are other classes also; I believe in the Tamilnad, Nadars are not allowed; so far as Andhradesa is concerned all except Harijans are allowed.”

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ Will Government consider promulgation by legislation to make untouchability criminally punishable? ” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ It will be considered.”

SRI K. SUBBA RAO :—“ May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that in the Sangameswaram temple, Kurnool district, an hon. Harijan Member of this House entered the temple without the permission of the temple authorities along with the Hon. Minister in charge of temples? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ It is so, Sir.”

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ May I know, Sir, how many more temples there are in this province yet to be thrown open to Harijans? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ Notice.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Will the Hon. Minister explain, if Harijans are considered as children of God, what are Muslims? ” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ Muslims are also children of God.” (Laughter.)

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that one community, Vaniya Vysias, are not also allowed into the temples in Tamilnad, Malabar, etc., in South? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ I am glad for the information furnished.”

SRI K. VARADACHARI :—“ May I inquire, Sir, whether the Temple Entry Authorization and Indemnity Act is sought to be amended to facilitate more Harijans entering temples? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ It is under consideration.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—“ Will the Hon. Minister direct the Hindu Religious Endowments Board to submit periodical report as to the steps they have taken in the matter.”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ Yes.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ May I know, Sir, whether there was any representation received from the Sangameswaram temple authorities as regards the entering of Harijans into the temple? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ No representation has been received.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR :—“ Will Government be pleased to set up a committee of enquiry to collect information as to the communities of people who are not allowed entry into public temples? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ It is not necessary, Sir.”

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SRI A. B. SHETTY :—“ May I know, Sir, how many temples were thrown open to Harijans after the Ministry came into office? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ Two temples; and sanction has been given to one more temple in Nellore district.”

SRI K. VARADACHARI :—“ May I know, Sir, whether any representations were received from the Tirupathi Devasthanam in respect of this matter? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ No, Sir.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—“ May I know, Sir, whether any attempts have been made to throw open the temple at Tirupathi? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ I am not aware.”

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA :—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister will consider the desirability of appointing Harijans as temple trustees for all temples, if possible? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ It will be considered.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI :—“ Sir, in reply to clause (b), it is said that the trustees or other persons in charge of temples are being persuaded to take advantage of section 3 of the Act. May I know, Sir, whether any steps have been taken to throw open the temple at Tirupathi by the Hindu Religious Endowments Board or by the temple authorities? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ I am not aware of any such steps, except that I myself in an open public meeting appealed to the public to try to see if the temple cannot be thrown open.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“ Are the Government aware that section 144 order had been issued ordering the Harijans of Mundukur village, Repalle taluk, Guntur district, not to enter the main temple street of that village? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ I have no information.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA :—“ May I know, Sir, whether Government will consider the desirability of appointing Harijans as commissioners of temples? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ It will be considered.”

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD :—“ Sir, will the Hon. Minister tell the House whether there is any special difficulty in throwing open the Tirupathi temple to Harijans? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI :—“ I am not aware of any special difficulty. But for a very long time no other community except caste Hindus were allowed not only into the temple but even into the precincts of the Tirupathi hill, where in a certain area of about twenty-five square miles, no other community except caste Hindus is, by custom and usage, allowed to enter.”

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KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD:—“ Sir, if there is no special difficulty, will Government consider the desirability of opening that temple as early as possible? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ Certainly.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Will the Hon. Minister explain, if Europeans are admitted into the precincts of Tirupathi Devasthanam, why should not Muslims be admitted? ” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ Even to-day there is no prohibition of Muslims as such. Under certain circumstances Muslims also are allowed on the same basis as Europeans.”

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Will Government adopt a definite programme for throwing open all the temples to Harijans, i.e., according to a settled plan within a prescribed period? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ We have some plan. But what further steps should be taken to attain the object is under the consideration of Government.”

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether there is a ban on communists entering temples? ” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ Not that I know of.”

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—“ Is the Hon. Minister aware that even as early as eight years ago, the most orthodox section of the people of Tirupathi declared in favour of throwing open the Tirupathi temple to Harijans? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ I am glad for the information.”

SRI N. SANJEEVI REDDI:—“ Will Government consider the desirability of giving freedom to the Gods in these temples and then convert these temples into schools? ” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ I cannot answer that question.”

M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to consider a change of the very foundation of Hindu society, so that the Harijan temple-entry problem may be solved once for ever? ” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ This question does not arise out of the present question.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ Is it a fact, Sir, that Harijans are allowed into the Simbachalam temple only on one day in the year and banned on the rest of the days? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ Notice.”

SRI K. SUBBA RAO:—“ May I know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the temples thrown open are intended only for those who believe in idol worship, and not for those who have no belief in God? ” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ I expect so.”

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SRI K. SUBBA RAO:—“ Then, are those who have no faith in God allowed to go into temples to break the idols? ” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ They are allowed to go in there, but not allowed to break the idols.” (Laughter.)

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know whether the Commissioner's post of these temples is vacant and whether a Harijan will be appointed in that place? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ Notice.”

SRI K. T. KOSALARAMA NADAR:—“ Will the Hon. Minister consider the desirability of throwing open all the temples in the province by an executive order? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ It cannot be done by an executive order.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ Will Government furnish figures regarding the percentage of population that are going to the temples after this temple entry agitation started? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ It is not possible to collect this information.”

SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN:—“ May I know whether Government have any information from the Sivaganga Estate authority who is prepared to throw open temples there? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ No, I am glad for the latter information.”

SRI N. BAPINEEDU:—“ Is the Hon. Minister aware that in West Godavari a vast number of Harijans are priests? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ I am glad for the information.”

SRI P. R. KANDASWAMI GOUNDER:—“ Is it a fact, Sir, that Government have received representation asking for permission to open a temple at Coimbatore, and if so, will they sanction it at an early date? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ No permission has been asked for, Sir.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the temple at Nellore has been thrown open? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ Sanction has been given, and I do not know whether it has been thrown open.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“ Will Government be pleased to remind the trustees, Sir? ”

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—“ I don't think it is necessary.”

SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN:—“ If the executive officer or the Devasthanam Committee recommends to throw open temples, will Government pass orders to throw them open? ”

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THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"Under the present law it is not enough if executive officers ask for permission; they must also say that the people who worship are generally not against it. Provided that condition is fulfilled, Government do not have any objection in the matter."

Bifurcation of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Salam is not in his place. The answer will be printed in the proceedings."

* 91 Q.—M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Hindu Religious Endowments be pleased to state whether any representations have been made to the Government regarding the advisability of bifurcating the Hindu Religious Endowments Board into one for Andhra and one for Tamilnad?

THE HON. SRI K. KOTI REDDI:—"The answer is in the negative."

Government Islamiah High School, Trichinopoly.

* 92 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state what scheme the Government have for providing the Government Islamiah High School of Trichinopoly with a suitable building?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"The site for the construction of buildings and the provision of a playground for the school has been selected and its acquisition is under consideration. Instructions have been issued for the preparation of plans and estimates for the construction of buildings on the site proposed to be acquired."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is the Government aware that as early as 1924 estimates were prepared and even allotments made in the budget for providing the school with a building?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"I am not aware."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"In view of the fact that the matter had been delayed for nearly a quarter of a century will the Government expedite the matter and see that this school is provided with a suitable building at a very early date?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"While the Government cannot agree to the first part of the question, Government will do what they can to expedite the matter."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the present District Educational Officer of that district has recommended against the construction of the building?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"The Principal of the Holy Cross College, which is a college for women, has objected, that because they have a Women's

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college nearby this plot, it may not be given to the Muhammadan school. The objection is from the Principal as far as I see."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Has a site been selected for the school?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"Not yet."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether this objection has emanated only very recently?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"I understand, Sir, this objection has been there for some time."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know for how long, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"It had existed even before we came into office."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to visit Trichinopoly and assign a suitable site for the building of this school?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"Yes, Sir, I am going there, and I will look into this site."

II.—VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1946-47.

DEMAND VI—MOTOR VEHICLES ACTS—cont.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"For the information of the Muslim Members I shall inform the House that we are now on Demand VI—Motor Vehicles."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very popular demand. I find from the reports of the debate in the press that hon. Members have taken a very keen interest in this demand. Naturally because every one wants transport. We have to-day become used to transport system to such an extent that every one wants transport to a very large extent and to a very satisfactory extent. But things are very different in our province to-day and particularly in this city. Perhaps the war has been responsible for the present conditions. To a certain extent it is true that the war has been responsible because motor vehicles have not been available to the same extent to which they were available in the past. But that excuse does not exist now and should not exist now. If the Government has any imagination, it should plan even from now for making transport means easy. Not only transport facilities are inadequate but the position is really, I would not say disgraceful, ludicrous. I shall deal with the conditions in the city first. Every hon. Member who runs may see how the people of the city, and to what extent they are put to many difficulties for want of adequate number of vehicles plying in the City of Madras. The Tramway Company has been there for a long time, and I think

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it has become so old that the time has come for retiring that service altogether. The cars are old and rickety. They could not be changed because the war intervened. The war is over and at least some of the cars could have been changed. But I know that the proprietors of that concern would not spend more capital on that because they know that their period of licence is coming very nearly to a close. The Corporation wanted to take over that concern and run it. But the amount that they demand is so colossal that the Corporation, even with the aid of Government, will not be in a position to pay the cost."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"May I just rise to contradict that statement? No price has been quoted by the Tramway or by the Government and therefore we cannot say that the price is colossal."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My hon. friend may try to contradict me but from my information I can authoritatively say that the price that has been asked for is colossal—not official information. But I know as a matter of fact that it is colossal. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I believe the time has come to eradicate this system of tram-cars and the way in which they are run in the City of Madras. They are too antediluvian and antiquated. We must have what are called trolley buses as we have in other more advanced countries. Having these tram lines in the middle of the road is objectionable from many points of view, and most objectionable from the traffic point of view. Therefore, the tram lines should be removed and trolley system should be introduced. It should have been done long ago. The way in which passengers are allowed to get into a tram-car is certainly most disgraceful. Perhaps the Tramway Company will say that they are not responsible for it. It is on account of the fact that the number of cars is so limited that a large number of passengers get in, get on and get under and even hang on not only to the sides but also . . ."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Free ride!"

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"No question of free ride is allowed. I know that the Tramway servants are so vigilant, and not only vigilant but they have to answer to others. Those poorly-paid tram-car conductors will not allow a single passenger to go free. They themselves come and hang on not only to the tram-car but also to the passengers hanging on to the tram-cars, so that they can demand the fare from them. They would not allow anybody to go free. Perhaps, there may be some very limited number of passengers, who do not do it intentionally, but on account of the fact that the conductor cannot find his way to them in order to demand the tram fare. This is not due to the dishonesty on the part of the passenger. This is so far as tram-cars are concerned.

"The buses that are run in the city are few in number. The Government which is responsible for all these things and licensing these companies, has been so niggardly in giving licences and in providing sufficient number of buses in the City. The old system has given place to new so far as the proprietorship of these concerns is concerned. Sir, I know there has been a considerable improvement in the traffic system not only in the city but also in the

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province. Time was when passengers were finding great difficulty in many ways. Time was when there was such a cut-throat competition between one bus and another that there used to be accidents and dislocation in services. But now, although in certain respects improvements had been effected, on account of the fact that the number of buses is limited other difficulties have arisen. With regard to the ownership of these transport services not only in the City but also in the mufassal hon. Members have suggested various things. Some of them have suggested nationalization. Some have suggested the handing over to the local bodies, and some have suggested the formation of big companies. Sir, so far as I am concerned, I would wait for the day when nationalization can be achieved. Nationalization is the goal, but nationalization only with regard to certain services and not others will not do. Nationalization must come on a large scale. Only then we will succeed. If nationalization should come only with regard to select matters and not all, such action will be ineffective and will not succeed. Therefore, Sir, I would wait for the day when we have a definite policy and we are in a position to nationalize all these things to a very large extent. (A voice: 'For how long?') As early as possible. Hon. Members have suggested the handing over of these services to local bodies. I may, perhaps, say, Sir, that I would not agree to any local body being empowered to run these services. These local bodies will not be in a position to run these services satisfactorily and efficiently. Therefore Government must run an organization of its own. To give the control of motor services to large companies displaces small owners to such an extent that livelihood is denied to a large number of people. This monopoly should go. This monopoly has gone to such an extent that it has put out of job a large number of small owners. I know in certain areas there are twenty buses. In another area, sufficient number is not available, and therefore, it is not possible to combine into a company. So, I would urge the Government to reduce the number of buses required to form into companies to such number as occasion requires, because it sometimes happens that in certain places there are not more than three or four buses. I say this because there is a tendency to increase the number. Two or three concerns are becoming monopolistic so far as transport in the City is concerned. That tendency should be put a stop to. That is making the rich richer. I do not think the Congress would allow this monopolization to continue. I hope the Government will come forward with a policy so far as this is concerned.

"I will just say a word with regard to the department which is granting permits for motor cars for persons who are in need of them in the City of Madras and elsewhere. For some time, after my Hon. Friend the Minister for Transport assumed office, the position has been really bad. There was complete monopolization by the officials so far as permits were concerned. Now I believe that some opportunity should be given to non-officials even. Even non-officials engaged in very highly essential works have been denied ownership of cars. Secondly, there are some among Government servants who own almost new cars purchased only the other day;

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but as soon as a new model comes, they get a desire or a weakness to exchange or sell away that car so that they may have a new one. I do not know how the Controller of Transport in this province is allowing this to take place. If a gentleman owns a car which has defects, he should take it to a firm and get it repaired, instead of himself selling away that car and making money. These are some of the reforms which I hope the Hon. Minister will kindly make and see that non-officials who are in need of cars are given permits."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I did not intend to speak on this cut motion but the last speech made was so misleading to the members of this House that I rise for a few moments. I speak particularly about the transport in the City of Madras. When the Government of Madras under the Advisers' regime suggested the Improvement Trust I immediately went to them and said: 'If your Improvement Trust is to be a success it must have money. One of the ways in which you can get money is to put all the transport of the City under one control.' I pointed out that prior to the war, trams and buses vied with one another for the very few passengers that there were with the result that neither the tramway company nor the bus companies was running at a profit. Owing to the war, trams had not had the complete overhaul that they were entitled to. I also pointed out that the Improvement Trust could have plenty of money for its use if the transport of the City be run by it or for its benefit properly and without undue competition. I would point out to the Members of the House that fares on the trams are much less than on the buses. I must also point out that the trams have carried a large number of passengers. No system of trolley buses or motor vehicles with so few vehicles could possibly have carried the traffic. There is a police regulation that there shall not be more than ten people standing on the tram. The paucity of buses made the people swarm to the tram and I said that I would willingly enforce the rule regarding standing as this overloading of the trams is damaging the trams themselves, they are not meant to carry the weight they are carrying to-day. I was however requested for the benefit of the public of Madras not to worry about a few more people standing on the trams, and was told that the police would wink at it, and very rightly too. People had to be carried somehow. Gradually overloading became more and more and to-day we know we are carrying a lot of people who do not pay. People have to travel, so we do not complain but if Government like to enforce the rule that not more than ten people shall be carried standing in the tram, I am willing to agree to allow that to be done. (Hear, hear.) But the gentlemen living in Triplicane area will mostly walk home. They cannot get any other means of transport. Now, Sir, I am not here to defend the tramway company. We are working under licence and until that licence expires we shall continue to work. When the time comes for the licence to be renewed we will discuss the terms. To-day we have offered to sell at considerably below the price we are entitled to demand under the

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licence. Now, Sir, let us get back to motor vehicles and transport of passengers from place to place. If you have dozens of small men particularly in the cities running buses or even trams they will run only mainly on the paying routes. A big body like the London Transport Board which runs buses, trams and underground trains runs thousands of miles of non-paying routes. It does that as a public service. Until you get a co-ordinated scheme and until you get a powerful body running your City transport, you cannot give the public the service they are entitled to. People who want to get across from one part of the country to another find it very difficult without a change of buses. Buses should be run even at a loss on certain routes and the loss made up by paying routes. One thing Government must do, particularly in this City, is to see that the transport system is co-ordinated. If they like to keep the tramway company and the bus company separate, let there be an understanding as to how they run, but I would impress upon the Government that already a large sum of money has been lost to them because they refused my offer in 1941. I told them they would lose money and they have lost it. If they wait they will lose more. If Government will co-ordinate the traffic system in this town and if they buy up at reasonable price, everybody connected with the transport system, we can have a better system than we have to-day. We can have a paying system and lakhs and lakhs of rupees every year for the improvement of this City. I would like to point out to the members of the Madras City Corporation that one-third of 27 miles of their roads are kept up for them free of charge by the tramway company and over large areas of their track most traffic runs between the tram-lines because they get a better surface along the tram-lines."

* M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, in supporting the cut motion under Demand VI—Motor Vehicles Acts, I want to bring home to this House the desirability of the Government themselves running the motor transport services. The provincial revenues are not elastic. Except the sales tax or commercial tax, all other resources of the Provincial Government are not elastic. We have to find ways to augment our resources to launch upon so many other policies and programmes. Stamp Act, registration, irrigation, provincial excise are not elastic. Even if the Government increase sales tax, they will find that the burden ultimately falls on the poor consumer who has to purchase the necessities of life. Therefore, I say some other new source where elasticity is maintained should be found, and I suggested public utility services. Like electricity, this public utility service of transport is also a very good item for augmenting the resources. Therefore, I suggest to the Government that this source should be explored and that they should come forward within a short time for running the motor transport business throughout the Presidency. From the point of view of the Highways Department also, it is desirable to have this transport business through its co-operation. The Highways Department have 10,000 miles of roads under their control, and they are spending a large amount

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from the Provincial revenues and the Imperial grants on the maintenance of the roads. They must see that transport also is added to augment their resources. Therefore, this is a fit time for the Government to explore and investigate the possibility of running the transport business throughout the Presidency to augment their financial resources. With these words, I support the cut motion."

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Mr. Town, when referring to the congestion in City trams, said that people had to be carried. I would like to tell him and the other hon. Members of this House that people should be carried as human beings and not as cattle. It is unfortunate that the hon. Mr. Town has not actually travelled in a City tram. If only he has done that, he would realize how bad these trams are. They are rotten and I would even say they are ante-diluvian and antiquated. If he is really interested in providing better travelling facilities to the ratepayers of this City, he must see that these trams are immediately improved.

"While referring to the congestion in traffic in the City I may also be permitted to refer to the congestion in the buses that are plying in the mufassal areas of this province. I really wonder why a rule has been made that only owners of a fleet of twenty buses should be provided with licences. I would like to tell you, Sir, that all these twenty buses are not actually plying. These owners, who have a fleet of twenty buses, are actually running only ten buses, and the rest are lying in their workshop. In the ten buses that ply, the people are being crowded and crushed. I wish that if only the Minister in charge would go into the mufassal areas and see these atrocities, these brutalities, he would realize that this system of issuing licences only to owners of a fleet of twenty buses or more should be immediately removed, because this is giving a sort of monopoly, and the owners of these monopolies are not carrying on their trade in the best interests of the people who actually pay for the maintenance of these bus-owners. Again, Sir, in the mufassal areas, the buses seem to be almost the privilege of Government servants and the police people. The front seats are always reserved for Government officials, particularly policemen, and whenever a passenger wants to get into the front seat, he is simply driven out. These buses are actually taken to the very doors of these officers causing delay and inconvenience to the passengers. Are these the servants of the people or are we the masters of these servants? If really the masters are not allowed to sit on the front seats of these buses, I wonder how the administration of this country is going to be carried on.

"Lastly, Sir, I would like to make a few remarks on the nationalization of transport. Hon. Members who have spoken on this particular demand and also the hon. Members who have spoken on the other demands have referred to the nationalization of transport and also the other industries of this province. I would like to inform you, Sir, that most of us are having several ideas. Several isms seem to rule the ideas and thoughts of many

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of us—communism, socialism, nationalism, syndicalism and all other isms. We are trying to create some sort of cocktail. It is often said that cocktail is an invigorating and refreshing beverage, but I have no experience, Sir (Laughter). I would say that if only, out of this mixture of isms, we can create a synthesis, it will be a happy thing not only for this province, but for the whole of this country. Unfortunately it is not so. If we want that the industries, trade and commerce and the other developments of this country should go ahead, we must give liberty, individual liberty. The other day the Hon. Minister for Excise said that if individual liberty is allowed to be taken to its logical conclusion, it will only result in anarchism. But I say that individual liberty may be given with State supervision. If you are going to suppress individual liberty, you are suppressing everything that is beautiful, good and happy in this world. Therefore, in all departments of human activity, there must be individual liberty. I always feel that individual liberty, individual freedom, is the spring of all progress and the fountainhead of all advancement, and the State must encourage this individual liberty and not try to suppress it as they do in totalitarian States. Again, Sir, only through individual liberty, we can improve, we can develop the industries and commerce of this province. Therefore, Sir, I am entirely against this nationalization of industries, and in trying to bring about nationalization, the Government are trying to suppress individual freedom and thereby all that is beautiful in this world."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, monopolistic tendencies in all matters should always be checked and controlled, and the more so in the matter of public utility services like the motor transport service. In this connexion, I would like to say on this occasion that it would be right and proper on the part of the Government not only to restrict monopolistic tendencies in transport services, but also to abolish at once the rule of twenty buses. That rule is working a great hardship. I emphasize this point for two very good reasons. Firstly, we have to see that these transport services are made available in all our rural areas, especially in those parts of the province where there is no railway communication. In my own district of South Kanara there is very little rural communication. The railway comes up to Mangalore and stops there. We experience great difficulties in the interior parts. Therefore I would strongly urge that several village centres must be connected by these motor transport services. So, many routes will have to be found and lists of them maintained for running the rural motor transport services. If we allow more latitude and facilities for individual enterprise and give more liberty to individuals to start motor bus services in the rural area I am sure we can have a net-work of motor services in all the rural parts of this province. Therefore, I strongly urge the abolition of this rule which kills and smothers individual liberty and individual enterprise. Therefore, I say, there is no meaning in perpetuating this rule and concentrating the motor transport industry in the hands of a few monopolists

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who become richer and richer at the cost of large majorities of the people. Individuals who compose society have got a right to urge to be permitted to start buses themselves. Sir, I would also urge the Government on this occasion to consider the advisability of reviving the old district road traffic boards. That is quite necessary if this public utility service is to be extended to the rural areas in the interior parts. The district road traffic board is the proper authority which could go into the question and find out the needs and also the facilities that should be provided and the individuals or companies that should be licensed to run this transport service. Therefore, Sir, I do not know why it is that regional transport authorities have been established in the place of the old district traffic boards. There is no point in that. I do not see what public purpose will be served unless we have the district road traffic boards for promoting the transport industry and knowing the local conditions and to meet the particular demands of particular districts in particular areas. Therefore, Sir, I take this opportunity to urge on the attention of the Government these two very important points. If they mean real business they must issue necessary orders immediately for rectifying these two defects as early as possible."

* SRI A. DEVANAYAKAYYA:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே. இப்போதைய Motor Transport Act-ஐ நாம் உடனே திருத்தியாகவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அதிலும், முக்கியமாக அந்தத் தொழிலாளர்களுக்குள்ள குறைகளை நீக்கும் முறையில் நாம் அதைத் திருத்தியமைக்கவேண்டும். அவர்களுடைய நிலைமை நாளுக்கு நாள் மோசமாகிக்கொண்டேவருகிறது. அவர்கள் எவ்வளவு கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்களென்பதும், அவர்களுடைய கஷ்டங்களைக் கவனிக்காமல் எப்படி முதலாளிகள் அதிகமான வேலையை வாங்குகிறார்களென்பதும் நமக்கு நன்றாய்த் தெரியும். முதலாளிகள் அவர்களுக்கு வேலை நேரத்தைக் குறிப்பிடுவதே வழக்கம் கிடையாது. ஆகவே, அவர்கள் அதிகநேரம் வேலை செய்துவருகின்றனர். இன்று 10 அல்லது 12 மணி நேர வேலைகூட சில இடங்களில் அவர்களிடமிருந்து வாங்கப்படுகிறது. இவ்வளவு வேலை செய்துக்கூட, அவர்கள் வியாதியின் காரணமாக படுத்து விட்டாலும், அல்லது வேலைசெய்யும்போது திடீரென்று அகல்மாத்தாய் ஏற்பட்ட காயம் காரணமாகப் படுத்துவிட்டாலும், அந்தக் காலத்தில் முகலாளிகள் அவர்களைக் கவனிப்பதே கிடையாது. இந்த நிலைமையிலேயுள்ள ஏழைத்தொழிலாளர்களைக் கவனிக்கும்படியான முறையில் சட்டத்தைத் திருத்தியமைத்தாலொழிய, ஏழைகளுக்கு நன்மை ஏற்படமுடியாது. தவிர தொழிலாளர்கள் தங்களுடைய முழுநேரமும் வேலைசெய்யும்போது, அவர்களுடைய லீட்டிலே பிரசவம் ஏற்பட்டால், முதலாளிகள் அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய உதவியைக் கொடுக்கும்படியாகச் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"நீங்கள் motor vehicles-ஐப்பற்றித்தான் பேச வேண்டும்."

* SRI A. DEVANAYAKAYYA:—"மோட்டார் தொழிலாளர்கள் வேலையிலிருந்து விலகும்போது அவர்களுக்கு உபகாரச் சம்பளமும் கொடுக்க ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டும். இப்போதுள்ள நிலைமையில் அவர்கள் பல வருஷங்கள் வேலைசெய்துவிட்டு விலகும்போது, அவர்களுடைய பிற்கால வாழ்க்கைக்குவேண்டிய வசதியில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இன்னும், அவர்கள் வியாதியின் காரணமாக வேலையிலிருந்து விலகும் காலத்திலும், அவர்களுடைய நிலைமை மிகவும் மோசமாயிருக்கிறது. அவர்களில் அநேகம் பேர்கள் பிச்சையெடுத்து சிரமப்பட்டு, கடைசியில் மரணமடைய வேண்டிய நிலைமையிலே இருக்கின்றனர். ஆகையால், இவர்களுக்கு உதவி செய்யக்கூடிய முறையிலே, வைத்திய வசதி, பிற்கால வாழ்க்கைக்கான சுகம் நிதி இவைகளை ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டும்."

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[Sri A. Devanayakayya]

"மோட்டார் தொழிலாளர்கள் பல்களிலே overload ஏற்றுவதாகக் குறை கூறப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், அவர்களுடைய சம்பளம் இன்று மிகவும் குறைவாக இருக்கிறது. அதனால் அவர்கள் திருட்டுத்தனமாக பல்களில் overload ஏற்றி அதிக வருவாயை அடையப் பார்க்கிறார்கள். அதோடு, அவர்களுக்கு வேலையிலிருக்கும்போது உணவு சாப்பிடுவதற்காகக் கொடுக்கப்படும் allowance-ம் மிகக் குறைவு. இந்த விஷயங்களையெல்லாம் கவனித்தாலொழிய தொழிலாளர்களுக்கு நன்மை ஏற்படாது. மோட்டார் தொழிலாளர்களுடைய நிலைமை உயர்ந்தால்தான் அந்தத் தொழில் விருத்தியடைய முடியும். ஏழைத் தொழிலாளர்களின் நன்மையை உத்தேசித்து இந்த சட்டத்தை உடனே திருத்தியமைக்கவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, in the Administration Report for 1944-45 certain figures for motor vehicles are given. I find that though the new buses have increased from 170 in 1944 to 490 in 1945, the total number of buses are considerably less than what they were in 1940-41. That is to say, in 1940-41 the total number of buses were nearly 4,000; in 1944-45 they are only 3,091. This explains the difficulty which people in the City as well as in the mufassal feel in the matter of transport. It is said in another place in this report that from the point of view of the number of buses and the length of metalled roads for bus traffic, the City of Madras is best served. But what do we actually find in the City? We find that the buses in the City are being overcrowded. Particularly in certain routes like Perambur, we find that people have to wait and lose three or four buses before they can get any standing accommodation in one of the buses. In the mufassal the situation is worse. One cannot imagine, how so many people are being packed into so much space as is provided in the buses. The report itself says that the number of buses was not equal to the demand, which increased greatly on account of the curtailment of train services. It is not only due to the curtailment of train services that the demand for motor traffic has increased, but it is also due to the increase in the habit of travelling in these days. Our Congress friends, Sir, might say that under village autonomy and the self-sufficiency scheme which they are going to bring about, people might not be required to travel from village to village. However, I submit, Sir, that people are travelling and will continue to travel and they are not going to be confined to the village, even under the system of village autonomy. Therefore, Government must make all efforts to provide them with sufficient means of transport."

12 noon.

"Though the report says that the City is best served as compared with the other parts of the Province, we feel great difficulties here too in the matter of travel. The tramway service must be improved and also extended to such parts as Perambur. (Mr. H. S. Town: Hear, hear.) My hon. Friend Mr. Town appreciates my remarks, but I do not think he will appreciate me when I say that the present condition of the tramway service is, to say the least, disgraceful. (Laughter.) And I hope that he will co-operate with the authorities in improving the condition of the tramway service and also in giving better service to the people."

[M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur] [17th August 1946]

“ Sir, with regard to the present licensing system in vogue for buses, I say that it is not fair to the bus owning people and it is not fair to the public that there should be the stipulation that only operators having a fleet of 20 buses and more should be given the licence. I agree with my other hon. friends who have spoken before me that it creates a monopoly which is not good to the people. It is said that people will get more amenities under such monopolistic condition, but I say that if owners of a less number of buses are given licence, a larger number of owners will come forward, there will be competition amongst them to give more and more amenities to the people and the facilities for the travelling public will increase. I, therefore, reiterate that this rule of ‘ fleet of 20 buses ’ should be scrapped or the number must be considerably reduced. It must at least be reduced to 5.

“ Then Sir, with regard to motor cars, here again the number in 1944-5 is less than what it was in 1940-41. The figure for 1940-41 is given as 13,526 and that for 1944-45, as 10,430. There has not only been no replacement, but there has been a reduction. In this connexion also, I wish to join with my other friends in voicing the complaint that the non-officials have not been properly served. Again among the non-officials who have had the advantage and favour of getting a permit, there are people who are given permits while they are having one or two cars already. In this connexion, Sir, I should like to know how many applications for cars were received from private persons during the last twelve months, how many of them have been complied with and also how many applications there were from officials and how many were given permits. I am sure the answer would not be satisfactory and would confirm the complaint which non-officials are making at present.

“ In this connexion, Sir, I should like to give a bit of advice, if I may, without offence to anybody. If it were an offence to others, it may be an offence to me also. What I want to say is this, that we Madrassesees are taken to be a tame and docile people and that we are satisfied if we are told that the position with reference to motor cars or any other articles is this or that. But what we have to do is, we must fight for our rights. They may say that the quota which is given to this province was based on the figures of basic period and certain basic consumption and so on. It might have been true that we were satisfied with less in the past, but that is no reason why the same thing must continue now. The quota which we get must be equitable from the point of view of the population of this province and from the point of view of the extent of the province. But equity must be assisted by the Government by the fight which they have particularly to put up in this matter; otherwise they will not fight for our rights and we are not going to be able to get our due share of the amenities and to rectify the present conditions and the same unsatisfactory conditions will then continue. With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion.”

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the fag end of the discussion of this demand I should like to emphasise one or two points which were referred to by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, and some other members of my party. I do not want to enter into the general discussion on the advisability of the nationalization of transport. Personally I would agree with others that it would be advisable for the Government to take over all these buses and run them on proper lines. Well, if that is done, I personally feel, that it is well and good. But if that is not possible or practicable, all I would say is, ‘ please do not interfere with private enterprises ’. It would be unjust for the Government to interfere with the individual liberties and individual enterprises.”

* Mr. SPEAKER:—“ Please raise your voice.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ If anybody says that the safety and happiness and the convenience of the people lie in giving monopolies to a few individuals, I emphatically repudiate that statement. As a matter of fact, it is the monopoly that was given in the past that has created a lot of havoc in this country and ruined the national life. But I do agree with other hon. Members that the Government should purchase all the tram-cars and run them themselves. In the absence of that, individual enterprise should be encouraged, and individual liberties should not be curtailed. It is in this connexion, Sir, that I want to emphasise what many hon. Friends on this side have stated that, the rule laying down that there must be at least 20 buses owned by a man to entitle him to get a licence, is quite unjust and it ought to be scrapped as soon as possible.

“ Another point I want to mention is the overcrowding in tramcars. Restrictions have been placed on the number of passengers that should travel in buses, but no such restrictions are imposed in the case of tramcars. I do not think there is anybody in this House who has not seen the miserable plight in which people are huddled together in tram-cars in the City in the mornings and evenings. It is only good luck if people do not meet with accidents by hundreds. It is a most inhuman sight and it is high time that it is put an end to. Then the question arises, how are the people to travel while there are not sufficient conveyances. I ask, is it not the duty of the Government to provide sufficient facilities for the travelling public. Is it not their duty to fulfil this need? It is up to Mr. Town to see that tram-cars are increased and the people in the City are provided with better facilities for travelling.

“ Now, Sir, while on this subject I should like to make one remark to Mr. Town on the question of the large number of passengers. If Mr. Town thinks that this large number resorting to trams is due to the inducement offered by him in the shape of comfort and ease in travel at present he is entirely mistaken. People are prepared to pay not only the present rates but even higher rates if proper facilities would be given to them on these trams. As a matter of fact I admit that so many people travel

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in the trams without paying the fare but that is because the company, out of stinginess, does not employ sufficient number of conductors. If Mr. Town will employ more conductors and thereby also give employment for some more people, no passenger will get a free ride. The present policy of the company is bad, it is inhuman and it is brutal. They should run more cars and cars in good condition."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Sir, may I raise a point of order? Is it proper for the hon. Member who is speaking to go on speaking with both his hands in his pockets?" (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The point of order raised by my hon. Friend from Chittoor is a very interesting one, viz., whether an hon. Member can speak with his hands in his pockets."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"He does so because he has not got a belt on."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"In this connexion I shall read out, for the information of the house a passage from the Hansard. Mr. HOLLIS, on 19th February 1946, when speaking in the House of Commons was having his hands in his pocket. Thereupon Mr. Hughes rose to a point of order. (Mr. Hameed Khan: "Mr. Varadachari was not in the House of Commons.") At that time the Deputy Speaker was occupying the Chair. Mr. Hughes asked whether it was in order for a member to address the House with his hands in his pockets or one of them. The ruling given by the Deputy Speaker (Major Milner) was this: "This is a question of good taste and not a point of order." (Loud laughter.)

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Was this point of order raised according to a pre-arranged plan?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Nothing of the kind. Simply the point of order was raised and I gave the ruling."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"You said, Sir, it is a question of good taste. May I ask you whether it is so with reference to the point of order raised or with reference to the action of the member who was speaking?" (Loud laughter.)

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"I am willing to have it both ways, Sir."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"No doubt my mannerism has given some cause for amusement in this House. But I cannot change the mannerism to which I have been accustomed and shall continue to adopt it, whatever way my taste is judged by my hon. Friend, Mr. Varadachari, or the other Members of the House. I take it that Mr. Varadachari's object was more to interrupt my speech than to raise any point of order. Whether we belong to the same profession or not, that was his intention in raising the point of order. (Mr. N. S. Varadachari: "It is Mr. K. Varadachari who raised the point of order.") (Renewed laughter.) I stand corrected. The interruption did not come from Mr. N. S. Varadachari."

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"Resuming my speech, Sir, seeing the miserable plight of those who have to travel in tram-cars, I wish to emphasise the need for immediate steps being taken to remove the difficulties. Before concluding I wish to repeat that it is not on account of any idea on the part of the passengers to have a free ride on tram-cars that sometimes there are many free passengers, but it is on account of want of proper policy on the part of the tramway company to employ more conductors to collect the fares."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, I rise to ask the Government to let the House know what their policy in regard to rail-road co-ordination is. I believe the Madras Government favoured rail-road co-ordination with the bulk of shares in the hands of railways and forwarded their proposals to the Centre. This decision, I believe, was taken on the recommendation of the Madras Post-war Reconstruction Planning Committee. (Kumararaja Sir M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar: 'By a majority.') Yes, by a majority. My hon. Friend, the Kumararaja of Chettinad was a member of the Committee. I understand that in the Central Assembly they have refused to vote for the grant submitted by the Government to implement the rail-road co-ordination scheme. As a result there is a feeling of uncertainty in certain Provinces about the future of the proposed scheme. That is why I am anxious to know from the present Government what its policy is going to be."

"Sir, I consider that, while we should keep nationalization as the goal for transport services, we ought to proceed very cautiously. I advise caution because of our experience of the working of the Madras Telephone Company under Government auspices. Ever since the Government took over this Telephone system, the service has been unsatisfactory. I say this is due to the fact that the concern is now being run by Government. In a business run by Government, the management will not take as much interest as business people do. If I manage a company I have got to be responsible not only to my own shareholders but also to the public who are the consumers. In the case of the Madras Telephone system, it now happens that you have to ring up four times before getting an effective call and pay for all the four calls, though the effective call is only one. Everytime you ring you get a wrong number and therefore you have to pay. But if it is an ineffective call there is no charge. We pay therefore four times for an effective call and 33-1/3 per cent surcharge. I give this as an example to show that Government-managed institutions are inefficient. It is too early for the Government therefore to take over these transport and public utility services."

"In this Presidency we have adopted a fleet of 20-bus system, i.e., a company should have 20 buses to be eligible for licence. Under this scheme you may be able to put more buses on the road, but you will be eliminating the man with a smaller number of buses. I suggest that the small man should also be there. You may ask him to have not less than 5 buses and not as many as 20. This may be done in order to help the poor people who have been in the trade and who cannot afford to run 20 buses at a time."

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"In the case of the permit system—I believe it is going to be given up shortly—I wish to point out that it has not been working fairly in the interests of the public. The Motor Transport Controller thinks that if a person happens to have more than one car, he is not entitled to a permit. But in the case of Government servants, who somehow or other dispose of their cars at a very high price, this officer thinks they are essential people and should be given a permit for a car straightaway. Sir, I am a businessman in charge of five concerns. I have got a car in the name of each company I am managing, because each concern has its own need for a car. It is no good therefore saying that as I have got four cars in my name I am not entitled to another car. All my cars have done five or six years' service and have begun to give trouble. Therefore I say this official control ought to be relaxed a bit. The officer in charge must take into consideration the importance of the people who apply for permits. I say that the merchant classes are as much entitled to preference as anybody else, if not more.

"I read in this morning's papers that legislation is contemplated by the Minister for Motor Transport for control over the sale and price of cars. I can understand your having control over prices. But where is the need for control over sale? The Government of India themselves I understand are withdrawing the permit system for motor cars. I should like to know why the Government of Madras are contemplating legislation in the matter. To sum up, I must say that the Government ought not to take over the Transport services, because, as usual, the cost of running transports will be very high and because, once you start a new department, you have a knack of keeping it on. The numerous new offices that have come into existence during war are all there even now. When it comes to a question of dispensing with the people employed in these new offices all sorts of complications such as service, etc., arise. Therefore, as Mr. Town suggested, it may be probably convenient if you have in Madras a sort of Board, which will be above party politics, to control motor transport and give directions as to the working. It must be an independent body and not subject to party politics. (Mr. Kala Venkata Rao: 'Independent party'?) I do not think the Independent Group in the House has any axe to grind. Though we are participating in the debates we have raised no questions. All the interpellations are raised by members of the Congress Party."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Before the Hon. Minister for Transport replies, the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas, in whose portfolio the tramways are, might reply."

12-30 p.m. * THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have listened to a very interesting discussion on the question of tramways in the City of Madras. Many of us have had experience of travelling in these trams in Madras. You may remember, Sir, the tramcars came into existence in Madras at a time which was very different from the present times. The conditions of living in Madras, the traffic in Madras and the population of

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Madras were all far different in the days when the trams were introduced. However unsatisfactory the trams are at present in Madras, it must be admitted that they have done good service in the past and during the difficult war years they have been greatly helpful in easing the transport situation. No doubt it is true that at the present time the tram-cars are not in an ideal state. We are thankful to the hon. Member, Mr. Town, for the various suggestions made by him with regard to the running of the tram cars. He has very kindly agreed to hand over the tramways to the Government at the end of the period of licence. (Mr. Abdul Hamid Khan: 'Free?') No, for a price. As regards the price he considers it modest as it is far below the existing cost of materials. But of course the point of view of the seller is bound to be far different from the point of view of the purchaser. Any way the question does not arise now. I should like to say on behalf of the Government that at any rate there are certain routes in Madras in which both the trams and buses cannot run simultaneously. For instance the road between Periamet and Chintadripet, all will agree, is not a road on which both the buses and trams can ply side by side.

"My hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition suggested that the tramways should be extended in certain directions and he mentioned Perambur. The Government will have to consider the question whether the tramways will have to be scrapped in certain parts of Madras City so that transport may be improved and pedestrian traffic in certain parts may not become a dangerous proposition. I agree that conditions ought to be imposed for the provision of better facilities in tramway traffic and that the question will be considered by the Government. Overloading in tram-cars has also been mentioned. That no doubt is an unfortunate fact. It has been due to a large extent to the conditions in which we have been living in the past years. We have to consider ways and means by which restrictions can be imposed on the tramway traffic so as to maintain decent and comfortable conditions of travel for the people of Madras City.

"The Tramway Company has recently put some new types of cars on the line. I saw some of them on the Rayapuram and Mylapore lines. These cars are of a better type than the old ones. Some of the old cars are in such a state that they are not fit for modern conditions of travel. I believe the Tramway Company is making efforts to scrap these cars and replace them by new ones.

"Then, Sir, there was the question of nationalization, that is to say, taking over the tramways and handing them over to the Corporation of Madras or to the City Improvement Trust. That point has been mentioned by Mr. Town. That is a point which the Government will in due course examine. A good transport system is one of the main needs for a comfortable life and for business. I can only say that the Government will devote its best attention to the matter and see that conditions in Madras are improved and made convenient and comfortable for the citizens of this great City."

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THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government are thankful to the hon. Members for the various criticisms and suggestions that have been offered in moving their cut motions. There are two or three main heads under which these criticisms fall. One is the defects that are found now in the existing system of motor transport; the second is the extension that is necessary in motor transport to serve the public in an efficient way; and thirdly the nationalization of the services, if it is found advisable. I am totally in favour, pending nationalization, of control being introduced into this motor transport business. I can at once assure hon. Members who, I take it, have been very sympathetic, in spite of all their sufferings, that these defects do exist in the motor transport system to-day, namely, the overcrowding in the buses, the utter indifference of the bus owners, the preference given not only to Police officials but to some other officials also and the charges that are taken for longer distances than necessary; and some sort of indifference which is shown in some cases,—all these more or less exist and the Government are aware of them. And the Government is certainly considering how best to introduce effective control in these matters. Here it is not a question of any mistake in the system but only a mistake in the control. For remedying these defects stricter control is necessary, which the Government intend to introduce as early as possible.

"As regards, for instance, the point of corruption I have got a very interesting case placed before me by my hon. Friend Mr. N. S. Varadachari where there is a lot of photo evidence. The Government are investigating matters. There are so many other cases also of corruption. But corruption is a thing which is so rampant that nobody takes it as a mistake. That is the trouble, because it is so common. (Interruption.) I do not know whether it is modern . . .

"With regard to the extension of the services one of the points that have been emphasized by hon. Members is that the small persons who are having a limited number of buses and who are not the so-called 'fleet owners' having 20 buses must not be given permits. There is a Government Order also. It is true. That says, that before a particular date all small owners must amalgamate and come to the standard of 'fleet owners' that is 20 buses; then they would be granted permits. It is true. But this Government, after we took up office, is considering the question of cancelling or modifying the Government Order and I can assure hon. Members that nobody has suffered as a result of the existence of this Government Order, I mean any small owner. Everybody has been given time. The Government is aware that there is a vicious circle; they are threatened that their licences will be cancelled within a given time if they did not become fleet owners, which they cannot do, because no permits could be given to these small owners to buy more cars. Therefore the Government is considering the question of modifying that Government Order or scrapping it. The policy of the Government is as far as possible to see that private small owners will not be shut out provided they

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are efficient and they will abide by the Motor Vehicles Rules. Because of the mere fact that they are small owners they ought not to run vehicles in any line or would not be given permits is a thing which this Government cannot agree to.

"As regards the increase of buses and lorries the Government is actively considering this question. It is the intention of this Government to have a regular map of the various districts and to give permits so that the routes that are not now being operated will have preference and more permits will be given without any clash with the existing routes. These questions are being considered and they will be duly attended to.

"Then with regard to the question of nationalization which many of our hon. Friends wanted, that question is also being actively considered by the Government. We have moved in the matter. I am glad that most of the hon. Members want nationalization of these services. My hon. Friend, Mr. Natesan referred to the policy of the previous Government, namely, that they wanted to have rail motor co-ordination, that the Central Government members did not want it and therefore it was stopped. In consultation with the Central Government, this Government will consider the question of nationalization of motor transport. But it will take some more time. We cannot rush the matter. Perhaps in due course this question will be discussed and conclusions arrived at."

* DR. V. SUBRAMANYAM:—"Can we have it before the next budget?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Let us hope so. Provided the Government have the co-operation of hon. Members, within this long period, something effective can be done.

"Then with regard to control, one hon. Member said: 'Why should this Department have any connection with the Police Department?' That is a point that is already engaging the attention of the Government. It is very difficult to find the relationship. The Government will consider whether they are necessary, and if not, whether other agencies can be employed. What the Government wants is to have effective control of all these systems.

"About the police zoomum we have had various complaints. In this country police zoomum is not the only thing. My hon. Friends appear to be smarting under the excesses that are being carried out not only by the police. . . (Hon. Premier: 'There is a separate demand for it.') There is a separate demand under which we can freely discuss this. As far as this Department is concerned, I can say, that the Government will see its way to stop all these things. I have already admitted that there are certain defects. I can also point out more defects in this than hon. Members have shown. (Laughter.) I am fully aware of them.

"I want to say a few words about the distribution of cars. That is a point on which the Leader of the Opposition and one or two hon. Members spoke. It is true that some big officials sold

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their cars for high prices and then applied for permits. But the difficulty is this. The Motor Transport Controller is after all human. There is a word which has become very current among the motor-owners; 'undependable'. Just as the doctor cannot find out 'headache' it is very difficult to find out what is an undependable car. It is a term which is very difficult to analyse. When big persons say 'undependable cars' certainly nobody can deny it. This Government has given strict instructions in the matter and non-officials are getting more cars, not only 51 per cent but more than that. Blackmarketing in those is going out gradually, because we have asked the Motor Transport Controller, though the order has been cancelled, the principle is being applied and even used cars cannot be sold—to take over these cars. All the feeling expressed by hon. Members in regard to this have already been taken into account.

"Government are considering the policy regarding the opening of new companies, namely, whether new permits must be given to the existing companies or to new companies or whether the Government must undertake the business of buses. That question is being considered. I am not committing the Government to anything. We are considering these things.

"Then regarding congestion in the buses as well as in the trams I would say that our Friends seem to like a little bit of push and crowding, because I see there is so much of avoidable crowding. I would say to our people in the City that a little bit of walking would be very nice. (An hon. Member: 'Mr. Speaker, I am not able to hear anything at all'.) There is something wrong with the hall."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Minister may please speak through the mike."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"What I say is that people who have to move about in the City of Madras must also avoid unnecessary travel, and they must avoid trams and buses for short distances. It has become a fashion not to stir from their houses unless they can go by a tram or a bus. They may say that it is not the Minister's business to advise what they should do. Because they come with criticisms that there is overcrowding in the trams and buses I say that everybody should help to reduce the congestion. I appeal to my young friends that they must not make it a fashion to go in the evening in trams and buses."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir, that is a reflection upon youth, I mean his appealing to the young friends."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"That is a great compliment. They must take regular exercise in the evening and they must avoid getting into trams and buses unnecessarily when they can walk and better their constitution.

"Another point has been raised about legislation for the betterment of the workers in the Motor Transport Services. That does not strictly come under the Motor Vehicles Rules. I suppose my hon. Friend, Mr. Giri, who is in charge of the Labour

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Department will bring in his legislation and I am sure that that legislation will include the condition of the workers in this motor transport also.

"Then with regard to the treatment given to the ladies there is some difficulty. I do not know whether the buses must be waiting till ladies come. Then it was said that they must be given preference. The authorities concerned in bus traffic are surely giving preference to the ladies. But they must not cause inconvenience to the public. They cannot wait for ladies to come; but they can conveniently carry ladies who are there at the time. In Madras I find a large number of ladies are waiting for buses in the queue system. That is a thing which requires immediate remedy and the Government is considering that also.

"Some reference was made to the regional traffic boards that are constituted for 4 or 5 districts in place of the district traffic boards that were in existence and that these boards are not serving the needs of the public efficiency. This question is also being considered in introducing effective control over the motor transport in case it is not nationalized. If necessary the Government will take measures to restore the district traffic boards or introduce more non-official elements in the Regional Transport Boards so that they may serve efficiently.

"I suppose, Sir, in view of the answers given by me the cut motion will be withdrawn by the hon. Member and the grant will be made."

The motion moved by Sri P. Venkateswarlu was by leave of the House withdrawn.

Demand VI was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND VII—OTHER TAXES AND DUTIES.

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

"that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 59,93,900 in respect of the head "Other Taxes and Duties". The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 2,15,251."

"Sir, the detailed figures regarding this Demand may be seen on page 62 of the Budget Memorandum, but there is one point which I want to bring to the notice of hon. Members; though the amount of about Rs. 60 lakhs looks quite a large one, as much as Rs. 38.12 lakhs out of it relating to the Entertainments Tax is

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not really expenditure but money to be collected and made over to the local bodies in the Province. The net expenditure is only about Rs. 22 lakhs."

*M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the cut motion standing in my name, namely:—

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 59,93,900 for Other Taxes and Duties by Rs. 100.'

"Sir, once more I have to refer to the Administration Report for 1944-45. Under Commercial Taxes, I find the following sentence. Speaking about the increase in the revenue under the head of Commercial Taxes the Report says:—

'Exhibition of popular films and larger collections at the races were responsible for the increase of Rs. 11 lakhs and odd under the Madras Entertainment Act and the Betting Tax Act. This can be explained by the growing tendency of the average person especially in the urban areas to indulge in such pleasures.'

"It is funny that the report clubs the exhibition of popular films with betting. It is a different kind of feeling which people get out of betting; it is not really pleasure. The report would have us believe that it is a desirable sort of pleasure that people get out of the habit of betting, but it is really an intoxication, Sir. Now this Government has set about abolishing things which create intoxication and I say, Sir, that racing and betting are things which create intoxication and upset the minds of the people and ruin the lives of many men, especially the poor people. So, Sir, I think that immediate action must be taken to put an end to this evil. In a neighbouring State, I am told that action has already been taken, that is, with reference to the last racing season and I do not know what is the intention of the Government of this Province in this matter, whether they propose to give licences for the races or not. In the interests of the people, particularly the poorer classes, I think the licence should not be given from this year forward for racing.

"There is another very important reason for the proposal which I am making to the Government. During the racing season large number of people temporarily migrate into this Province from outside. During these days of food crisis when the Government is straining every nerve to find adequate supplies of food and has had to cut the ration even for the people living in the Province, it is not fair for the Government to be put to the necessity of finding food for the people who are brought into this Province from outside on account of the intoxication of the evil which I have referred to. Therefore I urge upon the Government to take immediate action in the matter and see that licence is not granted for racing this year."

*SRI P. NATESAN:—"Sir, on a point of information. If what the hon. Member suggests comes to pass, it will mean a large number of Muslims being thrown out of their legitimate jobs."

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*M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I do not know, Sir, whether I am to be obliged for this information or not. (Laughter.) I have already said that this is an evil. Let him be a Muslim, let him be anybody else who ekes out a living out of such an evil. He must pay for it, he must find other employment. This is ruining the lives of thousands and lakhs of people and therefore I say, Sir, it must be put an end to.

"It may be urged that breeding of good horses is a good thing and developing the habit of horse riding is a good thing and these good things are encouraged by the institution of racing. But these things may be encouraged in other ways. There may be prizes set for breeding good horses and for horse riding. There is no reason why people should be allowed to go mad to go intoxicated over this present form of racing and indulge in betting. (Sri P. Natesan: 'Personal liberty of people'.) Personal liberty, Sir, should be curtailed in the interest of the person himself and also in the interest of Society. A man is not allowed to kill himself. As one of the Hon. Ministers pointed out the Penal Code itself is a restriction on individual liberty and because it is a restriction on individual liberty you cannot plead that the Penal Code should be straightway scrapped. In such matters as this, I submit, Sir, it is good for the individual to have his liberty curtailed and it is also good for the other human beings. Recreation he may have in other ways; there are recreations plenty of them, which will do good to the individual as well as to society. 1 p.m.

"Now, Sir, with regard to the Sales Tax Act itself, I was one of those who spoke for the people who opposed this form of taxation when it was first levied in this Province. I am not going to rake up that question just at present; but I only want to draw the attention of Government to one or two points with reference to the administration of this Act. This Act taxes certain trades and industries only at one stage, for example, the tanning industry is being taxed according to the Act, only at one stage, but the Act is now so administered and so managed by the officials responsible for its administration, that the spirit and the intention of the Legislature and of the Government are given the go-by. They ignore the fact that it was for very good and sound reasons that the Government and the Legislature have provided for the exemption of certain industries from being taxed at more than one stage. In the guise of technical reasons, on account of some technical mistakes committed by the people engaged in these industries, they are being sought to be taxed at all stages. This matter has to be gone into seriously and the people concerned must be given the advantage which is provided for in the Act.

"Secondly, Sir, at the time when the Act was passed I pleaded that the people, particularly the smaller traders, should not be harassed in the course of administration of this Act, and I also pleaded that the rules might be so framed as not to be a source of harassment to the people. But the rules were not framed likewise. Now, what I feared has come to pass. Many small traders are being harassed every day almost, and one of them, is

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particularly the small retail dealer in mutton. Mutton, Sir, is an article of food which is perishable in nature. It shrinks from time to time; what it weighed in the morning, it does not weigh in the evening and what it weighs in the evening it does not weigh the next morning. Another important point in this connection is that the people who are engaged in this retail trade are uneducated, ignorant people; they are small people as well. They cannot afford to engage accountants and clerks to keep accounts for them. But clause 13 of the Act requires every retailer to keep accounts. The Madras Mutton Retail Dealers Union have been agitating for its members being exempted from this clause and also from being exempted from the levy of the Sales Tax; but they have not succeeded so far. So far as the keeping of account is concerned, the Government in another department have exempted them from keeping accounts. There was an order called the Meat Dealers Control Order in existence up to October last year; on the representation of these small retailers, that order was withdrawn, and it was substituted by another order known as the Meat Dealers Control Order No. 2. Under this order, they were not obliged to keep accounts; but yet, the Government in the department of 'Other Taxes including Commercial Taxes' still persist that they must keep accounts of some sort or other. Again, the union made representations to the Government and in February 1946 they were informed that they need not keep complete accounts, but that it would do if they gave in their accounts the number of animals purchased, the amount of the purchase price and the total sale proceeds. This also means keeping accounts. This these poor people cannot do, neither can they employ a clerk to maintain such accounts for them. Moreover, if such incomplete and rough accounts are kept, the officials are not satisfied. They find some fault or some loop-hole in the accounts and proceed against the retailers. The retailers have been put to trouble again and again and some of them have even been fined to the extent of Rs. 50 which is too large an amount to be paid by such small people as these. Therefore, I request the Government not to drive these poor people to spend their time in making appeals to the officials, leaving their trade and their livelihood on that account, but to exempt them from the operation of the sales-tax. But this mutton trade is being taxed at too higher stages also, the wholesaler and the commission agent are being taxed. I do not say anything about it. I only want exemption for these small retailers. If however the Government think it is not possible, I say they may collect the tax in some other form. Now, the Corporation of Madras levies a cess of annas 3 per animal. They may make it annas 4 and may get that additional one anna in lieu of the Sales Tax. By this arrangement, even those retailers who do not come up to the taxable level of Rs. 10,000 may be taxed; but still, it will give them a much-needed relief from the trouble which they are now put to at the hands of the officials. Therefore, Sir, I strongly plead the cause of these poor people and hope that the Government will exempt them from the tax, or if it is not possible for the present to adopt the other form of taxation which I have suggested.

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"With these words, Sir, I move the cut motion."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by my leader. First of all, the question is as to the advisability of granting licences for racing. So far as Muslims are concerned, it is well-known and I need not repeat to the House—that racing or betting which amounts to making profit by chance at the expense of others, is prohibited and it is *haram* and I have no doubt—though I cannot speak with the same confidence—the Hindu theory also is in the same strain. I remember, if I am not mistaken, that the Congress policy also was against it; at any rate, when the Congress was in the Opposition, I remember their vigorous opposition to this racing business. I do not think the Congress has changed its policy since it has come into office. You may also remember under what circumstances the present site for the racing ground was got, how all the difficulties were overcome and what all miseries were caused to people at the time the site was obtained for the purpose. (Sri P. Natesan:—'When was it?') When this was started: it was long ago, you may look into its history; perhaps you were a little boy at the time (Laughter). Now, Sir, I do not think it is advisable for me to dwell on all those circumstances, though I know something about it; and I won't be justified in taking up the time of the House, particularly when I know that the policy of the Congress was always against it in the past, and I am entitled to presume that the policy of this Government will be the same now. Anyhow, as I said, it is *haram* for Muslims and I take it that it will be the same for the Hindus also. This vice, my European friends will believe me, began to thrive along with the vice of drinking which was introduced by our former friends who came here and took the administration of the country and began to rule over us. Whatever might have been their ideas about administration, these ideas they brought in, and we were caught in the trap and many a large number of families, both rich and poor, are being ruined by this. My hon. friend Mr. Natesan interrupted the previous speaker by twitting and saying that Mussalman employees will go out of job. Now, Sir, let me tell the hon. Mr. Natesan that Islam is not a religion which cares for profits; it first of all cares for its principles and for its ideals; and not only will Muslims be ready to forego all the profits or benefits; which they may get, but they will be ready even to give up their lives for the sake of their principles. Therefore, the temptation that some Muslims are having some employment on account of this most admittedly immoral traffic will not induce us to refrain from getting off this vice."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Let me tell my hon. Friend that there are more Muslim race-horse owners than others."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Whether it is Muslim race-horse owners or Muslim employees, it does not matter. They are still Muslims and I may assure my hon. friend that they are Muslims first and everything else next. Money is nothing to them, employment is nothing to them, where it is a principle of religion. Therefore, on their behalf, on behalf of the Muslim race-horse

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owners and the Muslim employees, I assure him, they do not want this vice to continue. They are now taking part in it because it is going on along with others. That is human nature. Let us put a stop to it; no Muslim will come and say "Because I am a Muslim, therefore in order to preserve my employment, you must continue this vice."

1-15 p.m. "Now, Sir, I would like to refer only to one other point and that is as regards the administration of the sales-tax. Personally I feel that this tax is a very pernicious one. It was introduced by the predecessors of this very same Government in their anxiety to get more revenue, but even they could have found some other methods to find funds for their schemes. No doubt they have introduced it and it is a fact that it was taken advantage of by their successors for purposes which were not dreamt of by the Government that introduced it. Anyhow it is a matter of past history. We are only concerned with the present and the future. I say Sir this incidence of tax on sales weighs very heavily on very many poor people, the consumers. To say that the tax falls only on merchants and the middle-class people is a myth because it ultimately falls on the consumer and the poorest of them. Even for salt they have to pay sales-tax now. In this connexion, what I wish to point out is this. If I say that it should be abolished, at once you will ask me, 'What is the substitute for it?' I do not know. I do not wish to take up the time of the House by saying things which are not of practical use but I would only request Government to see that the poor people are not taxed and to consider the advisability of raising the minimum amount below which no tax will be leviable. Now I understand that the tax is payable on a turnover of over Rs. 10,000. I would request Government to consider raising this from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 20,000 and so on, to enable the poor who are already groaning under this tax and who have a great grievance in this respect. This is a matter which I would like the Government to consider very seriously."

"Now, Sir, there is only one more point and that is about the representation of Muslims in this department. As my Leader has pointed out the other day while discussing another cut motion, the Government has stopped issuing the communal statement in regard to the staff of the Government departments. They were issuing such statements communalwar in previous years. That has afforded some information to the Members of this House. No doubt I know Government will say, we do not want to encourage communalism by issuing these statements. Communalism is there and I can tell the House that it has come to stay and will continue to stay until such time as it is abolished. At present Government has therefore to admit that there is communalism and that they should afford facilities to hon. Members of the House and publish the statements to enable them to know the state of affairs. In the absence of any such statement, it is not possible for me to go into facts and figures. I request Government to examine the question of representation of the Muslims in this department and to see that they get their proper quota. I would therefore request Government to consider this aspect of the matter also seriously."

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* MR. D. G. LEONARD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion with the object of drawing the attention of the House, to what appears to me to be a thoroughly unhealthy aspect of the administration of the Sales Tax Act. The Prime Minister, Sir, made slighting reference in his Budget speech to those who, according to him, make easy money as commission agents. I must remind him that cheap distribution means cheap goods to the people and distribution through commission agents is the cheapest method yet devised. It is no use Government ignoring existing facts for the sake of expensive essays in idealism."

"Now, Sir, it is in regard to the manner in which sales-tax is, or perhaps I should say, will be collected from one particular class of so-called commission agents that I wish to speak. Possibly they might be better described, I refer to those merchants who distribute, on behalf of known principal specified in their accounts, goods which were supplied to them on what are commonly known as consignment terms, i.e., for sale or return. These goods remain the property of the principals until they are delivered to the ultimate consumer or possibly to other merchants. Now, Sir, the essential of a sale is a transfer in the property of the goods. There is no need to tell my hon. Friend on the Treasury Bench that. Therefore, there can be no sale by merchants who distribute and where there is no sale, there can be no sales tax. Yet, Sir, what do we find? We find that the small merchant who does his business on these terms, is either being mulcted in excessive licence fees under section 8 of the Act, or he is being pressed by the local Commercial Tax Officer to pay the tax on turnover in respect of goods which he never owns. It is perfectly true that it is customary, in such circumstances for the merchant to draw a commission for the services he renders to his principals. This Commission is not however by way of being a normal trading profit on outlay of which there is none but it is merely his remuneration for distributing the goods of his principal. In other words, Sir, these merchants render exactly the same service to their principals as would the staff employed by the principals for the purpose. In such a case there would be no liability under the Act and there is no valid reason why the distributing merchant should be liable either. It follows, Sir, that Government are illegally demanding a thing to which they have no vestige of right, and in this case, they are in no position to put forward the plea that the Adviser regime are responsible. This ill-drafted measure was the creation of the previous Congress Ministry. Sir, we have been told by the Minister for Commercial Taxes that collection of tax on the commission agency business was being stayed, while the whole matter was being investigated. Not only that. He went further: He said categorically that the tax would be collected. That is a pretty state of affairs. Government have been aware; I think they have been aware since the beginning of May—that the collection of the tax on these transactions was illegal and all they could do about it was to stay collection leaving the merchants concerned completely in the air. Worse still, they say that sales-tax will be collected, when they have no right to a penny of it."

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“ Another point I would like to make in regard to the administration of the sales-tax is about appeals. You may appeal against your assessment; your appeal will be heard but when you will get a decision, Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell you. I know appeals have been pending for months; meanwhile nobody knows where they are. I should be glad, Sir, if it had been sufficient for me to rest content with drawing the attention of the House to the oppressive and illegitimate manner in which Government are administering their own legislation. Unfortunately, it is necessary for me also to draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that Government are allowing the sales-tax to increase the cost of people's food. If this is one of the methods by which they intend to meet the cost of prohibition, then I cannot command it. It is not a simple matter of one per cent on the prices of goods but the tax is a cumulative tax. It may be from five per cent. We hear a lot about subsidized food imports but it is not much good subsidizing with one hand and taxing with the other. There is the case too of fertilisers which are required for helping the production of more food. The Central Government subsidises imports, and the Provincial Government make revenue on every bag sold to the consumer. This state of affairs is absurd. I believe that members in all parts of the House will be with me when I say that the sales-tax on the staple foods of the people and anything that goes to produce them, must go. If this motion goes to the vote, members opposite may refuse to vote for it, but I believe, Sir, they will do so against their better judgment.”

The House then adjourned to meet again at 2-30 p.m.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to speak on the cut motion to express my opinion on the general policy of taxation in respect of ‘ Other Taxes and Duties.’ If we go through the Budget under the Revenue Estimates of 1945-46 and that of 1938-39, we find particularly that it is a repetition of the same items under minor heads and sub-minor heads. I would point out to the House how many such things are there. Before the advent of the Congress Ministry, it was the Imperial Government that was running the administration of our Province to its own advantage and taxed the people, the brunt of which fell on the poor people while the rich were allowed to go scot free. I tried to find whether there is any change in the policy of the present Government regarding these taxes. In this connexion, I wish to refer to the estimates for 1938-39 and compare that with the estimates for 1945-46 and you will be surprised to know that there is practically no change at all and that the same old policy is being continued, with only minor changes here and there. Whenever the Government found it necessary to raise revenues, it resorted to fresh taxation—I mean the previous Government, the Adviser Government as well as the Government that was running our Province before the advent of the Congress Ministry. They taxed only the poor people who were worst hit

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by this taxation policy. In 1937, due to the introduction of prohibition, the sales tax was introduced. I will dilate upon this tax afterwards, but as my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition pointed out the Congress Ministry introduced this sales tax only for the purpose of meeting the revenue that was lost to them due to prohibition. The same policy was pursued in regard to other matters also, for instance, whenever revenues fell short, they resorted to new taxation. Evidently there is no fixed policy in regard to taxation up till now. So, I would urge on the Government that they must evolve a sound taxation policy in order to see that the poor people are not hit but only the rich.

“ As regards the sales tax, Sir, it affects mostly the consumer. Sir, recently the Hon. the Prime Minister stated that he is going to raise the sales tax by half per cent. It has already hit the consumer; now if you are going to raise it, it will hit him still more. Some Members of the House may say that merchants also may find some difficulty due to the increased sales tax and that they may find it difficult to maintain accounts and other things. Again, it is not the merchant that is hit but it is the consumer that is hit. For the merchant, it becomes only another source of income, an addition to the already existing sales tax.

“ If you take the estimates under revenue for 1938-39, you find item (a) Taxes on luxuries including taxes on entertainments, amusements, betting, totalizator and gambling’ and the same items are repeated in the 1946-47 Budget and even in regard to these minor items, the same policy is being continued. What I say is there must be a departure from this policy. If the Government want to run the administration more efficiently and effectively, the present taxation policy must be completely reversed and in its place a new taxation policy must be introduced wherein the main feature should be the policy of taxing the rich by way of death, duties and other similar taxes. Government must also see that they do not stop with this but they should also start new industries and try to enrich the revenue resources of the Government. For instance, in Guntur, there is the Chari and Chari Electric Company and if the Government takes over this company, it will get much income which will go a long way to enhance the revenues. Moreover, as regards sales tax, it should not be levied upon the necessities of life, but should be levied only upon luxuries including jewelleryes and so on.

“ Now, coming to the Entertainment Tax, we find that local bodies are getting a revenue of about Rs. 42 lakhs from this source. In this connexion, Sir, I would like to bring to the attention of the House what is exactly happening in the local boards. Some of the merchants under the guise of entertainments have started gambling dens. The police knows it, but wantonly they shut their eyes and allow these things to go on; they do not care to ban these gambling dens and so they do not even touch them or even say a word against them. On account of these gambling dens, no doubt the municipalities may get a few rupees to add to their revenues but the poor people who are duped into these dens

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contribute a large portion of the profit derived by the municipalities from this source. You know, Sir, there was Telugu drama *Mundadugu* portraying the life of the Kisans under the zamindaris. It has been published in the form of a book. Though the book is not banned, the performance of it was banned; the book can be read by each individual and there has been no banning of this reading. So, I say, Sir, the municipalities have lost a source of income by banning the performance. I do not know whether it was done during the Adviser regime. Sir, so many representations were made to the Hon. the Prime Minister and to the Minister for Law and Order in regard to the removal of the ban but with no avail. Eminent scholars and writers in Madras including some literary men and editors of newspapers have appealed for the removal of this ban but I am sorry to say that the Government have not moved in this matter so far. The reply we have received on the application is that they want a translation of the whole drama. I do not know whether the banning of the performance of drama took place after they had a translation of it or before. Now, I do not know why they did not have translation before they banned it. Moreover, in the Cabinet, there are eminent Parliamentary Secretaries who are also Telugu scholars, for example, my hon. Friend Mr. Lingaraju, who can help the Minister for Law; if the Minister himself does not know Telugu and tell him what particular portions in it are objectionable. I do not know how when the book itself is not banned, the performance could be banned."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Member should not repeat the same argument."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I only wish to point out to the Hon. Minister the fact that the municipalities are losing enormous profits in view of the fact that this drama has been banned and I only wish to stress the point that when the book has not been banned, there is no need to ban the performance."

"Sir, these cinema companies are making enormous profits. If the cinema proprietors are taxed, Government may get large income. We find also so many Government officials drawing from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000 per month and they are paying only meagre taxes. I therefore suggest that Government servants as well as those people earning better salaries of just as Rs. 1,000, Rs. 2,000 can be taxed and for this purpose they should devise some means of taxing these people."

"Regarding race course, Sir, of course it is not a making of the people of the soil but it has however come into existence, and so many middle-class people are being duped and robbed. If you go through the accounts year by year, you will see the revenue under this item is increasing by leaps and bounds. This race-course must be banned; it is a shame to us to allow it. Individuals are making enormous profits out of it whereas the Government get very little out of it."

"Just a word about motor vehicles, Sir."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"We have already passed that demand."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I am not going to speak on motor vehicles but I wish to speak on the taxing of motor companies. From the discussion on the subject of motor vehicles, I came to understand that hon. Members were demanding that there should be small private individual owners running motor transport. I think it will be to the disadvantage both to the individual as well as to the State since it will help neither. I therefore request Government that instead of allowing these individuals to go on, they should start larger companies so that both the people as well as the Government may be benefited. These individual owners can then join a concern and get their share of the profit. Sir, I have already spoken on the subject of municipalities taking over motor transport and until that is done, I would suggest motor companies being taxed to enable the State to make additional revenue out of them."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, time and again, the Hon. the Premier has been harping upon his regime as a people's Government. That constant repetition should strike as a mockery of expression for Muslims, but I do concede it is a good man's Government (laughter); we know the Premier is a gentleman but how can we consider him to be a gentleman *par excellence* when he allows under the auspices of his regime gambling of all sorts? He has, of course, introduced Puritan principles into this domain of politics and we, on this side, have given him whole-hearted support in his introduction of prohibition but we would like to tell him that there are many more social evils—with due deference to my hon. Friend Mr. Netesan, who seems to feel that such restrictions on social evils are inroads into his private domain of individual liberty; all the same, I feel that the State must now take up Social Reform and see that it should touch the circumference of life at every point and root out all evils that now menace society."

"Racing is not racy of our soil but it was imported from 2-45 Europe (Mr. H. S. Town: 'No, surely not'), to please the p.m. luxury of the European aristocracy here. And I must confess to a sense of shame that our people have aped the standards of European indolence. We want racing to be condemned through and through. It was Sir George O'Sullivan who said that 'game-money is a prostitution of all games and anybody who wants to have a spectacle of this prostitution' need only visit Guindy and he can see there how overnight comedies are turned into tragedies for thousands upon thousands of middle-class men. It was usually said of the Central Government in our country that its finances are a gamble in exchange and we know only too well that on so many occasions the Hon. the Premier has laid most of our miseries in our Province, at the door of the exchange policy of the Central Government. Let me say, Sir, that ever since the stabilization of the purchasing power parity of the rupee we do not suffer from the vicissitudes of exchange. But instead, here in

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our Province, our provincial revenues have been a gamble in monsoons and I am glad that adequate measures are being taken to see that there shall no more be any risks from monsoons. But yet, what do we see here? There is a gambling in morals and the State wants to take a share in that gamble by levying a tax on what, ironically enough are called entertainments. I do not know for whom such entertainments are intended. Is it, I ask, for the people who have elected this Government? I am very sorry, I have to request them to cry a halt to this crime against society. Otherwise, let them withdraw this expression from their vocabulary and never repeat it *ad nauseum* at any rate to the Muslims.

"We tell you, Sir, that racing has been developed as a gamble to a fine art and the time is coming soon when, I am afraid it is going to be given a new lease of life under licensing. We want this Government if it has got the courage of its morals to stop this menace to society.

"As for the sales tax, Mr. Speaker, lend me your ears." (Laughter.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I am hearing."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We have a wonderful paradox with reference to the administration of the sales tax. I am only sorry that my hon. Friend of the European Group (Mr. D. G. Leonard) has anticipated me in levelling this attack against the Government. What is the fun of saying that you are subsidising essential food-stuffs and at the same time subjecting them to the inhibitions of the sales tax operations? Do not take away by the left hand what you are giving by the right hand and still pretend that you are encouraging food-stuffs by subsidising them? I wish the Hon. the Premier realizes the irony of the situation and sees that he does not submit essential food-stuffs to sales tax operations.

"I would like to add that in this country, we have not devised any measures how best to put down prostitution. It is the greatest evil, practised under our very nose, which we have to confess to our shame. I do not find under what demand I can discuss that subject except to take shelter behind 'other taxes' which forms the subject-matter of this demand. The People's Government is providing the people with entertainments of all sorts and evidently they would not allow this prostitution to go on as amounting to an entertainment. If you do not want the people to suffer from the evils of prostitution, please come forward with legislation. Already you have got the example in the City of Madras. Please apply the long arm of the State to see that the fair womanhood of this country is free from that menace of prostitution. I grant that it is quite possible that ever so many inroads will be made upon the revenues of this Province and the Popular Government would feel that they should not rush measures and involve themselves in liabilities. Let them not claim that they have set puritanical standards because they have stopped the evil of drink. They shall not claim to be puritans unless they have wiped out this evil of prostitution. Many good families have gone to

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rack and ruin on account of racing and prostitution. If the Hon. the Premier who has earned the praise of our minority in this province wants really to add a feather to his cap—I am sorry he has no cap—or to gain laurels for his regime and to go down into history as the greatest Prime Minister that the province has produced, here is the opportunity."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, much of the ground that I wished to traverse has been covered at length by previous speakers and so I do not wish to say much on this demand. I shall say a few words on the question of betting. Many hon. Members have drawn the attention of the Government to the imperative necessity of legislation to put down racing, at any rate, betting and racing in Madras and Madras Province. If I remember aright it was in the days of the last Congress Government that I introduced a Bill seeking to put down racing in Guindy and other places. But the Minister in charge of the subject would not even consent to leave to introduce the Bill being granted. I hope at least now the Government will see the need for putting down this evil with a strong hand. I know that hon. Members of the Treasury Benches have certain difficulties in putting this down. I think the plea that was raised on the last occasion was that if racing in Guindy or Ootacamund was to be put down you will be encroaching upon the special rights of the European community. That is, what I think, was the plea put forward then when leave was not granted to make this motion. I think that that argument does not hold much water now. It might have been that Europeans did contribute to the growth of racing and a certain amount of impetus was afforded by them in this line, but to-day the number of Europeans who indulge in racing or betting is very small. It is Indians who are mostly affected and it is they who suffer very heavily. It is not even the rich that suffer except it be the younger people who inherited their money from their elders and so did not know its value and lost their all either at one stretch or in the course of one season. I will not be sorry for people who do not know the value of money. But the people about whom I am concerned are those of the middle class or the lower middle class. These are the people who visit the races in the three rupee enclosure and lose their all. I think some time ago one of them even committed suicide and I know quite a number of them have been ruined. This betting is not confined to the race course in Guindy only. Betting has become very common and there are betting houses in the City of Madras and elsewhere who receive betting throughout the whole year for all the races going on in all parts of India. I understand they cannot do it publicly as it is against the law but somehow it is being carried on by many as a business and it is going on without proper police control. A large number of gullible, innocent persons who have a few annas saved from their earnings bet and not only do they lose their savings but they lose their all including their clothes and their family is left in the lurch. I expect that this Government will undertake early legislation to put down this evil on

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moral and ethical grounds. They must rescue the unfortunate people from this evil habit; they do it without knowing what they are doing and in that way it is something like the drink evil. The ruin of one person does not serve as an example to the other and the desire for excitement and for making easy money gets the upper hand and families are ruined and the effects on the victim are much more than the effect of drink upon the addict. The Government of the day would, I hope, take early steps not only to do away with racing within the province but any sort of betting on any races.

"The Government are collecting the entertainments tax for the various local bodies. In the beginning they were collecting for the Corporation of Madras; but subsequently they have taken over the entire collection appropriating ten per cent of the entire proceeds to themselves and distributing the balance to the various local bodies. I do not know why the right of the Corporation of Madras must have been taken over; I presume it was because they wanted to make this a provincial concern. I do not know why the Government expect a smaller return next year. I believe it is due to their fear that people who rush with money got in war conditions for entertainments, cinemas, shows, etc., may not be able to do so with the advent of settled conditions. I do not agree to it. The people have fallen into the habit of regaling themselves with entertainments in the evenings and their number is on the increase. I am unable to see why a decreased return should be anticipated. I hope, Sir, Government will see that there is no increase in rate.

3 p.m.

"Then, Sir, as regards sales tax. This is a tax, which, although brought into being for a good purpose, namely, introduction of prohibition in certain districts, has done a good deal of harm to business generally in the province. It was pointed out to the authors of the Bill at the time of its introduction how it will affect business, but it was said then that the tax will go down to the consumer and that the consumer will pay. But the consumer pays, and in fact he pays more than the tax. In some cases, on account of the fact that this tax is levied at various stages of sale and on certain amounts of turnover, the tax ultimately accumulates to a large extent. It has increased manifold; it is beyond the intention of the original authors of the measure.

"Besides, Sir, the administration of this tax has been entrusted to a separate department, and there I find in the gazetted rank not even a single Muslim. Perhaps I may be wrong, and I shall be glad to be corrected. If the Government find that there is not a single Muslim in that cadre, I hope that will be rectified. (Interruption from European Benches). Sir, my hon. Friends are very much surprised, I should say, rather shocked, whenever one of us here comes forward with a suggestion for due representation of our community. Sir, until the day when every one of us feels that we do not make any distinction between man and man, and between community and community, in meting out justice, until that day comes, it will be

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absolutely necessary for every one of us to make our demand and ask for any inequity to be rectified. My friends on the European Benches perhaps do not understand our difficulty although they have been here sufficiently long, or they may be thinking it is all frivolous. I do not think they recognize the conditions obtaining here demand it. I know we feel somewhat ashamed to do it sometimes."

* MR. F. FERRELLY:—"On every Demand you want to deal with it?"

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Not on every Demand, but on every cut motion until that moment comes when everyone is prepared to do justice, and particularly when we come into power, we must develop that mentality which will not recognize the distinction that has been existing in this country on account of various causes. Perhaps this Government may not be responsible for it; the previous Government may be responsible. I ask this Government, so that this Government may rectify this mistake. Perhaps they may say, 'look here, we have given you representation here, we have given you representation there.' Of course the largest representation is in the menials and among peons. It is true we get large representation there. And it is shown to us in a magnified manner.

"The other thing I want to deal is about cloth control. Cloth control was a subject of wide discussion at the time of general discussion of the budget. So I do not wish to take much time on that subject except to say that that department requires thorough reorganization. It is with regard to the way in which the control act is administered that I wish to say a few words. . . ."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I submit, Sir, cloth control does not come under this Demand."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Then, Sir, I shall await another opportunity to deal with it. With these remarks I support the cut motion."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, licensed gambling is in no way less harmful than licensed drinking. Therefore Government should not encourage gambling and betting, and that too regulating it by licensing. I would suggest that the Government should bring gambling and betting under the scheme of prohibition. Unless they do that, I do not think, they will be able by means of prohibition alone, to better the condition of the people. Therefore, Sir, I have to suggest on this occasion, that whatever might be the need for imposing fresh taxes, Government will take the earliest opportunity to draw up a scheme combined with the scheme of prohibition for stopping betting and gambling and games of chance.

"Now, Sir, I would like to say one word with regard to the levy of the general sales tax. We all know that the last Ministry intended that this tax should bring in revenue that Government would be losing on account of introduction of prohibition. At the time when that Bill was before this House, we protested and

[H. S. Hussain Sahib Bahadur] [17th August 1946]

said that this tax should follow only in the wake of prohibition; it should not be levied throughout the Province, while prohibition was being introduced by stages. It does not stand to reason that when you are introducing prohibition in a limited area you should levy this tax in the other areas along with the revenue that you are getting from Excise and say that 'We are levying this tax to make up the loss that we have to incur on account of introduction of prohibition.' From that point of view, the levy of sales tax can be regarded only as an iniquitous impost. Even apart from this aspect of the question, there is the other aspect also, namely, 'on whom does the burden fall ultimately, when you tax goods at every stage of their turnover?' It falls heavily on the consumer. So that point has to be considered. Therefore if the Government are not in a position to levy this tax only in places where prohibition has been introduced, I would suggest that they should at least levy it only at one stage, and I would suggest that that stage should be the initial stage and not the subsequent stages. Then, Sir, the tax is really weighing so heavily on the ordinary consumers that it is high time we reconsider the whole situation. During the war no doubt there was inflation and business was going on merrily. There was a large turnover of business and the Advisers' regime not only levied the tax throughout the Province but increased the rate too. And what did they do. They abolished prohibition at the same time, and this aspect of it has made it more iniquitous. But now, after the war, the period of inflation has come to an end and we shall be facing a period of deflation when business will suffer, and consumers also will suffer as their income will go down. Under such circumstances, I would urge this Government to reduce the tax to its original rate and at the same time levy it only at one stage. Otherwise it will press hard on the common people. Therefore I appeal to the present Ministry, on these strong grounds, to take up the reconsideration of the whole question of sales tax and see that it falls as lightly as possible on the common man."

3-15
p.m.

* **SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA** :—"கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, நம் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு செலவினங்கள் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறபடியால் வரி விதிக்க வேண்டியது அவசியம்தான். ஆனால் அந்த வரியானது ஏழைகளை பாதிக்காமலும் அதோடு கூட இன்றியமையாத விஷயங்களிலே வரி விதிக்காமலும் அனாவசியமான வழிகளில் செலவழிக்கும் பணங்களுக்கு வரி விதிக்கலாம். ஸர்க்கார் தன் பொருளாதார விஷயங்களை மற்ற கம்பெனிகளுக்கு விட்டிருப்பதால் அவர்கள் பணம் சம்பாதித்துக்கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். அவற்றை ஸர்க்கார் எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் அதன்மூலமாக பணம் சம்பாதிக்கலாம். இந்த மான்யம் விஷயமாக நான் 78-வது cut motion விற்பனை வரி விஷயமாகவும், 83-வது cut motion மின்சாரம் விஷயமாகவும், 85-வது cut motion சினிமா விஷயமாகவும் கொடுத்திருக்கிறேன். ஆகையால் எல்லாவற்றையும் ஒரே விஷயமாகப் பேச உத்தேசிக்கிறேன். விற்பனை வரி நூற்றுக்கு ஒன்று வீதம் வரி ஏற்கலவே விதித்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த வரியை 1½-யாக அதிகரிக்க ஸர்க்கார் எண்ணம் கொண்டிருப்பதாக அறிகிறேன். ஆனால் பஞ்சாப், சிந்து, பம்பாய் முதலிய மற்ற மாகாணங்களிலே முதலில் போடும் ஒரு வரிதான் இருக்கிறதே தவிர மற்றப்படி அவர்களுக்கு இந்த மாதிரி தொடர்ந்து வரி போடுகிற முறை அனுஷ்டிக்கப்படவில்லை. ஆனால் நம்முடைய மாகாணத்திலே

[17th August 1946] [Sri A. S. Sahajanandam]

வரி விதிக்கும் முறை இன்றைக்கு பல மடங்கு பெருகியிருக்கிறது. எத்தனை மடங்கு பெருகியிருந்தாலும் கூட அவ்வளவையும் முதலிலே எந்த இடத்திலிருந்து வாங்குகிறார்களோ அந்த இடத்திலே இந்த வரியை விதித்துவிட்டால் அதை மதிப்பெடுக்க வசதியாயிருக்கும். எந்த ஒரு இடத்தில் கண்டுமுதல் செய்கிறார்களோ அந்த இடத்தில் முதல் வரி விதிக்கிறார்கள். பிறகு வாங்கும்போது அதற்கு விற்பனை வரி விதிக்கிறார்கள். இந்த வரி ஏழைகளிடத்தில் வாங்கப்படுகிறது. சில்லரை வியாபாரிகளுக்கு வரி விதிக்கப்படுகிறது. பல வியாபாரிகளும் கணக்கு கொடுக்க வேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. கணக்குத் தவறிவிட்டால் கேஸ் போடுகிறார்கள். இதனால் பல வியாபாரிகளுக்கும் கஷ்டமுண்டாகிறது. வேண்டுமானால் இந்த வரி எல்லாவற்றையும் ஒரே இடத்தில் ஒன்றுக்கு 1½, இரண்டாகப் போட்டாலும்கூட பறவாயில்லை. அப்படிப்போட்டுவிட்டால் சில்லரை வியாபாரிகளுக்குத் தொந்தரவே இல்லை. ஆகையால் அந்த வரியை முதலிலேயே போடும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"இரண்டாவது, சர்க்காருக்கு அதிகப் பணம் வேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. நம்முடைய மாகாணத்திலே பைக்காரா ஹைட்ரோ-எலக்ட்ரிக் ஸ்கீம் என்று சொல்லக்கூடிய இந்த மின்சார நிலையங்களிலிருந்து உண்டாகும் மின்சாரத்தை வேறு கம்பெனிக்கு சர்க்கார் அரையணுவுக்கு விற்கிறார்கள். அதை அவர்கள் ஒரு யூனிட் 6 அணுவுக்கு விற்கிறார்கள். அதனால் எவ்வளவு பணம் ஜனங்களுக்கு நஷ்டமுண்டாகிறது பாருங்கள். ஆகையால் அதை ஸர்க்கார் எடுத்துக்கொண்டு நடத்துவார்களானால் ஸர்க்காருக்கு அதிகமான பணம் வரும். மின்சார சக்தி உற்பத்தி நிலையம் விற்கின்ற முறையை ஸர்க்காரே எடுத்துக்கொண்டு அதன் மூலமாக வரும் பணங்களை ஸர்க்கார் தங்களுடைய செலவுகளுக்கு வைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். அதோடு கூட அனாவசியமான வாழ்க்கையாக விலிமா இருக்கிறதே அதைப் பார்க்காமல் போனால் மானம் போவதில்லை. யாருக்கும் சாப்பாடில்லாமல் போய்விடப்போகிறதில்லை. ஆனால் சிலர் விலிமாவானது அது ஒரு கலை, போய்ப் பார்க்கலாமென்று சொல்லுவார்கள். ஆனால் மேல் நாட்டு விலிமாக்களெல்லாம் நிர்வாணமான படங்களாகத்தான் இருக்கின்றன. அநாகரிகமான விலிமாக்களைப் பார்த்துவிட்டு ஜனங்கள் கெட்டுப்போவதை விட அந்த விலிமாக்களையே அடியோடு மூடிவிடலாம். விலிமா இருக்கத் தான்வேண்டுமென்று ஸர்க்கார் சொன்னால் அவ்வளவையும் ஸர்க்கார் எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும்.

"இப்போது பிராட்வேயில் 'ஹரிதாஸ்' என்ற விலிமா நடக்கிறது. போய்ப்பார்க்கலாம். நிறைய ஜனங்கள் குவிந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். 6 மாதத்துக்குமுன் பார்த்தேன். அப்பொழுது எவ்வளவு ஜனங்கள் கூடியிருந்தார்களோ அவ்வளவு ஜனங்கள் இன்றைக்கும் போகிறார்கள். கள்ளுக்கடைக்கு போகிறதாயிருந்தால் தனியாகப் போவான். விலிமா போகிறதாயிருந்தால் பெண்கள்தான், பிள்ளை உள்ளபட எல்லோரும் சந்தோஷமாகப் போகிறார்கள். அந்தப் பண செலவை தடுப்பதற்கு முயற்சி செய்யவேண்டும். ஆகையால் விலிமாவை அடியோடு எடுத்துவிடவேண்டும். இல்லாவிட்டால் ஸர்க்காரே அதை எடுத்துக்கொண்டு அந்தப் பணத்தைப் பொது ஜனங்களுக்குப் பகிர்ந்து கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

"குதிரைப் பந்தயத்தில் ஆயிரக்கணக்கான பணங்களைக் கொட்டுகிறார்கள். இந்தமாதிரி அனாவசியமான வழிகளில் போகும் பணத்தைத் திருப்பிக்கொண்டுவருவார்களானால் பூரண மதுவிலக்கல்ல, ஹரி ஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு கோடியல்ல, 50 கோடி கூட கொடுக்கலாம். ஆகையால் விலிமா, மின்சார சக்தி வியாபாரத்தை ஸர்க்காரே எடுத்துக்கொண்டு இந்த வரிகளைப் போடலாமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* **M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR** :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the cut motion under Demand VII—Other taxes and duties—I want to point out that the sales tax adversely affects certain struggling traders, and in the circumstances, a reduction of the sales tax is absolutely necessary."

[M. A. Muhammad Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur] [17th August 1946]

Before I point out the effect of commercial taxes or sales tax upon the public, I want to make a general remark upon the basis of commercial taxes. Of course sales tax or commercial tax is an elastic source of revenue by which the Ministry can obtain an enormous income. I wish to utter a note of warning here that by an increase of sales tax they are taxing the poor without any sort of justification, because ultimately the tax falls upon the poor. When you analyse the whole turnover of the sales tax I say that 75 per cent of the sales tax is in relation to necessities, foodstuffs, and only 25 per cent or less than 25 per cent cover luxuries. Therefore, until the Ministry, or the Government, is prepared to bifurcate the turnover of tax into two classes, namely, necessary foodstuffs and luxuries, and levy different rates of tax on luxuries and necessary foodstuffs, I appeal to the Government not to resort to additional taxation on sales of actual foodstuffs and necessary supplies.

"Coming now to sales tax administration, the minimum turnover beyond which the tax is levied is fixed at Rs. 10,000. Sir, the amount was fixed about six years ago when the tax was introduced. Now conditions have changed. Prices have increased by 400 to 500 per cent. Compared to the transactions of Rs. 10,000 in 1939, the utility with regard to the same amount at the present day is one-fourth of such a number. Therefore, one-fourth of that number for which the tax is levied is Rs. 96, which generally hits the poor struggling traders. Of course, I am here in a paradox when I say that the taxes first hit the consumers. I do not say it absolutely; because cases have arisen where petty traders, who have no account whatever and who are having dealings of Rs. 30 per day, are asked to pay Rs. 96 by way of taxes. If they are flourishing traders, they can shift the burden on to the consumer. But when they are struggling, naturally they limit their profits and incur the taxes themselves. Therefore, I say that the cases of persons having transactions over or a little above Rs. 10,000 should be reconsidered.

"There is also another aspect of the administration of the Sales Tax Department. That is, persons having small transactions generally do not keep accounts. In India, especially in Madras, petty shop vendors, vegetable auctioneers, or those having retail shops in mutton and meat market, and also in fish market, do not have accounts. It is impossible for them to have any accounts of their own to note their transactions. Their sales cannot, by any commutation, exceed Rs. 30 per day. The authorities, especially the lower grade staff of the Sales Tax Department, in their enthusiasm to show increased return of income, tax these poor people simply on the ground that they do not keep accounts. I bring this aspect of the case to the notice of this House. These are all cases that should be viewed not only on the question of account but also on the attendant circumstances, that is to say, their method of living, their position and status in life. This aspect should also be considered whenever all these petty shop-keepers are assessed on the simple ground of having no account.

17th August 1946] [M. A. Muhammad Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur]

"Another aspect which I bring to the notice of this Ministry is with regard to assessing the so-called agencies on commission basis. Of course in India, especially in our Province, the agents have been appointed by the firms or small firms for purchases or sales. They do not, as a precaution, enter into a written contract with them. They purchase on commission basis. Their commission is entered in the accounts of the firm from whom they have purchased or to whom they have sold. But the authorities, especially the lower authorities, do not take all those things into account, before assessing, as a valuable or as a sufficient evidence; and they seize the licensed permits. They go on on the simple ground that that evidence is not sufficient, and assess every one of them on turnover basis. Sir, in these circumstances, I only suggest the Ministry should raise the minimum of the assessment rate to about Rs. 15,000; and the turnover from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 should be assessed at a flat rate of Rs. 25 per year. If this method is adopted, I do not think they will suffer anything from the financial point of view, because these assessment cases form only a negligible percentage of the total income of sales tax. Therefore, it is high time to reconsider the whole basis of minimum assessment. They may increase it to a certain high level and also decrease the fixed rate from Rs. 96 to Rs. 25.

"I join with our Leader and also with every other speaker in pointing out the necessity of abolishing the horse races. I need not say that it is a bad evil, and that the time has come when the Ministry should come forth with a social measure to abolish the horse race altogether. One argument was raised by a certain gentleman that it infringes on personal liberties. I say, Sir, that when society is conscious of its own obligation towards a section of society, and it is determined to do a certain thing in the interests of society, it can do many things. Therefore, this sort of argument cannot hold water. Will the hon. Member raise this sort of objection in the case of the Defence of India Rules or the Defence of the Realm Ordinance obtaining in England? Therefore, these arguments cannot be advanced. Society is conscious that it is an evil, and it should be put an end to. Government should put an end to it. With these words, I support the cut motion."

*M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. 3-3
Speaker, Sir, I do not think that it is necessary for me to elaborate P.m.
on the evils of racing. But I would on an occasion like this bring to the notice of this hon. House an offshoot of racing, namely, bucket shop. The tentacles of this giant reach the very homes of the poor, particularly in the City of Madras. The rich people may go to the race course and indulge in what my European friends in this House might call the 'king of sports'. But the poor people are drawn to this evil through the bucket shop. Government have banned bucket shops. But that ban is honoured more in its breach than in its observance. Even the poorest of the poor, the lowest of the low resort to these bucket shops that are run perhaps under cover of darkness, perhaps with the connivance

[M. S. Abdul Majeed Sahib Bahadur] [17th August 1946]

of the police itself, and thousands and thousands of rupees are being spent. I know of cases of poor people pledging the jewels and sarees of their wives and the garments of their children in order that they may stake at the bucket shop. This is a very dangerous evil, because it is able to catch even the poorest of the poor. Therefore, Sir, I would make an appeal to the Government to see that these bucket shops are closed immediately, that the police officials who are conniving at this crime are booked and removed, so that the poor starving people of this City, the poor starving people of this Province may be saved from this curse of bucket shopping or racing.

“Coming to commercial taxes, I think I can also expatiate on some of the disabilities of the public and the hardships they are undergoing as a result of the operation of the Sales Tax Act. As the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has said, petty shop-keepers and small traders should be exempted from the operation of the commercial tax. To-day, Sir, the commercial tax officials, perhaps with ulterior motives, issue notice to people who, they know, do not come within the taxable limits. This is being done, perhaps with a view to extract money from these poor people. Monies are collected; corruption rages in this department. If commercial tax is not paid within time, even if there is a delay of two or three days, prosecution is launched and the public are harassed. Therefore, Sir, in the interest of trade and commerce, in the interest of people who are involved in this tax, steps must be taken to see that harassment is not meted out to people.

“There is provision for appeals in income-tax. Suppose I am taxed heavily, I can appeal to higher authorities. I can get redress through my appeal. But under this Act, there is no appellate court. Therefore I would urge upon this Government that they should immediately institute, as they have instituted an income-tax tribunal, a commercial tax tribunal, so that we traders may appeal to that tribunal and get redress. To-day, appealing from the decision of one to another is something like appealing from Phillip Sober to Phillip Drunk, because we know, Sir, that our appeals almost fall on deaf ears, that it is almost like preaching silence to the waves of a mad ocean, that we are breaking our heads against rocks. Therefore, Sir, Government must immediately provide relief in the form of a commercial tax tribunal.

“Coming next to the question of electricity, I would like to bring to the notice of Government the hardships which the people are undergoing for lack of electrical energy. People are not given sufficient electrical energy. Families are suffering due to the allotment of a very meagre quota. I would like that the benefit of the Pykara Scheme is also extended to the City. Depending upon mere dynamos for electric current is of no use. They say that the load position is very bad, and under that pretext, electric fans are not allowed to run in houses even at times when members of families are actually ill. Therefore, Sir, I would make an appeal to the Government that they institute an enquiry into this

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matter and see that electricity, which is almost the poor man's energy, is supplied to the people of this Province immediately. With these few words, I support the cut motion.”

* SRI P. NATESAN:—“Sir, after hearing the speeches of the hon. Members on the other side (A voice: ‘On your side.’) or on my side, I feel as if hon. Members of this House are going to be the custodians of public morals. Sir, from time immemorial, we have had gambling in some form or other, and I cannot understand why in the year of grace 1946 it has suddenly dawned on our friends to attack racing. (M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur: ‘On a point of information, Sir. We have heard of stealing also from time immemorial.’) Well, Sir, I cannot understand how it has suddenly dawned . . . (N. Muhammad Anwar Sahib Bahadur: ‘Even as prohibition has dawned on us.’) Yes, but prohibition has been talked about for years. In fact, I remember the days when Pussyfoot Johnson arrived in Madras and made a big temperance propaganda. We have had cockfighting here. I know in the old days we used to have cockfighting in Tondiarpet at which there used to be mild gambling on the part of a number of people. (Mr. H. S. Town: ‘It has been stopped.’) It might have been stopped, but I am simply trying to tell you that man as a man requires some sort of recreation (N. Muhammad Anwar Sahib Bahadur: ‘Even the devil quotes the scriptures.’) and that is the reason for the existence of Polo, dog racing, etc., in the past. Well, Sir, on racing depends the horse breeding industry. We must understand there is an industry called the horse breeding industry. We import Indian-bred horses. We allow some English horses to cross the Indian-bred horses here. (Interruption.) We talk about Englishmen every time; anything we do not like, we put it on the poor Englishman's head. I am not holding a brief for them. (Interruption.) It is all tall talk in the Assembly, but in your heart of hearts you realize that the Englishman is not to be blamed. (A voice from Congress benches: ‘When did you discover this?’) Right from the day I came into politics. I was a member of the Congress Party, I was loyal as long as I was there, and even to-day I am loyal to the biggest organization in the country. Let me tell you that.

“Coming to the question of gambling, don't think that it is only the poor man who indulges in gambling. About 75 per cent of the betting tax—the Government got about Rs. 20 lakhs from betting-tax last year—comes from rich men, because particularly in war time, people found that they had too much money to spend, more especially because blackmarketing has been flourishing and there was no proper Government in the country to check corruption and blackmarketing.

“I do not want the Government to curtail civil liberties. At this rate, to-morrow smoking has got to be prohibited. Don't have the beedi industry; you better close it down. Do not have the cinema. One hon. Member has just said ‘All cinemas should be closed down.’ I find queues of people standing there. That is a thing that has got to be looked into. I tell you, Sir, that

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racing is a thing which you ought to encourage. Do not gamble; gambling is an evil. We have been taught in our schools that gambling is an evil. Why not you go and do propaganda among the people? Instead of doing that preventive work, you come here and say that gambling is an evil and racing should be stopped. After all, it all depends on how you view things. What about the number of skins and hides merchants who take their chance in sending consignment stocks? They lose lakhs and lakhs. Is it not gamble? Are there not people who gamble on mills and on Bombay cotton prices? You just go to the Marwari bazaar every evening. You will find people gambling on figures. You say that on a particular morning the figure is, say 4, and you invest Rs. 10 on it. If to-morrow the number is 4, you get 50 times more. I am only pointing out that gambling has been there from the beginning of creation and that those who can afford can gamble. I do not know how the civil liberties of a man can be curtailed. (N. Muhammad Anwar Sahib Bahadur: 'What about prostitution?') We can argue both for and against. That is why lawyers exist. (Laughter.) (Mr. Speaker: 'Please don't interrupt the hon. Member.') I enjoy interruptions, Sir. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'He grows eloquent.')

"Coming now to sales tax, there is a belief even in the minds of the hon. Members of this House that sales tax was imposed mainly to carry out the Prohibition policy of the Congress Government. Sir, it is not a fact. It is true that sales tax was introduced at the time when Prohibition was also introduced. To say that the proceeds of the sales tax are earmarked for making good the loss in revenue due to the enforcement of Prohibition is a very unscientific view to take. There can be no earmarking of the proceeds of the sales tax to finance Prohibition. You frame the budget on the total revenue capacity and the total expenses that you are likely to incur during the year. Therefore, Sir, I consider that it is confused talking to say that sales tax revenue is a particular revenue only intended to make up the decline in excise revenue. Sir, there is probably an attempt to raise the sales tax. I say, as another hon. Member pointed out, it is a cumulative tax. By the time it reaches the consumer, the consumer would have paid five times what was intended. I consider that it offends the fundamental principle of taxation, viz., ability to pay. What the poor man is not able to pay, perhaps, I am able to pay. I am taxed one anna on an article. To the poor man that one anna is too much to pay. That is how it affects the poor man. I understand sales tax is imposed here even on grains. In Bombay and Calcutta, I believe that although tax in Bombay is six pies and the tax in Bengal nine pies they are not cumulative. They are collected at only one stage. That has to be looked into. Here, this is a multiple tax and is levied at every stage. An article changes hands five to six times and becomes very costly to the consumer. Sir, I understand recently that without giving any prior intimation merchants who effected sales by V.P.P. were asked to pay sales tax on these sales. Perhaps, the merchants were wrong in not

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getting acquainted with the rules. Perhaps the Commercial Tax Officers did not understand the working of the rules. But to pay the taxes with retrospective effect is hard to the dealers. If what the tax collectors are doing is correct, they can proceed from now onwards without asking for retrospective payment.

"There is also a complaint in the rural parts that officers are not courteous to the merchants. Well, it is possible that in the interpretation of the Act subordinate officials are inclined to be too strict. I would like the Government to look into this and see if the officers cannot be instructed to be more liberal in the interpretation of the Act. Sir, I think you will have a great complaint from the merchant community if you begin to raise the sales tax further. You started with half per cent. Then it came to quarter and again it is half per cent. If you say it is only to meet Prohibition I can only say it is not correct and there is no doubt it will be resented by the merchant community. Already in Calcutta while an attempt was made to enhance the rate there was complete *hartal*. I only want to tell you that you must not brush away consumers who are after all the real class that is affected by this tax.

"There is one more point and I am done. I believe the tax is levied for the financial year and no option is given to the merchants as in the case of the income-tax. You must know, Sir, that merchants in this country follow their own national calendar. Some of them start with Deepavali, some with Chitrai month and probably there are many more customs. I suggest you do not insist on their keeping accounts for the financial year, but you will try to extend the privilege to calendar year or any other year according to the manner in which Income-tax authorities collect their taxes."

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first point that I have to mention in talking of this demand is about the way in which electricity administration is carried on. In later years it has been realized that electricity plays an important part with regard to cultivation and the production of more food. While it is so, somehow or other an idea has gathered as in the case of some of those rare departments that it is a special concern which has to be kept safely in the hands and not easily made accessible to the people at large. As recent instance I can cite the case of a big landowner of Bodinayakkanoor who had 500 acres to be brought under cultivation and had all the necessary machinery ready at this time of scarcity for the production of food. While so, time and again he addressed the electricity authorities and the Government and could hardly get a reply. The matter was so bad that ultimately I referred the matter to the Minister in charge.

"Then again, with regard to the entertainments tax on the cinemas, hon. Members of the House had several suggestions to make. It is undoubtedly true that cinema could as a matter of fact be used both for moral propaganda and educative purposes. But at the same time it cannot be denied that the use to which

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it is put to in the Madras Presidency, at any rate, as at present we see, is that there is 90 per cent harm. Many families are ruined and much harm is caused by exhibiting films which should have been banned and censored. (Hear, hear.) As a matter of fact some of the films that were referred to by one of the speakers are such that no person would allow any member of his family to see them. Yet what we have objection to see outside, we have no objection to see when it is put in cinema and that is the reason why these films run for months and months. As a matter of fact one producer told me that bhakthi films did not draw crowds and were not as paying, as they did not contain vulgar scenes as were ordinarily found and deliberately put in most of the films. Personally if I were a dictator, I would first close down all the cinemas at least as a preventive measure. (Hear, hear.) The question is whether a thing is to be continued because it has some elements of good though at present it is bad. If it is used for perverse purposes it ought to be put an end to at least for the time being. If the Government think of still keeping these shows the only course is to exercise a very rigorous censorship so that only good things can be allowed to be exhibited.

“ Even with regard to betting I am very much surprised at this time of the day that an hon. Member of this House could be found to put in a very strong plea on the ground that it is a civil right which has been exercised all along. I am afraid that this argument can hardly hold water. The ten commandments in the Bible are there, because people used to commit offences before. Therefore is there no necessity for the commandments, because the offences preceded the commandments? Can you argue that the only thing you can do is to do propaganda against the evil? Unfortunately even with regard to gambling it will be found that with the exception of horse racing all other kinds of gambling are made penal. Perhaps horse race alone is exempted from the Indian Penal Code, probably as a concession to those who made the law at the time. Therefore, it is not a right to run a gambling house and there is no civil liberty involved therein. If you say that you must do propaganda and yet gamble, why should there be a law in the Indian Penal Code against it? If ‘Thou shalt not steal’ is only to be a moral precept and you have to go and do propaganda about morality, why do you find the provisions against theft in the Penal Code? Therefore, I respectfully state that as a matter of fact that argument can hardly be accepted. The difficult position is this. Here is an exotic plant, this horse racing that has been put into our country. The plea that the hon. Member has used that racing is useful for breeding good horses will hardly pass muster. Because, do you create good race horse breed with a view to draw carriages for the military? Breeding is for racing and not for any other purpose. I can understand the Pattaigar of Palayakottai breeding bulls. That is for the purpose of doing work.

“ Then when you come to betting, I am afraid, I must place my strong protest against betting forming one of the items of

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income for this administration. Exactly like Prohibition it has been regarded as one of the *Pancha Maha Pathakas*. So far as the Hindus are concerned gambling was akin to *Madhupanam*. Every child in the Hindu household knows Mahabharatha and Nala Charitram where it has been put as a lesson what gambling is likely to prove to be. Therefore, my submission is it is very wrong for a popular administration, though it comes in the middle of the year, to include it as one of the items. Even if it has come in the middle, it is much better to go and apply the axe at once than to wait for the morrow. Once it is installed it is never likely to go. Evil is a thing which, once left alone, grows into a small plant and strikes its roots deeply. With regard to this betting tax if you extend the least tolerance to it, it will never go. The other hon. gentlemen stated the extent to which poor families are ruined. You might have known not only poor families ruined, but zamindars are unfortunately brought to these race courses and as a result they are in dire troubles. Further along with the betting tax, particularly when it is tolerated by Government, there is a subsidiary growth of persons like bucket-shop keepers and brokers. So far as betting tax is concerned people hardly know the actual receipts. The expenses are shown as Rs. 4,000. But when you come to the receipts as shown in the budget memorandum you find ‘totalizator Rs. 7.17 lakhs, book-makers Rs. 3 lakhs or a total income of Rs. 10 lakhs’ from betting alone. What rate is fixed as tax at Guindy is found in page 33 of the budget memorandum. It is $6\frac{1}{4}$ per cent on the bet.

“ With regard to Ootacamund, it is $3\frac{1}{8}$ per cent or $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent on the average. Twenty-four times Rs. 10 lakhs would give you 2.4 crores. All this money passes from one to another. Is it a thing that the Government should encourage and say we have got $3\frac{1}{2}$ or $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent? This money, every pie of it, that goes to whatever department will spell its undoing. That is my objection. That is my feeling. Even now big changes can be made in the budget, and I request the Minister to cut off this remnant of sin. 4 p.m.

“ One observation which was made by an hon. Member about sales tax was this. He said that unfortunately poor people are being fleeced and that consumers are being fleeced. These tears come from merchants who collect the sales tax from the consumer. Until this day, not a single protest has come from the consumers. It is the merchant who collects the tax from the people and the whole protest against the sales tax comes from him. I do not at all understand the meaning of these protests. To-day the merchants are not ashamed to sell articles at ten times their cost price. I know there are chemical goods and dyes which were sold at Rs. 120 under Government control. They are sold in black-market at Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 now. Yet these people protest against the pie in the rupee which they do not part with but collect it from the people. I submit, Sir, that it is all crocodile tears and there is no sincerity about it. The consumers are prepared to pay the pie in the rupee as sales tax.

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"Another argument used against sales tax was this. It was said that as this tax is to be used for enforcing prohibition, let the tax be confined to those districts where prohibition is introduced. Look at the generosity of these people! But I say, let us reverse the process; instead of confining sales tax to Prohibition districts, let us extend Prohibition to the whole of the Province and let the sales tax remain as it is. That would be the correct position.

"Lastly, Sir, my submission to the Government is this. We are now making this budget and this will stand till next year. Every time we are making this budget, we are introducing this sinful item of revenue, with promises that it will be remedied next year. If you do not remedy it to-day, this evil tax has a tendency to strike root, and it may be difficult to put an end to it later even as the administration which originally introduced it, feared. Therefore, take courage in your hands. The nine months before you is a sufficiently long time for the evil to take root and so I request the Minister and say 'Cut out all evils straightaway and now'."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, if there is one department in which corruption is less rampant than others, it is the Commercial Tax department. That is my experience. In my profession as a lawyer, I have come across with so many cases in this department and I know that really smart young men with enthusiasm for honest work are employed in the department. I do not know much about the men at the top, but so far as the Assistant Commercial Tax Officers are concerned, many of them are smart young graduates and most of them are doing their work honestly and conscientiously. Therefore, whatever may be said with regard to the alleged corruption in that department from the other side—it may be inspired by the merchant classes—we ought not to rely too much upon them. (A voice: 'Question.')

"The second thing is—and there is no doubt in this matter—the merchant classes are more at fault than the department itself. The several devices which are employed by the merchants for evading the taxes are only too well-known. I have had to defend such people before these officers. As a professional man, I know from experience that the devices employed by the merchants are so clever and so skillful that even the ablest of the officers in the Government are not able to detect them. In my place jaggery is procured in large quantities. These procurers supply jaggery to the tune of lakhs of rupees. Their accounts are made up in the names of hundreds of persons who are really nominees. Thus these merchants evade the sales tax. But the poor public who purchase the jaggery from shops will have to pay the sales tax in advance. I therefore submit that it is the merchant classes that are more corrupt in this matter than the officials."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir, can a lawyer reveal the tricks of trade of his clients?"

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"I may not be right in revealing the secrets of an individual trader, but I can refer to the secrets of a class of people in general."

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"Sir, conditions in Madras may be different. Mr. H. S. Town need not complain against me. I am only making my remarks so far as my experience in the Chittoor district is concerned. (Interruption again . . .) (Mr. Speaker:—'Order, order.')

"Then I have got another suggestion to make in regard to this department. This is a new department. It is manned by people lent from the Revenue department. The Assistant Commercial Tax Officers, the clerical staff and all these people are supplied by the Revenue department. With the depletion of men in the Revenue department who are constantly drafted for other purposes during these days, there is a corresponding depletion of men in this department also, with the result that the Revenue department and this department are suffering from lack of competent men. Apart from that, I would urge that this department should be manned by people who are well-educated and can understand the meaning of and can give interpretation to the various clauses of the enactments relating to the commercial taxes. For this purpose I would suggest that none but graduates or members of the legal profession who are rotting on account of lack of work should be appointed in this department. (An hon. Member from the Muslim League benches: 'Is it for opening another field for lawyers?') Yes, Sir, it should be a field for lawyers including Muslim lawyers also. (A voice: 'No canvassing for jobs please!') (Interruption.) Well, Sir, it is very essential in the interests of the Government and in view of the very large amount of revenue involved in this department that really capable and honest men should be employed for running this department and if this is done, I am sure you will find that even that little amount of corruption that is alleged will vanish in no time.

"The next thing that I want to refer to is this; several other taxes which may appropriately be entrusted to this department are not included. For instance, I do not know why the motor vehicles tax should not be entrusted to this department. The collection of this tax need not be in the hands of Police officials or those of anybody else. Licences for many other things are issued by the Commercial Tax department, but I do not know why motor vehicles licences alone are excluded. I suggest that these motor vehicles tax should be collected by this department, so that this department may also be acquainted with what is being done in the Motor Transport department.

"One other remark I wish to make is that the sales tax enactment is not yet perfect. It must be amended. If you want to increase the revenue from the sales tax for financing Prohibition, you must reduce the taxable limit of the turnover to Rs. 5,000. I am also unable to understand why tax on bullion is exempted. I suggest that bullion transactions should come within the purview of this Act. The official agents are really the persons who are dealing in this business, but if there is a real case that they simply act as commission agents and that no transactions pass through them, then they may be exempted. But, as a matter of fact, in most cases, their true accounts will reveal that they are real purchasers and sellers. (Interruption.)"

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"Only one minute more."

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"I shall finish within two minutes, Sir."

"The next suggestion I should like to make is that apart from the minimum tax that is being levied on food stuffs and other necessities of life, the tax on luxuries should be raised. A separate schedule of rates at a higher percentage should be introduced according to the nature of the luxury article. But it does not mean that the tax should be exempt on any other class of goods that are considered necessities. This will bring in a very lump sum revenue."

"Then, Sir, in this connexion, I would suggest that the tax on foreign liquor should be raised to 25 per cent. (Laughter.) Even so, a 25 per cent tax should be levied on the licence-holders. Those people must be discouraged to take up licences by such a heavy tax. Officials in the departments who are addicted to drink foreign liquors should not also be given permits."

"Finally, Sir, with this remark, I shall finish my speech. In the interpretation of the Sales Tax Act, we have a very curious application of the rules framed under the Act. While agricultural products are exempt from the sales tax, forest products are not. I do not know how agricultural products are different from horticultural products. During the period of war people converted forest wood into charcoal. When this charcoal was put in the market, it was considered to be a sale coming within the purview of the Sales Tax Act. Prosecutions were also launched by Government in certain cases for evasion of tax. I do not think there is any meaning in levying an additional sales tax on the forest produce. I wish to bring this to the notice of the hon. Minister for Revenue so that he may consider the question in all its legal bearings."

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p.m.

* SRI K. SUBBA RAO:—"May I know from the hon. Member whether any of his relations, his son-in-law for instance, is employed in a Commercial Tax Office?"

* SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"My son-in-law, my brother-in-law and my uncle's son-in-law are all there." (Loud laughter.)

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, it was very difficult to follow my hon. Friend, my name sake, Mr. K. Varadachari. The discussion on the subject of commercial and other taxes has ranged from the subject of the abolition of the race course, perhaps due to the fact of the presence before me of these very refractory but enlightened gamblers (A voice: 'Is it a parliamentary expression, Sir?') to nibbling at the sales tax even at its roots. I will put it that way."

"Now, let me examine the question of betting. Nobody has stressed the real evil and the way of putting down that evil. I consider betting an evil. The easiest method of putting down betting in the bucket shops and in the race course is to prevent all publication in the newspapers and in booklets and in leaflets

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about race courses, about pedigree horses, about racing astrology and so on. I do not want on this account that my hon. Friends on the opposite side should call me kill-joy. I do not belong to that class. (Mr. H. S. Town: 'I do not go to the race course.') All right then, I will allow my hon. Friend Mr. P. Natesan to enter the first enclosure, pay very handsome taxes to the State and yet say that poor people do not go to the race course for the simple reason that they have no information about the race course or about the horses running there or about the totalizators set up. That is the real point. I know . . . (A Voice: 'How do you know about the pedigree of horses?') I know it from Mr. Natesan himself. An administrative order may immediately be issued prohibiting the issue of these publications and stopping the racing advertisements that appear in the daily newspapers. That would put an end to almost the entire evil and we would still be getting a good share of the tax if Mr. Natesan would go to the race course and help Government in his own way."

"I shall next come to the subject of the sales tax and press only one point relating to the administration of the sales tax. On this matter, I put a number of supplementary questions the other day in order to elicit answers from Government. The way the sales tax is administered keeps me on to this subject. I understand that by a simple administrative order revenue of nearly half a crore has been suspended. This procedure is somewhat strange and wholly unorthodox. It would never be adopted in any other democratic country. The only way that complaints of harassments or allegations of wrong collections or assessments should be met is by adopting the procedure laid down in the case of income-tax, viz., that the tax collected should be refunded if mistakes are found later. Every case has to be examined on its merits. That is my point. There should be nothing to be found fault with in our procedure. For procedural errors, our record is hard to beat. The Congress Government has to set a high standard. I believe that Caesar's wife must be above suspicion. We must not lend ourselves to the charge that we are interfering with the just, or the unjust let it be said for the purpose of argument, administration of the sales tax. These very people having collected the sales tax have not remitted it to Government. Let me here quote what the High Court, in a recent decision, have observed: 'Offenders with regard to payment of sales tax are persons for whom there should be absolutely no sympathy. They receive the tax from the consumers at the time of purchase and are only trustees to remit the money to the treasury.' In fact every merchant—Mr. Natesan, Mr. Town and everybody who collects sales tax—is a trustee who retains money only to be remitted to the treasury. That is the position with regard to sales tax. When people collect taxes to pay into the hands of the Government and do not deliver it to Government, I would suggest that is a serious matter that must be looked into and proper administrative procedure enforced."

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"In this connexion I have another point to mention. We have exempted, for instance, several people from the scope of the tax who have a turnover of less than 10,000 rupees. But if these people have received as a matter of fact sales tax from the consumers and have retained it as evidenced by their accounts, they should also be treated as trustees and the sum collected should escheat to the State, to use a technical legal term. That is my case for the administration of the sales tax. It should be tightened up and not nibbled away at the roots, or, as some hon. Member suggested, it should not be levied. If you go on present suggestions, the tax will be nullified by exemptions. If suggestions that necessities of life should not be taxed are adopted, you will have nothing to go by. The suggestion I want to press on the attention of the Hon. Minister who agreed the other day to give me an opportunity for raising a discussion on this matter is that I want the sales tax administration should be strictly and properly controlled. I do not mean to suggest that harassment should be the rule. On the other hand there should be strict administration without harassment. My friend Mr. K. Varadachari speaks of the efficiency of the sales tax administration. I cannot say this as I have no first-hand knowledge on this point. But I can tell you, Sir, I am not one of those who wish to cry 'Wolf, wolf' and create a scare in the country circulating the impression everywhere that everybody in my country is corrupt, every Police officer is corrupt, every revenue officer is corrupt and that all who enforce law under our administration are corrupt. I wish that talk of corruption is restrained. People can prevent corruption by ceasing to talk about it publicly and especially in this House. I say, Sir, that corruption can best be put down when we make up our minds that our own people who are in the services—your son and my son—are after all honest and good people and intend to serve the country. I can tell you from my own experience that out of 10 officers who served the Government from my immediate surroundings, nine of them died in penury without any property left on retirement. Is this not a tribute to this band of officers who are found fault with at every turn? There is corruption I admit. There is 10 per cent corruption, but that is so much exaggerated that you get into a cloud and then begin to talk of it all the time like my friend who becomes suddenly antipuritan and says that to kill joy in all places is wrong. Just as the Muslim will seek pleasure on the fumes coming out of his hooka, so too Mr. Natesan wants innocent pleasure in the race course events. Mr. Town said that Shajehan started the race craze. I leave him with that statement. I really raise my hat off to Shajehan. (Loud laughter.) But Shajehan did not introduce betting for fleecing the poor people. He did not encourage publications for quarter of an anna and so on on race events and the like in every street corner bordered by a bucket shop which by the way is a standing invitation to corruption. The best thing would be to stop all publications regarding race course and put into the administration of the sales tax more vigour and energy."

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* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Sir, I feel that the Sales Tax Act is not being administered according to the intentions of the framers of the Act. It is now merely as imposition on the consumers, collected by the merchants and paid into the treasury. The intention of the framers of the Act, if I have understood it correctly, was that it should be collected from the merchants directly. Now, as it is, every merchant has, instead of paying the tax himself, become a tax-gatherer. This is wrong. The merchant is profiting by this tax, instead of paying anything himself. Take for instance a bill for annas twelve. The sales tax is collected for Re. 1. Whereas the tax that he pays is on the total turnover at so many pies a rupee, he gains something in this case because he has collected so many pies on so many As. 12 bills. This source of income which was to have replaced the excise revenue on the adoption of Prohibition should continue to come in to enable us to have complete Prohibition sooner or later. That being the case and especially when it is the consumers that pay the tax, the tears of the merchants, as my hon. Friend said, are merely crocodile tears."

"As I said, Sir, the sales tax was introduced for the purpose of balancing the loss of revenue anticipated by the introduction of Prohibition. Prohibition has been introduced only in some districts. What about the other districts? The intention was to make the whole Province completely dry and this I hope will be achieved as soon as possible and as quickly as possible. It is certainly a trust which we will forfeit if we do not carry out the programme. Sir, I have a scheme to prepare the ground before introducing Prohibition. I want at the outset that the Government itself should keep the toddy shops and collect all the revenue without letting a bidder or renter share it. Government officials should run the shops. The shops should be made clean and neat and people should come and drink there itself and should not be allowed to take out for drinking. They may also publish a list of people who visit the grog shop with the quantity each visitor consumes each day as if it is an account of drink bill. Again month after month try to reduce the quantity of drink which you offer each person. Ration it completely by reducing it week by week and then try to bring in your Prohibition within a specified period. The proceeds of the sales tax must be used particularly for this purpose. Even as at present arranged, I want that Government should at once place some officer in charge of every toddy shop to sell toddy to persons who want to drink."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Is the hon. Member talking about Prohibition or sales tax?"

* SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"I am talking of the sales tax and how it should be utilized for the particular purpose for which it was introduced. It was to enable Prohibition to be introduced that the sales tax was levied. What some members of the other Party and the public ask is this: 'You have imposed the sales tax for a certain purpose and when you are not giving effect to that purpose why should you collect the tax?' By

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prescriptive right the tax-payer is entitled to ask. If the Government is to answer it, it must be answered by utilizing a major portion of the tax for preparing other districts also for Prohibition. I therefore earnestly urge on the Government to amend the Act in such a way that the tax becomes a direct tax on the merchants and not on the consumers and utilise the produce of this particular tax for enforcing Prohibition throughout the Province. Then alone the party in Government and representatives of this House would discharge the confidence of the voters and citizens of this Province."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, having said so much and pressed the Ministry that there should be Prohibition, it will be unfair and unjust on the part of any member of this House now to rise up and say that sales tax should not be increased. I, for one, feel that we should support any measure brought before the House for increasing the sales tax.

"Sir, much has been said about horse races and the betting that goes along with it. Those people who were responsible for arranging horse races might have done that with very good intentions. I know as my hon. Friend Mr. Natesan reminded us there was the horse-breeding industry. But it is an industry which was required in those days when there were no motor cars and other forms of conveyance. To-day horse races are a false affair and we do not see really the horses running in the race course but fat ponies. What we also see is the poorest of the poor running from plains to hills. I may say, Sir, that so far as Ootacamund races are concerned, people come from Trichinopoly, Madura and all the surrounding districts. They do not come alone, they bring all sorts of epidemic diseases. In Ooty, cholera was unknown. The people who come there do not go to see the horse races but just to put all money they have on the horses for betting. It is a most depressing scene—people who have no clothes to put on their bodies standing there and betting on horses. What I would urge on the Ministry is this: 'Increase the betting tax from the present 3½ per cent to the maximum extent, so that those who are responsible for the horse races may themselves give up this thing.

"Secondly, Sir, much has been said about cinemas. I do admit that they are not conducted on proper lines. There is not much of morality or any virtue in going to cinemas. In the country-side we see travelling cinemas which run their shows in tents which leak badly and do not prevent rainwater falling in. These cater to the poorest of the poor and even the people who are engaged on the fields go there and spend what little they have. I think the Government have got a Cinema Board to scrutinize the films before they are allowed to be screened. I do not know the composition of the Board and with what authority and what object they pass films which bring not morality but immorality not only to the towns but to the village parts also. I appeal to the Hon. Minister who is responsible for the composition of the Board to see that responsible people who could understand things better are appointed to the Board. With these few words, Sir, I support the demand."

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* SRI G. NARASIMHA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the demand which has been moved by the Hon. Minister I should like to say a few words. On behalf of the mercantile community I may say that the merchants are not averse to paying the sales tax which is popularly known as the poll-tax, because it has to be paid by every human being who buys something. But I have got to say something about the administration of the sales tax by the department concerned. If this tax is imposed more on the luxuries than on the necessities, then it will be less unpopular and will not be called a poll-tax. With regard to the behaviour of the Assistant Commercial Tax Officers, I should like to bring to the notice of the Government that the merchants are not treated well. They are not given proper directions to maintain accounts and they are not given a chance to prepare a proper statement of accounts. On the other hand, they are simply harassed and whatever orders they want to pass they pass with much of *jubberdust*. That is the only complaint of the merchants and they have no grievance to pay the tax which they have collected from the public.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Varadachari referred to commission agents. Commission agents have been paying licence fees under section 8 of the Sales Tax Act. The Commercial Tax Officers in various districts have given various interpretations for this section. In various places the taxes have been collected and merchants had to pay as much as Rs. 3,000 which they had not collected. When a stay is applied for, the merchants are told: 'You obtain orders from the Board of Revenue later on.' It is something like a man being hanged even before the judgment is delivered.

"As a matter of fact at present whatever tax is assessed by the Commercial Tax Officers, the Revenue Board is the only final authority. I suggest, Sir, that there should be an appellate authority like Income-tax Tribunal. Some assurance must be given to the merchants and they should not be harassed to pay the taxes unnecessarily. I suggest also as you have got several advisory boards in the districts and at the provincial headquarters with regard to other matters, there should be district and provincial advisory boards with regard to Sales Tax also. If interpretations of the Act given by the Commercial Tax Officers are not correct, the advisory board will be able to give proper advice. I request the Hon. Minister to see that necessary orders are passed bringing into existence these advisory boards.

"Some hon. Members have referred to the tax on bullion. Originally there was no tax on bullion. It was levied only recently with the result that most of the business in the Madras City was transferred to Pudukottah. The Bombay people imported silver and gold to Pudukottah and other States eliminating the merchants in the Madras Presidency.

"With regard to the recruitment of Assistant Commercial Tax Officers, at present it is done from the Excise department.

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I suggest, Sir, that people who have been working in this department can better understand the work of that department and therefore the Assistant Commercial Tax Officers should be recruited from the Commercial Tax department as well as the Civil Supplies department."

* SRI K. T. KOSALARAMA NADAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, இப்போது போடப்பட்டிருக்கும் Sales Tax-ஐ நமது அதிகாரிகள் சரியாக வசூலிக்கிறார்களாவென்று நாம் முதன் முதலாகப் பரிசீலனை செய்ய வேண்டும். இப்போது ஆந்திரா தேசத்திலே 50 லக்ஷம் ரூபாய். இந்த வரியில் வசூலிக்கவேண்டாமென்று நிறுத்திவைத்திருப்பதின் காரணத்தை நாம் அறிந்துகொள்ளவேண்டியது அவசியமாகவிருக்கிறது. இந்த விஷயத்தை சர்க்கார் உடனே பரிசீலனை செய்ய வேண்டும்."

"இரண்டாவதாக, கமிஷன் எஜெண்டுகளை அதிகப்படுத்துவதில், Sales Tax வருமானம் எவ்வளவு குறைந்துவிடுகிறதென்பதையும் சர்க்கார் உணரவேண்டும். எந்த காரணத்தினால்கமிஷன் எஜெண்டுகளிடமிருந்து Sales Tax வசூல் செய்யப்படாமலே இன்னும் இருந்து வருகிறதென்பதை சர்க்கார் உணரவேண்டும்."

"அடுத்தபடியாக, மோட்டார் கார்களை ஆங்கிலேயர்கள் இங்கிலாந்தில் குறைந்த விலைக்கு வாங்கி, அவைகள் அவர்களுக்குச் சொந்தத்திற்கு என்ற பெயரால் நம்முடைய நாட்டிலே வந்திருக்கின்றன. அவைகளுக்கு நாம் Sales Tax போடமுடியாமலிருப்பதும்மட்டும்ல்லாமல் சாதாரணமாக அவைகளுக்குப் போடவேண்டிய கஸ்டம்ஸ் வரியையும் நாம் இழந்து விடுகிறோம். சொந்தத்திற்கு என்று தருவிக்கப்பட்டு விற்கப்படுகிறது. இந்தமாதிரி விஷயங்களை நாம் சரிவர கவனித்தால், இன்னும் பல கோடிக்கணக்கான ரூபாய் Sales Tax வருமானம் கிடைக்கும்படி செய்யலாமென்று நினைக்கிறேன். உதாரணமாக, விப்டன்ஸ் கம்பெனி முன்னால் 2 லக்ஷம் ரூபாய்தான் வரியாகக் கொடுத்தார்கள். ஆனால், காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கம் ஏற்பட்ட பிறகு 10 லக்ஷம் ரூபாய் நாம் அவர்களிடமிருந்து வரியாக வசூலிக்கிறோம். ஆகவே, இப்போதைய Sales Tax-ஐ வசூலிப்பதில் அரசாங்கம் ஓரளவு கவனஞ்செலுத்தினால், இப்போது கிடைப்பதைக் காட்டிலும் அதிகமான அளவுக்கு வரி வசூலிக்கமுடியும். இந்த வரி வசூல் விஷயத்தில் ஆந்திர தேசத்திற்கும், தமிழ் தேசத்திற்கும் ஒரு வித்தியாசமிருக்கிறது.. தமிழ் நாட்டிலே கமிஷன் எஜெண்டுகள் என்ற பெயரால் Sales Tax கொடுக்காதவர்களின் தொகை மிகவும் குறைவு. ஆனால், ஆந்திர நாட்டிலே இவர்களின் தொகை மிகவும் அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. அதிகாரிகளின் சித்ததைக்குறைவினால் அவர்களிடமிருந்து வரி சரியாக வசூலிக்கப்படுவதில்லை. அதிகாரிகள் இவ்வித வித்தியாசத்திற்கு இடம் கொடுக்காமல் பார்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். அதோடு தங்கத்திற்கும் நாம் Sales Tax போடவேண்டும். வாழ்க்கையிலே அதிகமான சுகபோகங்களை அனுபவிக்கும் பணக்காரர்கள் அனுபவிக்கும் சாமான்களுக்கு Sales Tax போடாமல் ஏழைகளுக்கும்மட்டும் இந்த வரி போடுவது மிகவும் விநோதமாகவிருக்கிறது. இனிமேலாவது தங்கம், மோட்டார்கார் வாங்குகிறவர்களுக்கு Sales Tax போட்டால், இப்போது இருக்கும் விகிதத்தைக் காட்டிலும் அதிகமாக இந்த வரியை உயர்த்தவேண்டிய அவசியம் இல்லை யென்று நான் நினைக்கிறேன்."

MR. SPEAKER:—"During the last three days we have finished only six demands and we have 34 demands to be finished. We have got only 8 days more. Therefore with the consent of the Hon. the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition, I am going to ask the House to sit till 6 p.m. from Monday onwards. To-day we will sit till 5-30 p.m."

"The Hon. the Minister for Revenue will now reply. Afterwards the Hon. Premier will make a short reply also."

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* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have had a most interesting debate ranging from the highest ethical standards to the fundamentals of economics. I shall not enter into the heat of the controversy but shall try to speak on some of the important points raised. Some hon. Members would wish for the abolition of all taxes. Of course, if a Government could be run without any taxes, it would be quite possible. But since we have to run a Government with some taxation, I may say, that of all the taxes, with which we are dealing to-day, particularly, the sales tax is one which we can ill afford to lose."

"Certain charges have been made that we should not take sinful money and so on. The hon. Member from Madura called the betting tax as *pancha maha pathakam*. May I remind him that this *pancha maha pathakam* was in existence before? The Act was passed in 1935 and was used from 1937 to 1939 when there was also a Congress Ministry in office. ('Hear, hear.') And therefore, if all at once, his vision has become broadened to-day and he says, it is a deadly sin . . ."

* DR. V. SUBRAHMANYAM:—"He was not there in the last Assembly."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"He was not there of course. On the other hand we have it from another hon. Member, Mr. N. S. Varadachariar, who takes generally the same lines of argument as my hon. Friend, that he is prepared to allow one enclosure and no more. And another hon. Friend, Mr. Muniswami Pillai, is prepared to have the tax raised to a higher figure. So far as the betting tax is concerned, about which the Hon. Premier will also reply, I will say this, that we shall try our very best to have this matter considered. We shall not take shelter under any arguments like the benefit conferred by racing on the breeding of horses. We shall make a proper approach to the question and see if we can do something in the matter before long. That much, I feel, I can assure the House. I have consulted the Hon. Premier on the question and we realize that though we get an income of Rs. 18 lakhs per annum, the evil is there. There is no denying the existence of the evil and the fact that people are unable to control themselves and that even the poor are suffering alongside the rich."

Sri A. Vaidyanatha Ayyar rose to speak.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Is it on a point of order or on a point of information that the hon. Member wants to speak?"

* SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"There was a point made out, Sir, that no objection was raised to this tax during the period of the previous Congress Ministry. What I want to point out is that now the Madura Member's objection has been recognized by the present Ministry."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"What I was saying was only this. We need not magnify these things. What was not *pancha maha pathakam* then is not worse to-day. The same

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measuring stick, the same yard stick which was used to measure the Congress Ministry at that time may be used to measure the Ministry which is in office to-day. We need not use different yardsticks. That is my point." ('Hear, hear.')

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Mr. Speaker. Is the word *pancha maha pathakam* parliamentary?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is parliamentary."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I may assure the Leader of the Opposition that it is a perfectly parliamentary word. Otherwise my hon. Friend would not have used it."

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Is it right for the Hon. Minister to condemn the previous Congress Ministry and also

* MR. SPEAKER:—"He is not condemning the previous Ministry."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I quite realize the feelings of my hon. Friend, who was then Chief Parliamentary Secretary. I am not condemning, I only say, judge us by the same standard by which you judged another Ministry. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'Only by the same standard?')

"Well, Sir, on the question of betting tax, we realise the significance of all that has been said on the other side and we shall be glad to consider the whole question (interruption) including the question of publication of race news or the stopping of the whole affair of betting itself. This will come up for consideration by the Government and we shall give our best attention to it. We are not in a position to say more at present, because we really have not had the time to consider the question."

"With regard to the sales tax, I say this, that this is a tax which we cannot afford to lose. We have to carry on prohibition which will cost us to the tune of Rs. 15 crores very shortly and then there are ever so many undertakings of a social nature. Therefore if anybody says that this tax should be given up, it is very difficult for the Government to do so."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"Nobody said so; but we do not want any increase."

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"There were some speeches made to the effect that the sales tax might be abolished. Probably the hon. Member Mr. Natesan was not here at the time. We give no undertaking that there will be no increase, but when there is to be an increase, certainly we shall come before the House because it will require an amendment of the Act. At present it is only one per cent. On the sales under the existing Act and therefore, if we have to increase it, we shall have to come before you and the House will have an opportunity to consider the question. If not only then that the rates could be increased."

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"Now, Sir, when I say that the sales tax is a revenue which ought to be increased and implemented, I may also make some general observations. This Act was passed long ago, about 8 or 9 years ago. It has been worked till now. We are now aware that there are many loopholes under which people who ought to pay the tax do not pay it. They are trying all evasions. There are also exemptions as my hon. Friend said, such as cotton yarn, bullion and other things. We shall try to stop all loopholes, shut all doors so that the maximum revenue can be got for the State from all honest dealers . . . (An hon. Member: 'Only honest dealers?') honest and dishonest dealers, both."

"Even before this debate was ever thought of, nearly six weeks ago, when we received a number of representations from all over the country and when there were deputations on every section of the Act, a Special Officer was appointed to go through all the memoranda on the question and find out ways in which the Act could be best administered. I do realize, Sir, that in a measure of this sort where the discretion of the taxing officer is very large, where probably appeals are not as efficient as in the civil courts, we ought to make things as fair and just as possible. It is for that very purpose that we are trying to look into every aspect of the Act and then bring not merely an amendment for the increase of the percentage but also for dealing with the exemptions and other provisions under which there is said to be harassment. I do not deny that there is some sort of harassment in some way or other, because when the thing has been going on without the necessary overhauling of the Act having taken place, there is bound to be some harassment or other. It is with a view to look into all these matters that we shall devote all our attention. Whilst we have every right to collect as much tax as possible, certainly the public is entitled to say 'Do it fairly and properly. Let us know what we have to pay and not merely depend upon the individual whim and discretion of the officers.' We shall try to see that there will be no unnecessary injustice in the matter of its administration."

"On the question of appeals for instance, the hon. Member, Mr. Leonard, said: 'Appeals are filed, we do not know when they are disposed of.' These are all aspects which we shall go into thoroughly and whatever amendments are necessary we shall very soon come before the House with for amending the Act."

"With regard to one particular section of the Act, speeches were made, and if I understood rightly, it was even suggested that some sort of preference had been shown or distinction made between Tamilnad and the Andhra Desa. I submit, Sir, that in the matter of taxation at least there was one sphere where we could be free from provincial differences. (Hear, hear.) What happened was this. Before I actually took charge of the portfolio of commercial taxes there had been made lots of representations, not that people had collected money under section 8 of the Act as commission agents and then kept the money in their own pockets, as one of the speakers suggested, but that their claim was that they were only commission agents and nothing more and that they were harassed with prosecutions in which large amounts

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of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 60,000 were involved. When these representations came, those who were in charge thought, that here was a case which should not be pressed and prosecutions should not be proceeded with and money collected at the point of bayonet as it were. He held that even though large amounts were involved their collection should be stayed and that the whole matter should be looked into. All these things will be looked into by the Special Officer in the interests of the collection of the tax itself and if it is rightly due it will be collected.

"The hon. Mr. Leonard is not right in saying that in one breath I said that it would be stayed and in another that it would be collected. It will be collected if it is found rightly due from the particular persons concerned and it will not be collected if it is found that it is not rightly due. Under section 8, Sir, with my little knowledge, I can say that there are all sorts of cases. There are some cases of honest commission agents; there are also others who are pretending to be commission agents but who are really purchasers and sellers. Nobody will deny that there are such cases. Every one of these cases will be gone into. The Special Officer has been asked to see these cases under section 8 so that we may deal with them without delay as large amounts are involved. So it is with the other aspects of the Act.

"It was suggested, Sir, that this Act should be amended, so that differential rates should be considered. This is also one of the points in which direction has been given to the Special Officer. There is no reason why it should be a uniform tax on all, namely, on foodstuffs as well as on luxuries or foreign liquor, as was suggested by one hon. Member. It is a case which deserves consideration that luxurious articles should be taxed at a higher percentage than ordinary articles. These are all aspects in which an amendment to the Act may be necessary and it will be brought in at the right time.

"I can only give this assurance, Sir, to hon. Members of this House that we shall try our best to see that the Act is sought to be amended in a reasonable way so that its provisions are clear and there is no harassment at the hands of officials, and as regards appeals, to see that they are not merely illusory as they were suggested to be.

"Then, Sir, as regards sales-tax on petty traders my submission is this that there is not much justice in the criticisms. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition and some other speakers said that the poor petty trader was hard hit and that he could not keep accounts and so on. I submit, Sir, that in the case of those people who are selling mutton, their case was actually brought before previous Government who went thoroughly into the matter and found that in the case of people with a turnover of over Rs. 10,000 per annum the exemption could not be granted. As a rule they cannot be called petty traders. If their turnover is Rs. 30 per day, I do not think, they should grudge paying Re. 1 per day for keeping a proper clerk

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"It is no excuse saying 'I am an illiterate man'. Ignorance 5 p.m. of traders is not certainly an excuse or reason on which we can exempt any class of people. I may also say that as far as possible in a tax like this, we should not give any exemptions. Recently, even sales to the Government of India have been brought under this tax, so that we may get the maximum revenue possible.

"Then it was said that the tax works heavily on the poor people. The very fact that the merchant classes are so vociferous in their criticism of the Act leads me to suspect that some portion of it is touching their pockets now; otherwise, they would not be saying all this. The collection is from the consumers; but I have reason to believe that though in the beginning of this Act, it fell largely on the consumers, now probably the merchants also are out of pocket; otherwise, they would not be sending so many deputations and making so many representations. (An hon. Member: 'No'.) In that case, I can tell the hon. Friend who says so that they need have no grievance at all and need not waste our time by coming on deputations and making applications. One of the speakers suggested that it was not the consumer that was making so much agitation about this Act as the merchant classes. Let me assure the hon. Mr. Venkateswarlu that we on this side of the House are as much interested, if not more than he, in the poor people. On every question he has been talking of the poor, the poor, and the poor. I can assure him that while he is only one member that represents the poor in that section, we are hundreds of members here on this side, who also represent the very same poor. Talking of the poor on each and every question, I do not know what it all means. It means only propaganda and nothing more." ('Hear, hear.')

* DR. S. SUBRAHMANYA AYYAR:—"I wish the hon. the Speaker will give us, members of the Ministerial Party, an opportunity to answer this point. I do not want to make any aspersions; but we may also be allowed to answer this point."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, is this a tyranny of the majority over an individual who is in a minority of one?"

* THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Then, Sir, one charge was made that the officers of the Commercial Taxes department are not very courteous. I can assure hon. Members that the moment we received this representation—in fact this was one of the charges made by a deputation when I met them in the Andhra Chamber of Commerce—the very next day, we issued an order to all the commercial tax department officers that they should be courteous in their treatment of those who unfortunately have to be taxed. We recognise that the officers of the commercial taxes department must all of them be courteous, and we will see that they collect the taxes in as pleasant a way as possible. If there are any commercial tax officers who do not behave properly, I request hon. Members to bring it to my notice, so that they may be dealt with properly.

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"Then as regards recruitment and representation in those services, it was said there was a great paucity of Muslims. I recognize it is so; that is due to the fact that this department has been on a temporary basis all along. At present, the Board of Revenue is engaged in the task of placing it on a permanent footing. Till now, the method of recruitment was that people were taken in from several departments under a Government order passed several years back. It was not a first recruitment, people were not taken directly into that service at all, but were taken from the Revenue department, the Abkari department—that was a time when Prohibition had been introduced and lots of them were out of employment—and also from the Registration department. Hon. Members are aware how even in those days and now people are taken on the communal ratio in all those three departments. But I do see from the figures that there is not enough representation of the Muslims. I can give figures if my hon. friends want; but I recognize it is not sufficient. This will be a matter which will be looked into when the department is placed on a permanent footing, which will be done after the Board of Revenue frames its proposals. The claim of the Harijans also will be considered in this respect. My friend Mr. Nagappa is rightly insisting upon greater recruitment of Harijans. I can say the Harijans can never be forgotten when the Muslims are being mentioned in this connexion.

"Then Sir, some mention was made about the Electricity department. There is a little misconception here because the only amount included in this demand is the pay of the Chief Electrical Inspector to Government and his staff who are engaged in working the Electricity Act. This department's work is to see whether the provisions of the Act are properly adhered to by the licensee concerns. It is only that section that this demand deals with and it has nothing to do with the supply of electricity to the several areas of the province. I therefore request hon. Members to press their charges, if they desire to do so, when the demand for Electricity comes up and not under this demand.

"There was one thing mentioned about the Entertainments Act, about the bad nature of the films and so on. This also concerns another department altogether. We are now on this demand which concerns the collection of the entertainments tax, which, after keeping 10 per cent of it for collection charges for the Government, is made over to the local bodies including the Corporation of Madras. Therefore, their finances are being enriched to that extent by the increase of 50 per cent in these rates. The question of the proper censoring of the films is a matter, which concerns, as far as I can see, the Police Demand which will come up before the House. That is the proper occasion.

"I submit, Sir, that I have tried to deal as best as I can with the various suggestions and criticisms made. I do not see any connexion between the imposing of a ban on some drama as mentioned by the member Mr. Venkateswarlu and the entertainments tax; there is no connexion. Sir, I have finished."

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* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"The House will remember that just now Dr. Subrahmanyam remarked that the Ministerialists also should be given a chance to speak. In all Legislatures not only in India but even in Europe and in the House of Commons, it is the Opposition that is given more chances than the Ministerialists. I have been giving chances even to the Ministerialists here; but the more important thing is, it should be realized that we have still about 33 Demands more before us, with only eight days for discussing and voting upon them. I hope all of you will co-operate with me and see that all the Demands are taken up and disposed of.

"I now call upon the Hon. the Premier to make a short reply."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I did not wish to say anything now on this Demand, but a few words might help in understanding the position of the Government. About the race course, much has been said, almost with one voice. We in this Government would not hesitate to remove all taxes of that kind, provided you have sufficient scope and strength to get along with the administration. It was said this is a sin money, you must stop it immediately. Sir, this sin money has been collected for such a long time and this country of ours has been getting along with that with protests and even without protests for a good many years. The only consideration, so far as we are concerned, is: if we cut away all the taxes referred to in the debate by hon. Members, what will be the position of the Government? That is the only question that we have to consider. Hon. Members of the House may take it that we are not taking a different view from those who have been urging upon us the removal of this race course business altogether. Personally, I will be the first man to do away with it without taking any other thought if I were alone and if I were free to take any decision. With the help of you all, we are trying to get on with this administration, and I know, however strongly you may criticize, you have also got in your minds the troubles which we on this side are going through and have to go through with your help. Therefore, leave us there and do not press us more just at this moment. As soon as possible, we will be able to do something about this race course business.

"Then about gambling, no sane man will ever support the gambling trade. I know the different places in the City itself where this trade is run, where this gambling is going on, detected or undetected. There are some cases detected, but undetected this trade has been going on on a very large scale in so many places. I may tell you all that we will do our best to put a stop to this gambling business in the City.

"Next about the entertainments tax, these entertainments puzzle some of us at times,—as to how this entertainment business has developed, how it has spread from the city to the remotest villages in the country. You do not know, Sir, how I have been

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feeling when I came across these entertainment buildings, huge buildings built at enormous cost, not in the City, but in the outlying villages in the countryside, not only in towns but in the villages also. And what is the entertainment that is being given in these places? I do not know how far we have been able to regulate this entertainment business in the past. Any regulation to be applied to entertainments should be for entertainments intended for the education and the benefit of the people in the land. On the other hand, it should not be the kind of entertainment we see nowadays, going the wrong way, producing very dangerous results, both in young minds and in the minds of the old.

5-15
p.m.

"Therefore, I may assure you on behalf of all of us that we will look into this entertainment business also. There are entertainments given for educating the masses. Sometimes, these schemes will be very helpful if they are properly regulated and if the masses are given proper education; but you find no such thing. Really you find that some of them will be engaged in entertainments of that sort but the rest will be going on in other directions which must be corrected and regulated as far as possible.

"Sir, we are not for destroying everything, and especially those buildings that are existing to-day. Our anxiety is to see that everything that has been built up must be utilized for the best use of the people and the country in general. That is our desire. It is our desire, Sir, that these buildings that have been built up by the Military during the last so many years for the purpose of carrying on the war should not be disturbed or sold away for a song by the Military authorities or by any higher authorities or by the Government of India; they should not be sold for a cheap price. They are all things that should be first put in the hands of the Provincial Governments ('Hear, hear.') and the Provincial Government must be asked to decide whether they are going to take them up. We want every building and every material that is in Avadi or in every other place in our Province. Therefore, whatever work may have been turned out in those buildings for the future, we would like to do the work which would be most beneficial for the men and women, young and old, of this country. That is our idea about them.

"In regard to entertainments, they have also come up and are functioning to-day. Some of us perhaps would never like them or tolerate them. Those who like to be absolutely puritan may like to pull them down all at once; but we will gradually take up everything and utilize them for the benefit of the people. ('Hear, hear.')

"Then about the sales-tax, Sir. Under the most extraordinary circumstances, the Sales Tax Bill was introduced and the Sales Tax Act was passed and the desire of the then Government was that the sales tax might yield the income required for starting Prohibition in the districts. That was the intention.

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Technically, whether it was earmarked or not, whether it was entered in the registers or not, it makes no difference. That that was the intention is quite clear and that it was intended to be kept apart also is clear; because at one time it was so stated in the records themselves that that money would be set apart for Prohibition. Later on that was changed. As I understood it, the whole thing got mixed up with the general finances. I thoroughly investigated into the matter and so far as I can gather, that is the material that I got in this connexion. In any case, it was the money that was originally intended for Prohibition and we give you an undertaking—as I told you once before on the floor of this House,—we give you an undertaking, that so far as the sales tax money is concerned, we shall try to keep it separate, so that for the future work there will be no difficulty. Though we have started Prohibition—not in four districts but in eight districts—and we are allowing that to be mixed up, there will be a direction that that money from sales tax should be set apart—because the year is coming to an end and the next year, again we have to take up the business—as it was originally intended, and used up for the purpose for which it was originally meant.

"So far as this sales tax is concerned, I tried to know how exactly it works. I also wanted to know simultaneously the working of the tobacco tax. I went to a village some eight miles from Vizianagram. We were talking with the villagers there, about the question of sales tax, how it affected not only big merchants but the consumers in the ordinary sense. There we saw a poor old woman who was sitting there with a little basket in which she was selling cigars and eking out her livelihood. We saw how that woman's business was affected. Since then, I was thinking that the sales tax is an Act in the working of which we must be very careful and wherever difficulties are noticed, they should be removed and wherever there are no difficulties, we can go straight on with the business, because it was intended to affect only those who are in a position to earn and pay. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Karanth has said, the trouble is not so much in the paying of the tax, but those merchants who are called upon to pay do not pay the tax themselves. The difficulty, as I have been able to understand it, not as Minister after I have taken charge here, but even before it, is that the poor people have to pay it.

"Even during these few months, people are running up to me with petitions and say 'we must face facts'. Whenever such cases come up, not one of us in this Government would leave it off; but we are going to the very bottom of it and doing our best to ascertain the exact trouble and to remedy the defects. My own feeling has been, and it has not been removed from my mind, that in the working of the sales tax the trouble is that which those have actually to pay the tax are put to. That has been the real trouble. My hon. Friend has not been able to express in clear terms what the real trouble was. It is not the tax that is due to

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the Government that causes trouble, but the 'other taxes' which he has to pay. I was very sorry to hear that. It will be our endeavour to put a stop to all such things as we go along with this business. We would make a straight taxation which will enable Government to collect straight from those people who are earning money on their own account and there will be no double-accounts and treble-accounts, written by themselves, to deceive themselves, deceive the Government and deceive the people also. These things have been going on. Therefore, Sir, the sales tax has given trouble which cannot be described by those people who have been called upon to pay. There is no question about it. It is just like the black-marketing of the bales of yarn and the bales of cloth which has been going on in another way in this country ever since the food famine and the cloth famine have come into existence. We are doing our best to checkmate these things. In the same manner, we are taking good care to see that so far as the sales tax administration is concerned, it will be done in such a manner that those who have to pay do not suffer. They are not even grumbling to pay these taxes; they say honestly: 'We mean to pay these taxes if we are left alone'. So, it is for us to find out ways and means by which we can give them protection and enable them to pay the tax—not only the $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent or $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent and if conditions demand, it may be even more—because, they earn money for their own sake; they earn money for the sake of their brethren in the country and they earn money for the sake of maintaining the State which gives them protection. Therefore, Sir, we will try to do our best with regard to this matter. No doubt, these are social reform matters; and social reform matters must naturally be solved by the people and the leaders themselves. For everything, the leaders, the party leaders and the leaders of the Unions should not come down upon the Government saying 'You are responsible for all these yourself'. On the other hand, to-day, Sir, matters are reaching a climax. I have been giving warnings whenever I went outside and even on the floor of the House. If the people are not going to take the warnings and feel themselves responsible to help the State but go on creating trouble and making it impossible for the Government to get along, then Government will take care of itself. I may assure those friends,—who are misguided friends—who are the people who think that by this strike or that strike they can floor this Government, they can make it impossible for the Government to run, and that they will be able to occupy the seat of the Government themselves and carry on the administration, let them not go under any such mistaken impression. That is why I stated to some hon. Friends who told me 'You have got the backing', that whether the backing is there or not, it will come when the time comes and that will be shown by the people themselves. Therefore, I appeal to everyone not to run away with that idea. I have been very careful in my expression. I have been very careful in the treatment which the Government gives to others. We have been very careful with these things, and these should not be misjudged as a token of weakness. They

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should not go on creating trouble for themselves and for others also. Every trouble that is created in the country to-day is not a trouble simply for the Government. Government have got its resources; it has got its powers; it has got everything to set right matters if they go wrong. But our anxiety has been not to do things in a careless manner, in a reckless manner but in a measured way. We are giving every opportunity to those who are bent upon creating this trouble. I grant the masses of the people are ignorant. Sometimes those poor people are put to trouble. When the trouble actually comes, there is nobody to give them protection. I am sorry the time is already over. Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, I am finishing my speech.

"In conclusion, I would appeal to all the hon. Members without any exception to give this Government as much help as possible as they have been endeavouring to do hitherto."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I hope the Leader of the Opposition will withdraw the cut motion."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If I am asked expressly by the Hon. the Prime Minister, to withdraw the cut motion, I shall do so."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I ask the hon. the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw his cut motion."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I have great pleasure, Sir, to withdraw the cut motion standing in my name."

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Demand VII was put and carried and the grant was made.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Before we disperse, I wish to remind hon. Members that from Monday onwards, the Assembly will sit till 6 o'clock and if the progress is not satisfactory, I am afraid, the Assembly will have to sit till 7 o'clock or 8 o'clock. It can be done only with the co-operation of the House. (Some hon. Members of the Opposition: 'Cut down the number of speakers.') I appeal to the Hon. the Premier, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Independent Party, and the Leader of the European Group, to co-operate with me in this matter."

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday the 19th August 1946.

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APPENDIX.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 90 asked by Sri A. B. Shetty at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 17th August 1946, page 507 supra.]

List of temples thrown open to Harijans—Vide clause (a) of question No. 83 by Sri A. B. Shetty.

- 1 Sri Anjaneyaswami and Chennakesavaswami temple, Nandikotkur, Kurnool district.
- 2 Sri Anjaneyaswami temple, Bollavaram, Kurnool district.
- 3 Sri Brahadeswarar temple, Tanjore.
- 4 Sri Viswanathaswamy temple, Malapakkam, Mayavaram taluk, Tanjore district.
- 5 Sri Meenakshisundareswarar temple, Madura.
- 6 Sri Kudalagar temple, Madura.
- 7 Sri Sundararajaperumal temple, Valayapatti, Melur taluk, Madura district.
- 8 Sri Kalamoghapurumal temple, Tirumohur, Madura taluk and district.
- 9 Sri Kambaroyaperumal, etc., temples, Cumbum, Periyakulam taluk, Madura district.
- 10 Sri Chockanathaswami temple, Golwarpatti, Sattur taluk, Ramnad district.
- 11 Sri Kuthalanathaswami Devasthanam, Courtallam, Tenkasi taluk, Tinnevely district.
- 12 Sri Kasiviswanathaswami Devasthanam, Tenkasi, Tinnevely district.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, the 19th August 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHAN-MUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Anti-corruption officers.

* 93 Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of M. A. Salam Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the local M.L.As. or at least the M.L.As. of the district will be allowed to know the activities of the anti-corruption officers so that they may help the Government to root out corruption?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The activities of the anti-corruption officers must necessarily be confidential as there is danger of their work being frustrated if there is any publicity."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Which is the machinery which the Government have set up for this anti-corruption work, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"We cannot disclose that either now."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, the number of cases so far booked by this Committee?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Certainly this cannot be given now."

SRI B. ANANTACHAR:—"How should the public get into touch with the Anti-Corruption Committee, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Arrangements are being made to set up non-official district committees who would get into touch with this machinery."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"Is it a fact that only members of the Police Department are chosen as anti-corruption officers; and if so, whether it is not a case of robbers being asked to watch robbers?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Information cannot be given more than what I have said."

MR. F. FERRELLY:—"Is the Prime Minister satisfied that these matters can be kept confidential if non-official committees are taken into their confidence?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"We have taken time to decide that aspect of it and finally we have come to the decision that we must choose non-official committees which will consist of members who will keep confidence and help Government and this House."

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MR. F. FERRELLY:—"Is it the intention of Government that non-official committees shall, in effect, have powers which ought to be properly let to the Police?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"They shall have no powers of their own in the matter."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what procedure has been laid down for members of the public other than the members of the committee to make complaints with regard to any corruption that has taken place?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The public can give the information to the local non-official committee without losing any time and without waiting for the arrival of the official committee."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is not practical for the Government to take this House into its confidence by putting some of us also in that non-official committee?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I did not expect such a question from my hon. Friend Mr. Pocker. This House has a right and authority and it must have the patience and get the work done."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know if everything is kept confidential, how the members of the public may know what they have to do in regard to this matter?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"When it is announced that non-official committees will come into existence, the public will be free to give the information to them, as I have been getting information from the non-official public from day to day, which I have been keeping with me and transmitting to the official machinery."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether Muslims will also be appointed on those non-official committees?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member may know once for all that Muslims will not be excluded from any committee intentionally."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government Order that an official whose reputation is consistently bad wherever he serves, can be punished, will be put into force?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Every Government Order which will be of use will certainly be put into force."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, when these committees are expected to be constituted and to function?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member and others may know that in a way they have already commenced their work, I should say, but you cannot take it that all the other committees have come into existence. There is some delay."

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SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will these anti-corruption officers bear identification cards on themselves to show that they are officers intended for work on this purpose in order that other members of the public posing as such may not cheat other people?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"They may not be carrying on badges on their foreheads or on their chests, but there will be sufficient identification."

SRI GUNTUR NARASIMHA RAO:—"May I know whether anti-corruption officers who have been appointed now have been previously corrupt?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I do not understand the hon. Member. He may go to the microphone and speak more clearly?"

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"How does this confidential machinery differ from the Gestapo, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"My hon. Friend must know it for himself."

SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"May I know, Sir, when the anti-corruption machinery has been set to work and whether the progress made by it so far is satisfactory?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The progress made may be taken as satisfactory even though it has not properly commenced its work."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Has it been brought to the notice of Government that on account of inefficiency and corruption on the part of police officials in the Kistna district a serious situation has arisen and have Government taken any action on it?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Every action has been taken. Perhaps the final stages have not been reached. An enquiry has been set on foot."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Am I to understand that Government have taken measures to prevent any temptation being placed in the way of individuals in order that a case can be made?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Those who offer temptations will not be protected."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact that retired police officials have been appointed as anti-corruption officers?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"As I said previously, this information cannot be given now."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether this anti-corruption committee is a committee or a single officer?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is rather a big machinery. It does not consist of a single officer."

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SRI NEELAM SANJEEVA REDDI:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that one Ganesa Rao, a retired Police officer, who has no honest record of past service has been appointed to this committee?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No information can be given and no hon. Member will be entitled to reflect upon the character of any persons."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is true that members of this House are interfering with the administration of justice in the Kistna district and are bringing pressure upon police officers and intimidating them?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I have no information. Perhaps I may modify the statement and say that several complaints came from several districts and these matters are being investigated into."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Will the Government give an undertaking that the names of the informants who give information about corruption to these non-official committees, will not be revealed?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Whose names, the names of the Committee Members or the names of those who give information?"

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"The names of those non-officials who come forward to give the names of the people who are corrupt."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Certainly. They would be asked not to disclose the information."

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMA AYYAR:—"May I know what are the powers delegated to the anti-corruption officers; are they given magisterial powers or do they act as the Scotland Yard Officers in England in detecting crime?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member may wait for some more time before any information can be given on this subject either. He will have every information when the time comes."

M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state whether a machinery has been evolved to prevent corruption among anti-corruption officers?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Every care has been taken and necessary action will be taken if any specific information is forthcoming."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, when the report of this anti-corruption committee will be made available to this House?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"As soon as the work is completed."

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MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the procedure for detecting crime by these anti-corruption officers will differ in any way from the procedure laid down in the Criminal Procedure Code and other departmental rules and orders?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Every care will be taken to see that the procedure adopted will not be inconsistent with the procedure under law, either under the Criminal Procedure Code or the several other Acts and Codes that are in existence."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Government assure the House that the non-official committee will not consist of persons having political prejudices against other political parties?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Good care will be taken to see that no distinction will be made between offender and offender."

SRI K. SUBBA RAO:—"Will the Government assure the public that people who give evidence will be protected?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"We now pass on to the next question."

Poor patients from mufassal.

* 94 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of poor patients belonging to the mufassal when they are discharged from the hospitals are compelled by sheer poverty to go about begging during their convalescence because there is no Convalescent Home for them; and

(b) the measures that the Government propose to take to help such unfortunate persons?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) Sufficient care is taken to see that poor patients are properly cared for, on discharge from the Government hospitals in the city. When destitute patients are not likely to benefit by further medical treatment and yet are too infirm to earn a livelihood in Madras, the Medical Officer in charge of the hospital reports the matter to the Police who provide a conveyance and detail a constable to accompany European and Anglo-Indian paupers to the Friend-in-need Society's Home and Indian paupers to the Monegar Choultry after the Medical Officer had previously ascertained that accommodation is available for the patients. Sick paupers found in a state of exhaustion due to starvation and requiring help are admitted to the nearest hospital. The Medical Officers in charge should admit them and hand them over to the Police when they are in a fit state to be discharged. Poor patients in the mufassal requiring special treatment are sent to Madras and after the treatment is over they are sent back to

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the mufassal, their to and fro charges being met by Government. The question of providing additional accommodation for destitutes suffering from incurable diseases is under consideration."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Will the Hon. the Minister consider the desirability of establishing a convalescent home for these unfortunate people?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The suggestion will be considered."

SRI T. S. PATTABHIRAMAN:—"Will the Government arrange for opening poor houses throughout the Presidency?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"That question does not arise."

Labour disputes settled by the present Ministry.

* 95 Q.—SRI A. B. SHETTY: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state the number of labour disputes which have been settled since the present Ministry assumed office?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Eighty-six trade disputes have been settled since the present Ministry assumed office. These include 13 cases in which conciliation or adjudication was ordered."

SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government are proposing to introduce any legislative measures for the settlement of industrial disputes like the one they have in Bombay?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, whether the number given in the answer includes the dispute that arose between landlords and agriculturists in Tanjore?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state if in any of the cases the Government was not able to accept the report of the conciliator?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Generally in all cases the report of the conciliator has been accepted."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know in how many cases the Government have rejected the conciliator's report?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"None, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, why the recommendation of the adjudicator was not enforced in the dispute in Tanjore?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"There were some legal difficulties."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether in regard to the Spencer dispute the Government was able to accept the report of the conciliator?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Exactly."

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SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, what action has been taken by the Government to settle the dispute between the municipal workers and the Madras Corporation?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"The Government have appointed a conciliation board."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, when the award has been given by the adjudicator and the Government does not enforce the adjudication, what is the purpose of appointing the adjudicator?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Ordinarily the adjudication is accepted and executed unless there are legal difficulties."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"When there is a possibility of not accepting the conciliator's findings, is it not always better that an adjudicator should be appointed so that both the parties may be bound by it?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"It is generally accepted."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I know, Sir, whether considering the fact that the roots of these troubles are traceable to the economic order of the present-day life, there is any proposal for socialising industries?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"That is too big a question to be answered at question time."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is not advisable, instead of making the parties impatient and wasting time by appointing a conciliator, even in the first instance, to appoint an adjudicator?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Settlement of disputes by conciliation is better than settling them by adjudication."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"May I know why the Government moved so slowly in the matter of appointing a conciliator in connexion with the scavengers strike, in that the conciliator was appointed 29 days after the notice had been given?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"We do not accept the statement."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Is it a fact that Guntur Municipality had agreed to Rs. 21 per mensem as wages excluding other allowances in order to effect a settlement of the strike of the municipal workers there?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"We have no information."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government have considered whether there is any real reason besides the ostensible ones that are being put forward by labourites?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I am thankful to the Hon. Member for the information."

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SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Is it not a fact that Communists are behind most of these strikes and are making conciliation impossible by putting up impossible demands?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I take the information from the hon. Member."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know what has become of the adjudication in the dispute between the Pallavaram tannery workers and the management?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I do not know if it is an adjudicator's award. It is a conciliator's report."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister knows that labour which is led by so-called Communists to-day were led by Congressmen themselves during the Adviser's regime?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"That question does not arise."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Seeing that the owners of the Pallavaram tannery are not respecting the report of the conciliator and the fact has come to the notice of the Government, may I know what action the Government are taking to settle the dispute?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"We are trying to see how the settlement can be effected."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the decision of the conciliator is not heeded by the workmen and not by the owners?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I think the information is correct."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the experience of the Hon. Minister ever since he assumed office of the numerous strikes that have been taking place, is the Hon. Minister considering any legislative measure in order to prevent the epidemic of strikes?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Yes, Sir."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Do the Government propose to fix a decent minimum wage level by means of legislation so that strikes may be avoided?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"We are considering that question as well."

MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Will the Hon. the Minister let us know Government's view on the provision of funds for the strikers by the Corporation?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Notice."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that as early as January this year, there was a

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notice of strike by the scavengers and the Civic Committee addressed the Government on the appointment of a conciliator?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"We were not in office then. But a month's notice was given recently."

SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"Are the Government aware that the wages of the tannery workers are scandalously low?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I cannot say."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"In regard to the Tanjore dispute may I know, Sir, whether the Government have been able to overcome the legal difficulties at least now?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"We are thinking of it."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOWNDER:—"May I know, Sir, whether in view of the introduction of Prohibition in Coimbatore and other districts, labour trouble is brewing between the toddy tappers and the contractors?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"We must face the problem as it arises."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOWNDER:—"May I know Sir, whether the Government would forestall the trouble by taking immediate action?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"When we know what the trouble is, certainly we shall do everything possible even to forestall it."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether some of the Members of the Treasury Benches were themselves leaders of strikes in the past?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I do not know anything about it."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know if the Labour Minister was not himself leader in the Railwaymen's strike?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I am not sorry for it, Sir."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether legislation concerning agrarian and industrial labour also is before the Government?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Yes, Sir."

M. A. SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know how many days after strike notice a conciliator was appointed regarding the scavenger dispute?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"As soon as the strike notice was given, there was a conference of three Ministers, myself, the Minister for Local Self-Government and Public Health. We have had discussions about it and we also consulted our hon. Friend opposite Mr. Venkateswarlu."

"As regards the number of days we have taken, I may say we have taken only so many days as were necessary."

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SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know if in the Andhra area the conciliator was appointed after twenty-nine days of the strike notice?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"The hon. Member must understand that so far as the scavengers dispute is concerned, it is a thing extending from Madras to Ganjam."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether in the matter of the tannery dispute such legislators as are interested in tanneries will be taken into consultation?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"Yes, certainly."

Bifurcation of studies.

* 96 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) in what stage the question of bifurcation of studies is at present;

(b) whether the recommendations of the Education Sub-Committee of the Post-war Reconstruction Committee in regard to bifurcation of studies will be implemented; and

(c) whether the Government have considered the desirability of framing suitable rules and regulations in regard to appointments in schools?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"(a) The details of the scheme are being worked out.

"(b) They will be considered when the detailed scheme is submitted to Government for approval.

"(c) No. The question will be taken up after the detailed scheme is drawn up."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, the following words, 'so as to encourage more students to take to the arts courses of study' appear to have been omitted. I am not sure if it is a printing mistake and I wish to bring it to your notice."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Questions as they are admitted appear in the order paper. It is possible that that portion might have been disallowed by me as containing an argument or as contravening the rules bearing on the admission of starred questions. I shall look into the question."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Wardha Scheme is much more useful and is much cheaper than the scheme of bifurcation recommended by the previous Government?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"This is a post-Wardha scheme education."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know whether it is a fact that the scheme has been prepared and has been ready for the past several years?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

No, Sir."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Is it not a fact that the late Sir Meveral Statham prepared a comprehensive scheme about the bifurcation of studies?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"Not so far as I am aware."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know in what stage the report of the Education Sub-Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee is; whether it has been submitted to the Government and with whom the report is pending consideration? What decision the Government have taken on it?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"Outlines of the scheme have been submitted and the details are being worked out."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIAR OF CHETTINAD:—

"Arising out of the answer to clause (b) of the question, Sir, may I ask the Hon. Minister for Education to place on the table of the House a copy of the report?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"It can be had in the library."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is not a fact that the Wardha Scheme covers both primary, secondary and high-school education so that a girl or boy will get Matriculation knowledge by seven years' training and also have a good knowledge of Hindustani?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"No, Sir. As far as I am aware, the Wardha Scheme has been worked only up to the basic education, that is, up to 14 years."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether it would not be advantageous if Government placed on the table of the House the recommendation of the Education Sub-Committee and also the Wardha Scheme, so that members of the House may know what is what?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"It is not necessary, Sir. They are available in the Library of the Legislature and they can be had for the mere asking."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister consider the advisability of consulting such interests as would be able to help him in coming to a decision which will be satisfactory to those interests before Government take steps, so that there may not be the necessity of withdrawing it afterwards?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—

"I do not know what the hon. Member means. If he means public opinion should be taken in the matter, the suggestion will be considered."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know, Sir, by what time the Scheme will be ready and whether the Scheme will be placed before the House? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—" It is expected that the Scheme will be ready before the next budget is framed."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are training the necessary personnel for introducing the bifurcation of studies? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—" The scheme must be ready before we know what training should be given to the personnel."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will Government be pleased to appoint a committee of expert educationists and consult them before coming to a conclusion on an important subject like education? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—" I am at a loss to understand the difficulty of my hon. Friend. The expert committee has already submitted the report. It is available in the Library, and he can see it for himself."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know what objection has the Hon. Education Minister to associate or consult Members of this House, who represent different interests or different cultures? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—" I have absolutely no objection to consult them on such an important point when necessary."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Hon. Minister for Education accept our heartiest congratulations for that statement? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—" I must congratulate the hon. Member for coming forward with that now." (Laughter.)

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" With reference to (c), Sir, may I know whether the Government are aware that one of the chief reasons for congestion in colleges is that a majority of students take to science courses? "

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—" I do not understand the relevancy of that question to this."

M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—" On a point of order, Sir, in view of his age, would it not be in order to permit the Hon. Premier to sit and answer questions and reply to debate? " (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—" If the Hon. Premier wants permission to sit and answer questions, I have no objection. Any Member, if he is sick, may apply for permission and I have no objection to give it."

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N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" As Members of the Opposition, we want to be most considerate to the Hon. Premier, who is now in the winter of his old age." (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKER:—" I have no objection to give, if he wants."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I may assure hon. Members that the Prime Minister would not be in need of the concession or the privilege of sitting and answering questions before any of the other younger Members of the House requires it." (Laughter.)

[N.B.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the member.]

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1946-47.

DEMAND VIII—IRRIGATION.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

"that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 1,60,68,700 in respect of the head Irrigation. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 5,78,016."

"As hon. Members would have noted, particulars about this demand are to be found in pages 64-67 of the Budget Memorandum and in pages 47-55 of the Detailed Budget Estimate."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib, I move—

"to reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,60,68,700 for Irrigation by Rs. 100."

In doing so, I wish to restrict my speech to only one grievance, namely, the urgent necessity for providing irrigation facilities to the West Coast area. For the last decade or even a century, I may say, proper attention has not been paid to Malabar with regard to irrigation; because there was a wrong belief that Malabar was favoured by the monsoon and so it does not need any attention in the matter of irrigation. In fact, while crores and crores were spent. I do not say, they are sufficient, on other parts of the Province, both Tamil and Andhra districts, not a pie was spent on Malabar previously. It is all due to the wrong belief that Malabar does not require any attention under irrigation. In fact, even this theory has been exploded long ago; investigation has already been made on the advisability or necessity of irrigation facilities in Malabar, and those reports are now lying dust-laden in the shelves of the Secretariat. Of course, the previous Government had entirely neglected Malabar. When

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the Congress Ministry came into power in 1937 some further inquiries were made, and I understand that not less than ten schemes were prepared but no effect was given to them. I understood the other day the Hon. Minister for Public Works was taking up some of these schemes and paying some attention to them. I would request special attention should be bestowed on the West Coast in view of the fact that it had been neglected in the past.

"The other point which I would like to mention is about the inadequacy of Muslim representation in the Public Works Department. Of course, this is a matter about which we, on this side, have to repeat on every cut motion. In view of the fact that figures are not available on this subject I am unable to make any detailed criticism. So I would content myself by urging that adequate representation should be given to Muslims in the Public Works Department as per the communal Government Order. With these few words, Sir, I move the cut motion."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting the cut motion that has been moved by Mr. Pocker I wish to say just a few words on a very important thing that affects both the City of Madras and the District of Kurnool. Before I do so, I wish to state that the Government of Madras have not been giving that amount of attention to the question of irrigation, and particularly, to major works in this Province, which they ought to. Year after year a major portion of the allotment under Irrigation has been spent on maintenance and on small improvements. I find from the Budget, if my calculation is correct, even this year, the amount allotted for major works does not go beyond 20 per cent of the total amount under the Demand. As I said, most of the amount is sought to be spent on maintenance and minor improvements. A good portion of the amount that is spent on Irrigation is productive; for Government get back the amount invested by way of land revenue under another account. So I do not see any reason why, particularly in view of the fact that we have such bumper revenues in the recent few years, Government should not allot more money for major works which have been awaiting completion for years and years.

"There is no work of the type of Mettur or of similar works so far as the Ceded Districts are concerned. It is true that after many years of dispute and negotiations, the Tungabhadra Project has been undertaken. That project is likely to help only a portion of the Ceded districts. There are other districts in that very unfortunate area in this Presidency which require the attention of Government in order that those districts will be improved to such an extent that they will not any longer be famine areas as they have been in the past. I hope, Sir, that this Government, unlike the previous Government, will take a bold step and venture and try to see something done radically in order to save these districts from the famine that has been there in the past years. On account of the peculiar nature

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of these districts, the irrigation works that have to be undertaken and completed in these districts will be very different from those in other areas. We have delta areas where the Government finds it easy to carry out irrigation works. Whatever undertaking is found difficult that is kept off for a future date. That ought not to be the policy. Major projects in Kurnool and other Ceded districts should be taken up so that they may help the people of those areas in the most adequate manner. In the neighbouring areas, for instance, Nizam's Dominions, the Government knows that colossal amounts have been spent on major irrigation projects, on sagars which have been very useful in cultivation and other things so far as the Nizam's Dominions are concerned, during the last ten years. We cannot say the same with regard to the neighbouring areas in the Ceded districts so far as the Madras Government is concerned."

(At this stage, Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin assumed the Chair.)

"Coming to the City of Madras, it is indeed very unfortunate that we have the rotten Buckingham Canal passing through the City, and no notice has been taken so far of this Buckingham Canal, which is supposed to be a navigable canal. Anybody who lives in Triplicane, or anybody, who passes along the new road that is put up by the side of the Women's Hospital, will know the awful and deplorable condition in which this canal has been allowed to lie all these years. It is not only a very old type of canal in the big, advanced City of Madras, but it is responsible for emanating odours which are very objectionable and unwholesome particularly to the patients who are in the Gosha Hospital. Then we have got the famous Cooum. This is an eye-sore and a thing which will be a disgrace to any civilized Government or to any city. It has been allowed to lie like this for ages, and the view that the Government of Madras has been taking that it is the duty of the Madras Corporation to attend to it is wrong. On the other hand, the Cooum has to be attended to by the Provincial Government itself. Although that was the case, the Madras Corporation has spent a couple of lakhs of rupees in order to excavate certain places and tried to see whether it cannot be improved. I do not know to what extent that improvement will be lasting and effective, but yet I believe that it is the duty of the Government of Madras to see that this very urgent, and important, and necessary matter is attended to without any further delay.

"So far as the district of Kurnool is concerned, there are four or five important projects which are unattended to for many years, and which, I hope, the Government of Madras will see that they are taken up as early as possible.

"The question of representation of Muslims in the Irrigation department has been referred to by Mr. Pocker already. Although the number of qualified Muslims in engineering has increased, on account of the various rules that have been made regarding the recruitment, it has not been possible for the Government to

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entertain qualified Muslims in the services. In the case of Muslims and Scheduled classes, this department of engineering ought to give a helping hand and so that they may come up, and inequalities that exist in the department between one community and another may be removed as soon as possible.

“With these words, Madam Chairman, I support the cut motion.”

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Madam Chairman, if the war has done one good thing, it is the fact that on account of food shortage our eyes have been sufficiently opened, wide enough, to realize the urgent need for the extension of irrigation in this Province. This Government has taken this matter in right earnest, and we are glad to see that the Minister concerned is taking a very active and keen interest not only in the matter of major irrigation projects, but in extending the minor irrigation projects all over the Province. In this connexion I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister pointedly to the fact that apart from this question of major irrigation projects, South Kanara has been neglected all along even in the matter of minor irrigation projects. I do not know why all the Governments in the past have neglected this district and have, so to say, completely forgotten its irrigational needs. Before the war, Government was under the wrong impression that South Kanara district was a surplus district. That myth has now become exploded, and to-day the district of South Kanara is not at all a surplus district and not even a self-sufficient district, but a deficit district. That is the real position of South Kanara. But what has been done so far with regard to the problem of irrigational facilities, even the smallest irrigational facilities in the district of South Kanara? So far as I know there is not one single minor irrigation project that has been put through by the Government so far. I feel hopeful that this Government will pay the attention that is necessary to this district in the matter of extending the irrigational facilities. It is at the tail end of the Presidency and no doubt it is impotent and powerless. But that does not mean that Government should neglect it. It is a narrow strip of territory lying between the Western Ghats and the sea. From the ghats to the sea it is 25 to 30 miles wide. The rivers flow down into the sea. There is heavy rainfall no doubt, but all the rain water goes to the sea and goes to waste. There are many catchment areas between the hills and on the hill-sides. If the Government should only make up its mind to dam these rivers and to bund up the catchment areas, we can have reservoirs of water for not only extending the area of cultivation in the district but also for growing double crops. All these possibilities are there if only the Government would pay a little attention to this district which is far away from the headquarters of the Province. I would, therefore, request the Public Works Minister to pay a visit to this district and find out for himself by visiting certain areas the possibility of pushing through the minor irrigation projects. There is one irrigation scheme before the Government

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now, and that is what is called the Shiriyas Irrigation Scheme. It is in the Kasargod taluk. The original estimate prepared by the Engineer, I am told is Rs. 7,00,000, and I am also told that it is possible to reduce this estimate to half the amount. I am sure the Minister and the Government as a whole will interest themselves in this scheme and see that the project is put through within the shortest time, at any rate by the end of 1947. I do not wish to say anything more with regard to this matter. I support the cut motion moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Pocker.”

* MUHAMMAD RAFAEUDIN AHMED ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Madam Chairman, I would like to endorse the statement made by my hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan that the Government is not paying as much attention to this department as it ought to. It is quite possible that this matter may not be of the same propaganda value as subjects like rural reconstruction, khadi, or Harijan uplift, but I may assure the House that it is of the greatest importance to the agriculturists who form the backbone of this Province. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to pay more attention to this subject than it has hitherto done. The state in which the irrigation canals are kept, particularly in Nellore district is, to say the least, scandalous. They are overgrown with weeds and are silted up, and whatever water is allowed through these canals does not reach the fields on account of the neglected way in which these canals are kept. I would like the Hon. Minister to pay special attention to the proper upkeep of the irrigation canals. The Kanigiri reservoir is now silted up to an extent of more than 9 feet. The Nellore tank is in the same bad condition. I emphasize the fact that Government, instead of embarking upon new projects, should pay more attention to the existing sources of irrigation and keep them in proper repair. I also would like to draw the attention of Government to the Mopad Project in the Kandukur Division of the Nellore district. We were told that that project had been a failure. We do not know why that has been a failure. I would like the Minister to examine it and let us know what was the real reason for the failure and whether it is not really possible to improve the project and make it really successful. With these words, I support the cut motion.”

* SRI P. VENKATESWARLU:—“Madam Chairman, in supporting the cut motion, I want to bring to the notice of the House that we have to consider irrigation in the light of the food scarcity that is facing us. We were told times out of number that our food problem had become serious. Our Food Minister is going from Madras to Delhi and Delhi to Madras to get supplies. What about the irrigation projects? How far have we fulfilled our duty? You are aware that no fresh land has been brought under cultivation. At least after the next two years, can we have our 16 ounces of ration, which has been cut to 8 ounces now? These are problems which we have to take into consideration when we are planning our irrigation budget. That is why the first item on the agenda should be the irrigation problem. Unless it is solved

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satisfactorily, our food problem will become worse. So my humble suggestion is that the Ministry must give immediate consideration to the carrying out of minor irrigation schemes. As my hon. Friend Mr. Pocker has pointed out, not a single scheme has been taken up in the Malabar district. This is a sorrowful state of things. Even schemes for which estimates were ready were not taken up, but left in the lurch, and the schemes that were actually taken up were not fulfilled. For schemes that have been accepted, all the required funds are not being reserved, that is we are adopting the same old policy of doing bit by bit. This policy must go. The Ministry must come forward boldly to take up all the minor irrigation schemes at least, so that we may be able to produce sufficient food not only for us but also for the starving people in other parts of the country. For that, all the minor irrigation schemes must be taken up.

As regards taking up of irrigation schemes, I remember very well the Hon. Prime Minister saying in his reply to the general discussion on the Budget that it was humanly impossible to finish the Kamapadasagara Scheme. If the Government have a mind to finish it, we are prepared to supply all the human labour. (The Hon. Sri T. Prakasam: 'Who said, Sir, that it was humanly impossible to finish that project?') The Hon. Premier said that it was humanly impossible, when I suggested that these schemes must be taken up and finished. That was the reply that I got. Whether that has been put in the paper, I cannot now say. Apart from that, if you agree that it is humanly possible, what I suggest is that it must be taken up immediately and finished without any further delay. In this connexion, I would like to bring to the notice of the House a statement made by Sir S. V. Ramamurti, then an Adviser of the Madras Government, that the Government had up till then spent 200 crores of rupees on famine relief in the Rayalaseema districts, whereas had the construction of the Tungabhadra Project been taken up in 1857, about two crores of rupees would have been sufficient. So much money has been wasted, and people are still dying of famine. What I wish to bring to the notice of the House, is by this piecemeal policy of not taking up any schemes completely, not only can we not save our people from starvation and death, but our money will also be wasted. About one crore of rupees is going to be spent for famine relief. What I suggest is that this one crore of rupees be expended upon minor irrigation works in Rayalaseema, so that we can help the people there, instead of spending it for breaking stones in Rayalaseema hillocks. I like to bring to the notice of the House cases where estimates having been prepared provision was not made, or where provision was made, it was in a halting manner. For instance, the Pedalanka Scheme was estimated to cost Rs. 13,80,000 whereas only Rs. 3,50,000 was provided. At this rate of providing Rs. 3,50,000 every year, I do not know how many years it will take to finish the scheme, and how long the famine, which is staring at us, is going to last. Famine is not going to wait; it will kill us if we do not finish our schemes quickly and save our people. The Komaragiripatnam Scheme had been

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estimated to cost Rs. 85,000, but only Rs. 20,000 had been spent. So many similar schemes can be brought to the notice of the House, but I will mention only one more. That is in Penukonda which is declared as a famine area. It is the Kanduleru Project which the officers promised would be taken up but it has not at all been taken up. I suggest that the Government must take up all these schemes immediately and then only we can feed our people well and save them."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Madam Chairman, I hail from a district which suffers from the paralysis of the Palar. For generations ours has been a cry in the wilderness, and I believe Heaven only knows when the Palar will discover its godfather. Will that distinction be reserved for the Hon. Minister for Public Works now, who passes through my constituency ever so many times, even though the Palar looks down upon him with contempt (laughter). If only he pays his attention to this need which is long overdue, all the agriculturists of the North Arcot district will be bound in deep debt of gratitude to him for ever and ever. To them, the Palar is their life blood. I am only sorry to say that all these generations, we have been having only lip sympathies. We do not think that there is any such thing as irrigation so long as we see that the Palar is as dry as dryness can be.

"Every time we offer suggestions from this side of the House, we always get this retort from the other side that they have no finance. It has been the bane of our public finance that every scheme of reconstruction is allowed to shipwreck on the rock of finance. We have no bold ventures. We always aim at conservative principles of balanced budgeting and we want to confine within the four corners of that balanced budget, all our schemes for uplift. I would only urge upon this Ministry, that if they have the interests of the people in the countryside at heart, they should by borrowing go ahead with schemes particularly with such productive irrigation schemes as the Palar and give us their blessings and see that our constituencies smile with plenty. I see that, with all their enthusiasm for rural uplift, they are always feeling that they cannot go one step further beyond their balanced budget. I want that they should banish from their thoughts this restrictionist mentality and see that they really try to implement the programme which they have offered to the electorate."

(At this stage Mr. Speaker resumed the Chair.)

"Mr. Sneaker, Sir, I only suggest that, particularly when the Ceded Districts have been given the alluring prospects of the Tungabhadra Project, there should be no step-motherly treatment so far as North Arcot is concerned.

"We would like to see a really bold step for economic self-sufficiency taken by this Ministry by encouraging major irrigation schemes such as the Palar. When I go to constituencies round about North Arcot, I always feel as an eye-sore that unfortunately the benefits of such wonderful irrigation facilities should have been denied to my district all these generations. I only want

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a specific pronouncement from the Hon. Minister for Public Works that he will give us during his regime the fruits of his endeavours. We shall welcome him with all our hearts into our district only when that Palar is in full swing. Not until then. We would ask him to get back, clear out, never come, unless he gives us the Palar which is the life blood of our agriculturists!"

* K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker Sir, I rise to speak in support of the cut motion moved by the hon. Member, Mr. Pocker, though there is an almost identical motion standing in my name to urge on the attention of the Government the necessity for irrigation works in the taluks of Ernad and Walluvanad in Malabar. I avail myself of this opportunity to make my observations on this subject without moving the cut motion standing in my name. As my hon. Friend, Mr. Pocker, has said, West Coast has been very much neglected in the matter of irrigation. As far as Malabar is concerned, I understand that some time back there was even a superstition that there was no scope for any irrigation work in the district. The last Congress Ministry had overcome that superstition, and I understand that they were having as many as ten irrigation projects for Malabar. Not one of these has been put into operation till now, and it is a very very sad commentary on the policy of the Government in carrying out schemes which they devised after representations from the people for a long time. In fact, the taluks of Ernad and Walluvanad account for a very high percentage of population in the Malabar district, and there are considerable areas under cultivation of paddy which require minor irrigation facilities, particularly in the matter of construction of anicuts for storing water and putting up of bunds for preventing the salt water entering the upper courses of the rivers and contaminating the water and damaging all attempts at effective cultivation. In the Kadalundi river for example, on account of the onrush of salt water through the Canoly river, great difficulties are experienced by the ryots with the result that they are compelled to make their own arrangements for putting up bunds in the Canoly canal and preventing salt water from damaging their crops. Even last year, I understand, the ryots had to make their own arrangements without any assistance from the Government. These are matters in which by the Government extending help to the ryots, the productive capacity of the area under cultivation can be multiplied. When I tried to elicit information by means of an interpellation as to whether there were early possibilities of irrigation facilities being extended to Malabar, the answer which I got was that the matter was under investigation. When I enquired about the agency doing the investigation, I was told that it was the Public Works Department. I was not satisfied with the reply because if the Public Works Department were to do the investigation in its own time-honoured way, there was no prospect of any immediate or useful result coming out of such investigation. Unless the investigation is entrusted to a special agency created for the purpose, there is no prospect of any immediate or useful recommendations

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being submitted to the Government. In fact, every river in Malabar has possibilities of minor irrigation works. Bunds, anicuts and such other works might be constructed by the Government. The result will be that the paddy produce that we are now having in Ernad and Walluvanad can be multiplied tenfold or even more. There is a crying need for increasing the output of foodgrains in every district. The fact that Malabar is a deficit area in the matter of food, depending for its foodgrains on outside districts and Provinces, and an area where famine was threatened are well-known. Conditions in Malabar attracted the attention of the Central Government, with the result that rationing of foodgrains was introduced in that district much earlier than in other districts. Considering all these facts, in the matter of irrigation, Malabar should certainly come in for the careful consideration of the Government. There should be no delay in deciding upon and executing the necessary works. As I have said before, there were as many as ten schemes for Malabar up the sleeves of the last Congress Ministry. I do not know whether they exhausted the schemes that will benefit Ernad and Walluvanad taluks. In fact, in Ernad and Walluvanad taluks, the productive capacity of the land has attained its maximum level by the operation of the inexorable laws of economics. No further production can be expected from the lands there except by the provision of extra irrigation facilities by the Government or by the adoption of scientific methods of cultivation, which the authorities must propagate in the district. The yielding capacity of the land has come to stay. If any further produce is to be expected irrigation facilities of a major or minor kind to improve cultivation have to be provided. With these observations, I would urge again on the Government the necessity of taking up works of irrigation in Malabar immediately, particular consideration being given to the needs of the taluks of Ernad and Walluvanad. What I understood from the statement of the Hon. Minister was, that there was a scheme of irrigation for the Palghat taluk, but I never heard anything relating to Ernad and Walluvanad. If Government has already not got any idea of extending irrigation facilities to Ernad and Walluvanad, it is high time that the matter should come up for the attention of the Government. I also urge upon the Government, the necessity for appointing more Muslims in this department. I have regretfully to say that here as in other departments, the Muslim representation has to be made adequate."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are very grateful to the Premier for his observations in regard to the question of irrigation during his budget speech. It is stated that the Government are considering the revision of their irrigation policy. We take it that this is an earnest of what they would do in the matter of irrigation. It is stated in the speech of the Premier, that the Government are examining certain projects which were abandoned by the previous Government on the ground that they were not yielding the minimum return. It was also stated that minor irrigation works would be

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attended to. We therefore take it that the revised policy would be to extend irrigation projects all over the country. We have not been told the scope and the extent of this revised policy definitely. If only we could utilize 30 or 40 per cent of the water that falls in the form of rain in this Presidency we could extend cultivation of food crops. It is too late in the day to delay taking steps to provide sufficient food to make the Presidency self-sufficient. In the past, on account of some imports in this Presidency, we neglected the cultivation of land and there were no comprehensive schemes in the past. It was only in 1850 there were some major irrigation works especially in Godavari and Kistna. A tribute is due to that Engineer, Sir Arthur Cotton, whose vision brought these two river systems into existence which are responsible for feeding the other districts. What is necessary now for this Government is to take a bold and comprehensive policy, make a survey of the entire province, and estimate the probable expenditure. Most of the expenditure is going to be very profitable as the projects of Kistna and Godavari are. Those are paying I am told 18 per cent now. It would not be against rules to borrow money—perhaps you can spend the accumulated balances also. I do not know why this Government should fight shy of raising loans even to the extent of 500 lakhs, if necessary. A bold policy like that to augment water-sources and extend irrigation in such a way that there will be no scarcity of food is very necessary and urgent. The Government have been in office only for the last three months. But the Prime Minister has given a sort of idea of what he along with the Minister for Public Works is going to do. When I went through the pages of his speech and the Memorandum of the Secretary and the detailed Irrigation Budget I do not think there was any indication that their policy was on these lines. I wish I were wrong. I would like the Irrigation Minister to come out and give an assurance that he would pursue a very bold policy in this connexion so that we may not depend upon other foreign countries including other provinces. That should be the aim. Everybody should pursue that aim. I take it that they want to revise the irrigation policy. Their ideas are tending towards that. One particular point with regard to my district I wish to mention is about a small stream called Godameru.

12-30
p.m.

“Sir, we have got there a small stream named Buddameru, but all the same, it is so wild that if it is not controlled it would create havoc and destroy the lands on either side of it during the rainy season. During floods, it not only inundates the adjoining fields, but also interferes with the drainage works down below. It empties itself into the Kollar lake, in a way that the lake swells to such a height that it is impossible for it to drain off the water from the fields, so much so that a good portion of the Kistna district gets flooded. As you know, Sir, irrigation without drainage facilities will not help cultivation of lands. I was told some four or five years ago that the Government were contemplating a scheme known as the Kolleru Lake Drainage Scheme by which it was intended to shut out the Buddameru river flowing into the Kolleru lake and also to harness its waters for purposes of irrigation. If

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that is done, many thousands of acres of land will not get inundated and will be made fit for cultivation. I was also told that that scheme would be very remunerative. There is no mention of that scheme at all in the Budget. It is high time, Sir, that this scheme is taken up, which would not only prevent the scourge of inundation, but will also bring a large extent of land under cultivation.

“I am very glad to note that the Pollavaram or the Ramapadasagara Project is going to be taken up. My only request to the Government is that this should be speeded up. I also congratulate the Ministry for taking up a number of other irrigation projects in the near future and for their bold policy of extending irrigation facilities throughout the length and breadth of this province. If this is done, there is no reason why we should suffer for want of food in future.”

* SRI A. B. SHETTY:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the announcement made by the Prime Minister the other day in his Budget speech that the Government are considering the revision of their irrigation policy, must have been welcomed by all sections of this House. It is very necessary that the Government should consider the desirability of taking up irrigation schemes from the point of view of the benefit that they confer on the ryots, even though such schemes may not bring a sufficient financial return to the Government. The other day at question time it was asked whether tube-wells are being put up under the subsidy scheme for purposes of irrigation. We were told that the tube-well irrigation schemes have been tried with good results in the United Provinces. It is necessary that this Government should investigate whether conditions are favourable in this province for installing tube-wells for irrigation purposes. The Famine Enquiry Commission, in their report, have drawn attention to the fact that in the United Provinces they have found it economically feasible to lift water from deep-set rivers on to higher ground by means of pumps worked by electricity and take the water to lower areas for irrigation purposes. Projects of this nature may be found particularly suitable in places like Malabar and South Kanara where the land is uneven and obstructed by hills and dales. Private wells and tanks, as we all know, form an important source of irrigation. There is great scope for increasing the number of such wells and tanks. The present subsidy scheme is meant to be only a short-term measure. It would be very desirable to have a long-term project for increasing the number of wells and tanks for irrigation purposes with Government help. It would also be very useful if a sub-soil water-supply investigation is made. Then the Government will be in a position to give technical advice to ryots who want to construct wells and tanks as to where they can dig such wells and tanks with greater probability of finding water. The Government should employ a special staff for this purpose. This staff should not wait for the agriculturists to come and ask for advice in the matter of sinking wells and tanks, but should go to the people in the villages and offer all the technical advice and assistance they can and thus encourage the ryots to construct more wells and tanks for irrigation purposes.

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"The hon. Members representing Malabar have put in a strong plea for government undertaking at least minor irrigation works in that district. South Kanara has also been suffering along with Malabar in this respect. The Government have not paid sufficient heed to the demands made by these two districts for a long time. Not even the emergency schemes sanctioned by the Central Government for irrigation purposes in connexion with the 'Grow More Food' campaign have been taken up in these two districts. Of course, the usual plea put forward by Government is that we are having abundant rainfall and therefore there is no necessity for irrigation works in these districts. Abundant rainfall, Mr. Speaker, often does more harm than good. The lands lying on either side of rivers get often flooded during heavy rains, with the result that the crops are destroyed. Heavy rains coming down the ghats bring with them a huge mass of silt and this has resulted in raising the level of the river-beds. For instance, in Mangalore, for a considerable distance from the sea, the level of the river-beds has been steadily rising year after year and whenever we get heavy rains, there is now increasing danger of floods overflowing the cultivated lands on either side of the river. Not only that, soon after the monsoon is over, we find it difficult to ply boats and bring clay, rice and other materials to Mangalore. Dredging will have to be done to remove the danger of floods and make navigation easier. An assurance has been given by the Hon. Minister on the floor of this House that the demands made on behalf of these two districts for establishing at least minor irrigation works would soon be attended to and that a survey would be made to find out what works could be undertaken to conserve rain-water and utilize river-water. I hope, Sir, that the assurance given in this respect will be fulfilled at no distant date."

* D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have observed once before on the floor of this House, I think it is time that this Government once for all change their policy of classifying irrigation works as remunerative and unremunerative. I have never been able to understand the principle underlying this policy particularly when we have got a large number of rivers that flow across our province and when we are faced with this acute food problem. Sir, the neighbouring State of Mysore which has got equal rights with us to the waters of the rivers that flow through the two territories has been taking up project after project and we have been looking on without doing much. I am afraid, Sir, this Government have been very sensitive about the treaty rights of Mysore to the waters of these rivers. The Mysore Government have been either taking up projects or contemplating taking up projects, and I wonder whether this Government are being consulted at all. I am told, Sir, that the Mysore Government have two projects in view, one the Tungabhadra Project and the other the Bhadrachalam Project. I request the Hon. Minister for Irrigation to tell the House whether this Government have been consulted about these projects and if they have not been consulted, what is it that this Government propose to do. If these two projects are going to be taken up

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by the Mysore Government, then the Mysore Government will seriously affect the Tungabhadra Project. Will the Hon. the Minister in charge of irrigation kindly tell us what the fate of the Tungabhadra Project will be, if the Mysore Government intend upon executing these two projects.

"Then, Sir, I am also made to understand that there are proposals by the Mysore Government to harness the sources of water-supply of a number of tanks in the Anantapur district and in this connexion there is a proposal to bund the waters of the Chitravathi river. These proposals are going to seriously affect the water-supply to Dharmavaram, Agali and Bukkapatnam tanks in the Anantapur district. May I request the Government to examine these schemes thoroughly before they are executed, and see that the already suffering famine-stricken tracts of the Ceded districts are not made to suffer more by the execution of these projects.

"I have also another suggestion to make in this connexion. It is high time that this Government re-examines all its treaties with the Mysore Government and comes to some final settlement with regard to the sharing of the waters of the projects not only on hand, but also in respect of the projects that may be taken up in the future.

"Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not thank the Hon. Minister for Irrigation for all the trouble he took in inspecting the Bhayravanthippa Project over which we have been clamouring for so many years.

"Times out of number we failed to convince the previous Government about the usefulness of that project. We are glad to note that the Hon. the Minister with his staff has been pleased to inspect it. I hope it will soon be taken up. I hope, Sir, that steps will be taken to see that the Mysore Government does not prove a stumbling block in the carrying out of this project. 12-45 p.m.

"Sir, the same remarks apply to the Pennar-Kumudavati Project. At the time of the last Congress Ministry, the Hon. the Premier who was then the Revenue Minister assured us that this project will be included under Part I schemes; eight years have elapsed since then. I know that the Hon. the Premier is not responsible for the delay. The other Ministers too are not responsible for the delay. Now I expect the Hon. the Premier to push through this scheme.

"With regard to the cry we have always heard that there is paucity of engineers in the Irrigation Department, I have got to make one observation and that is that when the Highways Department was proposed to be established, it was said that the District Board Engineering service would form the nucleus of that department. But what do we find now? A number of officers from the Public Works Department have been transferred to the Highways Department to the detriment of the interests of the officers of the District Board Engineering service and of the Irrigation Department. Sir, I think it is high time that this question is examined and such of the engineers of the Public Works Department who have, advertently or inadvertently slipped into the Highways

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Department are taken back to their own department so that the cry of insufficiency of engineers in the Irrigation Department is not heard again.

“With these few words I support the cut motion.”

* **SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI NAYUDU** :—“ஸ்பா நாயகரே, இந்த நீர்ப்பாசன விஷயமாக இன்று நமது பிரதம மந்திரிகொண்டு வருவதை நான் வரவேற்கிறேன். ஆனாலும் நம் தேசத்திலே ஜீவ நதிகள் இருக்கின்றன. இந்த ஐந்தைக்கொண்டு நம் தேசத்துப் பஞ்சத்தை சமாளித்து விட முடியும். ஆயினும் இப்பொழுது ஆரம்பத்தில் சென்னை அரசாங்கத்தார் கால்வாய்களைச் சீர்படுத்தி மதகுக்களை கவனித்து இன்னும் அவசியமான, அத்தனை ஏற்பாடுகளையும் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். நம் மந்திரி சபை ஏற்பட்டு மூன்று மாதங்களாகியும் நாட்டுப்புறங்களிலே போய்ப் பார்த்தால் வேண்டிய அளவு விவசாயிகளுக்கு உதவி ஏற்பட்டதாகத் தெரியவில்லை. அப்படி யிருக்குமானால் இந்த மாதத்திலேயே நமக்கு வேண்டிய அளவு நெல் விளையும். நான் நேற்றைய தினம் ஓரிடம் பார்த்தேன். அந்த இடத்திலே கால்வாய்கள் அபிவிருத்தி இல்லை, அவர்களுக்குப் போதிய விதை நெல்லு கிடைக்கவில்லை, 6 மாதத்துக்கு விளைய வேண்டிய விதை நெல்லு தான் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது, ஆனால் மூன்று மாதப் பயிருக்கு வேண்டிய நெல்லைக் கொடுப்பதில்லையென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அதோடு கூட அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய கலப்பை கார், மமிட்டி முதலியவை கொடுப்பதில்லை என சொல்லப்படுகிறது. நமது கவர்ன்மென்டாரவர்கள் நீர்ப்பாசன வசதிகளைச் செய்து கொடுத்து கட்டாயம் இந்தப் பஞ்சத்தை ஒழிக்கவேண்டும். அதோடு கிணறு வெட்டுவதற்கு பணம் கொடுத்து உதவுவதாகத் தெரிகிறது, ஆனால் கொடுத்து வரும் பணம் ரூ. 310 அதற்குப் போதியதல்ல. எலக்ட்ரிசிட்டி இருக்கும்மட்டத்தில் விவசாயிகளுக்குக் கூடுதல் பம்பு முதலியவைகளை சப்ளை செய்து அதற்கு வேண்டிய பணத்தை பிரதி வருஷமும் அவர்களிடத்திலிருந்து வசூலித்துத்துக் கொண்டால் அவர்களின் நீர்ப்பாசனத்திற்கு வேண்டியதைச் சலபமாகச் செய்துக்கொள்ள முடியும். ஆனால் கவர்ன்மென்டார் அவ்விதம் செய்திருப்பதாகத் தெரியவில்லை.

“அதோடு ஏரிகள் கலங்கல் போகும்படியான முறையிலே போகாமல் ஆழப்படுத்தவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது யுத்தத்தின் காரணமாக நம் தேசத்தில் வந்திருக்கும் பள்ளம் வெட்டும் மெஷின்களை நாட்டுப்புறங்களுக்கு அனுப்பி எரிகளைப் பள்ளமாக்குவதால் தண்ணீர் தேங்கும், தண்ணீர் தேங்கினால்தான் தண்ணீர் தேவையான காலத்தில்கூட மில்லாமல் இறைத்துக்கொள்ளக்கூடும். ஷே சொன்ன மெஷின்கள் நாட்டுப்புறம் செல்லவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது மழையில்லாத காலத்தில்தான் ஏரிகளைப் பள்ளமாக்க சந்தர்ப்பம். அப்பொழுதுதான் தண்ணீர் தேங்கும். நம் முடைய ஊரிலிருக்கும் பஞ்ச நதிகளை கிராமங்களுக்குத் திருப்பவேண்டும். ஆரம்பத்தில் செய்யவேண்டியது சிறு சிறு கால்வாய்களைச் செப்பனிடவே தோடு அதற்கான மதகுக்களைச் சீர்படுத்திவிட்டால் கஷ்டமில்லாமல் தண்ணீர் தங்கும். இப்பொழுது விவசாயிகள் வேலையில்லாமலிருக்கும் இக்காலத்திலே வெட்டுவதற்கு அதிக வசதி இருக்கிறது. அவர்களுக்குப் போதிய உதவி செய்தால் அவர்கள் வெட்டுவார்கள். கால்வாயைச் சீர்ப்படுத்தியாகவேண்டும். மழையில்லாத காலத்திலே இதை அவசியம் செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு என் சொற்பொழிவைத் திறுத்திக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்

* **M. A. MUHAMMAD IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR** :—“Sir, in supporting the cut motion under this Demand I wish to point out to the Government the need for speeding up the irrigation projects throughout the Presidency. Irrigation is a vital factor for agriculture and agriculture, as the Government are aware, is a staple industry and through it alone the province can be made self-sufficient in the matter of food stuffs. In these critical times

19th August 1946] [M. A. Muhammad Ibrahim Sahib Bahadur]

attention has therefore to be specially concentrated on the provision of more and more irrigation facilities. The irrigation policy of the Government should be based on this prime factor. I am very glad that the Hon. the Premier has promised to pay special attention to the restoration of minor irrigation works, in his speech introducing the Budget. He has also stated: ‘Several proposed irrigation schemes were abandoned in the past on the ground that they would not yield a minimum financial return, although they were otherwise considered to be sound.’ My submission to that would be that in framing the irrigation policy, care should no doubt be taken about the return, but the important thing to be remembered is that the productivity of the land has in any case to be increased by the opening of large irrigation projects without delay. It has been stated on page 235 of the Administration Report for 1944-45 that the return on the capital outlay on productive works was 9 per cent. The net revenue due to improvement of irrigation is 9 per cent on the capital outlay of Rs. 15.46 crores, according to the report. Therefore in these matters what has to be done is to treat all the projects as one and whatever schemes are beneficial to the country should be taken on hand and executed. On page 238 of the Administration Report for 1944-45 we find: ‘The major schemes under investigation during the year are given below. . . 5. The Grand Anicut Canal Scheme beyond Narasingh Cauvery is designed to bring 15,000 acres under irrigation. . . .’ This is a fairly big scheme and yet I do not find any provision for it in the Budget. Under the head ‘C. New schemes proposed by the Ministry’ at page 141 of the Budget Memorandum a few irrigation schemes have been mentioned, but this one is not there. I hope this scheme will be taken on hand at an early date.”

* **SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA** :—“தலைவரவர்களே, சிதம்பரத்தை ‘அன்னம் வழங்கும் தில்லைச் சிதம்பரம்’ என்று சொல்லுவது வழக்கம். சென்ற வருஷம் மழை சரியாக பெய்யாததாலும், மேட்டூரிலிருந்து தண்ணீர் சரியாக வராமையாலும், சிதம்பரத்துக்குப் பக்கத்திலுள்ள கிராமங்களில் பஞ்சம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. சிதம்பரத்திலே யும் சரியான முறையிலே தண்ணீர் விடாததினால், அங்கேயுள்ள பயிர்களுக்கு மிகுந்த கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. சிதம்பரம் தாலுகாவில் கட வாச்சேரி, உசப்பூர், சிவபுரி, சாலியந்தோப்பு, நெல்லூர், கூத்தங்கோவில், செட்டிமுட்டு, இளவாங்கல், நாஞ்சலூர், வக்காரமாரி, மடப்பூரம் முதலிய 11 கிராமங்களில் விவசாயிகள் நீர் பாசனக் குறைவால், பயிர் செய்ய முடியாமல் மிகக் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். சிதம்பரம் தாலுகாவில், ராஜன் வாய்க்கால், கான்சாஹேப் வாய்க்கால் என்று இரண்டு வாய்க்கால்கள் உண்டு. ராஜன் வாய்க்கால் பாய வேண்டிய கிராமங்களுக்கு தண்ணீர் விடாமலிருப்பதால், அங்கு வெகு நாட்களாகத் தண்ணீரில்லாமலிருக்கிறது. இவ்விதம் சாகுபடி மாழலுக்கு விரோதமாக ஏற்பாடு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். அப்படிச் செய்திருக்கும் ஏற்பாடானது மேற்கூறிய 11 கிராமங்களுக்கும் பெரிய கஷ்டத்தை ஏற்படுத்துவதினால், காலா காலத்தில் குடிகளுக்கு ஜலத்தைக் கொடுத்தால் தான் அவர்கள் சரிவர பயிர் செய்ய முடியும். இந்த விஷயத்தைப் பற்றி கனம் மந்திரியவர்களுக்கும், என் ஜினியரவர்களும் ஏழை குடியானவர்களின் நன்மையைக் கவனித்து கான்சாஹேப் வாய்க்கால் தலைப்பு அடைத்திருப்பதைத் திறந்து மாழல்படி கவரப்பட்டு வாய்க்காலில் தண்ணீர் விடும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். அப்படிச் செய்வதனால் மேற்கூறிய 11 கிராமங்களுக்கும் பாய்ச்சலை ஏற்படுத்த முடியும். கான்சாஹேப் மதகிற்கு மேலே ராஜன் வாய்க்கால்

[Sri A. S. Sahajananda] [19th August 1946]

போகிறது. கீழே இருக்கும் ஆற்றுக்கும் அதற்கும் 18 அடி ஆழம் இருக்கிறது. அதைத் திறந்த வடிக் குழாய் தண்ணீர் சப்ளை ஒரே அடியாகச் சரியாகப் பாய்வதில்லை. ராஜன் வாய்க்காலிலிருந்து கவரப்பட்டு வாய்க்காலுக்கு ஜலம் போகாமற்படி, வழக்கப்படி கான் சாஹேப் வாய்க்காலிலிருந்து பாயும் அடியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக சிதம்பரம் தாலுகா வீராணம் ஏரியிலிருந்து ஒரு வாய்க்காலில் தண்ணீர் வந்து பொன்னேரியில் நிரம்பும். பொன்னேரியிலிருந்து பல மதகுகள் வாயிலாகச் சிதம்பரம் நகரைச்சுற்றியுள்ள சில கிராமங்களுக்குப் பாயும். பொன்னேரியில் தண்ணீர் அதிகப்பட்டால், அதை பாசி முகத்தான் ஓடை மூலமாக வெள்ளாற்றில் வடியச் செய்வார்கள். தற்போது குருவை சாகுபடிக்கு நாற்றுக்கள் விட்டிருந்தும் லஸ்கர்கள் பொன்னேரி தண்ணீரைப் பாசி முகத்தான் ஓடை மூலம் வடிய விட்டு விடுகிறார்கள். அதனால் நிலங்களைச் சாகுபடி செய்ய முடியவில்லை. லஸ்கர்களைக் கேட்டால், இன்ஜினியர் உத்தரவென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். இவ்விஷயங்களை விசாரித்து, அதிகாரிகள் தான் தோன்றித் தனமாக நடந்து கொள்ளாதபடி பார்த்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டுமென்று மராமத்திலாக மந்திரியவர்களைக் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

1 p.m.

* SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of irrigation is one of the most vital problems that must occupy the mind of the Government, because it affects not only the peasants and the agricultural population generally, but it affects particularly the people afflicted by the famine. Therefore it is very important that adequate irrigational facilities should be provided.

“Sir, the Indian Irrigation Commission which was appointed in 1902 and which toured the Madras Presidency in 1903 made certain recommendations for protecting the famine-affected districts in this Presidency with more and more irrigation facilities. Their report constitutes a very valuable document and I am sure that the Minister for Irrigation would have read it. It has made certain recommendations, especially to protect the famine-affected Ceded Districts. One of the main recommendations they made was that wherever possible major projects should be constructed by bunding up the rivers that flow through or on the borders of these districts. The Tungabhadra, Sir, is a great river and I am glad that the Tungabhadra project is being pushed through as rapidly as possible. But there are other rivers like the Pennar, the Kistna, the Papaghni, the Handri, etc., whose waters flow wastefully to the sea. It is very regrettable that in spite of continued agitation for over half a century nothing has been done to impound and use their waters. Our cry has been a cry in the wilderness. But I hope at least now it will be possible for the Government to take up these important projects and convert the land of famine into a land flowing with milk and honey.

“Sir, I referred to the recommendations of the Indian Irrigation Commission. One of the important recommendations they made was the construction of a reservoir in the upper reaches of the Kistna river. In the Godavari delta, nearly 8 lakhs of acres are under irrigation for the first crop and 3 lakhs under the second crop. Now it is proposed to construct another project across the Godavari, the Ramapadasagar project, while the recommendation of the Indian Irrigation Commission to construct a reservoir across

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the Kistna has been neglected. The reason why the Kistna Reservoir project should have the highest priority over other projects in this presidency is this. The Kistna delta system has nearly 8 lakhs of acres under first crop cultivation and practically no area at all under the second crop cultivation. If the Kistna reservoir is constructed, the acreage under Kistna could be easily doubled, or at least 4 lakhs of acres will be brought under second crop cultivation besides providing irrigational facilities for Kurnool, Nellore, Guntur and Cuddapah districts. This is what the Indian Irrigation Commission wrote (page 102, Part II, Volume II of their report).

“The question of providing a storage reservoir on the Kistna has also been frequently mooted. The second crop cultivation on the Kistna canal is practically nil, although on the Godavari over 14 per cent of the annual irrigation is second crop. The absence of a second crop on the Kistna has been explained as due partly to the insufficiency or irregularity of the supply after December. There appears also to be room for a considerable extension of first crop cultivation if a full supply at the end of the monsoon could be assured. A storage reservoir on the Kistna would permit the development of the Kistna canal to its fullest capacity and would at the same time render it independent of the supplies now brought down by the Tungabhadra.”

“Sir, I have had occasion to visit the proposed site for this project with the Hon. Minister, Sri K. Koti Reddi when he toured the district sometime back. A very suitable site can be provided for the project at Sangameswaram in Nandikotkur taluk. Here the Kistna flows between two hills through a narrow valley which can easily be banded up. There will be a narrow water shed between the Kistna basin and the kundur basin forming part of the Pennar basin. The watershed can be broken by a cutting and the two basins can be thus connected easily. The Kistna waters also could be made available throughout the Guntur district across the Cumbum and Markapur taluks also by taking the waters through the gorge in the Nallamalai hills. Thus, we would have converted the Cuddapah, Kurnool, Guntur and Nellore districts into a vast Kistna delta. Unfortunately this recommendation of the Indian Irrigation Commission to construct the Kistna reservoir has not been taken up at all. Therefore I would with particular emphasis bring it to the notice of the Hon. Minister and ask him to see how far this scheme would be feasible.

“I do not believe that the construction of great reservoirs the Tungabhadra or the Gandikota reservoirs would entirely solve our irrigation problems. There are numerous tanks which have breached and been abandoned. Some of them are in a condition that they can be restored to usefulness at the expense of only a few thousand rupees. All these tanks, which number about 400 or 500 in my own district of Kurnool, if they can be restored, can irrigate a large acreage. I have computed roughly that if these abandoned tanks can be renovated, about 50,000 or even a lakh of acres can be brought under cultivation. The Hon. Minister for Public Works was good enough to grant me an interview some

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time back when I submitted to him a list of 25 important smaller works, tanks and repairs to distributory and supply channels. If these 25 works can be taken up immediately, they can bring, at the expense of about Rs. 5 lakhs, some 50,000 acres under wet cultivation. Unfortunately, though the Public Works Department says that the question of return on outlay will not be the criterion hereafter, I find on a very close study of the works that have already been examined, that most of them have been dropped on the ground that they will not bring to the Government the return that is commensurate with the expenditure. This practice of dropping works because they do not bring sufficient return must be abandoned altogether. I say this, because, even now I find it is the practice in the Irrigation Department to classify projects into three classes, A, B and C on the basis of the return that they give. Each work must be examined purely on its own merits and if they are able to bring additional acreage under irrigation and particularly if the works are in a famine district, they must be readily taken up. I therefore submit that financial gain should not be the criterion at all while examining the works that have been suggested for Rayalaseema.

"Then, Sir, I feel sorry to say we do not have a specific irrigation policy nor a definite programme for taking up these works. That is why this Presidency has not developed so far as irrigation is concerned. Throughout their report the Indian Irrigation Commission have repeatedly laid stress on this fact. They have also stressed more than once that the famine-stricken Ceded Districts should receive special attention. I therefore urge upon the Government that this recommendation made 45 years ago by the Indian Irrigation Commission should be an important guide in taking up works of irrigation in Rayalaseema.

"Sir, the Cuddapah-Kurnool canal is usually dubbed as an unproductive work. General Fisher, a high irrigation official giving evidence before the Indian Irrigation Commission, exposed the entire fraud behind the construction of this canal, how the contractors were paid heavily, how the work was redone, once, twice or thrice and then how the Government, when buying it from the Indian Irrigation Company who constructed it, paid more than 200 per cent of the cost of its construction. I should like to say that the entire problem should be re-examined and a proper assessment of the actual capital concerning the canal should be specified so that the work may not suffer from being dubbed as an unproductive work."

* **MR. SPEAKER:**—"The hon. Member has taken more than his allotted time."

* **SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:**—"One more minute, Sir, and I have done. I was referring to the Irrigation Commission's report made about 45 years ago. They have said that there appears also to be room for considerable extension of irrigation under the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal. We consider that whether or not it is decided to create storage reservoirs in the upper Tungabhadra, the Kurnool-Cuddapah canal should be placed in

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thorough order, its capacity should be increased and extensions should be made into adjacent tracts which are more suited for irrigation than much of the area at present under command. The state of inefficiency into which this work has been allowed to fall is mainly due to the laziness of the Public Works Department officials. If irrigational development should be properly planned I would say, Sir, that Government should have a target for irrigation, the proportion of land to be irrigated to the land already cultivated. I would fix it at least 50 per cent so that there may be adequate protection for famine districts of Rayalaseema. We can take up the projects I have suggested as well as the smaller tanks and see that this 50 per cent target is reached within five or at the most ten years. The Central Government also may be approached for adequate subsidies for the Ceded Districts so that this programme can be put through. Separate Public Works Department Divisions should be created for each district and they should be put in charge of these projects as the existing Public Works Department officials cannot take up these in addition to their normal duties. With these words, Sir, I support the demand."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, following just after the speech of the hon. Member who has just finished—he spoke in a very very informed manner—I am rather at a disadvantage, as you will presently see. I only wish I had studied the subject as my hon. Friend who has just spoken. Sir, it is very refreshing to hear such speeches during this debate.

"Sir, the subject of irrigation has naturally assumed such large proportions now in view of the food situation in the country. Before I deal, Sir, with some suggestions, I want to make to the Ministry, it will not be out of place if I say a word or two of tribute about that Adviser who was in charge of Irrigation and who conducted the negotiations with regard to the Tungabhadra and Ramapadasagara projects to success. I mean Sir S. V. Ramamurti. He worked very vigorously and put the schemes into operation and let us hope that the Ministry will push on with the schemes and other big schemes. Sir, the good that will result out of such big schemes cannot be seen immediately, much less during the lifetime of this Assembly, namely, five years. But it is the duty of the Legislature to give its full support to the Government in such big measures. That we are well behind other provinces in regard to irrigation schemes needs no special mention, except perhaps the Punjab and Sind to some extent. I have no doubt that the big schemes like the Tungabhadra and the Ramapadasagar schemes would be of great benefit to this country.

"My object in trying to speak on this occasion is to refer to one or two matters of a more or less parochial nature. I know the enthusiasm which my hon. Friend the Minister in charge of Public Works has shown even in the short time he has been in office. Sir, we have seen his tour programme and his activities

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regarding irrigation schemes. I am glad that he has not lost sight of minor irrigation schemes such as the restoration of tanks while he is seriously engaged in major irrigation schemes. I should like to remind the House of one district, which now occupies a very prominent place in regard to famine conditions, that is the district from which I come, the Ramnad district. It perhaps occupies the topmost place in Tamilnad with regard to the famine conditions. Famine conditions would never exist there but for the fact that it has not even one irrigation scheme there, not even a minor irrigation scheme. It is a dry plain, not a hilly tract. It is very easy to dig a canal from the Mettur Reservoir. As a matter of fact, I cannot see who was responsible for the failure of the proposal to excavate a canal from Trichinopoly through the Pudukottah State to the Ramnad district. I have no doubt that to-day when there is plenty of cheap money it should not be difficult to finance a scheme like that even if it should cost one crore of rupees at 3 per cent interest. Probably the interest may be less and it will certainly pay its way to have a scheme like that. I would, therefore, urge on the Hon. Minister for Public Works to seriously take up the proposal which I just made. Sir, even if such a scheme is put through, I feel that the whole of Ramnad may not get the benefit of the scheme. I would request the Government to consider whether it is possible to increase the supply of water that is impounded in the Periyar and dig another canal for other parts of Ramnad. I suggest these two schemes for the consideration of the Government. I shall not take up the time of the House, Sir, except to say that all irrigation schemes, whether major or minor, or the restoration of tanks deserve the full support of this House."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"All hon. Members who have given notice of cut motions have already spoken. Now other hon. Members may speak and I fix a time-limit of five minutes for each speaker."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, much has been said about major irrigation works. Knowing as I do that the Ministry has taken in right earnest the reconstruction of the villages, it follows that minor irrigation, especially in the rural areas, must be attended to also. I find, Sir, from the budget that only Rs. 17 lakhs and odd have been set apart for minor irrigation which covers many items. The portion of the district which I represent, in South Arcot, namely, Tirukkoyilur, had many minor irrigation tanks but due to cyclones and drought they have practically become useless. In these days of famine and pestilence I would urge on the Hon. Minister for Irrigation to take some real interest in the matter of setting these irrigation tanks in order. I have already spoken to the Hon. Minister in regard to three minor irrigation works. First of all there is a place known as Manalurpet. The people of this place took upon themselves to cut a channel from Pennar to their tank-bed. Unfortunately though they spent Rs. 2,000 and employed 4,000 labourers they were not able to bring the channel to the bed of the tank.

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Consequently they could not get any benefit out of the money spent and the labour given. I myself went there and saw the channel. If the Government comes to the rescue of the poor people it will be possible to bring water to the tank. This will irrigate nearly 300 acres. It will also be an advantage to the Government itself because the lands are assessed for dry crops now, and once irrigation is given, the Government can change the dry assessment into wet assessment.

"There is a second one near Kallakurichi, a town growing in importance in regard to cultivation and marketing of groundnuts. There is no irrigation facility there at all. Even the minor irrigation works, Manimutha and Gomugi, have been in a bad condition for years. I understand the minor irrigation overseers have travelled over these places and made recommendations to the Government but these recommendations have not been given effect to during the past six or seven years.

"There is another small irrigation work known as C. Maiyoor about which both the people of the village and myself have made representations to the Government. I would request the Hon. Minister to take note of these three cases at least for the present year and do something for them. Later the Government may undertake the repair of minor irrigation channels and tanks. With these few words, I support the Demand moved by the Hon. Minister."

* SRIMATHI VALLABHANENI SITHAMAHALAKSHMI AMMA:—"అధ్యక్షా, రిమాడలింగు తూములవల్ల నీరు సరిగ్గా సప్లయి కాక, గండ్లు కొట్టి సాగుచేయుటయు, అందుమీద పి.డబ్ల్యు.డి. (P.W.D.) వాళ్లు లంచములు పట్టుటకు మార్గములు ఏర్పడుచున్నవి. ప్రత్యేకముగా, కైకలూరు తాలూకాలో, చేపూరు గ్రామస్థలమీద 80 ఎకరముల భూమికి పెనాల్టీ కట్టి, అక్కడి వర్షోగస్థులు దానిని రైతులనుండి వసూలుచేయుటకు ప్రయత్నిస్తూ వున్నారు. దీనికి మనస్సు ఆ రైతులు ఇక్కడకువచ్చి మన రివిన్యూ మంత్రిగారికి కూడా, వారు పిటిషన్ (petition) పెట్టుకొన్నారు.

"గాన, ప్రస్తుతపు రిమాడలింగు తూములు పెద్దవి చేయటం అవసరము. అట్లు పెద్దవిగా చేసినట్లుతే, యీలాంటి కష్టములు తొలగి, సక్రమముగా నీటి సప్లయి అవడానికి అదను ఏర్పడుతుంది.

"అదే కాకుండా, మురుగు కాలువలు లేకపోవుటవల్ల, అప్పుడప్పుడు రెమిషన్లు (remissions) యివ్వవలసివచ్చుట చే, గవర్నమెంటువారి ఆదాయముకూడ తగ్గుచున్నది. భూములసారము తగ్గి, రైతుకు ప్రతి సంవత్సరము ఆదాయముకూడ తగ్గుతూ వుంటుంది. కావున, వెంటనే మురుగుకాలువల సౌకర్యములు చేయవలయును.

"మా కృష్ణా జిల్లాలో (Kistna district) కైకలూరు (Kaikalur) తాలూకాకు ప్రతి సంవత్సరము గవర్నమెంటువారు రెమిషన్ యిస్తూ వున్నారు. అక్కడ బుడమేరు, కొల్లేరు ముంపులవల్ల, ఆ తాలూకా రైతులు ప్రతి సంవత్సరము కొన్ని వందల ఎకరముల భూములు మురుగుపోక, బాధపడుచున్నారు. దీనివల్ల గవర్నమెంటు ఆదాయములోను లోటువచ్చుచున్నది. అందువల్ల, లోగడనే, యీ మురుగు సముదానికి పోవుటకుగాన గవర్నమెంటువారు ఓకీ స్కీమును ఆలోచించి వున్నారు.

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by the Mysore Government. I do not know if the Madras Government have been consulted on this matter. There are several schemes, already examined by the Irrigation department. The Chikkanagari may be dammed, for instance, in more than one place, and it is sure to benefit the people of the constituency which I have the honour to represent.

"One other point I would like to impress upon the present Ministry is the taking up of the tank restoration scheme in my district. Let the abandoned tanks be taken up, tanks which have not been very useful because the streams or the feeders have not been repaired for a long time and have been silted up. A separate subdivision may be formed for this purpose and they may examine this question. I am sure as a result of such examination, something useful will be done for the benefit of my constituency.

"Thank you, Sir; I wish I had spoken for a longer time and spoken in Kannada, but as you have willed it otherwise, I have spoken the few words."

* SRI N. SANJEEVI REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, a number of friends from Rayalaseema have already spoken about the position there and the famine conditions existing. Many people believe that if the Tungabhadra Project is completed, the famine conditions in Rayalaseema would cease to exist. I am afraid it is a misconception. The Tungabhadra Project can give water only to six taluks in two different districts. We want many more irrigation schemes to be taken up, particularly in Anantapur district. The Pennar river flows in seven taluks, but nowhere is its water being used up for giving irrigational facilities to the people. The Pennar flows only for 23 days out of 365, but it comes all in a flood and every drop of the water goes to the ocean without being used. If some dams are put up here and there, water can be conserved and used up for giving irrigational facilities. There are two or three projects under contemplation; they have been there for a number of years, but not taken up. For instance, the Pennar-Kumudavathi project for which the investigation is over but which has not yet been taken up because the Mysore Government objects to something or other. There are other projects at least which may be taken up without any objection from the Mysore Government, such as the Upper Pennar Project at Perur, for which also the investigation is almost over. The mid-Pennar project also can be taken up. In addition to those projects which can be taken up at an early date, there are a number of tanks which have been neglected; hundreds of them can be repaired and thousands of acres can be brought under cultivation. This is the only way to help Anantapur and the only way to improve the condition of the ryots of that district. Hundreds of tanks constructed in the days of Krishnadeva Raya are now in ruin, and with a few thousand rupees many can be repaired if only immediate investigation and repair works are undertaken. A number of engineers come and go. They investigate about the width of a bridge one day, the number of stones necessary on another day

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and like that, the investigation goes on for years and years. Of course, much sympathy has been expressed by the Governments that have gone by; and if only sympathy can fill our bellies, we have been overfed already. I now request the Hon. Minister to start the many irrigation schemes that are already there. I know the Hon. Minister has a soft corner in his heart for Anantapur district, having seen for himself conditions there and the suffering of the people there. He understands the situation; I would only request him to put it into some useful shape by extending the investigations and taking up the works at least by March next year. I do not think any provision has been made for Anantapur in the present Budget. Not even one tank is to be repaired, not one tank is to be constructed. There is one new tank in Thitakal in Anantapur district which was recently seen by the Hon. Minister and that was the only one good and useful work done since the advent of the British to this country. I hope the Hon. Minister will take up many other tanks and by spending a few thousand rupees for each, he can improve these tanks and make the people believe that the Congress Government is by far better than any previous Governments and that they are sincerely in favour of improving the condition of the people in Anantapur district. My Friend Mr. Anwar spoke about the Palar. But the Pennar is much worse. I would request the Hon. Minister to see that the Pennar schemes are speeded up and the people of Anantapur benefited thereby. The two schemes which I have put forward now, viz., the mid-Pennar and Upper Pennar projects may be taken up immediately and may be completed in about a year or two. My Friend Mr. Rawoof mentioned about Bhairavanthippa project between Rayadrug and Kalyandrug. In regard to this also, investigation can be completed very early and the work may be begun. In regard to investigation, Sir, I would suggest that a time-limit should be fixed. Unless a time-limit is fixed, e.g., six months or a year, you can never get the schemes completed, the investigation will go on from year to year and no conclusion can be reached. So, I request the Hon. Minister to see that whenever a project is sanctioned, a time-limit is fixed and that the work is finished within the specified period.

"There are many more things I have to say about Anantapur and particularly about tanks; but for the present I will be satisfied with these two projects, the Upper Pennar and the mid-Pennar and the tanks I have mentioned. That will satisfy me for the present, though it will not solve the irrigation problem of my district. I suggest that at the time of the Budget every year, you must set apart some money for the Rayalaseema and for Anantapur in particular. Otherwise, my district is likely to be neglected and people who are already getting better facilities will naturally try to get more and more facilities, such as for instance, the people in the Kistna, Godavari and the Tanjore delta areas."

* SRI B. S. MALLIKARJUNA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to grant more than what is really asked for in this Demand by Government because irrigation is a very vital and important question in this Province. And in view of the

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present distress and famine conditions in some parts of the Province, I consider the Demand for grant is too low. In this connexion, Sir, after so many speakers have dwelt on the subject, I wish to confine myself to my district of Vizagapatam. That is a famine area, and on this occasion, I am reminded of my late lamented friend K. S. Gupta who died on the floor of the Central Assembly speaking of the famine conditions in the Vizagapatam district and pleading for timely supply of food, clothing and medicine for the district. Such a district, Sir, we find to-day is not having any provision made for it in this Budget. It may be due no doubt to other exigencies that the present Government has not provided anything, but I appeal, in view of the declared policy of the Government, that they are for furthering the 'Grow More Food' Campaign. I appeal that a few lakhs may be allotted to my district for this purpose. It is a dry area. So far as irrigation schemes are concerned, we do not find either major or minor schemes sanctioned here at present. I find some amount is being allotted for the Nagavalli project and the Vamsadhara project, but they are negligible sums. We are more or less in the zamindari area. From south to north we find a series of zamindaris, e.g., Tuni, Kasimkota, Vizianagram, Chemudu, Bobbili, Parlakimedi, Mandasa, Jeypore, etc., and these cover practically the whole district. I wish the Government at least to concentrate this year on a few minor irrigation sources and see that the tanks and channels in the various zamindaris are repaired and properly kept up. That would help the people a great deal in the present distress. There is a provision in the Estates Land Act enabling the Government to press upon the zamindars to do this. The Government, also, can advance money and recover the same from the zamindars. I appeal to the Government to take the necessary steps in the matter and help the famine area of Vizagapatam district. Moreover, Sir, there are very many rivers which if properly exploited would have completely converted the district into a wet area, but up till now nothing has been done. Previously, we had the Advisers' regime and during that period what was the plight of the people? God alone knows that. The previous Government did not take any steps whatever, though thousands and thousands of people were dying for want of food, clothing and medicine. We entirely look to the Congress regime to alleviate their condition very soon. Every year people of my district have been looking forward to schemes that may be brought forward for improving the agricultural position and to our surprise, even this year, we do not find any provision in the Budget under this item. In these circumstances, Sir, I would appeal to the present Ministry to earmark a reasonable sum out of the grant of 27 lakhs allotted for the Grow More Food Campaign, for the digging of wells or extensive repairs to minor irrigation works in the zamindari areas so that the condition of the cultivators may be improved. The amount expended in the zamindari areas should be re-imbursed to Government, and if this is done, it will not be a loss to Government but will be productive of income."

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* MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to support the cut motion in order to bring to the notice of Government the grievances of the public in regard to irrigation. Sir, in the budget statement, it is vaguely mentioned that Government intend to pay more attention to the improvement, repairs and maintenance of the irrigation channels and the irrigation sources, but I find no specific proposals as to what they are going to do for improving and affording irrigation facilities. It is a well-known fact, Sir, that many of these irrigation channels have been neglected during the past, as a result of which they are in a very bad condition to-day. The channels which convey water to the tanks and fields have been neglected and are not in a sound condition now. The tanks have become shallow and their capacity has dropped and they are no longer capable of holding water sufficient for the life of a crop. You know, Sir, that the life of a rice crop is five months and unless there is a continuous supply of water for the whole of the five months, the paddy crop will fail; it is so even if there is no water for 10 or 15 days. Therefore, unless a good supply of water throughout the five months is secured, there is no hope of getting a harvest. I, therefore, request Government to take speedy and expeditious steps in regard to the repair of these tanks so that they may be made to hold water for five months. Otherwise, there will be no salvation for the future of this paddy cultivation.

"I learn, Sir, that there was a special section in the Irrigation Department which paid special attention to the repair of these channels and tanks and now I find it has been abolished. If that is so, I would urge on the Minister for Irrigation to see his way to re-introduce that section so that attention may be concentrated on this most important and vital aspect of this irrigation. Sir, in many of these channels, when freshes come, breaches occur owing to weak bunds and these breaches are not quickly attended to, and if further freshes pass through these breaches, they carry sand and deposit to the fertile fields up to a height of 2 or 3 feet and thus render the fertile field a waste. Especially at this critical juncture, when there is a great dearth of foodgrains, if this state of affairs is allowed to continue, certainly it will greatly affect food production. Therefore, Sir, I request wherever there are breaches, the Irrigation Department must take immediate steps to set things right. I know, Sir, in Tinnevely district, there are many channels wherein breaches have occurred and they have not been attended to in time and the consequence is the peasants and farmers have been put to a very great loss.

"I also wish to bring to the attention of the Hon. Minister a scheme which was recently investigated but abandoned. During the regime of the late Hon. Mr. Yakub Hassan, the then Minister for Irrigation, representations were made by the people of Kadayanallur in Tenkasi taluk in regard to a urani kattu in Kottamalai in the Western Ghats. It is about 200 feet in length and 150 feet

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in breadth. If some excavation is made and it is connected with the neighbouring channels, I am sure copious water supply will be available to irrigate about 2,000 acres. I understand that a party of engineering experts investigated the matter in 1939 and reported that there was a very great possibility for the future of the taluks of Tenkasi, Sankarankoil and Koilpatti in the Tinnevely district, if this scheme were carried out. But unfortunately, it was left there and there is no knowing whether that scheme is going to be carried out at all or not. I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister for Irrigation to see that the scheme is carried out now especially when the need for improving irrigation and production of foodgrains is urgent.

"I close, Sir, with one word of request. I understand that the Papanasam Electric Scheme was started originally as an irrigation scheme, but during the process of investigation, for reasons best known to the Government, that was converted into an electric scheme and because of that conversion, the present position is, fields under the Tambraparni are not getting sufficient water during scarcity and if the original irrigation scheme was carried out in the Papanasam scheme, it would have been a great boon to the most fertile fields in the Tinnevely district. I, therefore, request Hon. Minister to carry out this scheme at an early date."

* SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA RAJU :—

సభాద్యక్షులు పట్టి కు వచ్చు శాఖకు సంబంధించినవరకు అన్ని శాఖలపైనే ఈ శాఖకూడా ఏ విధముగాను లంచగొండితనములా వెనుకబడి ఉండలేదు. ఎక్కడ చూచినప్పటికీ లంచగొండితనమే. ఏ ఆఫీసుకు వెళ్లినా లంచగొండితనమే. మురుగు నీరుకోసము పోతే కూడా లంచగొండితనమే. అన్ని విధములా లంచగొండితనమే. దానికి కావలసిన నట్టి చర్య ప్రభుత్వంవారు తీసుకొనవలసిన అవసరంఉంది అని మంత్రిగారికి మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. ఈ క్రొత్త బీర్తానమును నేను వ్యతిరేకిస్తున్నాను. చినప్పటికీకూడా ఈ వెచ్చించే డబ్బులో మేజరు ఇరిగేషను స్కీములతోపాటు మైనరు ఇరిగేషను స్కీములు కూడా తీసుకోంటే మేజరు ఇరిగేషను స్కీములకంటే మైనరు ఇరిగేషను స్కీములు ఎక్కువ ప్రయోజనకరముగా ఉంటాయి. ఎక్కువ డబ్బు ఖర్చు పెట్టడంకూడా ఉండదు. ఇప్పుడు సర్పాపురంనుండి వస్తున్న నాకు ప్రత్యేకముగా నాతాలూకాలో సక్కులకాలువ ఉంది మురుగు కాలువ లేకపోవుట వలన అక్కడ ఉన్న పొలములు వేలకొలది ఎకరముల పంట పోయి రైతులకు నష్టము కలుగుతుంది. పంట సిద్ధముగా ఉన్న రోజుల్లో ముత్తము పంట అంతాకూడా ఎందుకు పనికిరాకుండా నాశనము అగుతుంది. దీనికి గాను అడ్డెత్తి ప్రభుత్వం ఎటువంటి శ్రద్ధ తీసుకోలేదు. కనుక ఈ ప్రభుత్వంవారు వెంటనే షరతుత్తు చేయించడానికి కావలసిన చర్య తీసుకొన్నట్లైతే ఇన్ని వేల ఎకరాల భూమి కాగుపడడానికి వీలు అగుతుంది. (Grow More Food Campaign) కు కూడా ఎక్కువ సహాయభరణవారము అగుతాము. కాబట్టి దానిని వెంటనే తీసుకొనవలసివస్తుంది. ముఖ్యముగా గోదావరి వరదలవల్ల సర్పాపురం తాలూకా ఎంతో పాడై పోయింది. వరదలవలన ఎంతో పంట పాడై సాగు నాశనము అగుతూ ఉంది. దానికి కావలసిన చర్య వెంటనే తీసుకొనవలయును. ఎప్పుడు వరదలవల్ల వ్యవసాయము కాదుపడకుండా ఉండడానికి గోదావరి గట్టును కట్టడానికి కావలసిన డబ్బును వెచ్చించ

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వలయును. ఈ విధముగా వెచ్చించుటవలన చేతికి వచ్చిన పంటను పోగొట్టుకొనకుండా ప్రజలకు అందేట్లు చేయవచ్చును. ముఖ్యముగా వరదలవలన పాడు అయిన భూములకుకూడా వెంటనే రమిషను ఇవ్వవలసిన చాధ్యత ప్రభుత్వంవారిమీద ఎంత అయినా ఉంది. ముస్లిము లీగు గట్టును చెప్పినట్లు మంత్రిగారి రాకను వ్యతిరేకముగా ఎదిరించకుండా వారిని పూర్తిగా అహ్మనిస్తున్నాను. అదేవిధముగా మేము ఇరిగేషను మంత్రిగారిని మన ప్రధాన మంత్రిగారిని మా (West Godavari) జిల్లా సర్పాపురం తాలూకాకు అహ్మనిస్తున్నాము వారు వస్తే ఏ విధముగా (West Godavari) జిల్లా అంతా వరదలవల్ల చెబ్బరిని రైతాంగం పాడు అయి పోయినారో చూడడానికి అవకాశము ఉంటుంది. గోదావరి వరదల విషయము ఇంకా చిన్న చిన్న మైనరు ఇరిగేషను పనుల విషయముకూడా చూడవలసిన మనవి చేస్తున్నాను. భూషయ్య (channel) పానెలు తలుకు తాలూకాలో ఉంది. అనేక విధములైన నష్టములు కలుగుతున్నవి. అనేకవేల ఎకరాలు యీ ముంపునుండి రక్షింపబడవలసి ఉంది.

"ప్రత్యేకముగా పూర్తి భూములు ఇంకా వ్యవసాయము కాకుండా ఉన్న భూములు (Grow More Food Campaign) క్రింద అనేకమంది భాగ్యవంతులు కాజేస్తున్నారు. వేదలకు భూమి దొరకడం లేదు. ఆ భూములను వ్యవసాయముమీద ఎక్కువ కట్టపడి పనిచేసే అక్కడి కూలివానికి ఇచ్చినట్లైతే భూమిని ఎక్కువ శ్రద్ధతో సారవంతము చేసి పంటల అభివృద్ధికి అన్ని విధముల కాగుండును. వారు కట్టపడి పనిచేస్తారు. ఎక్కువ ఆహారము పండించడానికి అవకాశము ఉంటుంది. ఔను నివారణకు కూడా సహాయపడుతుంది అని మనవి చేస్తున్నాను."

SRI S. C. BALAKRISHNAN :—“తలైవరవరంగణే, వివశాయమ్ 3 p.m
ஒன்றையே நம்பி வாழும் நம் நாட்டிற்கு துரப்பாக்கிய வசமாக நீர்ப்பாசன வசதியை அதிகரிக்கச் செய்ய முடியவில்லை. அதன் காரண மென்னவென்றால், நம் நாட்டில் நம் மக்களால் நடத்தப்படும் பொது ஜன சர்க்கார் இல்லாமலிருந்ததேயாகும். நம் தேசத்தில் எத்தனையோ பெரிய ஆறுகளிருக்கின்றன. பாலாறு மாத்திரமல்ல, அது போன்ற பல ஆறுகளிருக்கின்றன. ஆனால், அத்தனை ஆறுகளில் பல ஆறுகள் விவசாயத்திற்காக தேக்கி வைத்து வசதி செய்து கொள்ளாமற்படி அனாவசியமாகச் சமுத்திரத்தில் பாய விடுகிறோம். மற்ற நாடுகளுடன் நம் நாட்டை ஒப்பிட்டுப் பார்த்தால், நம் நாட்டில் விவசாய அபிவிருத்திக்கு எவ்வளவோ வசதிகளிருக்கின்றன. அப்படியிருந்தும், துரப்பாக்கிய வசமாக நாம் விவசாய அபிவிருத்திக்கு கேற்ற நீர்ப்பாசனத்தை இது வரையிலும் செய்யவில்லை. நம் நாட்டிலே விவசாயம் செய்யப்படும் நிலமோ மிகவும் குறைவு. மற்ற நாடுகளை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால், அங்கெல்லாம் விவசாயம் செய்யப்படும் நிலம் மிகவும் அதிகமாகவிருக்கிறது. உதாரணமாக ஆஸ்திரேலியாவை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால், அங்கே விவசாயிகள் தலை ஒன்றுக்கு 150 ஏக்கர வரையிலும் விவசாயம் செய்வதாகக் கணக்கிடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. நம்முடைய நாட்டிலோ வென்றால் 1 முதல் 3 ஏக்கர வரையிலுந் தான் தலை ஒன்றுக்கு விவசாயம் செய்வதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. 40 கோடி மக்கள் வாழும் நம் நாட்டிலே, இந்தப் பஞ்ச காலத்தில் கொஞ்சம் அதிகமாக விவசாயத்தைப் பெருக்கிக்கொள்ள வசதிகள் செய்துகொள்ளலாம். எத்தனையோ விவசாயிகளுக்கு ஏராளமான நிலங்கள் பண் படுத்தப்படாது, விவசாயத்திற்கு லாயக்கில்லாமலிருக்கின்றன. இவற்றை நம்முடைய மாகாண சர்க்கார் உடனே கவனித்து விவசாயத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவரத்தக்க ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்ய வேண்டும். ஹரி ஜனங்களின் சார்பாக நான் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுவதென்னவென்றால், இனிமேல் சர்க்காரால் புதிதாக விவசாயத்திற்குச் கொண்டு வரப்படும் நிலங்களை யெல்லாம் தயவு செய்து ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிலே ஒவ்வொரு வருஷமும் 1,000 முதல் 2,000 ஏக்கர்கள் வரையிலும் நிலம்

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either party must abide by the decision of the National Authority or abdicate its rights. For a working arrangement, I would suggest the formation of district irrigation committees consisting of local legislators, P.W.D. officers and some co-opted public men. I agree with the previous speaker that there should be a target of one crore for each district. I urge further schemes should be for a duration of five years and the schemes must be prepared within six months. You should also have a Provincial authority or if you prefer two Regional authorities for the Province. The Regional or Provincial authority as the case may be must consist of the Minister in charge of the subject, the Chief Engineer, one or two retired Chief Engineers and two or three important non-officials who are interested in these problems. This authority must scrutinize all major schemes and sanction minor irrigation schemes, as prepared by the district committees. We cannot create irrigation schemes without a plan and it is necessary to remember that we have only five years before us even if we are to serve the whole of our period. I would appeal to the hon. the Minister to take up the work immediately and proceed. Survey with definite ends in view is itself a form of research and provides knowledge which dictates action. Finally, I would say, Sir, that big dams are static affairs. But those static moulds of concrete will come into being only through dynamic action. I wish the Hon. Minister God-speed and good-speed."

* SRI K. A. NACHİYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, a country like ours which is chiefly an agricultural one requires irrigational facilities and we must pay considerable attention to it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"That is why I have allowed four hours for this Demand."

* SRI K. A. NACHİYAPPA GOUNDER:—"Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. A good deal of work requires to be done in this direction. I may tell the Government that they need not be anxious about funds as most of these schemes would be productive and would yield good returns. Hence these schemes can very well be financed from borrowed money. Such schemes can be straightway started with loan funds. Not only would such schemes be useful for irrigation purposes but hydro-electric power could also be generated and harnessed by industrial advancement of the country and we can derive much profit in this way also. So, I would urge that the Government takes up special steps in this direction."

"So far as my district of Salem is concerned, I wish within the short time at my disposal to mention a few of the schemes which could be taken up with profit both to the people as well as to the Government. Even as early as 1878, some schemes seemed to have been investigated and they were found to be quite useful and very profitable too. I wish to draw the attention of the House to the Preliminary Report on the Unification of Protective Works and Irrigation in the Madras Presidency. The construction of a reservoir has been suggested there across Pennar about 6 miles south-west of Kanigiri and it would irrigate a very

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large portion of Krishnagiri, Dharmapuri and Harur taluks, the extent running to the tune of about 50,000 acres and the return was said to be somewhere about 9 per cent. One other scheme is the Vaniar Project which would irrigate a portion of Salem and Harur taluks and it was said to yield 6½ per cent or so. Further I understand that there is the Thoppiyar Project scheme which is under investigation. So far as the authorities are concerned, they expect about 3,000 acres to be served by this Project. I believe that it is capable of irrigating many more thousands of acres, if it is diverted into Omalur and Tiruchengodu taluks by linking it up to Gudukal tank in Melur taluk by means of a cantour channel. There is another scheme by which both Salem and Coimbatore districts would be served by taking channels from Mettur Reservoir and this is said to irrigate about 45,000 acres and is capable of commanding more area also. The existing irrigation work in Namakkal taluk by the Jedarpalayam Korambu channel, has not been found to be quite useful and dependable. The ryots are obliged to meet with disappointments often times as their crops are destroyed on account of the Korambu being washed away every now and then. A proper bed regulator at a suitable place higher up will overcome the handicap besides irrigating more lands. There is great need for improving the existing channels in order that better facilities for irrigation may be made available to the people. There are many other schemes which for want of time I am not able to place before the House but I shall take the earliest opportunity to place them before the Government. I agree with my hon. friend Mr. Kala Venkata Rao that the Government must constitute a committee for each district, so that the various schemes that may be useful to the district might be considered and investigated. On the basis of the investigations of all the district schemes a comprehensive scheme for the entire Province could be drawn and the work taken up on hand all simultaneously from loan funds so that we might tackle the question of food all over the Province in a thorough manner."

* SRI K. SUBBA RAO:—"సభాధ్యక్షా, నీటిపారుదల మంత్రిగారు కోరిన మొత్తము సంతోష పూర్వకముగా అందరు అంగీకరించవలెనని కోరుచూ, ఆ మొత్తము నిజముగా యీ రాష్ట్రములో నీటిపారుదల సౌకర్యములు ప్రజలకు ఎక్కువ చేయవలయునంటే చాలదని మనవిచేయుచున్నాను."

"ముఖ్యముగా, మనిషికి నీరే ప్రాణాధారము కనుక, జలవనరులేర్పాటుచేసిన ప్రభుత్వమే ప్రజాప్రభుత్వము; కాని, పేరుకు ప్రభుత్వమనుకొన్నది ప్రజాప్రభుత్వము కానేరదు. ముఖ్యముగా, యీ జలవనరులను గురించి కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వమువారు ఆధికారము తీసుకున్నప్పటినుండియు కృషిచేస్తూవున్నారని నాకు తెలుసును. మన మంత్రిగారు ముఖ్యముగా అనంతపురం జిల్లాలో ఏ ప్రాంతములో ఏ జలవనరులు ఏర్పాటుచేస్తే సౌకర్యములు పెరచుతుందో తెలుసుకొనివచ్చినారు అందుకు వారిని అభినందిస్తున్నాను; గాన, యీ ప్రాజెక్టులవిషయమై కొన్ని సలహాలు నేను చేయుచు ఉన్నాను"

"అనంతపురం, జిల్లా ప్రాంతములోని పెన్నారు, కముద్వతీ ప్రాజెక్టు నిర్మాణము నకు మైసూరు (Mysore) ప్రభుత్వమువారు అడ్డంకులు చేస్తూవున్నారని చెప్పుదు

[Sri K. Subba Rao] [19th August 1946]

நூறு. தானகொத்தி உக்டு சாஹ. இப்படி ஸெக்ஷன்களில் செப்டிம்பர், ப்ராவின
யல் (Provincial) கலர் மெண்டி காகுண்டா கெட் ப்ரஹ்மசுமார் யா காகு
டல் ஸாக்ரகஸுல திசுகோ, திச விராதுல சேய்வலயுநி ப்ராஹ்மசுமார்
நூன். மெஸூரு ப்ரஹ்மசுமாரிஸ்தி, மெஸூரு ப்ரஹ்மசுமாரிஸ்தி 1892 ல்
ஜிசு உடம்படிக்ஸ் கமெண்டிசே, மெஸூருவாசே மெஸூருவாசே அஸுஸி ஸாண்டி ஸி
சேய்வலயுநி. காசி, திசு வாரி அடகலசின் அஸ்ரகஸுலே. அ உடம்படிக்
கஸ் மார்புசேய்வலயுநி யிப்படி திசு ஸெட் ஸிஸி, மெண்டி திசு க்யுசேய்வல
யுநி. அஸுஸி, மெஸூரு, மெஸூரு ப்ரஹ்மசுமார் மெஸூரு ப்ரஹ்மசுமார்
வாசே யிஸ்வலயுநி சேய்வலயுநி அடகலசின் திசு ஸமாஹ்மே காகுண்டா திசு ஸி
மெஸூருவாசே யிப்பிஸ்வலயுநி ப்ரஹ்மசுமாரிஸ்தி காகுண்டா.

“கொ மெஸூருவலயுநி அஸுஸி. காசி கமெண்டிஸ்திஸ்தி
ஸாகுசேய்வலயுநி விராதுலசேய்வலயுநி. இரிக்ஸ் கமிட்டி (Irrigation
Committees) விராதுல சேய்வலயுநி. 1902 வ ஸாகு இரிக்ஸ் கமிட்டி, திசு
வாசேய்வலயுநி இரிக்ஸ் கமிட்டிஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகு ஸிஸிஸ்திஸ்தி, வக்டு
டெக்டு 200 மெண்டி 2,000 வக்டு ஸிஸி ஸாகுசேய்வலயுநி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி,
அக்டு ஸிஸி ஸாகு ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி விராதுலசேய்வலயுநி ஸிஸிஸ்திஸ்தி. அ ஸிஸி
ஸிஸி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி. ஸிஸி ஸாகு
ஸ்திஸ்தி, ஸிஸி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி, ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி. இவ் அஸ்தி சேய்வலயுநி.
காசி மெண்டி காகுசேய்வலயுநி. இரிக்ஸ் கமிட்டி ஸிஸிஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி
நூறு. வக்டு வ் வ் ஸிஸி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி. காசி யா ஸாகு
ஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகு ஸிஸிஸ்திஸ்தி விராதுலசேய்வலயுநி, ஸிஸி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி
இரிக்ஸ் கமிட்டி ஸிஸிஸ்திஸ்தி விராதுலசேய்வலயுநி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி.

“காஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்தி, காகுஸ்தி-காகுஸ்தி காகுஸ்தி அஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்தி.
காசி ஸிஸிஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்தி ஸிஸிஸ்திஸ்தி. காஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகு ஸிஸி
ஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி. காஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகு ஸிஸிஸ்திஸ்தி, வக்டு
ஸிஸி விராதுலசேய்வலயுநி, ஸிஸி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி, வக்டு ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி
ஸிஸி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி, ஸிஸி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி, காஸ்திஸ்தி ஸிஸிஸ்திஸ்தி
ஸிஸி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி ஸாகுஸ்திஸ்தி.”

3-30 p.m. *SRI N. ANNAMALAI PILLAI:—“கனம் சபா நாயகரவர்களே,
கனம் அங்கத்தினர்களே, வட ஆற்காடு, தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாக்களைச்
சேர்ந்தார்போல் தென் பெண்ணையாறு ஓடிக்கொண்டிருக்கிறது. இந்தத்
தென் பெண்ணையாற்றுக்கு அணைகட்டுவதற்காகப் பல வருஷங்களாகச்
சர்க்கார் முயற்சித்து வந்திருக்கிறார்கள். வட ஆற்காடு ஜில்லா, செங்கம்
தாலுகா, சாத்தனூருக்குச் சமீபத்திலுள்ள இரண்டு மலைகளின் சந்திப்
பில் அந்த ஆறு ஓடுகிறது. அதை அணைக்கட்டி உபயோகப்படுத்தினால்,
திருக்கோவிலூர் தாலுக்கா, விழுப்புறம் தாலுக்கா, செங்கம் தாலுக்கா,
திருவண்ணாமலை தாலுக்கா, செய்யார் தாலுக்கா, வந்தவாசி தாலுக்கா,
ஆகிய ஊர்களில் நீர்ப்பாசன வசதி உண்டுபண்ணி விடலாம். இதைக்
கொண்டு ஏராளமான புஞ்சை நிலங்களை நஞ்சை நிலங்களாகச் செய்து
விட முடியும். எனது ஜில்லாவானது மிகவும் வரண்டுபோன ஜில்லா;
பஞ்சத்தில் முழுகிப்போன ஜில்லா; புஞ்சை நிலங்கள் நிறைந்த ஜில்லா;
மானம் பார்த்துத் பயிரிட்டு ஜீவிக்விருவர்கள் வாழ்கப்படுகிற ஜில்லா. முக்கிய
மாக செங்கம், திருவண்ணாமலை தாலுக்காக்களில் விவசாயிகள் நீர் வசதி
யில்லாமல் மிகவும் கஷ்டப்பட்டுக் கொண்டிருக்கின்றனர். பல வருஷங்
களுக்கு முன்பே பெண்ணையாற்றில் சாத்தனூருக்குப் பக்கத்தில் அணை
கட்டுவதென்று சர்க்கார் திட்டம் போட்டிருந்தனர். ஒவ்வொரு வருஷமும்
பட்டுட்டில் போட்டும், அந்தத் திட்டத்தை அமுலுக்குக் கொண்டு

[19th August 1946] [Sri N. Annamalai Pillai]

வராமலே இருந்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஒவ்வொரு வருஷம் பட்டுட்டிலும்
அதற்கான தொகை ஒதுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும். ஆனால், கடைசியில் செலவு
செய்யப்படாமல் விடப்பட்டிருக்கும். காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை ஏற்பட்டி
ருக்கும் இந்தச் சமயத்திலும் அதே மாதிரியான நிலைமை ஏற்படாம
லிருக்கவேண்டுமென்று ஜனங்கள் எதிர் பார்க்கின்றார்கள். நானும் அவ்
விதமே எதிர் பார்க்கின்றேன். விவசாயத்தை அதிகரிக்க வேண்டு
மென்று சொல்லும் இந்தச் சமயத்தில் இந்த ஆற்றில் அணைக்கட்டினால்
விவசாயத்திற்கு உதவுவதோடு கூட, அதிலிருந்து electric current
கூட எடுக்க முடியும். காங்கிரஸ் சர்க்கார் உடனடியாக இத்திட்டத்தை
ஆரம்பித்து வைப்பார்களானால், special staff ஒன்றை வைத்து
வேலையை உடனே துவக்குவார்களானால், அது மிகவும் நன்றாயிருக்கு
மென்று நான் தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“செய்யாது அணைக்கட்டும் ரிப்பேர் செய்யப்படாமல் உடைந்து போய்க்
கிடக்கிறது. துறஞ்சிலார் அணையெல்லாம் கூட உடைந்து போய்க் கிடக்கின்
றது. இவைகளை உடனடியாக ரிப்பேர் செய்யவேண்டும்.

“போனார் தாலுக்காவில், படவெட்டு கிராமத்திற்குச் சமீபத்தில்
குப்பம் என்ற ஏரி இரண்டு மலைகளுக்கு நடுவே கட்டப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.
அந்த ஏரி உடைந்து அநேக வருஷங்களாகியும், இன்னும் கவனிக்கப்
படாமலும் கட்டப்படாமலேயே இருந்து வருகிறது. அதை உடனே
கட்டவேண்டுமென்று நான் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஜில்லார் (திருவண்
ணாமலை தாலுக்காவில்) துரு வாரப்படாமலேயே இருந்து வருகிறது.
அதுவே போல் சமுத்திரமேரியும் மண் துந்துபோய்க் கிடக்கிறது. வெள்
ளத்தினால் உடைந்து போன பல ஏரிகள் என்னுடைய தொகுதியில்
இன்னும் ரிப்பேர் செய்யப்படாமலே இருக்கின்றன. இந்த வருஷத்திலே
யாவது அவைகளைக் கட்டிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளு
கிறேன். இப்போதுள்ள பஞ்ச காலத்தில் இந்த ஏரிகளை யெல்லாம்
உடனடியாக ரிப்பேர் செய்தால், விவசாயத்தை அதிகப்படுத்தி, தானி
யங்களை அதிகமாகக் கொண்டு வரமுடியுமென்று தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளு
கிறேன். முக்கியமாக, பெண்ணையாற்றில் அணைக்கட்டும் வேலையை உடனே
துவக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

*SRI K. CHANDRAMOULI:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, this pro
vince is rich in supply of water, both by rainfall and by peren
nial rivers. And yet there is a great cry everywhere for water
and more water. So it means there must be something wrong in
the policy of the Government that was in existence previously.
Instead of conserving water, when it was available in plenty, it
was allowed to flow freely and run to waste, leaving men and
crops to their fate. So I am submitting to the Hon. Minister in
charge of Irrigation that he should take this problem on a broad
basis, instead of dealing with it piecemeal, and see that rivers are
properly dammed and water let into channels. Of the Kistna river,
88 per cent of its water is wasted into the sea; only 12 per cent
of the water is utilized at present by the Government for irrigation
purposes. If the Kistna anicut is properly raised to a higher level
and if more shutters were fixed, there will be more water impound
ed, which can be let into a net-work of canals, and which in their
turn will serve also as a means of communication. We cannot solve
our transport problem in any other way. Even for transporting
food there are no waggons nowadays.

“Now coming to the district from which I come, the Guntur
district, only one-sixth of the district is irrigated, and the remain
ing five-sixth of the area is dry. Even in that one-sixth area, all

[Sri K. Chandramouli] [19th August 1946]

the crops have no proper supply of water. Repalle taluk is suffering from this, as it is at the tail-end of the irrigation system. There is not even sufficient provision for drainage of water. Unless the drainage system is improved irrigation can never be availed of satisfactorily.

"I would make one more appeal, and that is with regard to the Kandleru project, which costs only 3½ lakhs but irrigates more than three thousand acres and feeds about six lakhs of people. Now, Sir, it is a well-known fact that this province is famous for tank irrigation. Unless rain water and surplus water are conserved, no tank or irrigation scheme can be worked satisfactorily, and no Grow More Food Campaign will be successful, so that the whole province may have abundant food, or I would say, enough and to spare. With these words I resume my seat."

* SRI P. VENKATARAMA AYYAR:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, நீர்ப்பாசன சம்பந்தமாக நான் பேச எழுந்ததும் தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லா வாசி கொழுத்த நீரரைமத்திலிருந்து வந்து பேசுகிறேனே என்று சபையினுள்ளவர்களுக்கு வியப்பாயிருக்கலாம். உண்மையிலேயே ஜலம் சரியாக பாய்கிறதில்லை. தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லா இயற்கை நீர் ரொம்பம் ஆனதால் மேட்டூர் ரிசர்வாயர் கட்டினாலுங் கூட ஆறு பள்ளத்திலிருந்து நிலம் மேடாக இருப்பதால் வாய்க்காலிலே போகும் ஜலம் வயல்களுக்கு ஏறிப் பாய முடியவில்லை. வெண்ணாறு, வெட்டாறு பிராந்தியங்களிலுள்ள நிலங்கள் மேட்டுப்பாங்கானது. ஜலம் ஏறிப் பாய்வதில்லை. நீடாமங்கலத்துக்கு மேற்கே மைனர் இரிகேஷன் வாய்க்கால் எல்லாம் வெட்டப்படாமலிருக்கின்றன. வாய்க்கால் "எ" கிளாஸ், "பி" கிளாஸ் என்று பிரிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. "எ" கிளாஸ் சானல்கள் சர்க்காரால் பராமரிக்கப்பட வேண்டியது. ஆனால் 5, 6 வருஷத்துக்கு ஒரு தரம் வாய்க்கால் மதகுகள் ரிப்பேர் சம்பந்தமாகவும், shutters போடவேண்டியிருந்தால் போடுகிறதைத் தவிர வேறொன்றும் செய்யப்பட்டதாகத் தெரியவில்லை. குடிமராமத்து ஆக்ட் ஒரு வேலையும் செய்ய முடியாத நிலைமையில் ஒவ்வொரு வாய்க்காலும் வெட்டமுடியாமலிருக்கிறது. சட்டமந்திரி "Grow More Food Campaign" விஷயமாக தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவிற்கு வந்த எல்லா இடங்களிலும் இதே கூக்குரல்தான். கிராமாந்திரங்களிலே வாய்க்கால் வெட்டப்படாமல் பாழாய்க் கிடக்கிறது. நன்றாய் விவசாயம் செய்ய முடியாமலிருக்கிறது. இதற்காக பட்ஜெட்டில் பெரிய தொகை ஒதுக்கவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது அதிக உணவு சாகுபடிக்கு போனஸ் கொடுக்கிறதைக் காட்டிலும் வாய்க்கால் வெட்டி சாகுபடிக்கு வேண்டிய சவுகரியத்தைச் செய்து கொடுக்கும் பக்கத்தில் இப்பொழுது விளைச்சலைக் காட்டிலும் அதிக விளைச்சலை ஏற்படுத்த முடியும். இதனால் 30, 35 பர்செண்டு அதிகம் விளையும். இன்றைய தினம் ஸ்யாம், அமெரிக்காவிலிருந்து தானியங்களைக் கொண்டு வருவதைக்காட்டிலும் விவசாயத்திற்கான பாசன, வடிகால், ஏரு முதலிய வசதிகளைச் செய்துகொடுக்கும் பக்கத்தில் தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவிலேயே நாம் அதிக தானியத்தை அடைய முடியும். வாய்க்கால்களை வெட்டவேண்டியது மிகவும் அவசியம். அதோடு தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் வடிகால் வசதி சரியாக இல்லை. இது நீண்ட நாள் குறை. இதனால் மழைக்காலத்தில் எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் ஜலம் தேங்கி விடுகிறது. அழுதி கெட்டு இளம் நடவானால் முழுதி அதிலும் ரயில்வே லயனுக்குக் கிழக்கே இரு புறங்களிலும் ஒரே தண்ணீர் மயமாகவே இருக்கும். வரப்பு என்றும் வாய்க்கால் என்றும் தெரியாது. அங்கே இருக்கும் மரங்களெல்லாம் ஜலத்திலே மிதப்பது போலத் தோன்றும். இசற்குக் காரணம் அங்கு வடிகால் வசதி மிகவும் குறைவு. சர்க்கார் இதை உடனே செய்து கொடுக்க வேண்டும்.

[19th August 1946] [Sri P. Venkatarama Ayyar]

"இரண்டாவதாக தஞ்சை ஜில்லா இயற்கை நீர்வள முள்ள பூமியானதினால் பாய்கால் வடிகால் ஒரே வழியாகத் தான் போகவேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. இக்காரணத்தினால் ஜலம் சீக்கிரம் வடிய முடியாமல் தேங்கி விடுகிறது. முக்கியமாக கார்த்திகை, மார்க்கழி மாதங்களில் கதிர் புரப்படும் சமயத்தில் மழை பெய்தால் வடிகால் வசதி இல்லாமை யால் அது முழுதி போய் முற்றும் பதராகி கெட்டுப் போய் விடுகிறது. ஆகவே தஞ்சை ஜில்லாவில் பாய்கால் வடிகால் அபிவிருத்தி செய்வதற்காக எஸ்டிமேட்டுகள் தயாரிக்கும்படி செய்தால் அடுத்த வருஷத்திய பட்ஜெட்டிலாவது, கவர்ன்மெண்டார் வசதி செய்து கொடுப்பார்களென்ற நம்பிக்கையுடன் நான் இந்த மான்யத்தை ஆதரிக்கிறேன்."

* SRI K. RAGHAVAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I intervene in this debate to call upon the Government the great necessity to undertake some minor irrigation works in the district of Malabar. It is a long-felt want of the people and I call upon the Government to undertake some minor irrigation works. Because of heavy rainfall in Malabar, there is an impression that the district flows with milk and honey and there is no need for minor irrigation works. To-day it is an exploded theory and I must, with all the emphasis at my command, say that Malabar stands very much in need of minor irrigation works. The Hon Minister in charge of Revenue who visited Malabar a couple of months ago, has stressed the imperative need for minor irrigation in South Kanara and Malabar. The realization of the Kundacheru project in Kottayam taluk has been a crying demand for the last so many years. Representations were made from time to time to the previous Government. Chirakkal and Kottayam, being the deficit area, some irrigation scheme should be undertaken forthwith. I would like to draw the attention of Government to the loss of crops in Malabar due to excessive rain this year. Proper compensation should be given to the agriculturists. Lastly, I trust that the Government will draw up a comprehensive scheme of minor irrigation works in Malabar and execute them as early as possible."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming as I do from Coimbatore district which is adjoining Salem, these two districts are interior districts. They are mainly dry areas. The geographical position of Coimbatore is unfortunate, being centrally situated. It is benefited neither by the north-east monsoon nor by the south-west monsoon. Therefore its condition is very deplorable. Of course, Coimbatore cannot boast of big rivers or any perennial stream or of any big reservoirs. Coimbatore and Salem districts are adjoining Mettur Reservoir. But both the districts, unfortunately, are not benefited by it. Anyhow, Sir, the situation in Coimbatore can be improved by developing the existing rivers, namely, Amaravathi on the south, Bhavani on the north, and the Noyal in the centre. The Noyal water is used for all purposes. As we know, it runs through the centre of the district, starting from the Vellingiri hills and ending in Cauvery in Dharmapuram taluk. This system is peculiar by itself. It has got nearly 32 anicuts, and at every third mile there is an anicut and a channel, and at the end of each channel there is an irrigation tank. But unfortunately, Sir, owing to the defective rainfall and the frequent failure of the monsoon, almost every

[Sri V. C. Palaniswami Goundar] [19th August 1946]

year these tanks do not get filled. The ayacutdars get a satisfactory crop only once in every three years. Therefore, Sir, the Noyal river has to be improved by the irrigation scheme that was originally contemplated by the Engineering Department at the time the Coimbatore Municipal Water-Supply Scheme was designed. If you go into the history of the Siruvani Scheme you will find it has three aspects, namely, (1) augmenting the water-supply in Noyal river, (2) giving additional water-supply for increased ayacut, and (3) developing hydro-electric supply. At that time the Pykara Hydro-Electric Scheme did not come into existence. Therefore, Siruvani Scheme received a prominent place in the scheme of irrigation water supply and hydro-electric developments. But for some reason or other these two schemes were dropped, and the Coimbatore Municipal Water-Supply Scheme alone came into existence. Of course, we are now in a favourable position. The Coimbatore Municipal Water Works have done pioneer work, and if the Irrigation department takes into consideration the diversion of the Siruvani water into the Noyal and form a big reservoir at the head of the river, the original plan will be accomplished.

"Another important point I would like to mention is the Bhavani Project. It is as old as the Tungabhadra Project, but for some reason or other, this project was postponed. During the Advisers' regime we were told that the Bhavani Project was sanctioned, but somehow it has receded in the programme. I request Government to take up the Bhavani Project now. As there is no time for me to deal with other matters, I resume my seat."

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would not have risen to support this cut motion but for one local matter that I want to bring to the attention of the Government. Before that I would like to ask the Government whether they have any long range plan with regard to the irrigation schemes in the Province. There is no use of tinkering with this problem at this time when all the attention of the Government has to be concentrated on the food question. We would have to take a long range view of these things and plan accordingly. In fact if the Advisers' regime was alert enough it could have made a plan and could certainly have averted the impending calamity that is threatening us to-day. But there is no use of crying over spilt milk. I would request this popular Government to see that they have a definite plan with regard to the irrigation projects in this Province so that this food problem may be solved once for all in this country. I would request the Government to see whether they can appoint a committee, if they are very nervous about appointing a committee, at least an officer, an expert officer, to go into this question. In fact I have been anticipated by my hon. Friend Mr. Kala Venkata Rao about the necessity for constituting an Irrigation Advisory Committee, for the Province as well as for each district. I strongly endorse his suggestion.

"Coming to Malabar, that unfortunate piece of land has been misrepresented for a long time, I think, owing to the ignorance of the administration run by the Britisher who took only a casual

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glance of the localities. Malabar looks beautiful. Its scenery is splendid. So the Britisher goes away with the idea that it is flowing with milk and honey. That legacy has been handed down from generation to generation with the result Malabar has been neglected for a number of years, and it has culminated in that unhappy tragedy that was witnessed in 1943 which resulted in a famine which was responsible for a casualty of about one lakh. I know the Hon. Premier knows something and a good deal, if not more than many of us know, about Malabar, and I know he has great sympathy for Malabar district. I need not add much about the claims of Malabar because my hon. Friends, Mr. Pocker and Mr. Seethi Sahib, have very ably pressed the claim of Malabar in the matter of irrigation. I will add one thing more, that is with regard to my taluk, Ponnani. In fact, during the last Congress regime, the present Additional Minister for Food, I remember, was pleading very strongly for some irrigational projects in the Palghat and Ponnani taluks. I will draw the attention of the Government to the fact that we have a perennial river which runs right across the Palghat division and wastes its water into the sea. In this connexion I may say that I had an occasion to talk to a high officer in the Engineering Department who was simply struck with the immense possibilities of the taluk in the matter of irrigational facilities. I would request the Minister for Irrigation to see that that water is not wasted, but utilized for irrigational purposes. In fact, it has been an yearly occurrence in that part of Malabar to hear of the failure of second crops. If only the Engineering Department are prepared to look into the question and make the water of the Bharathapuzha useful for irrigation purposes it would greatly add to the solution of the present food problem in that taluk. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat."

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—"Mr. Speaker, 4 p.m.
Sir, I am extremely obliged to hon. Members on the other side as well as those on this side for the very valuable and friendly contribution which they have made to this debate. There is practically no difference between the Government and the Members of the Opposition on the other side on this question of irrigation. Government are fully aware of the importance of this question of irrigation during the present food crisis. Even for improving the economic condition of this poor country, we have to devote sufficient attention to develop agriculture, and to develop agriculture, we must have a long range programme and an immediate programme for expanding irrigation. And the food situation that is facing the Government and this House impels us to devote necessary attention to this question of expansion of irrigation. Even on the question of inadequacy of representation of Muslims in this department, I do not demur, Sir. I want my hon. Friends on the other side to give me qualified men for proceeding with our expansion activities. We want more men, we are short of men. We are at our wit's end to find qualified men to carry out our programme. We have been sanctioning special staff in every district

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to investigate and carry out new works that are proposed. We are short of men and if only my hon. Friends on the other side would help me with a supply of qualified men, I shall be extremely grateful to them. There was a suggestion that we could take in some qualified men from the Highways section. I have been considering that question. We have taken up the reorganization of the Highways section, and I am in a position to say that we shall be able to spare a few superintending engineers, a few divisional engineers, a number of assistant engineers, and a good number of supervisors who are now in the Highways section. We propose to draft them to irrigation work without the least prejudice to the need for maintenance of the roads in this province. In this connexion, I must also point out that so far as the ryots are concerned, they are more interested in having new works, and necessary repairs being executed expeditiously than in having men of their own communities represented in the Irrigation department. Anyhow, I am for removing all inequalities, all under-representation, and only I must have qualified men. If I can get qualified men from the Muslim community or from the community to which Mr. Nagappa belongs, I would even give over-representation to these communities. I only want qualified men.

“Regarding the programme, I can give you the programme that I am framing and the plan that I am preparing. We are analysing the various schemes and works that we can take up in each district under three heads. One is the short-term plan. Under this plan come schemes and measures which can be executed within the shortest possible time and which will be productive of almost immediate results, preferably before the end of the year. Under this head, we are attending to the clearing of silt in supply channels and canals so as to supply adequate water. We are immediately attending to this in every district. Wherever it is not properly attended to, if the Government's attention could only be drawn to it, we would take necessary steps to have these repairs carried out expeditiously. Under the short-term plan, we propose to increase the ayacut of channels to a limit of 5 to 10 per cent as a temporary measure by running extra depths of flow wherever possible. This would be possible in the Kistna, Godavari and Cauvery deltas where irrigation of new areas may be permitted to some extent. Then again, under the short-term plan, we propose to arrange for pumping water wherever it is found feasible and desirable. Again, under this short-term plan, we propose to extend the existing channels and excavate their links to new channels for providing irrigation facilities to new lands.

“Then under the middle-term plans, come new irrigation schemes and measures which can be executed, the effects of which can be felt within one or two years. That will extend from 200 to 5,000 acres.

“Then again, I have got the third head, long term plans, for big projects. Some projects we have already taken up. Some projects have been sanctioned already. The Hon. Premier referred to some big projects like the Vaigai project, the Lower

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Bhavani project, Sathanoor scheme for the North and South Arcot districts, Pennar Kumudavathi project, and so many other projects. These projects come under the long-term plans. We shall take up these works also early. We must begin some time; particularly because it will take a long time to yield results, we should not delay it. Government fully realize it. These may yield results after a period of three years.

“Then again, there is the fourth item. That is the question of minor irrigation works. We have asked the Collectors to devote all their attention to improve minor irrigation works. Under this head we propose to carry out our expansion activity.

“I have got in my hand proposals for each district under these three heads. I have become fairly acquainted with the several projects—as many as 33—hon. Members referred to these in the course of the debate on this demand for grant on irrigation. I have asked the department to examine them as expeditiously as possible. Investigation has to be done, but investigation, I assure the House, will be done as expeditiously as possible. When the investigation is complete, the works will have to be taken up for execution. Even for executing works within a short time, there is really technical difficulty, practical difficulty and I say even physical difficulty, in spite of what my hon. Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu observed this morning. For a project, it is true 30 lakhs or 40 lakhs or one crore is allotted. There may not be any difficulty in allotting the one crore in the budget for one year. But the work has to be executed. I might have the necessary labour through the kind efforts of my Friend Mr. Venkateswarlu, but mere labour will not do. There are technical difficulties. Of course, we had expedited work in the Rumperu drainage scheme in Guntur district, for which the previous Government allotted only one lakh of rupees. With a view to accelerate the execution of the scheme, we have this year raised it to five lakhs. We can raise it to as much as possible, we can expedite it as much as possible, but it is not possible to complete the works with any number of men within a shorter time than what is required for completing works like them. Of course in the past, irrigation was not given the necessary attention. There was the old criterion, as was referred to by hon. Members in this House. If a new project was to be taken up, they used to calculate what would be the capital outlay, what would be the return, whether it would satisfy the prescribed limit, etc. Schemes were abandoned even after investigation. Even after months of labour by engineers, several schemes have now been abandoned. As the Hon. Premier referred to in the course of his budget speech, we propose to take up several of the abandoned schemes. Our present criterion would be the extra acreage that would be brought under cultivation. Of course priority would be given in taking up the works considering the extent of additional cultivation we can bring under a particular project. With that idea in view, we are re-examining several of the schemes that had been found useless and abandoned in the past. We now realize—I entirely agree with the observations made by some hon. Members

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—that rather than spending crores of rupees on famine relief works, we can as well spend large amounts of money on irrigation projects, expand irrigation and permanently do away with famine. It is with that idea that this Government have been examining schemes not for one district, not for two districts, but for every district. Even for the Nilgiris, although no hon. Member referred to the needs of that district, I can tell this House we have got on hand four schemes. One cannot imagine whether there can be any irrigation scheme in the Nilgiris district. We have got on hand four irrigation schemes, it may be minor schemes, but still we have on hand those schemes, and we shall try to execute them.

“ Then reference was made to the neglect of the West Coast. It is true the West Coast has been neglected. But it must also be pointed out that there have been natural difficulties and legal difficulties in the matter of taking up and executing schemes. Anyhow we shall get over all these difficulties. We propose to have necessary legislation before long in order to get over the legal difficulties in the matter of expansion of irrigation activities in the West Coast. We have been examining schemes for Malabar, and I have got on hand nearly 25 schemes. For South Kanara, I have got on hand 20 schemes which have to be examined and taken up. Even for the Vizagapatam district, I have got as many as 32 schemes. Of course in the past necessary attention was not bestowed and several districts were neglected, and now I am anxious that we must take up every district. It is also my personal ambition that, apart from the major works for which we would be spending large amounts of money, we should not mind spending a crore of rupees on an average for each district on minor irrigation works. Why one crore? We can spend even more. We are examining all possible schemes that could be taken up, all schemes that could be considered feasible from the engineering point of view, all schemes that would really result in substantial additional acreage under cultivation. When we take up the schemes, we do not mind the expenditure; we would be satisfied if, by carrying out a programme like this, this country can be made self-sufficient in the matter of food. Reference was made to the condition of Rayalaseema. We are quite aware that the Tungabhadra scheme would benefit only seven taluks in the whole area. We have got schemes on hand which would cost—I have not got figures for Bellary district on hand—Rs. 206.17 lakhs which would bring under cultivation 46,755 acres. We have been sanctioning special staff for taking up works. Reference was made by the hon. Member for Anantapur in regard to the delay in the matter of investigation of schemes. Investigations will be expedited. The special staff has already been sanctioned to examine the possibilities of the Upper Pennar projects. Reference was made by the hon. Member for Bellary to the Bhairavana-Tippa project. It will be investigated. Of course there may be difficulties which were pointed out. I would not deal with such difficulties. We hope to get over these difficulties and bring them into realities. I hope to complete this Bhairavana-Tippa project about which the people of Bellary and Anantapur are so anxious. Then reference was made to the Pennar-

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Kumudavathi project. It is a pity as pointed out by hon. Members. Even during the last ministry when the present Revenue Minister who was then the Parliamentary Secretary visited the place, Government included it in the Part I Scheme; and still it is there. Investigation is completed but there are hurdles as pointed out by the Hon. Premier in the course of his reply to the general budget discussion. But we do hope to get over these difficulties and before long the Pennar-Kumudavathi project will come into existence. Then, Sir, as pointed out by the hon. Member for Tanjore wherever I go, I see this. It is the same grievance whether it is in the dry famine ridden area or the delta area, whether in Kistna delta or Cauveri delta or the Periyar delta. Though they have plenty of water they suffer so much damage. Therefore we have taken up drainage schemes for Guntur and Kistna on hand. Reference was made to the needs of the dry area in Guntur district. We shall certainly examine the Kanduleru scheme. We have first to examine the possibility and then it will take at least six months as mentioned by the hon. Member for Anantapur. After the investigation is completed we shall not hesitate to take up such works for execution. Then the hon. Member for Tiruvannamalai referred to that one project which everybody refers to in the North Arcot district, that is the Sathanoor scheme which was already referred to by the Hon. Premier in his reply. That too is being examined. Then my hon. Friend the Kumara Raja of Chettinad referred to the conditions in the Ramnad district. At least in districts like Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool people talk of some projects although they have had no benefit from them. But in Ramnad the Public Works Department has been so far only attending to buildings and there is no large irrigation although there are two taluks where there are some irrigation works worth mentioning. Even there when I recently visited I had particulars about a project in the Srivilliputtur taluk. I am examining the scheme. And particularly in neglected districts like Ramnad or Vizagapatam, or South Kanara or Malabar or any other neglected district, I shall give necessary attention. I do not omit intentionally any neglected district which requires our sympathy. My hon. Friend Mr. Moideen Kutty referred to the conditions in Ponnani. We have examined some schemes in Palghat and Ponnani and we shall certainly take up one or two major projects and also as many minor works as possible. Regarding South Kanara, I answered interpellations in this House that two schemes were being investigated. As pointed out by my hon. Friend for Kasaragod that Sheriar scheme which is a very good scheme in South Kanara is being revised and if possibly the estimate can be reduced it will be quite possible to take up that scheme. My hon. Friend Swami Sahajananda referred to certain difficulties in the Chidambaram taluk. The report I have received is that some improvements to the North Rajan channel are being proposed and if these improvements are executed the grievances referred to by Swami Sahajananda would disappear. But I had a talk with Swami Sahajananda this morning. He told me that even if those improvements were carried out the difficulties would not be removed. I would have the question examined again

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and see what relief may be given to the ryots of these areas. My hon. Friend for North Arcot made an eloquent appeal to consider the interests of North Arcot. In 1931 the Palar Irrigation Committee, specially appointed to investigate the matter, considered the question and it was found that it would not be possible to extend the area beyond what it is now in the Palar basin. It was found that no extension of existing work for increasing the amount of water impounded was drawn up by them. Government directed that no dry land should be registered wet and no single-crop land should be registered as wet. In 1939 the late lamented Minister for Public Works while replying to the debate had to confess: 'I must confess I feel helpless, not only myself but my department also feels helpless.' But the eloquence of my hon. Friend gives me a ray of hope. If the previous Government had found it helpless the eloquence of my hon. Friend does give me hope that something may still be done. There is the other difficulty with Mysore also. I shall not discuss that question. We are examining the whole question and we will see to what extent relief is possible under the Palar area. Then my hon. Friend from Nellore referred to the Mopad project. He wanted information about the position. It is a famine protective work which was designed to bring under irrigation 12,500 acres of dry land. It was completed in 1920. In 1943 there has been development only in 6,400 acres. The reasons given by the Collector in 1923-24 were the defect of salinity in the land, the lateness of water and the backwardness and poverty of the people. These were examined by the Chief Engineer and the reason given was the slope of the country and the lack of adequate water-supply. Government have considered several measures for improving the project and after careful consideration have decided that it was suitable to supplement from Pillapuram. An anicut has been constructed and its waters have been diverted in the existing Mopad channel to enable regular supply. This work has been recently completed at a cost of 1.3 lakhs. My hon. Friend from Dharapuram referred to the conditions of that famine-ridden area. I could give him some hope. We shall be taking up the lower Bhavani project so as to extend irrigation to parts of Dharapuram. We shall also consider every possibility of extending irrigation to that dry area. Ever since we took up office we have been attending to the immediate repairs to existing supply channels and canals. We have even temporarily dispensed with Kudimaramath regulations so that the repairs might be executed expeditiously without delay or defect. We are examining the whole question of Kudimaramath regulation. We would see how best we should revise that old system. My hon. Friend from Narasapur referred to the defects in his taluk how with a little expenditure large benefits could grow. We shall certainly examine this question and we shall try to give the necessary relief at the earliest possible time. My hon. Friend also referred to the prevalence of corruption among subordinate officials. Hon. Members of this House would remember the Press Note issued two months ago regarding corruption reported to be existing among subordinate officials who are in charge of letting water out. I want the

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co-operation of ryots in this respect. One Superintending Engineer told me that he went to a village where corruption was rampant. He collected the villagers—the village was in delta area in the Andhra Desa—and said: 'I shall be camping here for a month. I shall see that you are not put to any inconvenience.' But the villagers told him: 'You will be here now. Next year we shall have to carry on with the old overseer. So we shall not do anything.' Is that the co-operation which would help us to get rid of corruption? I want unstinted co-operation, from the ryots, from the public and from the hon. Members of this House to remove corruption. If corruption is bad elsewhere it is hopelessly bad in irrigation. We are really anxious to root out corruption and I do expect your unstinted co-operation in that respect.

"Then my hon. Friend Mr. Kala Venkatarao who is one of the specialists on irrigation matters in this House has made very valuable suggestions. All these suggestions will be considered. He suggested the formation of District Irrigation Committees. I am already considering the question of organizing a regular quarterly irrigation conference consisting of the members of the Legislature, the Revenue officers, the Irrigation officers and certain other representatives of the district. That will be a regular conference. I am afraid the present Irrigation Committees in the districts have not been working quite satisfactorily. So, before long, we would arrange for a regular quarterly conference of the representatives of the district.

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"Then my hon. Friend Mr. Seethi Sahib referred to the conditions in Ernad and Walluvanad taluks in the Malabar district. The Postwar Reconstruction Sub-Committee on Irrigation went through the various irrigation schemes, including the postwar schemes of the Malabar district. They have suggested a number of works for investigation in the Malabar district. The Government understand that the whole of the unoccupied lands of the Walluvanad taluk northward with very rare exceptions consist of laterite hill tops to which water cannot be easily lifted for irrigation purposes and these are too porous to retain water even if it is provided. The problem is one of storage of water in such areas without excessive loss on account of seepage. Certain schemes were considered in 1939 but investigation was postponed in view of the legal difficulties on account of the peculiar conditions prevailing in the Malabar district. The question of passing necessary legislation for meeting the difficulties is under the consideration of the Government. After legislation is passed, necessary further action will be taken.

"Then, Sir, certain hon. Members suggested that if we want money for new irrigation works, we should resort to borrowing. Yes, it is a very valuable suggestion. We shall certainly take up that suggestion, if we have your support.

"Several hon. Friends pointed out that our policy as enunciated by the Hon. the Premier is all right but that there was no evidence of it in the budget. Well, Sir, we have enunciated our policy. We

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have also framed certain projects but we cannot get them ready for execution within a month or two. They have to be examined. If after examination they are found to be satisfactory, plans and estimates have to be prepared. It is only then that the Government can accord its sanction to the scheme and then only is the scheme taken up for execution, after including necessary funds in the budget. But Sir, even before the budget year, if any scheme is got ready for immediately taking up for execution, I shall not hesitate to go to you for any supplementary grant that will be found necessary. Let not therefore hon. Members be anxious that this or that item should be taken first, or that this project or that project or that this district or that district should be given preference. There is no preference at all in this matter. Whenever a work is ready for execution, we shall go to you for necessary funds.

"In this connection I may also assure the House that we are simultaneously examining the possibility of new schemes in every district in the Province. We are not neglecting any particular district, and we shall bear in mind the districts that have been neglected so far.

"My hon. friend Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan referred to the condition of the Buckingham Canal and the Cooum in the City of Madras and suggested how to improve them. This matter will be examined by the Government with a view to see what improvements can be effected.

"Then reference was made to the condition of irrigation works in zamindari areas. There was a legislation passed by the Advisers' Government in 1943 which empowered the Collectors to take up the works after giving due notice to the zamindars and to execute them and recover the cost from the zamindars.

"But when this Government took up office, it found that that legislation remained rather a dead letter. We have now asked the Collectors to take necessary steps to repair the irrigation works which have been hopelessly neglected in the zamindari areas. We shall, in due course, place that legislation before this House for discussion and approval.

"As regards the Tungabhadra Project, it is being executed as expeditiously as possible. Reference was also made to the Ramapadasagar Project. Investigation is going on and we are devoting all our attention to it. I hope the investigation will be completed in a few months and then we shall be able to take up that big project for immediate execution.

"Then reference was also made to the Sangameswaram Project. Long ago, this project was considered feasible the question of sharing not having been considered; but the Government later did not proceed with it, as the question of sharing the waters between the Hyderabad State and the Madras Government had not been settled. The Engineer also who originally recommended the project gave his advice against it later. So the Government had to give it up as not a feasible project and the matter was left at that stage. But I am not going to leave it at that. My Hon.

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Colleague, the Minister for Hindu Religious Endowments, had recently been to the place and inspected the spot. He is also, I know, very particular that we should take up that big scheme. I am getting the scheme examined again. If it is found feasible, as I hope it will be, we shall take up that project also.

"I need not, however, refer to the various other suggestions which hon. Members of this House have made on this very important question of irrigation. It is because of its importance that you, Sir, have allowed as much as four hours for this demand. When everybody realizes the importance of irrigation and when the Government is one with the opposition and other Members of the House, I do not think it is necessary for me to take up any more time of the House. With these words, Sir, I appeal to the hon. Member on the opposite side to withdraw his cut motion, and support the grant."

* D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What about the treaty rights between the Mysore State and this Government, Sir?"

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—"About this question, Sir, I think it would be advisable for us not to discuss it now on the floor of this House. But I can give this assurance to the hon. Member that we are examining the question and we shall do everything we can in the interests of this Province."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, this Demand has been dealt with by the Hon. Minister for Public Works exhaustively. I have, therefore, got to say only a few words by way of supplementing what he said regarding our irrigation policy. In regard to this also he has covered the ground to a very great extent. Still, I wish to say a few words.

"Sir, it is expected that at least one crore of rupees would have to be allotted to each district if the irrigation facilities of each district are to be substantially improved so as to give relief to the people. You will see in the whole Presidency from one end to the other each district has to some extent lands irrigated by water either through rivers or tanks. In most places also you will find what are called uplands or dry lands where nothing green meets the eye and no crop is grown. There is scarcity of water even for drinking purposes. It is a sad picture which one cannot adequately describe in a debate of this kind. It would tax all the energies and the resources of this House to describe those areas and to bring them to the level of areas lower down where there is ordinary irrigation.

"Sir, about eight years ago myself and my friend Mr. T. Viswanathan took a journey while we were in office to the Punjab attracted by a scheme which that Government was carrying out at that time with regard to the regulation of rent collection. We stayed there and we were helped by the Punjab Government of the day in every possible way. What did we find there within the borders of India and how the conditions in our own Province stood in comparison? There the canal development had been

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completed at a cost of about Rs. 49 crores. And what had our Province done? The amount spent by this Government here for a similar purpose was about Rs. 2 crores. What could you expect under such conditions? How could anybody have thought of finding this Province on a level with or even approaching the level of the Punjab? You could see then that because that Government had the vision and the sense and the wisdom to find the money and to invest it on the most profitable business for the benefit of the people, that scheme was completed. We went round the whole area with Sir Sunder Singh Majithia who was then the Minister for Revenue and Public Works. Here we are now confronted with the food problem, whereas the Punjab has been in a different condition. The Punjab has been able to send some food to us in the worst days of food famine from their stocks. We should have been better than the Punjab or any other Province in India.

"Sir, look at the number of rivers referred to by hon. Members in the House to-day. I must congratulate every Member who in his own way referred to the rivers or projects or works that have to be attended to by Government. Hon. Members drew up a complete map of the whole Province in the matter of irrigation works. I thank every one of them for that. We should make it our duty to see that everything that has been demanded of this Government is attended to before long. Sir, as I was saying, in the Punjab we learnt everything about their irrigation arrangements and since then we have been thinking whether there would be any chance for us to come to power so that we may be able to follow the example of the Punjab in the matter of irrigation developments. The late Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar who was a good friend of mine used to think in his free moments about the potentiality of Indian rivers and the potentiality of the irrigation projects. His brain used always to work at top speed and he used to have flights of imagination. He suggested at one time: 'Well, Mr. Prakasam, look at our country; what are we doing here; how many rivers are there in our Presidency? Why could we not connect the Ganges water, the Brahmaputra water and the other waters of the rivers in the North with the waters of the Godavari, the Kistna, the Cauvery and the Tambraparni?' That was his idea. (The hon. Sri K. Bhashyam: 'He called it "The Great Waterway"'.) Yes, as Mr. Bhashyam, my Hon. Colleague who was a great friend of the late Mr. S. Srinivasa Ayyangar, says, he used to call it 'The Great Waterway'. He had been thinking whether any such chance can come to us. It is a tragedy, Sir, that with so many rivers, with so much water flowing into the sea, this country should have been left in this condition. Of course the tests for starting any irrigation work applied by the previous Government were whether a scheme was productive or not and so on and if they were advised that a scheme was unproductive they would simply put it aside. There were schemes which could have been completed within 12 months such as the Gundukoru Scheme in Guntur district. It is a very small scheme. We are taking it on hand and hope to do our best to restore all that has been lost to us by not developing the irrigation projects.

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We would appoint a committee of experts to examine the whole situation with regard to our irrigation policy and take their advice and help as to how best we should carry out the whole scheme from one end of the province to the other without omitting anything. We will have the question of cost examined and then get the best advice for the execution.

"As my Hon. Colleague has already stated, borrowing for this purpose is not a bad policy. Borrowing will be resorted to after taking expert advice upon these matters and we will push through the whole programme as quickly as possible.

"We are all living in the City of Madras with the Cooum in the neighbourhood referred to by Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan who was once Mayor of the Madras Corporation. (Laughter.) He must have suffered considerably from this Cooum river nuisance. The question is how to remove this nuisance. It is not possible to remove this nuisance from our midst with our slender resources and with the aid we are at present getting from the Engineering department. The Engineering department of the whole of this presidency, as my Hon. Colleague has stated, would not be able to cope with this work. We want specialists skilled in carrying out such works that pertain to the Cooum river business. If we could get the help of such specialists we could consider whether it is possible to divert the course of the Cooum.

"Some hon. Members referred to a lake called Kolleru in the West Godavari district. This is a peculiar lake. Its waters could not be drained and has the accumulated filth of years. To this lake used to go the hon. Members of the Madras Government and also Members of the Board of Revenue for shikari when the lake was full. I have myself gone to that place but not for the purpose of sharing in the game. I went there for the purpose of finding out lands for cultivation near the Kolleru drain. I know what the soil there is like. When there is no water the size of the lake would be greatly reduced, but when there is water it would inundate a pretty large area of the plains. We should sometime solve the problem of this lake.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig referred to the Budameru. It is a rivulet and when it is in floods, it overflows the neighbouring lands. This problem has not been attended to by anyone. All the engineering skill would be required in order to find out the way to check its power for mischief. There are very many things in different districts requiring solution with great patience and with the available funds. We shall do all that is possible. We, therefore, request hon. Members to give us time and have patience to see how things are done."

The cut motion was by leave withdrawn.

Demand VIII was put and carried and the grant was made.

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DEMAND IX—HEADS OF PROVINCES, MINISTERS AND
HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 32,64,900 in respect of the head "Heads of Provinces, Ministers and Headquarters Staff." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 3,02,219."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I call upon the Leader of the Opposition to move the cut motion standing in his name."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I am only sorry that such an important Demand as the one under consideration at present has come at the fag-end of the day."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It will be continued to-morrow also."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"But so far as I am concerned, it is the fag-end of the day. At the very outset, in moving the cut motion standing in my name, viz., to reduce the allotment of Rs. 32,64,900 for Heads of Provinces, Ministers and Headquarters Staff by Rs. 100, I have to register my protest, my emphatic protest and that of my party for the manner in which my party, the Muslim League Party, has been treated in the matter of the formation of the present Ministry. It was due to our party that we ought to have been consulted at every stage with reference to the formation of the Ministry. It may be said that the majority party had the right to do as it pleased and to form the Ministry as it pleased. It may be so in countries like England and other Western countries where we do not have the conditions which we find in this country and in this Province. I want to mention only one of the factors, Sir; so far as the Muslims are concerned, they had nothing to do with the election of members of the majority party. Therefore, if the Muslims had to be taken into the consideration by the majority party as they ought to have been, it was only through their own elected representatives that such a thing could be done.

5 p.m. "It might be said that the Muslim League might not have agreed to come into the Ministry. But that is a different question altogether. Whether they would have gone into the Ministry or not would have depended upon the instructions which my party would have received from the Muslim League High Command. But whether we agreed to form part of the Ministry or not we had a right to be consulted, whatever might have been the result of that consultation; and we were not extended that courtesy. That is the basis for my protest and strong complaint.

"Another important point I want to urge is that the principle of separate electorate should be extended to the Corporation of Madras and also with reference to the election to the local and municipal bodies in the districts. On a previous day when I mentioned this question of separate electorate, the Hon. Premier

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spoke of the late lamented Moulana Muhammad Ali and said that he was for joint electorate in the years 1920-21. The Hon. Premier is perfectly correct, Sir, in making that statement. Not only Moulana Muhammad Ali, but there were a host of others amongst the Muslims who thought likewise and even in this House there are some hon. Members in my Party who thought at that time that joint electorate might be a good thing. There was a time when Quaide Azam Jinnah also thought that joint electorate might be a solution for some of the evils of the country. But, Sir, Moulana Muhammad Ali himself had to change his view soon after the time when he was entertaining views in favour of joint electorate, when he saw the spirit and basis of the Nehru Report and when he saw the conditions which were prevailing after 1921. He had to change his views and he was one of the stoutest champions of separate electorate. He wrote a series of articles in 1925 in which he proved that separate electorate only would satisfy the demands of the Muslims and that it was the only solution for many of the political ills of the country. It was he, Sir, who used the words that through the joint electorate it was only men of straw amongst the Muslims that could be elected to the Legislature.

"When our Friends speak of joint electorate they also speak of the reservation of seats for Muslims. For what purpose such a reservation should be made? The evident answer is that for the purpose of giving representation to the Muslims and that representation is for voicing forth the views of the Muslims. Now, Sir, under joint electorate those who would be supposed to voice forth the views of the Muslims won't be the real representatives of the Muslims. They will be mainly and chiefly the representatives of the majority community. Asking the Muslims to be satisfied with joint electorate is like asking a defendant or a plaintiff to agree to setting up a lawyer in consultation and in agreement with the other party. That is not a feasible proposal, Sir. When the Muslims want representation and real representation it must be given through separate electorates. They want this, so that they may speak their mind openly and clearly and it is only through their own representatives elected through separate electorates that such voicing forth of the views and feelings of the Muslims is possible. If through joint electorate their voice is shut up then the result will be, that their feelings will be smouldering and grievances will be growing. Therefore, in the interests of all concerned, it is highly desirable that the Muslims are given separate electorate in the local and municipal bodies as well.

"It is, as I said on a previous occasion, a sheer prejudice and misunderstanding to think that separate electorate will create and perpetuate a misunderstanding between the Muslims and others. I earnestly request the Hon. Ministers to see, Sir, that it is not really so. It is only when the Muslim or any other community gets what it wants, only when their legitimate rights are met; and only when they are satisfied that these misunderstandings and

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ill-will will not have any fertile field to grow. Therefore, I earnestly request the Hon. Ministers and their friends to revise their views drastically and to introduce separate electorate for the elections to the Corporation of Madras and other local bodies."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"For the information of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and the House, I wish to say that the Hon. Minister for Local Administration will bring an amendment to the City Municipal Act on the 6th September 1946."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Will this point be carried out there?"

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know if the Government are going to bring an amendment for the purpose of introducing separate electorates? Will the Hon. Minister for Local Self-Government announce that?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"I may say for the information of the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and other hon. Members that the proposed legislation will be for the purpose of extending the number of divisions in the City of Madras and consequential amendments and reserving certain number of seats for certain communities."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What about separate electorates?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"The question whether there should be joint or separate electorates could be discussed in connexion with the relevant measures."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Thank you very much. Sir, I have to thank you for drawing my attention to the fact that an amendment is going to be introduced and my words are very opportune and I hope the Hon. Minister will include my proposal in the amendment that he proposes to bring. ('Hear, hear.')

"Then with regard to the representation of Muslims in the service, first I shall take the Secretariat. As I said on a previous occasion, the figures about the Muslims in the various ranks of Government service and of other communities are not available. But, however, I have made an effort and obtained certain figures. Here there are figures as they were in 1938.

"In the Secretariat there were 27 gazetted officers. Out of that figure in 1938 only one was a Muslim and even that one Muslim has disappeared now. There is not even one Assistant Secretary, not even one Superintendent in the whole . . ."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"There are a number of superintendents."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, there is not even one Assistant Secretary in the Secretariat. In this connexion it will be interesting to note that the percentage of Muslims in all the ranks of Government service, I mean gazetted ranks, is only 9.5, whereas according to the communal Government Order it ought to be 16½ per cent. It will be also interesting to note

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the percentage of the other communities in the same ranks. The percentage of Brahmans comes to 27.9; the percentage of the Non-Brahman Hindus is 29.4; Europeans 8.4, and of the other communities 24.8.

"Under this Demand for 'General Administration' I do not think it will be out of place for me to place some figures before you and this Honourable House so that the Ministers might take the earliest opportunity of rectifying the inadequacy of Muslim representation in the various ranks of Government service.

"Out of 19 posts of officiating Excise Inspectors, 11 are Brahmans, 5 Non-Brahman Hindus, 1 European, 1 Christian and only 1 Muslim.

"Out of 17 Excise Officers on probation, 8 are Brahmans, 7 Non-Brahmans, 1 European and 1 Muslim.

"In the Judicial department, out of 13 High Court Judges, there are 3 Brahmans, 3 Non-Brahmans, 6 Europeans and only 1 Muslim. Besides this, there are 2 temporary High Court Judges one of whom is a Brahman and the other a Muslim.

"Then there are 9 officers in the High Court . . ."

(Interruption.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Please do not disturb him."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Of these 5 are Brahmans, 3 Non-Brahmans, 1 Christian and no Muslim at all.

"Out of the 37 Subordinate Judges and 29 acting Subordinate Judges, 31 are Brahmans, 21 Non-Brahmans, 1 Christian, 1 European and only 4 Muslims.

"There are also vacancies in this department and I hope the Government will see whether they cannot rectify the inadequacy of Muslim representation at the time when they fill up these vacancies.

"Out of 141 District Munsifs, 50 are Brahmans, 57 Non-Brahmans, 5 Christians, 2 Europeans and only 7 are Muslims. There are 20 vacancies and 62 acting District Munsifs; out of this only 10 are Muslims.

"There are in this Province 6 Deputy Inspectors-General of Police. Four of them are Europeans, 1 Brahman and 1 a Non-Brahman.

"Out of the 42 Deputy Superintendents of Police, 6 are Brahmans, 26 Non-Brahmans and only 4 are Muslims.

"Out of 4 Deputy Commissioners of Police in the City, 1 is a Brahman, 1 a Non-Brahman and 2 are Europeans. No Muslim occupies any of these posts.

"There are 32 Assistant Superintendents of Police, out of whom only 2 are Muslims. There are 12 vacancies and I hope the cause of the Muslims will be considered at the time of filling up of these vacancies.

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" Out of 22 officers in the Jail department and certified schools, 12 are Europeans, one of the posts is vacant, 6 are Hindus and only 1 is a Muslim.

" In the Educational department, in the Engineering College at Guindy, there are 5 officers and 7 gazetted lecturers and instructors. Of these 5 are Brahmans, 1 a Christian, 4 non-Brahmans and 2 Anglo-Indians and there is no Muslim at all.

" There are 30 District Medical Officers, of whom 12 are Brahmans, 9 Non-Brahmans, 7 belong to other communities and only 2 are Muslims.

" In the Agricultural department again there are 36 officers of the ordinary category, of whom 11 are Brahmans, 15 Non-Brahmans, 10 Christians and only 3 are Muslims.

" There are 33 Deputy Conservators of Forests, out of whom only 2 are Muslims.

" Amongst the 14 Assistant Conservators of Forests, only 1 is a Muslim.

" Among the 24 Engineering Officers, 12 are Brahmans, 2 are Non-Brahmans, 8 Europeans, 2 Christians and no Muslim at all.

" Out of 84 Assistant Engineers, only 4 are Muslims against 22 Brahmans, 28 Non-Brahmans and 30 belonging to other communities.

" These figures may be correct or may not be correct in certain respects. (Laughter.) If they are not correct I am not responsible for it. The Government ought to have continued to supply us with these figures as they were doing up to 1938. I have done my best in securing these figures and all these refer to the gazetted ranks. If the figures for the other ranks are available, I think, the same story will be revealed there also, perhaps a worse story as I am reminded by my hon. Friend Mr. Pocker. I request and urge on the Government to pay adequate attention to these inequalities and grievances of the Muslims in the various departments of the Government and rectify them as soon as possible.

" Finally, Sir, under this head, I should like to say a few words regarding post-war reconstruction schemes. I do not know what are the ideas of the Government on the subject. What they propose to do, we are not given to understand clearly. For one thing we were told that they were curtailing the activities of the Highways Department. What other curtailments and improvements they are going to do, we do not know. But one thing, Sir, we find is that they are very much given to the scheme of rural reconstruction. It is really a good thing. Rural reconstruction is the crying need of the Province as well as of the whole country. The people in the rural parts, the people who till the land in the villages are not merely the backbone as we all say it, but they are the body, the life and the spirit of the country. Their prosperity, happiness and strength are really the happiness, prosperity and strength of the whole country. There is no doubt about it. There need be no question about it at all. But what is it that we

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are going to do for these people? That is the question. And also whether what we intend doing for them will really achieve the object which we have got in view. We all know, Sir, that these people in the villages must get a higher income, a much higher income than they are getting to-day. They must get sufficient food and clothing and a more comfortable shelter. All these are agreed and there is no doubt or objection or difference of opinion about these matters. But how are you going to achieve all these things? That is the question.

" Here again we are told that the scheme of village autonomy will achieve these things. What is village autonomy again is not clear to us. Do they mean that every village must be autonomous and self-sufficient in every way? If that is so, is it practicable? Can they do it now? Or on the other hand do they want that every village must get as easily as possible all the necessities of life in the village itself? If the latter is the case, no one need have any difference from the Hon. Minister. That can be done easily and I think that is the right way of going about the thing. Take for example, Sir, I avoid the word khaddar as advised by the Hon. Premier—take for example hand-spinning hand-weaving. (Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig: The scheme is called the khadi scheme.) We shall eschew that word for the moment. Is it the idea of the Government to make every village produce its own cloth through this means of hand-spinning and hand-weaving? Or is it the object of the Government to supply sufficient cloth to every village and see that it is produced in this province somehow or other? Sir, there may be a village whose inhabitants might be engaged almost exclusively in the production of yarn and handloom cloth. All the cloth they are producing might not be consumed by them. Then are they not to find sales for them in the other villages? If the other villages are to be self-sufficient in the matter of cloth then what are these villagers going to do? Are you going to put a ban on this village of weavers and say that they ought not to produce more than so much of cloth and that a number of weavers should take to agriculture and other things so that that village might get the necessary food, etc.? These are ordinary points which any man of commonsense would like to understand, Sir. It is these things which I want to be explained by the Hon. the Prime Minister. By all means we want a drive for prosperity to be carried on by this Government, but in what way are they going to do it? It is there I have got my misgivings. I want them to reconsider these schemes and see whether they are suitable for the conditions as they exist in the Province and also in other parts of the country. With these words, Sir, I move my cut motion."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this motion on various grounds. In the first place, Sir, I wish to raise a very important point, namely, the right of this legislature to be consulted when the Government modify or cancel the decision of this House. Sir, this House spent several days in discussing the food question and in spite of great opposition from this section of the House it was decided to approve the proposals of the Government to form certain village committees to carry out the food and

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cloth administration in the villages. Whatever the merits or the demerits of that system may be, I am not entering into them now, because this House has already discussed and decided the matter. Of course, it was predicted then that so many serious consequences would follow and I do say that these serious consequences have followed. Because what is it that you find? Soon after the proposal of the Government to entrust the administration of food to these village committees, taluk committees and district committees was passed, just two days afterwards, you find in the press that certain gentlemen from Malabar, the President of the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee and certain M.L.As. of Malabar, met the Premier and placed certain proposals before the Government, proposals which were entirely different, substantially and fundamentally different from the proposals that had been placed by the Government before the House and passed by the House. They proposed to entrust the matter to certain co-operative societies formed by whomsoever it may be—I do not know because the scheme itself is not clear to me. The responsibility of carrying on the food administration was expected to be vested not in the village committees to be nominated by the Tahsildar from among the people gathered for the purpose. The proposal made by the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee wanted to have the matter entrusted to co-operative societies organized and carried on by themselves. In fact the impression created in the district of Malabar was that the administration of food was handed over by this Government to the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee. This impression has created great havoc and is continuing to create great havoc.

“ Now, Sir, is it proper or just on the part of the Government to have deviated from the proposal accepted by this House and entrusted the administration of food in Malabar to the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee? The proposal went to this extent that applications for the post of inspectors ought to be forwarded to the President of the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee. It was even said that the appointment of inspectors was entrusted to the President of the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee. No doubt it is the Congress Party that is in power, but that is no reason why the Government as such should entrust these matters to a private body like that. After all it is a private body.

“ Sir, this matter has been brought to the notice of the Hon. Premier. No doubt, in the carrying out of that policy there have been ever so many complaints and they have been placed before him and he has been kind enough to promise to go to Malabar and see the thing for himself. But what I am now objecting to is the principle that when once a matter has been passed by this House, the Government have no business to alter it to any extent without consulting this House or any party in this House. I certainly enter my emphatic protest against it; it has caused very great havoc in Malabar, and it is only for avoiding further trouble that I have said this. The result of transferring this food administration to the Kerala Congress Committee is that the authorities of the

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Kerala Congress Committee can go and form co-operative societies in their own way without even giving a sufficient and proper opportunity for the other people. These instances have been brought to the notice of the Hon. the Minister. Now, Sir, if you just go to Malabar and make enquiries, you will find the impression has gone round that the Government, so far as food administration is concerned, are not doing well, that Government as such is being carried on by the Kerala Congress Committee. This is an impression that ought to be removed and I say it is dangerous to allow things to continue like this.

“ I need not refer, Sir, to the various instances in which committees have been formed in a hole-and-corner manner without allowing other people to have their say in the matter. In the course of the general discussions, it has been brought to the notice of the Government that in many of the village committees that have been formed, even Muslims representing the Muslim League have been excluded. I hope the Hon. the Premier will carry out the promise he has made on the floor of this House that he would look into these matters, and wherever he finds it necessary, he would be wise to abolish and reconstitute these committees. I say, Sir, once again, that unless these matters are fully enquired into and justice is done, it will become dangerous.

“ Now, Sir, I would like to refer to one other subject referred to by my hon. Friend, the Leader of the Opposition, viz., the question of separate electorates. I would only like to add this, i.e., from my experience, I can state with confidence that so far as the relationship between Hindus and Muslims is concerned, what I have learned is that separate electorate is the best solution and joint electorates would be only creating troubles between one community and another. I shall just explain to you why I have come to that conclusion. Take the question of elections to the Legislature where separate electorates have been prescribed. There is absolutely no trouble or misunderstanding, each legislator goes on with his work and there is absolutely no trouble at all. But if you go into the question of joint electorates now existing so far as local bodies are concerned, there is so much of trouble and misunderstanding and bad blood there between Hindus and Muslims. In a joint electorate when a Muslim and a non-Muslim stand for election, the attitude of the non-Muslims towards the Muslim candidate becomes a source of trouble and misunderstanding and creates many hardships. When a Muslim stands, the Hindus of the locality set up a non-entity as a Muslim figurehead, and there is consequent trouble which at all times ends in ill-feelings. If there is some kind of cordiality between the communities in all matters, there will be no necessity for even reservation. On the other hand, when it is conceded that it is necessary to give opportunity for the representation of Muslim interests, the only next question is, which is the best way to give effect to that intention? That is all that has to be considered, and the only way is that a Muslim who would represent the Muslim opinion should alone be returned. You have now a joint electorate in which

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the Muslims are in a small minority. This amounts to taking away by one hand what is given by the other, i.e., the right you have given to the Muslim of separate representation. Therefore, I submit it amounts to a negation of the right of the Muslim to have a separate electorate even when you agree that there should be special representation of their interests. You can as well say that there need be no special representation for anybody. Sir, all are human beings on the face of the earth and if you think there should be representation of only human beings and there is no necessity for representation of the several communities, then say so, and then all special representation will go. But when you concede that there are separate interests to be represented, you cannot deny separate electorates. There is no doubt that this system of separate electorates is working very well in regard to elections to the Legislature, because you find there has been absolutely no trouble between Hindus and Muslims in the elections to the Legislature. That is why you find 29 Muslims have been returned to this House to represent real Muslim interests in this Province. You have never heard of any trouble as regards their election. But every day we hear of all kinds of misunderstanding and trouble in regard to elections to local bodies both in the municipalities and in the local boards. After all, if you recognize the right of representation of Muslims you should adopt the best method of giving effect to that representation. (Sri Kala Venkata Rao:—‘Separate or joint electorate in Calcutta?’) (Mr. Speaker:—‘Let us leave aside Calcutta now, let us come to the point.’) My hon. Friend wants to quote the example of Calcutta for Madras. Let him have our own province in view rather than go to Calcutta. When we have set an example in Madras which you may well follow in many other respects—it is an example of which we are proud, and you too should be proud of the example we have set—why go to Calcutta and other places? We are able to have this result only because we have separate electorates, and it is for this very reason that I say separate electorates should be extended to elections to the Corporation and to the municipal and local bodies. That follows logically. I do not know on what principle the Government can deny us this right. What is happening so far as the scheduled classes are concerned? In their case also, the trouble is that you are taking away by one hand what you are giving by the other. (Sri Kala Venkata Rao:—‘But they do not complain.’) If you say so, I say it is absolutely unknown to me indeed, how many of them complain is a matter for your consideration; but to say that they do not complain is a travesty of truth, even to my knowledge. I say, either you maintain that no separate interests need be represented, or if you once recognize that they have to be represented separately, give effect to it in the most efficient manner, and that is by accepting separate electorates. After all, what do you do? Nothing.

“Sir, I do not want to take up more time of the House. I would strongly urge on the Government to consider this question very seriously at the earliest opportunity, i.e., at the time when the Hon. Minister for Local Administration is bringing forward

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an amending Bill—no doubt it is intended for some other purpose—for legalizing the new divisions which are being added to the present Corporation limits.

“There is one other point, Sir, to which my hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition has referred, viz., the representation of Mussalmans in the various departments. He has given so many figures as regards that, but I would only mention one word about that subject. So far as the Secretariat is concerned, it is rather deplorable that there is not one Assistant Secretary, not one gazetted Muslim official anywhere in the Secretariat. (An hon. Member:—‘Mr. Kudva.’) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am told there is one Secretary, Mr. Kudva. This is just another reason for my pressing for separate electorates. This is the extent of knowledge exhibited, so far as Muslims are concerned. When I say with all knowledge and on enquiry, that there is not a single Muslim as Assistant or other Secretary, an hon. Member says I am wrong because he thinks some gentleman—from whose name he could not understand whether he is a Parsee or a Christian—is there, and he concludes he must be a Muslim. That shows the extent of his knowledge and also the extent to which a non-Muslim can represent the interests of the Muslims. (‘Hear, hear.’) This colossal ignorance of the needs and the culture of the Muslims is a fact and we say it is not only the non-Muslims that are colossally ignorant of the needs and requirements of the Muslims, but the Muslims also are colossally ignorant of the needs and requirements of the Hindus. I must confess that as an honest man. Therefore, let us be honest and let us take facts as they are, and recognize them and see whether we cannot come to an understanding on these real facts. I am therefore very thankful to my hon. friend for giving me an additional reason in support of my proposition.

“Now, Sir, I may point out that as early as 1920 when perhaps the Justice Ministry was in power, or about that time, the Government recognized the right of communal representation and some gentleman was brought into the Secretariat from outside as Assistant Secretary. Thereafter too, it was understood that at least one gentleman should be an Assistant Secretary, although I was aware of more than one in those days. Now, all of them have retired and it is not possible for Government to say there are no qualified men among Muslims who can occupy the post of Assistant Secretary in the Secretariat. Can the Government seriously maintain that they cannot find in the whole province a Muslim gentleman who has the capacity to be an Assistant Secretary here? Certainly not. The Muslims have proved themselves to be much more efficient than they are considered to be and they yield to none in efficiency. If you want, you may test them. I may say even very recently, injustice has been done in this connexion. Even though a Muslim Superintendent was available and qualified and had every right to be appointed as Assistant Secretary, his claim has been overlooked and some non-Muslim has been appointed. I refer to the Finance Department, it is a matter of very recent occurrence. Even after this Government came into power, this is what we see.

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After all, what we are asking is nothing, we have been deprived of all our rights for ever so many years, decades and decades, and it is because we have been neglected in education, and that is why we did not find many qualified men. But now when there are qualified men coming forward, is it not proper that you should do justice to them? He is there in the Secretariat, and God-father for him, there is none, it is only when there is a God-father that he can get anything. What we want is therefore pure justice and nothing else. I do not want to take up more time of the House, Sir, I have finished."

5-45
p.m.

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, two hon. Members of the League Party have already spoken on this very important demand in the whole of the Budget of this year. Sir, to-day in this country, we are placed in a very critical position. In a country inhabited by various nationalities, we have not been able to devise a plan which will enable us to work together, harmoniously for the benefit of all concerned. As a result of our failure and to our great misfortune, we are faced with a very serious situation. I thought, Sir, that the two great wars that were fought during the short period of a quarter of a century had a lesson for the world, but to our great disappointment and dismay, we have to admit that wars may come and wars may go but man continues to be selfish to the core. He does not understand that he has to serve humanity, his fellowmen and fellow-beings. Even to-day, leaving aside our own country, those nations which have been belligerent countries during the war, have not learnt that lesson and therefore peace has not been established in the land, anywhere in the world, and that the very atmosphere of domination, and selfishness seems to have affected our country also, with the result that to-day there are people who ought to have been generous in their attitude towards others who are less in number and those people who should have had an outlook, wide and liberal, have taken a very different attitude. The result is that the same spirit of domination overrules them and to-day unfortunately in this country, the two great nationalities, Hindus and Muslims, are pitted one against the other. I am very sorry, Sir, that it is so, for I believe, both the Muslims and the Hindus, for circumstances over which we have no control, have lived together in this country for centuries and lived together as brothers. Although we belong to different communities yet circumstances forced us to live together and as a matter of fact even to-day we live together as brothers. We thought that the fact that we had to live together as brothers in this country would be recognized by the people who were in power and who ruled over this country with some amount of vision. But no, to our great disappointment that was not be. What do you find on the other hand? There is the spirit of domination ruling over them and we are here in an unfortunate situation. My hon. Friend, Mr. Kala Venkata Rao, while my friend Mr. Pocker Sahib was speaking, drew his attention to the unfortunate situation in Calcutta. I would like him and other hon. Members to know that it was wrong on the part of Mr. Venkata Rao and others to believe

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that it was all one-sided as the report tried to make it out otherwise. The way in which some of the news service in the country are flashing out news, betray their partisanship to our great disappointment. I must say, Sir, not only these services but also some of the pressmen have been responsible for widening the gulf between these two communities and they are still persisting in their nefarious methods of flashing out news. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I refrain from mentioning the names of papers but my hon. Friend cannot restrain himself."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Reference to Calcutta ought not to have been made here, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have already put a stop to it."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We are sorry, but since correct news has not been vouchsafed to us, we ought not to refer to the unfortunate situation that has arisen there. Therefore, Sir, I shall stop there so far as Calcutta is concerned."

"Sir, so far as our Province is concerned, elections were held under separate electorates; the two major organizations in this country, the Congress and the Muslim League, conducted their elections without any untoward incident anywhere in the Province, the Congress set up its candidates and the Muslim League set up its candidates; we succeeded in capturing cent. per cent. of the seats, and the Congress succeeded in capturing 98 or 99 per cent. of the seats. Sir, this was due to the fact, as my hon. Friend, Mr. Pocker rightly emphasised, that we had elections on the basis of separate electorates. The Muslim Leaguers could have set up some friendly Hindus as candidates against the Congress candidates, but we did not do that because we thought that we had come to an understanding and that so far as Muslims were concerned, they should confine themselves to the Muslims alone, but my Friends of the Congress Party did not keep quiet. Even though, we had separate electorates, they wanted to try their hand here and there by setting up some Congress candidates or some other candidates in the name of nationalist Muslims, poor fellows. (Interruption.) I am a nationalist Muslim even to-day, even more than a nationalist, but not in the way you set up nationalist Muslims. Sir, I was not set up any time against the Muslim League at all and my hon. Friend is entirely mistaken. He reads history wrongly. I do not want to use words 'colossal ignorance' because they are unparliamentary; although one may be colossally ignorant, I do not want to use the words here, Sir. My Friends would like to confront me in regard to my past connexions with the Congress. Yes, I remember those days; I remember the leaders of the Congress at that time; I remember too who it was that made the Congress of those days what it is to-day. I remember here the name of the late Mr. Srinivasa Ayyangar. I remember the name of Hakim Ajmal Khan and Dr. Ansari, Moulana Muhammad Ali and Moulana Shoukat Ali, who made the Congress what it is to-day but they were mistaken; so was I. (Laughter.) Now, Sir, I stand here, wiser than what I was before. (Laughter.) I stand here completely disillusioned. One Leader after another was driven out from the Congress. Even the late Moulana Muhammad Ali whose

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memory was remembered even by our revered Premier the other day, and whose method of election was referred to,—no greater Congressman than he existed at the time—he had no other alternative but to leave the Congress as a result of the Nehru Report which went against Muslims thoroughly; when even Leaders like him left the Congress, to my great shame, I must say, I stuck to the Congress in the year 1937 when, without any reason or rhyme, I was also sent out. I must make it clear here, Sir, that I was sent out and what was my offence? The last elections were fought under some understanding—the last elections previous to this were fought under some understanding between the Muslims and the Hindus between the Muslim League and the Congress, Congress Leaders and Muslim Leaders jointly set up Muslim League candidates. At that time even Congress Muslims were sent to me and some of the Muslim Leaguers also were sent to me by the Congress leaders—the Hon. Premier was also one of them—I have even to-day letters from Congress leaders asking the Muslim League to set up some Congressmen on the Muslim League ticket. We were asked to stand on the Muslim League ticket and and so I did. I was a Muslim Leaguer in the Legislature and when the Quaid-e-Izam Muhammad Ali Jinnah for very good reasons sent out the late Mr. Yakub Hasan from the League the late Mr. Satyamurthi wanted to take revenge on me for what has been done to Mr. Yakub Hasan. Unfortunately, though I do not want to go too much into those details, yet the fact remains that that was the treatment meted out to the Muslims. Even in regard to the membership of the Congress—and here again my hon. Friend may confront me with the fact that I was still in the Congress. I am a Nationalist and I have been a Nationalist all my life and shall continue to be so all my life; so also every Muslim. What does nationalism mean? Does it mean merely domination of one community over another and trying to destroy one community for the sake of advantages to the other community? That is not so, Sir. My nationalism means democracy, where every one belonging to this democracy should have his rightful place and should enjoy all the benefits in this world and the world to come. (Interruption.) Sir, that should not be the attitude. I say, next world, because the Hon. the Minister for Education and other Hon. Ministers on the Treasury Bench do not believe in religious education and therefore I referred to the next world also. Therefore they must remember that there is the next world to come. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we talk of Hindu-Muslim unity. Many people have lip sympathy for the Muslim community when they talk most vociferously of Hindu-Muslim unity. If there is any nationality and if there are any who are really anxious to work for Hindu-Muslim unity, it is we."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may continue his speech tomorrow. The House will now adjourn and meet at 11 a.m. tomorrow."

III.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

Notification issued with G.O. Ms. No. 1923, Home, dated 28th June 1946, making certain amendment to the Madras Motor Vehicules Rules, 1940, published with Home Department Notification No. 357, dated the 29th March 1940, as subsequently amended.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, the 20th August 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHAN-MUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Removal of Hitchcock Memorial in Malabar.

* 97 Q.—P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the strong public demand for the removal of the Hitchcock Memorial in Malabar; and

(b) whether the Government will consider the question of its early removal?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) & (b) The Kerala Provincial Congress Committee made a representation. The matter is under consideration."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government is aware that this is a matter which has been pending very long and about which representations were made even during the last Congress Government? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Yes. The matter will be considered by this Government."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Government consider the advisability of removing all statues of Europeans in this Province? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The hon. Member may not be so vehement over any particular class of statues. Perhaps it is better if there are no statues at all." (Hear, hear from the Muslim Group).

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is the Government aware that this is a standing monument of police zoolum in the Malabar district during the Moplah rebellion and in view of the fact that it is a constant reminder to the people of the district, will the Government be pleased to order the removal of the memorial as expeditiously and as dramatically as it was done in the case of the Neill Statue? "

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" The present Government may not be aware of all the conditions and circumstances that existed prior to the Moplah Rebellion, during the rebellion and after the rebellion. However, all the facts will be taken into account."

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Where is the necessity to take so much time to come to a decision on a simple question like this about which the Congress policy was decided long ago?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The present Government does not know when the Congress policy over this matter was decided."

MR. F. FERRELLY:—"Is it not a fact, Sir, that a considerable amount of money subscribed to the memorial to this gallant police officer came from the Muhammadans in Malabar?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Government is not aware of it, Sir."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Government aware that the subscriptions were collected by the then authorities in Malabar by means of official coercion?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Government is not aware of it either."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If the Government is not aware of it, is not the Hon. Premier at least personally aware of it, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Premier knows a lot of things; he knows not some things; but they cannot be imported into a matter like this."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is not the Government aware, Sir, that these subscriptions were mere extortions by the Police?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Surely not, Sir. The hon. Member should have known it for himself."

Haji K. M. AHMAD KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government aware that the Moplahs were coerced by the Police officials in Malabar to subscribe for raising this monument?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question has already been answered."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Government aware that this officer whom my hon. Friend called a gallant police officer was really responsible to a large extent for the rebellion on account of his treatment of the non-co-operators at the time?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"There is no official record for that." (Laughter.)

Storage of tobacco in residential buildings in Guntur.

* 98 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representations have been made to the Government to prohibit the storage of tobacco in the residential buildings within the municipal limits of Guntur;

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(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether the Government have taken any, and what action in the matter; and

(c, if not, why not?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (a) A petition signed by the residents of Guntur, dated 11th June 1946, was received by the Director of Public Health.

" (b) & (c) The Assistant Director of Public Health was sent to Guntur to investigate and submit a report. A report was submitted to the effect that in 180 houses in residential quarters, tobacco was stocked and cured and tobacco was also stocked in residential quarters in the extension. Tobacco is an offensive trade but it is not included in the schedule to the District Municipalities Act. The schedule has to be amended before action could be taken."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government consider the advisability of amending the schedule?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Government will certainly consider the suggestion made by the hon. Member."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Is the Government aware that the health of the women workers in Tobacco Works is deteriorating every day as there is no proper protection for their health?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Perhaps so. This supplementary question does not arise out of the main question."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Do Government propose to take proper measures to protect the health of these workers?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"You may put that as a separate question to the Hon. Minister for Labour."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"My question is in regard to the health of the workers, Sir."

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Necessary protection will be given to guarantee the health of the women workers."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that tobacco is injurious to health?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Yes. It is."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Will the health of the tobacco workers be protected in the form of legislation, Sir?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I do not think any legislation is necessary for this but the schedule may be amended or modified."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Is the Government aware that the health of the workers in the municipalities is going worse day by day due to the scandalous negligence? . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question does not arise."

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SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Is the Government aware that children are employed on tobacco piece works and may I ask whether the Health Minister will be pleased to bring in suitable legislation to prevent employment of child labour?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am afraid this question does not arise out of the main question."

Post of Deputy Directress of Public Instruction.

* 99 Q.—B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin): Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state when the office of the Deputy Directress of Public Instruction which has been held in abeyance is to be filled up?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"The post of Deputy Directress of Public Instruction in the Indian Educational Service which had been kept in abeyance from time to time was abolished in May 1945. But the post in the Madras Educational Service exists and remains vacant. The Government have now under consideration a proposal to appoint a Gazetted woman officer in the office of the Director of Public Instruction."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government be pleased to state how long will this matter be under the consideration of the Government?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"Till the consideration is finished."

SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA:—"டிப்டி டைரக்டர்ஸ்தான் திருக்கு ஹரிஜனைப் போடக்கூடுமா?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"Yes. Surely." (In Tamil).

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I want a translation of both the question and the answer, since I have not understood both as they were in Tamil."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question is whether Government will appoint a member of the depressed class for the post and the answer is in the affirmative."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Whether the Government will consider the abolition of the post of Deputy Directors and bifurcate the Province into Andhra area and non-Andhra area and appoint two Directors of Public Instruction even on a lower salary as a precursor to the formation of a separate Andhra Province?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR:—"No, Sir."

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Registration of Allied Automobiles (India), Limited.

* 100 Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Regional Transport Officer at Coimbatore has recommended to the Examiner of Capital Issues the registration of a motor firm styled as Allied Automobiles (India), Limited, knowing full well that its managing agent is a dismissed sub-inspector of police;

(b) whether it is a fact that this managing agent is prosecuted for certain offences in Cochin State and is now on bail; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the Regional Transport Officer served in the same district as sub-inspector when the said managing agent was dismissed from his post which he then held as sub-inspector?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" (a) The answer is in the affirmative.

" (b) This Government have no information.

" (c) The answer is in the negative."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Arising out of the answer to (b), will this Government pass on the information to the Government of India?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Government will consider whether it is necessary to do so."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"May I know what is the capital of the Allied Automobiles (India), Limited?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I have no information. If it is necessary we shall get the information from the Government of India."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Where is the necessity for recommendation to the Examiner of Capital Issues?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"This was not done by this Government. If the hon. Member wants an answer, I require notice of it."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Is it good public policy to recommend people against whom proceedings are pending especially in a matter which involves collection of public money in the form of shares from various interests?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"It is not a subject matter relating to this question but it is a question of policy."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether it is the policy of Government to restrain the ordinary rights of a citizen including dismissed Government servants in the matter of embarking on business enterprise?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"It cannot be the policy of any Government to restrain the liberty of any individual if that individual has got the right to do a particular thing."

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SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Would not Government recognize it as the duty of the Regional Transport Officer who was asked to make a recommendation, that he should furnish full information to the Government of India and not withhold relevant information?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"This question also is not definite and so I cannot say what is the exact quantum of information which the Regional Officer should give the Government of India. That would depend on circumstances and this is not relevant here."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Government now enquire whether full information was given and if it was found that full information was not given, or part of the information was withheld, will the Government be pleased to furnish and forward that information to the proper authorities?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The Government cannot give any such undertaking but if that matter requires further investigation, the Government may do it."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Is it a fact that this Government has a soft corner for dismissed police officials?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I may assure my hon. Friend that this question is quite unwarranted and irrelevant and my hon. Friend would never have thought that the Government have any soft corner for any particular person in a particular way."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether it is the intention of the Government to enquire into the conduct of every individual when they embark on business enterprise?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"Certainly it cannot be done; Government has got other business."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"May I draw the attention of the Hon. Speaker to the remark made by the Hon. Minister that my question is irrelevant and whether that remark of the Minister is not unparliamentary?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I am very sorry that my hon. Friend did not properly hear me. I said that no Government will have any particular affection for any police official, worse than that, a dismissed police official. I thought that the question was meant as a joke, and so my reply is not unparliamentary."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) At the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1946-47.

DEMAND IX—HEADS OF PROVINCES, MINISTERS AND HEADQUARTERS STAFF.

11-15 a.m. KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, with your leave I have a very small suggestion

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to make. I find that the only occasion on which the question of the allotment of rice for this Province could be raised is on Demand XXXI—Miscellaneous. I wonder whether it would be possible at the present rate of progress to reach that demand. Now that there is no likelihood of that demand being reached, can you kindly indicate to us whether we can raise that question in the discussions pertaining to this Demand."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I suggest to the hon. Member that a discussion on the rice allotment to the Province can also take place on the Demand for Famine."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"But my doubt is, Sir, whether that Demand will be reached at all. Famine is Demand XXVIII."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It depends on hon. Members; if they cut short their speeches, it may be reached."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"My object in making the suggestion, Mr. Speaker is to strengthen the hands of the Ministry to get more rice allotment from the Government of India. We have read from the papers the statement made by the Hon. the Minister for Food after his return from Delhi where he had gone for the Conference of Food Ministers. I thought the House would be given an opportunity of hearing his statements so that an opportunity might be provided for the House to impress upon the Government of India the necessity for more rice allotment for this Province. I do not know whether you would consider my suggestion to advance that demand not to-day, at any rate, but on a latter day before the session closes."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I request the treasury benches to advise their party to speak less, Sir?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"At the end of the discussion, when the Hon. the Premier replies, he will also make a statement regarding the visit of the Hon. Minister for Food to Delhi. I wish to see that the work is expedited so that we can cover as many demands as possible and reach Demand XXXI in a day or two."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Demand XXXI, Sir?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If hon. Members cut short their speeches, we may perhaps have the demand day after to-morrow."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, should the members of the Ministerialist party participate in the discussion of Budget demands?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There is no objection to their participating in the discussions relating to the Budget Demands."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It will only prolong the time. It also seems supererogatory seeing that they stand committed to certain policies and the only effect of their speeches will be to stand in our way of full discussion."

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* **MR. SPEAKER**:—"I suggest to the hon. Member to appeal to them not to speak."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"We have appealed to them but without any effect."

* **ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR**:—"I ended, Mr. Speaker, last evening by referring to the question of Hindu-Muslim unity. This has been an old question which has been agitating the mind of the thinking people of this country for the last one thousand years and more particularly so for the last two hundred years. Sincere efforts were made to bring about that understanding and various leaders and particularly of my nationality made honest and sincere attempts in bringing about unity and understanding but failed and if there was one gentleman who made the greatest effort this was Quaide Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. From time to time, he made efforts; but he failed. We here in this Province have been anxious to carry on in a peaceful and amicable manner so that the Government of the Province might go on, for it must be admitted no Government, whether it is a Government of the past or the present Government, whether of this Province or of Bengal, can be carried on when a section of the people organize themselves fully with bags of ill-gotten money and equip themselves thoroughly to rise in rebellion against the Government of the day. There can be no peace and no established Government unless all sections of the people are contented and happy. I am sorry that so far as this Government is concerned, at any rate as could be judged from the Budget, this Government has also started to function in a partisan manner. What do we find in the Budget? We find funds provided for consolidating their party—the Congress party. The Hon. the Premier smiles; but I may tell him that there is not only provision in the Budget but there are also schemes that the Hon. the Premier has been adumbrating to the House of which he has been speaking with some amount of feeling in this House, schemes for evolving things from the village at the bottom upwards. All these things, I say, have been formulated with a view to consolidate the Congress Party in this Province. We are not merely theorising; we have known it from the way in which village committees have been constituted, from the way in which the khadder organization has been set up, initiated, organized and spread, from the way in which the poor Scheduled Classes are sought to be roped in by a charity gift of one crore of rupees. So far as the Scheduled Classes are concerned, this Government of the Caste Hindus in this Province would have done their duty and sheer duty had they but appointed five Ministers instead of one from that community and that too without any portfolio and all the rest are having important portfolios in their hands; I do not want any generosity on their part to the Scheduled Classes. I tell them: 'Appoint five ministers from that community with important portfolios in their hands.' It would be equal not to one or two crores of rupees but to ten or twenty crores of rupees. They would have consolidated their position and their position would be much better than under the

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charity gift scheme that you have propounded. The thing I have suggested would be much better than throwing a crore of rupees in their face and saying 'Here is the crore of rupees that has been provided especially for you; this is all that we can do for you.' This is the way that the Scheduled Classes have been treated. But so far as the Muslims are concerned, nothing has been done. The Government do know that we Muslims constitute the main opposition and that the Muslims have a separate culture and their education has to be separate and based on their own culture and requirements. We do not see anything in the Budget indicating their policy in regard to Muslim education. If there is any indication from the Ministry, that frightens us and continues to frighten us unless and until we have an assurance from the Hon. the Premier and the Hon. Minister for Education that what they said was not all they meant to do and that they mean to do something else. The fright is not confined to the ordinary Muslims only. Anybody who knows what is happening among Muslim officials ever since the present Congress Government has come into existence, not so much the past Government as this one—will say that they are not sure of their security. Is it not a fact, Sir, that some of the Muslim officials have been posted from post to pillar in order to satisfy the predilections of the Congress party? I have two instances of the transfer of District Collectors to show that the present Government is acting most injudiciously and communally. Muslim officials do not know where they stand. The Leader of the Opposition has explained the position of the Muslims in Government service. Their position is bad enough; not only their position, the position of Non-Brahmans and that of the Scheduled Classes is equally bad. The Non-Brahmans in this Province are in a majority but when it comes to a question of offices, they are always in a minority and I leave the Non-Brahman friends of the Congress party to take care of themselves if they are strong enough and are self-respecting enough to see that their interests are not affected and that they are not in the party for their own sake. So far as the Muslims are concerned, I say that their position is very bad. I am not going to ask the Government to appoint Muslims here and there; I am not going to beg for anything; I want it as a matter of right for it is the duty of every Government to recognize the rights of the various sections of the community for a share in the Government of the country. If the Government of the day recognizes that there are various sections requiring various kinds of satisfaction, then that Government continues in office. I can assure the Hon. the Premier that so long as he is just to the Muslims their fullest co-operation and help will always be there. He must not only be just but should also satisfy them so far as their culture, education and religion are concerned. I must on this occasion say that I have been able to observe a silver lining in the otherwise sable cloud and that was the way in which the Hon. the Premier acted so far as the riot situation in the Province is concerned. It was a satisfactory

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gesture that without caring for his comforts he went to Vaniyambadi, Ramnad and Madura and other places but I am not sure that the Government as a whole are inspired by such feelings and whether they are following his example, whether they have a policy of that kind and whether they are going to implement that policy in everything they are going to do concerning the Muslims. If they do, they will be there; if they do not, they will not be there. (Interruption.) Some of my hon. Friends want me to answer certain questions and the same gentlemen do not want me to answer them. Do you and I not know how the present Government came into existence and what its present position is with regard to their own internal position. I do not wish to say more than that. Do we not know how divided you are."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I would request the hon. Member not to attempt to divide us."

SRI KALA VENKATA RAO:—"We are one hundred and five with reference to my hon. Friends opposite."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"No action of an outsider can divide a party. It is impossible for anybody, however strong he may be, to divide others; but when it is already divided, the position is different."

11-30 a.m. "Sir, I now proceed to another subject. My hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition referred to various departments where the Muslims are in a minority, and he also made a specific reference to the Textile Department, which is entirely managed by a particular sect. All the heads of the department there belong to one sect, and you will find the same story repeated in all the other departments. I understand, Sir, some district officers are going to be appointed. What is the Government going to do with regard to that? Are they going to recognize the claims of Muslims and other minorities? Let us wait and see. All this will show what the Policy of Government is towards Muslims and members of other minorities."

"I will finish, Sir, by referring to one very important subject, and that is the prayer of the non-gazetted officials. They have made a very legitimate demand on this Government. I understand that this Government has appointed a committee of its own consisting of a few Ministers with the Revenue Minister as Chairman of the Committee. I do not know whether there was need for constituting the committee while the whole Cabinet could have called an urgent meeting, wherein they could have decided this very important issue. It is not only important but it is urgent, for you cannot carry on your Government without giving contentment and satisfaction to the real Government who are the Executive, the people who prepare everything for you. Without non-gazetted services Government cannot be carried on. They should have realized that this question was urgent, immediate and important. They have shelved this. If I am not incorrect, in my own view, by the appointment of the committee, this Government has shelved the issue. I wish they had realized that it was an urgent

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matter. This is not anything like the strike of labourers. This is a matter which requires immediate attention. How can these people carry on under very difficult and impossible conditions?"

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"How has the Corporation helped the non-gazetted staff?"

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My hon. Friend Mr. Town is a very humorous gentleman. Occasionally he butts in with humorous remarks. On this occasion he knows the financial position of the Corporation, and to what extent it can help its staff in spite of the fact that he pays one lakh of rupees to that body; and he expects us to come to the rescue of the non-gazetted officials. That is a joke. Apart from that joke, to come back to the real position, I hope the present Government for its own safety will tackle this question immediately and not shelve it, but give the people relief so that they may be satisfied and will carry on their work in a contented manner. With these words, I support the motion."

* MR. F. FERRELLY:—"On a point of information, Sir, the hon. Member who has just spoken, in the earlier part of his speech, referred to members of his nationality. Can you tell me, Sir, how that nationality differs from the nationality of the Treasury Bench?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Hameed Khan need not answer that question."

At this stage several hon. Members in the opposition benches rose up to speak, and the Speaker called them to order.

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I rise on a point of order. One hon. Member has asked a question, and it pertains to the remarks that have been made by me, and I think it is rather appropriate that I am given an opportunity, to reply."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will give you an opportunity in the next cut motion."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"That will be too late for him."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No, it will not be too late."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"I am not speaking on this Demand, Sir."

* MR. F. FERRELLY:—"I do not want to waste the time of the House, Sir."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, if my voice and the voices of 29 Muslim Members of this House can help to dispel the misconception that Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League have been intransigent, unreasonable and obstructive, it would be a great service done for promotion of harmony and goodwill among Hindus and Muslims. There must be some intellectual integrity at least among the educated and intelligent men, to have a fair mind to look at the course of events that have taken place from March 1946 impartially. If that is done, I am sure, the charge against the

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League would be found to have no foundation at all. As we know, Sir, the Congress and the Muslim League could not come to a mutual agreement, so a third party who holds the reins of Government in this country, made recommendations embodied in the State paper, dated 16th May 1946. It contains two parts, long term proposals and interim proposals, which are indivisible and inter-dependent. The proposals for interim Government were amplified in the State paper of 16th June. The two parties, or I may call the three parties, to this transaction, are first the British Government, second the Congress and the third the Muslim League. What have they done in the matter? That party that accepted the terms at the earliest possible moment was the Muslim League. So, can any one with any reason say that the Muslim League obstructed the plans prepared by the Cabinet Mission. To start with, let us see which is the party that was anxious to accept the proposals so that the freedom of this country may no longer be delayed. It is the League that accepted the proposals set forth in the State paper of 16th May 1946. What did the other party do? The Congress, after a long time after having elicited information in regard to some matters, finally rejected the interim proposals."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I rise on a point of order, Sir, we had pretty long discussions on Hindu-Muslim problems which have nothing to do with the administration of this Province. I thought members will confine themselves to purely matters of administration. My hon. Friend Mr. Baig is raising questions on matters the parties to which none of them, are here. It is impossible, if we stray outside the scope of the budget discussion, for us to have any intelligent discussion. May I request you, Sir, to ask the members to confine themselves to the administration of this Province."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is wrong to say that none of us were parties to these transactions. My hon. Friends on the Treasury Benches who are Congressites belong to the Congress Party and we on the opposition belong to the Muslim League Party, which are the two important parties."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"May I explain, Sir. When I was saying 'parties to the transaction' I was referring to particular transactions of the Cabinet Mission and its negotiations. I said and meant that none of the parties to the negotiations are here. So, I say it is irrelevant to raise that question here."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"There is authentic record for whatever I have said."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"But anyhow, please confine your speech to the subject before us. Do not take much of the time of the House by dealing with politics."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I thought this is the occasion, if it is possible, to create mutual understanding and set forth our case before the representatives of the majority in this Province, and tell them how in spite of the fact that

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the League was for co-operation, was out for the freedom of this country, and was the first to accept the proposals—how it has all been maligned and misrepresented. That is my purpose. There cannot be a worthier purpose than to promote understanding between parties in this country."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Do so, but without wounding the feelings of others."

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Let an impartial critic scan the evidence and let him judge and pass the verdict. If that is done, nobody will say that we were obstructive, or unreasonable. (A voice from Government Benches: 'Absolutely.') No. If my Friend is of that opinion I am trying to ask him to be fair-minded, just and honest. Can he say that the League did not accept the proposals? I must say, Sir, nobody who is not obsessed with party politics can deny it. The League accepted the proposals in toto. Nobody can deny that. Now who are the other parties. The Congress did not accept the interim proposals, but with regard to long-term proposals it accepted on its own interpretation. This interpretation was at variance with the interpretation of Lord Wavell given on 25th May, and that is with regard to a Province opting itself out. And what did the third party do? It scrapped the interim proposals, and in order to say that the Mission did some work, it gave out that, the Congress accepted the long-term proposals, which in reality was no acceptance at all, as it was at variance with the original interpretation of the Cabinet Mission."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"There must be somebody to answer this question. None of the people sitting on the Treasury Benches will be in a position to reply. What is the use of dealing with these points?"

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will they declare that they are not in a position to answer?"

* MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am making this appeal to all Congress people, and through you Sir, to the people at large in this Presidency, to see our case and understand it. That is my purpose. There would be frequent reference to these proceedings. I am trying to promote understanding. I do not know whether anybody would take any objection to it."

"Now I come to an important point and it is this. The League has accepted both the proposals in toto. The Congress did not accept the interim proposals; it accepted the long-term proposals with its own interpretation, which is no acceptance at all. The British Government scrapped the interim proposals. Now let us see who is to be blamed. Is the League to be blamed? Can it be said to be obstructive or unreasonable? No doubt, on 29th June, we had to cancel our previous resolution. The whole world knows there is justification for it. As Qaidi-Azam M. A. Jinnah has said, we were let down; there was breach of plighted word by the Viceroy and the Cabinet Mission. The Congress were trying to manœuvre in such a manner that the Cabinet Mission did not

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feel inclined to call upon the Muslim League, to form the Government, the only party that has accepted both the proposals, to form the interim Government. As there was the threat of civil disobedience by Congress, the British Government yielded to it, and hence necessarily our resolution accepting the proposals of the Cabinet Mission on the 6th June had to be cancelled on the 29th June. This is the position. So, I am appealing to the intellectual integrity and to the intelligent educated men of this House, outside this House, and to the world to answer the question 'whether you can charge the Muslim League of being obstructive, unreasonable and unpatriotic?' I think it is a good purpose for which I have taken about five minutes (laughter).

"I now come to the cut motion of which I have given notice. The first cut motion I have given notice of is to elicit the policy of Government in regard to the safeguarding of language, culture, and religion of Muslims and their adequate and effective share in the services of this Province. I will only content myself by stating that it is very necessary that the Government should safeguard the culture, religion and language of the Muslims who are in a minority of 8 to 10 per cent in this Presidency. I do not want to lay more stress on this. I will do it when the proper time comes. The second cut motion is with regard to the communal Government Order. I want a reassurance that the communal Government Order will not be disturbed, amended, or modified. I hope this Government will take the House into its confidence, and will not swerve from the application of the communal Government Order. I am afraid already here and there this is sought to be circumvented by some methods. I am told, Sir, in Public Works Department there used to be, and I know it as a matter of fact, direct recruitment of Assistant Engineers. Six out of twelve vacancies were filled by direct recruitment. I am told that that rule has been suspended now. I am told some temporary posts are being created to which this communal Government Order is not applicable. If that is so, I appeal to the Premier to see that the spirit of the Government Order is not violated.

"The other cut motion I have given notice of is to elicit information with regard to the activities of Congress Committees in the Province seeking to interfere with the administration. This is a very very bad thing. A party might have its members, and its leaders as members of the Cabinet. But that does not mean that the members of that party should go about interfering with administration. Many a Government servant has told me 'What can I do in the matter? Mr. So and So, who is a Congressman is the Secretary of the Committee and he insists that the thing should be done in such and such a way.' I am sorry to mention there are parties even among Congressmen themselves. One party calls itself 'Prakasam Party' and another party calls itself 'Anti-Prakasam Party,' and each party insists on their partymen being appointed in the village committees. That is exactly what a responsible man told me. If that is so, it will undermine the administration. We want an administration that is pure. We will

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support any just measure that is brought before this House. I was very sorry to hear yesterday the Hon. Minister referring to the communal tension in Patna and Calcutta. If any such thing takes place here, let us put it down. I will certainly support this Government in putting it down. I submit, in the country, administration is being undermined. I am not anxious to create splits. It is there already. To add to it there are Congress, Muslim League and Communist parties. It is very difficult to carry on administration for an honest officer. As far as we can see, responsible Ministers have not been giving any support to it.

"As regards representation of Muslims on Food Committees I am glad to say as far as our districts are concerned, our district officers are trying to revise the committees and that goes a very long way to improve matters. I am thankful to the Premier for having taken steps in the formation of Textile Committees. The last thing I want to say is about adequate Muslim representation in the departments of the Secretariat, especially the higher officers. The Leader of the Muslim League Party and others have spoken about it. I plead that immediately, or as soon any occasion arises, Muslims be appointed. I am told, two Assistant Secretaries in the Civil Supplies Department of the Board of Revenue, have been appointed, but not a single one is a Muslim. That is very regrettable. The last thing I want to refer to is to invite the attention of Government to the activities of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangam and to ask what steps the Government have taken against the institution and the steps it proposes to take against it. I am not going to say very much; for I know it is a matter which ought not to be mentioned very much in public. But one thing, I may say, and that is this institution is being financed by some people. And the worst thing is that children of tender years in schools belonging to municipalities and district boards are being taught to hate Muslims. I do not know whether the Premier knows it. I have got a book taught in these schools, which I got with very great difficulty. If the Premier wants it, I will hand it over to him. If the idea is to train them so as to form into a national militia, there can be no objection. But it is not so. What is the background? It is the hatred of Muslims that is taught. How is it that the boys are being taught in the Sangam? Exactly like what Hitler did in Germany. The minds of boys of tender age are being poisoned by communal propaganda.

"I thank you very much. My last submission is that we in this House are for an efficient, fair and just administration. I would only appeal to the hon. Members to consider what I have said dispassionately without prejudice in their minds, and see whether the attitude taken up by the Muslim League is not just and fair."

* SRI S. NAGARAJA MANIGAR:—"On a point of information, Sir. I want to know whether the Muslim League will be satisfied with anything short of Pakistan, if due consideration is given to the points he raised?"

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noon.

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" I am sorry that a question has been put by the hon. Member. I request him not to press it."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of three cut motions under this demand. The first item deals with the portfolio of public information. What I wish to know is: what is the purpose of this portfolio, what is the motivating force behind it, and what is the scope of its activities. I had never heard of such a portfolio until I went to Germany in 1937. There I found such a portfolio existing under the direction of raucous Dr. Goebbels, who made much noise and indulged in unheard of propaganda for Nazi ideas and ideals. When from Germany, I crossed over to that land of liberty, France, I noticed that the infection for propaganda had spread to that beautiful country as well, and that a similar portfolio had been created there also. And when I returned home to India, to my surprise I discovered that the Congress Government, which had assumed power in this Province, had also fallen in line with the above Nazi method and established a similar portfolio of public information. Those were days when totalitarian ideas were becoming popular in many places because of the growing power of totalitarian countries at the time. But we are living in a different age at present. We are living in an age when happily totalitarianism has been wiped out from the face of the earth. Hence it is hardly becoming of modern times to preserve a relic of totalitarian days. During war time, a public information department was created in many countries, but now that the war is over, there is no need for such a department. What I wish to know is what is the publicity which the Minister of Public Information intends to launch upon? Evidently his portfolio is intended to propagate the ideals of the Congress Party, to eulogize the services of the Congress Government, and to impress upon the people what a boon it is that the Congress are in power, and what a calamity it will be if any other party steps in. But, Mr. Speaker, good wine needs no bush. If the Congress Government will engage themselves in beneficent activities and will launch upon measures intended to ameliorate the present miserable plight of the masses, these will come to light by themselves by the effect that they will produce on the condition of the people and there is no need to trumpet about them. It is deeds, not words, that will make their impression upon the people, and there is no necessity for self-advertisement on the part of the Government. As regards informing people about the future intentions of the Government, that task is being already performed in an abundant measure by the Hon. the Ministers themselves through their innumerable speeches and their ceaseless tours. When the Congress were last in power, one of the Ministerialists described the Congress Ministers as the 'movies and the talkies' of the Province. No doubt, this is true. Hence my submission is that the portfolio of public information is superfluous and redundant and as such it should be abolished, and instead another portfolio for Housing be created. There is much greater need these days for providing people with houses to

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live in than injecting them with unwanted information. Let the Hon. the Minister-in-charge of Public Information be placed in charge of housing, and let him plan out a well-thought-out scheme for providing homes and shelter for the homeless and give effect to the same at an early date.

" The other subject to which I wish to draw attention is the work of Parliamentary Secretaries.— Although three months have elapsed, the duties, activities, powers, and responsibilities of Parliamentary Secretaries have yet to be completely specified and defined. There can be no reason for this other than the fact that there are no substantial duties to entrust them with. The other day when the Hon. the Minister for Education was away, it was evident from the answers given by his Parliamentary Secretary that the latter was not fully informed of facts. When the last Congress Government were in power, the Parliamentary Secretaries had very meagre functions to perform, with the result that one of them resigned his post. In this Province, I think, the posts of Parliamentary Secretaries are intended by the Congress Government for the purpose of providing jobs for their party men. But it is not at all desirable that public funds should be frittered away in this manner in providing party men with sinecure jobs. It may be pointed out that the practice of having Parliamentary Secretaries is prevalent in Britain. That is so because Britain has need for them there on account of the heavy pressure of work that Britain has, especially in maintaining a big empire. But this Province has no empire. I wish to submit that the administration of every country should be in keeping with its finances and should not be made too heavy in imitation of countries which are financially much better placed. All these years the Congress has been vociferous in condemning the British Government for their top-heavy administration and has levelled severe attacks against the British for their extravagant expenditure on Government Departments. Let us see what the Congress itself is doing now that it has assumed power. Has there been any reduction in expenditure to any extent since the Congress Government took charge of the administration? The answer is a clear negative. I do not see any signs in this direction either. Taking for instance only one head, namely, the Advisers' salaries as against the salaries of the Hon. the Ministers and their Parliamentary Secretaries, we will find that the present machinery is much costlier than that prevalent during the Advisers' regime. The salaries of the Advisers who were but four in number came to Rs. 1,92,000 per annum as against the sum of Rs. 2,34,000 per annum, the salary of the present thirteen Ministers. If we add to the salary of the Ministers the salary of their Parliamentary Secretaries, the cost to the Exchequer comes up to Rs. 3,52,200 as against Rs. 1,92,000 during the Advisers' regime. This must be a disappointment to the tax payer. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I consider that it is very desirable that there should be curtailment in expenditure, and sinecure posts should not be allowed to remain. Hence my suggestion is that the posts of Parliamentary Secretaries be abolished in this Province.

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"The third and the last point to which I wish to refer is the necessity of replacing by younger officers the superannuated men who have been re-employed by the Government. Considerations of the health of the individual, considerations of efficiency of administration, and above all considerations of providing the people of the land with employment have necessitated the age of 55 being fixed for retirement from Government service. In a country like India which has an enervating climate, from the health point of view it is desirable that one should discontinue to serve after 55. Again, from the point of view of efficiency of administration, 55 is the correct age for retirement because, generally speaking, after that age one cannot be as vigilant and as hard-working as the employer would expect one to be. After that age, everything becomes routine and one is inclined to take the line of least resistance. Hence it is desirable that after that age one should enjoy repose and retirement. Apart from this, justice to the youth of the land demands that the old should make room for the employment of the young. In the olden days, extensions used to be granted to superannuated men only under special circumstances. I understand even this was abolished some time before the war broke out. But after the outbreak of the war, there has been a considerable inroad of superannuated men into the various departments. I grant that there was need for superannuated men during war time, but now that thousands of young men are being demobilized, there is no necessity whatsoever to retain superannuated men in any department. In a country like India where life is short, the old should not be allowed to block the promotion of the young. If the superannuated men are not relieved immediately, I am afraid there will arise much discontent and dissatisfaction in the services. In the interests not merely of efficiency of administration but also of satisfaction in the services, I urge that the superannuated men in every department of service be relieved at once. I know that there is a great desire on the part of many people to continue to earn money as long as possible. But it must be impressed on the superannuated man that there should be a limit to one's serving merely for the sake of monetary gain, that he must make room for, and give an opportunity to, his sons and sons-in-law to earn, that he should learn to enjoy the felicity of retirement as Lamb did and to engage himself in useful and beneficent voluntary work in the service of God and man.

"These are the three points that I wanted to dwell upon. With these words I support the cut motion. Before I close, may I be permitted to briefly reply to the point that has been raised by Mr. Ferrelly?

"In reply to the question that was asked by Mr. Ferrelly a little while ago, I should like to draw his attention to books on political science and political philosophy of Renan, Gilchrist, Gettell and others. If Mr. Ferrelly would go through these books he would know what constitutes a nation. Among the factors that have been mentioned in those books as constituting a nation,

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an important one is culture. I am afraid in regard to this factor the difference between the members of my party and those on the other side is considerable. An instance of that I may point out. An hon. Member of this House is present here bare body without a shirt. Now this is distinctly contrary to all conceptions of Muslim culture; a Muslim would never dream of appearing thus in public (Hear, hear). There are many other points of difference. If Mr. Ferrelly would come, and have a talk with me, I would dwell on this subject in detail."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"On a point of order, Sir. There is not one; there are three or four members without shirts."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not a point of order."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Sir, many speakers from the League Benches have addressed on this motion regarding various points bearing directly or indirectly on this head. Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan started giving his narration from 1906 and led to the events of 1946. I want to bring to the notice of the House an important question agitating a greater part of the Madras Presidency. Our Presidency does not consist of one nation or one caste or one creed. It consists of four nations. They are the Keralas, the Andhras, the Tamils and the Canarese. These four nations constitute the Madras Presidency. This is an unnatural combination created by British Imperialism only to divide us and perpetuate their rule. There is a demand for separation not only from the day of the formation of this ministry only but from the days of the previous ministry also. Even in the days of the previous ministry there was a strong agitation for the separation of the Andhra Province. Discussion went on; strong and bitter feelings were roused. Perhaps in the days of the previous ministry there might have been some opposition from certain quarters but to-day I am sure that throughout the Presidency there is no opposition for the formation of provinces on linguistic basis. But that is not to be found in the Congress budget. The necessity for having a separate province is quite evident from this fact, that when Swami Sahajananda put a question in Tamil and the Minister gave the answer in Tamil the whole thing had to be translated in English for me to understand. So also very many excellent speeches are made in Tamil and it is only when they are made in English we understand. Such is the state in which we are. Such was the Madras Province created by British Imperialism. It is the British Government that formed the Madras Presidency consisting of so many nationalities so that if we go on perpetually quarrelling among ourselves the Governor who is over the head of the Speaker, may lord over all. It is high time for the ministry to come forward and divide the Presidency into four linguistic provinces. I know perfectly well that is the feeling everywhere. I know in Kerala also there is a demand for the formation of a united Kerala Province. We cannot achieve this separation of provinces by the grace of the Governor, or the

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Viceroy or the Secretary of State. I know they will come in our way. I remember the previous Prime Minister saying that there may be some objection and that the Viceroy or the Secretary of State may not agree to the formation of separate provinces. We have to fight out this veto right and exercise our rights. To-day the British Government and the Secretary of State are not so powerful as to veto the demand of the people to have their own provinces in their own country. I think they cannot stand in the way. We have to put our heads together and plan to have our own province in our own way to unite all our people. Take the question of the Andhras. We are three crores with a culture of our own diffused in so many provinces who do not speak the same language and there are so many quarrels. How many jealousies there are among ourselves without knowing ourselves. We cannot accuse the leaders for this factionalism. Every leader is sincere in his own way. Because the question of nationality is not settled and there is no separate province there is all this quarrel. We can solve our own problems if we form ourselves into separate provinces. We have got Andhras in the Nizam's State already. I know it is not an easy job to get back our Andhra land from the Nizam. But we are sure to get it and we will get it in spite of anybody that can stand in our way. So also in other Native States, there are Andhras. I know the Maharajas are very powerful. I know there are very big Congress and League leaders behind these Maharajas and Nawabs. (A voice: 'Not the League leaders'.) At least our League leaders sitting with us, are not behind them. But we have been hearing that the greatest leaders are supporting the Maharajas. I say this because I have got that doubt, and I put it before this House. These Maharajas and the Nizam must be fought out. These are the puppets created by British Imperialism. Unless we liquidate them, there will be no salvation for our country. The Britishers have devised the Constituent Assembly. It is nothing but a trap and a sham to make ourselves quarrel perpetually, so that British Imperialism can remain and rule over us. The position of British Imperialism is shaking, their throne in Delhi is in flames. The great mass struggles in States like Kashmir, the general strike wave that is spreading among all sections of the toiling millions, the unrest among the military and the police, the upsurge among the peasants point the way in which the wind is blowing. It is almost burning on account of the mass movements that are going ahead in this Province among the labourers and the kisans in this country. There are political differences in our country. Taking into consideration the political factors and the times through which we are passing, we will have to solve our problem. The question of nationalities must be solved. The only way to solve the problem is by accepting the right of self determination for all nationalities in our country. This is a democratic approach. If there had been a redistribution of provinces not only in Madras but throughout the country based on a linguistic basis and on a cultural basis, I am sure most of the quarrels and most of the problems would have been solved, and there might have been greater agreement than it is to-day. Moreover because there is no

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separate Andhra Province, you know how the Andhras are suffering. Most of these scavengers are Andhras. Wherever we go, we are looked down upon. I am really ashamed of this thing. I am not at all satisfied with this, even though there is an Andhra as our Premier for whom I have great respect, (Interruption.) I want a separate province or you also. Since the question has been put, I want to make it clear that the demand I am putting forward is not only for the Andhras; it is also for our Tamilian friends who are experiencing the same difficulty, and also for our Malabar friends. This is the united demand of all the people throughout our country, and there is no need for anybody to suspect me when I say that we must have a separate province for the Andhras. This cannot be achieved by pitting Andhras against Tamilians and against Malayalees. It is only by uniting all our people we will be able to achieve our demand. All of us must fight jointly against our rulers who are responsible for this state of affairs. I will fight for the Tamil friends also. I have a good number of friends among them. As a matter of fact, I am going to fight for the Tamilian friends who are involved in the South Indian Railway strike. I am not going to keep quiet when 5,000 workers are going to be crushed by the Malabar Special Police and I request my hon. friends to join shoulder to shoulder to fight the common enemy.

"I am not going to keep quiet because I am an Andhra, and they are not Andhras. I cannot keep quiet when people are shot and workers fight their masters wherever they may be, to what religion, caste or race they may belong. I will fight for them both inside the house and outside. I will extend my hand of friendship to the members on the other side and be prepared to fight shoulder to shoulder in the interest of the people. I cannot be heartless as my friends on the other side who will not lift their little fingers for the sake of the South Indian Railway workers. I will fight for the demand of the workers wherever they are. I will stand by them. My demand for the separation of the Andhras does not mean that the workers in the other areas will not have my support. We will all stand united and solve our problems permanently.

"I will now take up the question of salaries. Let us take the Budget and you know what the Governor and his Bodyguard establishments cost to this Province? We find it is Rs. 11,69,600."

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, Sir, may I know whether the salary of the Governor can be debated in this House?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No, it is not debatable."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I am not debating it, Sir. I am only expressing my opinion about the huge salary he is paid."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You cannot refer to it."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"On a point of information, Sir, I think the grant under the Governor and his establishments is only not votable, but nothing can prevent us from discussing it."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"But he is criticising it!"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I do not want to reduce it. Sir, but I only want to express my opinion on it. Even though I cannot criticise it, I think I have got a right to express my opinion on the salaries of the Governor and his staff."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Governor's salary is not included in this demand."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"It is in this demand, I think, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No. It is not under this demand."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Now Sir, it seems, I cannot comment on the salary of the Governor, but any one who glances at these tables in the Budget will see how much he is costing us. (Laughter.) (Interruption.) I do not want to incur the displeasure of the hon. Mr. Speaker, even though I feel I have got the right to make mention of this. But when you compare it with the salaries that are paid to the lower-paid staff, you will find that there is a great disparity between them. Because you are paying such high salaries to these high officials, you have no money to pay the subordinate staff. About one-fourth of the total salaries go to the pockets of these high officials. Why should this thing go on? It is said that this Congress Government has appointed a Cabinet Committee to examine the question of raising the salaries of the subordinate officers. I hope they will take this opportunity of reducing the salaries of the high officials, including the highest, and the highest of the highest officials. (Loud laughter.)

"In this connexion may I put forward a suggestion to the Hon. the Premier? In order to induce the highly-paid officers to reduce their salaries, voluntarily, will he cut down his salary voluntarily say, to Rs. 500, and then appeal to the other high officials to cut their salaries by 50 per cent? If he makes such an appeal to the most highly-paid officer (Governor) in the words of the Hon. the Prime Minister who is a very reasonable man, probably he would respond to his call. We cannot tolerate such high salaries being paid to these officers. There should not be such great disparity between the pay of the high officials and the subordinate staff.

"Moreover, if you turn over the pages of the Budget, you will find that in every department there are a handful of very high officials drawing Rs. 1,500, Rs. 2,500 and so on. If you take the Chief Secretariat, for example, there are on the whole about half-a-dozen officers drawing more than Rs. 500 and yet they appropriate about Re. 1.1 lakhs by way of salaries. If you compare it with the 'Pay of establishments', i.e., of 101 men in the same department, you find that it is only Rs. 1.00 lakh. That is to say, about half-a-dozen officers draw Rs. 1.1 lakhs; the rest, viz., 101 subordinates draw Rs. 1.0 lakh. That is how our budget is framed! I want there should be a radical change in

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"Another point in favour of reducing the salaries of the Ministers is this. I happen to know from my talk in the streets, and it also appeared in the papers that the Hon. Minister for Local Administration was out in the streets to help the people and to show that he is one of the workers. Let him remove the two zeros from his pay, i.e., let him reduce his salaries from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 15 then he would know how difficult it is to meet his expenses. If all the Ministers are asked to live on that salary, I am sure they will all go on strike and perhaps they will then realize the difficulties of these workers and I may be asked to lead them to victory. (Loud laughter.) (Interruption.)

"So what I suggest is that it is time for us to adjust the salaries of officials in such a way that there is no great disparity between the highest officers and the lowest-paid men and thus meet the demands of the budget.

"Now let me take up the case of Parliamentary Secretaries. The appointment of these Parliamentary Secretaries is superfluous. The previous Congress Ministry did not give them any work. The present Congress Ministry has not only revived that system, but has also increased the status of the Chief Parliamentary Secretary. The Hon. the Premier has announced that he is going to give definite work to them. If Parliamentary Secretaries are to be allotted definite duties, then some of the heads of departments can be dispensed with and these Parliamentary Secretaries can take up their place. We can thus save the salaries of the officials. We shall also in course of time, have honorary Parliamentary Secretaries.

"Another point which I am anxious to bring to the notice of the House is about the tours of the Ministers. I have often observed that the Ministers pay frequent visits to all places, for instance, to Bezwada, without staying there even for a short time. Of course, they have got their own engagements; they have their own tea parties and associations. I do not object to it. But what I want them to do, if they really want to study the situation in the districts, is that they must stay for a sufficiently long time, say 5 days or 10 days, call for the people who have any grievances, inspect the places, if necessary and so on, and thus make a thorough and exhaustive study of the conditions in the districts during their tours. I have had a personal experience in this connexion. When an Hon. Minister visited my place, I brought to his notice the strike that was taking place among the municipal workers there and requested him to look into the matter. He said that he had full of engagements and that he could spare no time. That is how responsible Ministers are planning their tours! What I want to state is that they should make a definite tour programme to visit a particular place, stay there sufficiently long, look into the people's grievances and redress them then and there, if possible. I hope that the Hon. Ministers who are popular leaders will take up this suggestion into consideration or else their tours will be like that of Governors.

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"Then I come to the question of elections to municipalities and other bodies. In the debates, yesterday and to-day, so much has been said about separate electorates and joint electorates and from the Muslim League Benches it was argued that separate electorates is the panacea or all evils. I am sorry I cannot accept that statement. Separate electorates have been in existence all these days and so many members have been returned to this House by that method of election irrespective of the wishes of the people concerned. Have we solved all our problems? Separate electorates have not at all solved our problems. They have only aggravated them by developing separatist tendencies. But it does not mean that because separate electorates have failed to solve our problems, we must have joint electorates. Nor can I accept that joint electorate is the solution. There is a *via media* between these two for the solution of all our difficulties which I would request the hon. Members on the Muslim League Benches and the Treasury Benches to give their careful consideration. Now there is separate electorates. But yet there is so much injustice done to the minority communities, particularly regarding appointments in services. They must be given their due quota of appointments. Those injustices must be immediately removed. Our Hon. Premier has promised to consider them and I am sure he will carry out his promise. Now there is the separate electorate and there is a tendency growing that nobody should contest the Muslim seats."

MR. SPEAKER:—"You have already taken 20 minutes."

(A Voice: "He is a leader without a party, Sir!")

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I may not have a party within this House, but outside this House, do you know how strong we are?" (Interruption.)

"Before these interruptions, Sir, I was saying that these separate electorates have not solved any of our problems. It is because of our dissensions, so much quarrels and so much bloodshed have taken place. What do we see in Bengal at this very moment? In Calcutta itself there are 2,000 deaths. I do not think hon. Members of the Muslim League would want this to be perpetuated for ever."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, is the hon. Member in order, in inferring that the Muslim League is responsible for the happenings in Calcutta? Is he trying to become friendly with the Congress and turning against us?"

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I am not saying that the Muslim League is responsible for what is happening in Calcutta. Perhaps it may be that the Muslim League has no hand at all." (Interruption.)

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Our information is that Communists are responsible."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Please do not disturb him; let him continue his speech."

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SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I never said, Sir, that the Muslim League leaders are responsible for the 2,000 deaths, that have occurred in Calcutta. I do not know if the Muslim League Benches have contradicted it. Nor do I say that the Muslim League leaders went to the extent of provoking the people, to commit such murders."

MR. H. S. TOWN:—"May I suggest Sir, that this matter be kept out of this debate."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I too am of the same opinion. Perhaps the hon. Member is of the opinion that it is due to the separate electorates that this thing has happened. Mr. Venkateswarlu, may go on with his speech and finish it as quickly as possible."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I do not throw the blame either on the Muslim League or on any of the leaders." (Interruption.)

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member should not go on repeating it over and over again. You say that these disturbances are due to separate electorates. Then please go on further with your speech, to any other point. (Interruption again.) Please do not interrupt him."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Interruption necessitates repetition." (Loud laughter.) 12 45 p.m.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I will allow the hon. Member two more minutes."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Three minutes of my time have already been taken by my friends. (Loud laughter.) There are differences in our country. I should like to go into this question now. In my opinion all these differences will vanish if adult franchise is given to every community and every religion. After introducing adult franchise, joint electorates with proportional representation should be introduced and elections should be conducted on the abovementioned basis. I am sure if this is done Muslims need not object. They will get as much advantage then as they are having it now. They will have their representatives and there will be unity. So I suggest adult franchise and proportional representation as the only solution for our province. Apart from this I will make an appeal to the Muslim League. They feel that 99 per cent of their population are with them. If proportional representation with adult franchise is granted to them in the elections to local bodies on the joint electorate system they will get their quota returned. Let us start this experiment of joint electorates. I appeal to them to accept this and I appeal to the Congress to hold elections on the basis of adult franchise and joint electorates, with proportional representation. That is the only way to solve our differences. Our differences cannot be solved by pointing out any split in the Congress party. If unfortunately there is a split in the Congress party it will never do any good to the country. On the contrary it will split our country and the national movement. I do not

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want any dissensions in that party. I wish the Congress party to work as a united team."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will please resume his seat."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"One more minute, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I cannot allow any more time, please. I call upon Khan Sahib H. S. Hussain Sahib to speak next. (A Voice: 'No "Khan Sahib", Sir. He has renounced his title'.) But it is found here in the Order Paper."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, this is an opportunity for the House to review the actions of the Ministry. We have to judge them by the result of their actions. For this purpose I would say that they should be given full opportunity to prove their worth, their sense of impartiality and fairmindedness. Then alone we shall be in a position to say that they have done their duty by the people of the country. But, in the meanwhile, as the previous speakers from my Party have pointed out, there are some symptoms and indications discernible which really disconcert us and that is why we have taken the earliest opportunity to sound a note of warning. This should put the Ministry on its guard and persuade it to do justice to every section of the people of this province.

"Many matters have been discussed by the previous speakers. It is needless for me to go into them once again. But one thing which I would like to emphasize is the question of the pay of the non-gazetted services. I am told, Sir, and I read about it in the papers, that a sub-committee of the Cabinet has already been appointed and that it will take a period of two months to decide the question. But, Sir, was there not a committee already appointed before this to go into this question? What has happened to its findings? That committee has submitted a report. Has it reached the Government and have the Government gone into that report and studied it to remedy the grievances? Sir, this question or a decision on this question cannot wait. It is a humanitarian problem. It is a question of life and death for the miserable ill-paid servants of this Government. We are seeing the badges on their breasts. They remind us day in and day out of their sad plight. Is it not up to this Government to take up this question immediately and decide it speedily? It is in a position to do that. When a Bill for increasing the salaries of Ministers and Members of this House could be rushed through within an hour or two, is it not possible to solve this question within a week or two? Why do you require two months to decide this question. I would earnestly request the Government on this occasion not to procrastinate this question. Procrastination is the thief of time and the enemy of good deeds.

"Sir, the other question which I wanted to discuss and of which I have given notice in my cut motion has already been referred to and very exhaustively dealt with by my hon. Friend

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Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin. She has pleaded that the portfolio of Public Information should be abolished and that the posts of Parliamentary Secretaries also should be abolished. If, for any reason, this Government finds itself unable to agree to this suggestion, I would ask that specific duties should be assigned to them immediately. In his reply to the General Discussion, the Hon. the Prime Minister told us that the Government were soon going to assign duties and responsibilities to Parliamentary Secretaries and inform this House. I hope and trust that he is going to do it on this occasion. If he is going to allot duties and responsibilities to Parliamentary Secretaries I suggest that they may be deputed to go to the districts along with the experts and look into the irrigation problems and the problem of growing more food. That would be a very good part of the work that they could do. They could bring firsthand information to the Ministers. When they have collected all this information, it would be the duty of the Minister in charge of Public Information to compile a report and prepare pamphlets and leaflets for broadcast to the public and to the Members of this House. Sir, I hope the Minister concerned and especially the Hon. the Premier will take up the consideration of this aspect of the question while fixing the duties and responsibilities of the Minister for Public Information and Parliamentary Secretaries. With these few words I support the cut motion."

* MR. T. JOHN MOSES WILSON:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion. In doing so, I shall confine myself mainly to its constitutional aspect.

"The first thing I remind this House about is the choice and selection of the Leader of this House under the circumstances under which it took place; I mean the way in which the people of this province, through their accredited representatives in legislature, have made their own choice without listening to the superimposition from outside the Province. From a layman's point of view, even at this short distance of time, it may look a very insignificant event. But, from a constitutional point of view, it is an event of supreme importance which any party or any Government, that will come to power in any part of this country or even in other countries, will draw its inspiration from and every historian shall record as a landmark in the history of democratic Government in this country.

"In this connexion, I would make another observation. It would have been an act of statesmanship on the part of the Leader of this House if he had found in the Cabinet a place for Members of the Opposition belonging to the Muslim League especially. (A Voice: 'Also for the Independent Party'.) I do not plead for the Independent Party. To say in one breath that the Hindus and Muslims are one and the same belonging to the same nation, who can live and who are living together as brothers and sisters and in the same breath that the Congress cannot work in

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coalition with the Members of the Muslim League who are no more than representatives of those Muslims who, you say, are members of the same family, is an argument in which I see neither non-violence, nor truth nor even consistency (Hear, hear) from whatever high a quarter it may be advanced and whatever practical difficulties there may be in running a coalition Government. But, that apart, I plead for Coalition Ministry because it is a logical necessity, and the necessary corollary of separate electorates that not only the legislature but the executive should represent this separate element. I know, Sir, that separate electorates are considered an impediment and obstacle in the way of a democratic parliamentary system of Government of the type obtaining in England. And it is true that this has been apprehended and recognized by the framers of the Constitution under which we are now working. And that is the very reason why I urge for Coalition Government though it would be difficult for the parliamentary type of Government obtaining in England. Not that I am not conscious of the difficulties of the actual working of a Coalition Government, but because I am conscious and I am sure and confident that it would be a success at least in this province mainly for two reasons; first because the people in this Province, especially Muslims and Hindus live like almost brothers and sisters with a commonness which is lacking in the other provinces, and secondly the respect and the reverence and affection with which the Hon. the Premier is looked upon by all sections of the people of this province and especially as we see on the floor of this House by the Muslim League party in the Opposition. I am therefore confident that he would have been able to steer the Government of this Province as efficiently with component elements in it as he has been doing now without them.

1 p.m.

"I now raise the function and the constitutional position of the executive. I raise this point not without purpose. I raise this to discuss the question whether the recent orders that were passed by the executive were constitutional, whether it was proper for the Government to have passed the orders relating to the admission into the Engineering and Medical Colleges and also the order regarding instruction in schools in the regional languages without consultation with or even knowledge of the legislature. I do not bank upon the argument which has been put forward by eminent constitutionalists and which has been even put forward by Ramsay Muir that after all the executive is a creature of the Legislature, that it is responsible to it and therefore it is subordinate to it. I do not take that view. But I take it that the two organs of Government are interlocked and they would in fact aid each other. Sir, it is the function of the legislature to discuss and lay down the policy of the Government and determine the conduct of the administration in the matter of the execution of the rules of law that are made by the legislature. I do not draw a line and say to the executive, 'so far and no further'. It is the duty of the executive even to aid the legislature; for example, it proposes legislation and puts them before the House for passage

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by the Legislature. What I now mean to say is that the executive cannot take away from the legislature its legitimate right of discussing the policy that is to be adopted in the execution of a particular thing. When it takes away, deprives the legislature and robs the legislature of, this right to at least discuss and lay down the policy and determine the spirit and the way in which they should execute, it is certainly acting in an unconstitutional manner. I don't say it is merely trespassing upon the powers of the legislature but I should say it is robbing it of its entire privilege. Sir, the legislature has got at once a right and a duty to discuss policy. It is a particular organ in democratic Government and it is a particular stage by which the democratic Government is run and to by-pass this organ or stage is to act undemocratically. The legislature owes a duty to the people at large in the Province and if they have not exercised that duty they shall have betrayed the interests of the people, consisting of various elements in the Province which the Members sitting here represent.

"Fourthly, I may just refer to the assurance that has been given recently by the Hon. Minister regarding Harijan uplift, namely, that the Government are intending to make untouchability an offence. I take it, in view of the principle of collective responsibility, that this is an assurance given by the particular Minister on behalf of the whole Government and I hope that the Government is intending to bring forth the necessary legislation. As soon as it was seen in the papers, people received the news with very much hope and they are looking forward to the translation of this assurance into an act. I would therefore request the Hon. Premier to let us know when he is going to bring forward the legislation before this House.

"Next, Sir, I refer to a point raised by an hon. Member on this side that the higher paid officials may be removed and the Parliamentary Secretaries, if they are given salaries, may be placed in the place of permanent secretaries. Sir, to the suggestion made by Mr. Venkateswarlu, I may say, there is absolutely no scope for any such interchange. Parliamentary Secretaries are people belonging to the party, who carry on the policy of the Government, whereas the permanent secretaries and the high officials in the Province stand entirely on a different footing. Whatever party may come into power, they have to be there and there cannot be any question of interchange between these two people.

"Then I want to say a word regarding proportional representation. The suggestion was made that proportional representation would solve and settle the differences between the Hindus and Muslims. I do not know if anybody who has made an intelligent study of proportional representation working in other countries would say that this would bring about communal harmony. This has been introduced in other countries because it would give a definite proportion of strength in legislature to every party in order to perpetuate that party. It was only for that

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that proportional representation was tried in other countries. Whether it may be advisable for other reasons is out of place here. But, that it would solve the differences between the Hindus and Muslims, passes my comprehension.

“With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion.”

SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA:—“கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, நம்முடைய இந்த மாகாணத் தலைவர் தக்க மந்திரிகளைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்தார்கள். ஒரு ஹரிஜனரை மந்திரியாகவும் தேர்ந்தெடுத்தார்கள். அதிலும் முக்கியமாக இந்த சபைக்கு ஒரு ஹரிஜனரை சபாநாயகராகவும் இரண்டு ஹரிஜனர்களுக்கு பார்லிமெண்டரி ஸெக்ரிடரி பதவி கொடுத்ததற்கும் கனம் முதன் மந்திரி அவர்களுக்கு வந்தனமளிக்கின்றேன். ஆனால் ஜனத் தொகைக்கேற்றவாறு மந்திரிசபையில் தமிழ் நாட்டிலே இன்னுமொரு ஹரிஜன் மந்திரியைக் கொடுத்திருந்தால் அதற்கு நாங்கள் ரொம்பவும் சந்தோஷப்பட்டிருப்போம். அது ஒன்றுதான் குறை. முக்கியமாக முன் இருந்த காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் ஹரிஜனங்கள் சுமார் 11 பேர்களுக்கு டிப்டி கலெக்டர் வேலை கொடுத்திருக்கிறார். 4, 5 பேர்களுக்கு டிப்டி சூப்பிரின்டெண்டெண்டு உத்தியோகங்களும் கொடுத்தார்கள். இப்பொழுதுள்ள பிரதம மந்திரியார் முந்தி 11 ஸ்தானங்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குக் கொடுத்ததுபோல் இன்னும் சிலபேர்களை டிப்டி கலெக்டராகத் தேர்ந்தெடுக்கும்படி பிரதம மந்திரியைக்கேட்டுக்கொள்வதோடு சில ஹரிஜன் சீனியர் டிப்டி கலெக்டர்களுக்கு ஜில்லா கலெக்டர் பதவியளிக்க வேண்டுகிறேன்.

“மேலும் தற்போதுள்ள வகுப்புவாரி கொடுத்ததிலே, உத்தியோகமுறையானது 12 பேருக்கு இரண்டு பேராக இருக்கிறது. ஆனால் என்னுடைய கோரிக்கை தற்போது உத்தியோகத்திலுள்ளவரை வகுப்புவாரியாகக் கணக்கெடுத்து மற்றவர்களுக்குச் சமமான அந்தஸ்தை ஹரிஜனங்கள் பெறும்படி உத்தியோகம் கொடுக்கவேண்டும். தற்போதுள்ள அதிகாரிகளின் எண்ணிக்கையைக் கணக்கிட்டு குறைவை நிறைவாக்க ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கேற்ற உத்தியோகத்தைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“மேலும் பப்ளிக் ஸர்வீஸ் கமிஷன் சபையில் பல வகுப்பினரும் இருக்கவேண்டும். முஸ்லீம்கள் மற்றெல்லா வகுப்பினரும் அதில் ஸ்தானம் பெற்றிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆனால் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு பப்ளிக் ஸர்வீஸ் கமிஷன் சபையில் ஒரு ஸ்தானம்கூட கொடுக்கவில்லை. ஒரு சமயம் கவர்னருடைய நியமனமென்று சொல்லலாம். ஆனால் பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் ஒரு ஹரிஜன் மெம்பரை நியமிக்கும்படி அவரிடம் கூறும்படிக்கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“தற்போது ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகள் நிறைய B.A., M.A., படித்தவர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு ஏற்ற உத்தியோகத்தை அந்தந்த ஜில்லாக்களில் கொடுக்கும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“மேலும் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய குறைகளை ஆராய்ச்சி செய்யும்படியாக இதற்கு முன் 1920-ம் ஆண்டில் சென்னை கவர்னர் லார்டு வெல்லிங்டன் ஒரு போர்டு மெம்பரை நியமித்து அவர்களுக்கு எந்தெந்த இடங்களிலே என்னென்ன குறைகளிருக்கிறதென்று ஆராய்ச்சி செய்து அக்குறைகளை நீக்க லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டு ஏற்படுத்தினார்கள். அந்த லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டு தமிழ் நாட்டிலே யாவராலும் தொடக்கூடாத ஜனங்களுக்காகத் தான் ஏற்படுத்தினார்கள். அதன் மூலமாக பள்ளிக்கூடங்களும் மற்றப்படியான சவுகரியங்களும் செய்து கொடுத்து வந்தார்கள். ஆனால் அப்பறம் கனம் பன்னீர்செல்வம் ஹோம்மெம்பராகவிருந்தபோது இந்த டிபார்ட்மெண்டு அவர் கையில் இருந்தது. அந்த சமயத்தில் லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டு பணத்தில் கிருஸ்தவ ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கும் கொடுக்கும்படியாக ஏற்பாடு செய்தார். அது வரவர அதிகமாகி மூன்றில் ஒரு பங்கு அவர்களுக்குப் பேர்கும்படியான நிலைமை ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஸர்க்கார் ஷெட்யூல் காஸ்ட் என்ற வார்த்தையை எடுத்துவிட்டு உதவிபெறத் தகுதியுள்ள வகுப்பு என்று அழைக்கின்றார்கள். அந்த முறையிலே எல்லா ஜில்லா

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களிலும் ஒரு சமயம் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஏற்பட்ட அந்த சுதந்திரம் தடையுற்று பிற வகுப்பினர்க்கும் ஏற்றதாகி சங்கடமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகையால் ஸர்க்கார் ஹரிஜனங்களென்று சொல்லக்கூடிய இந்த சமூகத்தின்பேரால் கிருஸ்தவர்கள் மற்ற சமூகத்தினர்களுக்கு உத்தியோகம் கொடுக்கக்கூடாது. கல்லி இலாகா போர்டிங் கிராண்டு சுமார் 8 லக்ஷம் ரூபாய் கொடுத்திருக்கிறார்கள். மற்றவர்களுக்கு அந்த 8 லட்சத்தில் கொடுக்கட்டும். ஹரிஜனங்களுக்காக ஏற்பட்டுள்ள லேபர் டிபார்ட்மெண்டில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு உதவி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“நாட்டில் வேலை நிறுத்தமும் பெரிய கிளர்ச்சியுமாக இருந்து கொண்டிருக்கிறது. எங்கு பார்த்தாலும் ஸர்க்கார் சிப்பந்திகளிடம்கூட Black-market இருக்கிறது. நமது காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபையானது எவ்வளவோ பாடுபடுவருகிறது. இப்பொழுது பணமுடை அதிகமாக இருக்கிறது. கீழ்த்தர ஸர்க்கார் உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் அவர்கள் குறைகளைத் தெரிவிப்பதற்கான முறையிலே ஒரு பாட்டை அணிந்துகொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்கள் சுமார் லட்சத்திற்குமேல் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய மாதிரி உதவி செய்வதாயிருந்தால் நிலவருமானம் ஐந்து கோடியும் செலவழியும். ஆதலால் பணம் அதிகமாக வேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. அந்த சிப்பந்திகளுடைய சம்பளத்தைக் கூடியவரையில் உயர்த்தித்தான் தீர்வேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. எந்தவேலையையும் அவர்கள் மூலமாகத்தான் செய்யவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. முக்கியமான ஒரு பேப்பர் இருக்கிறதென்றால் முதலில் மந்திரிக்கும் பிறகு அது ஸெக்ரிடரிக்குப் போகும். பிறகு சூப்பிரெண்டுக்கும் பின் கிளார்க்குக்குப் போகும். கிளார்க்கு கள்தான் எழுதி வைப்பார்கள். கிளார்க்குள் அளர்களுடைய கடமையைச் சரிவர நடத்துகின்றவர்கள். ஸர்க்கார் அவர்களுக்குப் போதிய உதவி செய்யவேண்டியது கடமையாக இருக்கிறது. ஒருவன் முதலிலே வேலையில் சேர்ந்த காலத்திலே ஸர்க்கார் ரூ. 30 கொடுக்கிறார்கள். பிறகு கலியாணம் செய்துகொண்ட பிறகு ஸர்க்கார் அதற்கேற்ற increment கொடுப்பதில்லை. ஏதோ ஒரு தொகைகொடுத்துவருகிறார்கள். ஒரு புருஷனும் மனைவியும் இரண்டு குழந்தைகளும் கொண்ட குடும்பம் ஜீவிக் வேண்டுமென்றால் ரூ. 89 ஆகிறதென்று கணக்குப் போட்டுள்ளார்கள். ஸர்க்கார் பஞ்சப்படி ரூ. 16 கொடுக்கிறார்கள். 1921-ல் நிர்ணயித்த சம்பள திட்டம் இதுவரைக்கும்மாற்றப்படாமல் அப்படியே இருக்கிறது. ஆனால் விலைவாசியோ 4, 5 மடங்கு அதிகரித்திருக்கிறது. அவர்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கப்படும் பஞ்சப்படி மிகக் குறைவு. 1944-ல் சம்பளக் கமிஷன் வைத்தார்கள். ஆனால் அவர்கள் கீழ்த்தர சிப்பந்திகள் சங்கத்தைக் கலவாமல் ரிப்போர்ட் செய்தார்கள். ஒரு குடும்பத்தை நடத்த ரூ. 89க்குக் குறையாமல் வேண்டுமென்று கணக்குப் போட்டார்கள். அதிலும் தேவையான சாமானை வாங்கமுடியாமலிருக்கும்போது ஸர்க்கார் பஞ்சப்படியோடு ரூ. 46 தான் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். மாதம் ரூ. 43-க்கு லஞ்சம் வாங்கவேண்டும் அல்லது அழிவு அடையவேண்டும். லஞ்சத்திற்குக் குறைந்த சம்பளமே காரணம். ஆகவே Black-market-க்கு இடமிருக்கிறது. Black-market ஐ ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமென்றால் கூடியவரையில் சிப்பந்திகளுக்கு உயர்ந்த சம்பளம் கொடுக்கத் தயாராயிருக்கவேண்டும். ஸர்க்கார் இந்த சிப்பந்திகளுடைய சம்பளத்தை உயர்த்துவது நியாயமென்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்கிறேன். அதற்கு வரவு செலவு திட்டத்தில் பணம் காணாவிட்டால் கேஷம் நிதியிலிருந்து செலவிடலாம்.”

* Mr. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am afraid I have been somewhat anticipated by the hon. Members Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin and Mr. Venkateswarlu in what I have to say on the question of retrenchment of establishments. Nevertheless the subject is of such importance in view of the possibility of a very great rise in the cost of administration of this country that I think it bears some repetition. The Government have hinted that they have under contemplation the question of an increase in the general sales tax, and are considering

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proposals or the introduction of new taxes in order to compensate for the heavy loss of revenues consequent on their decision to introduce prohibition in eight districts of the Province from October next, and perhaps, throughout the whole province within the next two years. I should submit that in fairness to the people on whose shoulders the burden of the taxes is likely to fall, the Government should simultaneously consider the question of effecting a drastic retrenchment in the expenditure on the administrative machinery of this province which is very very costly. Opinion is fairly general that the administration is top-heavy. Commencing from the topmost rung of the official ladder, we find that whereas the Government was being carried on by four Advisers at a cost of about Rs. 2 lakhs a year, we now have thirteen Ministers with fourteen Parliamentary Secretaries draining the exchequer to the extent of nearly Rs. 4 lakhs a year. The necessity for this large increase in expenditure under this head is not apparent. I should imagine that it should be possible to reduce the number of Ministers from 13 to say 10. There are several capable Members in the Ministry who can, I feel, very well take on a few more subjects and thus pave the way for the proposed reduction in their number. I realise that the Hon. the Prime Minister has not had sufficient time to study his bearings in this respect. I hope however that with experience gained by the time he comes before the House next March with his Budget proposals, he will see his way to consider and possibly adopt the suggestion which will result in a reduction by 25 per cent of the expenditure under this head. Such a gesture on his part will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated.

"We next find that out of 9 Secretaries to Government no less than 7 of them are drawing salaries in excess of Rs. 2,000. Now, Sir, these salaries were fixed at a time when the appointments were mainly if not entirely filled by European Civilians who were fairly senior. The European Civilian is fast disappearing from the public service and there seems to be no conceivable reason why these high salaries should still prevail. In my opinion the maximum salary of the Secretaries should be fixed at Rs. 1,000. I trust that this question will also be considered by the Government.

"We next come to Under Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries all drawing between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000. I wonder again if it is necessary to pay these men such high salaries for their services. I now come to the most fruitful source of retrenchment and that is gazetted and non-gazetted members—who are drawing from Rs. 200. In this connection, I would suggest the desirability of Government carefully scrutinizing the necessity for the large establishments in each Government department and office in this presidency. Heads of departments have a knack of always asking for extra staff and holding out a veiled threat that if they do not get what they want they will not be responsible for inefficiency in their department. If this question is gone into carefully, the Government will find that there is surplus staff in almost every Government office in this province.

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"It is also necessary to effect retrenchment because quite a large number of people who have served in the war at great personal risk to themselves have come back to their homes only to find that they are jobless. I would go a step further than the hon. Member Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin in suggesting that not only should all superannuated men be sent away but that Government should issue an order compulsorily retiring all officials who have put in 25 years service giving them full pensionary benefits of the service they have put in. This would I think release a large number of appointments which can be given to men who have rendered war service and have returned to their homes to find they have no work to do.

"Sir, I wish also to impress upon the Government the necessity for preserving the religion, culture and education and language of my community, the Anglo-Indian community. I am here at one with my Friends of the Muslim Group in asking that whatever changes you may make we have a right to our culture, our religion and our learning and language. We trust that Government will take the necessary steps to safeguard these rights.

"With regard to employment, the Communal Government Order gives the Anglo-Indians 1 in every 18 appointments. I have no figures before me but I think the general view is that the representation of Anglo-Indians in the services is not up to the standard. There are a good many Anglo-Indians who are qualified; I hope that their claims will be considered when vacancies are being filled.

"On the question of the salaries of teachers, my Friend Mr. Fowler pleaded for the teachers the other day during the general discussion. He is not here to plead their cause once again and I do it for him. I am glad that the Government are considering the question and I hope they will be able to give them adequate compensation which would make it possible for them to live a decent life.

"Lastly, I would ask that the claims of Anglo-Indians who have put in war service and who have been demobilized—quite a large number of them—will be considered in making appointments in the Police Department and the Excise Department. Recruitment in the past has been confined to ex-soldiers. I notice that applications have been called for from Anglo-Indians and I hope that suitable candidates who are not wanting will be taken into the department. With these remarks, Sir, I support the cut motion."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am glad that the Hon. Premier has gone out of the way on this most important demand to allow me to speak, because it is the only subject in which many . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Premier has nothing to do in allowing the hon. Member to speak. It is the Chair that allows him to speak."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am glad, Sir, that I have been allowed by you to speak now on this important subject, since most of us were not here as we were busy

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in taking part in the 'Direct Action Day' as expounded by the All-India Muslim League on the 16th August 1946.

"Again the question has been raised, Sir, by one or two European Members of this House whether the Muslims sitting here on these Benches belong to the same nation as Members sitting on the Front Benches opposite. It is a pity, Sir, that the Britisher, not only in this House but outside, is not able to understand the nationalities of this country. I have to tell him, Sir, and through him his community that we, the Muslims of this country, wherever we are, whether in a minority province or in a majority province—we all belong to one nation—a nation different from that of the Hon. the Premier.

"Again, Sir, I have to take this opportunity to say that we, the Members of the Opposition, are depending more on newspapers than on information given to us in this House by Hon. Ministers on any question of legislation, or on matters of State policy. Sir, it is in the newspapers that we see that Government is considering the possibility of holding elections for all the local boards; it is in the newspapers we have seen about the reservation of 20 per cent of seats in some colleges for merit. If information is received in this House, it is only after questions are raised that replies come forward and come forward very haltingly and very slowly and yet no full scope is given.

"Sir, as regards legislation, I may say that we have been accustomed to legislation of the past Congress Ministry. They used to go forward with them very speedily. We do not expect the same thing from this Ministry and I ask them to give us as much information as possible about the legislation that they want to bring forward in future. It was the practice in this House to give information to the Opposition just when the Premier was about to speak on very important matters, namely, about the food committees and the textile committees. Sir, the Hon. Premier should not proceed with any matter until all the Members of the House have got the information. It must be possible for them before they give out information or pass administrative orders, to consult leaders. The question of the reservation of 20 per cent of the seats for merit in the colleges has resulted in a community representing 3 per cent of the population monopolising the seats. Out of 69 seats reserved for the Engineering Colleges, 59 have been filled on the basis of that 'merit' and by 'Brahmins.' I know that the Congress Party is predominantly Non-Brahmin, but there is the question of discipline. Sir, this is a very important matter and some legislation must be brought forward to know the minds of the public and the House before anything can be done in regard to the communal Government Order.

"This aspect of communal representation is only the first attempt to undo what has been done in the past by previous Ministers and please take it from me that if the parties concerned are not consulted in future in regard to these matters and if they are not properly treated, they may resort to methods which are not constitutional.

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"Sir, whenever a question is put the Government say that they are coming forward with legislation. I say, Sir, that this side of the House may be given some information direct instead of giving it through the Press.

"As regards the questions that are answered here, Sir, I have to say that only a few questions are coming up for answer during question time every day. The other day there were only 3 questions and today there were only 4 questions. I hope that there would be more facilities for answering more questions.

"As regards short notice questions, I say this from personal experience, it appears that the Hon. Ministers have made it a point not to answer them at all. They have got the power not to waive notice and they have the choice either to answer or refuse to answer those questions. This means that very important questions can be answered only after a very long time. For instance, I have given notice of a question regarding the nomination to the Upper House which may not require much time to answer. But the Hon. Premier has not taken care to answer it at all. Yesterday the question of Parliamentary Secretaries was raised. The Secretaries have been paid and money has been spent but the Hon. Premier has not taken care to define their duties. Madras is famous for many things and Madras will become famous again due to Mr. T. Viswanadham, who is the Chief Parliamentary Secretary, but not responsible to any Minister. He is a Parliamentary Secretary all by himself. He is secretary to nobody. We have heard of Ministers without portfolio but here we have a Parliamentary Secretary without a Minister . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Will the hon. Member finish in a minute or two?"

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I will require a few more minutes, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may continue his speech after lunch."

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I was saying, Sir, that there should be no red-tapism in the matter of answering questions. Apart from the delay in answering questions, the Ministers are pursuing a policy of boycotting all short notice questions. For instance, only yesterday I sent two questions which neither require any time nor enquiry to answer. One of them was regarding the direct action day, as to what precautions were taken by Government, whether directions were received from the Central Government; the other question was whether there was any direction received from the All-India Congress Committee regarding the reorganization of the work of a particular Minister of this Government. Both the questions have not been allowed, and they are going to be answered, we do not know when, probably after two or three months. Sir, it is only from these questions and answers that the province knows something about the activities of this Government: and instead of following what the bureaucracy has been

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doing all these years, I expect popular Ministers not to take shelter under this or that rule but come forward with any explanation, if at all they have any, for their actions.

“Again, Sir, the one thing that has struck anybody who has seen the work of this Ministry is their attitude towards strikes. This Ministry does not seem to have any policy regarding strikes. They have not succeeded in the case of any strike; their policy seems to be barren in this matter. That is because the Members now on the Treasury Benches, when they were agitators themselves, were inciting people and showing great sympathy for the workers, but now they are not able to meet them. The Ministry is now reaping the fruits of what they have sown; leaders like Mr. Prakasam and Mr. Giri, when they were leaders of strikes, have sown the seeds, the fruits of which they are reaping now. They must realise these things have always been there and they have become normal now; and unless they change their very mentality, they will not be able to stop these strikes. But my opinion in this matter is that this Government's policy cannot settle strikes at all. Let the Minister say whether in one strike at least he has succeeded. In one particular case relating to the scavengers' strike in Andhra, they have moved after twenty days. They have sent a conciliator there after twenty days and they have also appointed a Board or a Cabinet Committee or Cabinet delegation—they have copied it from the Parliament—consisting of two or three Ministers to look after the matter. We do not know whether they are doing anything at all. Members of this House and the public are being deceived by their using big words.

“Again, Sir, they are doing so many administrative acts without informing this House or anybody. For example, the reservation of 20 per cent of seats, which has been very well discussed already. That is a matter on which I am sure the Government will have a defeat if opinion is taken on this matter in the country. I ask the Government to show us how they think the public wants this 20 per cent reservation. If there is a vote taken in their own party, of course by ballot, this reservation of 20 per cent will not be accepted, I know. By these actions alone and by the policy of the All-India Congress Committee, it has been proved that you have driven us to go to the policy of Pakistan and if you still persist in this Brahmin percentage, nobody need be surprised if there is a demand for Dravidistan and anything more. Simply because you have discipline, simply because you have votes, you should not pursue the present policy but must come forward with statistics for your administrative acts when you come forward with legislation on these matters before this House.

“Again, Sir, it is a well-known fact that the Ministries in the provinces are working directly under the direction of the Congress High Command. Very recently it appeared in the papers—this is an important matter—that Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, no less than the President of the Congress, has written to the Premier that the work of the Ministry for Public Information should be so organized that the Congress ideology should be propagated very effectively. I do not know whether the Congress wants the finances of this province

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to be spent on spreading the ideologies of a particular political party. If it is not a fact, let him deny it . . .”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Hon. Members must take care to make sure of their facts before they go on haranging in the manner in which this hon. Member is attempting to do. It is not a fact, what he has stated.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I am glad, Sir, it is not a fact; but I depend upon paper information; it appeared both in the *Hindu* and the *Express*. I am glad it is not true; but it appeared in the papers, Sir, and I depend upon the paper for information . . .”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Newspaper reports should not be taken as truth, and hon. Members should not plunge into criticism on the basis of such reports.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, one fine morning you see the Minister for Local Boards announcing that he is considering the postponement of elections for local boards and municipalities. Representations were made to him to postpone the elections—resolutions were passed by the district boards and municipalities to that effect—so that there may be a division of wards; but he said ‘No., these elections have not been held for the past eight years; now there should be elections’—that is what he said. But now he comes forward with an announcement that he is considering the postponement of these elections. The reason obviously is that the District Congress Committee elections have not been finished; in cases where elections have been finished, there have been petitions and re-elections and conciliators have been appointed by the High Command to go into these questions. So, because these Congress Committees which are to set up the candidates are not ready, you want to postpone the elections. What has the Minister to say to all this and why is the Minister who has already refused to dissolve these local bodies now coming forward with the statement that the elections are to be postponed? My reply to it is that your Congress Committees are not ready to set up candidates; they are not ready with the Parliamentary Boards for the districts and villages, and so you are thinking of postponing the elections. You had better say that you want adult franchise and until then these will be postponed; or you postpone it until the redivision of the wards has taken place; but do not postpone them for this flimsy reason because you will have to answer for it.

“Again, Sir, the Leader of the Opposition yesterday was giving facts and figures to show how certain particular communities have been neglected in the past. If the Ministry . . .”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I may inform the hon. Member that no such announcement was made by the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—
“Again, Sir, it is said that no postponement is made . . .”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“What the hon. Member spoke he must remember; he must not go on at a tangent leaving

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what he said, to itself. Sir, is the hon. Member right in cross-examining like this?"

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, this is the only occasion when an hon. Member can find out what the Government are doing. In the absence of any information given in this House, I am asking the Minister concerned to give a specific answer to my question. It is not cross-examination. I want to know whether you are postponing the elections; if so, give us a proper reply and give us the reasons . . ."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, you must exercise some control over hon. Members who persist in repeating a statement even after it is denied. I stated definitely, after talking to my hon. Friend here that no such announcement was made. Is he justified in persisting in arguing on the same point presuming the same thing to be true?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Please do not repeat that thing. The answer has been given by the Minister concerned. Mr. Salam, you have already taken nearly 20 minutes. I will allow you one or two more minutes."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am the last speaker on this side, Sir; I may be given a few more minutes."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"No other speaker on your side is going to speak? Alright then."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Again Sir, let there be no misunderstanding when I say this about administrative orders. If at all any administrative orders are to be passed, the necessary legislation should come first and then only the administrative orders should be passed. Yesterday the Leader of the Opposition was able to show by facts and figures how particular communities have been treated in the matter of the services."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Not only the Leader but other two gentlemen, Mr. Hameed Khan and another, have said about the inadequate representation of the Muslims, so please do not repeat it."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I want to say, Sir, that even the Leader of the Opposition, after reading the figures one after another, finally stated: 'These are the figures which I am placing before you, I cannot say anything about the truth of the figure'."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In some respects."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Very good, Sir."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am not concerned as to how far the figures read out by the Leader of the Opposition are true; but if the Government differ from what he has said, let them come forward with their own figures as soon as possible. The figures, according to the Ministry, will come very soon and I am sure

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when they come, they will also show that some of the minorities have not been properly treated. The Government may say they are not wholly responsible. But I ask, Sir, from what they have done in these three months—such as reserving seats in the Medical and Engineering Colleges—it is quite clear they want to stop the recruitment of those communities in the future also. If they now reserve seats in the colleges and afterwards say that no qualified persons are coming forward from these particular communities—that argument can be used by others in the future, as you and others have used in the past. Unless you give facilities to these communities even now, how can you have qualified persons in the future? This fact that you block our way into the professional colleges is going to be used by you for saying in future that no qualified persons are coming forward. I think you are responsible for all that has been done during these three months, and you cannot say again that you are not wholly responsible for the neglect of these communities. Again, Sir . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Be brief and finish your speech in a minute or two. You have already taken twenty minutes."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Again, Sir, we cannot accept the proposal of the member of the Communist Party that we should not accept separate electorates. We stand for separate electorates, we demand it; our demand is there and nothing short of it will be accepted to us . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have already allowed you twenty minutes, you cannot take up all the time of the House. Mr. V. I. Muniswami Pillai will speak now."

* SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the course of his speech yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition, and some others too, have referred to separate electorates. I do not object, Sir, to their referring to the communities to which they belong; but they took the opportunity to refer to the Scheduled Castes also. They said that great havoc has been done by the Scheduled Castes resorting to separate electorates. You know, Sir, and some members of this Honourable House know, that out of the 30 members that have been elected to this Assembly, practically all come under the Congress Party and they have all come under the Joint Electorate system."

"Sir, this system and the system of joint electorates were matters of great discussion in Poona in the year 1932 and in practice we have seen what this joint electorate has done. Sir, the Harijans had been suffering from social and economic backwardness for centuries together and they felt that by joint electorates and by co-operating and working in unison with the other communities in the land there will be salvation and I feel honestly, as a member who has been in this House from 1926, that my community, whether in the towns or in the urban areas, have felt the necessity for joint electorates and expressed so in unequivocal terms. (A voice from the Muslim group: 'Question.') That has been proved by the joint electorate, not only here in this province, Sir, but

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even in the other provinces where the members of my community have been returned in large numbers. It should certainly be an eye-opener not only to my Muslim friends, but also to those friends who have been advocating separate electorates for themselves. I have certainly no objection to any community asking for reservation of seats, but in regard to the mode of election I honestly feel that all communities who feel for the freedom of the country, must stand together and work together under the joint electorate system.

"Sir, one point I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Prime Minister and that is in regard to the Public Service Commission. In all the demands that have been passed in this House, we have been agitating for the proper representation of the Harijans. If you take the statistics of the number of Harijans that are employed in the services under Government, you will find them only in the lower rungs of the ladder. What really happens is, the Public Service Commission have got a certain set of rigid rules according to which even if any slight mistake is made in the application of the Harijan candidates, these applications are merely thrown out. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'Has the joint electorate changed that?') I therefore request the Hon. the Prime Minister to see that some pressure is brought to bear on the Public Service Commission to give certain allowances for the Harijan candidates, so that more and more candidates from this community may get themselves equipped and qualified for service under Government.

"Another important point which I would like to urge on the Hon. the Prime Minister is this. Going through the Budget I find that the Harijan community has been included and classed under communities eligible for help. If you take the Act of 1919 and even later on, you will find that certain specific classes of untouchables have been mentioned as Depressed Classes and even the 1935 Act gives a clear definition about Scheduled Classes. But, I now find the expression 'Scheduled Caste' has been omitted and 'communities eligible for help' is inserted. I do not know what communities come under this category. So, Sir, I feel—not only myself, but all the members of the Harijan community feel alarmed and get nervous as to what is going to happen to them in the future in regard to this omission. Sir, though we form one-sixth of the population, we are afraid that what little facilities we are entitled to, will be taken away from us.

"There is another point which I would like to mention here. When the Poona Pact was enacted, one of the conditions laid down in it was that a specific amount must be ear-marked for the education of the Harijans, but I am sorry to note that only a very small amount has been provided in the Budget—so much for converts and so much for non-converts. I was told that out of the 300 scholarships set aside, 100 are ear-marked for Christians. I have no objection to either the Christians or the Muslims or any other community demanding special facilities from Government either for their education or for scholarships. But, what I ask is, that by taking away what is allotted for the Harijans by way of such little

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facilities, they should not be deprived of such facilities and concessions which are already promised to them. Otherwise, you are going against the very Poona Pact itself, or what you will be giving us under joint electorates or even against what the High Command intended. If such deviations are made in the Budget, it will be a serious matter. I, therefore, request the Hon. the Premier to give us an assurance to the effect that whatever amount is ear-marked for the Harijans will not be used otherwise.

"Sir, coming to the Secretariat proper, I find there are a large number of men at the top; Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and so on. Of course, there may be justification for such appointments during the war period. Now that the war has ended, I request the Hon. the Prime Minister to go through the whole thing and see that all the posts which are surplus are wiped out. With these words, I support the demand, Sir."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demand made by the Hon. the Prime Minister and in doing so, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government some of the important points that are to be considered by the Government and to see that those points are given effect to as early as possible. Now, Sir, as the whole House is aware, there is only one Harijan Minister and that Minister has been given a portfolio without any department of his own ('Hear, hear' from the Opposition benches.) I therefore request the Hon. the Prime Minister to increase the number of Harijan Ministers in the Cabinet, if necessary by increasing the total number of Ministers. Since we form about one-fifth of the population, we expect at least a minimum of three Ministers at the hands of the Congress Government. I hope Government will consider this aspect of the question and do justice to our community.

"Sir, you will see that there are many graduates hailing from the Harijan community but most of them have been rotting either as lower division clerks or as upper division clerks only in so many departments of Government. If only Government makes an effort to comb the whole province and collect a list of graduates of this community, they will find a large number of them available for service under Government. I request the Government to appoint such men directly to gazetted posts and this will go a long way in meeting a long-felt grievance of the community. Here, Sir, I would like to refer to the agitation of my friends, particularly my Muslim friends, for a greater share of representation in the services for the members of their community. What about us, Sir? According to the communal Government Order only one out of 12 seats is given to the members of my community. I request the Government to see that that communal Government Order is reasonably amended, so that we get least three places and for this purpose the total may be increased to 14, if necessary.

"There is another handicap under which our men suffer and that is the question of seniority which stands in the way of the Harijan community. Sir, you are well aware that most of the

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officers in Government service sit tight over the Harijan subordinates, ill-treat them, give them trouble of all sorts and even send them out as soon as they can. These are the things that are happening at present.

"I wish to bring to the notice of the Government another kind of suffering by the Harijans. Now, there are so many Harijan S.S.L.C. candidates, passed and unpassed. Of course, I do not see there is any difference between a passed candidate and a failed candidate. (Laughter from the Muslim group.) I request, Sir, that at least so far as the Harijans are concerned, these failed S.S.L.C. candidates may also be taken into account in regard to appointments.

"Sir, Government have been kind enough to entrust the work of Harijan uplift to the Harijan Minister, though he has no department of his own. I therefore request the Government to see that a separate department is created and placed under his charge. I suggest that it should also be possible for the Government to employ almost all the qualified Harijans; if possible at least one Harijan for every taluk should be appointed for looking after the interests of the community, because it is only they that can understand the grievances of the members of their community. In this way only they can redress the grievances of the Harijans.

"Sir, my hon. Friend, I think it was Mr. Salam, who wanted to know whether the elections in the local bodies are going to be postponed and whether it was going to be on the population basis. I do not know what is the policy that is going to be adopted in this matter. Sir, at present the representation of Harijans in the local bodies is very meagre. I urge on the Government to see that at least in the future, they take suitable steps to see that proper representation is given to the Harijans in the local bodies, district boards and municipalities, on the basis of population. I also request Government to see that a convention is set up by which Harijans are given posts as chairmen of the district boards, municipalities or even panchayats and that chairmanships are given to them by rotation at least once in four terms.

"Again, Sir, there is another grievance under which men of my community have been suffering. There are men serving in various departments but because they are failed S.S.L.C. men they do not get chances of promotion. There is also the other handicap, to which I have already referred, namely, the question of seniority which stands against their way of promotion to higher ranks. I therefore suggest that in future wherever there are vacancies, they should be reserved to Harijan candidates.

"I do not wish to go into the question of whether separate electorates or joint electorates are good. But, as a man with some experience in regard to this matter I can say that it is also the view of some of my friends who have hitherto been favouring separate electorates, that joint electorate is a good thing. When I asked some of my Christian friends, they told me that they would prefer joint electorates rather than separate electorates for them.

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But, what is required is there should be a different method of election. We must sit together, have a committee to go into the matter, consider the question and then come to the conclusion as to which community will have its say in electing its community man.

"In conclusion, I hope, Sir, that Government will give due consideration to all the points I have raised and will come forward and increase the number of Harijan Ministers within a very short time.

"One word more, Sir, and that is in regard to the representation of the Harijan community in the services. At present we have only one out of 12 seats, whereas the Central Government have already given 18½ per cent in services under them. I will therefore urge that, if not 20 per cent, this Government will see their way at least to set apart 18½ per cent for Harijans.

"I once again appeal to the Government to issue orders to see that the officers who have been bossing over the Harijan subordinates and ill-treating them and even dismissing them, are not allowed to do so in future, but should give every encouragement to them as far as possible.

"With these few words, Sir, I once again appeal to the Hon. the Prime Minister to increase the number of Harijan Ministers and entrust him with responsible portfolios so that he can look to the interests of the Harijans better."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I must think that all the hon. Members who have moved their cut motions have spoken on the Demand. Almost all standpoints from which they could attack this Demand had been covered by them. The main opposition has been from the Leader of the Opposition and the members of his party. The hon. Mr. Ismail stated at the very beginning of his comments that this Government was not justified in having formed this Government without giving due intimation to himself and his party and without consulting him and his party. Some other hon. Members also supported the same view. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition himself admitted in the course of his speech that he could not move in all the matters himself because of the High Commands to whose directions we are subordinates. Before the formation of this Government, Sir, there were talks between myself and some of my friends on that side and some other friends also when the question was considered whether we could extend the invitation to the Leader of the Opposition and the other members of his party, even though there has been no settlement or agreement at the top between the Congress High Command and the League High Command. Because that agreement was not existing, we on this side were obliged to take the course which we took without consulting the Hon. the Leader of the Opposition and the members of his Party. Beyond that, there was no motive, there was no discourtesy intended to the hon. Members and the Leader of the Opposition. As a matter of fact, Sir, I had some discussion with some high personages as well in this connexion. There also we came to the conclusion that we

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would not be free, on this side, to move, especially when there was no agreement reached though discussions were going on. Above all, Sir, I may mention without disclosing any secrets, that I had a discussion with the Leaders of the Congress, and with the President of the Congress as well on this matter, if not exactly before establishing this Government, at least soon afterwards. The President expected—I have been also expecting—that there would be a settlement between the two sections, but for years together we have been going on like that and nobody can be sure of the results, that followed the discussions.

“I have known this Hindu-Muslim dispute, Sir, for over twenty-five years. From the beginning of this trouble, I have been in touch with the developments in different parts of the country. I have known how we had not been careful enough in the very beginning to prevent the spread of this difference between the two communities. Let me tell you and the hon. Members that the freedom movement, which is a new movement of Gandhiji, was based upon Hindu-Muslim unity. On the one side, the late Moulana Mohammad Ali and on the other, Moulana Shoukat Ali, these two brothers, were the persons who started this new movement in the past; it was based upon a new foundation and a new policy which had not been known for over thirty-five years in the history of the Congress. I do not hesitate to admit that it was this combination that laid the foundation of this movement (hear, hear) and the whole thing was started on that basis. But having regard to the time at our disposal, I should not go at any length about these matters but briefly I would refer to them. The first struggle was when the Prince of Wales arrived in India. The movement started and spread all over the country within twelve months and that was first non-violent fight in which Moulana Mohammad Ali, Moulana Showkat Ali and other Muslim leaders and various leaders of various communities went into jails under the Congress leadership. It was during the regime of Lord Reading whom I had known even as he was practising as an ordinary Rufus Isaacs in the English Courts. He was Viceroy in India at that time and he declared openly, ‘I am puzzled and perplexed. What is it that India wants?’ Then he started negotiations. Those negotiations failed. Since then, Sir, this country has been carrying on this fight. Moulana Mohammad Ali and Moulana Shoukat Ali made very great contribution at that time as my hon. Friends on the other side said, but later on, they did not agree; they differed and they wanted separate electorates. It is unfortunate that they had taken that line, having laid the foundation, and having started the country and put it on its legs, they felt compelled to go in the opposite direction.”

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Opposite to whom?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Opposite to the decisions. They went also in the opposite direction because they could not get over the human weakness which prevails upon the higher nature even in the greatest of the human beings in this world at a most critical time.”

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* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Question.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“My hon. Friend says question. I will ask him only to look back into the history of this country of ours during the last twenty-five years. Because differences arose between the two leaders, no one leader would be entitled to cut away and go in the opposite direction and attack the very foundations of the house which he began to build. It is because of that weakness in us, it is because we have not been able to follow the Englishman whom we have been fighting and whom we have been criticising for over twenty-six years, more directly, it is because of that weakness in us that we have been in this struggle for such a long time; otherwise, we should not have been carrying on this fight until to-day. If only we had imbibed the characteristics of the Englishman, we would not have been in the present condition, divided as we are to-day. Englishmen fight among themselves, they fight to the finish, but when a fight comes with any other people, they join. That was shown by Mr. Churchill himself and by all the members of all parties in Britain during the last war, before the war and even after the war. It has been my desire, Sir, that we should, irrespective of the weakness of the Englishmen who have been ruling over us for such a long time, imbibe their virtues: if we had only copied them from the very beginning and strengthened our position, we would not have been in our present position, divided as we are, none on earth would have been able to resist us.

“Even though we have been divided, Sir, we have still been united. If one looks into that squarely, one will know that. In spite of the differences between the Muslim League and the Congress, the Muslims did not abandon the idea of freedom. They did not say that they did not want freedom for this country: but they adopted a particular method which was not helpful for immediate success; they saw that the Congress had gone a long way and that they were in the right path. If the country had adopted their method and policy, we would not have made any progress. Englishmen are men who would fight; they are men who would appreciate their opponents, develop their strength and would give a fight; they are not men who would respect those who are cowards and who flee from fight. If we also do not develop their quality, we would be in the same position in which we were for the past 25 years or even 200 years before this great movement was started. At that time only men and women were made to realize how they should carry on their fight, without hitting others, without killing others, without doing anything but suffering at the hands of others. There may be mistakes and exceptions on such occasions but in that way this whole thing has been carried on. Let us think so now about negotiations in the top.

“We were not there but that is how things must have ended there. Both sides must have gone through many difficulties: and they must have come to the decision that they cannot agree for the time. But still, I may say that the manner in which...”

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fight was carried on was remarkable although I have not been in entire agreement with the programme of the Muslim League. They have been carrying on in their own way and they have been trying to establish a two-nation theory and they have been trying to establish Pakistan in this country of ours. In facts and figures, history and culture and other circumstances would warrant, nobody need question that there should be Pakistan. But if it is against facts and figures and ancestral traditions and institutions, Pakistan can have no justification for existence. (An hon. Member: 'Is it the personal opinion of the Premier?') Mr. Salam can never be tolerant. It is the Premier's opinion, it is my opinion and it is the opinion of the Government because it is the opinion of the masses of people of this country. I can stand a test and even face a Court of law if it becomes necessary to prove that facts are there, history is there, nobody can invent and create things which never existed and should not exist. I am trying to appeal just as you are trying to convince me, that though of different temperaments we have to try to understand one another and to work together as far as possible.

"When the question of joint electorates and separate electorates was discussed here, the most vehement protest came from my hon. Friend Mr. Hameed Khan—Mr. Hameed Khan an innocent child. (Laughter.) But he had to change and has changed. I was his canvasser in the last municipal elections which was on the basis of joint electorates and he was returned from a joint electorate on the Congress ticket and he became the President of the Corporation. Even now he stands on that ticket since no elections have been held. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'I will be returned again without your help.') I did not say that my help was needed by my hon. Friend for all time. He was occupying a dubious position; he was returned to the Corporation through a joint electorate and for the Legislative Assembly, he was returned through a separate electorate. His membership was poised on two legs as it were one on a joint electorate and the other on a separate electorate. (Mr. B. Pocker: 'Now those anomalies do not exist.') We have to deal with anomalies and inconsistencies and for these I am not blaming Mr. Hameed Khan or anybody else. As men we become wiser and wiser and we are able to know which is an inconsistency and which is not. I thank my hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Pillai for the way in which he presented the case for joint electorate with reference to Harijans. There was the preliminary election and there was the final election through the joint electorate and it is pleasing to see that the Harijans have been able to get along quite happily in the system of joint electorates.

"Coming to the differences between the Muslim and the Congress, there were differences and their differences could not be reconciled even when the fight was going on. But I am still hoping that a time will come when these differences between the League and others will disappear. Mr. Hameed Khan says it is not so soon to be. But I am confident and hopeful. These differences that have arisen out of political struggle with regard to

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offices and places are bound to disappear if not to-day, some time very soon and I am hopeful of seeing it myself. How can this continue? The question has been raised in place and out of place on every cut motion as to the number of posts set apart for the Muslim community and representations are made that the representation is not sufficient. (An hon. Member: 'That is a fact.') But for that fact, we must have to get back to old history. I wish to impress upon your minds and wish you to realize that when once the human mind has taken an obstinate course, be it on the Muslim League or the Congress side, it will not easily be deflected to the proper and better course. The dispute has arisen because of the distribution of offices resultant from the taking over of power from the Englishman who had been ruling this country all these years. Once again let me declare on the floor of this House that it is not offices that we want as these are bonds of servitude but freedom for the country. So far as this Province is concerned, let me trace the history of disputes on the question of offices. I have seen the origin of the Brahman-non-Brahman problem; I have seen its growth and I have seen how it has disappeared though there may still here and there be some lingering traces of it. Let me tell you something about the Brahman-non-Brahman movement. The Brahman, I must concede, was the first offender because it is he that led the van in the race for servitude; it was the Brahman that led the way to get into service both under the East India Company and latterly under the Government and created a glamour for service by the promotions that came in his way, from a clerkship to high posts like the High Court Judges and Executive Councillors. It is the Brahman that made a serious mistake in the beginning in having taken to servitude. Others naturally thought that the Brahman got it, and he must possess much power and in a like manner they should also have power and capture all power. All places of power, Corporation Council—Yes; Legislative Council—Yes, everything must be captured and by capturing these places it was thought they could get power. That was the idea behind the movement at the beginning. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'They wanted just a share.') I am explaining to my hon. Friend Mr. Hameed Khan that offices do not represent real power and it is real power which the masses of our people require and struggle for. What is wanted is real power; offices and the rest are mere shadows and people have been mistaking the shadows for the real things and before the Muslim League trouble started, things were like this, just the same as they are to-day. How long did it go on? For a short while only. Unfortunately in the beginning, in the legislative elections, there was a contest between some Brahmans and the stalwart leaders of the Non-Brahman movement and the Non-Brahman leaders were all defeated. That was the beginning of the whole trouble. They took the defeat to heart and said that these things must be put down. Mr. Town is smiling but let me tell him that I am giving expression to my experiences dating back to several years. The Non-Brahman leaders were my best friends. A commission visited us because a dispute was going on

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about the number of seats to be reserved to Brahmans. I had then a talk with Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, who is now the Dewan of Mysore, and other leaders of that side as also with Mr. Kasturiranga Ayyangar, Mr. Ramachandrarao and others.

3-30 p.m. I told both Mr. Kasturiranga Ayyangar and Mr. Ramachandra Rao, 'This Commission is coming, we are going to give evidence; don't claim anything in the nature of opposition to Theagaraya Chetti's claim; he wants reservation. Tell him, let him have as many seats as he wants.' But they would not agree, even like hon. Members here. (Laughter.) My point is this: I am trying to concentrate on a scheme where the Non-Brahmans could not have to raise their voice against the so-called Brahmans, and say, we have been defeated by Brahmans, and so we must have a Non-Brahman Party. The whole province is Non-Brahman. As was pointed out, only three per cent are Brahmans, just as the Muslim friends to-day are only 7.9 per cent in South India.'

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Wrong figure."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"If it is wrong, I will take the correct figure. So, Sir, at that time, I told Sir Ramaswami Mudaliyar and other friends, 'don't have this trouble; the country is Non-Brahman; they must vote for Non-Brahmans, if they have got any such feeling in the province.' But it was not needed. I was considered a very small man. That was the Meston Commission. The Non-Brahman Party claimed 28 seats reservation. It was contested, and finally they were allowed 28 seats reservation. I wrote against it in my paper, as I was then editor-in-charge. After that, the election came in. In the elections the Non-Brahmans gave up 28 per cent of their seats. That itself proved that the claim of reservation, or anything like that, should not exist. In that way, Sir, the whole thing came out. After some time, a few years later, this reservation was abandoned, and the Non-Brahmans stood on their own legs. I have known Non-Brahman leaders, Non-Brahman heroes and pandits in this province for a very long time. They were never behind on merit to Brahmans of highest repute. It was a pity, it was tragic that for the sake of a few jobs, they should have degenerated to this extent, and then one section should be saying that because a few seats were lost here or there, it is a business of merit. Merit must find a place everywhere. Merit there was among Non-Brahmans, merit there was among Muslims and merit there has been in all communities. But you say, merit should be abandoned, and you must have a communal Government Order which will give a certain proportion of posts to this community and that community. I am thinking of the broadest possible lines when there will be no communal Government Order at all. Let me declare once again, even as Prime Minister,—but that does not mean that I want to destroy it immediately, when so many are swearing by it (laughter). I am considering how this communal Government Order could be dealt with so that it might cease to exist. (Interruption by Sri S. Nagappa.) The hon.

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Member, Mr. Nagappa, is a person whom I cannot reach sometimes (laughter). So he must excuse me."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Should not merit govern Legislature as well."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I never expected a question of that nature to come from that graceful lady. I have got such a high regard for her and for her husband; I am sorry a question of that nature should be put to me by her. There was a time when Muslims were appointed on merit and not on the basis of any recommendation, or caste or creed or any such thing. 'Legislature', the hon. Lady asks me, 'is there no question of merit here?' I may inform her, the members of this House have come in, in exercise of the franchise given to the electorate in the general election. Where is the question of merit here? Men of merit, affluence and wealth have been thrown aside in the elections. Those who secure the majority of votes get into the Legislature. The question of merit does not come in, unless the question of appointment comes in. However, let that remain there; I have got patience; I have survived communal differences, communal divisions, and I am still hoping that the difference between the Muslim League and the Congress would not remain for ever. It would disappear; and it ought to disappear. I would close this Brahman chapter by telling something about Brahmanism. Brahman was not born with a sacred thread on his shoulders, Brahman was not born as a member of a particular caste. There was no caste, Sir, in this country a long time back; there was only one caste, there was only one creed, there was only one religion that all the people observed in this land of ours. I am not talking from my own imagination or narrating stories handed down by orthodox gentlemen. I am saying this from history. The Brahmans and the other peoples as well did not belong to any caste. All the human population existing at that time divided itself into four societies, so that each one might take up one part of the duty for the protection of all human beings. Thus Brahmans' business came into existence and it has come into being from generation to generation. The term 'Brahman' as per the original text, means 'a person who is devoting himself to solve the question of God and preach that to other human beings.' That is the position of Brahmans. Brahman now is one who has earned an unfortunate position, which can be attacked by other friends, because of the servitude, which he has got upon his shoulders. I would advise every Brahman—they have already begun it—not to put himself into the unfortunate position into which their ancestors put themselves. This world is not getting through merely by office or employment secured by a few individuals under Government employ, or under companies or business concerns. Take the census, and you will find they are a drop in the ocean. They are doing their work and they are earning their livelihood. 'Brahman' means one who devotes himself, not by caste, not by any separate religion, to 'Para Brahman.' 'Para Brahman' is God, impersonal God, God who has no human body, no eyes, no ears, no nose, one pervading unit of energy all over

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the universe. That is the interpretation put by Sri Sankaracharya in his Bhashyam. God means energy, a power that spreads all over the earth, over animate and inanimate objects, a power that is found in all human beings; that is God. To understand that, it is not easy, and therefore it is that these people are asked to devote their time and preach to others about it. It is that unfortunate position that has brought them to their present position."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want to know, Sir, how many Brahmans of the description, which you suggest, are there now?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Because you have not been able to find that Brahman, you have been able to attack that Brahman now. That is the only reason; there is no other reason; and very few people can understand this. However, we are concerned here with politics and power. And I have tried to point out to you and through you to the people in the country that nothing should turn upon the question whether one is a Brahman or belongs to this caste or that caste."

3-15
p.m.

"Sir, I have been considering how to enforce the communal Government Order. I am trying to evolve a method or a formula under which what is laid down in the communal Government Order is applied to every one in this Presidency. After coming into office, and while I was functioning as Prime Minister, two boys ran up to me—not Brahman boys. One toddy tapper boy came from Cuddapah. He wanted admission in the Engineering College here. He did not succeed; I could not succeed. I did not interfere directly. I did not ask the Education Minister. I did not ask the Principal, who was asked to enforce certain rules. That boy could not get admission. He was running for that here and there. When the Education Secretary happened to be present in my room, this boy suddenly came up saying 'I have been disappointed once, twice and thrice.' Then the Education Secretary was good enough to suggest to him that he might run up to Cocanada because 5 or 6 seats were available there. The boy could not get a place there also, and ultimately, he wrote to me two days before that he had joined the Vizagapatam College. Similarly with regard to medical colleges nothing could be done. I am thinking if we can join together and do our best to solve this problem in what best way can we give education to every one who seeks education in the colleges or schools. We must regulate our people in such a manner that no young man is shut out from the Universities or from the colleges or from the schools. I am not a specialist in Education. I am thinking myself of calling an expert meeting, to solve our troubles, from outside this Province also. I am inviting leaders like Sir Radhakrishnan, twice Vice-Chancellor of the Benares University and Professor Radhakumud Mookerji of Bengal, ex-Vice-Chancellor of the Allahabad University, to come and help us by becoming members of a committee along with specialists of this Province. I hope, Sir, that we will arrive at some decision by which we can allow our young men to

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get themselves admitted and get University education for what it is worth. I would even go to the length of saying that those who are anxious to learn and those who are prepared to go up, in their anxiety to rush in for offices, will be allowed to get in. For officers we may make a special provision. For services also we may make a similar provision. Let us not shut out the younger generation from higher education. All boys will be ensured their education. If we shut out our boys from education, then we are doing nothing, Sir, in this world, so far as the administration of this Province is concerned."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I rise on a point of information, Sir. The Premier has just now suggested the abolition of the communal Government Order."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No, not yet. I said I am just considering."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will he consult this House before passing administrative orders on it?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"He is very anxious. Personally, I do not like the communal Government Order. My idea of nationalism is different from that dictated by the communal Government Order, and by others who are for the communal Government Order. This is my personal opinion. Mr. Salam should have a little patience to understand and talk."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the Hon. Premier know that in his Utopian theory he is in a minority of one?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I am not in a minority. When the vote is taken in the country my hon. Friend will find himself in a minority. Hon. Members from the mufassal may approach their electorates on this."

"I know how public opinion has to be canvassed. I know how the public should be given an opportunity to understand which is right and which is wrong. As I told the hon. Member. Sir, at one time, if I have got full freedom for myself, I will see that the youths of all communities learn in one educational institution, and make them study all the four religions (hear, hear) that prevail in the country. Islamism, Hinduism, Christianity and Buddhism. In that way, I have been feeling that perhaps there will come a day when our generations will be able to understand that all the four religions are one, and they point to one God and point to one worship. All difficulties will then disappear."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"That is Islam."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes; Islam is that; Hinduism is that; Christianity is that; and Buddhism is that. Every other religion is that. There may be lack of opportunity of studying and understanding them in their proper spirit. Therefore, I appeal to hon. Members who have been talking and criticizing on the basis of caste and religion with regard to the

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distribution of appointments not to be under that mistaken impression. I am a man who has travelled, to some extent, overseas also. I know the Hindu and Muslim traders in different parts of the overseas countries, and even in India for the matter of that, carry on their business like brothers. The other day I was at Vaniyambadi. Some of my friends went to a place where a man had been violently assaulted. He continued to remain in his place without going to the hospital even though he was bleeding. I went there and I told him 'You are a foolish man; why do you lie down here; you will get treatment in the hospital if you go.' That man said 'No I would rather die here', and then he added 'My Muslim brother died here, we have been brothers all along.' All these relations among them have been destroyed by political agitation on all sides. That is my personal submission. Therefore, I hope, Sir, that a day will come when all will understand the real import of this communal distribution of offices, when this communal Government Order will cease to exist, and when all will work together. I have known the years and the age in which Muslims and Hindus were like brothers. It is they who laid the foundation of freedom movement in this country, not to talk of Gandhian movement. Go to the earliest period, and you will find that Muslim leaders and other leaders started this Congress movement, and that has been going on very well. I appeal to hon. Members, therefore, not to waste our time on the distribution of offices and other things.

"The Hon. Leader of the Opposition, Mr. Ismail, gave some figures of the number of posts of officers held by Muslims in particular areas, and asked how they were not continued in later years. I was really wondering if the figures given by the hon. Member cannot be accurate and correct. He may ask 'how can you say your figures are correct.' It is because my position is different from the position of others. I have the Government office recording figures. It is in that way I can quote from the official records and show that the figures read out by the Hon. Leader of the Opposition are not correct.

"All-India Services relating to I.C.S. Officers: The total number is 186 out of which Muslims are 18.

"Indian Police service. Permanent posts 59 out of which 6 are Muslims.

"With regard to I.M.S. and other services; the numbers have been dwindling with the retirement or exit or otherwise of existing members. New ones are not forthcoming.

"Provincial and Subordinate services:—Here the percentage of the Muslim population given is 7.9. According to population basis for every 12 seats they will get 1."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I rise on a point of information, Sir. I understood the Hon. Premier to say that he was considering the question of abrogating or changing the communal Government Order. Has he actually changed the communal Government Order now? Is he applying

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the 7.9 per cent to the Muslims with reference to officers when the communal Government Order puts it at 16-2/3 per cent."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I am coming to that, if my hon. Friend will have a little patience. I have told hon. Members of this House that the question of cancelling the communal Government Order is not before the House, and is not proposed by me now. We are not discussing the cancellation of the communal Government Order, but we are applying the communal Government Order to find out how does the position stand with regard to Muslims as a whole. That is what I have been saying. The question of abolition of the communal Government Order is not before us now. Anyhow, no one need be under any misapprehension. I said, while applying the communal Government Order, one must apply it to be just to all people in the country. The communal Government Order should not be confined to a few people of higher classes even among those mentioned in that community. That must extend. I shall have it worked out. I shall place before hon. Members of this House one day how, when it is worked out literally, it will apply to all the sub-communities, sub-castes and all people. No one will be exempted from the distribution—scheduled classes or whatever you call. The distribution will be among all people who will be entitled to vote; I mean with regard to the merit which they have acquired by their own effort. In that way you may picture to yourself, Sir, how many communities and sub-communities there are, and how many educated young men there are. You must distribute among all the classes of people whatever offices come into existence. I am trying to work it out and place it before hon. Members of this House. Let us try to enforce that communal Government Order in favour of all those who will be named there and then we shall cancel this communal Government Order. I have mentioned the population, but some hon. Member contradicted me. I am willing to accept the figures that I have got from our office. 7.9 per cent is the proportion of Muslims in the population of South India. According to population basis, for every 12 seats, they will get 1 seat. But according to G.O. No. 3297, Public (Services), dated 15th November 1944, pages 59 to 61, they will get 2 out of every 12 seats, that is double that of population basis. The communal Government Order has been in force not for one year or two, but for nearly 16 years."

* SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"What about the Harijans?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"That you can have separately, when we come to Harijans.

"While on the population basis, the Mussalman friends will get 1 seat out of every 12 seats, on the basis of the Government Order they are getting 2 out of every 12 seats. This has been going on for sixteen years. If for any reasons Muslims are under-represented, it can be attributed only to lack of qualified and suitable candidates.

"The hon. Leader of the Opposition complained that for some years, the numbers had not been published in the registers."

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they had been published in the past. To-day, Sir, we have no information about the number of Muslims employed in the various provincial and subordinate services. Up to 1941, the numbers were published. Only to meet economy of paper, publication of the numbers had been discontinued. It would be revived as soon as the paper position improves. Figures regarding the proportion of the Muslim community in all the services mentioned above were available up to 1938. Since 1938, the statements are not available. For 1940-41, the statement was not prepared for want of paper. Since 1939, there had been no change in Government policy. There is no reason to believe that their number is less than what it was in 1937-38. That is the position with regard to numbers."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. In view of the fact that the Hon. Premier considers that, as no qualified persons are available, the number remains static, from what record has the Hon. Premier been able to get this information? If he can get that information, I dare say there must be some record of appointments made year after year on the communal basis according to the communal Government Order. From that record, he could have got the up-to-date figures."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"This is the information from the accounts and registers maintained in the Secretariat. With regard to the basis of the figures, we will have to search here, there and everywhere, and it will take a long time. It has not been done now, and these things are expected to be revived as soon as the paper position improves."

"Since 1939, there had been no change in Government policy. Therefore there is no reason to believe that their number is less than what it was in 1938."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My complaint was that even the figure as it existed in 1938 was unsatisfactory and that the same unsatisfactory condition continued up till now."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is to controvert that position that this statement has been prepared and presented to the hon. Members of this House, Sir. Unless, you can state that you have taken account of this department or that department year after year and given the correct figures, it cannot be said that the statement prepared by the Secretariat is not correct."

"Some complaint was made about the appointment of superintendents. Out of 142 posts of superintendents in the Secretariat, 8 are Muslims. In 1944, there were 5 Muslim superintendents. Now in 1946, there are 12. 16-2/3 per cent are Muslim upper division clerks. That is the position so far as the accounts maintained in the Secretariat go. But the inference drawn by the hon. Leader of the Opposition was that in 1938 there was a particular number, that number has not been given in subsequent years, and that therefore it is not the same. In 1944, there were 5, to-day there are 12 superintendents. You can verify now whether the figures given by the Government are correct or not."

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It was stated categorically that there was not a single Muslim Assistant Secretary in the whole Secretariat."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member has some impatience. Having regard to the time, I have to be brief, but I do not wish to avoid any question or to make any wrong statement. So far as the superintendents and the other categories referred to by the hon. Members are concerned, the figures were given. Now we come to the question of a superintendent being promoted to an Assistant Secretary's place in the Secretariat. That will have to be dealt with separately and that will be given to the hon. Members."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. The Hon. Premier stated that there were 12 Muslim superintendents in 1946. May I know the total number of superintendents in that year?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I will get the figures for the hon. Member, if not to-day, to-morrow or before the session is over. The figures made out by the hon. Leader of the Opposition are not correct."

"Then I will take up the point urged by the hon. Mr. Pocker. He said that the Food Committees were formed and asked to deal with the question of procurement and distribution."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. Before the Hon. Premier goes to the other subject, may I ask him, if my figures are not correct, what are the correct figures? For saying that my figures are not correct, he must have some basis. Will he furnish this basis?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I have said, Sir, I am not going to take up so much time of the hon. Members of the House by reading the notes from the beginning to the end. I repeat it in the hope that the hon. Leader of the Opposition and those who think with him will be able to understand that the figures given by me from the long list will not be found in the Government books. That is one evidence to show that the figures given by the hon. Leader of the Opposition cannot be taken as authentic. He took them as they were given to him by some source. Let us examine further. If there are any mistakes, we shall discover them and correct those mistakes. Because there is evidence here which I can prove with some authority and certainty, I say that all these figures have to be taken as facts."

"I next come to the hon. Member Mr. Pocker. Mr. Pocker is a lawyer as much as I. Lawyers are a most dangerous people in the world. That is my firm conviction. But the lawyers in India and the British Courts of Justice in India, notwithstanding the advice given by the best of the Englishmen in those days, are having their own system. Let them continue. It was forced upon this country, and I am one of those products who made a lot of money. But that should not be the criterion for me to understand things and judge. I have to understand Mr. Town from the position which he now occupies."

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“ Now let me come to another point, Sir. Mr. Pocker said that the Food Committees were appointed, but that, so far as Malabar was concerned, the Government did not stick to the Food Committee business. Leaving off the Food Committees, the Government assigned the whole work of the Food Committees to the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee. I may tell the hon. Member straightway that it is not so. The hon. Member was not perhaps able to follow the answer given about the formation of Food Committees and how they should work. When we proposed that the Food Committees would be formed and that middlemen would be eliminated, the question came up for discussion on the floor of the House. The question had to be considered: what about the money required for these Food Committees. All of a sudden, you are forming these Food Committees. Wherefrom will the poor villagers get the money to go and purchase paddy? Where is the storehouse for them to store this paddy or any other grain? This point was raised at that time. It was in the light of the criticisms and the points raised that we were enabled to sit down and formulate the whole thing. From the beginning we said that there was no money for these Food Committees. If there are people who cannot find money, if they cannot carry on the business themselves, wherever there are co-operative societies, those co-operative societies would be requested to back them up and help them. That is all what is happening in Malabar. Malabar is a very big country where the man-power and all other energies are there, never mind whether they are Moplahs or whether they are Hindus or Pattars or any other community. This proposal came to us just when we were in serious trouble with regard to the formation of the Food Committees. We were thinking how best these co-operative societies could help these poor Food Committees consisting of poor villagers. At that time from Malabar alone, and not from any other district, a requisition came saying that they were willing to form co-operative societies for procurement and distribution and for everything. Only from the department, let me tell hon. Members, there was resistance. They asked ‘ Could these things come into existence? You have to collect so much money; Malabar is not the country where so much money will be forthcoming and where you can have trained men to undertake this task of co-operative work.’ This resistance came from our own department. Because I have known Malabar more than any one of the members of this department of ours as constituted to-day, because I know Malabar personally for over thirty years more than my own district, I told them straightway: ‘ Money will be forthcoming if only you go there. Man-power is available. Only we have to take them and train them as an emergency measure and put them on.’ All these things were said. They went there. Could anybody have imagined that they would have collected something like 30 lakhs of rupees within a short time? The co-operative bank existing there was not sufficiently strong to receive those moneys and keep them. Their capacity is only 4 or 5 lakhs. Therefore it was that they had to come to the Madras City and seek the help of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank which has got tons of money in its treasury.

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Therefore there is nothing wrong done with regard to Food Committees, with regard to the formation of the co-operative organization. Malabar alone has to its credit that it could jump into the breach and say ‘ We will organize, we will secure money, we will function.’ We agreed with that proposal because we were in need of help. Just as any other big district like Trichinopoly or Tanjore, Malabar is a district by itself with such a vast population. It has become a very great success only now. I therefore appeal to hon. Mr. Pocker and other friends to have some patience. If anything wrong has been done in forming these co-operative societies, I shall go there and set matters right for the benefit of all. It is not for you or me or for any particular class. Our Government is only longing in other districts where the co-operative societies are not strong enough, to jump in and organize co-operative societies. It was the co-operative organization that made the old Denmark, the old Germany, that was responsible for the prosperity of Germany even after Germany became bankrupt in 1931 after the world economic distress. So whatever defects may be pointed out by hon. Members in the village committees or any other committees, they will be enquired into and set right.

“ Now, Sir, I come to the question of separate electorates. I spoke sufficiently on the efficacy of joint electorates. Whether joint electorates or even separate electorates or any other electorate we will not function properly unless our hearts are cleared up and all misunderstandings and bitterness are removed. Even among the same set of people, either lawyers or non-lawyers, Hindus or their rivals, whoever they are, elections are fought out on different lines. Nothing will be noticed by them except their own self-interest and securing some votes for themselves when the elections are fought out. Whether separate electorate is good or joint electorate is good, you are determined to remind us that separate electorate alone should function. We are convinced that joint electorate alone can bring the two communities together, and sooner or later bring about the required amity between them. We have to function not merely through these offices about which we are examining to-day either in the Secretariat or outside. We are concerned with the hon. Mr. Ismail and other hon. Members of all parties, with the country which consists of so many millions of people of all castes and communities. Trade, agriculture and other works, it is these things that maintain the nation, whether you call yourselves one nation or two nations or so many nations. It is for that purpose I am so pleased that the hon. Members of the Muslim League have been doing their best to make their contribution with regard to every demand, economic question or any other question, that comes up before the House. That itself is an assurance that we are on the right track, and that we may not be very long separate. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: ‘ Thanks to the separate electorates.’) Hon. Mr. Hameed Khan says ‘ Thanks to the separate electorates.’ We will discover one night that separate electorate was very bad and that it was a mistake on our part. We have separate electorate against our own will when we were adhering to the joint electorate. We can change from

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separate electorate to joint electorate, but that would take much time. (Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur: 'Never, never.') Mr. Hameed Khan supported Mr. Pocker and Mr. Ismail and he referred to two nationalities. I do not want to join issue with him. That is a bigger question on which the battle has been fought and the battle is still being fought from the higher circle. But we can say—all of us know that to some extent or other according to our own experience and according to our own age and knowledge—that it is wrong to say that there are two nationalities, merely because Muslims are Muslims and the others are non-Muslims. Muslims are Muslims and they are anxious that their culture should be protected, that their religion should be protected, and that their all other interests should be protected. Any government is bound to protect not only the religion of Islam, but also the religion of all other communities. I have known how from out of this Hinduism religion after religion was turned out as time progressed, how Guru Nanak formed a community of his own and called it the Sikh community, as they say it to-day. Who was Guru Nanak? He was a member of the Hindu community. Read the books written by him. What induced Guru Nanak to get away from the Hindu community and establish the Sikh religion? I do not wish to go into the origin and the sources of these religions and then enter into a controversy with the hon. Members of Islam or any other community. Religion is religion and let it be there. If you have culture, don't think it is everything. But at the same time don't leave away others who have come out of the same original sources. From religion all of us have come into existence.

4-30 p.m. "We must live together, we must work together, we must trade together and do everything jointly and thus carry on our business in this world. Not only that, we must also help other people and carry them along with us. Therefore it is, Sir, I say that joint electorate is the best thing in this world. It is only by constant association that differences among people can be settled and it is only by joint electorate that different communities can be fused together. We have taken a long time to realise this fact and if we want to pull together, we must open our eyes at least now.

"Now, Sir, let me come to the Harijan Uplift Fund. Some hon. Members asked 'How are you going to spend the amount?'"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"May I know, Sir, . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. Premier is on his legs now. He will not give way."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"There need not be any apprehensions in the minds of hon. Members that this Harijan Uplift Fund for which one crore of rupees has been set apart, would be diverted for any other purpose. That is to say, no amount out of this Fund will be utilized for any purpose other than the benefit of the Harijan community and for removing the differences that exist between Harijans and others. The amount will not be

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utilized for any other common purpose or for any other community. The huts they live in, the food they eat, the cloth they wear, all these things will have to be reformed in order to lift them up from the depths into which they have fallen, to the level of the other communities.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Nagappa was rather overzealous. He wants that there should be three Harijan Ministers in the Cabinet. He has no idea of what difficulties I had after appointing one Harijan Minister, how I had to satisfy the other communities and the claims of several regions of the Province and how as Prime Minister I had to receive friends and explain to them the exact position. Even now he has written to me a complaint against this Government that we have not given something straightaway to those scavengers in the City. Should we be told, Sir, what we should do for these poor sweepers and scavengers? Should not these people understand what we are, where we are and what are we struggling for? These poor people, these scavengers are made to walk long distances through streets in procession under the hot sun and are brought before us. The leaders who accompany these people come to us and ask us that something should be done immediately. When we explain to them that we are looking into the very matter and that we would do something as quickly as possible, they would not be convinced and ask for assurances."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"What is the assurance you have given, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The assurance which these leaders want will never be given by this Government. We have known who is who. We have no complaint, Sir, against those poor sweepers who are made to suffer like this by their leaders. I have travelled the whole of South India and wherever there have been troubles, I have enquired into them and have seen them for myself. There have been no complaints by people anywhere. It is the leaders who are complaining. It is they that demand us 'Say something now and at once. Put your finger on the foot and give us something immediately.' That is the sort of demand that the leaders are making. That is the leadership we are dealing with."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"They are the Communists, Sir."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"If this leadership is bent upon creating trouble to the Government, and if the Government cannot resist such leadership and make them understand their position, Government will not carry on; it will not exist even for a single second. ('Hear, hear.')

"One hon. Member from the Muslim Benches said 'You have given one crore of rupees to the Harijans and nothing to the Muslims. I had not expected this sort of complaint from the Muslims. I would not have hesitated to do something more, when I am dealing with those 4 crores of rupees. Why one crore only; I could have given the entire sum, for it is all their money.'"

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* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is only Re. 0-2-8 per head, Sir."

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of explanation, Sir, I do not think that any of my friends on this side of the House has made the remark in that spirit. We have already made it clear that we do not grudge the grant made for the uplift of Harijans. On the other hand we made it perfectly clear that the amount set apart for them is not sufficient." ('Hear, hear.')

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. the Leader of the Opposition did not say that but some other hon. Members did. There is no question of doing something for one and not doing something for another. It is the duty of this Government to do everything possible for every class and every section of the community in this Province."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall now put the demand to the vote of the House, and then the Hon. Premier can make his statement regarding the Food Conference held at Delhi."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"May I request the hon. the Mover of the cut motion to withdraw the same?"

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am sorry, Sir, I am not able to withdraw my cut motion; it is an important question and the Hon. Premier's reply has not satisfied me."

The cut motion was put and lost.

Demand IX was put and carried and the Grant was made.

STATEMENT BY HON. THE PREMIER ON THE FOOD CONFERENCE
AT DELHI.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Premier will now make a statement regarding the recent Food Conference at Delhi."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Although Providence has been kind enough to give us as much help as possible by way of rains in the different parts of the Province, including the Western districts and the Ceded districts of Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur, yet our food situation in this Province cannot be said to have improved in any real measure, because the time is not sufficient. The Additional Minister for Food, the Hon. Sri R. Raghava Menon, accompanied by the Chief Secretary and also the Food Secretary went to Delhi and placed the case of Madras before the Conference there. And although some of them saw the Viceroy himself personally and explained the whole situation to him, the reply they got from the Viceroy was only good words and nothing more. Therefore in the end the situation was allowed to drift for itself by the Government of India. That is the long and short of this matter. I shall now give in detail the whole position.

"The Food Conference held at Delhi on the 9th and 10th of this month was attended by the Hon. Minister for Food (Additional), the Chief Secretary to Government and the Food Secretary.

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The Conference was convened to survey the food position in the country and to consider whether there should be an overall reduction in the scale of rations. The position as regards Madras was explained to the Conference. It was pointed out that rice was the staple food of the Province and the rice portion of the ration was gradually reduced to 12 ounces in February, 10 ounces in May and 8 ounces from 4th August 1946. Though wheat and wheat products were included in the ration to make up an overall 12 ounces ration, the people in general are not able to make use of these additional foodgrains as they were unaccustomed to them and they were subsisting mainly on the 8 ounces portion of ration. This 8 ounces ration is utterly inadequate to sustain any person in normal health and any further reduction would only result in slow starvation and an outbreak of epidemics. The Madras Province had done all that was humanly possible by introducing universal procurement and rationing. She would require about 500,000 tons of rice more to carry her through till the next January when the main harvest would begin to be available. Since Madras had put forth the utmost efforts to help herself she should be given the bulk of the allotment of rice imported from overseas. The Conference resolved that the overall ration of 12 ounces was already inadequate and should not be further reduced. The Government of India were urged to redouble their efforts to secure additional supplies from overseas without which a breakdown on a wide scale could not be avoided. The Conference also adopted a resolution urging that every Province and State should adopt Government monopoly procurement of rice and wheat compulsorily where necessary.

"The Hon. Member for Food and Agriculture, Sir Robert Hutchings, and the Viceroy were also interviewed and the difficult position of Madras was explained to them. All help possible was promised. The net result of the Conference however is that except a hope that we might get further assistance when paddy from Java and Burma becomes available there is nothing tangible to say.

"Meantime I must mention that the assistance we have so far received has fallen far short of even the allotments made by the Government of India. From May to July, against an allotment of 55,656 tons the quantity actually received up to the end of July was only 34,718 tons. An allotment of 39,500 tons of overseas rice has been made for August. But so far only 13,900 tons have been received and there is a prospect of receiving only 2,000 tons more before the end of this month. These short arrivals have been due in part to the diversions by the Government of India of the originally allotted quota to this Province to other deficit areas. A strong protest is being made to the Government of India urging that the full allotments to Madras should be sent without fail. Every effort possible on our part has been and is being made. I may also mention that Mr. Dixon has been deputed to visit Burma to accelerate despatches and find out whether there is any truth in the information given to the Government of Madras that large

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stocks are available in the interior. We have promised 12,000 tons of groundnut oil to Burma as it was represented that Burma was short of edible oil as an inducement to export more rice.

4-45 P.m. "That is the position, Sir. I may add a few words here.

The Government of India and the Viceroy may not have known exactly how shipments that were arriving and that should have been sent to Madras were being diverted to Calcutta. I do not charge the Centre with knowledge of this happening. But when the Chief Secretary, the Additional Food Secretary and the Additional Food Minister, all three of them had gone there and explained to the Conference and also met the Viceroy and others separately and told them, is there any reason for their forgetting the critical position here? If people begin to die here in the same manner in which they died in Bengal on whose head would all that come? (A voice: 'Government of India.') The Government of India, and Lord Wavell who might be an innocent man after all. Therefore it is I wanted to place this before hon. Members of this House and make it known to Lord Wavell and others concerned in this respect, to make them understand that things would become very serious and that there is no good regretting when it is too late over the dead bodies of people who die of starvation here."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
"Mr. Speaker, I am much obliged to the Hon. the Premier for the very useful statement. In view of the grave situation likely to arise even from the present position, may I beg leave to suggest, in consultation with the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the European Group, that Demand XXXI may be advanced and discussed on Thursday, the 22nd instant so that the House may have an opportunity to express in no unmistakable terms the strong feelings in this country and in this House that the Government of India should not shirk their duty."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Which Demand you suggest?"

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
"Any Demand you consider proper and suitable."

DEMAND XXXI—MISCELLANEOUS.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to know from the Hon. the Premier whether we can take up Demand XXXI on Thursday."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"In view of the grave food situation, I have no objection to taking up Demand XXXI on Thursday."

"I move—

'that Demand XXXI be taken on Thursday as the first item.'"

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On this motion of the Hon. Premier, Sir, may I know whether there will be any specific resolution moved by the Hon. Premier or by the Leader of the Opposition? As far as I can see there is no specific resolution to be moved in connexion with the Demand under the

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Head 'Famine' calling upon the Government of India to take any specific action. Demand XXXI is a 'Miscellaneous' Demand. There is no scope under that Demand for a resolution to be moved stating the entire case and telling the Government of India our position. Therefore I hope the Hon. the Premier will come forward with a resolution so that we can pass it unanimously."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If it is the desire of the House, we can have a separate day allotted for adopting a resolution on the subject."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
"As far as this is concerned, we may not reach Demand XXXI at all before the expiry of the time allotted for the discussion of the Budget, i.e., 24th August. Therefore it is I suggested taking up that Demand on Thursday."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"A mere discussion in this House and sending a copy of the proceedings to the Government of India will not suffice in this case. We have to make a categorical demand and a statement of the case and make representation to the Government of India on the seriousness of the situation here."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"But the House cannot make a demand or pass a resolution during the Budget discussion."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"But if the Hon. the Premier agrees . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the Hon. the Premier wants I can allot a day to move a motion."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I do not think there is any need for a separate resolution passed by this House on a subject of this magnitude condemning the conduct of the Government of India on this important question. I think that a debate itself would be sufficient. I shall consider the question whether any separate resolution can be introduced during the Budget debate."

The motion that on Thursday the House do take up Demand XXXI for consideration was then put and carried.

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Sir, would it be possible to have a copy of that statement for us to study?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Certainly, Sir, copies will be made available."

DEMAND X—LEGISLATIVE BODIES.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"This is not an important Demand. If the leaders of parties would agree, the Demand could be discussed and passed in an hour, before we adjourn, to-day itself. If three Members from Muslim League party, one Member from the Independent Group and one Member from the European Group only would speak, the Hon. the Premier will reply briefly and the Demand could be finished to-day."

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KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Sir, you may fix a shorter time for each Member. More than one Member from each group might desire to speak on this Demand. For my part I want to speak on the subject of the Speaker going to England."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Then it will be impossible to finish this Demand in one hour."

* SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Sir, this is an important Demand. Some of us want to participate in the discussion."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to know the views of the Leader of the Opposition on this matter."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I have no objection to have the Demand finished to-day, if possible."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Hon. the Premier may now move the Demand."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 9,39,700 in respect of the head Legislative Bodies. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 1,07,278.'"

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, I move the cut motion standing in my name, namely—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,39,700 for Legislative Bodies by Rs. 100,'

with a view to invite the attention of the Hon. the Speaker and also the Government to two or three matters.

"The first matter to which I want to draw the attention of the Hon. the Speaker and of the Premier is that of accommodation of hon. Members of this House. I need not say much on this question because most of the Members feel the difficulty about accommodation. By accommodation I mean not only of this House but also outside for the residence of mufassal Members. So far as accommodation of this House is concerned, to put it very mildly, I feel I am in a prison room while I am compelled to sit here for discharging my duties. I do hope that further efforts will be made by the Hon. the Speaker and the Hon. the Premier and also the other Ministers to shift it to a more ventilated and spacious place.

"Now, coming to the question of residences, I must say that in spite of all the efforts made by the Hon. the Speaker and also the Government I do feel that Members who come from the mufassal are feeling the greatest difficulty in finding residence for themselves. I shall quote one case that happened recently. My hon. Friend Mr. K. Uppi Sahib, a Member of the Legislative Council, was residing in one of the hotels intended for the Members of the Legislature. I am sorry to say, having heard that he was

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suffering from fever, I had occasion to go and see him. I found the place nothing but a dungeon and that it was responsible for the fever he had contracted. I had to take him away from that place at once to my house where he recovered soon and returned to his place in Malabar two days later. Most of the Members coming from the mufassal feel very great difficulty of accommodation and the sooner this problem is solved the better.

"Another point which I wish to mention, Sir, relates to the 5 p.m. convenience for the Muslim Members in this House and in the Upper House regarding their prayer room. It is well known, Sir, that it is compulsory for Muslims to pray five times in the day and two such prayers fall during the time when the House is in session. The Secretary and staff of the Legislature are doing their very best to accommodate us in this matter, but in spite of their efforts, I am sorry to say that the room that has been allotted to us as prayer room looks like a dungeon without any ventilation and it is not suitable for purposes of prayer. Of course the Secretary tried his very best to give us a better room for this, but it is found that it is not possible for him to find better accommodation. So, it is for the Government to find ways and means to provide us with a better room.

"Apart from the room, we require sufficient convenience for performing our ablutions which are preliminary to the prayers and sufficient arrangements have not been made. I hope that also will be made.

"The last point on which I would like to say a word is this. The demand includes the salary for the Members and also the salary for the staff of this Legislative Department. I must refer, Sir, to the indecent haste with which the salaries of Hon. Ministers have been trebled and that of the Members doubled. It is rather very painful for us, the Members of the Legislature—and I have no doubt that all the Members of the Legislature would share the feeling with me—to have doubled our salaries and left the staff to starve as they have been starving all along. No doubt we have been assured that a Committee has been appointed to consider the question of salary of non-gazetted officers. I must say, Sir, that there is no necessity to resort to this Committee at all. There is in the records of the Secretariat a report submitted by the Committee which was appointed by the Advisers' Government some two years ago and that Committee has gone into the whole matter. I do say that it is up to the Government to act according to that report immediately and give immediate relief to the staff of not only this Legislature but also all the officials of the other departments. It is cruel on the part of the Government to allow these poor-paid and ill-paid starved clerks and other members of the staff to continue to starve while we, the Members of the Legislature and Hon. Ministers have doubled and trebled our salaries. I am sure, neither the Hon. Ministers nor the Members would have felt it at all if their salaries were not increased, while these poor-paid staff do feel and they are groaning under heavy debts and they are practically verging on insolvency. I would, therefore,

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request the Government to consider this question as a very urgent matter and give relief to them without waiting for the report of the Committee they have appointed but by giving effect to the report of the Committee that has already investigated the matter presided over by Sir Hugh Hood and later by Sir Norman Strathie. This is a thing which can be done immediately. If we are going to leave things to themselves, I am afraid, they may lead to further complications and greater difficulties."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I shall not be very long because I have only one or two points to put forward. Hon. Members of this House take considerable care in collecting their facts. At least, I hope they do. I try to check my facts before I make a speech in this House. Some 24 hours later I get a piece of paper, I read it and I wonder what on earth it is all about. I would like to suggest that Government overhaul the reporting in this Assembly."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Bad audition is responsible for it."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Bad audition cannot produce some of the stuff that one gets, and particularly if one understands shorthand, one realizes that the quality of the high-speed abbreviations used by the reporters is considerably below the standard that should be attained. In the House of Commons, Sir, you make your speech and it is printed that night itself in the *Hansard* and is published to the public the following morning. We here, Sir, have to wait some three to six weeks to get the official report. Newspaper-reporting, the Hon. the Premier himself has told us to-day, is so inaccurate that when Members on the Opposition say they saw things in the Press, he says, 'Don't believe them.' Therefore, when I have to answer in this House, some remarks made by the Hon. the Premier the previous day, I have to rely on newspapers and I shall be told by him that they are all wrong. Therefore, Sir, I would like to see the speeding up of the printing of the reports of the debates in this House."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of my cut motion on this demand is to suggest the desirability of printing and circulating written answers to starred questions. One of the reasons for my suggestion is that there would be saving of time, as according to the current procedure much of the time of the House is taken up in reading out the answers and statements. Another reason for my suggestion is that the Members would be enabled to know the correct answers to their questions, which they are not always able to do at present, because very often Members are unable to hear the Hon. the Ministers. Especially when a question contains a number of clauses, very often Members are not able to follow the answers that are given to the various clauses. Of course those who occupy the front benches are in an advantageous position, but those who are in distant seats have to strain their ears and even despite that, very often they are unable to hear. It is because of this that we

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find that those who occupy the front benches are able to put more supplementary questions than others.

"The object of interpellations, Mr. Speaker, is to elicit information for the benefit of the public. Hence I suggest that every opportunity should be granted to members to elicit as much information as possible by enabling them to frame more supplementary questions, which they will be able to do if they have in their hands the written answers a little while before the meeting. Hon. Ministers need not be scared away by the thought that the Members will combine together and prepare a volley of supplementary questions to put to them. There need be no fear on that score, because the Hon. Ministers can always plead want of notice, as they are doing even now, if they are unable to answer a question. As far as I am able to see, the Hon. Ministers will not be handicapped in any manner, because even now, I understand, they prepare answers to the questions and keep them ready beforehand. Hence, they will not be inconvenienced.

"It may be pointed out that there will be some increase in printing work. I grant that it would, but that is a very minor consideration. As for increase in stationery, I am of opinion that there need not be much increase in this regard. If printing is done economically and not in the extravagant manner as at present, I do not think much stationery will be required for this purpose.

"In the old Legislative Council, I understand the procedure was to print and circulate the answers to starred questions about half an hour before the meeting began. I consider that to have been a sound procedure and I wish to suggest that that procedure be adopted in this House. It may be pointed out that such a procedure does not prevail in other Legislative bodies at present. But, I submit, Sir, that it is not necessary for us to follow and copy others in every respect. To follow others in regard to every matter will denote intellectual bankruptcy. After all why should not we in this Province give a lead in regard to certain matters to other Provinces? I, therefore, suggest that the old procedure be revived. There is an Arabic proverb which says:

ما كبر خدما صفاق ماکبر which means: 'Retain that which is good and reject that which is evil.' The old procedure of printing and circulating answers which was a sound procedure should have been retained and it should now be revived, as it would be more advantageous both to the Members of this House and to the Press.

"Another matter to which I wish to draw attention is the inconvenience experienced by the Press in this House. The fourth estate in the Realm, namely, the Reporters' Gallery whom Burke described to be more important than the other three estates, namely, the Lords Temporal, the Lords Spiritual and the Commons, I am afraid, is very much cramped here, with the result that the Press are exceedingly handicapped in the discharge of their duties. The Press, Mr. Speaker, require every consideration, having regard to the importance of the duties that they have to

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perform. In the words of Carlyle: 'The importance of the Press is not a figure of speech or a pithy saying, but a literal fact very momentous to us in these times.' I therefore wish to put in a plea on behalf of the Fourth Estate and I request that they be afforded more elbow room to carry on their work. I suggest that the gallery that is reserved for the officials be also given to the members of the Press, because usually I find this gallery either empty or occupied by one or two secretaries. The latter can be accommodated elsewhere. Further I find that the members of the Press have a very small room to themselves in which they are all cramped up. The numerous reporters with their numerous typewriters find it absolutely difficult to carry on their onerous and difficult duties. So I wish to suggest that a bigger and better room be given to the Press—the Fourth Estate of the Realm. I now support the cut motion."

* SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, Members of this House are thankful to you for the opportunities given to participate in this Debate, not only to the Members of the Opposition, but also to the Members belonging to the Ministerial Party. If Members are to speak with knowledge and authority and do effective work in this Assembly they must have full and up-to-date information on the work of the different departments. The Administration Reports that are given to us become a year or more old at the time of the Budget Debate and therefore it will be very useful if some arrangement is made for posting Members with up-to-date information, because, we must know what has happened in the different departments since the publication of the reports and what is proposed to be done in the future."

"During the previous Congress Ministry at the time of the budget demands the Minister moving the demand often used to make a statement as to what was being done in the department and what was proposed to be done. Such an arrangement will be very helpful to the Members because they can speak with knowledge of what is taking place."

"I need hardly say that a well-stocked and well-arranged library is very useful to Members. The number of books in our library has increased to 25,000 volumes and the allotment given for the library has this time been doubled. While the library has grown in size there has been no corresponding increase in the staff of the library. We have a librarian here with only one attender to assist him. When Members go to the library it must be possible for the librarian to attend to them, to give them the books they need on the different subjects, to indicate to them the sources from which they could get information on the various matters that come up for debate before this House. It is very necessary that the librarian should have sufficient leisure to acquaint himself with the contents of books and help Members in getting the information they want. In the Secretariat Library next door they have a Librarian of the rank of a Superintendent with 3 clerks and 5 attenders to assist him while here in this Library, we have only one librarian and one attender. I therefore

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suggest Sir, that it is very necessary that we should have at least one clerk to help the librarian in his work and relieve him of the ordinary routine work, so that he may be able to devote more attention to the Members who go there. We must also create a special post of librarian and give the librarian sufficient status. I believe the present librarian has been trained for his work and it is necessary that we should give him proper pay and also the needed assistance to enable him to help Members in their work."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has been accepted that the positions of the Hon. Speaker of this House and the Hon. the President of the Legislative Council are the same both in the matter of responsibility and dignity but we see a disparity in their salaries. While the Speaker gets Rs. 1,500 all told, the President is getting only Rs. 1,000. There is no need for this disparity and I hope that the President of the Council will hereafter get Rs. 1,500."

"Again, Sir, the duties of Parliamentary Secretaries have not been defined. One of the Parliamentary Secretaries though not attached to any Minister gets Rs. 850, whereas the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy President get only Rs. 300. Here is great disparity. If the posts of Parliamentary Secretaries are given to these Members because they could not get anything else, why not reduce their salaries or increase the salaries of the Deputy Speaker and the Deputy President who have their responsibility and dignity from Rs. 300 to anything like Rs. 700?"

"Again, Sir, I have to join Mr. Pocker in his complaint that the mufassal Members of the House experience many difficulties in finding accommodation in this City. No arrangement has been made by the Government even though something was promised long ago according to the papers, but we cannot depend on the papers according to the Premier. Sir, we saw in the papers that the Governor had offered the Government House estate of 100 acres on Mount Road for the Legislature, but even to-day we do not know whether it is true or not. We do not know whether the Government are using it for the Parliamentary Secretaries and the Ministers and whether the Members also will have accommodation there. I request the Government to provide accommodation for the members in the same compound if possible."

"Again Sir, I see in the papers that the Party meetings of the Ministerial Party are summoned there, then cancelled and then summoned. If it is true that the offer has been made by His Excellency and if it is true that the Government are going to use it, I trust, Sir, that accommodation may also be made available for the Members of this House."

"Sir, hon. Members find it very difficult to carry on their work for want of a typist or clerk to assist them. Notice of motions has to be given before certain hours, and notice of questions for instance has to be handed over to the Speaker before 3 o'clock every day. The same is the case with adjournment and other motions and we find it very difficult for want of clerks and

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typists to type these things. I suggest that 2 or 3 clerks may be made available to each Party during the sessions. When there is no session they may be given work in the Secretariat.

"Sir, I have to state that we find it very difficult to take part in the Assembly as our rights and responsibilities have not been defined. We do not know our own privileges in this House; it depends upon various things, upon the whims and fancies of the various persons here. I suggest that an Act should be passed defining the rights, responsibilities and the privileges of the members and suitable rules framed under the Act. Unless our rights and privileges are defined, it is very difficult for us to play our parts in this House.

"Sir, if an adjournment has to be moved in this House 35 Members have to rise in support of the motion. But as we are constituted at present, it is not possible for us to get this number as it is well known that one Party alone can carry the day for some reason or other. Is it not therefore possible, Sir, for the rules to be amended so that the number of Members required to support an adjournment motion may be reduced? Adjournment motions are intended to raise very important and urgent matters and if it is not possible to bring them forward in this House it will not be possible to have those matters discussed. It is true that the hon. Minister concerned may agree to take up the adjournment motion but it all depends upon the sweet will and pleasure of the particular Minister. In view of the importance of adjournment motions, I suggest that the rules may be amended so that the support of only 15 or 20 Members might be enough for the motion to be taken up.

"We have seen at question time that there are some Ministers who are not giving the answers in the spirit in which the Hon. the Premier wants them to give the answers. This morning Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao asked the Minister for Education whether he would appoint two Directors of Public Instruction in view of the increase in the number of schools. The Hon. the Minister for Education replied that he was not prepared to consider the matter. He said he would never do it, never even consider the matter. In view of the fact that we Andhras want a separate Andhra Province, the Hon. the Minister has probably not cared to consider. At question time the only thing that we want is information. The Ministers may be considerate in giving their reply and not be so dogmatic. The Minister may have said for instance that the matter was not under consideration instead of having given his reply in such a dogmatic manner that it was not possible to ask further questions."

* SRI P. NATESAN :—"Mr. Speaker, the object of my motion is to discuss the desirability of the hon. Speaker visiting all the Legislatures in India and also the Houses of Parliament in England. I have also given notice of another motion to discuss the provision of amenities to the Members of the Legislature.

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[Sri P. Natesan]

I do not want to take up much of the time of the House except to suggest to hon. Members the desirability of requesting the hon. Speaker to visit the various Legislatures in India and the Houses of Parliament in England. There are, Sir, precedents when Speakers were deputed by this Government. I remember the late Mr. L. D. Swamikannu Pillai, when he was Secretary to the Legislative Council, was so deputed. Then Mr. Raghava Varma, our Secretary, was also deputed to study Parliamentary procedure. As late as 1938 when we had the Congress Ministry the Government of Madras obtained a grant from the Legislature for deputing the then Speaker Mr. Sambamurti for a similar purpose. But somehow it failed and the gentleman never visited England. Sir, when we put you into that exalted Chair all of us joined in congratulating you and said that you would maintain the traditions of this House and create an atmosphere of goodwill. Hon. Members having seen you in the Chair for the past three months have nothing but admiration for you. You have been kind and courteous. You have given certain rulings, although not very important. You have been able to pull up Members of the House sometimes and you have been very liberal in giving extension of time as Members began speaking with a sort of vehemence in their own particular subjects."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR :—"More time is guaranteed for you in future." (Laughter.)

* SRI P. NATESAN :—"If you go to Europe now you will find the dictatorship countries have all disappeared and new Parliaments are coming into being in all those defeated countries. In England itself, the great Labour party is in power; you will find how the Labour Ministry is tackling the minority members in the Parliament. I consider that your visit to England will be of very great use. You have the education, you have the pleasant manners to conduct yourself, and I have no doubt that if you go to the Parliamentary Houses and watch, staying there, the Speaker's behaviour and probably some of the rulings that might be given when you are there, it will be of great advantage to this institution. We are just going to have a Constituent Assembly; political conditions are changing here rapidly and it is possible that the Government of India will be entirely manned by Indians in about a few days' time. All these things, Sir, are very important reasons for your going to England, because on your return I expect you will be of very great use to this House. It is really a novelty, Sir, because all our elected members to-day are Indians. I therefore commend my suggestion to the unanimous acceptance of this House.

"Next, Sir, as regards the provision of amenities to the Members of the Legislature, I want to know from the Government if they have decided about moving the Legislature from this place. There was a talk that the Banqueting Hall was to be taken over and the Minister for Public Works and the Chief Engineer were there to have a look at the buildings and see whether they could be converted for the use of the Legislature.

5-30
p.m.

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I for one won't like to leave the Fort because there is a history about this place; if, for some reason or other, it is not possible to shift the Legislature, I would like this place to be air-conditioned. It is really hot in the hot days with the fans moving and the House crowded. It is for the experts to say whether this can be remodelled or air-conditioned. Sir, it is not possible to get a cup of good tea, nor a tumbler of cold water, except the water that you get in the Secretariat which passes through half a dozen tumblers before it reaches you. I want you to modernize this House, if possible. We should have a lounge where we can rest for a time. I believe the present Legislative Council hall used to be used as a lounge in the former days, and beyond that hall there used to be a place for catering. I want to know if the Premier cannot make it possible for us to get better tea and better drinks and better comforts—by better drinks I mean cold drinks. (Laughter.) Probably some of my friends would like to have a cold beer on a hot day. (Laughter.) The Speaker and the Premier are not going to object if friends are going to have a cold beer. (Laughter.)

“Sir, I wish to say a few words about the duties of the Parliamentary Secretaries. We have no idea yet as to what their duties are going to be. The Hon. the Premier told us that he would acquaint the House with what their duties were going to be. I now find it is three months since they took up their work, they are being paid Rs. 750 per month without absolutely any work to do. I wish, Sir, they are given some responsible work. I want Rs. 750 worth of work to be turned out by them. I am not grumbling against the salary, but I grumble against want of work. I am sure the Parliamentary Secretaries themselves would like to have something to attend to when they get to office, by way of work. They must be given some responsible work by the Ministers; I do not want them to be a sort of glorified head clerks, let them at least do parliamentary work, by which I mean the drafting of bills, the answering of questions, interviewing the M.L.As. who may have some difficulty in reaching the Premier or the other Ministers sometimes, or things like that.

“In this connexion, I would also like to suggest a small thing in regard to the Deputy Speaker of this Assembly. I am afraid the salary of Rs. 300 that has been fixed for her is not commensurate with the status she occupies. We are not going to pay for real work in this case; it is for the responsibility that we pay. When the Speaker gets Rs. 1,500, I think she must get at least Rs. 750 per month so that we may keep her on a par with the Parliamentary Secretaries at least. Sir, the Deputy Speaker's job is really an onerous job. If for some reason or other the Speaker is not in a position to attend the Legislature for a few days, it will be a difficult job for the Deputy Speaker without any experience of the people in the Opposition rising up now and again asking for rulings, particularly at times when the Speaker is away for a long interval. I trust therefore it will be possible for the Leader of the House to provide a higher salary in the case

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of the Deputy Speaker and to see what best can be done to provide work for Parliamentary Secretaries.”

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
“Sir, this is the occasion for us to speak about our rights and privileges. I have no grievance so far after this Assembly met, to say that any of our rights have been denied. If I rise to speak on this occasion, it is more to speak about certain conveniences which hon. Members would like to have and to make some suggestions in the way of improvement.

“Sir, it was very refreshing to hear my hon. Friend Mr. P. Natesan who gave notice of cut motion, to bring to the notice of the House the desirability of requesting the Government to depute our popular Speaker to go to England. By using one word ‘popular’ I endorse what all my hon. Friend Mr. Natesan spoke for the way in which you have conducted the proceedings of the House in the last two or three months. Sir, rightly or wrongly, whether due to imperialism or whether due to our own emulation of the British system of Parliament, we Indians have adopted this system of Legislature; and more than the Britisher, I think, we are getting more and more accustomed to this kind of Legislature. I do not think the Indian politician will ever give up this kind of Parliamentary debate and this kind of Parliamentary House for all time to come. The Britishers might leave this country, but no matter whatever the differences may be between the communities for some time—I am sure, all communities and all parties will insist on continuing legislative work on the lines we are having, probably only making improvements from time to time. Parliamentary life has come to stay in our country; that being so and ourselves modelling upon the Mother of Parliaments in England, it is but right that we should keep in line with the various changes that are taking place in the Houses of Parliament in England. And the only person who can represent this House is your Honourable self, Sir. So, if you study the working of the Houses of Parliament, it will be a great advantage to all of us. More than being advantageous to you personally, on your return, we will have the great benefit of your advice on parliamentary work. It was only the other day we were glad to hear you saying that you intended publishing periodically a pamphlet containing important rulings and standing orders in Parliament and I do hope you will be including in that pamphlet certain points of order and the rulings in cases similar to the one which you gave the other day, i.e., the point of order raised regarding Mr. Pocker's mannerisms in this House. Sir, the House of Parliament in England has got a great tradition behind it going back to hundreds of years and it will always be worth while for the Speaker of this House to visit Parliament and come back to guide us.

“Sir, I shall not take up more time of the House except to say that we want more convenience, especially when we have got to be here for the whole day, if it is for a few days, it might be easy, but if it is to be for 15 or 20 days in the month, it is very difficult to be here all along. We want conveniences here while

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we are here; we want a place here for getting cool soda. Ordinarily at 4-30 I would like to have a cup of tea; sometimes I come here in the afternoon after I take a cup of tea and there is no good tea available here by that time.

"Sir, I should be failing in my duty if I do not refer to the Legislative buildings proposal. I was glad you and the Premier took some interest and visited the other day the Government House estate. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the head of the Province has been generous enough to offer the estate to the Ministry for such use as they may put it to. I have no doubt with your enthusiasm and with the keen interest which the Hon. the Premier is taking in the matter, you will evolve a good scheme for the improvement of the estate with the construction of nice and new buildings. I won't take up more time of the House in this connexion, for, I believe, it is time for you and the Premier to consult Members of the Legislature in an informal or formal way or by appointing a committee for suggesting improvements that may be necessary. Suffice it to say that the building that should be built for housing the Legislature should be an imposing and dignified one, which should stand for hundreds of years, which should go on adding traditions to it. I cannot say whether two Houses are necessary, probably the Constituent Assembly may say the new Provincial Legislatures of India may contain only one and not two chambers, or they may say two; for myself, I am very sceptical of the usefulness of the two Chambers. I am not sure whether the Ministers themselves who have to carry on their work to-day will say that two chambers are necessary or whether the second will be unnecessary addition and can be avoided.

"I find, Sir, some Members have stated that Members' hostels should be there; when the new buildings are built up, I have no doubt that one of the buildings to be built will be a nice Members' hostel which will be a place well worth staying in.

"Sir, it is very refreshing to find one of the Members referring to the inadequacy of the pay of the Deputy Speaker of the House. It is very interesting because probably the holder of the office is a lady but otherwise also, I think, we should consider the question of raising the salary, whether it is a lady or a gentleman that occupies the post of Deputy Speaker. When reference was made to the Deputy Speaker, a large number of members here sympathized with the suggestion; and, therefore, I am voicing the views of several Members here when I say that the salary and the status of the Deputy Speaker should be put on a higher level.

"There is one other important privilege of hon. Members of this House which I would like to draw attention to on this occasion. We are accustomed in this House, I cannot say by way of right but by way of tradition and custom, to have advisory committees appointed to various nation-building departments. In the past, the several groups of members in the Legislature were associated with the Ministry by way of these Advisory

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Committees—please mark the word 'Advisory'. It is not for all departments, it is only for certain departments that we used to have them. I shall not give details, I may be wrong in naming, but, I think, I may be right if I say about two or three of such committees used to be there, on Education, Public Health and Medicine and one or two other subjects. I would like to leave it to the Hon. the Premier to consider what steps he would like to take to associate the Members of this House in an advisory capacity, with the administration, by constituting advisory committees."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. 5-45
Speaker, Sir, I will not take much of the time of the House, p.m.
except to state a few things which appear to me to be very necessary in order to suit the convenience of the Members of this august body. Reference was made to the Assembly hall. This hall is certainly too small for accommodating a large number of Members and as such we require a hall at least three times the size of the present hall for accommodating all the Members conveniently. The acoustics of this hall are very bad indeed, even though you have provided mikes. But I think some of the mikes are too short and some are too tall, probably they too are not tall enough for tall gentlemen like Mr. Town. He has made a complaint that the reports of his speeches are not satisfactory; perhaps it was due to the fact that he was not able to reach the mike and so was not audible. It was probably because of this difficulty that some of the reporters also are not able to catch him.

"Then, Sir, the Assembly hall is not also situated in a central place and the Government House estate in Mount Road will certainly be a very central place, because that is in the centre of the City. But the Banqueting Hall there as at present will not be suitable and it will not also accommodate all the Members, because the pillars there will come in the way. So, I do not think it will be a satisfactory arrangement to hold the meetings, unless it is suitably altered. What has to be done is, we must here and now allot money for constructing a beautiful hall sufficiently large to accommodate this House and also another hall for accommodating the Legislative Council. As I have already pointed out, the acoustics of this hall are very bad.

"Sir, accommodation for the residence of the mufassal Members should also be found in the same Mount Road Government House estate. At present, the mufassal Members are experiencing great hardship in view of the fact that there are not a sufficient number of hotels in the city which can accommodate all the Members with ease and comfort. As a matter of fact, the hotels are costly and the hon. Members are not given as much money as it is necessary in order that they can go and stay in rich hotels. For instance, the Connemara hotel charge about Rs. 20 per day; the Bosotto also charge as much and the Woodlands do not charge any the less. For any member to live a decent life and remain in the City of Madras and for engaging

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a taxi for the purpose of attending meetings, it will certainly cost at least Rs. 30 per day. It would therefore be very much more convenient and economic for the members coming from the mufassal if they reside very close to the Assembly hall and in a central place. I therefore suggest that along with accommodation for the Members, they must also have a sufficiently large hall with all the appurtenances for being used as a lounge room and other necessary accommodation should also be built for the convenience of hon. Members coming from the mufassal.

"Then, Sir, we are thankful for the efficient manner in which not only the superior staff of the Legislature office, but also all the other members of the staff down to the peons are helpful to the members of this House, but their salaries, particularly the salaries of the clerks and peons are certainly not satisfactory. I believe, Sir, in other provinces, they are given allowances throughout the period of the sessions. I, therefore, suggest that at any rate, the poorly paid clerks and peons should be paid separate allowances on days when the legislature meets. If such additional allowances are paid to them, I think it will go a long way to meet their demands. As a matter of fact, they have to stay very late in the evenings, come very early in the mornings; for instance, some persons and clerks come at 9 o'clock in the morning and stay on till the House goes on according to the work on hand—sometimes we go on till 6 or 7 p.m. I must say here, Sir, we are lucky we have not got a Speaker who will make us sit till 10-30 or even 12 at night as we were used to in the past; thus making the peons and clerks stay on till late in the night and when they return home after that, what do they find? Their food gets cooled and the children in the house have gone to sleep."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"If the progress is going to be like this, I am afraid, we will have to sit here till 10 o'clock also in the end."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I know, Sir, you will say so, but I am sure you won't do it. We are all here to co-operate with you in trying to expedite the business of the House."

"I said, Sir, about the mike and with regard to answers to supplementary questions, the hon. the Lady member has made sufficient reference. With regard to the press, Sir, I think, I agree entirely with what the Begum Saheb has said. I think they are people who are very hard put in regard to the accommodation provided for them—they are all huddled up—and are experiencing great difficulty in discharging their duties satisfactorily. Even as things stand at present, I think something must be done in order to see that they are given some better facilities."

"Then, Sir, with regard to the various buffets that we have, I must say a word. We have one for vegetarian and another for non-vegetarian food. Well, Sir, so far as the non-vegetarian buffet is concerned, it is wrongly believed that it is only intended

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for Mussalmans, but I find it is open to all classes; it is an international buffet, because I find every member of every community goes there. I do not know the reason for it; perhaps Pulav is such an international and palatable dish that hardly any member of the other communities can resist the temptation and so they go there and at least have a plate of Pulav. Why I have mentioned this is because, I want to tell you that it is very badly crowded in the afternoons. It is therefore necessary, Sir, that we the Muslim members should have a large accommodation at least in the future. Before this, Sir, we used to have a big room for us, but this time we have been given only a very small room, with the result that we have our food served at times even in the verandah. That difficulty should be rectified as soon as possible.

"Sir, there is another difficulty. There is no arrangement for Urdu reporting. Arrangement should be made for Urdu reporting and there must also be a Urdu typist and a typewriter too. It is because there is no arrangement here for Urdu reporting, some of us are not able to speak in Urdu; otherwise we would only speak in the Urdu language."

"Sir, the party rooms are not sufficiently large enough, but I know it is all due to the fact that the accommodation here is very limited."

"Then, Sir, hon. Members should be able to get reports of the working of the various departments from time to time and that in time. It is some time since we received the report of the working of the Public Services Commission and we do not know what that august body is doing. There was a time when it not only gave reports, but also good matter for mirth and pleasure. I think that they will be revived soon and we will be able to get their reports periodically as before. Statistics also should be supplied with regard to the appointments made."

"The last thing I would like to mention is in regard to the books in the Legislature Library. Although we are having additions made to the Library from time to time, the variety seems to me to be not satisfactory. Formerly, Sir, there used to be a Committee for this purpose . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"We have a provision of Rs. 10,000 for Library books. I have appointed a Committee and also included on it one member from the Muslim group and one from the Independent group."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am glad, Sir, you have appointed a Library Committee and I hope it will begin to function soon and it will be augmented with such books that are useful to members. One thing I find, Sir, is the absence of Urdu newspapers in the Reading room. There must be Urdu papers and also books in Urdu should be purchased for the Library, for there are many hon. Members who are interested in Urdu literature and would like to be benefited by them."

"My hon. Colleague, Mr. Natesan, has moved a very specific motion requesting the Government to see that arrangements are

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made as early as possible to enable the hon. the Speaker to go not only to other important centres in the country but also to England so that he can enlarge his knowledge of parliamentary practice and see how parliaments are working in different parts of the world. Sir, I shall not be satisfied with your going only to England; I should like very much that you go to Russia, France, America, Switzerland and all other places . . .”

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—
“Why not to Japan?”

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I do not know about Japan; perhaps it may take some time before he can go to Japan. I hope, Sir, it will be possible for the hon. Speaker and the House to accept the proposition of my hon. Friend Mr. Natesan and see that arrangements are made very soon for the consummation of that desire. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The Hon. the Premier wants only 10 minutes for his reply. I think we can sit for 10 more minutes and finish the Demand.”

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Some hon. Members of the Muslim group have to move the cut motions given notice of by them.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I have the statement of your Leader that only two or three members from his side would speak.”

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—“How long are you going to sit to-day, Sir?”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The Hon. the Premier will take only 10 minutes for his reply. Now the time is 6 o'clock.”

Sri R. V. Swaminathan rose to speak in Tamil.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member will be given only one or two minutes, within which he should finish his speech.”

* SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, இப்பொழுது நான் பேசவேண்டிய முக்கியமான விஷயம் மெம்பர்களுடைய குறைகளைத் தெரியப்படுத்துவதற்காக. எங்களுக்கு இருக்கக்கூடிய முக்கியமான கஷ்டங்களை Debate நடக்கும் சந்தர்ப்பங்களில் உங்களுடைய கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவருவதற்காகப் பேசுகிறேன். நான் இங்கு நடைபெறும் Debate-ல் கலந்துகொள்வதற்குத் தலைவரவர்கள் எதிர்க்கட்சி மெம்பர்களுக்கு அதிக சந்தர்ப்பம் கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டுமென்பதை ஒப்புக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆனால் அதே சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் மந்திரி சபைக் கச்சியைச் சேர்ந்த அங்கத்தினர்கள் ஒரு சிலருக்கே சந்தர்ப்பம் கொடுத்துக்கொண்டு வருகிறார்கள். அதை நான் பார்த்துக்கொண்டு வருகிறேன். ஆனால் தாங்கள் சிலருக்குச் சரியானபடி சந்தர்ப்பம் கொடுக்கவில்லை யென்பதாக அநேகர் அபிப்பிராயப்படுகிறார்களென்பதை உங்கள் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவர விரும்புகிறேன். கனம் தலைவரவர்கள் இந்த விஷயத்தை ஞாபகத்தில் வைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ஒரு விஷயத்தை நீங்கள் கவனிக்கவேண்டும். நாங்கள் ஜனங்கள் பிரதிநிதிகளாக இருக்கிறோம். நாங்கள் குறிப்பிட்ட காரியங்களை செய்வதற்காகவும் எங்கள் தொகுதியில் நிவர்த்திக்கவேண்டிய கஷ்டங்கள் அங்கு செய்யவேண்டிய முக்கிய விஷயங்களை யெல்லாம் எடுத்துச்சொல்லுவதற்காகவும் வந்திருக்கிறோம். ஜனங்களுக்கு செய்யவேண்டிய எங்களுடைய கடமை இருக்கிற படியால் நாங்கள் இங்கு பேசாவிட்டால் நாங்கள் ஒன்றுமே செய்யவில்லை யென்று எங்களைத் தேர்ந்தெடுத்த ஜனங்கள் நினைப்பார்கள்.”

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*MR. SPEAKER:—“Cut motion கொண்டுவருகிற எதிர் கச்சியினருக்கும் மற்றவர்களுக்கும் பேச முதலில் இடம் கொடுக்கப்படும்.”

* SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—“எதிர்க்கட்சியைப் பற்றி ஒரு வார்த்தை சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். அவர்களுக்கு எவ்வளவு நேரம் வேண்டுமானாலும் கொடுக்கட்டும். எவ்வளவோ Demand வருகின்றன. ஒரே Demand-ல் பல பேர்களுக்கு இடம் கொடுக்காமல் குறிப்பிட்ட டிமாண்டில் யார் பேசவில்லையோ அவர்களுக்கு இடம் கொடுப்பதுதான் நியாயம்.”

“இந்த சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் ஒரு முக்கியமான விஷயத்தை சொல்லியாக வேண்டும். மெம்பர்களாகிய நாங்கள் எங்களுடைய கடமையைச் செய்ய வில்லை யென்றால் பொதுஜனங்கள் குறை சொல்லுவார்கள். வாக்காளர்கள் எங்களுடைய உழைப்பின் காரணமாக எங்களைப் பிரதிநிதிகளாக அனுப்பியிருக்கிறார்கள். மைனாரிட்டி என்ற காரணத்தாலோ அல்லது வேறு சந்தர்ப்பங்களினாலோ நாங்கள் இங்கு ஸ்தானம் வகிக்கவில்லை யென்பதைத் தலைவரவர்களுக்குத் தெரியப்படுத்திக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இந்த சபையில் எங்களுக்குள்ள கடமையை நிறைவேற்ற நீங்கள் உதவி செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

“தமிழ் பத்திரிகைப் பிரதிநிதிகள் இருக்கிறோம். இடத்தில் அமைத்துள்ள Loud Speaker சரியாக கேழ்க்கவில்லை என்றும், தாய்பாஷை பத்திரிகை ரிப்போர்ட்டர்களுக்கு சரியானபடி வசதி செய்து கொடுக்க வில்லையென்றும் சொல்லுகிறார்கள். ஆங்கிலப் பத்திரிகை ரிப்போர்ட்டர்களுக்கு கொடுத்திருக்கும் நியாயமான முக்கியத்துவம் தாய் பாஷை பத்திரிகைகாரர்களாகிய இவர்களுக்கும் செய்து கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இந்த லீஷ் ரிப்போர்ட்டர்களுக்கு எத்தகைய வசதி இருக்கிறதோ அத்தகைய வசதி இவர்களுக்கும் செய்துகொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

“இங்கு சட்டசபை கூட்டத்திற்கு வரும் மெம்பர்களாகிய, நாங்கள் தங்குவதற்கு இடமில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறோம். எங்களுக்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்திருக்கும் ஹோட்டலில் சரியான வசதியில்லாததுடன், போதாமலுமிருக்கிறது. நாங்கள் எல்லோரும் சென்னையில் தங்குவதற்கு சவுகரியமுள்ள வேறு ஒரு கட்டிடத்திற்கு ஏற்பாடு செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

“நாங்கள் பிரயாணம் செய்வதற்கு ரயில்வே வசதியைப்பற்றி முன்பு சொன்னோம். ஏதோ ஸர்க்குலர் விட்டார்கள். 15 நாளைக்கு முன்னதாக information கொடுத்தால்தான் முடியுமென்று சொன்னார்கள். இது பிரயோஜனமற்ற ஏற்பாடு. ஆகையால் மெம்பர்களுக்கு முதல் preference கொடுக்கும்படியான முறையில் ரயில்வே ஆபீஸர்களிடம் ஏற்பாடு செய்து கொடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

“காங்கிரஸ் பார்ட்டிக்கு கொடுத்திருக்கும் ரூமில் ஒருவிதமான வசதியுமில்லை, போதிய அளவு chairs-களும் இல்லை. ஆகையால் காங்கிரஸ் பார்ட்டி ரூமில் வேண்டிய வசதிகளைச் செய்துகொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்ற விஷயத்தை உங்கள் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவருகிறேன். இன்னொரு முக்கியமான விஷயத்தைச் சொல்லவேண்டும். என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவில், என்னுடைய தொகுதியில் நீர்ப்பாசன வசதி இல்லாமலிருக்கிறது. Irrigation Demand வரும்போது பேசுவதாக இருந்தேன். ஆனால் எனக்கு பேசுவதற்கு சந்தர்ப்பம் கிடைக்கவில்லை. என் கச்சியைச் சேர்ந்த மெம்பர்களில் சிலர்கள் மட்டும் ஒரே நாளில் மூன்று டிமாண்டு வந்தபோதிலும் எல்லா டிமாண்டிலும் பேசும்படியான சந்தர்ப்பம் அளிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“உங்களுக்குள்ளே organized ஆக இன்னார் இன்னார் பேசுவோமென்று சொல்லவேண்டும்.”

* SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—ஆகையால் இந்த மாதிரி சந்தர்ப்பத்தில் பேசுவதற்குச் சந்தர்ப்பமளிக்கும் முறையிலே தலைவரவர்கள் எங்களுக்கு கவரவத்தைக்கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“முதலிலே Opposition-க்குக் கொடுத்த cut motion-லே பேசின பிறகு அந்த இலாக்கா மந்திரி பேசவேண்டும். டைம் இருந்தால் உங்களுக்குக் கொடுக்கிறேன். யார் யார் பேசவேண்டுமென்று

[Mr. Speaker]

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லிஸ்ட்டு கொடுத்தால் அதன் பிரகாரம் நான் செய்கிறேன். நீங்கள் எல்லோரும் பேசமுடியாது. எல்லோருக்கும் கொடுக்க இந்த 4 மணி நேரத்தில் முடியாது.”

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ There is only one speaker in our group who wants to speak only for a few minutes on a specific motion.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ Hon. Members must realize my difficulty also. We have only four hours for each Demand; preference should be given to those who have given notice of cut motions. I have only a very limited time before me for putting the Demand to vote and how can I give a chance to any one at this stage? Moreover, the Muslim members want to go away soon, because they are fasting.”

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—“ How long are you going to sit to-day, Sir? Is it going to be a late night sitting? ”

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Sir, there is only one more speaker from my group.”

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—“ It will be one from the Muslim group now and another member from some other group may like to speak, then it will go on in a revolution and there will be no knowing when we finish.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ I will allow only one minute more and Mr. Seethi Sahib may speak on his motion.”

* K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to inflict myself either on this House or on the Speaker, but there is a specific cut motion standing in my name and I feel it my duty to move it and it relates to this matter. The Library of the Legislature should be equipped with a Malayalam newspaper also for the use of about twenty members of the Madras Legislature who are expected to keep themselves informed of the happenings in their constituencies. I have made this suggestion and leave the matter to Government. That is the purport of my cut motion, Sir.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Malayalam newspaper can be had.”

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ What about Urdu paper? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Urdu paper also can be had.”

“ Sir, Mr. Salam complains that he could not move adjournment motions because short-notice questions were not accepted by those Ministers upon whom notices were served. He cannot be angry with them for not waiving their right to notices. The hon. Member may not know what information would have to be got by way of reply, how it has to be got and what amount of time it will take to get it. Therefore, with little patience, hon. Mr. Salam may wait and judge things for himself. It is no use flying at random imagining that there is something behind the mind of those who do not accept short-notice questions.

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“ About the Speaker's trip to England, Sir, I do not wish to say much in your favour by way of flattery or any such thing. Any Speaker, it is only natural, should be anxious to go and see how things are done in places like England and other countries; it is a study by itself. A mere visit could be a study, apart from all that one can learn. Looking at the places, looking at the Speakers in other countries, and the manner in which the business is done by those Speakers is a great study. Certainly it is necessary and the Speaker should be entitled to go and visit all those places, and not only study about the Speaker's duties, but, if I may point out to you, Sir, you will also be able to learn how the members are conducting themselves in those places and how the Speaker will have to control and regulate the conduct of the Members of this House (laughter)—in that way it is a very great educative programme. I, for my part, would certainly support your visit to Britain and the Government as a whole, and other hon. Members and the Party members also would wholeheartedly support this item of the business.

“ Coming to the question of the Legislature being removed to the Banqueting Hall, Sir, we have been considering that question and we knew in our visit to the place that the big pillars stood in our way and it was believed by the Engineering Department, at first sight, that with those pillars on, it might not be possible to convert that hall for our use. But later, on a second visit that we paid with Engineering experts, it was believed possible to remove the pillars and make the hall sufficiently big for the purpose of the Assembly without waiting for the construction of a new building. Constructing of a new building will take two or three years. If we wish to go there and use it for the better enjoyment, coupled with duty, we are considering what arrangements we should make with regard to the use of that hall.

“ Then, it was pointed that the members have no accommodation and it is necessary that accommodation must be found for them. We knew some accommodation was found in some hotel during the last session here. We know how members are undergoing difficulties. We are trying to find out what accommodation could be found in the Government House Estate which was placed at our disposal by His Excellency the Governor so kindly. From the latest report that I got which is not yet confirmed, it may be possible to find room for a good number of members, something like hundred members. I am not satisfied with the report and unless I go and see the place myself, it will not be possible to tell hon. Members of this House whether that is coming into shape. The moment it is coming, of course, hon. Members will get the chance. I have no doubt about that. But one thing; when the Governor was good enough to place this big property at our disposal for whatever use we could put it, there were certain conditions and naturally we were bound to accept them; those who are living in some of those buildings are members of the staff of His Excellency the Governor and they cannot be expected to leave their residences all on a sudden, until alternative accommodation is found

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for them. Arrangements are being made for this purpose and as and when they fall vacant they will come into our possession and they can be utilized by our members. There is no distinction, Sir, between one section and another section with regard to accommodation in the new buildings. They are intended for the enjoyment of the members without any difference or distinction and they will be put entirely at our disposal.

6-15 p.m. "Some remarks were made about the work of Parliamentary Secretaries. The Parliamentary Secretaries are not sitting idle, nor are they earning their money without any labour. My brother Ministers and I have been at considerable pains to find time to discuss the question of the duties and rights of Parliamentary Secretaries amongst ourselves. Last time I promised that we would be soon settling the rights and duties of Parliamentary Secretaries. It is in the stage of circulation and the office has also made its notes upon it; it will be settled soon and Parliamentary Secretaries will be at the service of all the members of the House. You should not suppose that Parliamentary Secretaries would be attached to the Ministers though that is the Parliamentary convention. The service which they render is common service to the members of the Assembly and to the people outside. Hon. Members are aware that some trouble arose in regard to Food Committees. Complaints and appeals were received in that connexion and we were obliged to request Parliamentary Secretaries each to run to particular districts in order to receive complaints and bring a report to us so that we might do the needful to settle the disputes. I assure hon. Members that no one is idle. Of course some are busy with files and some are doing work connected with the whole House and connected with all of us. You will learn very soon how the Parliamentary Secretaries will be employed in carrying out the programme chalked out for them for the benefit of the people at large whom we have all to serve.

"Mention was made about the salary of the Deputy Speaker. It is noted and whatever is possible will be done in the near future. (Hear, hear.) Although the question of the salary of the Hon. President of the Legislative Council has not been referred to here, I made a statement already in the other House that the question is under consideration and that will also be decided very soon.

"My hon. friend, the Kumararaja of Chettinad, said that we have to work this democratic constitution and that whatever may happen we are bound to see that this constitution works and that we are bound to work it out. I thought that the Kumararaja was thinking that the democratic constitution was given to us by the British Government. It is not so. A democratic constitution was in existence thousands of years ago in this country. If you go from here to Uttiramerur, 20 miles away from Conjeevaram, you will find inscriptions upon stone walls giving a description of the system of adult suffrage at that time in existence; the whole procedure of elections has been explained. Pots were converted into ballot boxes; their mouths were being tied up. Cadjan leaves served as ballot papers. I say it is on account of this

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inheritance that even the illiterate person in the villages is able to understand and take part in our elections. It is on account of the inherent intelligence in the people that they understand their business pertaining to election; that they were able to take part in the elections, rendering an account to the whole country and to the world. It is not a new thing. The constitution has come and we must only understand it. In our own history there was adult suffrage in every village, even in Uttiramerur itself. Without any distinction of caste or creed, they voted and elected members for each ward—there were six wards—and the elected members carried on the administration of that village. Therefore, it is, Sir, we are competent to carry on the administration on the basis of this constitution—which constitution had been handed over to other countries when we fell on evil days."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, on a point of information, will the Hon. the Premier arrange for a visit to that village because it will be of immense research value and especially as it has roused the curiosity of many members on this side of the House?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"If I can only find time, I do not mind having an excursion to that place.

"Much has been said about the Public Information portfolio. The Public Information Minister has got a big portfolio and he is not a Minister without a portfolio. It is a mistake to suppose that we have been very slow in adjusting ourselves to our work. When the Public Information office is fully equipped and when the work is started, you will find that it will give one of the biggest portfolios to the Minister in charge and it would be more serviceable to all the members of the House and also to the people outside. We have also appointed a Director of Publicity. We have chosen the best possible man available for the job under the circumstances. We have not been able to give him proper office and equipment, but very soon he will be provided with the necessary equipment. Hon. Members have been complaining that there are no typewriters and no staff. Necessary arrangements will be made to remedy all these wants.

"A reference was made to the letter written by the Congress President, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to me. I do not know who could have given information about a private letter written to me. I do not know how even the Publicity Department could have done it. A statement to this effect appeared in the press. Press friends should not misunderstand me. They try to gather information and they get information from here, there and everywhere. Even our own representatives have to give information under certain limitations as to what they can say and what they are not to say. Therefore, you should not rush to conclusions about what was written in the letter and I have to contradict it; there was nothing like it. He is a man who knows things; he is a man who can give his directions at the proper time and has promised to give us help if wanted with regard to any of our schemes and programmes."

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* SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—"In the press the statement was attributed to the newly appointed Director of Publicity."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Even Cabinet proceedings appeared in the press and they appeared in such a hopeless manner that some of us got into trouble. That is why I have cautioned you. It is not only in this country; even in England where everything is in best form and everything is up to date, it occurred. It is no wonder it happened here and that is why I do not quarrel with my friends for this small mistake, as all of us are adjusting ourselves. Mr. Town says that we will reach a stage when everything will be perfect. I hope so and that very soon and that perfection will be reached even with regard to the functioning of the microphone. A lot of trouble has been caused on account of the microphone not functioning properly and not responding properly in time. We are bound to attend to all these things."

"I have tried to cover the various points raised in the course of the discussion on the cut motions. I therefore appeal to hon. Members to withdraw their motions if they like."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member who has moved the cut motion is not in his place. I take it he has withdrawn it. Before I put the original motion to the vote of the House, I wish to thank the gentlemen who spoke such kind words about me."

Demand No. X was put and carried and the Grant was made.

The House then adjourned to meet at 11 a.m. on the 22nd August 1946.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, the 22nd August 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHAN-MUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Recruitment of Sergeants.

* 101 Q.—SRI D. DORAIRAJA PANDIAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to recruit Sergeants in the Province only from the Anglo-Indian community;

(b) if so, why; and

(c) whether there is any distinction as regards grades and salary between Indian and non-Indian Sergeants?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) Does not arise.

" (c) There is no distinction between Indian and Anglo-Indian Sergeants in the matter of grade and salary. There is a scale of pay for European Sergeants."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Premier be pleased to state whether he will abolish the distinction between the European and Indian grades of pay?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"That will be considered, Sir, in due course."

SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—"May I ask the Hon. Premier whether the term 'non-Indian' includes Anglo-Indians?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I do not know whether the hon. Member who put the question has understood the question himself. (Laughter.) He may, if he likes, make it clear."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBIAH:—"May I know, Sir, if the Government will be pleased to prefer I.N.A. men for these posts in future?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The matter relating to I.N.A. men is under consideration."

SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—"May I know from the Hon. Premier whether it is a fact that only Anglo-Indians are recruited to Sergeants' posts in the city?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"It has already been answered."

[22nd August 1946]

Betting in the Madras Race Course.

* 102 Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state whether the Government have under contemplation any measure to make betting in the Madras Race Course an offence?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The question has not been taken up for consideration. They will do so as soon as business permits."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will Government consider the advisability of stopping at once the second enclosure in the race course?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The matter is engaging the attention of the Government."

MUHAMMAD RAFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know how long that engagement will take place?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"As long as it is necessary." (Laughter.)

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"May I know whether Government will consider the desirability of at once banning all publication of race tips and other literature connected with the race course?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"That also is being considered."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will Government consider the question of making betting an offence or not?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Betting is already an offence except at horse races."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know with reference to this question, whether betting in race course is to be made an offence or not?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"That also is being considered, Sir."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are Government aware that betting shops are thriving in the Madras City?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"It will be considered by Government."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do Government contemplate any legislation on this matter?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Whether by legislation or withdrawal of licence or by any other means, these are under consideration."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Does betting take place only in the Madras Race Course?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The hon. Member knows much better about it." (Laughter.)

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Abolition of Revenue Board.

* 103 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether the abolition of the Board of Revenue is under the consideration of this Government?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"No proposal relating to the abolition of the Board of Revenue is under the consideration of the Government."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, from the Minister for Revenue, whether during the the last Congress Ministry, there was a proposal to abolish the Board of Revenue?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am not aware of that."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the abolition of the Board of Revenue was one of the promises given by the Congress Party before the elections?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am not aware, Sir."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do Government think that the continuance of the Board of Revenue is necessary?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The matter is not under consideration. No further information can be given."

P. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what is the present Government's view as to the necessity or continuance of the Board of Revenue so far as revenue administration is concerned?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I have answered that. I said it is not engaging the attention of the Government at present."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to consider that question?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"When the occasion arises." (Laughter.)

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know when will that occasion arise?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I am not in a position to say at present, when."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will Government be pleased to consider the necessity of the continuance of the Board of Revenue as matters stand at present?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"As I said, it will be considered when the occasion arises."

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N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is not the Hon. Minister aware that speaker after speaker under Revenue Demand agitated for the abolition of the Board of Revenue?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"There were some speeches made; I am aware of them."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does it give rise to an occasion for this Government to consider that question?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I promised, when the occasion arises it will be considered."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Has it arisen? Let me have a direct answer to my question."

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"The very direct answer is, it has not arisen."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do Government require the assistance of the Board of Revenue?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Sir, they have been having the assistance of the Board of Revenue for over a century and forty years. It has been in existence from before 1800 A.D."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it the policy of Government to continue everything that is ancient?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Certainly, until it is proved to be bad."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that when the present Premier was the Minister for Land Revenue in the last Congress Ministry he entertained the idea of abolishing the Board of Revenue?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That question may be put to the Hon. Premier, Sir."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, it did not engage the attention of the Revenue Minister in the last Ministry. Even now, it is a matter that will be considered. (Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib Bahadur: 'Hear, hear.') When the occasion arises, as the Hon. Revenue Minister has stated, it will be considered. Personally, I am hoping, Sir, that something will come about that in due course. (Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib Bahadur: 'Thank you, Sir.')

MR. SPEAKER:—"In view of that answer I now pass on to the next question."

Highways Department.

* 104 Q.—SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) why the Highways Department was formed; and

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(b) what additional annual expenditure, both recurring and non-recurring, the Government incur consequent upon the formation of that department?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—" (a) In spite of the best intentions of the presidents of district boards and their engineers, district boards were not able to maintain their roads to the requisite standard mainly due to the inelasticity of their revenues and the necessity of incurring increasing expenditure on public health, education, etc. The Advisers' Government also observed that the system under which parts of arterial roads were maintained and developed by different local bodies was inherently defective and that the transfer of the roads to Government would facilitate the execution of post-war road development plan which, on account of its magnitude and importance, called for a centralized administration of roads. About 10,000 miles of roads which are of inter-district and provincial importance were, therefore, taken over from local bodies by Government from 1st April 1946. The Highways Department was constituted with effect from that date, to maintain these roads. This does not in any way affect the contribution payable to local bodies under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act for loss of income from tolls and licence fees on motor buses and lorries. It is, therefore, expected that the transfer of the important lines of communication to the Highways Department will enable local bodies to devote better attention to roads left in their charge.

" (b) The additional recurring expenditure consequent on the formation of the Highways Department has been estimated at Rs. 104 lakhs. This includes a provision of Rs. 1.13 lakhs for payment of dearness allowance to the staff, Rs. 54.80 lakhs to meet the increased cost of materials and labour due to present conditions for the maintenance of roads, and Rs. 31 lakhs at the present inflated rates (Rs. 17 lakhs at pre-war rates) for the maintenance of National Highways which are expected to be taken over by the Central Government from 1st April 1947. Thus, the net additional expenditure to this Government will be about Rs. 31 lakhs only ultimately when conditions become normal.

" No provision has at present been made for any additional non-recurring expenditure consequent on the formation of the Highways Department."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact that this department started work without anything in the way of furniture and estimate?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—"Want of furniture is not a big thing, and the department has been carrying on all right. So far as I know, there has been no difficulty."

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D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know if the Highways Department has done any work all these five months? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—" All these five months whatever can be done by way of maintenance of roads has been done."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Any new roads laid at all, all these five months? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—" There has been no programme for laying down new roads. We have been maintaining those roads which are already there."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether all highway transactions come under this department? "

A VOICE:—" Highway robbers." (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—" I am not able to understand what my hon. Friend means by highway transactions." (Laughter.)

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that the District Board Engineering services formed the nucleus of this department? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—" Yes, Sir."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is it being given effect to, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTHAVATSALAM:—" Yes, Sir."

Strike in Pallavaram Tanneries.

* 104-A Q.—M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased state—

(a) what action has been taken with regard to strike in Pallavaram tanneries;

(b) whether it is true that the tannery owners did not accept any settlement arrived at in the presence of the Labour Commissioner or any other Government official; and

(c) if it is not true, what are the facts?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" (a) The workers in Pallavaram tanneries struck work without notice on 6th August 1946 demanding payment of dearness allowance. As the Commissioner of Labour was then on tour in Tinnevely district, the Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories and the Labour Officer, Madras, visited the tanneries on 7th August 1946 on receipt of representation from the employers, and advised the workers to resume work immediately pending consideration of their demand. The workers refused to return to work unless their demand was conceded. On the evening of 7th August 1946 after a good deal of discussion between the representatives of the workers and the employers,

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a settlement was reached in the presence of Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya. The following were the terms:—

(1) With effect from 1st August 1946, the workmen in the tanneries in Pallavaram and Chromepet area shall be paid a monthly wage of Rs. 21 and a dearness allowance of Rs. 14 per male adult worker. The wages and dearness allowance may be paid fortnightly.

(2) The hours of work in the tanneries shall not exceed nine hours a day and/or 48 hours a week.

(3) The workers will resume work forthwith.

(4) The workers will not stop work without due notice and prior representation of their grievances through the Union.

(5) There shall be no victimization.

" Negotiations however failed as the workers demanded the payment of dearness allowance in advance. Fresh terms were suggested by the Commissioner to the parties on 21st August 1946. The parties have accepted the terms and have agreed to resume work on 22nd August 1946.

" (b) No. The tannery owners were, on the other hand, prepared to accept the terms suggested by the Labour department.

" (c) The facts are as stated in the answer to clause (a)."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know, Sir, whether the Minister will consider the desirability of forming co-operative societies for these tanneries? "

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—" That question does not arise."

II.—ADJOURNMENT MOTION TO DISCUSS THE CONDUCT OF POLICE IN SAIDAPET AND OTHER PLACES.

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Mr. Venkateswarlu has given notice of an adjournment motion to discuss a definite matter of urgent public importance. It is about the conduct of the Police in Saidapet and in other places. The Police Demand will be before the House to-morrow or the day after to-morrow. In view of that fact, I am ruling the motion out of order."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" On a point of information, Sir. When the Leader of the Opposition moved an adjournment motion regarding the ' Direct Action Day ', the Leader of the Opposition was allowed to say a few words."

* MR. PEAKER:—" He was not allowed to speak. The motion is now closed."

(At this stage Sri Pillalamarri Venkateswarlu repeatedly stood up in his seat to speak. He was called to order.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—" We will now pass on to the next item in the agenda."

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III.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1946-47.

DEMAND XXXI—MISCELLANEOUS.

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

"that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 15,57,86,300 in respect of the head Miscellaneous. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 7,52,259."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have allowed the maximum of four hours for this demand. Three Ministers, Food Minister, Prime Minister and Minister for Public Works wish to take part in this debate. Mr. Town has given notice of a cut motion to discuss the policy of Government with regard to Minor Ports. I call upon Mr. Ismail to move his cut motion."

* MR. F. FERRELLY:—"On a point of information, Sir. Did you say that Minor Ports come under this demand?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I said Mr. Town has given notice of a cut motion to discuss the policy of Government with regard to Minor Ports. If you want, you can speak."

* MR. F. FERRELLY:—"Thank you. Sir."

* SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"On a point of information, Sir. The demand just moved is for Rs. 15 crores and odd. It includes, may I take it, Sir, Rs. 11 crores for expenditure and Rs. 4 crores for the fund to be constituted for the village reconstruction."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will allow you to speak. The Hon. the Premier will give the answer. Mr. Ismail will now move his cut motion."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have the honour to move the cut motion standing in my name. Before I actually come to the motion, Sir, I would like to say a few words on the food position, about which the Hon. Premier made a statement the day before yesterday. The position as described by him is really disquieting. In spite of the efforts made by the Provincial Government, the Government of India have not done the proper thing by this Government and the people of Madras. It is really deplorable and regrettable that the Government of India should persist in this attitude in spite of the persistent efforts made by our Prime Minister to get adequate supplies. Not even adequate supplies we want. We want the bare necessity of our Province. We do not want to see the ghastly scene of starvation and famine enacted in this Province as it was enacted a few years ago in a sister Province. Even the small quotas that have been promised to our Province have not been delivered so far. For this month 40,000 tons of foodgrains were promised and we are told that only 13,000 tons have reached us so far. It is very unfair and improper on the part of the Government of India to

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divert a small shipment amounting to about 6,000 tons, which ought to have come to us according to the arrangement and promise, to another Province. We know the vitality of Bengal has been much reduced owing to the recent famine. She must be supplied with her necessities, but that is no reason why Madras must be denied even the scanty supplies she had been promised from time to time. The Province itself is helpless. We cannot find grains in the Province. We have to depend upon imports. The Government of India have been apprised of these facts very emphatically and clearly, and yet the Government of India are continuing in this nonchalant and indifferent way. I do not think that that is the proper attitude to be adopted towards the lives and conditions of 5 crores of people. I hope that the Government of India will adopt a fairer attitude towards our Province in the very near future.

"In this connexion, Sir, I have been urging repeatedly that it is of no use to send paper representations and attend periodical conferences to impress on the Government of India the difficulties of our Province. I have been urging, Sir, that a permanent agency must be stationed in Delhi so that it may take up the question relating to our Province then and there, and it may very effectively impress upon the Government of India the question in which our Province is interested. I think the Government of Madras will pay attention to this suggestion and do what is necessary in the interests of our Province.

"Now, Sir, coming to the demand under discussion, I find under this head, there is an item of Rs. 2,30,29,000 for the free distribution of milk to school children and priority consumers in the mufassal. So far as the City is concerned, there is an item under another head which serves the same purpose. Under Demand 'XX—Co-operation,' an item of Rs. 5,52,300 is included for free distribution of milk for priority consumers. With regard to milk, there are one or two other items also included under other heads, but I shall confine myself to these two items. The difference between these two items is that the distribution in the City is mentioned only as for priority consumers, and the City school children are not mentioned against this item. Is it deliberate or accidental, I do not know. Is it the intention of the Government not to give any free milk to the school children in Madras? Another difference so far as the City consumers are concerned is that a provision seems to have been made for the supply of fresh milk, but with regard to mufassal consumers it is skimmed milk powder and whole cream powder imported from New Zealand that they are supplied with. Yet another difference is that the supply of milk to the City consumers is included under Demand XX, and the mufassal item is included under Demand XXXI, and under 'extraordinary charges'. I was curious to know, Sir, more about this item, and I turned some pages of the Budget Memorandum of the Finance Department with a view to finding out the difference between these two items. I could not find it out. The only thing I was able to make out was that these 2 crores 30 lakhs and odd rupees are mentioned as extraordinary charges as distinguished

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11.30 a.m. from the ordinary expenses of the Province. I do not know whether this item in Demand XXXI represents a regular feature of the Budget which will continue in the future also, or whether it is intended as an extraordinary expenditure only for this year. Any way, this is a big item 2 crores and odd rupees, more than double the amount that has been provided for Harijan uplift. What is the machinery the Government are going to devise to see that the best use is made of this expenditure? Are they going to devise any new machinery or are they going to make use of the old machinery? Are they going to give this milk as they receive it from the foreign countries, or are they going to subject it to other processes and distribute it to the consumers? I know in certain other places of the country, this milk powder is not liked by the people and they say also that it is not good for health. This is probably taken as an item of food with a view to relieving the food crisis, and I am sure that the Government will take all necessary steps to see that, in relieving the crisis, it does not produce any diseases or injure the health of the people. In this connexion, I may be permitted to advert to another demand by way of reference, that is, Demand XXXVIII wherein I find an item of Rupees 51,25,000 for subsidies for loss in the production and sale of dehydrated potatoes, etc. That again seems to be an item for relieving the food position and I take it that it refers to transactions in indigenous products. Have the Government considered the possibility of finding other indigenous products before they went in for this foreign product of milk powder? That is one of the questions which I want to put to the Hon. Minister concerned.

“Regarding price control, there is a licensing system in vogue, and that system is for the purpose of restricting the number of people engaged in a trade so that they may be amenable to control, and another object of the control is said to be the prevention of carpet-bagging, that is to say not to allow mere speculators and exploiters to get into a particular line of business and create confusion. At the same time, Sir, even in the ordinary course of things, people who are already in existence in a particular line of business disappear and new men come in. That is a very natural state of affairs. If the Government in recognition of this fact bring in new men who had nothing to do with the trade—I can understand if they say that it is in the natural course of things by which new people come and old people get out—they give licences to new men, then they must see equity and justice is done to all the people concerned in the matter. Then again, Sir, people who are already in the trade must not be victimized and made to go out of business. In that case they will have to lose employment. That will affect their consumers also, because consumers also have got a voice in saying who shall be their caterers and who shall not be. One instance, Sir, I may point out. In Coimbatore there are now about eleven licensed dealers in potatoes. One of these dealers was given notice the other day by the licensing authority saying that his name was removed from the list of licensees. No reason whatever was given for such removal, and no correspondence took place before he received the

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notice as to why the removal of his name was ordered. He has now appealed to the Government to rectify the injustice done to him. This may be said to be an individual case, but it is a typical case. That is why I brought this to the attention of this honourable House. People should not be brushed away in this fashion in a summary way. There must be some justice, some reason. We must be given the reason why this action was taken against him. Otherwise, the confidence of the people in the control system will be affected.

“Now, Sir, with regard to procurement, we had so much to say on this subject on a previous occasion. When the Government, the previous regime, thought that they must take up the procurement of foodgrains in their own hands, they said that they would employ their own agency for the purpose. They did not want to make use of the machinery that was already in existence—the merchants and the dealers. They did not even take measures by which the benefit of the advice of the people who had experience in the various lines might be availed of by the Government. They adopted their own course and thought that it was a simple matter and that their officials also could learn the business. How they learnt the business, I shall show you by an instance. In Karachi, the Government bought a lot of wheat flour. The Government agents employed for the purpose did not know evidently what were the qualities of the wheat flour under different conditions. Therefore they were not anxious about the shipment of that flour to Madras as soon as possible. That was a simple thing, but they did not know. The result was the flour came to Madras after a long time. By that time it became worm-infested. The dealers were compelled to take delivery of the wheat flour. It was not suitable for human consumption, and I may tell you, Sir, that it was not suitable even for cattle consumption. So much so, it had to be disposed of for pasting purposes and making kanjee for cloth and other things. This I mention to illustrate at what great cost the Government agency learnt the work of procurement, and when that agency had gained experience and was working almost efficiently, that was scrapped by the present Government. We protested against it. They said that the village committees, taluk committees and the district committees they were setting up would do the work more efficiently. We said that such machinery was not suitable for meeting a crisis. What we said on that occasion is proving true, and it is one of the factors which has affected the effective tackling of the food problem now. We are receiving complaints from various communities saying that they, particularly the Muslims, are not properly represented on these committees. Instead of people doing everything for relieving the food crisis, the people have to speak about their rights and privileges with regard to these committees. These committees have yet to be trained for the work. I am mentioning these not with a view to discouraging any attempt on the part of the Government to give power to the villagers. It is very necessary that they must have all the necessary powers. The fear-complex they are having and the harassment which they are experiencing must be removed.

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There is no question or doubt about it. But the only thing is that the present scheme adumbrated by the Government is not suitable for meeting the crisis for which it was primarily intended. However, we want to co-operate with the Government in working this scheme, and we only want the Government to do all that is necessary to remove the dissatisfaction among the people by giving due representation to all communities, and to the Muslims in particular.

“ Sir, Muslim representation in the departments of Food, Price Control, Motor Spirit and Tyre Rationing is not satisfactory. Muslims are conspicuous by the paucity of their number in these services.

“ Speaking of Burma evacuees, I want to mention that the Government should see that the allowances paid to the Burma evacuees who are still in need of same are continued. In this connexion, I would like to draw the attention of the Provincial Government to the hardships which the people in Burma, Malaya and other eastern countries are put to in the matter of passage home. They have been waiting during the war, but even after the war they are waiting for months and months. Now I am told that there is only one steamer touching the port of Madras once in 29 days, and even in this one steamer many people cannot find their way home. The Government should make representations and proper arrangements to see that these people are allowed to return home as speedily as possible.

“ Another point that I want to mention is that the agents of the Government of India in Burma and other eastern countries are almost always non-Madrasis. You know, Sir, that a very large proportion of the emigrants from India to the eastern countries are Madrassis, and in certain places they form the majority. Therefore it is only fair that these agents must be drawn from Madras, though not always, at least, as frequently as possible, and I urge upon this Government to take up this question with the Government of India.

“ Then, Sir, with regard to the Minor Ports Fund, I do not think that it will see in the future a depredation such as was made on it during the time of the last Congress Ministry. The development of these minor ports must form an important part of the post-war development schemes. Ample provision must be made for their development and improvement.

“ I once again urge upon the Government to see that the dissatisfaction among the Muslims in regard to the constitution of the village, taluk and district committees is removed as speedily as possible in the interests of the smooth-working of the procurement scheme. I stress once again the paucity of Muslim representation in the services of the various departments which come under this head, and suggest that the early attention of the Government be given to this subject. With these words, I move the cut motion—

‘To reduce the allotment of Rs. 15,57,86,300 for Miscellaneous by Rs. 100’.”

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* MR. F. FERRELLY :—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on behalf of our group to support this cut motion in order that we can avail ourselves of the opportunity which the Leader of the House so promptly gave to discuss this Grant XXXI, more particularly food and also on minor ports. It is necessary, Sir, that I again state that the members of my group when they offer criticism, offer criticism of a constructive character. I find it necessary to say this because on the last occasion on which I spoke on food the Prime Minister chastised me. He said: ‘I have dealt with the objections raised by Mr. Ferrelly that well-informed gentleman who wanted to show us how we did not understand the situation properly’. I would like to say, Sir, that that well-informed gentleman secured his information from the Prime Minister’s own figures and I am afraid in what I am going to say again this morning I may incur still further his chastisement but it will be from his own figures. We are at one with this Government, Sir, in condemning the attitude of the Central Government towards the Province of Madras. A shortage of 44,000 tons of rice between May and the end of August is not a large figure. But it is not a small figure. It is moreover a broken promise and that we ought not to have from any Government. Now, Sir, one thing with which the Prime Minister prefaced his remarks shows more clearly than anything is that a very bad distribution system exists in regard to foodstuffs throughout India. We were told that the head of the Food Department in Delhi was not aware of ships which were going to Madras being diverted to Calcutta. I am afraid we cannot let the Madras Government to get away with that entirely. If they knew that those ships were coming here and if they knew that they were being diverted they had three days in which to telephone or telegraph and turn those ships back from Calcutta. I can only say that as the heads of departments in Delhi were unaware of the diversion of the ships so also the Madras Government were unaware. Otherwise they must have taken action and informed them. As businessmen we have contributed to the social, economic and industrial development of his country. I can tell you, Sir, that if a businessman of South India, whether Indian or any other nationality, had made such an unholy mess of food as the officials of the Government have done in the last two or three years, there will be no business in South India and the people responsible would have been sacked. Is it yet too late Sir, to put food both at the Centre and the Provinces in the hands of a single executive, one who is not worried by officialdom or tied down by red tape? Well, Sir, in condemning the Centre, it is always safe, it is always advisable to see that everything is in good order within our own Government. The position given to us in May shows that, after promises of 146,000 tons of imports, after an expected procurement of 3,36,000 tons, the Prime Minister anticipated a shortage of 268,000 tons. We now see a new picture. The 268,000 tons shortage was between the months of May and end of October. We are now told that from now, let me say from the first of September to the end of January, there will be a shortage of 500,000 tons of rice. How can 268,000 tons shortage to the six months ending October, that is an average of 47,000 tons per

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month, how can this now have accumulated to 500,000 tons shortage by the end of January, that is an average of 100,000 tons per month? I say here and now that that has not arisen by the short shipment of 44,000 tons of rice by the Central Government. Therefore, we have still to go a little further. Again, in April, the Hon. Prime Minister said 'It is vital for our existence that the target for procurement of 336,000 tons is reached and exceeded as far as possible.' In the brief statement now before the House, we are told of the shortcomings of the Centre. We are not told what Madras has done towards attaining that target of 336,000 tons. I agree that there are still two months ahead, but in the four months which have elapsed, surely some headway must have been made towards attaining the target of 336,000 tons. If not, why have we sunk thousands of wells and why have we offered bonuses, etc. I invite the Prime Minister to take the House further into his confidence and let us know exactly how far our own Presidency has gone towards that target of 336,000 tons. Now, Sir, I ask that question in all seriousness, and I ask it on behalf of 21,400,000 people.

"A few days ago I was accused by a friend on my right in that we Europeans in Malabar enjoyed the beauties of the country and knew nothing. Let me tell him, Sir, that after twenty years of living and working in Malabar and South Kanara, I do know something. I see a poor aged weaver, a man who has grown grey in the service of my company, a man with whose son I have played hockey and football. During the twenty years he comes to me as to a father, he comes for assistance in times of trouble, for loans in times of adversity, and says with pleasure that his son has just passed the S.S.L.C. examination. I ask how can it be said that we know nothing of what is going on around. One thing which upsets me more than anything is, this old man now comes to me and says: 'Give me rice,' and for once in my lifetime I have to disappoint him, because I cannot give him rice. Eight ounces per day is entirely insufficient, no matter how many canteens you open, no matter, however much you teach the people the various processes of cooking wheat, blackgram, greengram and horsegram. It is not enough. He wants rice. I can tell you, Sir, that there are hundreds of tons of horsegram being consumed in Malabar among the labour classes. As for this awful groundnut, I would like to know whether the food official, who suggested that groundnuts should form a dish, has ever tried to make a meal of groundnuts and seen the results for himself.

12 noon "Now, Sir, you may ask why do I speak with such vehemence on this point. I speak so because they are my workers and my friends. These are the people who are getting only 8 ounces of rice per day. They are part of the 21½ million people who are brought under the rationing system in the Madras Province at the present time. Can I now tell you, Sir, what these 21½ million people have done in the last six months, and will do till the end of October? The original scheme of rations was based at 12 ounces per head. A cut of 2 ounces of rice was made in May and another 2 ounces from the 4th August. You

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may think, Sir, that I am juggling with figures. I am not. Anyone can check them up. Those 21½ million people, by this forcible cut in rice, have saved in this Presidency 286,000 tons of rice. Two lakhs and eighty-six thousand tons is greater than 268,000 tons of deficiency. Where then is the shortage now? I repeat only those figures which the Hon. Additional Minister for Food, Mr. Raghava Menon, has given. I repeat, Sir, that if the saving in rice by cutting 2 ounces in May and another 2 ounces in August continues till the end of October there will have been saved for this Presidency about 286,000 tons of rice. Two lakhs and eighty-six thousand tons is in excess of 268,000 tons which is the shortage as given by the Hon. the Prime Minister in May. When this quantity has been saved and we are only getting 44,000 tons short from the anticipated imports of the Government, where is the scarcity? We can only talk about what we know. This morning's paper reports that the Hon. the Minister for Food has stated ships would be coming to Madras next month. What is still due from the Government of India is 51,000 tons for September and 44,000 tons for October, that is, 95,000 tons in all. In spite of that, how can you say that this Presidency is now behind to the tune of 500,000 tons by the end of January, when as I have shown above by facts and figures the shortage you have in May has been covered by cuts in rice which you have made.

"Sir, there is something wrong. I hope it is not anything wrong with the Government's figures. I assure you there is nothing wrong with mine which are based on Government's figures. What I should like to say is this. In May last, we appealed to the Hon. the Premier to make a cut in the rations of those 23½ million people for whom he reserved 1 lb. of rice per day. At the moment 21½ millions get 8 ounces and 23½ millions get 16 ounces per day which they are permitted to reserve by the Government. In view of the uneasiness which people feel about the Government procurement scheme, we do not think that the present policy is a sound one. We do not think, Sir, that it is good government. I must warn the Government that if they persist in pursuing their present policy, they will be sowing seeds of trouble which this Government will reap and not the Central Government. ('Hear, hear.')

"I suggest here and now that one of the main contributory causes of the strikes which you have to put up with since you came into office is partly due to the fact that you cannot get rice. You do not have any strikes among the agriculturists with 16 ounces ration. It is always the person who has less food that is resorting to strikes. The reason behind that is not that he must have now more money. What he really wants is more rice for his belly. If you cannot give it, you say 'Eat wheat.' If he eats wheat, he wants ghee and he wants other things which are more expensive than the ordinary fare which he has been accustomed to. I suggest that if the Prime Minister would take courage in his hands and ask these village committees and district

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committees, on which have been showered such encomiums of praise to persuade the producer to reserve only 14 ounces, if he can unite these people so that those who can save can share with those who have not, he will have made one of the greatest political successes that has ever been made in this country. I would remind him, Sir, that only a few years ago, in my own country people were faced with total destruction. The success with which that country withstood the fire rained down from heaven was due to the unitedness of the people. Why then cannot this Government with such a terrific majority behind them,—if the majority are united behind the Prime Minister—say to these producers ‘You shall have only 14 ounces; by that you will be helping the other people, your brothers.’ Let me tell you, Sir, that if the producer will give up only 2 ounces of rice per day from the 1st September to the end of January, you will have a saving of 200,000 tons and these 200,000 tons at the present ration of 8 ounces will feed the other 21½ million people for six weeks.

“Now, Sir, let me for a few moments turn to the question of Minor Ports. This is a matter which particularly affects us in the West Coast. I want in particular to mention the case of Ponnani, Beypore, Calicut, Tellicherry, Cannanore, Kasaragod, Mangalore and Malpe. We cannot forget that the last Congress Government dipped their hands into the reserve fund of the Minor Ports to the tune of Rs. 55 lakhs. Neither can we forget at the moment that there is a Central Government Commission sitting and that Commission is endeavouring to lay stress that overseas trade should go to the larger ports of India. Now, Sir, I can tell you, that the Calicut Port alone in 1938–39 handled imports to the extent of Rs. 129 lakhs. It handled foreign exports to the extent of Rs. 223 lakhs, and the total tonnage handled in that port in the year 1939–40 was 615,000 tons. It is hardly a minor port, but it is still considered so by the Government. At that port the facilities for handling cargoes are entirely insufficient. My friends, of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, the Malabar Chamber of Commerce and the European Chamber of Commerce have all just met together and have submitted or are in the course of submitting a memorandum to the Government on this subject. The ports there require considerable renovation. In Calicut, a third pier has to be constructed, warehouses are required and certain improvements have to be effected to the northern pier. In Ponnani, at one time small native crafts would enter the estuary of the river. Now it is impossible because of the silting up. At Beypore there is a big rock in the entrance to the channel, and the mouth is silted up with only 3 feet of water at low tide. When you remember that the average rise between high and low tide on our coast is only 6 feet, we are only getting a maximum of 9 feet of water at Beypore. We have done dredging in the past. The silt should be removed. But we have not got anywhere. I am pleased to see that the Hon. Minister for Public Works is making copious notes on my remarks and I hope that they will not find their usual resting place.

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“The same complaint can be made in regard to Tellicherry. In Mangalore, you have got a large dredger and a small one. Unfortunately there again at the port, the height of water at low tide is 6 feet and the height at a high tide is only 12 feet. Why is it not possible that with proper piloting to get in 150 or 200 tonnage vessels into the waters of Mangalore? The hon. Friend Mr. Shetty knows this so well, and I think he will bear me out in this statement.

“The same thing can be said of Malpe also. Why should this Government lose money, lose productive efforts and wages to these minor port workers by insisting on sending everything to Cochin? Let me tell you that Cochin is a very expensive port indeed and if the foreign imports from the West coming to the hinterland are to go to Cochin, the prices would be higher than in the minor ports. That, Sir, is not a little item. I am not belittling Cochin. It is a marvellous port now handling all the coastal trade. There is no reason why, with the industrial expansion, and with the supply of electricity from Pykara in full and proper measure, these minor ports of Malabar and South Kanara should not play an important part which they have done in the past.”

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, in this important debate, a number of speakers want to participate. Now that the Leader of the Opposition has spoken and a Member of the European Group has spoken, those who are going to follow now are only persons who do not have a party. Therefore I suggest that there should be a time-limit imposed on speeches hereafter.”

12-15
p.m.

* MR. SPEAKER:—“Yes, I shall allow ten minutes to each member who wants to speak.”

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“First of all I must thank the Hon. the Premier for bringing forward this most important Demand for discussion to-day. This Demand concerns the very life of the different classes of people in our society including the blackmarketeers and the municipal workers who work under the local bodies. This Demand covers so many subjects and people with different political opinions. While I express my feelings frankly in regard to this matter, I request the Treasur Benches to note the points and give clear-cut answers to them without any political prejudices.

“The first point on which already some Members have spoken is food. Of course the Central Government which did not take proper interest to protect the lives of the people have really played havoc with our food problem. They did not care to divert to our shores the food to which we are accustomed and instead they have sent us wheat. It is in this way things have been going on all these years. Luckily, we have now got a popular Ministry to look after our welfare. But we have to condemn the callous negligence on the part of the Central Government for our food problem. My suggestion to the Hon. the Premier is that the procurement policy is not working satisfactorily. It is defective.

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Merchants are not coming out with their rice stocks. They are still secreting their stocks. Towards these people, the Government must employ the same methods, viz., shooting, that they employ against workers. They should adopt stringent measures against blackmarketeers and, if necessary, to quote the words of Pandit Nehru, 'go to the extent of shooting them down.' Then only we can save the country from disaster. The Government should put down blackmarketeers with an iron hand.

"Under this Demand again, I wish to point out to the Government the great disparity between the salaries of the top men and the men in the bottom of the official ladder. Where is Rs. 2,500 and where is Rs. 15 for peons and Rs. 35 and Rs. 40 for clerks? This disparity must be immediately removed. There are about 16 officers drawing in all Rs. 18 lakhs and 8 officers on Rs. 500 and above drawing one lakh of rupees. More than 90 per cent of the establishment charges go to their share and only the balance is available to the 9,183 clerks and peons whom we see standing before us. The Department of Food is top heavy and there is room for retrenchment. When we have an Additional Minister for Food, it should be possible to bring down the burdensome top Secretaries in this Department.

"As regards the Food Committees, the Hon. the Premier has promised that they would be non-partisan and that no political party will be eliminated from them. But what is really happening is that political parties have been purposely eliminated from these bodies. In this connexion, I have forwarded a petition to the Hon. the Premier complaining about the remark by a responsible Congressman sitting before us that a particular party must be eliminated from these committees. I have also sent him a paper cutting in support of the petition. I have not so far received any reply. This sort of thing is going on. Out of 283 members in the Kistna district, only a dozen or so are communists. All the rest are Congressmen or their henchmen.

"Next I have a strong protest to make about the paper quota granted by the Industrial department. Vernacular papers are not given sufficient paper. It is a pity the authorities have not realized that it is the vernacular paper that circulates in the villages and that it is therefore the vernacular paper that helps in educating the people in the villages. This fact may now at least be recognized and the quota for vernacular papers increased, if necessary, by reducing the quota for the English papers. In this connexion, I wish to bring to notice the injustice done to 'Praja Sakthi,' our party paper. Because of paper shortage we have to reduce our circulation. We are unable to meet the demands of the people. I request the Hon. Minister to increase the quota.

"As regards the State Trading schemes, I am of the opinion that it is all to the good that the Government have taken the initiative in this matter and started the business. But if the scheme is not to become useless, the Government should not allow the blackmarketeers or big merchants to have anything to do with it. These should be put in charge of the reconstituted

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food committees if they are not to fall into the hands of the unsocial elements of the population. But care should be taken to see that these committees consist of representatives of all political parties in the country. Another thing is that the cry of 'Danger to normal trade channels' should be ignored and the conventions started by the Advisers' regime respecting the trade channels should be abolished and fresh convention in the interest of the people should be adopted.

"As regards village reconstruction and Harijan uplift schemes as yet we have only lump sum provision in the Budget. The Hon. Premier has, however, issued a statement that the plans are ready and will be published. I trust that the necessary details for the expenditure of these four crores of rupees will be given. I have my own doubts about the success of the Rural Reconstruction Scheme and I even feel that the Khadi Scheme is bound to fail. With the support of Gandhiji and the A.I.S.A., it is doubtful if this scheme could succeed at all. But we are going to spend crores of rupees on it. Let it be a warning to Government that this Khadi programme is going to fail and we are going to suffer for it. We know, as a matter of fact, that Khadi cannot totally displace the mill cloth. In view of the scientific advance, I cannot understand why we should go back to the old times and resort to handspinning and so on? We should go ahead and nationalize all land if we want to increase our agricultural wealth and nationalize industries also.

"As regards Harijan uplift, Sir, our first care should be to house decently the poor agricultural labourers. They have no homes. For the industrial labourer, there are at least some labour laws but to the agricultural labourer there are none. Labour legislation secures for the industrial labourer compensation in certain eventualities, whereas the agricultural labourer has no such protection. They too should be given the protection that is enjoyed by the industrial labourers. You should give them lands also for living. The village uplift scheme must start with housing the agricultural labourers. The case of domestic servants must be taken up and privileges should be created for by means of laws.

"Another thing that suggests itself to me in this connexion is the need to uproot untouchability. The educational needs of these labourers also must be attended to. These people have a very restricted franchise. Adult franchise should be introduced for them. Then they can protect themselves."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has one more minute."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Another thing I want to point out relates to contribution to local bodies. In framing their Budget for this year, the Government have unfortunately not done anything in this respect. In the Budget for 1945-46, there was a provision for Rs. 23 lakhs for contribution to local bodies. This was meant to meet the cost of dearness allowance of the employees. We find that this year it has been

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reduced by Rs. 3 lakhs. I do not know why there has been reduction in this item. Do the Government feel that the local bodies are now financially better off? We are now witnessing in the City Corporation the workers dying in the streets for the simple reason that they demand higher dearness allowance and wages.

12-30 P.m. "If their conditions were properly taken into consideration, we need not have seen these poor Harijan men and women who were living peacefully till yesterday subjected to policeraj . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member has taken more than his allotted time."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Because I am the only Member who can speak for these people . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have given the hon. Member more than 15 minutes. He must please resume his seat."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir; our Hon. Minister for Food and others journeyed all the way to far off Delhi which is the capital city of the British Indian Empire. There he attended the Food Conference and he has now returned, but he has returned with empty hands and pockets; he has returned with some promises that are all in the air, promises that are being honoured more in the breach than in the observance. Considering the critical food situation in our Province, it is but right and proper on the part of this House to support the demand of the Government and strengthen the hands of the Hon. Prime Minister and the Food Minister to get the promised rice at least from the Government of India. Because, the Government of India is callous and has not the imagination enough to realize our needs and understand that our people have been reduced to the state in which they are to-day. Therefore, it is our bounden duty to bring this state of affairs pointedly to the notice of the Government of India and see that that Government which ought to save the lives of millions of people in this Province shares the responsibility. This House might remember that in the Central Provinces where the people eat more wheat than rice at a time, there was at one time more rice and less wheat, and whereas in this Province where we eat more rice than wheat, we had more wheat and less rice. I am quoting this instance just to show the vagaries of the Government of India. Therefore, Sir, unless we bring home to the Government of India these facts, there will be no salvation for us. We on this side, particularly the Muslim League section of the House, will always be ready to co-operate with this Government in procuring food supplies from outside the Province to meet the critical situation here. This is what the Hon. Premier has stated in the statement which he made on the 20th instant:

'Though wheat and wheat products were included in the ration to make up an overall 12 ounces ration, the people in general are not able to make use of these additional foodgrains as they were unaccustomed to them and they were subsisting mainly on the 8 ounces portion of ration. This 8 ounces ration is utterly inadequate to sustain any person in normal health and any further reduction would only result in slow starvation and an outbreak of epidemics.'

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"Sir, this is an alarming statement and it has fallen from the lips of the highest executive of this province and we have to take his statement very seriously. No doubt, Sir, this 8 ounces is not enough. We cannot reduce it further but on the other hand, if possible, we have to increase it. No wonder that the Hon. Prime Minister estimated the shortage at 5 lakhs of tons of rice. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ferrelly, said that at one time the Prime Minister put it down at 268,000 tons. Mr. Ferrelly should remember that the Prime Minister is making his best efforts to increase the rice portion of the ration and if the whole ration is to be in rice—the quantity come to 500,000 tons—we have a right to demand it in rice. Therefore, Sir, this must be very carefully considered and we must take the statement very seriously. That is what I would urge on the hon. Members of this House. Sir, we cannot dole out rice in ounces as we dole out medicine. Is it medicine that is being supplied to be given in ounces? If that is so, we have to provide them with ounce glasses also. Sir, this is a very serious matter. Unless we put our shoulders to the wheel and direct it to the proper sphere, I am sure millions of people in this province will be faced with starvation and death.

"While we should support the Government wholeheartedly in their efforts, I would also like to say a word or two about the internal policy of the Provincial Government. So far as I can see, the scheme of these food committees is very complicated. At the same time, I also feel that, if there are any useful schemes which are placed before the Government for the production of rice, in as short a time as possible, the Government should consider those schemes earnestly. They should not judge those schemes as impracticable without even examining them. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government not to be self-opinionated and not to think themselves too wise, because it is a question that concerns the life and safety of every one of us. There are other persons outside the Government circles, who have offered very reasonable suggestions and one of the suggestions, I think, is to grow a crop which can give a return within a period of three months. This short term cultivation should be tried wherever possible by the Government itself. They can take lands on lease and see that they are cultivated by the Government direct and even at considerable cost. It is not a question of getting a return for the investment. Government should be prepared to spend without expecting any return; the only return to expect should be the preservation of the life of the people. Such a return is worth its weight in gold. The Government should be prepared to undertake even unproductive schemes if they would only increase the production of food crops. That should be the policy that this Government should adopt immediately and not go about tinkering with the scheme of village committees, taluk committees and district committees, which are, I think, giving enough trouble to the Government every hour of the day, on account of the petitions and telegrams that are pouring into the Secretariat.

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"While I am on this subject, I must say something very severe about the working and functioning of these committees. I am told that these committees were formed to look after the needs of the people both in regard to cloth and food and also other necessities of life. When it is found that these committees are not able to function properly, they must have been scrapped. At a time of emergency like this, it is dictatorship that we want. Take power in your hands to provide food and cloth to every section of the population in the province. This time of national emergency is no time for experimenting with your committees all over the province. The committees may be good by themselves, but they must be taken up only at the proper time. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government to take the whole matter in their own hands and see that food and cloth reach every nook and corner of this province within as short a time and as speedily as possible.

"As regards the constitution of these committees, Sir, there have been many complaints. I hope the complaints have been attended to by the Government. Sir, these committees should be as representative as possible. As far as I have been able to see, in many places, the local Congress committees or the secretaries of the local Congress committees think they have a voice in the matter and dictate to the officers. In many instances, the officers succumb to the requests, which they take as a sort of threat, and agree to the demands of the local Congress committee, town or taluk Congress committee as it is called. This ought not to happen. Sir, the Government servants are there. They know the people. Let them decide according to their own discretion. Why should anybody, even a Member of the Legislature, interfere unless there is a grave miscarriage of justice or great hardship has been created? Only in such circumstances, these people can interfere and they should not be allowed to do so at every stage. The Tahsildar knows the people, the Revenue Divisional Officer knows the people, the Collector knows the people and they can do these things in the proper manner. That is why I say that there should be a sort of dictatorship outlook. I have finished my speech, Sir."

* M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me at the outset lodge a protest with all the vehemence I can command on the reduction of the quantity of ration of rice to 8 ounces. The Hon. Premier in his statement has said that this reduction will only result in slow starvation and outbreak of epidemics. But I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members of this House that starvation has already started and epidemics have already entered the homes of our poor people. The Hon. the Food Minister after returning from Delhi said that at present the Government of India is not prepared to give us more rice. Sir, in northern India, people live entirely upon wheat and therefore rice is almost unnecessary for them. At present, Sir, in northern India, rice is being used as a sort of supplementary food, particularly as a dessert that comes after a regular wheat

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diet. Therefore we must urge upon the Government of India to see that rice is not consumed in those areas and that it is exported to our province which entirely lives upon rice. Conversely, I would say that all the wheat that we are having at present may be exported to northern India.

"Again, Sir, in this province, there is a considerable number of North Indians. Rice need not be issued to those people. In the rationing scheme whenever there is shortage of rice there is a uniform reduction in the rice quota. It is necessary that, whenever reduction is made, the reduction should not affect the poor labourers of this province, because they live entirely upon rice and any other food would be injurious to their health.

"The Hon. Premier also said that officials are being sent to Burma to procure rice. I would say that men may be sent to places like Java and Sumatra also, because those are centres where large quantities of rice would be easily available.

"Speaking about the Burma evacuees about whom the Leader of the Opposition has made a reference, I would make a request to the Government. Sir, as soon as these Burma evacuees left Burma as a result of the extension of hostilities into those areas, they were provided not only with allowances, but these traders from Burma who had actually lost their trade in the country were provided with what are called export licences, particularly to Ceylon. Now, the Government is aware that trade has been extended to Burma also. I would request them to issue export licences to those people who hold licences for trading with Ceylon to enable them to trade with Burma also. If such facilities are afforded to these people through the efforts of the Government of Madras, it would be a very great relief to these people who have suffered heavy losses in Burma as a result of bombardment and who have been subjected to privations and hardships when they returned from that country.

"Then with reference to paper quota, I would bring to the notice of the House the fact that in Madras we do not have a Tamil daily for Muslims. Several applications have been made to the Government of India for permission to start a Tamil daily paper, particularly for the Muslims, so that their views and news could easily pervade. Unfortunately, till now the Government of India have not seen their way to provide the applicants with a permit and quota of paper. I would request the Hon. Premier who is interested in the advancement of every community in this province to see that the Muslims get paper and permit to start the paper.

"Coming to the village committees, Sir, during the discussion on the proposals for the constitution of these committees, I have already warned the Government that these committees were going to be more an impediment than an assistance in the procurement and distribution of foodstuffs. The other day I read in the papers about the Taluk Committee of Chingleput. They have decided that all procurement operations should be postponed to some time

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after December. These committees were constituted for procurement work and in Chingleput taluk they have actually decided to postpone procurement. From this, it can be readily seen that procurement is not easily possible for these village committees. At the time of the introduction of the draft proposals in this hon. House, the Hon. Premier brought to our notice the glorious pages of the history of India, particularly the period of Chandragupta Maurya and told us that village committees were working in a perfect manner. I would like to tell hon. Members of this House that our villages are not like the small independent villages of those times. Our life to-day is complex. We have several ideologies in these villages. These are not like the city states of Athens and Sparta. In the circumstances, it is impossible to carry on any food administration or cloth administration through these village committees. Therefore, Sir, I would say that these village committees may be constituted, but that the question of procurement and distribution of food may be entrusted to them after December, when we will have tided over our food famine.

"Lastly, Sir, I would invite the attention of the House to the paucity of representation of Muslims under this Demand. Perhaps some hon. Members would think that we are simply harping upon this question. I am not really very happy when I talk about Muslim representation, because I feel it is almost a vain mean struggle for the loaves and fishes of office. I am forced to refer to this point, because I feel that whenever I speak about Muslim representation in a department, I logically speak upon the representation of all communities in this province. Therefore, I would request that social justice may be done to all communities in this province, so that every one may be happy. With these few words, Sir, I support the cut motion."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to support this motion. When we had a discussion on the food question at the first session of this House it was pointed out emphatically by Members on this side of the House that the Ministers had not paid sufficiently serious attention to solving the food problem but on the other hand had devoted their attention more seriously to their own political propaganda and that the scheme they placed before the House was intended to strengthen their already strong political party. Now, Sir, every word of what we said on that occasion has turned out to be true in the short time, and efforts have been made to give effect to their scheme. The principle on which their scheme was based was that the middlemen who had been carrying on the work of procurement and distribution should be done away with. It was even then pointed out that it was a very unsound policy to do away with the agencies which had been catering to the needs of the people without much complaint and that it was very unwise to do especially in an emergency like this. But in spite of the sound advice given by this side of the House, the Government persisted in sticking to their policy, which I attribute more to their political motives than to any motive of carrying on the administration of food more efficiently and justly. Anyhow, I do not want to say more on this

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point except to repeat that even now we do firmly believe that the Government is wrong in that policy and that the working of it during this short period has proved what we all said only to be too true. How many hundreds and thousands of protests have come to the Government as regards the working of that policy and how much precious time of the Government has to be devoted now to answering those complaints rather than solving the question of food itself!

"In this connexion, Sir, I would just like to invite the attention of the House to a circular which has been issued by the District Supply Officer, South Malabar, to the Taluk Supply Officers of Ernad, Walluvanad and Ottapalam. The circular runs—

"Representations have been made by the public of Ernad and Walluvanad taluks to the Hon. the Premier that most of the retailers in these taluks are Muslim Leaguers and that they are carrying on political propaganda especially of the reactionary type. The Taluk Supply Officer and the Assistant Taluk Supply Officer are requested to report at once whether there is any truth in this representation. If so, the names of such retailers should be reported and an enquiry should be conducted as far as possible by the Taluk Supply Officer, the Assistant Taluk Supply Officer and the District Supply Officer."

"I have put a copy of this circular in the hands of the Hon. the Premier and I do not know what action he has taken on that and what has been the result of that. Now, Sir, do you require any further proof in justification of what we stated while the proposals were before the House? I do not want to comment on this further as the time at my disposal is very short, and as I want to touch on some other subjects also.

"Sir, another thing which was predicted then has also come true, and that is the enormous delay in the food reaching retailers and the consumers. It was even then predicted that a great deal of delay would be caused by the retailers, because if the agency happened to be a Government agency it must necessarily involve delay. I understand that in Calicut the retailers had to wait for two or three days without getting a supply. It is only after a long time that they first of all get the permit and then the delivery of the goods. It takes a very long time for the food to reach the consumer—three to five days and even a week—and during this week the only alternative for these consumers is to starve. Well, Sir, I ask: is this the time to give effect to our political ideas in the administration of food?

"Sir, I join the previous speakers in appealing to the Government to scrap these food committees at once and resort to efficient methods if the Government feel that this method is not working efficiently and delay is caused in the distribution of food to the consumers. I say, Sir, it is the bounden duty of the Government to resort to the most efficient, the most effective and the most speedy methods of making food available to the consumers, if they are convinced that delay is caused in the present system.

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Sir, many complaints from Malabar have been placed before the Hon. the Prime Minister about the constitution of these committees and he has promised to go there and satisfy himself about these irregularities and I am sure he will see them for himself and rectify matters and see that justice is done.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very much obliged to Mr. Ferrelly for the contribution he has made to the discussion of this question. I do not know who it was who said that Mr. Ferrelly did not know anything about Malabar. I for myself dissociate myself completely from such remarks. I entirely support every word of what he said about the minor ports and I request the Government to pay special attention to the improvement of the minor ports of Tellicherry, Calicut, and Ponnani in Malabar and also the minor port of Malpe in South Kanara.

1 p.m.

"Another important matter on which I would like to say a word is about the evacuees from Burma. It is rather a very sad thing to find that even after Burma is available for these evacuees to go back, there is no means for them to go back. I understand there is only one steamer which starts from Rangoon, goes to Vizagapatam, then comes to Madras and then again goes to Burma. Once a month it reaches here, and on that account thousands of evacuees are not able to return to Burma and resume their work there.

"One other subject on which I want to say a word is this: a suggestion has been made to the Hon. the Additional Food Minister that some inducement may be given to the punam cultivators on the West Coast. I think, Sir, some inducement should be given to these people by supplying them with a large quantity of materials which they require for cultivation purposes. It is a very risky business, and if they do not take to cultivation sufficiently, it is due to want of sufficient inducement being offered to them, especially under present conditions when they are unable to get the necessary facilities. It is time, Sir, to encourage these people."

* SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Sir, I heartily agree with my hon. Friend Mr. Ferrelly's remarks regarding the necessity to improve the minor ports of Malabar and South Kanara. The members of the West Coast districts are indeed fortunate, Sir, to have their case presented by a person who is well acquainted with the peculiar difficulties and needs of these two unfortunate districts, and we trust that he will continue to press the claims of these districts whenever occasion arises.

"Sir, I should confine my remarks to the food situation. It is true that we have to rely upon imports from outside for tiding over the present crisis. But we shall not rest satisfied with merely pressing the Central Government to send us more imports of rice. What are we trying to do to increase production of food in our province? Among the short-term measures which this Government can take for increasing the food production immediately, we must give the place of first importance to the larger supply and use of manures and appliances. We are told that sulphate

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of ammonia is most useful in increasing the yield of paddy. Government must try to get imports of sufficient quantities of chemical fertilizers and there must be an intense drive all over the province to make the ryots use more of these manures and fertilizers for the crops to be grown this year. Let Government also take steps to see that the price of these things is kept as low as possible.

"Another suggestion that may be made in this connexion is to increase the production of crops like potatoes, sweet potatoes, tapioca and plantains, which give a larger return of calories per unit area than cereals. More extensive and increased production of these crops will serve to release land for growing more of pulses, vegetables and fruits which are protective foods and therefore more helpful from the point of view of improving the nutrition of the people.

"I find, Sir, we have a wheat propaganda officer. I do not know to what extent he has been successful in persuading people to take to more of wheat and wheat products as a substitute for rice. Is it enough if we simply cry out all the time that we have not got sufficient rice for our purpose and therefore we should get more imports of rice? Why not make a province-wide and determined campaign to change the dietary habits of the people at this time of rice shortage. Wheat is more desirable from the point of view of improving nutrition. Let the village and taluk committees make wheat propaganda a part of their business; let all the Health staff also carry on propaganda for this purpose. Let there be actual demonstrations of the various preparations that can be made of wheat, in our hotels and industrial canteens and wherever else it is possible to do it. In this way, we can succeed to some extent at least in meeting the present rice situation.

"I find, Sir, there is an establishment for price control under this Demand. I should like to know the price of which articles they are trying to control. Is it only rationed articles like rice and wheat? We find for instance that the price of other articles of food such as coconuts, blackgram, greengram, onions, etc., has gone up much above the level of the price of rice. It is necessary to establish price control over the whole range of food articles and not merely try to control the price of cereals like rice and wheat. I hope, Sir, this aspect of the question will be borne in mind. Any attempt to stabilize the agricultural prices will not succeed unless it is made a part of the plan to bring about general price stability. Prices are rising; there is an increasing demand for more wages and salaries. This goes on in a vicious circle. The British Government in England have been successful in keeping down their domestic price level even in the troublesome times of the War and afterwards, for the last several years. The Provincial Governments and the Central Government in our country should act together and see that they exercise an effective control over the prices of all essential commodities and not merely over the price of rationed articles of food. The index of wholesale prices according to the Economic Adviser is about 250 over

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the 1939 figure. But the actual rise is much higher than that. It is no use simply appointing adjudicators and pay commissions. It is like putting the cart before the horse. I should think that the most important work which this Government can take up at present is to have an intensive drive for increased food production and an effective machinery for price control. Other beneficial schemes like village reconstruction, however desirable they may be, must be subordinated to this all important task which the present situation calls for.

"Before I sit down, Sir, I want to ask one question about the threatened South Indian Railway strike. What action are this Government taking in this matter? Unless this strike is prevented by an amicable settlement, I am afraid it will dislocate transport and create a dangerous situation in this time of food scarcity."

* MAHIN SCHAMNAD SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first thing I have to say is that there is not a single Muslim on any of the Taluk committees of the South Kanara district. The reason is that the selection of members was not made according to the strength of the Muslim population. There are many villages in the Kasaragod taluk, viz., Changala, etc., where the Muslims are in a majority, but members were not selected according to the strength of the Muslim population. There are many Muslim villages, viz., Kuchulamodu and others; and yet from these villages, not a single Muslim member has been selected as a member of the village committee. There are panchayat boards in many of the villages and these boards have been approved by the Panchayat Officer as efficient, but yet, this work is not entrusted to the boards. The reason is that in these panchayat boards there are equal numbers of Muslims and Hindus. To avoid the Muslims, separate village committees are appointed in these villages, even though there are panchayat boards. I attended a meeting convened by the Revenue Divisional Officer for the approval of the selection of the members of these village committees. I asked the Tahsildar why the members were not selected according to the strength of the population of Muslims. The Tahsildar told me that that was not the direction given to him, but he was to select according to capacity. Perhaps the Tahsildar thought he was the best judge in this matter. What happens is, the Tahsildar goes to the villages, gives previous intimation to the people before going; when he goes there, there will be some people who will go and see him; there will be some people who will naturally be present. He selects members from among those who are present. He should have ascertained locally who are the important men and the influential men in the village and then should have sent for them and taken their consent and afterwards chosen as members from among them, men who are the best men. In most of the village committees most of the members are quite useless and worthless. This is what happens."

* SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA:—கனம் தலைவரவர்களே. நம் முடைய கனம் முதல் மந்திரியாரவர்களுடைய 75-வது ஆண்டு நிறைவு விழா நாளைய தினம் நடக்கப்போகிறது. இவ்வளவு வயதாகியுங்கூட

[22nd August 1946] [Sri A. S. Sahajananda]

நம்முடைய பிரதம மந்திரியாரவர்கள் உணவுப் பொருள் விஷயமாக எடுத்துக்கொண்ட முயற்சிக்காக நான் அவர்களைப் பாராட்டுகிறேன். கண்ட ரோல்கள் வைத்திருந்தும் வாழ்க்கைக்கு இன்றியமையாத உணவுப்பொருள்களான சர்க்கரை, மிளகாய், துணி முதலானவை தாழ்த்தப்பட்ட பாட்டாளி மக்களுக்குக் கிராமங்களில் கிடைப்பதில்லை. முக்கியமாக சேரிகளில் வாழும் மக்களுக்குக் கிடைப்பதில்லை. அவர்கள் பகலெல்லாம் உழைத்து விட்டு இரவு 8 மணிக்கு மேல் வீட்டுக்கு வருகிறார்கள். அதற்குள்ளாக கிராமங்களில் கடைகளைச் சாத்திவிடுகிறார்கள். ஒரு கிராமத்தில் ஒரு சமயம் 9 மணிக்கு மேல் இரண்டு பெண்கள் உணவுப் பொருள் ஷாப்புக்குப் போய், அரிசி கிடைக்காமற்படி பக்கத்து கிராமத்திலிருந்து கால் படி அரிசியை வாங்கிக்கொண்டு வந்தார்கள். அப்படி அரிசி கொண்டுவந்த தற்காக அவர்களை 1½ மாதம் ஜெயிலுக்கு அனுப்பினார்கள். ஆகவே, சேரிகளில் உள்ளவர்களுக்கு ராத்திரியிலே உணவுப் பொருள்கள் எளிதாகக் கிடைக்கும்படியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். அவர்களுக்கென்று தனியாக கடைகளைத் திறந்து வைக்கும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதோடு கிராமங்களிலே துணிக்கஷ்டம் மிகவும் அதிகமாகவிருக்கிறது. சில இடங்களில் சணல் நார் அல்லது கோணிகூட கட்டிக்கொள்ளுவதற்குக் கிடைப்பதில்லை. பெரிய டவுன்களிலுள்ள ஷாப்புகளில் அதிகத் துணி கிடைக்கிறது. ஆனால், கிராமங்களிலேயுள்ள ஹரிஜனப் பெண்களுக்குத் துணி கிடைப்பதில்லை. சர்க்கரை, மண்ணெண்ணெய் இவைகளுங் கிடைப்பதில்லை. அத்துடன் சமையல் செய்வதற்கு எண்ணெய் கூட கிடைக்காமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். கிராமங்களுக்குத் தேவையான உணவுப்பொருள், துணி இவைகளை சேரி ஜனங்களுக்கென ஒரு கோட்டா (quota) ஆகத் தொகுத்து சுலபமாக கிடைக்கும்படியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். கிராமங்களிலுள்ள சேரிகளுக்கென்று தனிக் கமிட்டிகளை நியமிக்கவேண்டும். சாதாரணமாக உணவுப்பொருள், துணி முதலியவைகள் மிராசதாரர்களுக்கு வேண்டிய ஆட்களுக்குத் தான் கிடைக்கின்றனவே யொழிய, எல்லோருக்கும் அவை கிடைப்பதில்லை. ஆகையால், ஒவ்வொரு சேரிக்கும் ஒரு ஸ்டோரை ஏற்படுத்தவேண்டியதவசியம். சேரிகளிலேயுள்ளவர்கள் ஸ்டோருக்கான ஷேக்கை வாங்க முன் பணம் கொடுக்கமாட்டார்களென்று சொல்லலாம். ஆகவே, சர்க்காரே மேற்படி ஸ்டோர்களை ஏற்படுத்தும் விஷயத்தில் முன் பணம் கொடுத்துப் பின்னர் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளலாம். இந்த விஷயத்திலே முதல் மந்திரியாரவர்கள் தீவிரமாக கவனஞ் செலுத்தவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். ஆனால், நான் தமிழிலே பேசுவதினால், முதல் மந்திரியாரவர்கள் நோட்டஸ் எடுப்பது வழக்கமில்லை. ஏழைகளுடைய கஷ்டங்களைப்பற்றி நான் தமிழ் மொழியிலே பேசுவதை தயவு செய்து குறித்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

"மேலும் சர்க்கார் உத்தரவுபடி கப்பல் தொழிலாளர்கள் முதல் ரயில்வே போர்டர்கள் வரையில் பாட்டாளி மக்களுக்கு அதிக உணவு கொடுக்கும்படியாக ரேஷன் உத்தரவுகளில் குறிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கின்றதே யொழிய பயிர்த் தொழில் செய்யும் கிராம ஜனங்களுக்கு உணவுப்பொருள் அதிகப்படி கிடைப்பதில்லை. ஆகவே, பயிர்த் தொழில் செய்யும் பாட்டாளி மக்களுக்குக்கூட அதிக உணவு கொடுக்கும்படி உத்தரவு செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று நான் உணவு மந்திரியவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன். சேரியிலேயுள்ளவர்களுக்கு உணவுப் பொருள், துணி இவைகள் செளகரியமாகக் கிடைக்கும்படியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். இவர்கள் இன்றைக்கு இருப் பதைப்போல சாமான்கள் வாங்குவதற்காக நான் முழுவதும் கடைகள் முன்பு காத்துக்கொண்டிருக்கவேண்டுமானால், அவர்கள் எப்போது தங்களுடைய காரியங்களைச் செய்ய முடியும். ஆகவே ஏழை மக்களுக்குச் சாமான்களைச் செளகரியமாக அடைவதற்கான வசதிகளை சர்க்கார் செய்து கொடுப்பார்களென்று நம்புகிறேன்."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of taking over and provincialising the vigilance work which is now being performed by the Madras Vigilance Association. For nearly the past decade, this Association has been doing very useful

[Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin] [22nd August 1946]

work in suppressing immoral traffic in women both in Madras City and the mufassal. In Madras City, it has been maintaining a Rescue Home which is called the Stri Sadana Training and Rescue Home for girls, which has at present 216 inmates. Besides this, the Association has been organising welfare work in the mufassal through the medium of similar associations which have been formed there and of auxiliary homes or centres which have been established in all places where the Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act has come into force. Towards this work done by the Association, the Government has been contributing a sum of Rs. 21,400 per annum, as is evident from the Budget. With this help together with the grant that is being given to the Association by the Corporation of Madras and particularly with the help of the public, this Association has been able to carry on its useful work for the past several years. But now, I understand, the Association is faced with an acute financial crisis, so much so that it is feared that it will not be able to carry on for long. Having regard to the humanitarian nature of the work, it behoves the Government to come forward now to take up this work and provincialise it. The canker of the commercialised vice is the remnant of barbarism and of all evils existing in society at present, there is nothing so debasing or so degrading as this. In the interests of the moral uplift of society, I consider that it is the duty of the Government to take steps to eradicate this evil on the one hand and to lend a helping hand towards the reclamation and reformation of the unfortunate victims on the other. I know that this Government are interested in the moral uplift of society, as is evident from the fact that they are introducing prohibition. Vigilance work is a necessary corollary to prohibition and I would request the Government to take up this work as well. In this connection, I may point out that there is need for three more Rescue Homes, one each at Coimbatore, Madura and Nellore. Besides this, there is a great necessity for establishing a training institute for women welfare workers in the City of Madras, which can have the Stri Sadana Home as a model centre. It is also very necessary that the Government should introduce the principal clauses of the Madras Suppression of Immoral Traffic Act in all those towns and areas of the Presidency where the Act is not now in force and should also extend to all those places where the Act is in operation at present section 8 (1) (a) of the Act, penalising those who live on the immoral earnings of others. These are essential items for the consideration of Government for the moral uplift of society. As I said before, since this Government is interested in the moral uplift of society, I have no doubt that they will do their utmost to promote vigilance work and remove this canker from society. I venture to express the hope that the Government will give due consideration to the points raised by me. With these few words, I support the cut motion."

SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in dealing with the question of price control, we have an extreme anomaly, that while the agriculturist is paid probably about twice the price which he originally got for his produce, when he has

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himself to purchase necessary articles, he has to pay four or five times the prices for those articles. With regard to cloth, and with regard to all other necessities which the villager has to purchase he has to pay four to five times. Price control is thus an absolute mockery. If it is to be confined to the producer of the foodstuff alone, why the man who is the actual producer and the maintainer of the community at large—I mean the labourer—is left to languish at the mercy of others who are making money by charging him more for other kinds of commodities, I cannot understand. For God's sake, try to bring control on all other similar articles which the actual producer has to purchase.

"Then again, Sir, we find there is another gap in the whole system. The villager, not the producer, but the village labourer, gets his wage in kind. There is no system by which he can have other articles, for instance, salt, fuel, kerosene and other necessities of life for which he has to sell his little stock. He is not the producer in the real sense of the term. He has to sell his meagre stock to somebody and so far as he is concerned, his position is therefore anomalous.

"Then with regard to foodstuffs. There is a wholesale black-marketing going on, but it is now difficult to say which item is not the subject of black-market at all. Take for instance, bengalgram. It is sold to the wholesaler at the controlled price at Rs. 28-14-0 per bag of 2½ maunds. But he sells it at Rs. 86 per bag. Similarly you find when according to controlled price, broken gram could easily be sold at 1½ measures per rupee, in the actual market, it is being sold at half a measure or 5/8 of a measure per rupee. It is a source of great complaint. While the whole blackgram is got at a controlled price and the person to whom it is supplied can easily sell it at one or 1½ measure per rupee, he actually sells broken gram at half a measure per rupee.

"Again, you find the system of licensing is very very unsatisfactory. It is a matter of common knowledge that in the mufassal when once a man gets his licence for sugar, he is a millionaire in the course of a year and why is this system perpetuated, it is difficult to understand. We find nevertheless people including respectable and influential men get their demands satisfied, by passing round a chit and getting four or five bags. Thus, the big men are satisfied and the poor have to go to the wall. Throughout it brings about a policy of co-ordinate corruption in the entire Department. On account of the Department not having been in existence before, all kinds of people are pitchforked into it for instance you find Supply Officers, Deputy Tahsildars, Firka Officers, Taluk Supply Officers and so on in charge of the work. When you complain to the Collector about this, he says he has not got efficient staff for it and as a result it is found that in the system of getting licences, some few unscrupulous people alone are favoured. As a matter of fact, as I said before, a man with efficient means gets what he requires. Now, this broken blackgram is supplied by Government at 1½ measures per rupee and even though the Department issues licences to 24 people, they actually sell it at half a

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measure per rupee. Why this is perpetuated is not known. Time has to come and very quickly to remove all these inequalities. On account of the several Departments, the Supply Department, the Food Department and various other new Departments which have arisen on account of the war and on account of the distress of the people, you find suddenly some persons becoming rich and getting lakhs and lakhs overnight. There are no doubt honourable exceptions, gentlemen, whose names are guaranteed for honesty, but they are only very few. Generally, Sir, you find among the staff, from the Revenue Inspector and village officers upwards, people have amassed fortunes. For instance you suddenly find very poor fathers-in-law are giving fortunes by way of stridhan to their daughters and brothers-in-law acquiring property. If you really want to put an end to this system of black-marketing, you must first of all take a stock of all property, property which existed before the system actually came in and the property owned at present. This will enable the Government to know the *binami* transactions carried on in the name of brother, brother-in-law or wife."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member may continue his speech after lunch. The House will now adjourn to meet again at 2-30 p.m. to-day."

(After lunch.)

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, you know there is the bus and tram strike to-day and many hon. Members of the House are anxious to go home before it gets dark. Therefore may I request you to allow the House to rise to-day at 5 o'clock instead of at 6 o'clock."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall consult the Hon. the Premier and also the Leaders of other Parties in regard to the matter of adjourning the House at 5 o'clock."

SRI A. VAIDYANATHA AYYAR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was mentioning this morning of cases where the officers of the Supply Department have suddenly placed themselves in possession of property. Not only that. I have known instances of even servants suddenly having got possession of property. Apart from all that, with regard to the distribution of rava for instance, Sir, coffee hotel-keepers seem to be the most favoured persons. They are getting rava from the Government at the rate of 2-7/8 measures per rupee. The actual rate for that article in the open market is Re. 1 per measure. They are thus making enormous profits thereby. In the Madras City, people who are generally taking meals in hotels have to starve under present conditions. The wheat food that is supplied is so bad that people prefer not to take it. They would rather go without it with the result that the surplus wheat is actually made into sweetmeats and given over to the same people, the customers, and again it is a source of fresh profit for them. I would suggest here also that some kind of investigation into the accounts of the officers connected with the Supply Department may be necessary. I would also suggest a

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further wholesale remedy for this to prevent persons who have been actually selling these articles in the black-market and making money. Even though they get huge amounts in black-marketing to which they are not entitled, it is seen they are also making large profits by such methods, which merely pass from hand to hand. I would, therefore, suggest to the Hon. the Premier to bring in legislation as soon as possible in order to take an account of the assets of the merchants in 1939 and their assets to-day, after making due allowance at 6 or 9 per cent and to treat the rest of the money as belonging to the poor consumer and setting apart a certain amount for the relief of the poor. That is the only way by which you can discourage black-marketing going on in the future. Further, with regard to the actual complaints about black-marketing, there is a great deal of difficulty in the mufassal. There are complaints that the richer fry go scot-free while the poorer people get caught. A poor woman who takes one rupee worth of rice at the black-market rate is given three months whereas a Chetti who sells three cart-loads through his servants is let off but the poor cartman is caught and tried. That is the way in which people get into an awkward situation. Further, people have got a notion that as soon as the Congress Government came in, all black-marketing would stop. As a matter of fact, on account of some influence, there are cases pending investigation and there is a feeling that justice is long delayed. I know of cases of persons in Ramnad district against whom proceedings are kept in abeyance for nearly two months. In Coimbatore, there is a case where a lorry was caught with loads of yarn. In Madras it is the same. A general feeling has come over the people that in the case of a private offender who is rich enough, justice is being delayed and obstructed in whatever way possible and in spite of the assurance of the Ministers. even now there are grave rumours going about in the City in the very Textile Department itself where some of the staff were brought before criminal courts; but as a matter of fact, departmental enquiries are substituted instead of regular enquiries in law courts.

"Further, with regard to the distribution of food, I may point out that it is really a great hardship for the villagers on account of wheat being given to people who are accustomed only to rice. According to existing ration people get five day-wheat and one day-rice and unfortunately, these poor people do not know how to convert wheat into material which they can consume. As a result of this, many people go starving. There are instances of acute distress among the people which I know of.

"One more matter which I wish to place before the Ministry. The constitution of the village committees is no doubt commendable but there are one or two difficulties which, I hope, the Ministry will look into. The number of village committees is about 36,000 for all the 24 districts and each village committee is expected to be a co-operative society and they get loans from Government. I consulted the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. For each village co-operative society, they say a limit of Rs. 5,000

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would be necessary before Rs. 30,000 could be granted as loan. At least Rs. 30,000 is necessary for each village co-operative society. The result is that within the course of the next one month, the 36,000 societies have to collect Rs. 5,000 each. That means 18 crores have to be collected by the people themselves from villagers for the purpose. The net result will be Government should procure money and give them at the rate of six to eight times the amount as loan. This will work out to a modest sum of 108 crores of rupees. So, so far as the village committees are concerned, if they really ought to acquire foodstuffs, Government have to lend them such a large sum as 108 crores during the next six months. I hope Government will take note of this difficulty also."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are glad an opportunity has been provided to discuss in greater detail about food earlier in the debate by taking up this demand now. The debate has become absolutely necessary in view of the grave situation depicted to us by the Hon. the Prime Minister yesterday. Sir, as you are aware, this is the third occasion when we are having a full-dressed debate on the food situation ever since the Ministry took over. It is a matter of great gratification that this has become the first care of His Excellency the Governor and the new Ministry which has come into office now. Sir, members of the House and the public while appreciating the good efforts of the Ministry and the Department concerned in regard to the way in which they are tackling the food problem, also feel that they should have from time to time a review of the situation. From the review that we had so far, Sir, and from what has happened now in the country, we can certainly take credit for monopoly procurement and universal rationing and both of them are credited with success to-day. Now, Sir, we have got the right to know from the Government of India through the Madras Government, I mean this House has got the right to know through this Government from the Government of India whether these are merely high-sounding phrases or whether the quality of sacrifice has been practised throughout India in the right manner, and whether there have been universal rationing and procurement throughout India. Sir, a few days ago, I found a statement issued by the Government in which it was said that it was only recently at the Delhi conference that the Punjab Minister said that they were all agreed to monopoly procurement. That is in the year of grace 1946. When we have been agitating for monopoly procurement, in that part of the country, as you know there are other areas in India where there is enormous amount of paddy cultivation area, we would like to know whether there has been intensive procurement of paddy and rice in those areas and whether there is strict enforcement of rationing in those areas. If it is done, imports may be coming in and it will be possible to give better rationing to the people. Now, as we are mainly concerned with a reduced cut and with possible cuts in store in future, if no imports are forthcoming, that is a more serious situation we have to face than anything else.

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Sir, when I am on the question of rice, I am bound to refer to the promised imports and the actual imports. We were told that out of the 270,000 tons of rice expected in December, we could expect most of them—even the 270,000 tons is a reduced figure from what was originally anticipated. Now, in the statement of the Hon. Premier made the other day, we find that up to August we were promised 95,000 tons but we received only 50,000 tons. Regarding Siam rice, we were told a lot about it, but it has become clear on account of the way in which the Government dealt with the matter and on account of the way in which they were not prepared to face it, that there has been no move in the matter of getting rice from Siam. A few days ago, we found mention of a tall figure of twelve lakhs of tons of import of Siam rice. Subsequently, from this morning's paper, I find that only about 5 lakhs of tons of rice may be expected from Siam.

"We do not know what arrangements the Government of India have made with regard to this rice, which we have been led to expect for a long time. And now we are told that rice is coming from Indonasia; that is probably about 6 lakhs of tons and it is also stated that only 23 per cent of it is allotted to Madras. I ask, Sir, whether it is not possible for the Government of India to give all that comes from Indonasia to Madras and to give wheat to the other parts of India. You know that there are many areas where mixed diet is taken and people there had been accustomed to take wheat for centuries and they would without any inconvenience take more wheat and give us more rice. Hence I say, Sir, that all rice should be sent to this part of the country. I am not feeling for middle class people. I am only feeling for the poor people who used to talk of famine in those golden days if they had to pay more for their rice. Now it is not a question of paying more but it is now a question of being not able to get enough, so that from 12 ounces, we have come down to 10; and from ten, we have come down to eight. God forbid a further cut.

"It is very distressing to hear of the diversion of rice to other parts of India. I think we should voice forth our united protest against the diversion of rice to other parts in the country to Delhi and say that rice landed in other parts in India should be brought back here or if they are on their way, they should be directed to Madras.

"When I am on the question of rice, you will certainly expect me to say something with my personal knowledge of Burma, about the rice position of Burma. I shall not take up the time of the House with other questions but shall confine my remarks to that part of the subject which pertains to the question of our getting rice from that country. You know, Sir, that on account of unsettled conditions on account of lack of law and order in that country, about which Burmese politicians and the Burma Government are more anxious than ourselves, there has not been a sufficient procurement of paddy and rice. It is a well known fact that in various parts of Burma large stocks of paddy and rice have been still left and it will not be possible to get at them. At my

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instance a representation was made by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce about seven weeks ago and it has only just now been possible to send the former Commissioner of Civil Supplies to Burma. It has taken six weeks for the Burma Government to receive one of our officers. Let us wait for some time. I would like to impress upon the Ministry that it is absolutely essential that a permanent Madras Purchasing Mission should be set up in that country. I advisely use the words 'Madras Purchasing Mission' for two reasons. Firstly whatever is got in that country should reach this country and whatever that is purchased should be done by the Madras officers who may be temporarily placed under the Government of India for technical reasons. There should be several officers stationed in Burma and I would even go to the extent of suggesting that a purchasing mission in Indonesia and Siam should also consist of officers, if not wholly of Madrasis, at least partly of Madrasis. It is the Madras officers who would feel for the South Indian who is accustomed to eat rice and it is he who would feel how the South Indian cannot live without rice. I suggest that an efficient machinery should be set up at an early date; otherwise I am sorry to say that you may not be able to get any quantity for the next three years. If normal conditions are established in Burma, thirty lakhs of tons is her exportable surplus and that after all is the world's shortage of rice with which we are now confronted. I would appeal to the Viceroy to see that arrangements are made to help the Burmese tenants more than either the Burmese landlord or the Indian landlord, so that cultivation of lands may go apace and to procure paddy and rice, mill them and send to this part of the country. I have no doubt that if they come to know that the united voice of the august body of representatives of this Province demands more rice for their people, it will strengthen them to their efforts at all times. In addition to the Purchasing Mission to be stationed in those countries, I would also urge upon the Government to send a food mission headed by one of your Ministers during the interval between Assembly sessions to visit Burma, Indonesia and Assam. The Mission might consist of a few members of the Legislature and one or two non-officials and they might contact with public men of those countries and impress upon them the necessity for good feeling and for speedy procurement and early despatch. I have no doubt that personal contacts will go a long way to solve our problems not only those concerning the immediate question of food. I will only remind the House how nine years ago, I suggested, the despatch of a goodwill mission led by one of the Ministers to Burma; that occasion was slightly different for it was with reference to labour and I suggested that the Labour Minister might lead the delegation. If the goodwill delegation had started, I have not the least doubt we would have achieved our purpose. It will be essential for Indian Ministers to go to that country; probably that will cheer up Indian labour as well as Burmese labour and they will be very glad to meet them.

"From the statements made by the Hon. the Premier and the Hon. the Minister for Food in the Assembly and through the

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papers we see we are threatened with starvation followed by epidemic diseases, if enough rice does not reach us in time to this part of the country. If all the rice that India is going to get comes to this part of the country, I do not think there need be any starvation and the disastrous consequences attendant upon it. The only question is that whatever rice that is available for India should be brought here in time. Meanwhile this House does by its proceedings send its united voice in support of this Government and asks the Government of India and Lord Wavell to see that they mean to translate into what they have promised us."

MR. SPEAKER:—"All the members who have given notice of cut motions on this Demand have participated in the discussions. I suggest to the other speakers that they take up only five minutes for their speeches."

M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, I am glad that now at least we have realized that the food problem is an international problem and not confined to a small area or territory. We are also convinced that sin of our fathers have descended upon our heads. I say this because there was a time when our political leaders were asked to co-operate in the matter of obtaining food for India. That was a time when Provincial Ministers were not functioning in the various provinces and the Government of India wanted the co-operation of all parties in the country but it was refused by the major political party on the ground that some of the members of the delegation that were expected to go round the world were responsible for the Bengal famine. I am sorry that the major political party in India refused to co-operate and we are now faced with difficulties. Especially in provinces where undiluted Congress Ministries are working, we find that they are not favourably treated. Our Minister had been to Delhi and now he has returned with an empty hand and it would appear as if it were the revenge for their not co-operating with the Government at the initial stages. Anyhow we are not far late and we should try to explore all methods by which we can obtain better supply. Now there is the care-taker Government who might take care of us for some time. But what I say is that with the co-operation of all parties we should have at least one Central Government or two Central Governments in India which can find out methods of solving this problem.

"I wish to say a few words about the difficulties experienced by people in my district of Malabar. You know, Sir, that the stock held in Government depots are being distributed to retail merchants. The Food Minister who comes from Malabar knows the quality of rice that is being distributed in Malabar. No doubt, he comes from the surplus taluk of Palghat but at any rate he knows that there are 9 or 10 taluks which are deficit in rice and the rice distributed in those taluks is not fit for human consumption; I can even say that it is not fit even for cattle. I have seen the quality of rice distributed in Madras and I have seen the sort of rice distributed in Malabar and I still feel that rice supplied in Malabar is of a very low quality."

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* **MR. SPEAKER** (addressing an outsider sitting on the benches intended for the Members of the Legislative Council):—
“The gentleman sitting in the place intended for the Members of the Council does not belong to this House or to the Council. He will please leave the House. This seems to be pretty common.”

* **M. V. HYDROSS SAHIB BAHADUR**:—“I believe the two Ministers who are expected in Malabar very shortly will be satisfied that it is so.

“In Malabar the month of Karkkatakam is the most dangerous season of the year for that is the rainy season and people are subject to starvation and misery. Rice supplied in Malabar is raw rice when the majority of people of Malabar take boiled rice. While this is the position here, I find that in some parts of the Ceded districts where the majority of people take raw rice, boiled rice is supplied. I suggest that this arrangement must be put down. It is as funny as supplying women with trousers and men with blouses and saris. That is the kind of distribution that we are having and I appeal to the Hon. Minister for Food to see that proper things are supplied to the people according as they are used to.

“Then in the matter of obtaining the required quantity from wholesale depots, great difficulty is experienced by merchants. Unless the merchant is prepared to adopt the old method of getting into the favour of the clerk in charge of the godown, he is not able to get the required quantity in time. I know cases where some people at Aricode and had been to Kallai to bring their quota of rice and they were not able to get rice for three days with the result that people of Aricode had to go without rice for two days. I would request the Hon. Minister to look into the matter and do the needful.”

3 p.m. * **SRI S. PARAMANANDAV RAYAR**.—“தலைவரவர்களே, இன்று நாம் இங்கு அரிசி குறைவு விஷயமாகப் பேசிக்கொண்டிருந்தோம். ஆனால் இப்பொழுது இந்த மாகாணத்திலிருந்து சிலேன் முதலிய தேசங்களுக்கு அரிசி கள்ளத்தனமாக ஏற்றுமதி செய்யப்படுகிறதென்று சர்க்கார் கவனத்திற்கு கொண்டுவருகின்றேன். ஒவ்வொரு துறைமுகங்களிலிருந்தும் அதாவது கடலூர், போர்டோனோவோ, திருமுல்லையாயல், வேளாங்கண்ணி, குலசேகரப்பட்டணம், தொண்டி, பாயிண்ட் காலிமர் முதலிய துறைமுகங்களிலிருந்து ஒவ்வொரு வாரமும் ஒரு வாரத்துக்கு 500 மூட்டை வதம் ஏற்றுப்பட்டு வருகிறது. இது சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரியாமலிருக்கின்றது. கள்ளத்தனமாக அரிசி கொண்டு போய் சேகரம் செய்து ஒவ்வொரு வாரமும் 500 மூட்டைகள் ஏற்றுப்பட்டு வருகிறது. மிராசதாரர்களும் இதர ஜனங்களும் சேர்ந்து இந்த விதமாக ஏற்றுமதி செய்கிறார்கள். இதை அவசியம் சர்க்கார் கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகின்றேன்.

“அடுத்தபடியாக Procurement அதாவது நெல்லு கொள் முதல் செய்யும் விஷயமாக சர்க்கார் அதிகாரிகள் சரியான கவனம் செலுத்துவதாகத் தெரியவில்லை. சிதம்பரம், விருத்தாசலம் தாலுக்காக்களில் ஒவ்வொரு மிராசதாரர்களும் ஏராளமான நெல்லை சுமமா கட்டிப்போட்டுக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார்கள். Grain purchase ஆபீசரிடம் முறையிட்டு நெல்லை எடுத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டால் சரியாக உத்தரவு கொடுப்பதில்லை. மேலும் அவர்கள் மில் ஒளர்க்களிடம் நெல்லை வாங்கும்படி சொல்லுகிறார்கள். அவர்கள் வாங்குவதில்லை. பணக்கஷ்டத்தினால் அவர்கள் வாங்காமல் அப்படியே விட்டு விடுகிறார்கள். அதனால் விவசாயி

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களுக்கு அதிகமாக கஷ்டம் ஏற்பட்டு நெல்லு வீணாக விறையமாகிறது. இந்தப் பஞ்ச காலத்தில் நெல்லு இல்லையென்று தவிக்கும்போது ஏராளமான நெல்லை வீணாகப் போவதையும் நான் சர்க்காருக்குத் தெரிவித்துக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“மேலும் சில கிராமங்களில் ஏராளமாக தானியங்கள் பதுக்கி வைக்கப் பட்டிருக்கிறது. சுமார் 2,000, 3,000 மூட்டை வரையில் இருக்கின்றன. இது விஷயமாக கலெக்டரிடம் அனுகி இதற்குத் தகுந்த நடவடிக்கை எடுக்க வேண்டுமென்று சொன்னேன். அதற்கு அவர் டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் சப்ளை ஆபீசரிடம் சொன்னார், அவர் கவனிக்கிறேன் என்று சொன்னார். ஆனால் அவர் ஒன்றும் செய்யவில்லை. மறுபடியும் சொன்னேன், அடுத்த தடவை பார்க்கிறேனென்று சொன்னார், பிறகு அவர் லீவில் போய்விட்டார், இந்த மாதிரியாக 3,000 முதல் 5,000 மூட்டைகள் வரையில் கள்ளத்தனமாகச் சேகரித்துப் பதுக்கி வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இதையும் சர்க்கார் கவனத்திற்குக் கொண்டுவருகிறேன். இதைத் தக்கபடி கவனித்து அந்தந்த இடங்களில் அதிகமாகத் தானியங்கள் வைத்திருப்பவர்களிடமிருந்து உடனடியாக கொள்முதல் செய்யும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இப்பொழுது ஒவ்வொருவருக்கும் 12 அவுன்சுதான் உணவுப் பங்கி கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. விவசாயிகளுக்கு அதிக உணவு கொடுத்தால்தான் கஷ்டப்பட்டு வேலை செய்து அதிகமாக உணவு பயிரிட்டுக் கொடுக்க முடியும். அவசியமான அரிசியைக் கொடுக்க முடியாவிட்டால் அவர்களுக்குக் கேழ்வரகு மற்ற தானியமாவது அதிகமாகக் கொடுத்தால்தான் அவர்கள் கஷ்டப்பட்டு உழவு செய்து அதிக தானியத்தைக் கொடுப்பார்கள். கிராமத்தில் விவசாயிகளுக்கு மட்டும் அதிகமாக உணவுப் பங்கி செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

“இவாக்குவீசக்காக 5,60,000 ரூபாய் பட்ஜெட்டில் ஒதுக்கியிருப்பதாகத் தெரிகிறது. அது சரியாக அவர்களுக்கு போய்ச் சேருவதில்லை. பர்மா, மலேயா அகதிகளுக்குப் பணம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. பர்மா விலிருந்தும் மலேயாவிலிருந்தும் அநேகமாகச் சிலர் திரும்பிவிட்டார்கள். அவர்கள் திரும்பி வந்த பிறகும் கூட அவர்கள் உறவினர்கள் ஊரிலிலை யென்று பொய் சொல்லி பணம் வாங்கி வருகிறார்கள். இதை சர்க்கார் சரியாய் கவனித்து நிர்வகிக்கும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். இது விஷயமாக சர்க்கார் அவசியமான நடவடிக்கை எடுத்தால் இந்த 5,60,000 ரூபாய் செலவு செய்யவேண்டிய அவசியமில்லை. இதை மீண்டும் பரிசீலனை செய்து கணக்கு எடுத்தால் தற்சமயம் அதிக பணம் செலவு செய்ய வேண்டியதில்லை. அநேகமாக சில லக்ஷ ரூபாய்கள் சர்க்காருக்கு மீதம் ஏற்படும். இந்த முறைகளை கையாளும்படியாக சர்க்காரை கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was Mr. Ferrelly who said that one of the aims of this debate is to impress upon the Central Government the need to give a better quota for this Province. And he also said that before we ask something from the Central Government, let us be sure, whether we have done everything in our power to do, to deserve anything from the Central Government. To us, Sir, it has been clear that instead of putting things in order, the Government that is now functioning, have already begun to disturb things in order and they are also showing signs that they are going to disturb things furthermore. For example, it was doubted here, that these village committees will not be able to take up the responsibility for which they are intended. It has been shown and demonstrated; that even to-day, that no village committee has been properly constituted and taken up responsibility. It is for the Hon. Minister for Food to tell us, whether any village committee has been constituted and taken up responsibility. They are all in the initial

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stage, of appeals asking the Collector, M.L.As. and Parliamentary Secretaries to interfere. Every day there is an appeal, and even to-day it has not been completed. It has been shown, that these committees have been constituted in such a way that village politics will not fail to interfere with the responsible work. Again, it has been suggested to the House that in future, commercial crops may be curtailed. But on the other hand we find that more licences to start Vanaspathi factories have been given for very mysterious reasons. In the Ceded districts, licence to start a Vanaspathi factory has been given not to a native of this Province, but to a northern God who happens to control a very big organization. It has been brought to notice that Mr. Birla has been given licence to start a Vanaspathi factory in the Ceded districts in spite of the fact that the Mysore Government refused him licence to start a factory in Mysore on the ground that no flag of the other Province should be flown in their territory. Even though the Advisors' Government refused permission to Mr. Birla, the people's Government have given him licence! The only reason that we can hear is that it will create an impetus to grow more groundnut. Will Government tell us why licence to an outsider was given? What will happen is instead of conserving the wealth of this Province for consumption by the people of this Province, it will be lost for our people. For it is very well known, that Mr. Birla is a capitalist of all-India fame, and he will take the entire stock out of the Province. What guarantee is there that the entire stock will be used for consumption in this Province? We expect a reply from Government on this subject.

"Again, Sir, nothing has been done to collect correct statistics to base calculations. The Opposition Benches have been told that their statistics are not correct. Only two months back, the Commissioner of Textiles, Mr. S. Venkateswaran, said that it is not possible to have cloth ration, to which the Muslim League brought forward an amendment that they want a ration, and that it is possible to have ration, and now the department has opened its eyes and it has brought forward cloth ration.

"Again, Sir, the Food Department, which is working by the side of the Assembly building is creating trouble in settling this food problem. Because the department has been created overnight, and many people are posted there, even though they do not know any work. Naturally it is not functioning properly.

"There is a department of food publicity in each district. Perhaps members may not be aware of it. There is one lecturer and there is a lady who is to prepare wheat food and demonstrate it to others. Are we Indians to be told how to cook food? I am told an American lady has been appointed to prepare food and demonstrate cooking in villages. I am told, Sir, the Board of Revenue, for whose abolition the Premier is personally inclined, has prepared a scheme costing six lakhs to demonstrate better cooking in villages. I say this advertisement on food is entirely a waste. It is beneficial only for the newspaper. The department itself is useless. I have with me a lot of literature, leaflets and

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pamphlets about wheat products, which is all one entire waste. All this advertisement, bands, in fact the entire department should go before we can do something. Again, Sir, for demonstrating cooking, a lot of stuff is given but no account is given (laughter) and when account is asked, they say, it is all demonstrated. Again, Sir, there is a demand for $2\frac{1}{2}$ crores for supply of milk powder. I ask: 'Why are not Indian products acceptable?' Why waste money on that? What is that powder food and non-powder food? Who is responsible for this? Who is going to use it? There is no mention as to whom it is to be distributed. Again, there is no information as to why Government have not cancelled that contract, even after assuming office. I say, this contract should be cancelled at once. Again, Sir, under Demand XXXI, 51 lakhs have been asked for sweet potatoes. So far nothing is known about it. No literature is supplied and no potatoes seen in this province. I ask for more details under this head. About dehydrogenation of sweet potatoes, I do not know what machinery is available for this Government to do this job.

"Again, Sir, it is said Government are concentrating on manure. Our information is some of the members of this House got permission to import manure, groundnut cake from Calcutta. After the permit was given, Government have asked the Agriculture Department to purchase groundnut cake from the factory owners in Hyderabad and other places. Why this circumvention and showing favour to some members? Unless you devote more attention to these matters it is not possible to solve the problem."

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"Sir, I would not have intervened in this debate at this stage but for the very general remarks which my hon. Friend, Mr. Salam, has been accustomed to make, and which have once more been made during his speech. He has said, that in the formation of village committees, Parliamentary Secretaries have been going on interfering. It is a very general statement, a very misleading statement and if I may say so, a statement which need not have been made after the speech of the Hon. Premier in this connexion. The Hon. Premier told the House that on account of various complaints received in the formation of the village committees, the Government have directed Parliamentary Secretaries to tour in the districts, inquire into these complaints and try to get things amicably settled. It is only on the direction of the Government that Parliamentary Secretaries have gone into districts and still will go, and in spite of my hon. Friend, Mr. Salam, they will amicably settle all the complaints. This is all I have to say on the point."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a 3-15 p.m. point of information, Sir, when I spoke about interference, it was from personal experience. It was the Parliamentary Secretary to the Hon. Premier who came to Guntur and interfered after the entire process of forming committees has been finished. The Tahsildar sent up proposals, the Deputy Collector approved, and the Collector and Members of the Legislative Assembly approved, and then the Parliamentary Secretary came and interfered."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"The Minister will remember this when he answers."

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it has always been the unfortunate lot of our province that we do not get justice from the Central Government. Many instances of this can be quoted. We are now facing a very serious problem as has been indicated by the Premier's statement. It looks as if that we shall not get even the necessary supplies. Then Madras Province has to face a very serious problem. What happened in Bengal will be repeated here. I feel that the Hon. Premier must himself rush to Delhi, and preferably he may take the Leader of the Opposition also along with him, in order to impress on Lord Wavell, the urgent necessity to send adequate quantities of rice to this province, failing which he should adopt measures against the Central Government, and even if it comes to a question of non-co-operation, he should say: 'we are ready.' After all we are responsible for the lives of 5 crores of people, and there is no point that the Central Government should treat this province in such a contemptuous manner. It looks as if the provinces who are more vociferous and who can bring pressure to bear upon the Central Government are having the day. Therefore, Sir, we should not take this lying down. We should also retaliate in whatever manner possible. Of course, it is the fashion of the day to launch strikes. Even if it comes to a question of retaliation by the Provincial Government against the Central Government, I would say 'Go ahead.' That is my suggestion."

"A number of speakers and particularly Mr. Shetty have been right in saying that the Government should come out with strong measures to control prices of foodstuffs. Unless and until it is done, the whole scheme will fail. The cost of living index not only in Madras City, but also in the mufassal, has gone up to 300 or 400 or even 700 per cent as was stated by some members regarding coconut. Therefore unless there is proper and effective control, it will not be possible for people who have been accustomed to use rice to take to other things. Government should urgently and immediately take steps to properly control prices so that instead of rice other things can be taken. Mr. Salam has rightly said that all the money that is spent on propaganda for encouraging people to take to wheat and other things, is a colossal waste. After all, what is this demonstration? The Premier himself has admitted that people, in spite of the publicity, have failed to take advantage of the availability of wheat. He has to admit that it is the fault of the department."

"Much has been said in the past with regard to rice supply to the Military department. Are we still supplying rice to the Military authorities? If that is so, we should stop it at once as that rice is required for our own province."

"Another point is with regard to the number of canteens that we are having in the province. There is a good deal of waste there. The Government should adopt strong measures to see that they are put an end to."

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"Sir, the other day, a communiqué was issued by the Government of Madras with regard to the control of dinner and other parties in our province, and I want to know how many prosecutions have taken place. In spite of this communiqué, it is a common thing to see big dinner parties and other parties are being held in Madras. Why have these people not been prosecuted or at least warned? We have not been given any instances of prosecution or punishment for violation of these rules. You are allowing these people to contemptuously treat your rules and regulations. It is your duty to enforce them particularly when you are confronted with a serious problem. I appeal to the Hon. Premier that he must go to Delhi and impress on Lord Wavell. As I said, in the earlier part of my speech, he should take the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the European Group also because these are the only three parties in the Assembly although there are several members who are leaders without a party. With these words, I resume my seat."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have seen in the press, after the return of my hon. Friend from Delhi, what this province will get. We were thinking that Madras Province was going to get its quota so that we may tide over the difficulty during the next three months. But, Sir, the statement that has been made by the Hon. Premier day before yesterday has cast a gloom on the representatives of the people in this Assembly, more so on all those members who represent the poorer classes and the depressed. Sir, it is the poor people, who are in the interior of the rural areas, that are exposed to all difficulties. My hon. Friend Mr. A. S. Sahajananda gave certain instances of how Harijan women had to starve and die. I specially plead, Sir, that the several committees that have been formed in the taluks and villages should look to the interests of these poor people so that when hard times come, these people survive. The Government have been able to have a chain of ration shops in the villages, and for want of paddy and rice coming to our province, the whole structure will break down causing great loss, damage and loss of life also. I think, Sir, great stress must be laid on the Government of India that the entire quota which was given for this province should on no account be taken away to other provinces. The agricultural labourers who do not get their share of wages in kind will also be exposed to the difficulty if rice were not to be given to them. It is not in all districts that have cultivation that agricultural labourers receive wages in kind. Take for instance South Arcot. Most parts of South Arcot depend on rain, and unless there is rain, I am afraid the people will find it rather hard. I understand, Sir, the Government of India has forced this Government to take 2,000 tons of dehydrated sweet potatoes. When this Government has got to fulfil this obligation, and when the Government of India is not supplying a bigger quota of rice for this province, why should this Government take 2,000 tons of dehydrated sweet potatoes? Not only that, Sir, I understand that the Government of India are trying to impose another 4,000 tons of dehydrated potatoes on

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this unfortunate province. Whoever that may go to Delhi and make any representation, he must make it a point to impress this on the Government of India. We have any amount of potatoes to give to our people. Why should the Government of India encourage some foreign companies to have these potatoes dehydrated and thrust them on the people of this province?

"Sir, wheat that is given is not the kind of wheat that can be used in place of rice. There are two kinds. One is purely for making eatables, and for the villager it is impossible to make eatables without ghee or oil. The Government must bear this in mind and send to the villages only such kind of wheat that the ordinary agricultural labourer who returns after 8 or 9 in the night, may be able to prepare and which is something like rice.

"Sir, the potato control has played havoc in the village. My hon. Friend Mr. Bokkai Gowder has been pressing upon the Government that this control should go. The Hon. Prime Minister, when he was in the Nilgiris, was kind enough to see godowns after godowns where potatoes are stored. Under the control, potatoes could not reach the villages or towns. The potatoes are rotting there. I ask with all respect to the Government: 'Why should we not take immediate steps to do away with this control and let potatoes go to the villages and towns direct from the growers.' During the time of 'Grow More Food' campaign people took it in right earnest and raised potatoes. Now they do not find a market. A man from Ootacamund came here yesterday, and informed me that there is a large stock of potatoes unsold. Some time back the Hon. Minister for Food informed me that the Government will be buying the potatoes themselves, but nothing has so far come about. I think the control must be lifted.

"Another thing, Sir. The Government has been giving Rs. 80,000 as a matter of contribution to the Nilgiri District Board. I do not know whether the affairs of the district board are in a sound position. I wish Government take stock of what is going on there and set it right. I support the cut motion."

* P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to support the cut motion I have to thank and congratulate the Ministry for things that they had done and also for things that they had not done. I know that they are trying to do certain things for the benefit of the people—and they are very sincere people. But I feel, Sir, that their programme and plan are being upset by subordinate officers.

"Coming to the burning topic of the day, the problem of food, we are told that the Hon. Additional Minister for Food went to Delhi and represented matters to the Government of India. He went. He saw, but he did not conquer and I hope he was not conquered. There is no use of lip sympathy as the Hon. Premier put it. We cannot expect anything better from the Government of India, we all know, of which the Soldier-Viceroy, who is not a believer in words but a man of action, is the head. I would strongly urge upon this Government to appoint their own agents and send them on to different countries where rice is produced.

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"I said I was glad that this Government was trying to do certain good things, but in one matter I feel I am disappointed and that is the subject of the anti-corruption department. I have never found the Hon. Premier so firm as he was when answering questions about this department. I would request him to lift the veil of this gosha lady. I ask him: 'Why this secrecy about this department.' Let there be no secrecy about this, because it is all becoming a Gestapo affair. With regard to corruption, I will request you, Sir, to appoint a committee to go into the thing that has already been done. It is no use dealing with things that may be done or are being done hereafter. I have again to advert to that calamity that occurred in Malabar in the year of grace 1942-43 which was certainly, partly at least, official-made, and we know of officers who have amassed fortunes amounting to lakhs and even crores, who were responsible for sending rice to the States of Travancore and Cochin getting large sums of money, while the poor people of Malabar were dying of starvation.

"Another matter I want to urge upon the Government is to see that the communal rule is observed in all departments. There are departments which certain communities have monopolised. For example, the textile department is there. I know it is a department which works very unsatisfactorily. Just like this, there are many other departments where a just distribution to the communities is very much needed.

"Another matter is what we call the 'key posts.' I am told these posts are occupied by more than ordinary people, almost demi-gods, who can make or mar the career of so many people. As an example, I will only refer to the post of the Secretary to the Board of Revenue. I understand that this post has been filled all along by a particular community, and the same thing happens even in the districts. I want the Government to see that these key posts are also justly distributed.

"Another matter that I want to refer to is with regard to district administration. We find very many of the rules are being broken every day by the officials of the district. I would request the Government to appoint—they are very nervous about appointing committees—at least an officer to report cases of violation of the rules to the detriment of some communities."

* SRI P. NATESAN:—"If I rise to speak on this motion, it is because I want to express on behalf of my constituency the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, their keen disappointment and dissatisfaction at the manner in which the Government of India are handling the food situation to-day, and in particular so far as rice position is concerned. Sir, we sent a telegram on the 2nd of July to the Government of India about the availability of rice reported by people coming from Burma, and I understand that only recently the Government of Madras have decided to send Mr. Dixon to go and study the position there. I want to know if this subject came up before the Food Conference which the Hon. Food Minister attended. No good will result in sending Mr. Dixon all the way to Burma if we do not make arrangements

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to assist him by way of getting rice or paddy which is available in the interior to the port of destination, that is Rangoon. It may come by rail or by boat up to Rangoon. Any help we give to Mr. Dixon, I am sure will be greatly appreciated by him. Sir, I find that the Premier has given in his statement that, against an allotment of 55,656 tons promised up to the end of July, the quantity actually received was only 34,718 tons. I want to ask whether, when he found out that the full allotment was not likely to be received here, the Hon. Food Minister took up this question at the Food Conference itself. When an allotment is made, we are supposed to be confident that that particular allotment would come. But now we see that only 50 per cent of the allotment from May to August has come so far, and this is said to be due to the diversion of the steamers. I want to know why it is that the Government of Madras did not take steps to see that the steamers were not diverted. It is very necessary that we should go and sit on the Government of India and get things done. Otherwise, they will not move. The Minister in charge here ought to be in close touch over the trunk telephone day after day. Sir, I understand that 270,000 tons of rice was the allotment made by the Emergency Food Council, the stock being expected from Siam, Burma and Brazil, and that some negotiations have been going on with Indonesia for a number of months as a result of which the Prime Minister of Indonesia seems to have promised 700,000 tons of rice. I would like to know what steps the Government of Madras are taking to see that whatever rice is available from Java is brought to India. I consider that the transport problem must not be very difficult if only the Ministers will take energetic steps. I do not see any reason why rice should not be flown to India, when motor vehicles and animals can be flown by aeroplanes. When we are experiencing so much trouble in this country, I do not see why we should not arrange for aerial transport. I think the whole thing is due to the shipping position in the various countries. So it is no good sending deputations to the Government of India. It is the duty of both the Government of Madras and the Government of India to work in close conjunction and see that transport is effected.

"I would like to ask the Hon. Minister about the Food Conference which he attended. I see from financial journals that Bihar wanted more supplies of wheat, Central Provinces wanted wheat, and Siam said that she can export as much rice as possible to the deficit areas in return for mustard oil or some such thing. This is a thing which has got to be done in a businesslike manner. Somebody has got to be at it all the time; otherwise you would never get the rice that is intended for you. Sir, I would like to ask the Premier what he thinks of the rice situation during the next harvest season. He says: we can carry on with about 500,000 tons more till next January. Does he think that the prospects are brighter for the next year? Sir, I would like the Hon. Minister for Food to take particular interest and see that the name of present Government is not spoiled owing to some mistake on the part of the Government of India."

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* SRI A. VEDARATHANAM PILLAI :—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே இந்த டிமாண்டில் மைனர் போர்ட்ஸ் சம்பந்தமாகச் சில வார்த்தைகளைப் பேச விரும்புகிறேன். முந்தின காங்கிரஸ் மந்திரி சபை இருந்தகாலத்தில் மைனர் போர்ட்ஸ் சம்பந்தமாக ஏராளமான தொகை இருந்ததைப் பொது நிதிக்காக எடுத்துக்கொண்ட காலத்தில் அவைகளின் அபிவிருத்திக்காக எவ்வளவு செலவாகுமோ அதற்கு திட்டம் தயாரித்து, நிதிக்களையும் ஒதுக்கி வைத்தனர். பாக்கியிருந்த தொகைதான் பொதுநிதிக்கு எடுத்துக்கொள்ளப்பட்டது. அந்த ஒதுக்கப்பட்ட தொகையின் மூலம் என்ன அபிவிருத்தி நடந்திருக்கிறது, என்ன செலவாகியிருக்கிறதென்ற விவரம் தெரியவில்லை. ஆனால், அந்த மைனர் போர்ட்ஸ்களெல்லாம் எந்த விதமான அபிவிருத்தியும் இல்லாத நிலைமையிலேதான் இன்னும் இருந்து வருகின்றன.

"தஞ்சாவூர் ஜில்லாவில் பல சிறு துறைமுகங்களுக்குள்ளே உதாரணமாக கோடிக்கரை துறைமுகத்திலிருந்து இலங்கைக்கு சுமார் 30 மைல் தூரத்தானிருக்கிறது. நாட்டுப்படங்களின் மூலம் செல்வதானால், 6 மணி நேரத்திலே செல்லமுடியும். புகைப் படகுகளிலே செல்வதானால் 2 மணி நேரத்திலே செல்லலாம். ஆனால் இன்று இந்தத் துறைமுகங்களெல்லாம் மூடப்பட்டிருப்பதால் அனாவசியமாக 600, 700 மைல் தூரம் பிரயாணஞ் செய்ய வேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. இவ்விதம் போவதால் 50 ரூபாய்க்கு அதிகமாக 3-வது வகுப்புப் பிரயாணி செலவு செய்யவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. அதோடு மண்புத்திலேயிருக்கும் க்வாரண்டின் சிறையிலே ஒரு வாரம் அடைக்கப்பட்ட பிறகு அனுப்பப்படுகிறார்கள். ஆனால் இதே பிரயாணி 2-வது வகுப்பிலே பிரயாணஞ் செய்வானால், அவர் மண்புத்திலே நிறுத்தப்படாமல் அனுப்பப்படுகின்றார். மூன்றாவது வகுப்பிலே செல்லுகிறவர்கள் வியாதியைக் கொண்டுபோவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால், அதே பிரயாணி 2-வது வகுப்பிலே பிரயாணஞ் செய்தால் வியாதியைக் கொண்டுபோவதாகக் கருதப்படுவதில்லை. கோடிக்கரையிலிருந்து சிலோன் 30 மைல் தூரத்திலிருப்பதால் இலங்கையிலிருந்து குடியேறியவர்கள் சுமார் 300 வீட்டுக்கு அதிகமாக எங்களுடில் வசிக்கின்றனர். இப்போதிருக்கும் பிரயாண திட்டத்தின் காரணமாக இங்கிருந்து அங்கே செல்ல முடியாமற்படி இவர்களுக்கும் இலங்கையிலுள்ள இவர்களுடைய உறவினருக்கு மிருந்த தொடர்பு 35 வருஷங்களுக்கு அதிகமாக அறுந்து விட்டது. ஏனெனில் இந்த 35 வருஷங்களாக கோடிக்கரை துறைமுகம் மூடப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. இவ்விதமுள்ள துறைமுகங்களை காங்கிரஸ் அரசாங்கம் உடனே திறந்துவிட்டால், ஏழைகளுக்கு எவ்வளவோ நன்மையாகவிருக்கும்.

"அடுத்தபடியாக இந்த துறைமுகத்துக்கு எவ்வித பாதுகாப்பும் இன்று இல்லாமலிருப்பதால், அங்கிருந்து இலங்கைக்குக் கள்ளத்தனமாக எவ்வளவோ நெல், அரிசி மூட்டைகள் ஏற்றுமதி செய்யப்படும் வழக்கம் இப்போது சர்வ சாதாரணமாகிவிட்டது. இந்தியாவிலே இந்த உணவுப்பொருள்கள் விற்கப்படும் விலையைக்காட்டிலும் எத்தனையோ மடங்கு அதிகமான விலைக்கு அங்கே விற்கப்படுகிறது. அங்கே ஒரு மூட்டை அரிசி 250 ரூபாய் வரையில் விற்கப்படுகிறது. ஒரு படி அரிசி சுமார் 2-8-0 ரூபாய்க்கு விற்கப்படுவதால், எவ்வளவுதான் பாதுகாப்புச் செய்ய முயற்சித்தாலும், கள்ளத்தனமாக ஏற்றுமதி செய்கிறவர்கள் ஏராளமான பணத்தை லஞ்சங்கொடுத்து ஏற்றுமதி செய்துகொண்டே வருகிறார்கள். ஆகையால் இந்தத் துறைமுகத்தைத் திறந்து வைத்து அங்கே சரியானபடி பாதுகாப்பு செய்தால் இந்தக் கள்ள ஏற்றுமதியை யொழிக்க முடியும். ஏராளமான பணத்தைச் சம்பாதித்துவிட்டதால், இந்த கள்ள ஏற்றுமதி செய்கிறவர்கள் லஞ்சத்தைக் கொடுத்துத் தப்பித்துக்கொண்டுவருகிறார்கள். இவர்களைக் கண்டுபிடித்து, கடுமையான தண்டனைக்கு உட்படுத்தவேண்டியது அவசியம்.

"இப்போது உணவு விஷயத்தைப்பற்றி அதிகமாகக் கூறப்பட்டது. எனக்கு அவகாசம் இல்லாததினால் அதைப்பற்றி அதிகம் பேசாமல் நிறுத்திக்கொள்ள வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. எங்கள் பிரி்காவில் 50,792 ஏக்கர நஞ்சை நிலமிருக்கிறது. கடலில் வீணாகப் பாயும் ஜலத்தைத் திருப்பித் தகுந்த நீர்ப்பாசன வசதியைச் சர்க்கார் செய்துகொடுத்தால், இன்னும் 2, 3 மாதங்களில் 50,000 டன்னுக்கு அதிகமாக அரிசியை உற்பத்தி செய்யமுடியும். இப்போது ஆமை வேகத்தில் போய்க்கொண்டிருக்கும் மராமத்து இலாகா பயர் பிரிகேட் (Fire Brigade) மாதிரி வேகமாக

[Sri A. Vedarathanam Pillai] [22nd August 1946]

வேலை செய்தால் இப்போது குறைவுபடும் 50,000 டன் அரிசியை இந்த ஒரு ஜில்லாவிலிருந்து உற்பத்தி செய்து கொடுக்க முடியுமென்று நான் சொல்லி முடித்துக்கொள்கிறேன்.”

* SRI B. ANANTHACHAR:—“ Sir, I shall just mention two matters for the consideration of the Government. One is the want of scheme or policy in regard to the absorption of the Indian National Army men and women. We learn that other Governments have taken forward steps with regard to the absorption of these men and women in various departments. We fail to see any indication from this Government. We have been promised many times. I am sure this promise will be fulfilled very early.

“ The other point is with regard to the Kannadigas. We Kannadigas have been distributed all over the Presidency and huddled in small portions beyond recognition. It is something like the most unfortunate China in the comity of nations. Even in conferences this linguistic group seems to be ignored and its existence too is not recognized. Many wrongs have been done to them, the latest being the election to the Constituent Assembly. In spite of all that, let me plead with one voice, on behalf of all the Kannadigas though a solitary voice here, let me with my feeble voice plead that something should be done to redress their grievances. Let us be treated as belonging to parts of the Madras Province; let us be given fair opportunities to do our share of work; let these younger brothers be not left all alone forlorn into the streets of the Madras Province. I want to impress upon this Government that something definite should be done to make the Kannadigas feel that they are a part of the Province and that they are being governed by the Congress Ministry in Madras. Thank you, Sir, I wish I had said all these things in Kannada.”

A number of members wanted to speak but due to the general desire of the House that they should rise at 5 p.m. due to tramway strike the Speaker called upon the Hon. Minister for Public Works to reply.

* THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATHSALAM:—“ With reference to the remarks, Sir, made by hon. Members I have only to refer to the observations made by the Premier in the course of his reply to the general budget debate, that the question of minor ports is being considered by this Government. This Government are only too well aware of the importance of minor ports for the future trade of this Province. I recently visited the Tuticorin port and found how certain improvements which were suggested by the Port Trust were necessary and urgent. They recommended certain improvements which would cost 9.46 lakhs. This was approved by the ports technical committee and the Government have also agreed to the above works being carried out. Besides that, certain other important minor ports have also been examined by the Government. Recently the Presidency Port Officer and the Chairman of the Tuticorin Port Trust were asked to re-examine all the post-war schemes regarding minor ports and have recommended improvements to these ports: Ucanada, Masulipatam, Negapatam, Cuddalore, Adirampatnam, Calicut, Tellicherry, Mangalore, Malpe

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Coondapoor and Kalingapatam. This Government will do everything to effect the improvements. My hon. Friend, Sri Vedaratnam, asked whether any improvements had been effected to these ports already. I am not in a position to say that improvements have been effected already. Regarding his suggestion about traffic between Point Calimere and Ceylon, I have already suggested in reply to a supplementary question in this House that the previous ministry did take up this question for consideration and ultimately the Ports Technical Committee considered it was not a feasible proposition. Anyhow I am taking up the question now and shall see whether we cannot re-open the traffic. It is true that there was a large accumulation of 60 lakhs in the Minor Ports Fund in 1939. In the absence of a definite programme, the previous ministry decided to divert this large balance into the general revenue. Accordingly it was done. The previous Government, when they took for execution the three-year programme, found that the amount in the Minor Ports Fund was not sufficient. Sir, the previous Government gave a subsidy of 5.30 lakhs in 1944-45 and 1945-46. Subsequently that Government decided to retransfer the entire amount taken from the Minor Ports Fund with compound interest at 3 per cent less the subsidy of 5.30 lakhs already given. In pursuance of this, this Government, hon. Members would have noted, provided the sum of 2.08 lakhs for retransfer in this budget which is being discussed.”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, the food situation of this Province this year was very gloomy even at the outset, so much so that this Government had applied to the Central Government for allotment from imports, not only from foreign countries but also from the excess provinces of this country. The situation was very unsatisfactory, not due to the fault of the present Government. We were all dependent upon Burma rice which used to come to this Province and to other provinces without any difficulty, so much so the previous Government did not care to make this Province self-sufficient. There was nobody also to impress upon them the necessity of making this Province self-sufficient. Nobody thought of war and the chaos that will come in the wake of a war. When Japan invaded Burma, Malaya, Indo-China and Java the difficulty arose of getting rice as we wanted and hence we are in this position. Another fact that we have to note is that this Province is not independent in her action regarding procurement of food from abroad. Whatever can be got from our sister provinces that can spare in food-grains and whatever we have to get by way of import from abroad they have to come through the Central Government. Not only this year, if we do not become self-sufficient by the short-term irrigation works that we are doing, by the subsidies for sinking wells that we are giving and all other exertions that we are making on this grow more food campaign, we will have to depend next year also on the Central Government. The Central Government manipulates the whole imports and quotas of this Province as far as rice, wheat products and other millets are concerned.

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The figures given by Mr. Ferrelly were not till the end of December. They were till October. The deficit that was mentioned till 31st October was 239,362 tons of rice and the rest millet coming to a total of 268,000 tons. This is a rice-eating Province and only a small portion of the educated people are able to take wheat. People are not taking up to the millet coming from abroad in spite of the propaganda which this Government have been doing. Psychologically it is difficult to change the kind of food and it is difficult for us to make them eat products such as millets and American millets. We are essentially lacking in rice, and the rice deficit up to the end of October is 239,260 tons. This quantity took into account also 300,000 tons of rice and 36,000 tons of millet which we thought we would be able to procure in this Province. As for procurement as a result of the subsidies, as a result of the bonuses and as a result of the grow more food campaign, we have been able to procure more than 300,000 tons of rice. Till 8th August of this month we have been able to procure 360,393 tons of rice, 369,000 tons of millet. So procurement in this Province was more than satisfactory and has gone beyond the target. We have till 31st October a few more weeks ahead. So taking all these into account, we must say that procurement was all right and the organization quite satisfactory and we have not wasted any money in giving subsidies or spending on grow more food. The difficulty is we have to take into account the maximum procurement because essentially this Province is a deficit Province.

4 p.m. "Therefore we have to depend upon the Central Government and the Central Government's behaviour towards us has not been satisfactory as all hon. Members of this House are now fully aware. In the Food Conference which I attended we pressed all these facts. We explained to them that our Province is mainly a rice-eating one, that our people could not eat wheat or millet and that the rice portion of the rations were reduced from 12 ounces to 10 ounces in May and from 10 ounces to 8 ounces in August. We further expressed to them that we wanted 500 thousand tons and odd till the end of October. We have been given only 119 plus 40 or 159 thousand tons of rice till 30th October. We also pointed out to them that while other States and Provinces were given more quantities, Madras was not treated fairly because we were given 159,000 tons when we wanted 600,000 tons.

"Taking into account the procurement till December, we calculated that there will be a deficit of about 571,813 tons of rice and deducting from that 277,000 tons which is the buffer for six weeks, the actual quantity that will be necessary till the 1st January 1947 will be about 295,000 tons. This we require in rice and cereals from the Central Government and foreign imports. We placed these facts before the Conference and pleaded that while our Province has already reduced the rice rations to 8 ounces, all other provinces still continue to give the 12 ounces of rice to their people although they are not ordinarily rice-eating people. The curious fact is that for the Punjab and Central Provinces the same scale of rice is allotted while the people require

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wheat. The Central Provinces is prepared to take up 10,000 tons of wheat from us in exchange for rice, but this has to be done only by the Government of India. We have asked the Central Government to permit this exchange and we shall see what they are going to do.

"As hon. Members are already aware, both the Conference and the Viceroy expressed their sympathy, but did nothing more. What I now say is that out of the 49,000 tons of rice that were allotted by the Central Government for this Province, we have got so far, i.e., till to-day, 13,000 tons. Now, 19,000 tons of rice intended for this Province coming in three ships have been diverted, one to Bengal, one to Bihar and the other to Ceylon. That is now our primary grievance. If these 19,000 tons had come over here, we would have been able to get through our present difficulties. Another steamer for August allotment will be reaching Madras only in September. So it is, Sir, that I submit that the present position of rice in this Province is unsatisfactory. Who is responsible for this? I do not know whether this Government can repose confidence on the future allotments. Perhaps the fact that civilians who are in the Food Department of the Government of India do not belong to Madras or that Madras is not represented in the Food Secretariat may be responsible for this. Probably they are Bengal civilians who do not know the conditions in Madras and we know that they are not very famous for their sympathies towards other provinces. I am not therefore able to locate who is responsible for this diversion of stocks on which we were pinning our faith for taking our Province through this month. For next month we have been given our proper share. As a matter of fact, I want to take hon. Members into confidence and tell them this. One of the Secretariat members who is responsible for distribution sent me a chit saying, 'Look here, Madras is going to get 40,000 out of 49,000.' Though this is rather overpitched, at least we may be sure of getting 30,000 tons. But I do not know what is in the mind of the Government of India. I do not know why they are treating Madras like this. The cry from Madras is from a little distance. But this Government is seriously considering the question of placing a responsible full-time official at Delhi for the purpose of putting forth our case before the Government of India and seeing that allotments are properly made. Even then, it will be difficult for us to know if supplies are diverted from Madras to other provinces. The hon. Mr. Natesan asked, 'Why don't you countermand?' How can we know it, Sir? In the present case it is only after diversion has taken place that the information came to us by telegram. We expected that the Central Government would be impartial in this matter. Of course we have done what little we could. We have made every effort possible to get immediate relief. That is where the matter stands regarding these diversions. Again I say that it is the Central Government that has put us into these difficulties. Instead of coming to our rescue by allotting greater quantities going to become a permanent feature of the Budget but is

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and instead of appreciating how we have done everything that is humanly possible to perfect our procurement system, they are keeping quiet. Hon. Members may be interested to know that at the Delhi Conference it was revealed to us by the Bengal Minister that out of a procurement programme of 9,400,000 tons, the quantity that they were able to procure was only 600,000 tons. That is how Bengal stands in the matter of procurement. On the other hand, in this Province both procurement and distribution of grains are carried out through the official agency. There may be mistakes and shortcomings in individual cases; sometimes the rice supplied may be bad. These are things which the Government will look into and the officials responsible will be properly dealt with. I do not say that there are not bad officials; nor do I claim that everything is perfect in our procurement system. But all the same we have brought into existence a system which is very fine and very satisfactory. That has also been admitted by very responsible persons in Delhi and in foreign countries. They said, 'You have done everything you could. You deserve our sympathies and we shall do all we can to help you.' That was the promise that was made. Now it is true that I have come with empty hands. But I hope my hands will not remain empty for a long time. I expect the Central Government is bound to move. If the present Central Government does not move, in the very near future there will be another Government in its place which will treat all provinces equally and equitably and in a way that no Province shall suffer.

"Meanwhile this Government will do its best to take all measures to see that the quantity diverted is restored to us. In the coming months, which are lean months, procurement will not be as simple as it is and our long-term crops will be available only in January or February next. I hope that the Government of India will not treat us in these lean months in the same way that they have treated us in August.

"In this connexion, Sir, I want the co-operation of all hon. Members of this House on this important question. The producers in this Province are now having 16 ounces of rice which the Government have allowed to them. Some hon. Members suggested that they may be asked to surrender a portion of it, either 2 ounces or 4 ounces. I therefore request all hon. Members of the House, whether they belong to the Congress Party or the Muslim League or the Independent group—and I know they are all men with great influence among their constituents—to go round their constituencies and tell their people, 'This Government does not want forcibly to take back 2 ounces or 4 ounces of your rations. Please surrender 2 or 4 ounces of yours.' If they do so, and if they take also the help of the village committees, I am sure they will be able to secure large quantities of rice and they can also do a great deal in the matter of distribution of food and other essential articles that people need. These village committees are hereafter going to be the village executive and they will be of great help in this matter. I wish that hon. Members, as soon as they

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return to their constituencies will persuade the producers to surrender as much quantity as possible and if in addition they would ask the producers to take the trouble to search their homes, they will find a little extra quantity of rice which they would have laid by for a rainy day. We know that many of these producers, fearing that there would be famine this year, would have stored some quantities of rice here and there. With a little persuasion, they may be able to spare us something. They may also be told that this Government would not take any action against them, because we are concerned more with procurement. I once again request hon. Members to take these hints when they go back to their constituencies and do all they can to help the Government to ease the situation.

"Another thing I wish to mention is this. There are complaints that sometimes raw rice is supplied when boiled rice is required and *vice versa*. I may state that this is all due to the difficulty of having to rush up stocks. When stocks are not available and when transport is difficult, these things are inevitable. It is always difficult to get boiled rice. But those are small inconveniences which people must be prepared to put up with at this time of food crisis.

"One of the hon. Members suggested that we must control all articles of food which are essential. That is perfectly right and this Government is considering the question. But you must remember that once we begin to control, difficulties crop up. Recently when we wanted to control the price of coconut oil, there were cries from every quarter, from Cochin, from Travancore, etc., where the price of coconut and coconut oil has risen by 600 to 700 per cent. When the question of control affects any of the producers, they are up against the Government. But all the same the Government are seriously thinking of controlling certain essential articles of food and they will take proper steps in the matter.

"I want to say a word about sugar and other necessary things. The Government are aware of the unsatisfactory working of the sugar rationing system. But the system has come into force only just now and whatever defects there may be, steps will be taken by the Government to remedy them and ensure equitable distribution."

* SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"On a point of order, Sir. 4-15
Am I not right when I say that the hon. the Speaker should not p.m.
be giving false hopes to Members?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It was not a case of giving false hope at all. If time permitted, I would have given the hon. Member a chance to speak on this Demand."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, in regard to this Demand for well over Rs. 15 crores, I may at the very outset explain how this figure has been arrived at.

Ports and Pilotage, Rs. 2,00,000.

Miscellaneous, Rs. 5,20,04,600.

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Expenditure on account of State Prisoners and Detenus—

- Cost of Books and Periodicals.
- Donations for Charitable purposes.
- Irrecoverable temporary loans and advances written off.
- Rents, Rates and Taxes.
- Contributions.
- Miscellaneous compensations.
- Demands for Members of the Fighting Services for conspicuous Gallantry in the Field.
- Miscellaneous and Unforeseen charges.
- Charges in connexion with the visit of High Personages.
- Rewards for Destruction of wild animals.
- Miscellaneous charges for the treatment of patients at the Pasteur Institute.
- Demarcation of boundaries.
- Relief Measures—Test Works for Burma Evacuees.
- Compensation paid out of collective fines.
- Staff cars for the use of officers.
- Charges in connexion with State functions.
- Transfer to the Fund for Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift, Rs. 4,00,00,000.
- Miscellaneous charges.
- Extraordinary charges.
- Madras Savings Schemes.
- Small Savings Schemes.
- Motor Spirit and Tyre Rationing Schemes.
- Establishment for Price Control (Civil Supplies).
- Free distribution of milk to school children and priority consumers in the mufassal.

“ This single item which was criticized by some hon. Members comes to Rs. 2,30,29,000. The Madras Provincial Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board, and the amounts transferred from 85-A Capital Outlay on Provincial State Trading Schemes total Rs. 15,57,86,300. Of these items, 4 crores are earmarked for Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift. Under Demand XI on page 124 of the Budget one crore has been provided for Village Reconstruction. Under Demand XXI, on page 376, two crores have been allotted for spinning and weaving and other cottage industries. These two Demands are included in Post-war Reconstruction. They are recoverable from the Government of India with reference to paragraph 4 (2) of their letter No. D-2056-P/45, dated 24th November 1945. Therefore, Sir, these items we are now spending on the reconstruction of the villages. These two demands are under the post-war schemes. If we start work on post-war schemes, according to rules, we will get the amount back from the Government of India. This will not be exclusively our own item of expenditure. We will get a proper share from the Government of India. Under Demand XXIII there is one crore provision for Harijan Uplift Fund. These are the details with regard to these 15 crores odd about which I have now furnished particulars.

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“ Mr. Ferrelly tried to establish that there was a discrepancy in the figures quoted by me. When I spoke in May last I said that taking into account a procurement of 300,000 tons of rice and 36,000 tons of millets, there will still be a deficit of 268,000 tons. That figure related to the end of October 1946. Please note that these figures relate to the end of October 1946. I mentioned on that occasion that we shall require further considerable assistance to see us through till the next main crop becomes available in January 1947. Estimates have been revised for the period from 1st of July to the 31st of December. Please note that this is the estimate till the end of December, allowing for a buffer stock of six weeks. The further assistance that we shall require, excluding the allotments for July to August, amount to about 563,000 tons. It will thus be seen that there is really no discrepancy and the difference in the figures is due to the fact that they relate to different periods.

“ Mr. Ferrelly went on to argue that by the reduction in the rice portion of the ration there should have been a saving enough to cover the deficit. The facts are that when the rice portion of the ration is high, the percentage of purchases to requirements is low and that they rise with the reduction in the ration. In the statutory rationed areas the percentage of purchase was 61 in January and in July it has risen to 80. There is no appreciable reduction in the quantity purchased. In January the quantity purchased by the card-holders was 75,000 tons and in June it was 74,000 tons. It will thus be seen that the saving by the reduction of ration is not proportionate to the cut and is not enough to make up for the deficit. It has been suggested that the share of the producers who have been allowed to keep one pound per adult should be reduced to 14 ounces and the balance should be taken from them. It has been the experience in all places that the producers on whom the future crops depend should be kept contented. The complaint is that even this one pound is not enough for them. Further procurement operations have been carried on for eight months and this is nearly the end of the season. If further collection from them is to be started, it cannot be completed in sufficient time to help us during the crisis.

“ I took credit for a procurement of 300,000 tons of rice and 36,000 tons of millets from 1st of May to 31st of October. The actual quantity procured up to the week ending 8th August 1946 are 360,966 tons of rice and 51,789 tons of millets. With yet two months and three weeks to go, the response has been splendid due, no doubt, partly to the bonuses sanctioned by the Government. I am confident that producers will continue to show the same measure of co-operation and spare all the grains that they can to help us through the crisis. An appeal will also be made to them to reduce their portion of the ration to 14 ounces and sell the balance to the Government agents.

“ The figures of procurement are a striking commentary on the criticism that the setting up of these village, taluk and district committees would impede the procurement operations of this

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Government. When these committees were proposed by me there was that criticism in the House just as there has been now, though not on a large scale, that these were unnecessary and were not likely to be of much use to the Government. But from the present criticism from the various quarters that certain communities and interests have not been adequately represented in the committees, it is evident that all classes have come to realise that these committees have come to play a useful part. I have already said that instructions have been issued to all the officers that adequate representation should be given to all the interests. The 30th of August has been fixed as the last date for receipt of complaints and they will all be examined by the Parliamentary Secretaries. After these complaints are enquired into and the committees are formed, if it is still found there are inequities in representation, I repeat my assurance that I shall take steps to set them right.

“There has been some amount of criticism that price control has not been effective and black-marketing continues to flourish on a large scale. The Government are aware that black-marketing does continue and are taking steps to put it down. I have already said that a special staff is at work on it. I only crave the patience of the hon. Members and also the public in regard to this matter.

“In regard to milk and milk powder the position is this. There was considerable excitement when we considered a single item of milk powder coming from foreign countries valued to the extent of two crores and thirty lakhs of rupees. I am trying to explain that matter. In March last when the position seemed alarming and there was no promise of assistance from abroad, the previous Government placed an order for 10,000 tons of milk powder, 6,000 tons of skimmed milk powder and 4,000 tons of whole milk powder—at an estimated cost of 234 lakhs of rupees. When this Government took charge, they felt that there was no sufficient justification for such a huge expenditure on this one item alone, and they started negotiations with the Government of India to cancel as large a portion of the order as possible. The Government of India had already placed orders with the United States of America. We have to note here the large interval between the order and the supply due to uncertain and difficult conditions of transport. The Government of India have finally said that orders have already been placed, it was not practicable to cancel the order and that this Madras Government must take at least 6,025 tons of skimmed milk powder and 1,500 tons of whole milk powder estimated to cost 145 lakhs. Out of this, 1,320 tons is likely to be taken by the adjoining States. It is expected that the total commitment of this Government will be reduced to 122 lakhs. As this is a special item of expenditure, the Government of India have been addressed to make a two-thirds grant and the result is awaited. Even with regard to this amount to which we are liable, we are negotiating with the Government of India and requesting them to bear at least two-thirds of the cost, so that we may be left with the minimum expenditure. This reconstituted milk powder is intended to be distributed to school children attending elementary schools in the worst affected districts. As regards

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Madras City, the distribution will be made through the headmasters of the institutions who will be entrusted with the duty of converting this powder into milk and distributing it to school children. The Friends Service Unit of America has placed the services of two officers who have considerable experience of this work in Bengal to supervise this distribution. As regards the Madras City the children attending the Corporation schools are being given free supply of fresh milk. When this scheme is completed towards the end of the year, it is proposed to supply them also with reconstituted milk. Nutritional experts have held that during the time of food shortage, children, the future citizens, should be protected by such supplementary foods. This is not certainly going to become a permanent feature of the Budget but is a special measure of relief due to the present food crisis.

“Similarly in regard to potatoes an order for 5 million pounds was placed with the United States of America in February and March last year, when the situation was very dark indeed. Since this commitment had been entered into by the previous Government this province will have to accept it. This again will not be a permanent feature.

“I have been for a few days on the top of the Ooty hills and I happened to see the condition of the potatoes that were stocked there and heard the complaints of the producers. The hon. Member, Mr. Munuswami Pillai, has referred to this matter and made his own suggestions. I may assure the hon. Member and other hon. Members also that every attention will be paid, if not already done, to this item as well and relief extended to producers of potatoes in our own country.

“With regard to minor ports, criticism has been made here that in the past a good amount from the funds relating to the minor ports had been taken away by the Government when some of us were in office in those days. Much time has passed now and we have reached one definite stage, at any rate, and we are awaiting another stage before long. I only hope, Sir, with Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President of the Congress, who has been making supreme efforts to get the co-operation and support of those friends who were differing from the Congress, that these differences will soon disappear. We have come to a stage, Sir, when we have to take good care about these minor ports. We had been peculiarly placed with regard to these minor ports. They have been there, but we have not been in the habit of considering what those ports had been doing, how we were all interested in them and how ultimately we would be obliged to use these ports to our best advantage with regard to all our future work. Now, every one realises, at least with regard to these minor ports all along the coast, the experiences and the sufferings undergone by our capitalists and our commercial magnates, which is all a matter of history now. We will not be obliged any longer to ignore the minor ports. We have to develop them alongside the major ports. We must also develop the coastal trade and the shipping business which

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must be taken up by the merchants and capitalists of this country. No one need have any fear that minor ports would be a neglected item hereafter. They will receive the best attention. If everything goes well at the top, if a National Government comes into existence, whatever might be its character on the constitutional plane, if power is put into the hands of the Members of the National Government, this will mark a definite stage in the future of India and everything will change along with that.

“With regard to the blackmarketing business, Sir, the Government have been attacked that substantial results have not been achieved. We have been on this work only for two months or at the most for three months. During the first month, out of the three months, we could do nothing as we were not able to locate the places where this blackmarketing had been going on. This blackmarketing has been handed down to us who formed this new Government by the previous Government and by the conditions that existed previously. Before we came into office, Sir, when we were talking of blackmarketing and trying to understand its nature, we were all bewildered as to what this blackmarketing was about. There was not a single item in which you could not find blackmarketing, including even the purchase of railway tickets.”

* SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—“On a point of information, Sir.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The Hon. Premier has not given way. The Hon. Member may resume his seat.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Hon. Members may take it from me, Sir,—it may be a repetition of what I have already stated—that I have been trying to study and understand, from the reports and complaints and other literature coming into my hands, what this blackmarketing is. I was an ignorant man, I was not able to understand the import and the secret of this blackmarketing science. It had become a science, Sir! It is not a matter of one day, but it has been going on in that manner for a very long time.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“What is the point of information, Mr. Subbarao, which you wanted to raise?”

* SRI KALLURI SUBBA RAO:—“I wanted to say that we cannot enter even the Revenue Board office without paying Re. 1 as gate fee.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Nothing new, Sir. (Laughter.) The system of Government has been such that those who are on the top were not able to understand what has been going on at the bottom. The whole thing became rotten from the bottom. And the Collectors or superior officers—the top men—were not able to understand it. Hon. Member, Mr. Subbarao, said that he was not able to enter a particular office without paying ‘gate fee.’ But I may say that not only in this country but even in the most advanced countries this thing has been going on, but not in the worst possible manner in which it has been going

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on here. If we endeavour by constructing from the bottom this opportunity for corruption, for blackmarketing, will not come into existence again. Only we must have your support from the beginning to the end, and then you may judge us after a couple of years whether this blackmarketing and bribe taking by the officials would not disappear altogether when the constructive work which we have started is completed. There are friends, friends who have got certain preconceived ideas and they cannot reconcile themselves. There are friends now here where we are sitting who imagine that all that is done from the bottom is useless waste. They say: ‘We have got mills and we have only to work up on those mills.’ The mills have not been proved to be invulnerable, that whatever happened to the rest of the world the mills would stand alone and would supply cloth. That thing has been thoroughly disproved on account of the conditions of the last war. The mills have become the weakest things. How was it going on when we were getting cloth from Manchester, from Japan and from America? The whole thing collapsed in one second. There was one Secretary of State in America who said: ‘You may build houses hundred storeys high so that they may touch the Heavens, but all will collapse at a touch.’ (Interruption.) ‘Why not?’, says my hon. Friend Mr. Town. Certainly, Sir. These mills are not the security, the palaces are not the security, the engines are not the security, the human race will go on living in its own way even when all these things go to ashes. I notice my hon. Friend laughing and enjoying because he has not been affected, being in India. He would have been affected if he had been anywhere else in the world near the belligerent countries. He need not have been in a belligerent country itself. All the innocent countries that had been independent and established their own trade, business, navy and army and were in every respect considered absolutely independent countries, where are they to-day? How could people who understand these things say that we are doing anything wrong or anything out of date? Sir, we are doing just the right thing now, at this time.

“Then I come to wheat propaganda. Wheat has been known in this country and maize also has come recently from America and other places to our country. The people, out of ignorance, are refusing the two ounces of wheat or the two ounces of maize given to them. They must be made to understand that they are eatable things, much better things than the rice, which is worse than wheat or maize when the kanji or the essence is drained away. That sort of education was intended to be given by our propaganda. The Food Commissioner and myself discussed this matter. He had some ideas of his own. After some discussion, we came to the decision that instead of sending cooks and propagandists from place to place to teach the people the method of cooking these things, it would be better to send for some individuals from the various villages, firkas or taluks, to a central place, make them see how wheat and maize can be cooked, so that they may teach the people in their own localities to use these things and not refuse the maize portion of the ration. Maize has been

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the staple food of the working classes in this country. It is to educate the people and remove the prejudice that has been created in their minds on account of 'higher civilization' that this propaganda was intended. We are not spending anything on any objectionable scheme.

"I told the labourers in Pykara who had been taking only the rice portion of the ration and leaving out the wheat portion, that I myself had been eating wheat. I told the officers there that each one of them should take one or two workmen into his house and show them how to prepare these things and let them understand how they were themselves eating those things. It is this sort of education which we have to give to our people who do not understand these things.

"Sir, many other valuable suggestions have been made by hon. Friends here. I have made a note of them and we shall do our best to give effect to those suggestions if we have not already adopted them.

"Now, Sir, this debate has become very important on account of the latest developments in the food situation of the province. My hon. Friend Mr. Raghava Menon gave you a graphic description of what happened at the Delhi Conference which he attended along with the Chief Secretary, Sir S. V. Ramamurthi and the Food Secretary, Mr. P. V. Subba Rao. They tried to prevail upon the Government to do justice to Madras, but in spite of that, the moment they came away from Delhi, the food that was expected to come to Madras was diverted elsewhere. By whom was it diverted? By Lord Wavell? I cannot reconcile myself that Lord Wavell would have become a party to any such action." ('Hear, hear.')

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"He does it in everything."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"My hon. Friend Mr. Hameed Khan should have the patience to hear me, understand the meaning of what I say and then interject."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Those words are enough for me."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"What is his experience of the Viceroy?"

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The world knows him."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The world knows him, he says. My hon. Friend should not be carried away by his impression of Lord Wavell who had been dealing with two sections in the matter of the formation of the Provisional Government or the Interim Government. We are not to judge him by such happenings or by the statements that have appeared in the Press. I am a great critic myself of the Press, but we are now on the food question."

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* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is an alliance."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I do not really believe that Lord Wavell would have promised my hon. Friends: 'Your case is right, you deserve everything. I will give you every help' and then immediately they turned their backs dealt with them in a quite contrary fashion. He is not the man. But there are others who have done it."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"May I know how many more minutes the Hon. Premier wants?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Not many minutes, Sir, I will close now. We should not blame the Viceroy as such, for what some others have done. This House has entered its protest in the strongest manner to make Lord Wavell and the Government that may come into existence understand that there are some men who do not hesitate to do a wrong thing and who would do wrong consciously. I hope this protest of ours will result in the mistake that has been made being corrected and in our getting the things that are due to us. We should make it known to the Viceroy and his Government that if anything wrong or untoward should not happen to us they should take good care to see that what is allotted to us reaches us and does not go to a wrong place.

"In the light of what I have endeavoured to place before the House may I request my hon. Friend to withdraw his cut motion?"

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Before the mover of the cut motion can withdraw his motion, may I know in what shape or form are we going to represent to the Government of India the point of view of this House on the food situation?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The whole proceedings will be sent to the Government of India."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it going to be in that form or in the form of a resolution?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member is a good Parliamentarian and he must know that we cannot pass a resolution on a budget demand."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am not questioning your ruling, Sir. But I suggest that there must be some definite shape or form, something like a motion or resolution in which the protest of this House should be expressed."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"All the proceedings can be sent with the comment of the Hon. Premier."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If the cut motion was withdrawn would it not appear as if the Opposition accepted the position of the Government on the food question in this Province?"

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"My hon. Friend is stretching a point too far. We are not on any legal position just now. The whole debate is intended to impress upon the mind of the Viceroy and that of his Government whoever they may be that this is not a matter that could be neglected by them any longer. I have expressed myself in strong terms on your behalf that the Viceroy and his Government should not be postponing these things and should not be allowing others to commit such wrongs against this Presidency. I hope it will make them realise that such action will in course of time make them deal not with living beings but dead bodies here. I have warned them and the whole proceedings containing everything that has been stated by hon. Members here will be a warning to Lord Wavell and his Government that they should not allow things to go wrong any further."

5 p.m. * MR. H. S. TOWN:—"How many weeks we will have to wait for these proceedings to be printed and sent to the Viceroy, Sir?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"As soon as possible."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No long time will be taken; to that extent I can assure the hon. Mr. Town."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do I understand the Hon. the Premier to say that he gives the undertaking or guarantee on behalf of Lord Wavell that things won't go wrong hereafter, as they have been going wrong in the past?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Surely not, Sir. I have seen many things worse than this also. No such guarantee will be given. We will be prepared to fight every inch of it, until we establish what we want and we get what we want."

* ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I submit, Sir, for your consideration, that if the cut motion is withdrawn, it would be tantamount to the Opposition accepting the food situation in this province to the extent at least to which this present Government is responsible? Will it not be so, Sir? The question as to whether or not the Government of India is responsible is a separate thing. It is not by this motion or by this debate that we are going to set right things, at any rate so far as the Government of India are concerned. Therefore, if the cut motion is withdrawn, it would amount to this, that we accept the position that is held by the Government of Madras so far as the present position is concerned. For, we know that the rice quota has been reduced and the people of this province have been suffering. Is the Madras Government responsible or is the Government of India responsible wholly or in part—that I suppose will be the position, Sir? I do not know why the cut motion should be withdrawn."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Then it may not be withdrawn, if the hon. Member feels so strong about it. That is not the point here. The interpretation which he has tried to

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put upon the proceedings that have taken place here and particularly upon the technical withdrawal of that cut motion is a wrong interpretation and he ought not to put such an interpretation. It is a formality that we are going through. The world knows, the Viceroy knows, the Viceroy's Council knows, everybody knows that we have entered a protest in the strongest terms possible. What the hon. Member says is that technically a cut motion is a protest against the demand; if that cut motion is withdrawn, the position will be that we are all agreed unanimously. That is what he says. No fear of that nature need be entertained. I can tell the hon. Member and all the hon. Members of this House that no one will put such a construction upon the speeches made by the hon. Members of this House; it is a mere technical form we are getting through with a view to get through our work; it will not affect in the least our work; it will not affect even a Court of law, you may take it."

* M. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on a point of information. Will the Premier give an assurance to this House that if the Government of India do not guarantee our requirements, the Government of Madras will resort to direct action?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"No such guarantee will be given; we should not use such expressions in such a lighthearted manner, because they would lose their charm."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. May I know if a summary of the proceedings of this debate will be sent up . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Not the summary but the whole proceedings."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"A summary could be telegraphically communicated in advance to the Viceroy."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The substance of it will be sent by telegram, as much of it as possible, Sir."

* MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir suggestions have been made that the Premier himself may visit New Delhi. May I know whether the Premier will visit New Delhi?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I may assure the hon. Member that if I have to visit New Delhi, I should not hesitate even to fly to Delhi, instead of going by train which will take time."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to know from the Leader of the Opposition whether he is willing to withdraw the cut motion."

* MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the assurance given by the Hon. the Premier, Sir, I beg to withdraw my cut motion."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Before I put the cut motion as well as the original demand to the vote of the House, I wish to bring to

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the notice of the House an incident that took place a few minutes ago. One member said that I was giving false hopes. I consider this expression as an insult to and as an aspersion on the Chair. I wish to know whether Mr. Swaminathan is in the House. (After a pause.) He has gone away. As soon as we assemble tomorrow, I am going to ask him about it. I am going to take action under rule 68 of the Assembly Rules.

"I now wish to know whether the House gives permission to Mr. Ismail to withdraw the cut motion."

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I now put the original Demand to the vote of the House."

Demand XXXI was put and carried and the Grant was made.

The House then adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. the next day.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Friday, the 23rd August 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I saw in to-day's paper that yesterday I was telling something which was intended to cast an aspersion on the Chair. I never meant any aspersion against the Chair, but I merely wanted to say . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not explain it."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"The only fact and it was also the view of some other members . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not explain these things."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"If the Hon. Speaker thinks so, I do not hesitate to withdraw what I said yesterday."

MR. SPEAKER:—"You must also apologise."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"I do not see any difference between withdrawing and apologising."

MR. SPEAKER:—"You must apologise for what has happened. That is the formal thing that is happening in all Parliaments."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"I won't do it."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I would request the hon. Member to withdraw and express apology. Every one of us would do it without looking into the question whether the ruling of the Chair is right or wrong. I would therefore request Mr. Swaminathan to obey the Chair."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"As the Hon. the Premier requests . . ."

MR. SPEAKER:—"Not on account of that . . ."

SRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN:—"I withdraw and apologise, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"The matter is now closed."

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Malabar Special Police.

* 105 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATHNAM PILLAI (on behalf of Sri M. S. Pattabhiramiah): Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the specific purposes for which the Malabar Special Police was instituted and is now generally used; and

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(b) what special purposes the Malabar Special Police serves, which the ordinary or Reserve Police Force does not?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) & (b) The Malabar Special Police was formed in the days of the Mappilla Rebellion of 1921. Its principal duties were to clear up the rebellion areas in Malabar after the troops had dealt with any armed resistance found there and to maintain the internal security of the areas in which it was located. It is now used in districts other than Malabar also where abnormal conditions prevail and where the ordinary and reserve police is found inadequate to maintain law and order. It is distributed in strategic centres to be used as a second reserve.”

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, whether there was any proposal to abolish this Malabar Special Police?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I am sorry, I am not aware of it and I know about it only now on the information given by the hon. Member.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Government consider the advisability of abolishing the Special Police?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“My previous answer covers this question also, and when we go into the question, it will be decided.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Is it a fact, Sir, that the Government is contemplating to start recruitment for the Special Police in each and every district of the Presidency?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The question does not arise.”

Increase in the salary of the constabulary.

* 106 Q.—SRI D. DORAIRAJA PANDIAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state, whether there is any proposal to increase the salary of the constabulary so as to provide them with a living wage?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“The salary of the constabulary was revised on 16th April 1946. A sub-committee of the Cabinet has been appointed to consider the question of rates of pay of all Government employees drawing Rs. 200 and below.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In view of the general strikes in the Province, will the Government consider a further increase in the salary of the constabulary?”

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THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I do not think that on that account the Government will think of revising the scales.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Is it a fact the strength of the police staff is increased and if so, will Government explain the reason why?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“This does not arise out of the question.”

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Has the Government under contemplation any idea to reduce the salary of the police officers who draw greater salaries than that of Ministers, viz., Rs. 1,000 or Rs. 1,500?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Not at present, and it is not the subject-matter of this question.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Arising from the answer of the Hon. the Premier, may I ask whether he does not consider that an increase in salary of the constabulary should be treated separately from the increase of salary in the other departments?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Yes, Sir, it may be that also has to be considered.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I request the Hon. the Premier to give some sort of priority to this question over others?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“No question of priority in the abstract sense of the term. Everything depends upon circumstances and conditions.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Is the Government aware of the fact that the Malabar Special Police entered the Victoria Hostel yesterday evening and beat the students there?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“No information yet.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“Do Government propose to appoint an impartial enquiry committee to go into the conduct of the Malabar Special Police in regard to the strikes in the City?”

MR. SPEAKER:—“It does not arise.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I ask in view of the answer given by the Hon. the Premier to an earlier question, that he did consider that there must be some special consideration paid to the increase in the salary of the constabulary whether he was considering taking up this question earlier than the other questions and finish it soon?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“When circumstances demand, according to those circumstances decisions will be taken.”

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SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"Is it a fact that in the 1942 August movement, certain police officers were granted special pay for life for the good work done by them to suppress this movement?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I do not know, Sir; it may have been done."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"May I request the Hon. the Premier to investigate into the points raised in my supplementary question because I am sure of what I stated?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"We have to do something more before we begin investigation."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Is it a fact that a force of about 1,000 Malabar Special Police was sent to Golden Rock to suppress the workers and to help the General Manager?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"This does not arise out of this question."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The Hon. the Premier stated that he has to do something more before he considers the suggestion made by hon. Friend. That is a frightening word, Sir. May I know what exactly he proposes to do in the matter?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"There is nothing to be frightened about it. Before actual investigation mentioned by the hon. Member is commenced, other matters have to be gone into."

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Government keep in view the fact that but for the services of these police officers, the life of the public in 1942 would have been endangered?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Well, Sir, that is a question which cannot be answered immediately without notice."

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"May I ask for an assurance that if I am able to bring to the notice of the Government specific cases of special pay for life having been granted, will such grants be cancelled?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"It is too much to anticipate and put a question of that type. The answer may be given by the hon. Member himself."

Dietetic value of Indian food.

* 107 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state whether she proposes to appoint a special staff to do some research into the dietetic value of Indian food?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"A special staff for the purpose has already been appointed."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know under what system of medicine this enquiry is going to be conducted?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"This has nothing to do with the system of medicine in vogue."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"Has the Government come to any definite policy in their research laboratories at Coonoor as to the quantities of available foodstuffs to be given to different individuals of this Province to maintain normal standards of health?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"There is no definite policy to determine it at present. It may do so in future."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"Sir, in view of the protest made by Muslim Members yesterday that eight ounces is quite inadequate, may I ask the hon. Minister whether the Research Laboratories have recommended any other supplementary food to supplement rice diet?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Yes, wheat has been given as a supplementary food."

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister what are the quantities of wheat and other foodstuffs that are required for the supply of the calories required by the ordinary peasant or labourer? I want to know also the dietetic scale fixed by the Coonoor Research Laboratory for the foodstuffs available."

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Notice, Sir."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Is not the Government aware that Dr. Aykroyd of the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, has made an elaborate investigation in this connection and submitted a report?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am not aware of the report, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the research into the dietetic value of Indian food can be approached from various standpoints, one of which is the allopathic, and the other the Indian standpoint?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I do not think any difference can be established so far as nutritional value of food is concerned from the allopathic point of view and from Indian medicine point of view."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know the names of the members of the staff who have been appointed?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am not aware of the names but only officers specially appointed have been mentioned—one Assistant Director of Health and two First-class Health Officers for the two regional units."

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N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the present reduced ration have no caloric value but only choleric value?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"This does not arise out of this question. It may be having choleric value." (Laughter.)

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"Arising out of the answer of the Hon. Minister, may I request her to state whether a committee has been appointed in this connection?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"No committee has been appointed but the staff for this purpose has already been sanctioned."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is any report to be published by the Research officers and if so, when?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am afraid, Sir, the time cannot be specified, but anyway, the report will be published."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I enquire how the Health Officers who have been appointed are experts in this matter?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Perhaps, the hon. Member is aware that there is a Central Bureau of Nutrition Research located in the office of the Director of Public Health and these officers are trained there for the purpose."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what exactly is meant by Indian food?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"There is no difference; there is only one Indian food and if any research work is to be carried on so far as nutritional value is concerned, there is no other food to be taken into consideration at all."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that there is a gentleman called Aykroyd who is a specialist in nutrition?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am aware of it."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, in view of the fact that the Hon. Minister is aware of the existence of the gentleman whether she is not aware of the report that he has prepared on the subject?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I have not seen it, Sir."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister give us an assurance that a high priority will be given for iddlies in Indian food?" (Laughter.)

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THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Iddly is an article of food and people appreciate eating it and priority may be given." (Laughter.)

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister is aware that owing to perpetual famine in the Ceded districts, there is a very high death-rate and if so, whether she would take early steps to set right matters?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am not aware of the fact that the death-rate is very high in the Ceded districts; however, Government will certainly consider the suggestion."

Instruction in schools through the medium of the mother-tongue.

* 108 Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state what the arrangements are for imparting instruction in schools through the medium of the mother-tongue to those students whose mother-tongue is other than Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam and Kanarese?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"These pupils are allowed to be taught wherever possible through their mother-tongue."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what the mother-tongue of the Muslims of this Province is according to the Government?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The mother-tongue of the Muslims is the mother-tongue of the locality wherever they are—in some parts it is Tamil, in some parts it is Telugu and in some other parts, I understand, their mother-tongue is Urdu."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know, what exactly he means by saying 'wherever possible'?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It means the Government must be in a position in view of the numbers and other conveniences necessary, it must be possible for them to provide this education."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Arising out of the supplementary, may I ask whether the Hon. Minister is not aware that the mother-tongue of the Muslims is Urdu?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The mother-tongue of a few Muslims in Andhra is Urdu."

MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Has not yet the Hon. Minister ascertained the fact that the mother-tongue of all the Muslims in Andhra desa is Urdu?"

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THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“No. I have recently received reports from Andhra desa that the mother-tongue of some Muslims there is not Urdu.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, from the Hon. Minister whether he has not found it possible to thoroughly examine the question and tell us exactly whether it is not a fact and God's truth, that all the Mussalmans in Andhra desa speak Urdu and their mother-tongue is Urdu?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“I do not think I have anything more to say in the matter.”

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know from the Hon. Minister whether these protests which he referred to came from the Muslims of the Andhra districts or from non-Muslims?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“Mostly from non-Muslims.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“When it is the opinion of the acknowledged spokesmen of the Muslims that Urdu is the mother-tongue of the Muslims of Andhra desa, will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to confess that his understanding is a misunderstanding?” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“Opinions do not change facts.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“May I enquire in what language Muslim students are being taught in Andhra desa?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“In Muslim schools, they are taught in Urdu, I understand; but in schools where the majority of the students are Hindus and there are only a few Muslim students, they are taught in the regional language.”

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Is the Government determined to decide the mother-tongue of Muslims by the opinion of non-Muslims?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“They do not judge on the opinions of anybody.”

SRI A. SATHYANARAYANARAJU:—“పదరాష్ట్రంలో పాఠ

శాలలలో సంవత్సరాల కెరబడి గాంధీగారు మొరపెట్టుచున్న హిందూస్థానీ భాషను బోధించే విషయంలో ప్రభుత్వంవారు విమిచిత్వాత్ము చేయవలసివున్నారు. ఆ విషయం ఎంతలోయిస్తుంది తెలుపగోరుచున్నాను.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“The question does not arise out of this question.”

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“In places where the regional language is other than Urdu, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of opening common classes for Muslims either in Urdu or in English?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“The question has already been answered and I have nothing more to add to what has been said.”

MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“From the fact that Muslim schools in Andhradesa have got Urdu as the medium of instruction, does not the Minister know that Urdu is the mother-tongue of the Muslims of Andhradesa?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“I do not think I can add anything more to what I have already said.”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Will the Hon. the Minister for Education take it that it is the very essence of culture to respect the cultures of other communities?” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“It does not arise out of this question, Sir.”

SRI N. VENKATA SUBBAYYA:—“May I ask whether the Hon. Minister is aware that there are a number of Telugu Pandits among Muslims and one such Muslim Telugu Pandit was actually working in the Municipal High school, Nandyal?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“Quite possible.”

Pay of pandits in Government schools.

* 109 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the scales of pay of pandits working in Government schools and colleges are far below the scales of pandits working under the local boards even though they possess the same qualifications?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

“Yes, the matter is under consideration.”

Increase of the sanctioned strength of buses.

* 110 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state whether in view of the all-round increase of traffic the Government propose to increase the sanctioned number of buses in all routes in this Province?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“The number of buses will be increased as and when adequate number of vehicles become available.”

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know what special effort the Hon. Minister has made to see that a sufficient number of vehicles is made available? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" No effort can be made by a Provincial Government. The number of vehicles for each Province is allotted by the Central Government."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the Provincial Government cannot ask the Central Government to take further steps and even special steps in the matter, in view of the fact that things here are not satisfactory? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" I do not think that things here are very unsatisfactory; this Government will however try to get more vehicles."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that there are many vehicles used as lorries can be run as buses and why the Government have not done so? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Before they are converted into buses, they can be used as lorries or before they are used as lorries, they can be used as buses. But once it is given as a lorry, it cannot be converted into a bus."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" Is the Government aware that the Post-war Reconstruction Committee decided that there should be nationalization of transport in this Province? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" The matter has not yet been finally decided, if I remember correct."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Is the Government aware that there are many lorries and buses belonging to the Military department kept idle and that the Government can negotiate with the Military department for putting them to use by the civil departments? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" It is true that there are a number of vehicles now in the Military department kept practically idle, but the difficulty is in getting them. This Government are trying to move the Military authorities to see whether any vehicles can be bought. I understand that they are also auctioning the vehicles."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Hon. the Minister for Transport seize this timely opportunity of making a strong representation to the Government of India, as otherwise there is a fear he will miss the bus? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" We need not be afraid of missing the bus. There are too many of them and this Government are fully aware, and are alive to the fact, that transport facilities should be improved in this Province."

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AN HON. MEMBER:—" May I know the quota of motor vehicles allotted to this Government by the Central Government? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Notice, Sir."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Government take over the buses in the City of Madras? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" The matter of running buses by Government in the City is under consideration."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" Is the Government aware that the public are very much inconvenienced for lack of sufficient motor transport in the City of Madras? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" I am not in a position to say exactly whether the public are very much inconvenienced; but I understand that there is some sort of inconvenience."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to take the trouble of going round the City of Madras, particularly in the morning and evening hours or during the whole day, for that matter, and see for himself the long queues, including large number of women, waiting for the buses? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" I am aware of the conditions of motor transport in Madras and that there is some inconvenience."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Is the Hon. Minister for Motor Transport aware that many sitting members here are kept standing in the buses? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" They may be standing because they do not like to sit though standing causes them some inconvenience. I am glad that there are many members who stand and feel for the inconvenience caused to the public."

P. K. MOIDEEN KUTTI SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, if the queue system will be introduced at all bus stands? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Sometimes you will find the queue system obtaining during certain hours; but I do not know if it is absolutely necessary to have the queue system always."

G permits to owners of lorries.

* 111 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that many Regional Transport authorities are refusing to grant G permits to owners of lorries without assigning reasons;

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(b) what, according to the present Government, are the qualifications necessary to get the G permits of lorries; and

(c) the reasons for not granting G permits freely without imposing such qualifications?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“(a) It is not possible to say without detailed enquiry that many Regional Transport Authorities refuse to grant public and private carrier permits without assigning reasons. It may, however, be pointed out that out of a large number of appeals entertained by the Central Road Traffic Board, only a few were against refusal to grant public and private carrier permits. In some of them the Board had occasion to notice that the Regional Transport Authorities had failed to give reasons and this fact was considered by the Board when the appeals were decided. The Central Road Traffic Board has instructed the Regional Transport Authorities to assign reasons whenever such applications are rejected.

“(b) No qualifications have been prescribed by Government for the grant of public and private carrier permits. Such permits are granted or refused by the Regional Transport Authority in its discretion, subject to the conditions prescribed by the Motor Vehicles Act in this behalf.

“(c) Does not arise in view of the answer to clause (b).”

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—“May I know, Sir, when this question No. 111 was raised here?” (Laughter.)

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“The question was put by the hon. Member in this Assembly now.” (Laughter.)

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Arising out of answer to clause (b) may I ask, Sir, if political qualifications are also considered by the Regional Transport Authority?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“It is clear from my answer that no such special qualifications have been prescribed.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Are party affiliations considered in this matter?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“That question does not arise at all in view of the previous answer given by me.”

DR. M. J. SAMUEL:—“May I know, Sir, if any special concession is shown to military personnel?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“Till now such a case has not come to my notice.”

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know, Sir, if the Government have considered the desirability of granting G permits to mechanics themselves?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“There is nothing in the law or practice to distinguish other persons from mechanics; they are also taken as applicants and their applications will be disposed of according to the general instructions and rules on the question.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“May I know whether any preference will be given to those people?”

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“Government had no occasion to give any preferential treatment or to take up this question.”

Export of fruits from this province.

* 112 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether fruits of any kind are being exported at present from this province to any other province;

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what those fruits are and what their quantity is; and

(c) whether in view of the present food position, the Government propose to stop the export at least for some time?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—“(a) Yes.

“(b) The average exports of fresh fruit from the Province of Madras during the pre-war year were as follows:—

(1) *Plantains*.—9,184 tons (chiefly to Mysore, Hyderabad and Orissa).

(2) *Oranges*.—653 tons (chiefly to Mysore, Cochin, Hyderabad, Orissa and Northern India).

(3) *Mangoes*.—21,190 tons (chiefly to Rangoon, F.M.S., Straits Settlements and Northern India).

(4) *Pears*.—315 tons.

(5) *Limes*.—4,212 tons (chiefly to Mysore, Pondicherry, Puducottah and Northern India).

“Due to restricted transport facilities and due to the uncertainty of the consignments reaching their destinations in good condition even in cases where transport facilities were available the export of fruits from this province became considerably reduced during the war years and the present level of exports is likely to be only a fraction of the figures given above.

“(c) No.

“The question of imposing a ban on the export of fruits from this province was considered some time ago and dropped because fruits are perishable articles and any restriction on their movements would only result in large quantities of fruits rotting in areas which have an exportable surplus.

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The Government have, however, banned the export of plantains, mangoes and jackfruits from the Malabar and South Kanara districts to places outside these districts so that the entire local production of these commodities may be conserved for consumption within these districts as supplemental food."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In view of the fact that the food position of the Province is very precarious, will the Government avoid perishing of fruits by taking them over themselves and distributing them as part of food to the people who are in need of it?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"It is a good suggestion; but the difficulty is that fruits being perishable, it is very difficult to procure and distribute them."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Are the Government doing anything in the direction of preservation and canning of fruits?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"As far as I know nothing in that line is being done; but the suggestion will be considered."

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"That is being done, Sir."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I stand corrected. I am sorry, Sir."

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI:—"I am the Minister concerned."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"May I know, Sir, that the machinery of the Jam factory at Coonoor is lying idle and whether anything will be done to revive the Jam factory?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I shall look into the matter."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"What are the kinds of fruits that are imported into this Province?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I require notice of that question."

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister devise ways and means of providing for cold storage of fresh fruits?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I do not know whether the Government should consider the question. Any how, the question will be considered."

Selections of students for admission into colleges.

*112-A Q.—M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to—

(a) place on the table of the House the recent Government Order prescribing that the admission of 20 per cent of students in certain colleges and institutions should be based on merit;

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(b) and state the object of issuing the said Government Order;

(c) the names of colleges and institutions in which the said Government Order was given effect to;

(d) how many Muslims, Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Harijans, Christians and Anglo-Indians applied for admission in such colleges and institutions;

(e) how many students from each of the said communities were selected for admission in each such college or institution (i) on merit and (ii) otherwise than on merit in pursuance of the Government Order referred to in (a);

(f) how many of the selected students from each of the said communities actually joined the respective colleges and institutions and how and from what communities the vacancies which thus arose were filled up; and

(g) how many Muslims, Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Harijans, Indian Christians and Anglo-Indians respectively were admitted in the Engineering and Medical Colleges of the Province during each of the last six academic years?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"(a) A copy of the Government Memorandum No. 33199-A/46-1, Education, dated 21st June 1946, is placed on the table of the House.

"(b) It was considered necessary that some percentage of the seats in the Engineering Colleges and the Medical Colleges may be reserved to be filled on grounds of merit, in order to get the best possible candidates.

"(c) Government Engineering and Medical Colleges.

"(d) & (e)

	Number of students that applied.	Number selected.	
		On merit.	Otherwise.
<i>Medical Colleges.</i>			
Brahmans	403	47	49
Non-Brahmans	470	14	122
Scheduled Castes	2	..	2
Indian Christians	110	6	53
Muslims	44	..	43
Total	1,029	67	269
<i>Engineering Colleges.</i>			
Brahmans	609	57	26
Non-Brahmans	343	8	179
Scheduled Castes	8	..	8
Indian Christians	76	2	30
Muslims	44	2	30
Total	1,080	69	273

"(f) The information is not available and will be called for. The seats which fall vacant due to failure of students to join the colleges will be filled from a waiting list, care being taken to replace a candidate of a particular community and linguistic area, by a candidate of the same community and linguistic area.

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"(g) Figures for four years, regarding Engineering Colleges and the Madras Medical College, which are available, are as below—

Name of College.	Year.	Number selected from				
		Brahmans.	Non-Brahmans.	Muslims.	Scheduled classes.	Indian Christians.
Medical College, Madras.	1945	26	52	14	1	21
	1944	24	52	16	1	20
	1943	20	50	8	3	23
Engineering Colleges.	1946	83	187	32	8	32
	1945	17	54	14	4	13
	1944	22	47	14	6	13
	1943	21	40	20	5	16

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Minister has read out to us so many figures; and since we have not had an opportunity to go through them just at present, will you kindly give us an opportunity of putting supplementary questions upon them to-morrow?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall take up that question to-morrow; in the meanwhile the answer may be printed and given to Members."

Students for special study in Medicine and Surgery in foreign countries.

* 112-B Q.—**M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:** Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Muslims, Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Harijans, Indian Christians and Anglo-Indians who applied for deputation to foreign countries for special study in Medicine and Surgery during the current year;

(b) the number of candidates recommended by the Provincial Government to the Selection Committee of the Government of India for such special study abroad in Medicine and Surgery, after the Ministry came into office;

(c) how many of the candidates recommended by the Provincial Government for the said special study are Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Muslims, Christians, Anglo-Indians and Harijans respectively;

(d) whether the Surgeon-General or any other Experts were consulted in the selection of the candidates, and if so whether the Surgeon-General or the experts recommended any Muslim candidate or candidates for being recommended for special study in Medicine and Surgery abroad;

(e) whether the recommendations of the Surgeon-General relating to the Muslim candidates were accepted by the Provincial Government and if not why not; and

(f) whether it is a fact that some of the candidates recommended by the Government overruling the recommendations of the Surgeon-General do not possess any Research Degree or hold any permanent post in the Medical Department of this Province?

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THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (a) A report has been called for from the Surgeon-General who was the person who called for the applications.

" (b) Three—

One for Social Medicine.

One for General Medicine.

One for Orthopaedic Surgery.

" (c) One Brahman, one Non-Brahman and one Christian.

" (d) Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Health were consulted. No Muslim candidate was recommended for Medicine and Surgery.

" (e) The question does not arise.

" (f) No candidate was recommended by the Government overruling the Surgeon-General's recommendations."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, from the Hon. Minister for Public Health, the qualifications of the applicants who were recommended by the Surgeon-General and the qualifications of the candidate who was selected by the Minister herself?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Notice."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact that a Muslim lady candidate in spite of a high qualification was not sent for foreign studies?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"There was no application from any Muslim candidate so far as Medicine and Surgery are concerned."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Did any Muslim lady candidate apply for Midwifery?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Yes."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"And what happened to her application?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"It is confidential; and further no useful purpose is served in discussing merits of individual candidates on the floor of the House."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I inquire what is the qualification of the particular candidate who was not selected?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I am not aware."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is she not an M.D.?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"May be."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is not that the highest qualification?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"It may be."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Then, may I know what is the meaning of saying that she is not aware of the qualification?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I said, 'it may be', I did not say, I am aware of the qualification. If I had said so, I am sorry for the mistake."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that the lady candidate who was selected for higher studies has a lesser qualification than the Muslim lady candidate who was not selected?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Surgeon-General is responsible for it. The selection took place in consultation with the Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Health."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will you give an assurance that you would inquire into the matter?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"There is no necessity to go into the matter as the selection has been made already."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is it a fact, Sir, that the Surgeon-General recommended the name of the candidate with the highest qualification, whereas the Minister selected the lady student who had the lesser qualification?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"I did not select, Sir. The selection took place in consultation with the Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Health. All the three sat together and made the selection."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In consultation? Who consulted? Did the Hon. Minister consult?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"All the three of us consulted each other."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I inquire whether Government do not believe in merit?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"We do believe in selecting candidates on merit."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Why then that candidate with such high merit, as suggested, was not given the place she wanted?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"It is for the Government to consider the relative merits of the candidates."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Will Government be pleased to be consistent hereafter?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Nothing inconsistent has been done."

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SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will Government consider that it is wise policy to select candidates only on merit, when specialized studies are concerned, and that in foreign countries?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"It may not be possible always, Sir."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I inquire whether Government have arrived at any right and accurate definition of the word 'merit'?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"No; nothing except what is generally understood by the people."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I inquire whether it is not generally understood, even according to the Government Order that has been promulgated by the Minister herself so far as admission to Medical Colleges is concerned, that merit means University qualification?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The supplementary question put by the hon. Member does not arise out of this question."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether according to her, merit goes along with the University qualification?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"That is also one of the considerations."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what other considerations weighed with Government in selecting a candidate with a lesser qualification in preference to the lady with higher qualifications?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"She did not admit that a person with lesser qualification has been selected."

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Selection depends on the order of proficiency or merit."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do I understand merit is not an absolute consideration?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Yes, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are we to understand, merit meaning University qualification is not absolute?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Merit has also got to be taken into consideration. I have already given that answer."

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Exemption of tuition fees to Harijan students in professional colleges.

20 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government have exempted the tuition fees in professional colleges to Harijan students;
- (b) if so, since when; and
- (c) if not, why not?

A.—(a) & (b) Harijan students were exempted from payment of tuition fees in professional colleges from 1938–39.

(c) Does not arise.

Employees in tanneries in Trichinopoly.

21 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Tannery Proprietors at Trichinopoly are forcing the employees to sign an agreement making them accept a lower scale of wage than they are receiving at present as a condition precedent for retaining them in service?

A.—So far as the Government are aware, there is no indication of compulsion on the part of the proprietors of tanneries to enforce wage reduction.

Refusal of the N.M. Tannery, Trichinopoly, to re-employ nine workers.

22 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the proprietor of the N.M. Tannery, Trichinopoly, has refused to re-employ nine workers in spite of the fact that the Labour Commissioner has got a promise from the proprietor that they would be taken back in the first week of January 1946; and

(b) what further action the Labour Commissioner has taken in this connexion?

A.—(a) & (b) The workers concerned were dismissed for misbehaviour; but the employer has not totally refused to re-employ them. As the tannery is being closed down at present the re-employment of the dismissed workers will be examined in case the tannery re-opens at a future date.

Refund of the deposit money to the Majlis candidate in the Malappuram (Rural) Muslim Constituency.

23 Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government ordered the refund of the deposit money to the Majlis candidate in the Malappuram Rural Muslim Constituency in the last election to the Madras Legislative Assembly;

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(b) when did the candidate apply for the refund;

(c) when were orders passed thereon;

(d) what is the rule followed by the Government in passing the orders permitting refund;

(e) what was the total number of votes polled by the candidates in that Constituency;

(f) how many votes were polled by the Majlis candidate;

(g) how many votes should he poll according to the relevant rules to keep his security;

(h) whether any doubt in the interpretation of the rules was felt by the Government; and

(i) whether any reference was made to the Law Member of the Government on the interpretation of the rules?

A.—(a) The Revenue Divisional Officer, Malappuram, who is the Returning Officer for the Malappuram Muhammadan (Rural) Constituency ordered the refund.

(b) On 3rd July 1946.

(c) On 12th July 1946.

(d) The candidate should obtain more than one-eighth of the number of votes polled, divided by the number of members to be elected.

(e) 77,268.

(f) 8,808.

(g) 4,830.

(h) None.

(i) No.

Repeal of the Criminal Tribes Act.

24 Q.—SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been made to abolish the Criminal Tribes Act;

(b) whether there is any organization in this Province to safeguard the welfare and interests of the three million Adivasis of Madras Presidency; and

(c) whether the Government have any proposal before them for appointing an experienced officer as Additional Labour Commissioner to organize schools, cottage industries, co-operative societies and collective farms, etc., wherever possible for their uplift?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative. Several petitions and resolutions have been received.

(b) A private organization by name “Dakshina Bharat Adivasi Sangh” has been newly started at Nellore for the purpose of looking after the interests of Adivasis of the Madras Presidency. So far as the Government are concerned, the Labour Department

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looks to the welfare of the communities eligible for help. There have been Kallar, Enady, Erukula and Konda Dora provincial organizations in the districts of Madura, Nellore, Guntur and East Godavari *cum* Vizagapatam, respectively, working for the welfare of these aboriginal tribes.

(c) The answer is in the negative.

Procurement and distribution of food in Malabar.

25 Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state whether the Government are following the same method for Malabar regarding procurement and distribution of food as it is followed in other districts?

A.—In Malabar, the Government have decided to entrust procurement to producers' co-operative societies which are in the process of formation. Till these societies are completely formed, procurement will be done by the Government agents as hitherto. The Government have decided to take over distribution of important food-grains from the wholesale merchants who were doing the work hitherto, and do the work themselves in so far as municipal towns and places connected with railways are concerned. For other places, distribution will be made through branches of co-operative societies. The system proposed to be adopted in Malabar is thus different from that adopted in other districts.

Amindivi islands.

26 Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) the total population of the Amindivi islands, attached to the district of South Kanara and the communities, with their numbers, to which the population belongs;

(b) what percentage of the population is literate in the islands;

(c) what are the industries in the islands;

(d) the ameliorative measures, if any, that the Government propose to take for improving conditions in the islands;

(e) whether the Government will appoint an officer of the grade of a Deputy Tahsildar for the better administration of the islands; and

(f) how long have these islands been attached to the administration of the district of South Kanara?

A.—(a) Total population according to the Census of 1941 is as follows:—

			Males.	Females.	Total.
Muslims	..	..	3,126	3,051	6,177
Others	..	..	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

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(b) Literate population according to the Census of 1941—

Males.	Females.	Total.	Percentage.
469	19	488	7.9

(c) Coir-twisting, fishing, preparation of copra, jaggery and vinegar and boat-building.

(d) An Inspecting Officer is deputed to inspect the Islands once in two years and after his visit he reports what ameliorative measures are necessary for improving the conditions in the Islands. Action is then taken after considering his recommendations. The next inspection of the islands is due early in 1947. It is proposed this time that the Inspecting Officer should examine the possibility of setting up coir workshops for rope-making, manufacture of matting, etc.

(e) There is already the monegar, Amindivis, who exercises the powers of a Deputy Tahsildar. He also exercises third-class magisterial powers.

(f) Since 1799 when they passed over to the East India Company.

Basic education.

27 Q.—SRI N. M. R. SUBBARAMAN: Will the Hon. Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the policy of the Government with regard to basic education;

(b) whether they have opened any training schools;

(c) whether the Government propose to give recognition and aid to the schools run by the private institutions or basic education societies;

(d) whether the Government have received any representation from the Tamil Nad Basic Education Society to give recognition and aid to the basic schools started and run by them in various parts of Tamil Nad;

(e) if so, what they have done for them;

(f) whether the Government have any programme for training of teachers for elementary schools;

(g) if so, what are the steps taken in the direction; and

(h) whether any new training schools have been opened and how many have applied for admission into those schools?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government propose to introduce the basic system of education in the Presidency when a sufficient number of teachers trained in that system becomes available. They have decided to open three basic training schools—one in the Tamil districts, another in the Telugu districts, and the third in West Coast districts. The opening of a basic training school at Periyannayakkanpalayam in the Coimbatore district has already been sanctioned. The question of opening the other two schools is under consideration.

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- (c) Basic schools which are conducted efficiently according to the principles of the Wardha Scheme will be recognized and aided by the Educational Department in the same way as ordinary elementary schools.
- (d) & (e) The Government have received representation from the Tamil Nad Basic Education Society, the Government have instructed the Director of Public Instruction to recognize and aid the schools conducted by the Sangh like ordinary elementary schools.
- (f), (g) & (h) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to training of teachers for ordinary elementary schools. The Government have sanctioned the opening of 100 additional training schools in 1946-47 with a view to meeting the probable demand for a large number of teachers in connection with the schemes of compulsory elementary education. The question of continuing these schools will be considered in due course. A report has been called for from the Director of Public Instruction as regards the actual number of schools opened and the number of candidates applied for admission and the number admitted into the training schools.

Improvement of the teachers' lot in high schools.

28 Q.—SRI G. KUMARASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any system to improve the present lot of the teachers in High schools according to their service and academic qualifications; and

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce a uniform scale of pay in the whole Province for men of the same cadre?

A.—(a) & (b) The matter is under consideration.

Employment of the Malabar Wholesale Co-operative Society for procurement of paddy in Kottayam and Chirakkal taluks.

29 Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have appointed the Malabar Wholesale Co-operative Society for the procurement of paddy in Kottayam and Chirakkal taluks;

(b) the number of the shareholders in the said Malabar Wholesale Co-operative Society;

(c) the number of shares held by the Hindus and Muslims in the said society;

(d) the number of Hindu and Muslim directors in the society; and

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(e) the number of shareholders in Kottayam and Chirakkal taluks?

A.—(a) No.

(b) Individual shareholders	..	..	507
Society members	..	..	186
(c) Hindus	..	..	6,338 shares.
Muslims	..	..	649 "
(d) Hindu directors	..	..	15
Muslims	..	..	Nil.
(e) Kottayam	..	..	33
Chirakkal	..	..	27

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1946-47.

DEMAND XI—DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION AND MISCELLANEOUS.

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move—

'on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946 will amount to Rs. 3,69,69,300 in respect of the head District Administration and Miscellaneous. The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 62,86,900. The particulars of this Demand are to be seen at pages 75-77 of the Budget Memorandum.'

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move—

'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,69,69,300 for District Administration and Miscellaneous by Rs. 100 to discuss the necessity for revising the salary of the establishment and the inadequacy of representation of Muslims in the department.'

"Government servants in the districts are suffering a great deal for want of sufficient pay. Just now we heard from all sides that the Government must take immediate steps to improve their condition and increase their salary."

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"Sir, I rise to a point of order on the question of revision of salaries. On this question, a token cut motion was moved on the first day of the meeting, when I urged, that this motion might more appropriately be taken under the present demand, but you were pleased to allow that to be moved at that stage. The whole discussion went on that day and the cut motion was not pressed in view of the statement made on behalf of Government. Would it be right to discuss again on a point which has been debated in this House, a few days ago, on the question of salaries under 'General Administration?' I submit it would not be."

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* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, does the fact that we were allowed to discuss this question under a different Demand, preclude us from referring to this question?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Yes, it precludes reference. The hon. Member will deal with other points."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In District Administration, the representation of Muslims in the various services is inadequate. It may be true, Sir, that the Muslims are backward in education, but when they are educated, it cannot be said that they are not suitable for any service. 'Suitable' is a word which is very elastic, which can be interpreted in different ways according to circumstances and conditions, as the word 'merit' can be interpreted. But what I claim is, that Muslims, when educated, are, to say the least, as efficient as efficient men among any other community. Therefore, the exigency of office or suitability should not in any way affect the proper representation of the Muslims in the various services of district administration. I hope it will have the early attention of Government, and very soon we shall have no ground or room for complaint on this point."

"Sir, there is another point connected with this Demand on which I wish to say a few words, and that is with regard to weights and measures. You know, Sir, there are many standards of weights and measures prevalent in this Province, leave alone the country. There is difference in this matter within the same district, not to say, of difference between districts. This is one of the reforms which must engage the attention of the Government when they think of the progress of the masses. It creates a lot of confusion among the people and it affects their well-being as well. They ought to be well informed on matters which affect their life. At present, the people are not able to easily and readily understand the market conditions in various parts of the Province. Therefore I would suggest that the Government must take up this matter and see whether they cannot bring out unification of the standards of weights and measures. It may be said that it will be more desirable for the Government of India to take up this matter. But if it is reserved to be taken up by them, it will take a long time. So it is very desirable that the Provincial Government should take steps and go ahead with it, and if the Government of India want to take a share in the matter then they may also be allowed to do so and the whole matter can be co-ordinated."

12 noon. "Without waiting for the Government of India to move in this matter, I think the Government of Madras will be well advised to take steps to bring about the promulgation of one standard of weights and measures for the whole Province."

"Under this head, I would like to mention another point that is affecting the life of the people and which is a source of trouble between one community and another. I think I am right in referring to the subject under this head of 'District Administration.' I mean, Sir, the question of music before

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mosque. That is a question that has been agitating the minds of the people for decades. No Government has so far taken any effective steps to put this question at rest. The Muslims complain that they are not given the right of saying their prayers undisturbed. They say at least the mosque may be left immune from these disturbances. According to the law laid down in certain cases by the Madras High Court, they are given the privilege of saying their prayers undisturbed during certain stated hours of congregational prayers; but, Sir, it is common knowledge that prayers, both individual and congregational, are offered in all mosques at all hours of the day and night, and it is generally conceded that playing of music does disturb the Muslims in their prayers. But the High Court of Madras has unfortunately restricted the application of this principle of avoidance of music only to public congregational prayers with the result that there have been frequent troubles between two communities on account of the playing of music in front of the mosque. In this connexion, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to certain remarks made by the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Panduranga Rao, which is reported in All-India Reporter, 1938, Madras 305. I would quote some of his words here. They are—

"It is clear that the playing of music when public congregational worship is going on in the mosque would practically amount to an offence under section 296, Indian Penal Code, and would certainly be a serious infraction of the Muhammadans' right to engage in public congregational prayer without disturbance."

Again he says, Sir, in reference to a particular case—

"The complaint of the Muhammadan respondents has no doubt a certain amount of practical common sense behind it in view of the fact that it would not be easy in a village like Muddanur to know exactly when public congregational worship is going on and there might be some difficulties in the way of the Police protecting the rights of the one community. Nevertheless though there is something to be said in support of the suggestion of the respondents, viz., to prohibit music in front of the mosque at all times as a practical solution of the ever recurring disputes that occur between the two communities, it is not possible to give a judicial imprimatur to such a solution as that would be inconsistent with the law as laid down for very many years."

"There again, Sir, he depends upon the law as laid down by the Judges. Therefore, the only solution of this question would be for Government to bring in legislation for prohibiting the playing of music before mosque at all times. I would suggest, Sir, that such a prohibition should be applied not only to mosques but to all places of worship, whether Muslim or non-Muslim. This is a matter which has been a source of much trouble in the Province as well as elsewhere. Therefore, the Government would do well to pay immediate attention to this subject."

"Though, Sir, I am not now to refer to the salaries of Government servants in the districts, I may be allowed to express the hope that the Cabinet Sub-Committee that has been appointed by Government to go into the matter will do justice to all

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Government servants and give them relief at an early date. With these words I move the cut motion."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, under this head we are spending nearly 4 crores of rupees as salaries to officers. But, in spite of all these things, you find great corruption going on. Particularly, I would like to bring to the notice of this House the Textile Department, Textile Officers and others. In connexion with cloth and yarn, so many black markets are going on unchecked, and I would request the Minister to take proper steps to check this black market. If a committee is appointed to find out their total earnings, they will come to the conclusion that terrible bribes are being taken by these textile officials, which are really the money of the people. An enquiry committee should be appointed to find out the total earnings of these officers, and if the earnings are disproportionate to their salaries, they should be expropriated by the State and spent towards relief of the people.

" I would like to bring to the notice of this House the case of the Village Officers' Association. I am not speaking of salaries, but I want to say something about the bonus that had been granted and which had not been up till now paid to them. Last year, karnams were promised a bonus of Rs. 10 for the preparation of A, B and C registers. That bonus has not been paid up till now. It seems that the Deputy Secretary to Government, Food Department, wrote to the Secretary of the Andhra Provincial Village Officers' Association on 13th May 1946 saying that karnams who had prepared these registers for whom bonus had not been paid, might apply to the concerned Collectors for payment. Accordingly, applications were sent, and it seems no payment has been made to them. In view of the additional duties which the village officers are discharging regarding the procurement and rationing, Government has taken sympathy and has allotted Rs. 3 per karnam per month and about Rs. 6 per village headman. Everybody is agreed that it is a very small sum that we are paying to these people, and I request the Minister to see that this bonus is paid without delay. Only yesterday, I got a letter from a village officer that even this small bonus has not yet been paid.

" As regards Proprietary Estates, I bring to the notice of this House that zamindars are paying only 49 lakhs of rupees as revenue. Out of this 42 lakhs is being spent for the village officers there. What I would suggest is that for the work, the village officers perform in the zamindari area, the zamindar should be made to pay so that the general revenue of the Province may not be affected.

" Now with regard to our provincial broadcasting system, our Presidency consists of many nationalities and every nation wants that its own culture and other things must be developed. In connexion with this broadcasting system, we have broadcasting stations only at Madras and Trichinopoly. There is great

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desire among both the Andhra and Malabar population that they should have separate broadcasting stations in their provinces also. As a matter of fact, during the Advisers' regime, there was a proposal to have a separate broadcasting station at Rajahmundry, but for reasons best known to them, it was not up till now fulfilled. What I would suggest to the Hon. Minister is that he must take this into consideration immediately and start separate broadcasting stations for all these nationalities so that special opportunities to develop their own culture and their own art may be afforded. I request the Ministry to go into this question immediately and see that separate broadcasting stations are established in all the Malabar and Andhra areas. As a matter of fact, in Rajahmundry it was promised, and it was also agreed to start immediately. But it was unnecessarily delayed.

" There is another thing about the Rural Recreation Department. I do not know what sort of recreation will this department give to the people or how it will be useful to the people. I fear it is only a department to give some posts to a few individuals. Government spend about Rs. 63,000 over them. I feel it is unnecessary. We cannot create any recreation to the people. This department will not be useful to the people. The people must be trained, they must be educated and they must be diverted from their bad habits. Then only we can help them. We cannot help them simply by appointing an officer. So this department must be immediately abolished.

" I now come to the Estates Land Act Tribunal. Section 93-A of the Estates Land Act provides for the establishment of a Tribunal to decide the kudivaram and melvaram rights of the ryots with the idea of benefiting both the parties. In practice it had become a source of hardship. I would request the Hon. Minister to go into this and see that an effective remedy is provided for the cultivator.

" Now with regard to rural indebtedness. The previous Congress Ministry have passed legislation giving relief to agriculturists. This has helped greatly both the middle and the rich, but the position of the agricultural labourer was left untouched. I suggest to the Government that the condition of the agricultural labourer and the industrial labourer must be taken into consideration because most of them are highly indebted. The Kabuliwalahs are extracting exorbitant charges from these people. They even beat these people. These people do not receive even their wages, because the Kabulis surround them and take away all their salaries. I suggest that Government should bring in legislation to declare a moratorium in the case of agricultural labourer and industrial labourer.

" Regarding music before mosque, I think the Leader of the Opposition has given valuable suggestions to avoid all clashes between Hindus and Muslims. The Hon. Minister should prescribe a limit of space around mosques and see that no music is

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played in those places so that we can avoid these communal clashes. With these words I support the cut motion."

12-15 p.m. * ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"In supporting the cut motion, I wish to say this. Now that the Congress Party has come into office, we have been told that there are going to be considerable changes or more or less a revolution in the system of administration in the districts. There used to be a complaint in the past that the administration was concentrated at the top. With the formation of village committees and with the handing over to the villagers large powers in regard to the administration of the areas, I am afraid that the power and prestige of the head of the district have been considerably reduced. He will not enjoy that amount of power which is necessary for the proper administration of the district. I admit that there must be co-operation and collaboration between the non-officials and the head of the district. But if it is carried too far, if the non-officials gain the upper hand, or if a member belonging to a particular party or the secretary of that party were to become the super-collector of that district, I do not know what will be the position of district administration under those conditions. We have come to know of cases where individuals meddle with the district collectors in their administration. As a matter of fact, I understand there were cases of Secretaries of Congress Committees telling the District Magistrate to function in one way or another according to their dictates. This state of affairs should certainly be put a stop to. I know the Hon. the Premier will not tolerate such a thing, but whether he will succeed in putting down these things is a matter which we await with some amount of suspense. We are anxious that the district administration should not only be pure, but also that the head of the district should have sufficient authority, as he used to have before, to administer the district efficiently. That is what we have to try and attain.

"So far as Muslim officials are concerned, I do not wish to repeat what has already been said regarding their inadequacy. I certainly believe that it is my duty to bring to the notice of the Hon. Premier and the other members of the Government that in some cases both in the past and in the recent past the authority of the Muslim District Collectors has been interfered with. If a Muslim District Collector appoints a Muslim clerk or a Muslim peon, the appointment is not approved and it is even set aside by the Secretary to the Board of Revenue belonging to a particular community on the ground that that appointment had been made simply because the Collector was a Muslim. I do not think communalism can be carried further than this. There have been at least half a dozen cases where the Secretary to the Board of Revenue has interfered with such appointments. Such a state of affairs should be stopped in the interests of the proper administration of the district. Then, Sir, it is not possible for a district to have more than one Muslim officer for a long time. If two, three, or by chance even four Muslim officers are in a district, a hue and

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cry is raised that that district has become a Pakistan with the result that the authorities try to destroy the Pakistan as they imagine it to be by removing one or two Muslim officials. If this is the view of a particular community in regard to another community, what is the use of the Hon. Premier preaching to us time and again that we are all one, whatever our religion may be, and that somehow or other we must get along as one. We are prepared to take his advice, but it must be implemented by action. We are looking forward to the time when the Hon. Premier will not give room for such grievances in the mind of the Muslim community.

"We have known the Hon. Premier as a great lawyer of eminence who had a very lucrative practice and which he gave up for the sake of the country. I have heard that he is also a great actor, and that for his good acting, he has earned many prizes. We have known him as the editor of the English daily *Swarajya* which had to be started because the Hindu in those days was anti-Congress. Perhaps hon. Members may feel that I am going off at a tangent. Because to-day is the birthday of the Hon. Premier, one is inclined to be in a somewhat autobiographical vein, and I have to say that in all these capacities he has done very real service. Whether he had been a teacher at some time or other, we do not know. At least he has been one in this House. We have great respect for him and listen with attention to the lessons which he teaches to some of us, and the whole House occasionally.

"With regard to the question of Muslim officials, I must draw the attention of the Hon. Premier to the fact that in Malabar where a third of the population is Muslim, there is hardly a Muslim official of position in the district. The figures may be staggering. The District Medical Officer is not a Muslim, the District Food Organization Officer is not a Muslim, the Deputy District Supply Officers are not Muslims, not one of all the Taluk Supply Officers is a Muslim, not one of the three Revenue Divisional Officers is a Muslim, 95 per cent of the Tahsildars are non-Muslims, and the District Veterinary Officer and the District Agricultural Officer are not Muslims. Almost all the officers, except the District Judge and District Superintendent of Police, are non-Muslims. While on this subject, I thought it advisable, in view of what is obtaining in certain districts, to impress on the Government that it will be a very good policy that, among the posts of district officers, at least one or two are given to Muslims. That will be conducive to the harmony that will have to be brought about in the district. I think the Government can pursue this policy to the benefit of all concerned.

"With regard to the question of village committees, hon. Members, while speaking on other demands, have already referred to this. I hope that hereafter the administration will not be lop-sided, that is in favour of one party or another. There

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must be no bias in favour of any party so far as district administration is concerned. All the communities in this Presidency should be assured that the administration is being carried on justly and based on truth and righteousness. If there is bias in favour of one community or other such an administration will not be a satisfactory and Godly administration. With these words, I support the motion."

H. S. Hussain Sahib Bahadur rose in his seat.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Before the hon. Member begins to speak, I should like to draw his attention to cut motion No. 150 given notice of by him under Demand XI—District Administration and Miscellaneous, to discuss the administration of the Aminidivi Islands attached to the district of South Kanara. On this, I wish to say a few words. The Islands come under 'excluded areas.' According to sub-section (3) of section 92 of the Government of India Act, 1935, the Governor shall, as respects any area in a Province which is for the time being an excluded area exercise his functions in his discretion. So, His Excellency the Governor is responsible for the administration of the Aminidivi Islands, and not the Hon. Ministers."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"So I should not refer to that topic?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"You can talk about it."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am glad to know from my hon. Friend Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan who, on the occasion of the Prime Minister's 75th birthday, referred to his various activities—I did not know till to-day that the Hon. Premier is a versatile genius. He was referred to as a great lawyer, a great journalist, a great politician, and above all a great actor. I feel sure, Sir, that when we discuss matters like district administration, the Hon. Premier will accept our suggestions and, like a true actor, act up to them. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I know that the Government have recently passed an order to the effect that retired people should not be re-employed. On this occasion, I would like to know the attitude that the Government are going to adopt towards rule 9 (a) (i) employees who were recruited during war time indiscriminately for want of qualified hands. So far as I know, these employees do not possess the requisite qualifications, educational or otherwise. In some instances, I understand, these employees in the district offices have secured very rapid promotions and have even become Deputy Collectors. I do not know whether this Government, in the interests of efficiency, will adopt a definite policy to see that efficient and qualified men are secured to fill these posts. This is a point on which I would like to elicit definite information from the Government."

"Another point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government is the lack of co-ordination among the departments in the district. Let me give an instance. The Revenue department officials issue a permit for sugar, the Commercial Tax department people do not know anything about it, and it so

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happens that when they come for checking up, they find that a person who closed his business long ago—it may be a hotel or a tea-shop—is still continuing to use the permit for 2, 3 or 4 bags of sugar. This is because there is lack of co-ordination. If the Revenue department had only verified the thing in consultation with the Commercial Tax department, I believe these mistakes would not occur. Perhaps those bags of sugar found their way in the black-market; quite likely.

"Next, Sir, I wish to refer to the administration of Aminidivi Islands. It is only on a point of information that I want to discuss the administration of these islands. I do not mean that the Minister in charge of District Administration should be held responsible for anything that is happening in that excluded area. These Aminidivi Islands are inhabited by people whose number is, according to my information, 10,000. Their well-being and welfare are entrusted to the Administration of the district of South Kanara. Therefore, Sir, it would be better if the Government in consultation with His Excellency the Governor come out with a progress report on the administration of these islands for the benefit of all. I know, Sir, it is only a lower division clerk that is sent to these islands to take care of these people. Instead of sending a lower division clerk it is better to send an officer of the grade of deputy tahsildar. The population is big enough and I think a deputy tahsildar will be able to administer the area much better than a lower division clerk who is sent as a monegar. It happens that the monegar becomes the king and the pope. Therefore he must be a person who feels the responsibility and is well-trained in the art of administration. Therefore I would urge upon His Excellency the Governor and also on the Government that they in future should send only an officer of the grade of deputy tahsildar to administer these areas. The entire population is Muslim. We do not know what steps have been taken for their education, for maintaining their health and for promoting industries and enterprise in those islands. There is no cultivation there so far as I know. They have got only coconut and coir; and they prepare so many eatables from the coconut. They bring these articles to our district for sale or in exchange for rice which is not at all grown on these islands. They depend entirely on the district of South Kanara for their food. If the Government would take up the question of ameliorating the condition both economically and socially of these people and give them all encouragement in the matter of cottage industries such as the production of a jelly or jam which they prepare out of coconut and also many other things including articles which they make out of tortoise shells. These are all things to which any Government should pay some attention. Therefore I take this occasion only because this is the only occasion when we can speak about these areas. I would earnestly request the authorities concerned to see that an ordered type of administration is introduced in these small islands off the coast of South Kanara."

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"The next point I would like to refer to is the hardship of village officers. I do not want to refer to the low pay that they are getting. Apart from the low pay, I know, Sir, in any case they have to dance attendance on the touring Government officers who will be visiting their villages so often. They have at the same time to get the necessary supplies for them and in many cases, I know, they will be out of pocket. These things should not be allowed to occur in future in the village. The low paid people should not be compelled to dance attendance on the touring officers visiting the village. These officers belong to all departments and it makes no difference so far as the village officers are concerned. Otherwise a complaint is sent against them to the departmental head. Though this matter may appear to be very small, it is working a great hardship on the services.

"One other point. Apart from the monegar, there is a clerk and a doctor to take care of these people in the Aminidivi Islands. I should say they should open more dispensaries there. That is also necessary for the benefit of these people. This is yet another point which I wish to urge with regard to the administration of the Aminidivi islands. With these few words I support the cut motion."

* MUHAMMAD RAFAEUDIN AHMED ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR :—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. the Leader of the Opposition has raised a very important point, namely, the question of music before the mosque. I wish to join the appeal made by him to the Government to examine this question afresh and pay attention to this very important question. This question, Sir, is all important to the Muslims and much more important to them than the question of representation in services or the question of bread and butter. This is a question, Sir, which touches their religion and their religious feelings. Therefore, I would earnestly appeal to the Government to go into the question as suggested by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and devise ways and means to see that this question is amicably settled. I wish to add a few words with reference to Nellore. Hon. Members are aware of the unfortunate incidents that happened in that town three years ago and the communal riots that took place there during 1941-43. Sir, in Nellore all along till the year 1941 although there was a civil court decree in favour of the Hindus in existence even as long ago as 1918 the policy of the Government has been consistently to this effect that this decree should not be given effect to. In view of the grave happenings that are attendant upon this question it was decided that this decree should not be executed. This was the case till the Advisers' Government took up office in 1939. I may say that even though representations were made by the Hindus to the Congress Ministry between 1937 and 1939 still the then Congress Government thought fit to prohibit the playing of music before the mosque. But when the Advisers' Government came into power they reversed this policy, this policy which was in existence in Nellore from 1918 when the civil court decree came into existence.

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What followed after the reversal of that policy is a fact well-known to the Government and the hon. Members of this House. I do not think it is necessary for me to repeat that history. Now, Sir, we have been waiting till a popular Government came into power. When the war was on and when the bureaucratic Government were in power we urged them to have our grievances redressed, but without success. So we were waiting till the war was over and a popular Government came to power to renew our appeal. So I request Government to pay attention to this very important question and to examine the whole matter *de novo*. This is a matter which will go a very long way to promote communal harmony in this Province. If the Government feel that the declarations made by the High Court in this regard are an impediment to the Government then, Sir, I suggest that legislation be brought forward to get over that difficulty. After all this Government which is a popular Government can have that much courage. It can, I suppose, with confidence go ahead and enact legislation and the public will support it. After all this Government have enacted measures on questions like the Temple Entry. On this question of music before mosque the Government will have the support of all enlightened sections of the population if they introduce such a legislation.

"Sir, I wish to refer in passing, to the way in which this problem was handled in Nellore. Although it is the Advisory Government which was responsible for this policy, still, so long as the present Government think it fit to continue that policy, they must also accept responsibility. When this question came before the Advisory Government in 1942, a suggestion was made by them that the Muslims should give way on one important point, namely, the question of tiger disguises. Sir, in Nellore, the question of tiger disguises during Muhurram was also connected with the question of music before mosques. The trouble in Nellore arose on these two questions. The then Government suggested that the Muslims should give way on the question of tiger disguises. Acting on that advice, the Muslims in Nellore were willing to make a compromise on the question of tiger disguises and waived their objection to the Hindus putting on these disguises.

"When I am on the question of tiger disguises, I wish to say that this is a matter which concerns the masses. It is the masses and their mentality that we have to take into account. This matter may seem trivial and ridiculous to enlightened people like the hon. Members of the House, but it is not we who are concerned over this question. It is the general masses, both Hindus and Muslims who are worried over this question.

"The Muslims attach some amount of religious significance to the tiger disguises which they put on only during Muharram. But even though the tradition has been that the Muslims alone put on the disguise and the Hindus never put in this disguise, still, in view of the suggestion made by the Government, the Muslims were willing to waive their objection. But, in this respect, the Government went back upon their promises. The result of the Priestley Enquiry was that the Muslims were prohibited from

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wearing these disguises and the Hindus were allowed to take out processions with music before mosques. However, that is past history. Now that a popular Government is in power, I would appeal to this Government to come forward and examine this question afresh in consultation with the Leader of the Opposition and other members on this side of the House and I do hope that the Government will give due attention to this very important problem."

M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is needless for me to refer to the question of salaries of Government servants in the districts. But I may be permitted to refer to another important aspect of the problem, namely, the question of providing houses for the Government servants living in the mufassal. The Government are fully aware of the fact that the sufferings and inconveniences of Government servants in districts are not less than the sufferings and inconveniences of Government servants living in the City. In this connexion, I should like to suggest that the Government may undertake a scheme of house construction so that they may provide accommodation for Government servants. A similar scheme is undertaken by the Government of India. Those of us who have visited New Delhi have found that several colonies have recently come into existence. These colonies were created and constructed by the Government of India. A similar scheme can be undertaken by the Government of Madras and I may point out that that undertaking will not be an unprofitable one.

"Sir, the House is aware of the fact that the educated men and men with best talents in the villages are migrating to the cities and towns, because the cities and towns with their Corporations and municipalities are providing conveniences and facilities and are thus making these urban centres really attractive. As such, the best talents are being attracted and they are migrating to the cities. This migration is accelerated by the backwardness of the rural centres.

"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the House is also aware of the fact that India is a country of villages and as long as agriculture is going to be the chief occupation of the people of this country, these villages must continue to exist for centuries to come. We have been hearing about rural reconstruction for the last two decades and till now nothing substantial has been done towards such rural reconstruction. Sir, there are in this Province tens and thousands of villages without panchayats and unions. Even in those places where there are panchayats and unions, those bodies are not able to do much because of their meagre finance to provide those villages with all facilities that are essential for their uplift. I find that panchayats and unions are not organized in several of the villages because of the apathy of the people in those places. I submit that this apathy is the virtual death of democracy. Therefore it becomes the duty and responsibility of a government that calls itself popular and democratic, to undertake extensive propaganda to dispel this apathy, so that it can convert this static life, galvanize this static life into a dynamic force which can

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bring panchayats and unions to almost all the villages of this country so that they can help to lift the condition of our villages. The policy of the Government is to assist only such of those panchayats and unions which are financially stable. I would like to point out to this hon. House that if they only study the history of the development of local bodies in countries like the United Kingdom and the United States of America, they will find that the central organizations have always financed such of those smaller areas which are financially backward. By such financial assistance, particularly to poorer centres, you will find a uniform development of local institutions. Unfortunately in this Province a similar policy was not adopted. Therefore we find vast disparity between village and village. Therefore, Sir, on this occasion I shall urge upon the Government that they should institute an inquiry into this question and see that sufficient financial assistance is rendered to these rural centres and to bring happiness to these areas.

"You are aware, Sir, that in several of our villages there is no proper protected water-supply. Ever-increasing population, unhealthy surroundings, absence of sanitation, maternity and child-welfare centres and similar other things, all these are undermining our village life. I may almost say that they disrupt and destroy the very rural life. Therefore, Sir, in the name of the villages, in the name of the very poor people that are living in these villages, the Government must come forward with a scheme for assisting and helping these villages to come forward. This is one of the points I wish to urge under this Demand.

"I may in passing refer to another important point which the Leader of the Opposition has raised and it is the standardization of weights and measures. The Government are aware of the fact that the Government of India are just now considering the question of decimalization of coins and standardization of weights and measures. Sir, before the Government of India can introduce an Act on an All-India basis, I wish the Government of Madras to come forward with a scheme of standardization of these weights and measures. Because of the lack of such a scheme there is confusion in the commercial life of this Province. Therefore, Sir, I would also urge upon this Government to consider this point also.

"With these words I support the cut motion."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"To-day being Friday, the House will rise for lunch and again meet at 3 o'clock."

(After lunch—3½p.m.)

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Before the House resumes the discussion on the Demand, I wish to tell hon. Members that I have fixed a limit of five minutes for each speaker for this afternoon. To-day is the birthday of our Premier. Many hon. Members want to take part in the birthday celebration. So the House will adjourn at 5 o'clock. From 3 to 4 p.m. Members will speak on the Demand and at 4 the Hon. the Revenue Minister will reply. At 4-30 p.m. the Hon. the Premier will speak.

"In this connexion I wish to remind hon. Members that the rules which we are following in regard to the conduct of business

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in the House to-day were those made at the time of the Montford Reforms. In those days there were only 100 and odd members in the Legislative Council. Also the revenue at that time was only Rs. 10 crores. It is now more than Rs. 49 crores and we have 215 members. Simply because we are following those rules I am obliged to limit the duration of speeches to five minutes on some occasions and I find that there is some slight dissatisfaction that I am not giving enough time for hon. Members to speak. To remove the cause for this feeling I have already appointed a committee to go into the rules and make suggestions. When the rules are ready, they will be placed before the House. It is my hope that more time will be allowed for each Demand thereafter. I could then give more time to hon. Members to speak. I hope the House will put up with these difficulties for the time being."

M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAILADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether on the committee which you said you have constituted for framing rules, you have included the members of the Opposition also?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—" Yes, certainly. There are two members."

* BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I wish to offer my hearty congratulations to the Hon. the Premier on his 75th birthday to-day (Voices from all parts of the House: 'Hear, hear') and I wish him many happy returns of the day. The month of birth of the Hon. the Premier coincides with the month of that great man Napoleon. Napoleon was born on 15th of August and the Hon. the Premier was born on the 23rd of August. Like Napoleon, the Hon. Mr. Prakasam has been a great fighter, though with different weapons. Napoleon fought with bayonets, but the Hon. Mr. Prakasam fights with words. And, like Napoleon, the Hon. Mr. Prakasam has won for himself considerable fame and renown. I wish him long life and health, energy and vigour to continue his hard work. And I hope that he will work for the uplift, for the betterment, for the happiness of all sections of people in this Province irrespective of caste or creed.

" Coming now to the subject of my cut motion, Mr. Speaker, I find that I am not supposed to speak on the cut motion I have given notice in order to invite attention to the need for raising the pay of the non-gazetted officers. I shall not dwell on that subject. All that I wish to say is that I am glad that, at long last, the Government have appointed a committee to give relief to the hungry stomachs of the ill-paid employees of the Government. I hope this committee will speed up with its deliberations and not take months in arriving at a decision. For, the matter is urgent and cannot brook any delay.

" Coming now to District Administration, I find that side by side with giving satisfaction to the legitimate needs and aspirations of the ill-paid Government employees, the Government should give their immediate attention to improve matters and frame and plan out a definite policy with regard to the future price structure. They ought to give their immediate attention to the increase in

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the cost of living and introduce price control of all essential food-stuffs and other necessities and get rid of the cordon round us, viz., the black-market. Otherwise, the vast sums of money that the Government may be spending in securing satisfaction among the services will be of no avail. It is the upward trend in prices that gives rise to the demand for high wages. India is a happy haven to the most voracious species of inflation known within living memory and the most urgent of all tasks for the Government is to give their attention to this matter and check the process of inflation.

" Now, with reference to District Administration, the point to which I should like to draw attention is the need to reduce expenditure in administration. The Congress Government in the past years have condemned the British Government for their top-heavy administration. Now that they have assumed power, they should not fall in line with bureaucratic methods and bureaucratic ideas, but should reduce expenditure. It may be that the present Government feel that they are in a happy position financially. But the present state of affairs cannot continue and will not continue for long. According to the cycle of change, the present position is bound to change and depression is bound to set in in the course of a few years the consequences of which will be that there will be a shrinkage in the revenues of the Government. Therefore the Government should from now begin to plan out to reduce expenditure. Why should not the Board of Revenue which is a super-numerary body be abolished? Why should not the number of High Court Judges be reduced? Why should not the dearness allowance that is being paid to Government officers who are drawing over Rs. 1,000 be stopped? There are many ways and means in which Government can effect a reduction in the cost of the administration.

" Another point to which I wish to draw attention is the necessity of the Government appointing Muslim officers in large numbers in the Commercial Tax department. Now, this is a department in which there is considerable paucity of Muslims. This department has now come to stay in view of the introduction of partial prohibition now and the certain introduction of total prohibition in the years to come. Therefore, now that the department has been made permanent, the Government should take steps to see that sufficient number of Muslims are employed therein. Again, in the Textile department also there is considerable paucity of Muslims. This is a department which is now wielding much power. In this department also, the Government should see that Muslims are duly represented.

" Now, I would like to put in a word for the women of this Province. It is high time that all restrictions with regard to the employment of women are removed. Women are now being employed mainly in two departments, viz., the Medical and the Education departments. But I think the time has come when women should be employed in other departments as well. Sex disqualification, Mr. Speaker, is an unknown thing in the present age, both in society and in Government and it should be abolished.

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Women demand no favours. They ask for no concessions. They look forward to no privileges. All that they want is equality of treatment on the same terms and on similar qualifications as men. The present Government, by appointing a woman as Minister, have acknowledged that women are not inferior to men. The logical result of this will be that the Government should come forward to remove all sex disqualifications and appoint women in all departments of Government service.

“Coming next to my other cut motion which deals with village reconstruction. I find that in the Budget contrary to budgetary procedure, contrary to all canons of democracy, a lump-sum grant of 3 crores has been made for this purpose. True democracy requires that when a budget is framed and presented, the details of expenditure under each item should be set out. Now, the manner in which the Budget has been presented to us, viz., lump-sum grants, precludes the Legislature from exercising its due share of control over the finances of the Province. Hence I wish to express my disapproval with regard to this matter.

“Turning next to the provision of three crores of rupees for village reconstruction, the manner in which this amount is to be spent, namely, on khadi production, I am afraid, will be both unremunerative and unsuccessful. I am aware that whatever suggestions are made from this side of the House will be condemned as emanating from a spirit of opposition to the Treasury Benches. But I may point out that my scepticism in this regard is shared by a staunch adherent of the Congress itself, viz., by no less a person than Dr. Rajan, a former Minister and also by that powerful organ, *The Hindu*, which is known for its Congress sympathy.

3-15 P.M. “Apart from this, the financial implications of the schemes are so great that it is doubtful if the scheme will prove a profitable investment. But the main objection that we have to the scheme is that it involves compulsion and this is evident from the note of the Provincial Textile Commissioner, where he stated that if in a firka a person was not able to spin he must pay the penalty. Again it is said that the family cannot escape the compulsion to spin and that the family will not be granted any exemption from spinning except for very compelling reasons. All these indicate that there is compulsion involved in the scheme. The penalty that will be enforced is that people who do not spin will not be granted any khadi and at a time when province-wide rationing is to be introduced these people will have to go without cloth, as they will not be given any ration card either for mill cloth or for hand-woven cloth. Sir, we are living in days of individual liberty. Therefore, I think it is not at all desirable that individual liberties should be curtailed and a person compelled to undertake the monotonous task of spinning, if he or she does not wish to do so. The Hon. Premier has denied that there is to be compulsion. If there is really to be no compulsion I would request the Hon. Premier to declare that no penalty will be enforced against those who will not comply with the scheme. With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion.”

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MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a good thing that as soon as this debate began the Hon. Minister for Revenue stated that the question of the salaries of the non-gazetted officers was under consideration and hence no time may be devoted here for discussing that question. Since that matter is under consideration, I have an appeal to make. The pay of scavengers and others is under consideration and we know the meaning of ‘under consideration’ by this Government. A lathi charge just under the portico of this building and using tear-gas in the Triplicane Beach and a host of other things. If ‘under consideration’ means all this, I ask the Government not to force the non-gazetted officers also to resort to strikes and then use force. I wish, Sir, that the demands of the non-gazetted officers are met very soon before they resort to some sort of action; let the Government decide soon instead of saying that the matter is under consideration.

“Since the advent of this Government, administrative orders have been passed in the Revenue Department asking the Collectors to do certain things only after consulting the M.L.As., such as in the matter of selection of firkas and in selecting firka officers. Collectors have been asked to consult local Congress Presidents and also M.L.As. I have contacted some Collectors and they say that they have much experience in the matter of consultation with M.L.As. First of all they have got divergent recommendations to make and they are not able to decide one way or the other. On account of such orders neither the M.L.As. nor the Collectors could be made responsible for a particular work.

“In my own district of Guntur, the Collector was asked to select a firka for development under the scheme in consultation with the M.L.As. The M.L.As. selected Mangalagiri and the Collector selected Nidubrolu. Finally, some other firka was selected, different from either. If the district officer is expected to do responsible work all this red-tape should not be there. The responsibility should be on a particular person.

“I am told by a District Collector that the M.L.As. belonging to the party in power had gone to him and said that such and such a Minister was visiting a place only at his instance. Instances there are where they have said ‘because you have not done this and you have not done that, I am asking the Minister to come here.’ I hope this matter will be investigated whether the Ministers are visiting districts only at the instance of the M.L.As. We have seen, Sir, that when Ministers go to districts they are completely under the control of the village and taluk Congress committees and even district officers and taluk Government officers have no opportunity of meeting them unless they have the permission from the big Congressman there. (The Hon. Speaker indicated that the hon. Member’s time was up.) ‘I have given notice of a cut motion, Sir, and therefore I must have 15 minutes. . .’

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MR. SPEAKER:—"I have already consulted the Leaders of Parties and I have told them the difficulties. They have all agreed that 5 minutes should be allotted to each Member. The hon. Member will please resume his seat."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me a few minutes to speak on this Demand. The hon. the Leader of the Opposition and one or two members of the Muslim League and also the Member of the Communist Party have made an appeal to the Hon. the Premier to consider the advisability of bringing in legislation on the vexed question of music before mosques. During my last 25 years of legal practice I have had opportunities of appearing in cases between Muslims and Hindus in which this question of music before mosques was involved. Decisions have been given by executive officers and also by the courts. My long experience in this matter compels me to make a very earnest appeal to the present Government to set at rest all doubts on this question. In this Presidency, Sir, the relationship between the Muslims and the Hindus has been claimed to be very cordial except on the question of music before mosques and the Mohurram celebrations. These questions have been dealt with by the authorities in a way but the parties concerned are not satisfied. The executive authorities, the magistracy responsible for the maintenance of law and order have got their own whims in the matter. They have got to prevent breach of the peace and they pass a certain order irrespective of the fact whether injustice is done to one community or another. Naturally the parties have resorted to civil courts and the courts have passed their judgments according to the common law and according to precedents. From a perusal of the cases I find that many riots have taken place between Muslims and Hindus and they continue to take place where these questions arise. I think it is the duty of the popular Government to solve this question which is agitating the minds of the Hindus and the Muslims, by bringing forward legislation setting at rest all doubts on this question. I cannot emphasize too much the urgency of the matter in view of the number of cases pending before the civil courts. To my knowledge there are half a dozen cases arising out of executive orders passed by the magistrates one way or the other. These proceedings leave a bitterness behind them. As my hon. Friend Mr. Ansari said for the last twenty years there has been a dispute on this matter in Nellore. There are very many danger spots in the country. The same is the case in my district and in many other districts also. If people are sure about their rights in the matter, and if proper legislation is enacted due consideration being given to the religious feelings of both the parties, if there is a little sacrifice on the part of the parties concerned, I am sure we can come to some arrangement in the matter. I am sure the Muslim Members of this House will lend their helping hand in this matter, because if the cause of bitterness and hostility is once removed, other matters may be set right. This is such an important matter that the popular Government should take it up without delay."

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"There was an attempt made to solve this question about 15 years ago and a Bill also was drafted. It was a non-official bill and the then Government would not take up the matter. There was a declaration of fundamental rights in the proceedings of the Conciliation Board at Delhi in 1928. The rights were laid down in the report of Pandit Motilal Nehru. I think this question was specifically raised and it was to some extent conceded that music before mosques should not be played. Reciprocally it was said that cow-killing should be stopped in the public as far as possible. Cow-killing does not very much affect us here but there is the other question of Mohurram celebrations. Sir, this question of music before mosques is so important to us that we shall help this Government in solving the problem by asking our community to make concessions in this matter."

* MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of this cut motion in order to draw the attention of the Government to the unfortunate plight of hundreds of Anglo-Indian young men who have been demobilized after rendering yeoman service in various capacities in the great world struggle which ended last year. Sir, the Anglo-Indian community has played a vital role in the development of the history of this country. It is a role of which any community may justly be proud. The part we played in the great world struggle was a heroic one. Our contribution to the fighting forces was out of proportion to our size in that 80 per cent of the available manpower of the community joined the different armed forces. The community claims that it has contributed comparatively more to the war effort than any other community in this country. Sir, because of our unrivalled contribution to the different military service, the community is faced as a result of demobilization with relatively greater unemployment than any other community. Here in Madras, Sir, about 2,000 able-bodied young Anglo-Indian men answered the call to service at the outbreak of the second world war in September 1939. In view of their past training and their proud military record they were entrusted with the responsible duty of garrisoning the Fort and manning the coastal battery at Casimode where they had to keep a careful and constant watch in order to prevent a repetition or recurrence of the Emden incident of the last war and possibly an invasion of the City from the sea. They stuck to their posts in spite of dangers from the air and the sea. When in 1942, Madras was on the brink of an invasion by the Japs and many of the citizens evacuated the City these men stuck to their posts ready to stay off the threat of invasion. I feel confident that if the Japs had attempted to effect a landing on our coast they would have given them a tough time of it. High military authorities have testified to the very efficient manner in which these men carried out their responsible duties, to their powers of endurance and to the excellent manner in which they maintained discipline and order. It is a tragedy, Sir, that after six years of loyal and faithful service to the King and the country in their hour of need, these men should have been turned adrift, because the military had no longer any use for them. This is the

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second occasion on which the Government of India through the Military Department have treated the Anglo-Indian community shabbily by making a piece of convenience of its men in their hour of need, and just throwing them overboard when they are no longer required by them. Our leaders have been agitating for the formation of an Anglo-Indian regiment in which these men could be embodied and the question of unemployment solved, but in vain. I appeal to this Government to do something for these unfortunate men. Many of them provide excellent material for appointment in the Police and Jail departments by reason of their courage, powers of endurance and their ability to maintain discipline and order, qualities which should weigh in the selection of personnel for appointment in these departments. I trust that this Government will see their way to do something for these unfortunate men. In appealing to the Government on behalf of these men I wish it to be clearly understood that we Anglo-Indians do not seek privileges or preferential treatment. All we ask is that we should be accorded our rights in the mosaic of Indian life."

Sri A. S. SAHAJANANDA:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே; நான் இந்த மானியத்தைப்பற்றி 3 கட்ட மோஷன் கொண்டுவந்திருந்த போதிலும் என்னுடைய பேச்சை நான் வெகு சீக்கிரத்திலேயே முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

"ஜில்லாக்களிலே ஆங்காங்கு ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகள் கொஞ்சம் பேர்கள் படித்து இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுடைய படிப்புக்கேற்ப கலெக்டர், டெபுடி கலெக்டர், மற்றுமுள்ள ஜில்லா அதிகாரிகளைப்போன்ற உத்தியோகங்களில் அவர்களுக்கு என்னென்ன உத்தியோகங்கள் கொடுக்க முடியுமோ அவைகளையெல்லாம் கொடுக்கும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

"இரண்டாவதாக, நீதி, நிர்வாகம் இரண்டையும் தனித்தனியாகப் பிரிக்கவேண்டுமென்ற நோக்கம் அரசாங்கத்திற்கு இருந்துகொண்டு வருகிறது. அவ்விதம் அவ்விரண்டையும் தனித்தனியே பிரிப்பதால் நாட்டில் நிர்வாகம் சரியாக நடைபெறுது. சாதாரணமாக சவுத் ஆற்காடு ஜில்லாவை எடுத்துக்கொண்டால் 4 டிபுடி கலெக்டர்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். 12 டெபுடி தாசிஸ்தார்கள் இருக்கிறார்கள். இவர்கள் மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட் வேலையும் பார்த்து வருகிறார்கள். அவர்களுடைய இடத்தில் மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்களை தனியாக நியமித்தால் ஜில்லாவின் நிர்வாகச் செலவு இரட்டிப்பாகும். இவ்விதம் நீதியையும் நிர்வாகத்தையும் பிரிப்பதனால் அந்த உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு வேலையும் அதிகம் குறைந்து போகும். இப்போதே அவர்களுக்கு வேலை அதிகமில்லை. ஆகவே, நீதி, நிர்வாகம் இப்போதே போல் ஒன்றாகவே இருக்கவேண்டும். இன்னும் நீதி, நிர்வாகத்தை பிரித்துவிட்டால், போலீசாரையும், மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டையும் கண்டு யாரும் பயப்படமாட்டார்கள். சாதாரணமாக இப்போது டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் லேபர் ஆபீசர்கள் கிராமங்களுக்குப் போனால் மணியக்காரர்களை அழைத்தால் அவர்கள் வருவதில்லை. காரணமென்ன வெனில் அவர்களுக்கு மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட் பவர் இல்லாதபடியால் ஒருவரும் அவருடைய வார்த்தையை கேட்பதில்லை. ஆகவே நீதி, நிர்வாகத்தை பிரிக்கக்கூடாது என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

"அடுத்தபடியாக இன்று கிராமத்தாருக்குள்ள குறைகளை அளவிட முடியாது. உழகிறவன் கணக்குப் பார்த்தால் உழவுகோலுக்குக் காணாது, என்று பழமொழி கூறுவார்கள். சாதாரணமாக, 5 காணி நில முடையவனுக்கு மிகுதியாக விளைந்தால் 150 கலம் நெல்தான் விளையும். தீர்வை, மராமத்து முதலியவற்றிற்கு 50 கலம் போகும். பண்ணையாளுக்கு 30 கலம் போகும். மாட்டுத் தீவனம் 20 கலம் போகும். மீதம் 50 கலத்தை வைத்துக்கொண்டு அவன் குடும்பத்தை நடத்த முடியாது."

[23rd August 1946] [Sri A. S. Sahajananda]

"மேலும் நிலமுடையவர்களை கல்வி வரி, ரோட் வரி முதலியன வருத்துகின்றன. கிராமங்களிலே பயிர் செய்யும் குடிகளுக்கு வருமான வரி போடவேண்டுமென்று ஒரு சொல் இருந்து வருகிறது. அது கூடாதென்று சொல்லுவேன். ஏற்கனவே அவர்களுக்கு அதிக செலவு ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆகவே, இந்த நிலைமையில் கிராமத்தார்களின்மேல் புதுவரி போடுவதாகவிருந்தால் பொன் முட்டைக்காக வாத்தை அறுத்த மாதிரி குடியானவன் ஒரேயடியாக அழிந்து விடுவான். மிராசதாரர்களுக்கு வரி போடக்கூடாது என்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

"மேலும் சர்க்கார் ஒரு தவறு செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். நெல் கொடுக்கிறவர்களுக்கு இப்போது போனஸ் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. அறுவடையானதும் நானும் சர்க்காருக்கு நெல் கொடுத்தேன். எனக்கும் போனஸ் கொடுத்திருந்தால் 300 ரூபாய் கிடைத்திருக்கும். ஆரம்பத்திலேயே நெல்லைக் கொடுத்துவிட்டதால் எனக்கு போனஸ் ஒன்றும் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை. எனக்கே அவ்விதம் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லையென்றால் மற்ற கிராமத்தார்களின் நிலைமையைப்பற்றிச் சொல்லவேண்டுமா? சர்க்கார் ஆரம்பத்தில் ஒரு விலை கடைசியில் ஒரு விலையென்று போட்டால், ஜனங்கள் ஏமாந்து விடுவார்கள். ஆதலால் அறுவடை காலத்திலேயே தானியங்களுக்கு சரியான விலை நிர்ணயம் செய்து போனஸ் கொடுக்கும்படியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும்."

"இன்று சேரிகளின் நிலைமை மோசமாக இருக்கிறது. போவதற்குப் பாதை சரியாகவில்லை. பள்ளிக்கூடங்களில்லை. குடித்தண்ணீர் வசதியில்லை. போதுமான அளவுக்கு உணவுப்பொருள்கள் கிடைப்பதில்லை. செத்துப் போனால் பிணத்திற்கு மயானத்தில் இடங் கிடைப்பதில்லை. இந்த விஷயங்களை யெல்லாம் சர்க்கார் உடனடியாகக் கவனிக்கவேண்டும்."

"மேலும் இன்று கிராமங்கள் மிகவும் சீர்கேடான நிலைமையிலே இருந்து வருகின்றன. எல்லாப் பொறுப்பும் கிராம ஆபீசர்கள் மீதே விழுகிறது. எந்த உத்தியோகஸ்தர் வந்தாலும் அவருக்கு சப்ளை செய்ய வேண்டியிருக்கிறது. கிராம அதிகாரிகளுடைய சம்பளமோ மிகவும் சொற்பம். அவர்கள் மற்றவர்களைத் தொந்தரவு செய்து பணத்தை வாங்கிக் கொண்டு உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கு சப்ளை செய்யவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. உதாரணமாக சென்ற மாதத்தில் ஹரிஜன் ஒருவர் நிலத்தை விற்பதற்காக ஒரு கிராம அதிகாரியிடத்தில் போய் கையெழுத்து வாங்கினார். அது தவறாகப் போய்விட்டது. வேறு கையெழுத்துப் போடவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டதற்கு அந்த கிராம அதிகாரி 50 ரூபாய் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டார். அதோடு, கிராம அதிகாரிகள் டவுனுக்கு வந்தால் சாப்பாடில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்படுகிறார்கள். இந்த நிலைமையிலே அவர்களுக்கு D.A., T.A. முதலியவைகளைக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும்."

"கடைசியாக கிராம அதிகாரிகளுக்கு பரம்பரை பாத்தியதை யொழிய வேண்டும். அவர்களில் படிக்காதவர்களாகவிருந்தாலும் உத்தியோகம் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. ஹரிஜனங்கள் படித்தவர்களாகவிருந்தாலும் அந்த உத்தியோகம் கொடுக்கப்படுவதில்லை. பொதுவாகப் படித்த யோக்கியையுள்ளவர்களுக்கே அந்த உத்தியோகம் கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொண்டு முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

* **SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:**—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while rising to support the Demand, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Revenue the apathy of the village officers and more so of the district authorities. Sir, the district authorities are considered to be the real protectors of the Depressed Classes. But on an analysis we find in many cases that they have not that amount of sympathy required of them. Recently in Madura, we know what a sad thing took place when a Harijan corpse had to be taken to the cremation ground, and how after being half burnt the village talayari and the clerk there made the corpse to be taken away from that place, and then how they filed a complaint and the man had to be sent to jail. Thanks to the efforts of the Hon. Minister for Law who came to the rescue of the

[Sri V. I. Muniswami Pillai] [23rd August 1946]

man and saw that the conviction was not a correct one, the man was released. Not only that, in my own district of Nilgiris, the brick contractor had made a road right through the burial ground. The Harijans of my place were greatly disturbed. Application after application to the various district authorities has not brought any remedy. And if I want to mention the number of hardships caused to the Harijans it will be numerous. I appeal to the Hon. Revenue Minister to issue a circular to the district authorities asking them to give every facility to the Harijans in the matter of cremation grounds and convenience of paths for these people to pass through.

"There is a provision in the Budget for discretionary expenditure by the Collectors. It is high time that Collectors are asked to spend the amounts in giving facilities to the Harijans. There are some districts where there is no Labour department to spend the amounts that are budgeted. Collectors, Deputy Collectors and Revenue Divisional Officers must be asked to go to the cheries to give the people there some facilities and send reports to the Government. My hon. friend representing the Anglo-Indians was telling us that his community had given a large number of men for service in the war. It is not one community only but several communities have sent men for the purpose. The Harijans have sent the largest number. Now I find that funds have been provided for a colonization scheme in this budget. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, Sir, whether these colonies are going to be in the malarial places like Wynaad or in places free from malaria. In this connexion I find on page 90 of the Administration Report for 1945 the following points regarding resettlement of ex-servicemen. It says: 'The co-operative inspector in charge will allot lots of land to each member who will then have the legal status of a permanent occupancy ryot. A member will have no right to sub-let, mortgage or otherwise encumber his holding. It will also be impartible and will on his death pass undivided to his nominee or his senior male heir.' I think it is a very safe provision and I hope the Hon. Minister will take note of it in regard to the colonization scheme he has under consideration for the Harijans.

3-45
p.m.

"Sir, as regards representation of my community in the services, it is very small. Though there are many deputy collectors belonging to my community there is not even a single Collector. You cannot find one member of my community as a Collector in any district; though in the Provincial Service you have some people who are Deputy Collectors. Even if you take the number of Deputy Collectors, it is very small as compared to the population.

"One word more, Sir. In the application of the Weights and Measures Act, I feel it is not properly administered. In my district, in the matter of potatoes, where the Provincial Marketing Committee have decided Rs. 25 for a bag of 200 lb. the merchants are now buying at the rate of Rs. 20 a bag of 200 lb."

MR. SPEAKER:—"I am sorry you have exceeded your five minutes."

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* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, let me join my respected sister Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin in offering my heartiest congratulations and felicitations to our revered leader Mr. Prakasam on his 75th birthday. May God grant him long life and sound health for doing greater service to the motherland.

"With regard to the Demand under discussion, I want to say one or two words. My hon. friend the representative of the Anglo-Indian community pleaded for special facilities to be given to the members of his community for having gone to the war and served there. I shall be glad to give special facilities to the Anglo-Indian community. It is the smallest minority in our country. They deserve special protection. I accede to them all that; I am extremely glad that a distinguished member of the Anglo-Indian community is being thought of for membership of the Provisional Central Government of India. I shall be glad if all the Indian Christians who belong to the depressed classes and who are also suffering under the curse of untouchability are also given special facilities, particularly in regard to the colonisation schemes, the co-operative schemes, training in cottage and village industries, etc. In respect of all these things, both these communities deserve some special treatment; but I am afraid they cannot plead for such facilities on the ground of their having gone to the war. They went to the war in spite of us; when the Congress was being suppressed, when our students were being shot by the Police, when they were being executed and when we were all in the jails on account of the resolution not to co-operate in war efforts and in the midst of the 1942 August revolution, these people went to the war. And therefore, I cannot for a moment agree to special facilities being given to anybody for having gone to the war. If they are poor people, they deserve them as citizens of this country, as citizens and as depressed classes for whom really concessions ought to be given. There are thousands of ex-army men in this Province, more than a lakh, and concessions are being given to them in the shape of colonisation and co-operative schemes; and if offices are reserved to Anglo-Indians and Depressed Classes none will remain for ex-army men. I find that in the Budget there is something like Rs. 10 lakhs reserved for the Special Revenue staff for the resettlement of the demobilised personnel and on land schemes and co-operative schemes for them. I cannot therefore agree to any special concession; on the other hand, I would like that in all these matters special facilities are given to the members of the Azad Hindu Foj who laid down their lives on behalf of the country under the leadership of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose. There have been two revolutions in this country, the August 1942 revolution in India and the revolution under the leadership of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose outside India. It is only on account of these two revolutions that the Cabinet Mission came to India and they have accepted the Quit India resolution, and they are carrying on negotiations and peace parleys with our leaders, so that they may quit India in as short a time as possible and in the most peaceful manner."

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* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, in further supporting what my friend Sir, Mr. Salam has stated, I wish to say that since the Congress Party assumed office in this Province, there has been a feeling in the rank and file of the party that it is a Government of Congressmen, for the Congressmen and by the Congressmen. It is leading to very bad blood in the villages, and I am sure, Sir, the Minister concerned will give sufficient consideration to it. Sir, arising out of the results of the last elections, I have also to bring to the notice of the Government, that a sort of social boycott by Hindus is launched in various places against the Muslims for no valid reason. I hope, Sir, the District authorities will go into this matter and see that such things are stopped and put an end to. It has already been brought to the notice of Government that the local members of the Congress party are interfering with the day to day administration in the districts; they are trying to bring pressure on the district authorities, making all sorts of recommendations, etc. If this tendency is allowed to continue, we do not know where it is going to lead. Further, attempts are being made to approach the Ministers with requests for the transfer of Muslim officials from particular posts. I wish to bring it to the notice of the House that a number of Muslim officials have been transferred for no valid reason recently. If it is in the usual course that the transfers are made, I have nothing to complain, but if it is done for any other purpose, I would strongly condemn it, and I want the Government to see that no such transfers are made, simply because certain people are not liked. I can give a number of instances where Muslim officials have been transferred for no valid reason.

" There is another important point I wish to refer to. The Secretary to the Board of Revenue belongs to a particular community and he has been continuing as such for a long time. It is reported that names suggested by the District Collectors for Deputy Tahsildars' posts are not included simply because those persons are not to the liking of the official concerned. I hope, Sir, the Minister concerned will look into this matter and see that justice is done to all sections of the services.

" As the item of broadcasting also is included here, I wish to say we support the idea of a new transmitter for the Andhra districts; but at the same time, I have to bring to the notice of the Government the fact that no encouragement is being given to the Urdu language. If you go through the records, you won't find any Urdu broadcast in the Madras station or the Trichy station. I am sure due encouragement will be given to the Urdu language, a language which is spoken of by 12 lakhs of people in this Province; particularly when it is the policy of the Government to encourage Hindi, I see no reason why Urdu which is spoken by so many people should be suppressed. I hope, Sir, facilities will be given to see that Urdu broadcast also is allowed in the future in good proportion.

" Sir, with regard to the item of grant for sinking wells, we find a sum of Rs. 7,600 is provided. I want to know the policy

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of the Government in this respect. Is this money to be spent on this item, an item on which we have already spoken in the earlier part of our debates? I would like to know from the Minister why this small amount of Rs. 7,600 is allotted here. I do not want to take up more time of the House, Sir."

SRI ROKKAM RAMAMURTHY:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was given by you only five minutes' time; in these five minutes, I will not be able even to congratulate our Prime Minister. . . "

* MR. SPEAKER:—" You need not congratulate him. You come to the point."

SRI ROKKAM RAMAMURTHY:—" I have come with a cry for the Vizagapatam bifurcation, which has been under the contemplation of Government for a long time now. This bifurcation is necessary due to the reason that Vizagapatam is a big district; we cannot call it a district, it is a Province like Orissa. Having regard to its extent and so many other things, the Government must decide to bifurcate the district into two, and as I said, they have already taken it into consideration. I want to give you some figures and facts about the area and the population. The total area of the district is 9,107 square miles; we have got 22 taluks in the district; the total number of villages is 4,459. It has a population of 3,845,944. It has got 893,932 houses. It must be divided into two districts, into North Vizagapatam and South Vizagapatam districts; North Vizagapatam district consisting of Chatrapur division, Parvathipur division and Chipurupalle taluk. These two divisions and this taluk consist of 11 taluks, with 2,825 villages and 430,203 houses. These will have a population of 1,956,744. In South Vizagapatam district, you will have 7,000 square miles with similar population. North Vizagapatam will have an area of 6,010 square miles, and if we compare its area to that of other districts: Kistna has got only 3,402 square miles, West Godavari has got 2,434 square miles; Cuddapah has got 923 square miles. When we compare these districts with our bifurcated districts, the area of the latter will be greater than that of any other district in the Province. Therefore, it is highly essential that the present Vizagapatam district should be divided up into two separate districts both as a matter of convenience of administration and for the benefit of the people. The Government have already found it necessary for the purpose of civil administration, to divide so many departments in the present district. For instance, we have a special District Educational Office, we have a special District Health Office, a separate Agriculture Office, an Executive Engineer's Office, a Highway Engineer's Office. So many offices are already there in twos, and the offices to be divided are the Revenue, the Magisterial, the Co-operative and the Medical Departments. The Vizagapatam people in the border are finding it very difficult to go to the District Headquarters which is nearly 150 miles away from the border of North Vizagapatam. The Government must take the whole thing into consideration and treat it as an urgent affair and give it an urgent disposal in favour of immediate bifurcation. I therefore request the Government to see that the district is divided into two districts."

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[Sri K. Rajaram Nayudu]

4p.m.

*SRI K. RAJARAM NAYUDU:—“தலைவரவர்களே, வெட்டுப் பிரேரணையை நான் எதிர்ப்பதுடன் ஸர்க்காருக்கு இரண்டொரு யோசனைகளைச் சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன். இப்பொழுது ஜில்லா நிர்வாகத்தில் டிவிஷன்களிலே டிவிஷனல் ஆபீசர்களும் தாசில்தாரர்களும் வந்து ஜமாபந்தி என்ற போரல் நடக்கும் கனியாட்டங்களை காங்கிரஸ் ஸர்க்கார் காலத்தில் இன்னமும் பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்க முடியாது. லஞ்சத்தை ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமென்று பிரதம மந்திரியவர்கள் சட்ட சபைக்கூட்டத்திலே பலமுறை கூறியிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆங்காங்கு பல இடங்களில் பேசியிருக்கிறார்கள். நீங்கள் லஞ்சத்தை ஒழிக்கவேண்டுமானால் முதலில் கிராம உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் ஒவ்வொரு ஜமாபந்திக்கும் ரூ. 20, 25 என்று வரி போட்டு அந்த ஜமாபந்திச் சட்டங்களில் செலவழிக்கப்படுவதும் இப்படிக்கறிபட்டவர்கள் அங்கே நடக்கின்ற விவகாரங்கள் இவைகள் உடனே ஒழிக்கப்படுவதற்கு ஏற்பாட்டைச் செய்துவிட்டுத்தான் மறு வேலை செய்ய வேண்டும். லஞ்சத்தை ஒழிப்பதற்கு இது முதல்படியாகும். இதையே காரணமாகக் கொண்டுதான் கிராம முனிசிப்புகள் பாமர ஜனங்களிடம் லஞ்சம் வாங்கி வருகிறார்கள்.

“இரண்டாவதாக இந்த கிராம முனிசிப்புகள் சம்பளத்தைக் கூட்டிக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று பல சர்ச்சைகளை எழுப்பியிருக்கிறார்கள், இது ஆலோசனையில் இருப்பதாக ரெவின்யூ மந்திரி கூறினார்கள்.

“பல அனுவசியமான செலவுகள் இப்பொழுது நடந்து வருகிறதென்பதை எடுத்தக்காட்ட விரும்புகிறேன். கிராம உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களுக்கும், பஞ்சாயத்து போர்டு பிரதிநிதிகளுக்கும் என்னுடைய தொகுதியான திரு மங்கலத்திலே இப்பொழுது ஒரு டிரெயினிங் ஸ்கூல் நடத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது. அதற்கு 4,40,000 ரூபாய்போல் அரசாங்கத்தால் செலவு செய்யப்பட்டு வருகிறது, இந்தப் பணம் யாவும் வியர்த்தம்தான் என்பதை மந்திரி சபைக்கு எடுத்துக்காட்ட விரும்புகின்றேன். அதனால் ஒரு பிரயோசனமில்லை. ஆகையால் உடனடியாகச் செய்யவேண்டியது யாது? நானே தின்மே ரெவின்யூ மந்திரியவர்கள் இந்தப் பயிற்சிப் பாடசாலையை ரத்து செய்யும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அந்தப் பாடசாலைகளில் அவர்களுக்குத் தெரியாத பாடமொன்றும் கற்பிக்கப்படவில்லை. வயது சென்ற கிராம முனிசிப்புகளுக்கும் கர்ணங்களுக்கும் ஸயன்ஸ், சரித்திரம், பூகோளம் இவைகள்தான் சொல்லிக்கொடுக்கப்படுகின்றன. இந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களை மூடிவிட்டு இந்த நாலு லெக்ஷம் ரூபாயையும் மிச்சப்படுத்தும்படியாகப் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அத்துடன் கிளார்க்கு கள் டிரெயினிங் ஸ்கூல்கள் நடத்தி வருகிறது மதுரையில், அந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தையும் ரத்து செய்யவேண்டும். கிளார்க்குகள் டிரெயினிங் ஆகவேண்டுமானால் தாலுக்காக் கச்சேரிகளுக்கு அனுப்பி ஆறு மாதம் அல்லது ஒரு வருஷம் Probationary period என்று வைத்து டிரெயினிங் கொடுத்தால் அதனால்பயனடைவார்கள். இந்தப் பள்ளிக்கூடங்களுக்குச் செலவழிக்கும் பணங்களை நிறுத்தலாம்.

“Rural Recreation Scheme என்று அரசாங்கத்தால் நடத்தப்பட்டு வருகிறது. அதில் இருப்பவர்கள் அந்த கிராமத்தில் சாதாரணமாக பிரயோசனகரமான வேலைகளைச் செய்வதில்லை. அந்த Recreation ஸ்கீம் இப்பொழுது ஆரம்பிக்கப்போகும் கிராம புனரூபத்தாரண திட்டத்தை உத்தேசித்து பழைய திட்டத்தை ரத்துசெய்து அதன் மூலம் ஒரு லெக்ஷம் ரூபாய் வரையில் நிறுத்த வழி ஏற்படுகிறது. அத்துடன் கிராமங்களில் பஞ்ச நிவாரணத்தின் நோக்கமாக கிணறு வெட்டுவதற்காக subsidy கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. அதில் தாண்டவமாடும் லஞ்சத்தைப்பற்றி சட்ட சபையில் கூறப்பட்டது. ஆனால் அந்த டிபார்ட்மெண்டு ரெவின்யூ மந்திரி நடவடிக்கை எடுத்ததாகத் தெரியவில்லை. எங்கள் தொகுதியிலே இந்த லஞ்சம் தாண்டவமாடுவதை கம்பளெயின்ட் செய்திருக்கிறோம், அதைப் பற்றி எந்த நடவடிக்கையும் எடுக்கவில்லை. அந்த விவகாரத்திலே இப்பொழுதாவது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கும்படி கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். தெரிந்த விஷயங்களிலேயே கவனித்து நடவடிக்கை, எடுக்காதிருந்தால் இன்னும் தெரியாமல் தாண்டவமாடும் லஞ்சங்களை எவ்விதம் கண்டுபிடித்து ஒழிப்பது. ஆகையால் கம்பளெயின்ட் வந்த லஞ்சக் கேசுகளை கவனித்து

அவைகளை ஒழிக்கவும் அந்த உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் மீது நடவடிக்கை எடுக்கவும் முயற்சி செய்யும்படி மந்திரியைக் கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன். நமது மந்திரி சபை ஏற்பட்டவுடன் ஜில்லா கலெக்டர்களையும் மாகாண உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களையும் மாற்றியிருந்தால் மிகவும் நலமாக இருந்திருக்கும். ஏனென்று கேட்டால் மந்திரி சபை ஏற்படுவதற்கு முன்னால் இருந்த அதிகார நோக்கமும் கொள்கையும் வேறு, இப்பொழுது இருக்கும்படியான நோக்கமும் கொள்கையும் வேறு. அவர் அவர்களுடைய கொள்கைக்குத் தகுந்தாப்போல்—உதாரணமாக கம்யூனிஸ்டுகளை எடுத்துக் கொள்ளுங்கள்.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“You have taken more than five minutes, The hon. Member will now resume his seat.”

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will deal briefly with the various points that have been raised, leaving some of the important points like music before mosques, to the Hon. the Premier, because he will be able to deal with them much better than I can.

“On the question of the pay of the Services which was referred to to-day, let me give an assurance that we are trying to go through this thing as early and earnestly as it is possible. It has been said in some places, and even in this House, that the intention of having a Committee was simply to shelve the question. As a member of the Committee, I can say that nothing is farther from the truth. As all hon. Members in this House are aware, we are busy from morning till night on account of the work both in the session and our own other routine duties. In spite of it all, we have been trying to attend to this duty and as soon as the Legislative Session is over, which is expected to close on the 9th of next month, we have proposed to devote several days for this work and we have even decided to go out of Madras and be at Ooty for some days, so that we can consider the whole question and place it before the Cabinet without any loss of time.

“Then, Sir, with regard to the question of village officers, in particular, I may submit that the matter has been specially kept for the consideration of the Cabinet on the 26th instant. Several village officers and their representatives met me even to-day and expressed their hardships and I have assured them that their grievances will receive our best attention. My hon. Friend here referred to some hardships of these village officers and in particular about the sufferings they have to undergo in respect of jamabandi. The last speaker, my Friend Mr. Rajaram, mentioned about that. I am fully aware of all these difficulties but let me assure my hon. Friends that we cannot change everything overnight; I can only assure them that we are alive to the problem and we shall actively consider them. Take for instance the question of supplies. If one goes through the Budget Debates from 1926 to 1929, he will find that I have myself raised this question in the days of the old Council and yet they go on. I think we shall take up this question and see that while supplies may have been necessary to be made to officers in about 1800 or 1850, they may not be necessary in 1946 when there are shops in almost every village. It is a question we shall go into, unless it be, in some places like the Agency Tracts, where there may be some difficulty.

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"Then the question of travelling allowances for them has been raised. Something has been done in this respect but I can say I am not satisfied with that. The Taluk office clerks ask the village officers, times without number, to attend office because no batta is paid to them. Something must be done to check this sort of thing. I would only request hon. Members to give us a little time, so that we may look into them.

"Then, Sir, with regard to the classes for village officers. I know a little about them myself. These were started more than two or three years ago. We cannot abolish them all at once; and even here, we shall give our immediate attention. When I was at Nellore these gentlemen who were undergoing training came in a body—some of them I saw were village officers and karnams with twenty years of experience—and complained to me that they were compelled to live in a hotel chosen by some one, and they were not given freedom to go to any other hotels as they liked. Last week, I had a similar complaint from a place in Chingleput district called Thirukalukundram. I have requested the Collector to go directly to the place and hear the complaints of these people—because if it is to be done in a routine manner, by the time a report is received it will be nearly 30 or 40 days and the training course would have been over. In this matter also, I wish to see some of the classes myself and if Government find that the money spent on it is a waste, we shall have no hesitation to stop it.

"Then, with regard to the question of housing, Sir, it is a bigger question. Hon. Members are aware of the difficulty of putting up houses for Government servants all at once on account of high prices. This Province requires a housing policy and this is a matter on which I have no doubt the Hon. the Premier will speak, because it comes under Planning.

"Then, with regard to the other question which was raised and a particularly pertinent question also, of the interference with the officials by partymen, on which I wish to say something. I do not know what exactly is happening but if it is the idea that because we Congressmen are in office, partymen are at liberty to influence the officials in the manner in which allegations and suggestions have been made, for my part, I should say, it is very wrong. All of us who have taken up this Government here as Congressmen do not represent merely a party and we are not here running it merely for the benefit of our party and I assure you of this. When I was at Bellary some two months ago, I was asked by a Congress Secretary to settle my tour programme in consultation with him and do party work. I said, I regretted I could not do so. The result of it was he walked out, and it appeared in the Press also. Sir, we here feel we are trustees of all people and not of any particular section ('Hear, hear' from the Muslim Benches). We are here to carry out our election manifesto and the pledges we gave to the electorate and in achieving these, the official hierarchy has to be used and they should be accessible to all. That is the

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highest tradition of any democracy as I understand it, and it is up to us to carry it out. More than that, I do not wish to say. On this also, I have no doubt the House will receive better enlightenment than what I have been able to give, from the Hon. Premier.

"It is also wrong to say that we go out to the mufassal at the bidding of any partymen. I can honestly say we do not do so. Invariably I make it a rule to give notice of my tour to all hon. Members of all other parties also, but I have found, however, that many of them have not turned up; probably they did not care. So, I would say it is their own fault if they did not turn up and represent grievances. In Nellore, in Anantapur and in Bellary I have given notice of my tours to all parties without any distinction whatever. Therefore, if they have not brought particular grievances to our notice but simply say that we are going about only with our partymen, may I say that the fault is somewhat with themselves.

"Then it was also said by my experienced and hon. Friend, Mr. Munuswami Pillai, that there is no change of heart on the part of the officials and that they are treating the people in the same old fashion, if I understood him aright. He said that instructions should be issued so that Harijans and other people are not ill-treated in any manner and that there should be a change in the spirit of the administration. In my several district tours, people have openly said this and I made enquiries also. I have told the officials present to realize that it is time enough for them to change their hearts and change their minds if they have not already done so. I have also tried to understand their difficulties; they have been so long under foreign administration that they feel probably that this present change may not last long. I have told them that it is not so; whether it is this particular Congress Ministry or any other Ministry that may be in office, it is no use their looking forward to foreign masters, when they themselves are prepared to quit. I said, Sir, that we shall try our best to see that the administration from the highest to the lowest change their heart, mind and spirit in regard to the people and feel, even as we do on this side, that they are the servants and not the masters of the people.

"Then, it was also said that certain Muslim officials have been transferred for no valid reason. I heard that with pain. It was stated that a Muslim District Collector was being transferred. This sort of inquisitiveness may not be very helpful. This was made out as a serious charge. It is not so; that particular gentleman was in the district for six or seven years and would it be right to say that he should not be shifted to some other place? If in every case, you look through a magnifying glass and try to collect the grievances and draw the attention of this House, my hon. Friends are doing the very thing they are accusing the Congress Party of, namely, interfering with officials. If the officials of a particular community know that they have always got advocates in this House, so that small things can be brought

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forward, I am afraid that it will not help the administration. We, on our part, must guarantee to officials, to whatever community they may belong, to look to us, so that we shall treat them without any distinction of caste or creed. That is our policy and our plain duty. If, on the other hand, there are really any injustices, I would ask hon. Members to bring them to our notice for being set right. It was that a Muslim officer was transferred with some object or that there was a district from which Muslim officials are banned. In several districts there are large Muslim populations, for example, in Ceded districts, where I have travelled with several Muslim officials. I think we should rise above all such suspicions. We shall not look at this official business as Muslim, Harijan or anything like that. We ought to be guided by higher motives. It was said that in the Board of Revenue, there was somebody of a particular community who is against the appointment of Muslims even as peons to Collectors. If my hon. Friend gives particular instances, we shall see that no such thing will be done and nobody, because he belongs to a particular community, is handicapped. We want to put an end to all such things. If we do not do it, we are not worth the posts we are holding here to-day ('hear, hear'). After all we have been here only for four months.

"Sir, I have dealt with the question of Muslims in general and about Harijans also I recognize what my hon. Friend has said that among the Harijans there is not a single Collector at present. Even there, we are trying our best to see that when we get a competent man, he gets the place and the Harijans also will have their share in the offices.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Hussain referred to several inefficient men recruited during the war who are now occupying several responsible places and who have not the required qualifications. I am thankful to him for having brought it to our notice. There are many other things going on which it is not possible for us to know and understand. We are always thankful for criticism. If there are such people and instances are given, we shall try to see that they are rectified.

"The other question that was referred to was in regard to subsidy for wells and of bribery. Here again, may I say, that a Press Communiqué was issued that in cases where there have been fraud, they would be suitably dealt with. This was brought to my notice from a Congress Committee in the Chingleput district. The matter was examined and a Press Communiqué was issued. The village committees have been requested to bring to our notice any such cases. Even two or three days ago, I had an instance in which one of the persons interested in a certain property where a well was supposed to have been sunk, came to me with the *adangal* that a well existed there long before and a subsidy was taken fraudulently for a well which had already been in existence. I have tried to inspect some of these wells personally and wherever I went I have seen more than one well without repairs having been made but for which subsidies had been taken fraudulently. It is of course not possible at this end

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to know all that is happening in the districts. I therefore request hon. Members representing their constituencies and the public at large, to bring to our notice any such cases of fraud, so that we can deal with them suitably instead of dealing with charges of a general nature.

"With regard to the amount, it was stated that only a very small figure has been provided and that larger amounts are needed for the purpose. With regard to that, some time back, I answered it on the floor of this House as regards the various schemes that were in operation and I take it hon. Members are aware of it. These things began long before we took up office. A scheme was introduced in 1944 in eleven districts of the Province and according to this scheme a subsidy of Rs. 310 for a new well and Rs. 200 for an old well, was granted. May I submit, that in any scheme that we have under consideration we would take care to see (and I know of cases like this myself where no repairs have been done) that public money is not taken fraudulently in this way. In respect of the scheme of 1944 which was in vogue in eleven districts, two-fifths of the amount were met by the Government of India and three-fifths were borne by us. In February-March 1946, there was a new subsidy scheme for which we got a half grant from the Government of India instead of two-fifths and three-fifths. This half grant was given in view of the food scarcity. In respect of this scheme, as hon. Members are aware, we have extended the time till September next. On the whole, we have spent a total of nearly 232 lakhs odd in respect of this scheme. This expenditure has been incurred after March last. That was because the budget estimate required for the scheme did not come to Government from the Board of Revenue before the Budget was prepared. It is, therefore, proposed by the end of February next, to move for an additional demand for the purpose of the whole scheme. There is another scheme sanctioned in June last for the Ceded districts where the subsidy was raised to Rs. 500 in view of the difficult nature of the soil for digging wells. In respect of this also, certain hon. Members from Nellore and Chittoor have asked for a similar concession on account of certain other difficulties in their areas. That matter is under the consideration of the Government. That much is with regard to wells. In regard to the large expenditure that has been incurred and proposed to be incurred, an opportunity will be afforded to the hon. Members for discussion before this House when a separate demand is brought forward as mentioned above.

"One further point mentioned was about the menace of money-lenders, with regard to labour, both agricultural and industrial. This matter also will engage the consideration of the Government.

"Yet another matter, Sir, raised was with regard to the waste of money which was referred to previously by my hon. Friend, Mr. Rajaram, viz., about rural recreation. This is a matter which Government will look into and if we feel that it is a waste of money, we shall have it stopped.

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“Then one other matter which was referred to by my hon. Friend, Mr. Hussain, was in regard to Amin Divi and Laccadive islands off the west coast. As the House is aware and as mentioned by the Hon. the Speaker, these are excluded areas. The grievances in respect of these which have been mentioned by the hon. Member were that these areas are being governed by a sort of monigars or mere clerks with large powers in themselves, that the people are practically cut off and that their conditions are not very happy. It is also said that there is no sort of education and there are no institutions for medical relief, etc. These, Sir, will all be looked into after getting reports and if it is found that the condition of the islanders should be improved, it will be done.

“There was another matter which was referred to by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and also by another hon. Member. It is the question of the standardization of weights and measures. I may say, Sir, that this matter also is under the active consideration of the Government at present. In regard to this, some suggestions were also made by the department. We are not satisfied with standardizing simply certain local measures and leaving numerous others unaffected. We are aware that in every district there are a number of measures in existence. In my own district, there are half-a-dozen measures in use. It will be worth while standardizing measures for the whole province and I can assure hon. Members that this is a thing which is under the active consideration of the Government and there is already a proposal for introducing a Bill which is now going round among the members of the Cabinet.

“Then there is the question of broadcasting. There is some misconception on this point. The question of having transmitters and spending for them, is a matter for the Government of India and it is only in the matter of providing certain programmes that the expenditure is met by this Government. Even here, the grievance mentioned is that not sufficient attention is being paid to Andhra, Malabar and to Urdu. There is a district from which I come which has been totally ignored in regard to this matter and that is the Kannada areas of this Province. When money from these districts is also coming in to the coffers of the Government, it is difficult to understand why the claims of these districts should be ignored. I can tell you that in the whole programme for one week given by the Madras Radio, Kannada is given only 15 minutes. Just imagine what it is. I can understand that so many things like this are going on and until people cry they will not get their grievances redressed. (An hon. Member from Muslim Group: ‘That is why we cry.’) (An hon. Member from Ministerialist Group: ‘Oh, you more than cry.’) (Laughter.) I venture to say that in season and out of season, I have heard in this House only about Malabar, Andhra and Tamil, but nothing about the Kannada people. I can tell you—and I always feel—that I do not belong to

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any particular area and I do wish to think of a higher standard by which I can say and feel that I represent every area in this province.

“Then the question of the separation of the judiciary from the executive was raised by my hon. Friend Mr. Sahajananda. As he is fully aware, this matter also is under our active consideration and a committee has been appointed for the purpose. My hon. friend Begum Amiruddin made a speech regarding retrenchment. A number of new appointments have taken place during the war and even after the war we find them going on. Some of them might have escaped our attention. There is no time to look into all these things now and a little later after our hands are free, Government will look into the matter and see whether any and what retrenchment is possible.

“Then, the question of bifurcation of the Vizagapatam district was raised. This question is also under the consideration of the Government. I have agreed to answer a short notice question to-morrow on this and so I do not wish to go into greater details at present except to say that it is under the consideration of the Government. The Secretariat is looking into it just now and the matter has not come up for final consideration yet. I have no doubt that such an important matter will receive proper consideration at the hands of the Government.

“Last, with regard to the colonization scheme and the speech made by my hon. friend Mr. Kaleswara Rao about the need for helping the I.N.A. and how they should also be helped under this scheme, I should say, that out of the 44 schemes which are under the consideration of the Government, under which thousands of acres are made available for cultivation and for which relief will be given, nearly 23 schemes have been sanctioned while the others are under consideration. Particulars of these have been printed and are available to members. I can only assure my hon. friend Mr. Kaleswara Rao that the claims of the I.N.A. will receive due consideration at the hands of the Government.

“Then, Sir, there are other matters with which I do not wish to deal as the Hon. the Premier will deal with them.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“Mr. Speaker, I think I had better give some information regarding the strength of the district administration. 4.30 p.m.

		Revenue.
Strength—		
Collectors	50	
Deputy Collectors and Personal Assistants	170	
Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars	405	
Clerical establishment—		
Accountants and Sheristadars	6,652	
Rest of establishment	5,460	
Village service	107,602	

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“The following will give you details of the village service establishment under the various categories:—

	Ryotwari area.	Proprietary estate.	Total.
Karnams	14,640	7,493	22,133
Munsiffs and headmen	16,030	8,308	24,338
Monegars	19	..	19
Vettis	27,238	1,199	28,437
Talayaris	20,962	10,484	31,446
Nirgantis	929	103	1,032
Water Superintendents, etc.	37	..	37
Total	79,915	27,587	107,502

“I shall now give the cost of the various establishments:—

	RS.
Collectors and Magistrates	26,78,400
Court of Wards	12,000
Laccadive and Amini Divi Establishments	2,21,700
Treasury establishment	11,45,300

Post-war reconstruction—

(i) Estimates by Public (Resettlement) Department; and	2,11,600
(ii) Estimates of Board of Revenue for demobilized personnel	

Total 42,69,000

Subdivisional establishment—

General	28,33,100
Debt conciliation	..
Total	28,33,100

	Ordinary areas.	Partially excluded areas.
	RS.	RS.
Other establishments—		
Taluk establishments	89,35,000	2,54,800
Ryotwari village service	1,58,56,200	50,500
Proprietary estate village service	41,72,000	38,000
Cattle pounds	2,50,800	..
Schools on account of revenue processes	2,15,200	..
Weights and measures	46,400	..
Schools for training village officers and presidents of panchayat boards	4,41,100	..

Post-war reconstruction—

(i) Ordinary areas, Wynaad Colonization, Ex-service Personnel Colonization	5,91,900
(ii) Partially excluded areas, Araku valley colonization	
Discretionary grants	60,000

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“The following are the items pertaining to miscellaneous items:—

	RS.
Provincial broadcasting	1,93,000
District conferences	2,100
Rural recreation	86,100
Estates Land Act Tribunal	23,100
Scheme for grant of loans to repair houses	..
Buckingham Canal Transport	..
Rural indebtedness	4,600
Subsidy to ryots for reclamation of lands in Cauvery-Mettur Project area	4,800
Grants for sinking of wells for Grow More Food Scheme	12,700
Miscellaneous	10,000
Post-war reconstruction—	
Village reconstruction and Harijan uplift	One crore.
Expenditure from rural reconstruction	12,400
Charges in England	2,64,000

“These are the details of this Demand. In criticising this demand on the cut motion, it was stated that music before mosques has been causing considerable trouble in the country and that something should be done with regard to it. My hon. Friend the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Ismail) in dealing with this question referred to the judgment of Mr. Justice Panduranga Rao in the High Court of Judicature of Madras and read out from the judgment of the learned Judge and suggested that this matter should be settled by means of legislation. This has been a very vexed question and has been agitating the Muslim community and also the Non-Muslim communities for a very long time. It has also been agitating the minds of all thinkers in the country. The position in the country is known to every one. It does not depend entirely upon statute, or code or rules of law laid down in the law courts. Cases came up before the law courts, judgments were given and matters had been taken to the Privy Council also. It has not been easy for the judges and courts to decide on the basis of any fixed legislation or code. This has been dependent upon custom that has been handed down from generation to generation for a long time. You know, Sir, how this country had been governed by Muslim rulers for hundreds of years. You will find that during the Muslim period also there were communal troubles on certain occasions. But the Muslim rulers were themselves very careful in regulating the conduct of all the communities under their rule. They were very anxious to see that no community was disturbed on any account so long as they were governing. The large extent of lands granted by Muslim rulers to non-Muslims bears evidence to this feeling of tolerance and co-operation on the part of the rulers and of the ruled. (‘Hear, hear.’) In Multan in the south of the Punjab the first Hindu-Muslim riot occurred in 1922 soon after the new movement started under the leadership of a single person but in fact under the leadership of the Congress.

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4-45 P.m. " I do not propose to take the hon. Members of this House into the history of these incidents now. Only one incident I would like to mention, which I happened to witness in Multan. We saw many wretched acts done by the rioters, many sufferings on the part of the people also. I went there to see the temple in Multan, which is known as Prahladha temple. Multan is said to be the birthplace of Prahladha. That temple is there even to-day. If any one goes there, he can see it; because it is a thing that has not been removed or destroyed, even though many things happened during riots. Adjacent to that temple, divided only by one partition wall, there is a very big mosque. Prayers have been carried on there, I should say, in the mosque by the Muslim brothers, and in the temple by the non-Muslim brothers. That itself is a standing proof of the condition that is prevailing between the two communities. That is why we see on looking into history Muslim rulers had Hindu ministers, and if you look into the Revenue Code, the best part of it came up under the Muslim King who had Hindu Revenue Ministers. It is a misfortune that to-day things have changed very far and all these troubles have arisen. I am a bit cautious in my expression, because I am speaking about a custom in front of mosques which has been objected to by hon. Friends. Custom, according to Hindu Law or Muhammadan Law, gains superiority over even Statutes or Acts. That was the way in which this country had been governed time and again either by Englishmen or by Muslim or by any others who happened to rule over this country. Personally, I would be ready to respond to the appeal of my hon. Friends to consider this question for devising ways and means to an agreed programme. It takes you into matters relating to what are believed to be religious matters and religious customs. Such things are prevalent in every community and in every country. I have been in the know of the happenings of Hindu-Muslim strife from its very inception, which began from 1921 or 1922. It is a tragedy, a misfortune, for which every one of us should feel sorry for not having been able to bring matters to a settlement in some form or other. (Mr. Hameed Khan: 'Hear, hear.') I have been considering it myself, as also friends and fellow workers and all other people in this Presidency. They naturally feel that this matter should not go on as a matter of dispute. I am anxious that when one gives his personal opinion others should not be hurt, even though it is given in a representative capacity. Representative capacity may not be accepted when one touches a delicate ground of what is considered to be a religious matter. But, as the appeal has been made by my hon. Friends, and as it has been suggested that if this matter is attempted from one side, the other side also would be ready to make necessary concessions with a view to bringing about a settlement, I feel, Sir, that we should examine this position and approach this question from an altogether detached point of view to see how it can be settled. (N. Muhammad Anwar Sahib: 'Hear, hear.') For that I cannot make any promise straightway. I cannot even discuss the ideas I have got in my own mind, in this connection. Personal views one may have, but you will have to deal with the matter from an administrative point of view in quite a different way; and I have been considering what means and what methods we should

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devise in order to make the country itself understand the position as things had been there for centuries and even for *yugas*. Therefore, without making any definite statement with regard to how we are going to approach this, I feel that hon. Members who made this appeal will be able to place this matter before the people in the country whom they represent here and see in what way we can approach this in a satisfactory manner.

" With regard to broadcasting some criticism was made. In this Presidency there are only 2 broadcasting stations, one in Madras and the other in Trichinopoly. It was pointed out that the Andhras have been agitating for a broadcasting station, as well as our Malabar friends. One thing must be remembered, and that is that this broadcasting business is a subject of the Central Government. The Central Government was approached over and over again and sometimes it was felt that something might be done under the auspices of the Government of India, but all such hopes receded. As a matter of fact, we in the Madras Presidency have been ill-treated, insulted in regard to food and cloth, about which there has been the fullest debate. I may say, as I promised yesterday, I sent a telegram to the Viceroy about the debate in this House and about the state of feelings on the breach of faith on the part of the Food Department in the Centre. A reply has come; it is not a very encouraging reply. Mr. Hameed Khan wanted to have resolution on the subject, as he feared that there might not be a response unless there was a resolution moved in this House. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'Hoping against hope.') Every thing depends upon the way in which you approach and you present the question. Every hon. Member of this House made no secret of his mind when this question was discussed. That has had some effect. Even there it is only half-hearted; for the Government of India have stated that they are diverting some food for this area; but it is not coming in the shape of full rice. They are going to send us only broken rice, because we have been complaining against wheat, maize and all those things already. 'If you want rice, we cannot give full rice. We are giving broken rice. Put it on your head, or put it in your mouth.' That is the way in which the Government of India, Food Department, have dealt with us. Even with regard to this we have sent a protest. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: 'Hear, hear.')"

" Turning to broadcasting business, even though it is such a long period since the British established their rule in this country, in every respect we are behindhand; we are left out. The broadcasting business is not a thing that should be confined to Madras or to Trichinopoly. It is strange that they turn a deaf ear to our request even after so many representations made to them. Broadcasting stations are intended for what purpose? If they knew the purpose, they should not have hesitated to establish them in different parts of the Presidency, if not in every centre, at least in the best of centres. Therefore that matter will be pursued, Sir.

" As regards housing problem that question should have been dealt with by my hon. Friend Mr. Raghava Menon, if he had been here. He is obliged to be absent, and I may tell you, Sir, the housing problem has reached a very critical stage. We have been

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talking of black-marketing, we have been talking of bribes and corruption; it may be possible for any human Government to take up any two things if they are the main things. That word 'corruption' is a very general word. It is not only when a man takes a bribe in lakhs of rupees or in any shape that he will be guilty of corruption. Anything done by him dishonestly with a view to gain unlawfully and illegitimately, profit or advantage over others, taking advantage of the weakness of others—it is all corruption. How to prevent it has been the problem over the whole world. It is not peculiar to us. Everywhere in the City of Madras you hear of complaints of crowded tenements and monopoly all round. We are going to introduce a bill to control rent at the end of the budget session. Therefore, with regard to the housing problem I do not like to discuss immediately telling you about all the happenings in the City itself, not to talk of the happenings in the districts. Very cruel treatment has been given by those who had amassed wealth during this war period and who had become rich people by getting every property, and getting complete control over properties, and making it impossible for common people with slender means to get accommodation, just as it has been made impossible to common people to get decent food even if money is paid. Therefore, we are thinking of having some interim machinery through legislation so that Government would be in a position to deal effectively with this problem.

"Sir, I do not wish to detain the House any longer by attempting to give replies to small matters. I thank the hon. Members of this House for the way in which they have been anxiously co-operating with the demands placed before them, no doubt expressing strongly their views. I thank hon. Members who had been saying so many good words about my birthday. I may say to hon. Members of this House that I have been avoiding this birthday business for a very long time. (Laughter.) Sixty years are supposed to be a landmark in a man's life. Fifteen years, Sir, I have spent without knowing when the year began and when the year ended. ('Hear, hear.') I am only hoping that until life gets out of this body I shall be able to do service to the country. ('Hear, hear.') According to all religions, service to the country is service to God. ('Hear, hear.') I thank all hon. Members."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Does the Leader of the Opposition wish to press the cut motion?" (Voices: 'Withdraw, as it is the Premier's birthday.') (Laughter.)

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I withdraw the cut motion."

* N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—"As a birthday gift, the cut motion is withdrawn unasked." (Laughter.)

The cut motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.

The Demand was put to vote and carried and the grant was made.

The House adjourned to meet again the next day at 11 o'clock.

III.—PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

Admission to Engineering and Medical Colleges, 1946-47.

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Saturday, 24th August 1946.

The House met in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Yesterday we have left a question unfinished. It was put by Mr. Muhammad Ismail. I postponed it to-day. It may be taken up now."

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Selection of students for admission into Colleges.

* 112-A Q.—M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to—

(a) place on the table of the House the recent Government Order prescribing that the admission of 20 per cent of students in certain colleges and institutions should be based on merit;

(b) and state the object of issuing the said Government Order;

(c) the names of colleges and institutions in which the said Government Order was given effect to;

(d) how many Muslims, Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Harijans, Christians and Anglo-Indians applied for admission in such colleges and institutions;

(e) how many students from each of the said communities were selected for admission in each such college or institution (i) on merit and (ii) otherwise than on merit in pursuance of the Government Order referred to in (a);

(f) how many of the selected students from each of the said communities actually joined the respective colleges and institutions and how and from what communities the vacancies which thus arose were filled up; and

(g) how many Muslims, Brahmans, Non-Brahmans, Harijans, Indian Christians and Anglo-Indians respectively were admitted in the Engineering and Medical Colleges of the Province during each of the last six academic years?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

"(a) A copy of Government Memorandum No. 33199-A/46-1, Education, dated 21st June 1946, is placed on the table of the House.

"(b) It was considered necessary that some percentage of the seats in the Engineering Colleges and the Medical Colleges may be reserved to be filled on grounds of merit, in order to get the best possible candidates.

"(c) Government Engineering and Medical Colleges.

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“(d) & (e)—

	Number of students that applied.	Number selected.	
		On merit.	Otherwise.
Medical Colleges—			
Brahmans	403	47	49
Non-Brahmans	470	14	122
Scheduled Castes	2	..	2
Indian Christians	110	6	53
Muslims	44	..	43
Total ..	1,029	67	269
Engineering Colleges—			
Brahmans	608	57	26
Non-Brahmans	343	8	179
Scheduled Castes	8	..	8
Indian Christians	76	2	30
Muslims	41	2	30
Total ..	1,080	69	273

“(f) The information is not available and will be called for. The seats which fall vacant due to failure of students to join the Colleges will be filled from a waiting list, care being taken to replace a candidate of a particular community and linguistic area, by a candidate of the same community and linguistic area.

“(g) Figures for four years regarding Engineering Colleges and the Madras Medical College, which are available, are as below:

Name of College.	Year.	Number selected from				
		Brahmans.	Non-Brahmans.	Muslims.	Scheduled Castes.	Indian Christians.
Medical College, Madras ..	1945 ..	26	52	14	1	20
	1944 ..	24	52	16	1	20
	1943 ..	20	50	8	3	23
Engineering Colleges ..	1946 ..	83	187	32	8	32
	1945 ..	17	54	14	4	13
	1944 ..	22	47	14	6	13
	1943 ..	21	40	20	5	16

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, before the issue of the Government memorandum^a, a copy of which has been placed on the table of this House, did the Hon. Minister receive any representations on that matter?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“On which matter, Sir?”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Regarding admission into the professional colleges.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“I have not understood him. The admissions have been over. If the hon. Member means representations after the admissions are over, yes.”

^a Printed as Appendix I on page 961 infra.

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M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“No Sir. I mean any representations before the Government issued that memorandum a copy of which has been supplied to us.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“What is the Government memorandum, Sir?”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“We are now putting supplementary question on the answer supplied by the Hon. Minister to my question put yesterday. The answer (a) refers to a Government memorandum. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether he received any representations before issuing that memorandum. What was the immediate reason for issuing that memorandum?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“Yes Sir, we have received some.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“From whom?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“It is not possible to say it now. But we have received letters saying that some representations were received.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“I want to know whether the Government received any representations from the heads of the institutions concerned, namely, the Medical College and the Engineering College, to the effect that unless merit is made the basis for selections, these colleges will go to dogs?”

SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—“I think the expression ‘go to dogs’ is objectionable.”

MR. SPEAKER:—“Absolutely not. It is not applied to any Member.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“No Principal of any Government college has made any representation, Sir.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“What was the reason which induced the Government to issue this extraordinary memorandum?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“The Bhore Committee has made certain recommendations in this regard.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Not a dog.”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“But a ‘Bhore’.”

SRI B. ANANTHACHAR:—“Although it is not a supplementary question, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to give figures of admission districtwar?”

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—“Not now. If the hon. Member puts a separate question, it can be done.”

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MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether any, and if so how many, applications were received from Anglo-Indians for admission to the Engineering and Medical Colleges and how many candidates were actually admitted?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No applications from Anglo-Indians were received. There were applications from Indian Christians. In the Medical College, their number was 110."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Did the Bhore Committee make any recommendation with reference to the Engineering College?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No, Sir."

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—"In view of the smallness of the number of Scheduled Castes in various colleges, will the Government consider the abolition of the merit that is required, and give facilities?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"That question does not arise with regard to Scheduled Castes at all, as every member of the Scheduled Castes that applied has been admitted."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Government referred to the heads of these institutions the recommendation of the Bhore Committee that a certain percentage should be left for selection on merit?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Not now, Sir."

MR. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—"May I know, Sir, why, in view of the specific question asked by the Leader of the Opposition, the Government have not been able to give separate figures for Anglo-Indians?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am sorry that separate figures are not available. If the hon. Member will put a separate question, this will be done."

SRIMATHI C. AMMANNA RAJA:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister how many lady students were admitted into the Medical College this year?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am sorry that ladies have not been treated as a separate community. (Laughter.) If the hon. Member wants the information, I shall be glad to furnish."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister for Education has become the

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Minister for the Engineering College and the engineering portfolio?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Not the engineering portfolio, but the Engineering College."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Engineering College under the Education Department, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Yes Sir."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, whether, before taking this important step of modifying the existing policy of the Government, the Hon. Minister consulted the Cabinet?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Not the whole Cabinet."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Are the Government aware that the recommendations of the Bhore Committee were based on the proposed increase in the number of colleges in the Province?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The number of colleges has been increased."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know from which community or communities representations were made that selection should be made on merit also?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I had no occasion to examine the communities of the persons who made representations."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister for Medicine whether she realises that as a result of this innovation, one community has derived very great advantage?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Minister for Public Health is not expected to give an answer to this supplementary question, because the Minister for Education is to answer it as the question has been put down in the agenda for him."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether medical colleges are not in the portfolio of the Minister for Public Health?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The hon. Member is requested to put a separate question."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether, if merit is taken into consideration, it will debar almost all the Harijan students from getting admission into the college?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"That is exactly the reason why merit is not the sole criterion for making the selection."

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MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether there was any inspiration or intuition at the time he passed the order that 20 per cent of the seats should be reserved for selection on merit?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"As a very prosaic man."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that no Scheduled Caste candidate can get in within the 20 per cent reserved for merit?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"All the Scheduled Caste candidates, who have applied for, have been admitted."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"Is it that the Muslim League members are concerned only with Muslim teachers and mistresses and not other community teachers and mistresses?"

(No answer.)

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether, if the communal Government Order is worked on the lines laid down therein, no one community will get any advantage over the other in respect of Government service?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"It is not for me to reply to that question."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Government received at any time any report from the heads of these institutions, namely, the Medical College and the Engineering College, that on account of this communalwar selection, the efficiency of the institutions has suffered?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"That question has been answered."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, Are there not minimum qualifications already prescribed for admission into these professional colleges?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The Hon. Member knows it as well as I do."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Did it not occur to the Hon. Minister before he made this innovation that the other communities, which are affected, also should be consulted beforehand?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am of the opinion that there is really no difficulty if the community can come up to that standard."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"My question is not that."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the minimum qualifications

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already prescribed do not represent the merit enough for admission into these colleges?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"As the hon. Member says, they are minimum qualifications."

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Do the Government make use of merit as an excuse to show favours to a particular community?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Does the hon. Member imagine that I belong to that community?"

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state the number of students belonging to the backward communities admitted into these colleges?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Backward communities are not shown separately in this, but if the hon. Member puts a separate question, I shall give the answer."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"What is the meaning of 'merit'?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Just now as it has happened selections, it means more marks."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"If a student gets more marks, does it mean that he is good enough for any preferential treatment?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I do not say it is a perfect standard, but in the absence of anything better, we will follow it. If the Hon. Member will tell us something better, it will be adopted."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether any Member of the Cabinet demurred to this innovation?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I cannot answer that question."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister for Education stood first in all his classes?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Possibly, Sir, I might have stood last."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"Does the Hon. Minister realize that people who get the maximum number of marks may prove a failure in later life?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"Quite possible, Sir."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government aware that there are many gentlemen at the top of the professions whose marks in the colleges were very poor?"

(No answer.)

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MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know the reason why, when such an important innovation is being made, the matter was not placed before the entire Cabinet?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"That is a matter for the Government."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know from the Hon. Minister whether he realizes that, by making this innovation although he has not materially affected some of the minority backward communities, if he persists in this policy, in later years it will affect them adversely and will add to the advantage of the community for which this innovation has been made?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The Government will consider the views that have been expressed by the House in the matter and, as the hon. Members know, this innovation is only for this year."

SRI B. ANANTACHAR:—"May I know whether any representations have been made that this consideration of merit has affected any community adversely?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"If the hon. Member means by that question whether any community has got least admission into the colleges because of merit, it is so, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of exempting the Scheduled Caste students from the question of merit?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am one of those who believe that the Depressed Classes should not depend upon these things, that they must come up and that they can come up in the usual course."

SRI K. BOKKAI GOWDER:—"Are the Government aware that the backward communities suffer a handicap in being classified as a whole under Non-Brahman Hindus?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"In the matter of selection, they are classified as backward classes."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Did not the Hon. Minister consider that the innovation is such a serious departure affecting all communities, that it is necessary to place the matter before the whole Cabinet and a joint decision taken?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I have nothing more to add to what I have already said."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—"May I ask whether there are separate sections called Shiyas, Sunnis, Khans and Momins among the Muslims and that separate treatment will be given to Momins among the Muslims if they are backward?"

(No answer.)

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he realizes that, by this innovation, he has adversely affected the Non-Brahman community including the backward communities?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"That has been answered, Sir."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Is the Hon. Minister aware that by this merit policy, one community gets now five times the number of seats in the Engineering College which it got last year, while the other communities have not got the same proportion?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"No one community has got five times."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Let me bring to the notice of the Minister that members of the Brahman community admitted last year were 17, while the number is 83 this year in the Engineering College?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The number of colleges has increased and the number in other communities has also doubled."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The number of other communities has increased to $3\frac{1}{2}$ times in the case of non-Brahmans, $2\frac{1}{4}$ times in the case of Muslims, 2 times in the case of Scheduled Castes and $2\frac{1}{2}$ times in the case of Indian Christians, while it is 5 times in the case of one particular community."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The number admitted in the Engineering College last year was 102, and the number admitted this year is 342."

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I do not speak of the actual number, but only the proportion."

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"The number of Brahmans this year is 83 and Non-Brahmans 187."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Does the Hon. Education Minister realize that it was a hasty order that he issued, and will he candidly confess that to this House, Sir?"

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—"I am a very bad confessor, Sir."

Prohibitory order in Tuticorin.

* 113 Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a prohibitory order has been promulgated in Tuticorin banning all meetings and processions for two months; and

(b) whether the Government contemplate taking steps for its withdrawal?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) On the 26th June 1946 the Joint Magistrate, Tuticorin, issued an order under section

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144, Criminal Procedure Code, prohibiting the holding of any meetings, processions and demonstrations for a period of two months. On 1st July 1946 the above order was cancelled and a fresh one was issued relaxing the restrictions originally imposed, the order to remain in force for a period of one month. On 1st August 1946 another order was issued relaxing the restrictions still further. This order is to remain in force for a period of one month.

“(b) No.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the District Officers had consulted the Provincial Government before issuing such orders, and if not, what steps the Government propose to take to see that such orders are not issued before consulting the Government? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ No officer of the Government will be able to function, as the emergency arises, if he is to be restricted to put it to Government and obtain their orders. No such thing can happen.”

SRI K. T. KOSALRAMA NADAR:—“ May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. Minister will issue instructions to punish only the offenders and not the entire public? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Certainly, Sir. The hon. Member may know that only offenders would be proceeded against and not those who are innocent.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know what circumstances made the Joint Magistrate change his policy from time to time? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ I should not have expected this question from the hon. Member. When he was relaxing the restrictions, he was noticing some improvement in the situation, and gradually he was attempting to relax the restrictions altogether.”

Amendment of communal Government Order.

* 114 Q.—SRI D. DORAIRAJA PANDIAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government propose to amend the communal Government Order so as to give representation to the backward classes commensurate with the strength of their population? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ The question will be examined and considered.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Arising from the answer of the Hon. the Prime Minister, may I ask whether the Government have any ideas as to the manner in which they propose to amend this communal order, whether any representations have been made to them, and if so, what are those representations? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ I gave an answer already yesterday that the communal Government Order will be thoroughly examined afresh. The way in which the communal Government Order should really be applied to persons

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covered by that Government Order and whether the communal Government Order should continue to remain or not—these questions will also be considered by the Government.”

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—“ Are the Government aware that the Government of India has increased the proportion of Harijan representation in their services to 18½ per cent and will this Government also follow suit? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ As circumstances might demand, this Government may go far in advance of the Government of India.”

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ May I know from the Hon. the Premier, what are the facts that have necessitated the revision of the communal Government Order? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ That question does not arise in this connection.”

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—“ May I know, Sir, what are the backward communities in this Province? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ A complete list of the backward communities and also the sub, and sub-sub communities has been prepared and it will be placed before this House.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“ May I know, Sir, what are the reasons for the Government wanting to revise the communal Government Order? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ The reasons have already been stated. The reasons also will be further examined and also whether those reasons can be sustained or not.”

M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Will the Hon. the Premier take this hon. House into confidence before he makes any change in their present policy in regard to the communal Government Order? ”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ Hon. Members may be expecting to know the manner in which the communal Government Order will be applied to all communities until it is reconsidered and revised. (Interruption.) I will make the position clear, Sir. As we apply the communal Government Order to the communities covered by the Government Order and as we unfold in what manner we propose to apply that Government Order to all the communities and not to a community which has been dominating hitherto—these will be known to the House.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ The question was, whether the Hon. the Premier will take the House into confidence before coming to a conclusion with regard to the revision of the communal Government Order. That has not been answered, Sir.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ I am not a witness in the box for being cross-examined in the manner in which the hon. Member has been following up the answer. I have told the

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hon. Member and other hon. Members also how the communal Government Order when it is revised will be worked and this will be known to the House from time to time. That is what I meant."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of order, may I submit, Sir, that if any hon. Member of the Treasury Bench is not in a position to give a categorical answer to a categorical question, he can say that he is not prepared to answer the question or say 'No.' But to say that he is being cross-examined, is, to my mind, not certainly correct, Sir."

MR. SPEAKER:—"It is not a point of order."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The hon. Member should not misunderstand the answer given by me. When I said that sometimes the questioning amounts to cross-examination, it meant no offence. But they may in the nature of things be cross-examination, but cross-examination has got a limitation so far as the Assembly is concerned. The hon. Member must, therefore, take it in the proper spirit in which it was offered."

Posting of police officials to places where big Government temples exist.

* 115 Q.—SRI K. T. KOSALRAMA NADAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Hindu Religious Endowments be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any Government Order to the effect that police officials belonging to castes prohibited from entering temples by Hindu Law and custom, should not be posted in places where big Government-controlled temples exist; and

(b) if so, whether the Government contemplate rescinding such a Government Order?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH (on behalf of Hon. Sri K. Koti Reddi:—" (a) The answer is in the negative.

" (b) Does not arise."

SRI K. T. KOSALRAMA NADAR:—"In view of the answer to clause (a), Sir, will the Government consider the question of appointing police officials from the Harijan community for the above temples?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That question does not arise from the main question."

Complaint against the Commercial Tax Officer, Cuddapah.

* 116 Q.—SRI S. NAGAYYA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether he has received a specific complaint from Mr. S. Krishnaswami, Bar-at-Law, President, Journalists' Association, Cuddapah, against the Commercial Tax Officer, Cuddapah, alleging abuse of official power against the Hindu correspondent of Cuddapah; and

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(b) what action the Government propose to take in this matter and to put down such abuses of official power in future?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) The Government have called for a report from the Board of Revenue in the matter and they will consider the action to be taken on receipt of the report."

MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, the community to which that officer belongs?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"I looked into the papers concerning the question some time ago, but I never looked into the community of the gentleman."

Bifurcation of the revenue district of Vizagapatam.

* 117 Q.—SRI G. KUMARASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have considered the proposals of the Board of Revenue in regard to the bifurcation of the revenue district of Vizagapatam and with what result;

(b) whether in doing so the Government have taken, or propose to take, into consideration the proposals of the People's Committee regarding the same; and

(c) when the bifurcation is likely to be effected?

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—" (a) & (c) The proposals are under consideration of the Government and orders thereon will be passed as early as possible.

" (b) The proposals of the People's Committee, North Vizagapatam district, regarding the bifurcation of the Revenue district of Vizagapatam are before the Government and will be considered by the Government before orders are passed."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know, Sir, whether there are any bifurcation proposals in respect of any other district?"

THE HON. SRI K. R. KARANTH:—"That question does not arise from this question, Sir."

Committee on the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive.

* 118 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) why no Muslim was appointed as member of the committee constituted by the Government to go into the question of the separation of Judiciary from the Executive; and

(b) whether the Government will give an opportunity to this House to discuss this question before taking any action in the matter?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" (a) The Committee referred to by the hon. Member is not, in the opinion of Government, one to which appointments should be made on the communal principle.

" (b) No."

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MR. SPEAKER:—"Mr. Salam, the next Demand we will be discussing is 'Administration of Justice'. We shall thoroughly discuss these questions under that Demand."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Only one question, Sir, May I know, Sir, on what principle the Committee was constituted?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The Committee was appointed on the principle that experts should be its members and they are to report about the method of separating judiciary from the executive."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, whether the Hon. the Minister for Law is aware that under section 107 of the Government of India Act, it is not possible for the Provincial Government to amend the Criminal Procedure Code on obtaining the assent of the Governor-General in that regard and whether the Government of Madras have applied to the Governor-General for obtaining his assent?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The point raised by the hon. Member is before the Committee and we are awaiting the advice of the Committee in the matter."

Reports on food procurement, etc.

* 119 Q.—H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(a) whether any reports on food procurement, food propaganda, formation of food committees under the Government scheme, ryotwari tenure, financial aid given by the Government in furtherance of the 'Grow More Food' campaign and minor irrigation works undertaken and proposed to be undertaken by the Government in the district of South Kanara have been called for or received by the Government; and

(b) what action, if any, has been taken on any such reports called for or received?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" (a) & (b) No special reports on food procurement, food propaganda, formation of food committees under the Government scheme and financial aid given by the Government in furtherance of the Grow More Food campaign, have been called for from the Collector of South Kanara. Only periodical reports are being received either by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) or by Government from the Collector of this district as also from the Collectors of other districts regarding some of the above matters referred to. Appropriate action is being taken on these periodical reports.

"As regards minor irrigation works, the hon. Member is requested to refer to the answers already given in reply to Starred Legislative Assembly question Nos. 73, 57 and Unstarred question No. 17."

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ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether in view of the seriousness of the situation the Government are justified in not acting expeditiously, depending only upon the periodical returns from Collectors on these matters?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"When the Government feel there is a necessity to call for a report from the Collectors, they will do so."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Government consider the desirability of issuing weekly reports, regarding the stock position, imports, etc.?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"If the Government see any necessity for it, they will do so."

MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Arising out of the previous answer of the Hon. Minister, may I ask the Government not to wait until something comes as an inspiration to the Government?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The question is not clear, Sir. But my hon. Friend must remember that the Government may call for information from the Collectors at any time and the Collectors will supply the necessary information."

Uniform for Bus and Motor Vehicle Inspectors.

* 120 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state whether the Government propose to prescribe any uniform for bus and motor vehicle inspectors?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The answer is in the negative."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether he realizes the danger that will rise if the people who are engaged in this activity do not know whether the person who acts in the capacity of an inspector is really the inspector?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"If any such difficulty arises and if the Government think that confusion will arise as a result of not prescribing any uniform for these inspectors, they will immediately consider the question and do the needful."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Have the Government not received any complaints so far in that matter?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I am not aware of any complaints."

Increase in the pay of non-gazetted officers.

* 121 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are aware that the increase of 100 per cent in the salaries

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of the Hon. the Ministers over the salaries of the Ministers which they were receiving in the last Congress regime has raised a hope in the minds of menials, peons, clerical staff and other non-gazetted officers that their pay will also be substantially increased?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The answer already given applies to this also. But I may say that the general question of revision of pay of non-gazetted services is being examined shortly by a Committee of Ministers and Government will pass orders on their recommendations at least as an interim measure."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I enquire, Sir, why no provision has been made in the Budget to give relief to the hungry stomachs of the low-paid employees?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Whether an express provision has been made or not, there is sufficient indication in the answer that the subject would be taken up and disposed of before long."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Are the Government aware that the clamour for increased salaries is due directly to the increase in the salaries of Ministers?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, I may tell the hon. Member that there has been no such clamour. People have never become unreasonable. Some hon. Members of the House should be guarded in their expressions so as not to provoke people to put forward all sorts of claims without even understanding them." (Cries of 'hear, hear' from Ministerialists.)

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether it is not a fact that there is already a report before the Government submitted by a committee appointed a year ago presided over by Sir H. M. Hood and by Sir Norman Strathie and that that report can be immediately given effect to without subjecting the question to a fresh examination by another committee?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I may assure hon. Members and others that we will be doing something immediately without waiting for a final decision at a distant date."

AN HON. MEMBER:—"Thank you, Sir."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know when the deliberations of the committee will be over and relief granted to the low-paid employees?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"As early as possible something will be done which will satisfy the hon. Member."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether there are proposals to give relief to pensioners?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The question does not arise."

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Increase in the salary of Government officials drawing a pay below Rs. 150.

* 122 Q.—BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are taking or propose to take any steps to increase the salary of all Government officials who are drawing a pay below Rs. 150?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The general question of revision of pay of non-gazetted services (servants drawing Rs. 200 per mensem and below) will be examined shortly by a committee of Ministers and Government will pass orders on their recommendation."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know what the extent of the interim relief will be?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I should not have expected such a question from Mr. H. S. Hussain."

MR. SPEAKER:—"As the answers to short-notice questions are not ready, they will not be taken up now."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I may mention, Sir, that because one of the hon. members was complaining that short notice questions are being rejected by us, I agreed to answer them though I had doubts about the sufficiency of the time allowed to the departments to get the answers ready. It now happens that the time allowed is not sufficient and the answers therefore are not ready."

Lathi charge by Police on scavengers.

*123 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Premier be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the police have resorted to lathi charge to disperse the scavengers at Saidapet;
- (b) whether it is fact that ladies were molested before and after the lathi charge; and
- (c) will the Government be pleased to appoint a non-official committee to enquire into the matter?

Contemplated strike in South Indian Railway.

*124 Q.—MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that the General Manager of South Indian Railway met the Premier;
- (b) whether the Premier has promised all support and all assistance to the Railway authorities in case there is a strike; and
- (c) if the answer to (b) is in affirmative in what way he proposes to render help to the railway authorities?

Kidnapping of children.

*125 Q.—SRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the wide spread panic among the public due to reported kidnapping of children throughout the Province;
- (b) whether it is fact that two cases of kidnapping of children occurred at Madras on 22nd August 1946; and
- (c) if so, what steps the Government have taken to prevent this crime wave and allay the fears of the public?

Note.—*Q. 124 Renumbered as 199 A is answered on 10th September 1946.

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UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.*Removal of Hitch-Cock Memorial at Mongam near Malappuram.*

30 Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the last Congress Ministry received representations from Malabar for the removal of the Hitch-Cock Memorial at Mongam near Malappuram;

(b) whether Government took any action on such representations;

(c) whether representations for the removal of the said Memorial were received by the Government even after the last Congress Ministry went out of office; and

(d) what action the Government propose to take for its removal?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Government considered the matter and decided that no action was called for.

(c) & (d) The attention of the Hon. Member is invited to the answer given to the starred question No. 4.

Scheme for procurement and distribution of foodgrains by the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee and its introduction in Malabar.

31 Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government accepted the scheme for procurement and distribution of foodgrains submitted by the Kerala Provincial Congress Committee and introduced it in Malabar;

(b) whether the Government consulted any other political parties before they accepted the said scheme;

(c) whether the scheme was published for public criticism before it was adopted; and

(d) if the answers to (b) and (c) are in the negative, what are the reasons for the acceptance and introduction of the scheme without reference to other political parties and without eliciting public criticism?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) No.

(d) As the scheme is an ameliorative measure intended to benefit the people of Malabar district by improving the existing scheme of procurement and distribution of foodgrains in the district and as it had to be introduced and brought into force before the harvest commenced the Government did not consider it

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necessary to consult any political party or invite public criticism on this scheme. However the Collector of Malabar issued a general invitation to all M.L.As., etc., and leaders of political parties to attend the conference of officials held at the Huzur office, Calicut, on 25th June 1946 to discuss the scheme of procurement and distribution of foodgrains adopted by the Government. It is open to the leaders of political parties to attend that Conference and put forth their views.

Vincent Soda Factory at Trichinopoly.

32 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether, notwithstanding the fact that more than 50 workers are employed in the Vincent Soda Factory at Trichinopoly, the same has not been brought under the operation of the Factories Act; and

(b) why this has not been done in spite of the representations made by the Workers' Union to the Labour Commissioner in the month of May 1946?

A.—(a) & (b) The Soda Factory Workers' Union, Trichinopoly, represented to the Commissioner of Labour that the Vincent Bakery, Confectionery and Soda Factory and about a dozen other soda factories in Trichinopoly employing more than 20 persons should be brought under the Factories Act. The Inspector of Factories, Trichinopoly, inspected the Vincent & Co., Ltd. (Soda, Bakery and Confectioner), Trichinopoly, on 22nd May 1946 and found that the manufacturing processes were carried on without the aid of power. The bakery and confectionery sections of the factory were brought on to the register of factories. As aerated water factories have not yet been declared as factories under section 5 of the Factories Act, the aerated water section of the factory has not been brought to the register of factories.

Registration of Trichinopoly-Srirangam Municipal Workers Union.

33 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Labour Commissioner has been withholding the registration of the Trichinopoly-Srirangam Municipal Workers Union under the plea that some amendments besides those contemplated by the Indian Trade Union Act of 1926 are necessary;

(b) if so, what they are; and

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(c) whether those conditions are imposed by the department without statutory sanction?

A.—(a) No, Sir. The Union was registered on the 8th July 1946.

(b) & (c) Does not arise.

The area under tobacco cultivation in the Madras Presidency during the years 1943 to 1945.

34 Q.—SRI A. VEDARATNAM PILLAI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the area under tobacco cultivation in the Madras Presidency during the years 1943, 1944 and 1945, districtwar; and

(b) the estimated area of tobacco cultivation to be reduced by the proposed restriction on tobacco cultivation, districtwar?

A.—(a) The information is contained in the annual season and crop report of the Province for the years. A statement^a showing the extent of tobacco cultivation, districtwar during 1942-43 to 1944-45 is annexed.

(b) The proposed restriction on tobacco cultivation has not been enforced. It is not therefore possible to indicate now the extent to which the area under the crop will be reduced in each district.

Conference of officials at Huzur office, Calicut, to discuss procurement and distribution of foodgrains in Malabar.

35 Q.—K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether there was a conference of the officials at the Huzur office, Calicut, on 25th June 1946 to discuss the scheme of procurement and distribution of foodgrains in Malabar adopted by the Government;

(b) whether Mr. K. Kelappan, President, Kerala Provincial Congress Committee, was present at the conference;

(c) whether he was invited to attend the conference, and by whom;

(d) whether the representatives of any other political organizations were invited for the conference; and

(e) if the reply to (d) is in the negative, the reason for not inviting them and inviting Mr. Kelappan alone?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) & (d) Mr. Kelappan was not specially invited. He attended the meeting in response to a general invitation issued to all local M.L.As., etc., and leaders

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of political parties, by the Collector of Malabar one or two days previously to discuss the new scheme along with the taluk supply officers and assistant taluk supply officers. It was open to the leaders of the other political parties too to attend the conference in response to the general invitation.

(e) Does not arise.

Gosha Hospital at Vizagapatam.

36 Q.—SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether any representations have been made regarding the Gosha Hospital at Vizagapatam about the inadequacy of beds for labour cases and other female complaints;

(b) what amounts have been given by Government as grants to the Gosha Hospital for the past five years, yearwar;

(c) whether there is heavy pressure on it of gosha patients from the city and the district of Vizagapatam; and

(d) whether the Government have considered the desirability of taking over its management with effect from 1947?

A.—(a) No representation has been received.

	RS.
(b) 1941-42	3,600
1942-43	4,586
1943-44	15,176
1944-45	5,000
1945-46	7,074

(c) No information is available as the institution is a private one.

(d) The reply is in the negative.

Abolition of the difference between ordinary areas and excluded and partially excluded areas of Godavari and Vizagapatam districts.

37 Q.—SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether representations have been made to the Hon. Premier for taking steps to abolish the difference between ordinary areas and excluded and partially excluded areas; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in that regard?

A.—(a) A representation has been received for abolishing the Polavaram agency taluk and transferring it to the ordinary civil administration.

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- (b) The question of abolishing the difference between ordinary areas and excluded and partially excluded areas is a matter for the Constituent Assembly to decide. But the question will be examined and considered.

Mass petition signed by the workers of Golden Rock (Railway).

38 Q.—SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to—

(a) place before the House the mass petition, dated 14th May 1946, submitted to him signed by 4,000 workers of Golden Rock (Railway) for withdrawal of certain cases pending in the Trichinopoly Stationary Sub-Magistrate's Court against some workers and the hon. Member of this House, Sri K. Ananda Nambiyar;

(b) state whether it is a fact that this hon. Member and Railway Labour Union's Branch President were fined Rs. 50 each by the Stationary Sub-Magistrate on a complaint made by the Subdivisional Officer for the alleged offence of taking out a procession in defiance of section 144 said to have been promulgated in Trichinopoly in connexion with the murder of Singaravelu, a Communist worker; and

(c) state whether this case was considered as a political one for the consideration of withdrawal by the Government, and, if not, why not?

A.—(a) The Government consider that no useful purpose will be served by placing the petition on the table of the House.

(b) It is a fact that the hon. Member and another were convicted by the Stationary Sub-Magistrate, Trichinopoly, for an offence under section 188, Indian Penal Code. Government have no information regarding the actual sentence imposed.

(c) The case was not considered as political for the reason that the order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code, had been passed in order to meet a very grave situation arising out of the death of Singaravelu and its deliberate contravention was fraught with great danger to public peace and tranquillity.

Seniority of Sri T. Srinivasachariyar in the Survey department.

39 Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether in G.O. Ms. No. 1198, Revenue, dated 12th June 1937 and G.O. Ms. No. 1789, Revenue, dated 31st August 1937, and Board's Resolutions thereon Mr. T. Srinivasachariyar

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was ordered to be given seniority in the post of head surveyor by reverting the juniormost man;

(b) whether the abovementioned Government Orders were given effect to;

(c) whether the gentleman for whom the above Government Orders were issued, sent any petition to the Government subsequent to the dates of the Government Orders;

(d) what action have the Government taken on the petition; and

(e) whether it is the intention of the Government to reconsider the whole question?

A.—(a) In G.O. No. 1198, Revenue, dated 12th June 1937, the Government held that the reversion of Sri T. Srinivasachariar to the post of deputy surveyor on the ground that he did not possess the minimum general educational qualification was not regular and that he had a right to be reinstated as head-surveyor. They asked the Board of Revenue to take action accordingly. In G.O. No. 1789, Revenue, dated 31st August 1937, they informed the Board of Revenue that the orders in G.O. No. 1198, Revenue, dated 12th June 1937, did not require revision. The Board's Resolutions on the Government Orders are not available with the Government. Presumably in those resolutions the Board communicated the orders of the Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) & (d) In August 1938, Sri T. Srinivasachariar submitted a petition to the Government requesting that he may be permitted to count his seniority from 7th July 1917 for purposes of promotion as head surveyor and that his pay may be fixed in that post at Rs. 100 in the then time-scale of Rs. 75—5—125 so that he may get a slightly higher pension at the time of his retirement. Sri T. Srinivasachariar held the post of head surveyor for about two months in 1917. He was not promoted to that post again until 1924. Under the rules, the period of probation is two years within a continuous period of three years; and service which does not count for probation does not count also for seniority. His short service in 1917 did not therefore count for seniority. Sri Srinivasachariar held the post of head surveyor in 1917 only on a fixed rate of pay. He did not draw pay in the time-scale before 13th April 1933. He was therefore not eligible to draw pay in the old time-scale of pay. In G.O. No. 314, Revenue, dated 8th February 1939, the Government therefore declined to interfere on his behalf.

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In May 1939 Sri Srinivasachariar submitted a petition asking for a reconsideration of the orders in G.O. No. 314, Revenue, dated 8th February 1939. The Government did not see any grounds to reconsider the matter. In G.O. No. 2320, Revenue, dated 8th September 1939, they informed him accordingly. Subsequent to 1939, Sri Srinivasachariar submitted a number of petitions to the Provincial Government or His Excellency the Governor. A memorial which he submitted direct to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council in March 1943 was also transferred to the Provincial Government for disposal. The Provincial Government and His Excellency the Governor saw no fresh grounds which would justify a reconsideration of the orders already passed in the matter.

(e) No.

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by member.]

II.—NOTICE OF MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE.

* Mr. SPEAKER:—"Mr. P. Venkateswarlu has given notice of a motion for the adjournment of the business of the house to discuss a matter of urgent public importance. It reads thus:—

"This Assembly do discuss a question of urgent public importance, namely, the strike on the South Indian Railway and to demand the withdrawal of police and military assistance to the General Manager of the South Indian Railway and compel the General Manager to concede the just demands of the South Indian Railway workers and avert the strike."

"In this connection I wish to inform the House that, during the budget session, motions of this kind are not usually allowed. Secondly, as regards the question of the police assistance to the General Manager of the South Indian Railway, there is an opportunity coming next week under "Demand IV—Police" to offer criticisms. Everyday we are sitting till 6 p.m. to finish the budget. In the circumstances I cannot allow Mr. Venkateswarlu to move his motion for adjournment."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I rise to a point of order."

Mr. SPEAKER:—"No point of order can be raised now."

III.—DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR THE YEAR 1946-47.

DEMAND XII—ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move that—

The Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the

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31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 1,11,32,800 in respect of the head "Administration of Justice." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 11,47,107.'"

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the cut motion standing in my name, viz.—
"To reduce the allotment of Rs. 1,11,32,800 for Administration of Justice by Rs. 100."

"Now, with regard to the High Court of Madras, it has nowadays proved itself above the proverbial law's delays. I say this is due to the present strength of the High Court. Even though one of the results of the increase in the strength of the High Court, i.e., the consequent speeding up of the hearing of cases might have caused some inconvenience to the practitioners and litigants, it is really gratifying to find that arrears have gone down considerably and it is necessary that such a state of affairs must be continued and the present strength of the High Court maintained in order that the work of the High Court may be kept up-to-date. I do not know what the opinion of the High Court or of the Hon. the Chief Justice in the matter is; but if they think it desirable or necessary to keep up the present strength I think their opinion must surely count and it should be given effect to and respected properly.

"Now, Sir, turning to the representation of the Muslims on the High Court Bench, I say that the High Court is an important institution and so it must be taken separately and independently from other service and it should be seen whether the Muslims have got their due representation on the Bench. I say, Sir, on the present strength of the High Court, we ought to get three out of the present 16. In any event, at least the present number of Muslims must be kept up, otherwise it will produce great dissatisfaction and discontent among the Muslims. In this connexion I have to draw the attention of Government to the fact that years ago when Sir Abdur Rahim was on the Bench of the High Court, he had to serve for a time as a member of the Public Service Commission and then, in view of the recognition of the principle of Muslim representation on the Bench, the Government went to the extent of getting from Bombay a Muslim to officiate in the place of Sir Abdur Rahim. When Sir Abdur Rahim left this Province, no Muslim Judge was appointed for some time to the place vacated by him. Afterwards, as a result of earnest and strong representations and agitation on the part of the Muslim community, the present Muslim Judges of the High Court were appointed. I must say that the Government should not in any event disturb the present arrangement.

"Among the Law Officers of the High Court, there is not a single Muslim at present and there has not been one in the whole history of the High Court of Madras. This state of affairs is persisting in spite of the earnest representation of Muslims and the Muslim League. Is it possible to conceive that there has not

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been a single qualified Muslim at all all these years? Again, there are several officers in the High Court staff from the Registrar downwards and there is no Muslim at all among them. One Muslim acted several times as Second Assistant Registrar, but when a permanent vacancy occurred, his claim was ignored and the vacancy was given to a non-Muslim, perhaps on the plea that the vacancy had to be filled up by a war service man. Is it a fact that there were no applications from Muslims with war service? I ask Government, Sir, whether it is not a fact that there were applications from Muslims possessing war service also.

“There is another point over which the Muslim litigants, witnesses and legal practitioners and the Muslim public are sore about, and that point is that under the present system they are not able to perform their important compulsory religious duty of offering weekly congregational prayers on Fridays. During the half-hour interval allowed on Fridays as on other days, it is impossible for Muslims to go to the mosques and perform their religious duty. This matter was several times brought to the notice of the authorities that be and several earnest representations were made and yet there has been no effect or response. This is a very reasonable demand of the Muslims and quite a simple matter. This ought to have been attended to as a matter of course in the ordinary course of things. But even on such a matter as this the Muslims have to carry on an agitation for a long time. Is it at all surprising, then, Sir, that the Muslims feel exasperated at such treatment in regard to such reasonable demands? Fridays are considered to be holy days both by the Hindus and the Muslims. Therefore I will go even to the extent of saying that all courts and offices may be closed on Fridays instead of on Sundays, or on Fridays and Sundays instead of on Saturdays and Sundays in the case of those offices which are now closed on Saturdays and Sundays. For the present the Government must at least arrange for a recess of two hours between 1 and 3 p.m. with regard to the law courts as is being done in the case of this hon. House. In the case of mufassal courts the timings will have to be modified with regard to the conditions obtaining in the various localities.

“Then coming to the question of separation of Judiciary from the Executive, I have already indicated the view of my party, namely, that we are for such separation. We only say that such separation should go far enough. In this connexion I want to remind the Government that personal liberty and individual liberty are sacred and precious things. Therefore it must be dealt with only by officers of status and position. For that purpose I say the system of Munsif-Magistrates may be inaugurated in this Province and no criminal case should go to any officer below the rank of a Munsif-Magistrate. Some people have some misgivings about the results that will flow from such separation. They think that the collection of revenue will be affected by such separation. I may say, Sir, that during the time of the East India Company and even for a considerable time afterwards land revenue was the main revenue of the Province. But that is not the case any more. Now land revenue is comparatively a small

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proportion of the revenue of the Province and therefore land revenue also might be collected in the way in which other taxes and revenues of the Government are collected. It is bad in principle to say that revenues must be collected with the help of terrorism. When people are sceptic about the proposed separation, they really mean that some sort of pressure, some sort of compulsion and fear ought to be brought to bear upon the people for making them part with the revenues which are due to the Government. That idea must go. That idea should not find a place in the minds of our people, particularly in view of the fact that other taxes are being efficiently collected by other means than giving judicial powers to the Collectors of revenue. With these words, Sir, I move the cut motion.”

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the cut motion. As I have pointed out while speaking on other demands, I feel in this demand also that the department is top-heavy with overpaid officers, judges drawing Rs. 5,000 and above. Sir, justice has become very costly. The poor man is unable to get justice in spite of the fact that he contributes for it. I feel, Sir, that in these days of blackmarketing justice too might have simply crept into the blackmarket. Unless rectified, the name of ‘justice’ will vanish in due course.

“Sir, we find there are long delays. When a suit is filed by a man his grandsons carry on the struggle with one another. In the end both the parties become paupers though the lawyers might have earned a few chips and the clerks and others might have made some money. The judiciary has become top-heavy. The ordinary man in the street is not able to get justice and courts of law have become courts of injustice to the ordinary man in the street. This is more correct and will be nearer to truth in the case of criminal courts. In cases launched by the police, the police will easily influence the presiding officer and get people punished. Twice I have had bitter experience. I have heard from the so-called criminals, the society made them such, that they were sentenced to four years imprisonment for a theft of four annas. This is how justice is being administered. This is how police are bringing out criminals into the society. They are making ordinary people to become criminals.

“Sir, our law courts and the whole system of administering justice should be overhauled. It is high time that we took up the matter. After all this justice under the Criminal Procedure Code is century-old. These things must be scrapped and the whole system should be re-written. I therefore request the Hon. Minister for Law to appoint a Committee to investigate the matter in detail and bring out a judiciary which is in accordance with our native genius instead of depending upon a system which has been evolved to enslave us, to keep us down, by the British Government to maintain their own interests.

“Coming to the question of separation of the judiciary from the executive, I say it is a welcome sign. But we find the influence of the police everywhere and the police interfere with officials.

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We have experience of cases where innocent men also have been punished on account of interference by the police, in spite of the fact that the assessors, the public gentries, unanimously declared that the accused were not guilty. Even though the assessors, who are non-party and non-political men and are men who are above all the prejudices, gave a unanimous opinion that the accused were not guilty, their opinion was not at all cared for. There are instances also where these presiding officers will not care to hear what the other side lawyer has got to say. He sits in the chair and begins to write the judgment without hearing what the lawyer is telling him. This is how justice is being administered.

"Of course it may be said, Sir, that we are in a transitional stage. During the period of transition, Sir, the popular Ministry should have more powers to interfere with criminal justice, because we feel that in many cases these police officials interfere and innocent people are got punished. The popular Ministry must therefore reserve the right of interference in criminal cases. In this connexion, I would bring to the notice of the House the opinion expressed by a Congress leader, namely, the previous Congress Prime Minister, Sri C. Rajagopalachariar. He said:—

... In no country in the world can a Government relinquish the right to withdraw cases, entering *nulli prosequi*, discharging prisoners and setting aside from the executive side the final decrees of criminal courts. It is not possible for any Government to divide this responsibility to such an extent as to give up the right of interfering in prosecutions in regard to criminal justice."

"Even in England, the Crown claims the right to enter *nulli prosequi*. Even in independent countries like England there is provision for interfering in criminal cases. I therefore request the Ministry to have that provision in their hands, because we have not yet got independence and our system of justice is not overhauled, because the I.C.S. officers sitting there are administering justice against the will of our people, and because there are so many classes in our society and so many conflicting interests. The popular Government which is expected to be just must have the provision in its hands so that whenever it finds it necessary it can interfere and do justice to the people at large.

"I want to bring to the notice of the House an incident which has taken place in Guntur and which requires the intervention of the Ministry. That is the case which was launched against the trade union leaders in connexion with the Tobacco Workers' strike. The Tobacco Workers in Guntur after giving due notice went on strike on 25th March 1946. The Muslim management tried their level best to break their unity and brought police help—Subbarao—every one of the Congress Members have bitter experience of him, even leaders sitting before us might have had experience of him—Subbarao made all sorts of efforts to break this strike. He went even to the extent of showing a pistol against the workers. Yet the strike succeeded. When the strike was on, rowdies and goondas were engaged to disrupt the

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workers. As it was not possible they surrounded the house of one trade union leader. In that incident one old man died. Because of that death all the trade union leaders are included in that case and they were all imprisoned. I want to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister for Law that on 1st April 1946 this thing happened at 10 p.m. Early next morning an inquest was started. During the inquest this Subbarao took away some witnesses and kept them in his custody for one or two hours and got those people to say that these trade union leaders were involved

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"On a point of order, Sir. This is the subject matter of an appeal to be filed, Sir. Is it right that we should be discussing this on the floor of the House?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The matter is sub-judice. The hon. Member need not touch that point."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"In the District Court it has been disposed of. We have not . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member will please leave that point and go to another point. I will not allow him to speak on that subject. I have given my ruling."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I am not questioning your ruling. But I am saying that it is not sub-judice, because it was not . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Minister told us that it is before a Court. It is enough."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"As a matter of legal opinion I will take the Hon. Minister's opinion. The Hon. Minister for Law is judging on what I should speak and on what I ought not to speak."

"My request is that in such cases where the assessors gave the opinion that they are not guilty the Hon. Ministers should interfere and see that justice is done. This is a fit case where justice must be done. In this connexion I should like to remind the House about the case against Justice Byers where he was granted bail then and let off. These trade union leaders were sentenced to jail for ten years. This is how justice has been administered in our country. This is a question of the rich versus the poor. Black-marketeers have been let off even though they were proved

* MR. SPEAKER:—"A number of Members have given notice of cut motions. Therefore I will not allow more than 10 minutes for any hon. Member. I will allow you one or two minutes more to finish. We must finish this demand to-day."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"You have given me only 10 minutes, Sir."

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* MR. SPEAKER:—"I will allow you one or two minutes more."

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Sir, I have three more points and I will finish in three minutes. In these blackmarketing cases, because these people are rich, they are left off Scotfree. One such instance is the case of Kothandarama Mudaliyar of Madura and Lakshmana Chettiyar of Ramnad. The proceedings against these people have been withdrawn in spite of representations that were made to the Hon. Minister for Law.

"I will give my points, Sir. Nobody should be arrested and remanded even for 24 hours without a charge-sheet being filed against the accused. The whole Criminal Procedure Code should be re-written and modern standards of justice provided. The provision for ordinances, section 124-A of the Penal Code, sections 107, 108, 110, etc., of the Criminal Procedure Code should all be repealed and re-written.

"Lastly, Sir, the Criminal Tribes Act which has agitated us more and under which innocent people are being . . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member's opinion is that it should be repealed?"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Yes, repealed, Sir."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member's opinion is that it should be repealed. He may resume his seat."

* MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, during question time when a simple question was asked whether the Government would give an opportunity to this House to discuss the separation of the judiciary from the executive before any action was taken in the matter, the answer given by this popular Government was 'No.' I may tell this House, Sir, that this answer is not expected even from a Nazi Government. The answer is given that a Committee has been appointed to go into the matter. Again when a question is put why certain communities are not taken in the Committee, they take shelter behind the words that it is a technical question, it is an expert committee and merit is the consideration. Now they say that it is an expert committee and merit is taken into consideration and if we ask them whether merit has been taken into consideration they say that it is a technical question. I do not understand why all the communities are not taken into confidence in this matter. We here in this House are the representatives of all the communities and the interests and we are here to safeguard their interests and we cannot expect justice from this Committee, this Pappu Somasundaram Committee containing members who belong to one community which has been monopolizing the posts in the past, Sir. Again, Sir, a question was asked about a week ago whether this Committee's report will be placed before this House before any action is taken.

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The answer of the Law Minister was still more dogmatic. He said that the report of the Committee was intended for the Minister. We know, Sir, that the interests of all the communities will be affected by the separation of the judiciary from the executive and no action should be taken in this matter unless the House is given an opportunity of discussing the matter.

"Again Sir, we are surprised to hear that this Committee is framing rules in such a way that only one or two privileged communities will be benefited. For instance in the matter of the appointment of District Collectors and Deputy Collectors under the scheme of the separation of the judiciary from the executive, they are said to be framing such rules that any man who wants to be a Collector or Deputy Collector should have had 15 years' service at the bar and at the same time be less aged. This is only an illustration. Hence I suggest that nothing in this matter should be done before consulting this House. The answers given in this House clearly show that we have reason to doubt the intentions of this Government.

"Again, Sir, on the question of the appointment of Public Prosecutors, I am told that this Government has already appointed two Public Prosecutors for reasons well known to themselves. In the district of Kistna a man who is about to retire has been appointed, a man of 54 years of age. The present incumbent who generally will be given the next chance has not been given for reasons well known to the Government. Again Sir, political considerations, considerations of relations in the Congress High Command and other considerations have been taken into account. I want a categorical reply from the Government—they can do anything they like—I only want to know what considerations they are going to have in making these appointments. Will the Hon. Minister for Law be able to explain why he appointed a man over 54 years of age, who has had no criminal practice, who has not handled one sessions case in Kistna district, who has not seen what a sessions case is? Let us know where the Government are going and whether on merit or technical question or under what other word they are going to take shelter in this matter also. I have to say, Sir, that the appointment of Public Prosecutors is a game which the Government are going to follow. Hon. Members from these benches of the Muslim League want to see that justice is done to all the communities and that rules are framed for this purpose. The answers given in the other House by the Hon. Minister again create a suspicion in the public mind. When the hon. Member, Sri Suryanarayana Rao asked a question the answers given were dogmatic. The Minister has not based his answers on any logic. Is there any logic in this Government? I want to ask whether the Government have got any scheme in the matter of the appointment of Public Prosecutors and if so will they come forward with that scheme or is it going to be again a matter of showing favours to their own rank and file? I wish to say that since justice has to be done to all communities the Government should apply the communal Government Order to this matter.

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"Again Sir, since I have already stated that nothing should be done in the matter of the separation of the judiciary from the executive unless this House has been consulted, I will be able to say more later on, because the Hon. Speaker has been pleased to give me only 15 minutes now. But I may suggest that Collectors under this scheme may be appointed on the same scale and with the same status as the present District Collectors. Information has been received by me, Sir, that one of the reasons for the appointment of the Public Prosecutor of Kistna by this Government is that he is a nephew of Sri A. Kaleswara Rao who happens to have got nothing from this Ministry."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Mr. Speaker, there is a limit for discussions and for imputing motives. Hon. Members must know that they should not transgress the limits and attribute motives to the Government and to the Minister for everything and every act that is done in their administrative and executive capacity. No Assembly can function, no Parliament can function, no Legislature can function if hon. Members could claim freedom to go on attributing motives and bringing all sorts of things as evidence. I would submit, Sir, that you may suggest to hon. Members—if authorities are wanted, they will be quoted in due course—you may suggest to hon. Members that they should not indulge in such sort of attacks, personal attacks, attributing motives for everything that is done by the Government. It is not within the province of the deliberations of an Assembly. Nowhere such a thing is recognized. Sir, I request you to give your ruling."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Under what rule, Sir, can a member not attribute motives to the Government?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"What the Hon. Premier says is that if for every action you attribute motives, then the Government cannot function."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"It is for the Government to say that there is no motive. This is the only time when we can speak."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What the Hon. Prime Minister says is that if they attribute motives for everything the Government cannot function. If they want to substantiate anything they are at liberty to do so. Simply because they know something, they should not assume things and attribute motives to the Government for every thing they do."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I am on my legs, Sir. It is for the Speaker to pull me up when I transgress the rules of the Assembly. The Premier cannot at every stage interfere and say you should do this and you should not do that. We are made of sterner stuff, Sir, and will not agree to do anything as they like. I am here giving some facts and figures and I take the responsibility for the statement that I am

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making. It is for the Government to say that there is no motive behind. It is not democracy if I am not allowed to have my say. The other day the Premier said: 'you cannot harangue'. He asked the Speaker to exercise discipline over me. It is not possible for him in a democracy. . ."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"He is simply cautions the hon. Member. The hon. Member need not be angry with the Prime Minister. He is simply saying that if for everything you attribute motives to the Government, the Government cannot function. The hon. Member cannot lose his temper. He may go on quietly."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I submit to you Mr. Speaker that the hon. Member has not said anything to which the Hon. the Premier should have taken exception. He was speaking of certain facts which came to his knowledge and in making a statement of facts he was not casting aspersions or even attributing motives to the Members of the Government. If the Hon. Minister for Law differs from him, he has got his turn to reply and he can repudiate that statement."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I ask, Sir—supposing what the hon. Member has stated in a fact, though it may be very unpalatable, a very bad thing, supposing it is a fact—then what happens if he is not allowed to state this fact?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"What the Hon. Premier says is that the hon. Member need not attribute motives for everything done by the Government. Mr. Salam needs not lose his temper. Whatever he wants to say, he may say calmly."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Provided the Minister also does not lose his temper."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"He will be the last person to lose his temper."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I happen to be a young man and he happens to be an old man."

"Again, Sir, the Hon. Minister for Law is going about giving some facts about one department and then entirely different facts at another time. I saw in the papers, Sir, that the Minister for Law was going to open child-welfare and maternity centres. I saw in the papers that he is not going to appoint lawyers for posts in the scheme of the separation of judiciary from the executive. Sir, instead of going about opening maternity and child-welfare centres, instead of giving facts and figures here and there, the Government can give a consolidated statement in the matter and see that no doubt enters the minds of certain communities as they fear very much because of the constitution of the Ministry here."

"Again, Sir, it has been a theory of the Congress that lawyers are the most fitted to occupy the posts in the judiciary and not the quill-drivers of the Revenue Department or the white men of

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the I.C.S. They should be only lawyers who have got long training in this matter. I do not know how far it is true—whether the newspaper report is going to be denied by the Minister for Law—that he has reserved some posts only for lawyers, some 50 per cent of the posts, and the rest for the dummified clerks who happen to be in the Revenue Department for reasons well known to themselves.”

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“ I think it is much better if we have got something to say we say it correctly. There is the claim made by the members of the Bar, the subordinate judiciary and other subordinate officers. Every claim is there and it will be considered by the Government. I have never stated that I have reserved any percentage for anybody in the matter.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ It is a good thing that the Minister has not decided without consulting the House as has been done on other matters. As so many claims have been made, I hope the Minister will consult this House in this very important matter.

12-30 p.m. “ Again, Sir, in the matter of direct recruitment, it is better that in the place of people with no educational qualifications from the Revenue Department, who are taken, vakils and lawyers who happen to be experts in the subject, may be considered.

“ In the matter of justice done by the Honorary Magistrates, it is a well-known fact that no justice is done actually. It is better this Government abolishes the system of Honorary Magistrates completely, unless again they want to distribute favours to their own men and appoint them.”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“ This is the sort of thing I must object to, that anything done is done with motive, for favouritism and all those things. Hon. Members must maintain the dignity of the House and the dignity of every one in this House.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ I have facts, Sir. For instance, we see in the papers this morning that a Deputy Director of Industries has been appointed, and there is no reason given . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ You may give it as an example, but it has nothing to do with the question before us.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Only this morning, Sir, I saw the appointment in the papers of a Deputy Director of Industries, with no qualifications, one Mr. Chitra. Again, a dismissed Commissioner has been appointed to look after village industries. Hence, it is right and proper that members on this side of the House should know the reasons which prompted the Government to make such appointments.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“ You have taken more than ten minutes.”

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MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ Some time has been taken by the Premier, Sir (laughter). Again, Sir, when appointments either in the Revenue Department or in the Judicial Department are made, the question of training and status are not taken into consideration at all by this Government. Will the Government declare that not only in the department of law, but in all departments, they will advertise beforehand for these posts and then only make appointments? If there is a post vacant, say of the Deputy Director of Industries or the Public Prosecutor in the Kistna district, unless the posts are advertised, unless they specify what qualifications are necessary, we won't know what is in the mind of the Revenue Minister or the Prime Minister. People have had no opportunity to apply for these posts; if advertisement had been made, it is possible you would have had better persons than those appointed. Take for instance, the post of Director of Publicity for which one Mr. Hanumantha Rao has been brought from the Punjab; if that post had been advertised properly, we would all have applied. In the matter of law, unless qualifications are prescribed for every post, unless vacant posts are advertised and everybody gets an opportunity to apply, the Government should not do anything, and if they make the appointment without doing so, I think, I am quite right in saying that there has been a motive or that there must be motive.”

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wish to give expression to my views with regard to the proposed separation of the judiciary from the executive. This is a long-standing demand for which the public have been clamouring for nearly half a century; because by reason of the judicial and the executive powers being vested in one and the same functionary, the free and fair administration of justice has been prejudiced. All these years, the District Collector has been the District Magistrate as well, and as such, the head of the police as also the head of the magistracy in the district. According to criminal jurisprudence, the presumption is that the accused is innocent, but very often the prosecution has had facilities which have operated to the detriment and to the prejudice of the accused. In many prosecutions, the authority according sanction has been the District Magistrate, with the result that the subordinate magistrates trying those cases have very often found it difficult to arrive at a different conclusion. This unhappy and unsatisfactory state of affairs should have been remedied by the last Congress Government, but that Government did not undertake the reform, because it was loath to part with power. I am very glad, Sir, to find that the Minister for Law of the present Government has come forward to do something at least in regard to this matter, and has appointed a committee for the purpose. As this committee has not concluded its deliberations, we are not able to give our opinion on its decisions. However, we are in a position to express our views on what has appeared in the Press as being the intentions of the Hon. the Minister for Law. What he proposes to do, we find, is not to separate the judiciary

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from the executive, but merely to separate the judiciary from the revenue. He proposes to bifurcate the duties of the Collector and to appoint a separate District Magistrate under the Criminal Procedure Code. This District Magistrate would be entirely independent of the Collector and would have under him a number of additional first-class magistrates. By reason of this reform the subordinate judiciary would be saved from the tyrannies of the local police and the local officers. No doubt this would be good, but I must say that so far as the separation of the judiciary from the executive is concerned, a reform on the above lines would not go far enough, because the judiciary would still be under the control of the executive though not under the control of the Collector the immediate executive; it would still be under the control of the Provincial Government. Hence, it would be a misnomer to call the above reform a separation of the judiciary from the executive. Real separation of the judiciary from the executive will take place only when the judicial administration is rendered completely independent of the executive at all levels, —independent even of the Law Minister himself, and placed entirely under the jurisdiction of the High Court. The Hon. the Minister for Law seems to be of the opinion that this is not desirable, because the High Court is not under the control of the Provincial Government. But this should be no consideration whatsoever; on the other hand, this all the more betokens the independence of the highest judiciary in the land. I know, Mr. Speaker, that the executive is always disinclined to part with power. But I may point out that the Government should think not merely with reference to present times, they must visualise the future also. It is true that the Congress party is in power in this province to-day, but what will happen if their opponents, for instance, the Communists, seize that power to-morrow? If the Congress do not effect a real separation of the judiciary to-day, the result will be that to-morrow when their opponents come into power the latter will use the power vested in them to the detriment of the Congress. Therefore, I would say, it is best to act with vision and bring about now a complete separation of the judiciary from the executive.

“As regards technical difficulties, I may point out that these are not insurmountable from the practical point of view, as has been pointed out by that eminent jurist, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. Under section 107 of the Government of India Act, it is possible for the Provincial Government to make an amendment in the Criminal Procedure Code on obtaining the assent of the Governor-General in that regard. I would request the Hon. the Minister for Law to take early steps to obtain the permission of the Governor-General for the required amendment, which will enable him to effect a complete separation of the judiciary from the executive.

“The other point to which I wish to draw attention is the desirability of appointing only lawyers as judges and magistrates. The appointment of non-lawyers to these posts is a paradox of the Administration of Justice in this country. A Judge's work, whether on the criminal or on the civil side is of a specialized

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nature and only those who have obtained a degree in Law and practised law should be placed in the position of a judge or magistrate. Would it be wise, I ask, to place one who has not obtained a degree in Medicine, in charge of a hospital? There may be a number of successful quacks who may have acquired a good knowledge of medicine but would it be safe to entrust them with responsible posts? A man who has not acquired a degree in Law but who has learned some law after entering service is in the position of a quack. Sir, India is the one country in the whole world where lawless men are appointed as magistrates and judges, like the members of the I.C.S. and the revenue officials. Therefore, I would request the Hon. the Minister for Law to see that when recruitment is made in future to judicial posts only lawyers and those who have obtained a degree in Law are appointed thereto. Now that there is to be a separation of the judiciary from the executive, a number of magistrates will have to be appointed. In this connexion I may point out that the Government should pay due regard to the claims of Muslims for such posts, for there is no paucity of lawyers among the Muslims, as every year a number of Muslims pass out from the Law College. Hence I hope due consideration will be paid to the claims of Muslims when appointments are made to the Magistracy.

“With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion, moved by the Leader of the Opposition.”

“SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI NAYUDU :—“சபாநாயகரவர்களே. இப்போது நியாயத்தைப்பற்றி பேசவேண்டியிருப்பதால்—நியாயம் என்பது தேசமக்களுக்கு எல்லையாகவிருக்கிறது. நியாயாதிபதியும், நியாயத்திற்கு அடிப்படையாகவிருக்கிறார். போலீஸ் டிபார்ட்மென்டும்.”

* MR. SPEAKER.—“போலீஸ் விஷயம் மின்னாலே வருகிறது அப்போது அதைப்பற்றிப் பேசலாம்.”

* SRI N. GOVINDASWAMI NAYUDU :—“ஜனங்களின் நியாயத்திற்கு அடிப்படையாகவிருப்பதால், அதைப்பற்றியும் இப்போது சொல்லவேண்டியிருக்கிறது. போலீசார் நியாயத்தைக் கடைப்பிடிக்கவேண்டியவர்களாக விருப்பதாலும், அவர்களுக்கு நியாயத்தைப் போதிக்க வேண்டியது அவசியமாக இருக்கிறது. ஆகவே, அதிகப் பணம் செலவழிப்பதாக விருந்தாலும்கூட, அவர்களுக்கு நியாயத்தைப் போதிக்க ஒரு டிபார்ட்மென்டை ஏற்படுத்தியாகவேண்டும். இதைப்பற்றி நான் இவ்வளவு என் சொல்லுகிறேனென்றால், இன்று கோர்களைக் கண்டு ஜனங்கள் மிகவும் பயப்படுகிறார்கள். ஏனென்றால், அங்குபோனால், பணம் செலவாகிறதே யொழிய நியாயம் கிடைப்பதில்லை. இன்று பணம் வைத்திருக்கிறவன், தான் ஏதாவது தவறு செய்தாலும், தன்னுடைய பணச்சக்தியினால், தான் செய்த தவறை மறைத்து, தனக்கு கஷ்டம் வராது நன்மையைத் தேடிக்கொள்ள முயலப்படுகிறது. பண உதவியில்லாதவர்களுக்கு நியாயம் தேடிக்கொள்ள முடியாதென்ற பயம் இருந்து வருகிறது. இந்த டிபார்ட்மென்டை ஒரு ஒழுங்கான வ்தாபனமாக இருக்கும்படியானதும் பாதுகாக்கக்கூடியதாகக் வேண்டும். அந்த டிபார்ட்மென்டிலே படித்தவர்கள் என்ற ஒரே காரணத்தைக்கொண்டு உத்தியோகத்தில் நியமிக்கப்படக்கூடாது. அவர்களுடைய யோக்கியத்தைக் குறித்து அக்கம் பக்கம் உள்ளவர்களுடைய சர்டிபிகேட்டும் இருக்கவேண்டும். அப்படி பெற்றிருப்பவர்களை அந்த டிபார்ட்மென்டிலே நியமித்தால்தான், நியாயம் சரியாகக் கிடைக்கும். இப்போது ஜனநாயக கவர்ன்மென்ட் இருப்பதாலே இவ்விஷயங்களைப்பெல்லாம் கவனிக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். சட்டம் தெரிந்தவர்களைத்தான் இந்த டிபார்ட்மென்ட்டுக்குத் தகுதியுள்ளவர்கள் என்று சொல்லக்கூடாது.”

[Sri N. Govindaswami Nayudu] [24th August 1946]

“இப்பொழுது நம்முடைய தேசத்திலே முதலாளி, தொழிலாளிகளுக்கும் சண்டையிருந்து வருகிறது. இதற்குக் காரணம் நியாயம் இல்லாமலிருப்பதேயாகும். தொழிலாளர்கள் நியாயத்தைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ளாமல் சண்டையிட்டாலுங்கூட அவர்களுக்கு நியாயம் போதிக்கப்படவேண்டும். இவ்விதம் முதலாளி தொழிலாளிகளுக்கிடையே நியாயத்தை ஏற்படுத்துவதற்காகத்தான் லேபர் டிபார்ட்மென்ட் ஏற்படுத்தப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் இதற்கான சட்டம் ஒன்றுமில்லை என சொல்லப்படுகிறது. ஆனால் நிரந்தரக் கோர்ட் ஏற்படுத்தினால், தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் முதலாளிக்கும் சச்சரவு ஏற்படாது. இப்போது உலகத்தில் மக்கள் எல்லோரும் சுகமாக வாழ வேண்டுமென்ற நியாயந்தான் அடிப்படையானது. மக்களில் சிலர் சக்தியுள்ளவர்களிருப்பார்கள். சிலர் சக்தியற்றவர்களிருப்பார்கள். சக்தியுள்ளவர்கள் சக்தியற்றவர்களை அடக்கி ஆளுகிறார்கள். ஆகவே, நியாயமில்லாத இடத்தில் நியாயத்தை ஏற்படுத்த பிரசார வேலை செய்ய வேண்டுமென்று சொல்லி முடித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

12-45 p.m. * Mr. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—“ Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to support this cut motion with a two-fold object; first, to urge on the Government the necessity for reducing expenditure on the High Court and in the offices of the Official Assignee and the Administrator-General; and secondly, to press the claims of Indian Christians to representation on the Bench of the High Court, the Small Causes Court and the City Civil Court. Consistently with the attitude I have taken on the general question of retrenchment of the abnormally heavy cost of the administrative machinery in this province, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister for Law to the necessity for drastically cutting down expenditure on the High Court and the offices I referred to. Let me preface what I am going to say by the observation that I view this question of retrenchment from a perfectly detached standpoint and with the conviction that communal consideration should not blind us to the interests of the tax-payer which we are equally here to safeguard. Sir, in my view, the pruning knife should be ruthlessly applied to the High Court and the two offices I have referred to. The axe should fall first of all on the two temporary additional Judges of the High Court. I know I am at variance with the hon. the Leader of the Opposition who has taken up the view that the strength should be kept at 16, but I think, Sir, opinion among the members of the Bar is fairly general that there are far too many judges in the High Court. (A Voice: ‘ Question.’) I said ‘ fairly general ’ and there is no doubt about it. Some years ago, the High Court applied for two additional Judges to clear arrears of work. Arrears have been cleared and the judges are there practically sleeping and the members of the Bar also feel that cases have been coming on the list much too rapidly for hearing. I think if you look at it from a disinterested point of view, nobody will support the retention of the additional judges for a moment longer than is necessary, i.e., they should be sent out on the expiry of their term of office which I believe will be some time next year. I go a step further; since the Hon. the Minister for Law knows the conditions in the High Court, I trust he will consider the desirability of reducing the strength of the High Court to its original strength of 12. I am quite in sympathy with the views expressed by my

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hon. Friends from the Muslim group as regards the number of Muslim judges, but I say, let them press their claims for increasing the number of Muslim Judges among the permanent strength of the High Court—I do not grudge them getting more seats for the members of their community.

“ I now come to the office of the Official Assignee. Looking at the Budget, I find that the expenditure on this office is something like Rs. 84,700, whereas the estimated income is only Rupees 25,000. From the last Administration Report, I gather that, whereas in 1939 the Official Assignee had as many as 238 insolvencies to administer, in 1944 that number fell to 44; my information is that the average for the last three years is about 45 insolvencies. I question the necessity for such an expensive agency for looking after only about 45 insolvencies in a year. I see that the Official Assignee is drawing a salary of about Rs. 2,000 per month; he can easily make way for an advocate from the Bar, who will only be too glad to take up the post on a salary of Rs. 500 to Rs. 700. I hope the Hon. the Minister for Law will, when an opportunity offers itself, either push this gentleman up or send him out somewhere and replace him by a member of the Bar which will be a cheaper agency.

“ Then there is a Deputy Official Assignee on Rs. 500 to Rs. 750 for an office with about only one-fifth of the work they were doing five or seven years ago. I think that post should go. Again on the establishment of this office, the Government are incurring no less than Rs. 30,000 for an office which deals with only 45 insolvencies a year. I think that such a state of affairs is ridiculous, to say the least. I hope the Hon. the Minister for Law will go carefully into this question and see whether he cannot use his pruning knife ruthlessly and cut down the expenditure to reasonable limits.

“ Sir, I now come to the office of the Administrator-General. I have had experience of the work carried on by him for about 21 years. I question the propriety of public funds being spent to the extent of half a lakh of rupees on an office which exists purely for the benefit of the well-to-do people of this country. May I say that the Administrator-General administers the estates of deceased persons, apparently wealthy people, as Official Trustee; he acts as the trustee of charitable trusts, and of family settlements effected by well-to-do people who have money to spare. He also acts as the guardian of the property of minors whose fathers were apparently well-to-do and left their property without proper care; in such cases recourse has to be had to the Official Trustee for looking after the interests of such children during their minority. Now, Sir, since this office exists practically solely for the benefit of the well-to-do I feel that the estates and trusts concerned should pay the expenses for the maintenance of this office; there is no reason why public funds should be expended on that office. This can be achieved by one or two ways: either by raising the charges of administration of the estates concerned—which are already heavy—or by reducing the expenditure on the establishment. Well, Sir, during the last year, the establishment of this office has

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been considerably increased through the representation of an acting Administrator-General, formerly a Secretary to Government, who made Government believe that a certain minimum staff was very necessary for the running of the office. I can say that if the Hon. the Minister for Law will only go into the question of the necessity for such a big staff as it exists, I am sure he will find a good few hands who are superfluous. To quote an instance, in 1944, the then Acting Administrator-General recommended to the Government the appointment of a supervisor in an honorary capacity; please mark the words 'in an honorary capacity'. He was of the opinion that there were many retired Executive Engineers who would do such honorary work as seeing that the buildings are kept in a good condition for the benefit of the people. Strangely enough, the Government took up the suggestion but wanted that applications should be called for from people on a remunerative basis. Now, there is an officer on Rs. 200 with a staff to assist him not for new construction work but merely for supervision of repairs. I consider this expenditure is unnecessary and should be cut out.

"I now turn to the last point. I wish to impress on the Hon. the Law Minister the necessity for representation—not adequate representation—as there is none at all, of Indian Christians on the High Court Bench, the Small Causes Court and in the City Civil Court. The Hon. the Minister for Revenue said here yesterday that unless you cry you won't get anything. Unfortunately even though the Indian Christians cry they cannot cry as loudly as the Muslims—who are in a much stronger minority—and so they don't get what they deserve. I hope the Minister for Law will hear the faint cries of the poor Indian Christians and give them due representation when an opportunity occurs."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me, at the very outset, congratulate this Ministry on taking up the question of the Separation of the Judiciary from the Executive in right earnest. This reform is long overdue and the thanks of the country are due to this Government for taking up that matter. How it will take shape, it is too early for us to know. An expert committee is at work and the report of that committee will be examined by the Ministry and I hope it will then be placed before this House when it will be time enough for us to consider the report and make our suggestions in the right direction.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Fernandez said that there should be retrenchment in this department. With my experience as a lawyer for about 25 years, I can tell him that this is one of the departments which is overworked and my personal feeling is that there ought to be more judges, not only to give them breathing time and lead their lives properly and in a comfortable way but also to dispose of the cases to the satisfaction of all concerned. This department should not be considered on a profit and loss basis. You cannot sell justice; that is not the correct point of view from which it should be looked at. It might cost Government more than the income that is derived therefrom. A case might

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no doubt involve a lot of time and energy on the part of persons who are presiding over and in order that justice may be done, any amount spent will not be spent in a wrong manner. The question of reduction of the number of High Court Judges is really agitating the minds of some members of this House, I know but the increase in the number on the High Court Bench has really to be done in the interests of the litigant public and if the number is reduced, I am afraid, we will again go back to the time when arrears accumulated to a large extent when there were cases having been pending for over twelve years, which were referred to by the Privy Council. We do not want to allow things like that to happen and unless we have more Judges, they will not dispose of cases soon.

"The next point I wish to refer to is with regard to the injury done to the machinery on account of the insistence on rapid disposal of cases. Especially the Subordinate Judges and Magistrates subordinate to the High Court or the District Magistrates, stand always in perpetual fear of being questioned by their superiors as to how many cases were disposed of by them. Because they are in such constant fear, the litigants suffer most; there is also what is called disposal mania because they have to account for the number of disposals to their superior officers and naturally they hasten the trial of the cases. I have known many cases where Judges have expressed, 'I have not finished my quota for this month'. They have always got to keep an eye on the disposal of the number required and not on the proper disposal of cases. I think this must be put a stop to; that does not mean that the Judges should be allowed to be lazy; they work from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and they go home and have to write judgments at night and in the morning too. I suppose they require relief. They should, therefore, not be troubled by their superior officers because they have not disposed of their cases according to the quota given to them.

"The third point I would like to refer to is this. Naturally these over-worked Judges and Magistrates become at times irritable because on the one hand, they will have to answer their superiors for the disposal of cases, and on the other, there are vakils who would like to do justice to their clients and to argue their case and place before them the points of view that should be taken into consideration by the Judges. Thus they are between two stools and they naturally lose time and temper. I have known of many Judges who have got, what is called judicial calmness, quietness and poise but some of them lose their temper because their work is not proceeding as quickly as their superiors or higher officers or the High Court expect of them. It may be a very good thing if a certain code of conduct is prescribed in regard to these matters. Of course, we know generally how a judicial officer should conduct himself. If you set forth such a rule of conduct, it will be a good guidance. As it is, the Judge is in a dominant position and the vakils and the litigants are certainly handicapped

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and they do not know what the Judge may say. I, therefore, suggest that a certain code of conduct may be prescribed, that under no circumstances they should give offence to vakils or to the litigant public. As a matter of fact, respectable people figure as witnesses and on account of irritability, if the Judges lose their temper and accuse the parties it is very bad indeed.

“Now, the last point I would like to urge is this. Some of us are lawyers and also Members of the Legislature. We are doing public duty here; we come here on public duty, no doubt; we owe a duty to our litigants also. We are placed in this predicament that for hours and days together we have to be here and we cannot attend to our work at the courts. I wish a certain rule, if possible, may be issued—if possible, I say advisedly—so that Members of the Legislature who are lawyers might be granted adjournment of cases more easily and if some sort of accommodation can be made for them in this regard it will greatly help us (hear, hear). It is not, I hope, too much to ask for this concession, since we are not coming here on our own private business. There may be some strict judges who may not be considerate in regard to this because there is always the number of disposals on their heads. Otherwise many Judges would oblige Members of the Legislature—it is to their advantage also—but for this phantom of disposal which is on their heads. They say, ‘Mr. Baig, I cannot help, this case must be disposed of because it is one-year old’. So, Sir, if such a rule as I have suggested before is put in, it will relax to some extent this hardship and it will also do credit to this Government. Apart from the technicalities in the matter of disposal of cases, I think, it is not the quantity of disposals but the quality that is wanted. Therefore, I appeal to the Ministry which has come forward with such a grand scheme such as the separation of Judiciary from the Executive—all honour to them—and I am sure the points raised by me are not unreasonable; they are practicable and necessary for the just administration of justice. They will also be doing justice to the Members of the Legislature who happen to be doing their public duty in the Legislature.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, in supporting this cut motion, let me first of all say that I fully endorse the views expressed by the Leader of the Opposition as regards the necessity of maintaining the present strength of the High Court so as to keep the work of the High Court up-to-date. I do not want to say anything more about it within the short time allotted to me. My hon. Friend representing the Anglo-Indian community made a remark to the effect that members of the Bar are complaining about the speedy disposal of cases. I may say that the members of the Bar are also very glad that cases are disposed of speedily and that the work of the High Court is brought up-to-date. No doubt, it is true that some inconvenience is being caused by disposing cases more speedily than before. Of course, that was during a transition period when some difficulties have been felt but they can be got over. In any case, we have to fix our eye on to the ultimate benefit that is derived by the general public

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and the speedy disposal of cases is very highly necessary and whatever strength is necessary for that purpose must be kept up. I may also request Government to pay regard and respect to the opinions expressed by the High Court in this matter because it is the most competent authority to deal with that subject. I would like to say a word about another point which was stressed by the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and that is the necessity for adjournment of all courts, High Courts as well as all subordinate courts in the mufassal for a couple of hours between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on all Fridays just as this honourable House adjourns between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. every Friday in order to enable the Muslim Members of this House to attend to their prayers. Now, Sir, it is a very reasonable request which has been made. I understand as a matter of fact that there is already a Government order enabling the Muslim Members of the Judiciary to be absent for about two hours so that they may attend to their private prayers, but that applies only to the Members of the staff and does not apply to the litigants or witnesses or parties who are put to a lot of difficulties on account of this. When a case comes up before a court, neither the advocate nor the party can put his finger on this Government Order and ask for adjournment and it is in order to facilitate the Muslim litigants, witnesses and also advocates to attend their Jumma prayer which is a compulsory religious duty on them that this request is made. I would, therefore, request the Hon. the Law Minister to take up this matter seriously and see that steps are taken by which all courts in the Presidency are adjourned for a couple of hours between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. on every Friday which is a working day. It may, perhaps, be necessary to modify this Government Order according to the requirements in the mufassal where the time for Jumma prayer may be a little different from what it is in the city, namely, between 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. In the mufassal and far off places some slight adjustments in regard to the time for adjournment will have to be made. It is a very small matter and nobody suffers from this and it will be a good test how far the religious feelings of the Muslims are respected and they are enabled to perform their compulsory religious duty. I am speaking on this emphatically for the reason that I am one of those who personally suffered from it. For instance, even yesterday, I was not able to attend my Friday prayer, even though this House adjourned for two hours. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, it is a matter which must be very seriously taken into consideration by the Minister for Law and given effect to.

“Now, Sir, another point on which I would like to say a word—and that has already been referred to by my hon. Friend Mr. Baig—is in regard to the necessity for affording certain facilities for such of the Members of this honourable Body who belong to the legal profession. So long as there is no disability for lawyers becoming Members of this Legislature, there is a dual duty cast on them, to attend to their profession and also attend to their work in this Assembly. It is only reasonable that some facilities should be given to them to attend to both these duties. In any

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case, this is a matter which will not prejudice the administration to any extent. After all such members are only very few and they too will ask for adjournment only in very important matters; otherwise, they will make their own arrangements. It is very necessary that such arrangements should also be made in the city to enable lawyers practising here. I am sure the Hon. the Minister for Law would have felt the same difficulty—not now, but when he was a Member of this House during the last Council—and from the experience of his practical difficulties, he will certainly sympathise with the object of these suggestions and I feel confident that he will pay some serious attention to this matter.

“I would just like to mention one or two small points. Arrangements should be made to afford facilities for the litigants, witnesses and even visitors to courts in the mufassal. In the mufassal courts, there is no provision made in regard to seating arrangements for such people while we have arrangements in the High Court here. I would request the Hon. Minister to take this into his consideration and afford facilities to the parties, witnesses and litigants and also to the visitors who have to go and attend the courts of law.

1-15 p.m. “Coming to the question of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, I would strongly urge upon the Government the necessity of really separating the Judiciary from the Executive in such a manner that even the Government as such has absolutely no kind of control. I would suggest that the Judiciary, both the administration of the Civil and Criminal law, should be entirely under the control of the High Court. If you do that, then alone the real purpose behind the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive will be served. For that purpose, I very strongly urge that the administration of the Civil and Criminal law might be entrusted to one and the same person; you may call him the munsif-magistrate or by whatever name you like. There is not much difficulty about this for there is not much of a difference in the matter of the Civil and Criminal law administration. The Hon. the Minister for Law nods his head and presumably expresses dissent. But I would ask him: ‘Is it not the same High Court Judge who is dispensing criminal and civil justice? Is it not the same Sessions Judge that deals with civil and criminal cases.’ If that is so, then where is the difficulty about the same person attending to civil and criminal cases. I know, Sir, that there are difficulties in the way and that it requires an amendment of the law on the point. But this should not be urged as an unsurmountable difficulty. A start may be made on the lines at present suggested but the real independence of the Judiciary from the Executive, independence even from the Government, must be kept in view.

“Sir, when at question time on a main question put by the Leader of the Opposition, I put a supplementary question to the Hon. the Premier on the ground that that particular point raised in my question had not been answered, the Hon. the Premier told the House that he was being subjected to cross-examination and

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that he would not stand it. On the subject of communal representation and the communal Government Order the Hon. the Premier also said that he was not going to allow the view of any particular section which dominates any part of the House. Also exception was taken to the way in which my hon. friend Mr. Salam was giving expression to his views. I wish he realises that our position in this House is very miserable; we are 29 in a House of 215 and we have no effective voice and the only reason we have come here is to give expression to our views and to give expression in a legal manner so that the Government in power may give consideration to it. If, Sir, in the expression of our views, obstacles and restrictions are sought to be put, it is unwarranted and I submit that if we are not allowed it, the only other course left to us is to keep away from the House.”

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Justice is sacred and it is an attribute of God; but justice is blind. Justice being sacred, it is the first duty of the Government to look to the better administration of justice. I am glad to say that this Government has taken a step in the right direction in appointing a Committee to go into the question of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive and I congratulate the Hon. the Minister for Law upon it. I am told that it is an expert Committee. But I would like to ask the Hon. the Minister for Law why it could not have been a representative committee. No doubt, we want expert opinion but at the same time representative opinion should be focussed on the deliberations of a Committee that has been appointed to report on a very vital question like this. I hope even at this stage the Government will take the whole House, especially we on these benches, into confidence in coming to a final decision with regard to this very important matter. It is stated—it is at any rate my belief—that the main purpose or perhaps the sole object of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive is to see that justice is meted out to all classes of people in the country unhindered, unimpeded by any authority in the land including the king himself. If that is the purpose, I would like to ask if there is any such proposal to place the judiciary after the separation under the machinery which will be controlled by my hon. friend Mr. K. Bhashyam. If it be the case, I would say, Sir, that justice in that event will not be unhindered or unimpeded for the simple reason that it is controlled by the Executive. I do not wish to say that Mr. Bhashyam is not an hon. gentleman; he knows his business as well as any one of us. But the principle cuts at the very root of the motive behind the separation and that is that even the King should not interfere with the administration of justice. The independence of the Judiciary should be respected by all. This is an important point and I believe the Hon. the Minister will keep it in mind.

“Some hon. Members raised the question of waste that has been going on in the Department; I do not wish to take up the question of retrenchment because I do not feel there is any need for retrenchment. But I understand that there has been some

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waste here and there and I shall point out an instance. In Devakottai and Sivaganga in Ramnad district, I understand there are three sub-judges and four munsifs and the distance between these two places is about thirty miles and the two places are connected by railway and bus service. I may tell you that these gentlemen or at any rate some of them have very little work to do. Perhaps it may not be more than an hour or two. If that is the case, I would like the Hon. Minister for Law to enquire if there is any real waste, and if two sub-judges and two munsifs will not be sufficient. If this will do, there will be a saving of Rs. 30,000 per year. This is a thing that has been put to me by some of my friends and I wish the Hon. Minister enquires and decides the question.

“Regarding the question of the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, these are some of the important matters that the Hon. Minister will keep in view. I would suggest that instead of placing the Magistrates whom they are going to appoint under the Government, it would be better that control vests in the High Court. That would be a very good idea of keeping up the independence of the Judiciary. I would urge upon the Hon. Minister for Law that these officers who should see to the pure and undiluted administration of justice to all people, especially in the matter of criminal cases, should be under the High Court. I would, in this connection, like to ask, if it would be possible to appoint or rather give powers to District Munsifs themselves to try criminal cases of the major kind. As for the smaller cases, First-class Bench Courts may dispose of them. I think that this is the correct way of going about this matter. Then, Sir, the Munsifs or the Munsif-Magistrates should be under the District Judges and the District Judges will be under the High Court direct. If you want to preserve the independence of the Judiciary, this would be the proper way.

“About the question of recruitment, we have already recruited Assistant Public Prosecutors direct from the bar. I do not see any reason why preference should not be given to these gentlemen, who are qualified and have gained experience for appointment as Subdivisional Magistrates coming under the new order of things. I hope that this suggestion will be considered by the Expert Committee. I have also another request to make to the Hon. Minister for Law and that is that when the Report of the Expert Committee is ready, it may be placed in the hands of members of the House so that they may give expression to their views upon it and then, if possible, after having a debate upon it, the findings of the Committee can be improved upon wherever necessary.”

The House adjourned for lunch.

(After lunch—2-30 p.m.)

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I should like to say a few things on the cut motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. In the first instance, I believe, it should be not only the desire but also the anxiety on

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the part of the Government of to-day, whether it is a national Government or a coalition Government that is in power to see that nothing is done, either by themselves or by their agents or by anybody to try to interfere with pure justice, with party or communal bias.”

MR. H. S. TOWN:—“On a point of order, Sir; have we got the quorum?”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“We have no quorum.”

(The bell was rung. Several hon. Members entered the Chamber, and then discussion was resumed.)

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“Sir, I was saying that it ought to be the anxiety and care of any Government, whether it is a national Government or a coalition Government or any kind of government, to see that nothing is done to prevent pure justice being done. To-day we have Courts, which ought not to be interfered with either by way of appointment, or interference with or withdrawal of cases, in which Government may be interested for one reason or other. They should be above party politics. My own view is, perhaps I may be wrong, that in recent years, the amount of regard people had for courts of justice, is diminishing gradually. I do not know what exactly is the reason for that. Whether it is due to the fact that we are having, what is called, a popular Government, or national Government, or whether it is because we are in the midst of communal or party conflicts or civil commotion, I cannot say. I do not think the judges and magistrates are affected by what is happening around them generally. If they should be affected, or if their action is to be affected by outside influences, then it should be the day for which we should all be sorry. I hope it will be possible to maintain the status, prestige and integrity of the Judiciary as high as possible 'untarnished by outside influences as much as possible.

“There is another point to which I wish to refer, and it is this. Not only in the High Court but in most other courts, justice is of course given; but justice is delayed, and as a result of the delay, parties are not in a position to get the necessary evidence to the extent to which they wish and ought to bring, so much so that justice is denied them. Taking the case of the High Court, which is the highest judicial tribunal in this province, the judges, like Cæsar's wife, should be above suspicion; and I am sure that is the case. I hope it will be the case in the near future and for all time to come. But of one thing I must say, and that is, on account of the fact that there has been a large number of cases in arrears, it has taken all the judges a very long time to dispose of these cases, in spite of the fact that their number has been increased from ten to twelve, fourteen and sixteen. Some hon. Members are of the opinion—and I must say that they are wrongly of that opinion—that the number sixteen to-day is too large. Unless and until the judges are able to dispose of all cases quickly meting out justice, I believe it will be suicidal to try to reduce

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their number from what it is to-day. Reference was made by one hon. Member to the two additional judges in the High Court. They have been there to help the Court in the disposal of cases. They have been doing that. Possibly if the number of cases on the file has considerably reduced, they may not be required there. But litigation, which came down during the war and immediately after the war, is bound to increase on account of various legislations that have been passed and that will be passed both by the Provincial and Central Governments, like the proposed agricultural taxes and others, which will be opening the door for more and more litigation. When that is the case, I think, the number of cases will increase; and so I do not think it is necessary to reduce the number of High Court Judges from sixteen to fourteen.

“ Sir, appointment to the High Court and other judicial posts ought to be, in my opinion, made on merit and merit alone. (The Hon. Sri K. Bhashyam: Hear, hear.) I agree with my hon. Friend thoroughly. But whether merit is the monopoly of a section of the people, or community, or whether merit is found and can be found among all people is a question that has to be answered. The view that was taken till recently was that only one class of people are fit, and they are the only people who possess merit to be raised to the High Court Bench. That was a wrong notion which was held, not only by our Indian friends, but even by European Judges. Even the Chief Justice came under their wrong influence, and the European Judges too acted in that wrong manner till recently. But when they went out of their way they discovered men of merit in other classes, real gems thrown in the dust, whom they did not see till then because of the dust thrown in their eyes. Those gems on the High Court bench have shone and shone brightly. Therefore, this notion that merit is the monopoly of a few is wrong, and it has been exploded long ago, and I am sure that no longer will that view be held. Therefore, Government should try to find out fine gems among all communities and raise them to the bench. It is only when you satisfy all sections of the people that you can command their confidence in the highest judicial tribunal of the land. The same thing applies to the district and mufassal courts also. Therefore, the best policy for Government is to see that members of all communities who have had no chance, or who have not had adequate chance, should be raised to the bench. I do not think, so far, we have had a member of the scheduled classes on the High Court bench. I do not know why that has not been done. We have been talking a great deal of giving adequate representation to the scheduled classes. Why should not the Chief Justice go out of the way and appoint a member of that class to the bench? I am sure if that is done, the incumbent would do as well, if not better, than the other judges of the High Court. Sir, the wrong notion is still affecting some of the officers, who have been pursuing that policy, to the detriment of the equilibrium and popularity of this high tribunal. I said, Sir, there should be no party interference, and no attempt should be made, as was done in the past, on

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the part of the highest officer in the Government of Madras, to try to interfere with the judgment of High Court Judges, or District Judges or Magistrates, or influence the withdrawal of cases. Sir, withdrawal of cases took place in the past. I am saying this, so that such mistakes will not be repeated.

“ Then, on the question of representation of Muslims in the Judiciary, some hon. Members have said that every care should be taken to see that their number is not reduced. As a matter of fact, in the High Court bench, it was after a very long time, we had a Muslim Judge in Mr. Abdur Rahim. We know what amount of good work he did, and what a great Judge he made himself; and after that came others, and all of them did very well as High Court Judges. To-day, I am sure, that all those who sit on the High Court bench know, what merit their colleagues of the Muslim community possess, and how able and intelligent they are. I am afraid that attempts will be made—the air is thick with the rumour—by the present Government to do away with the two additional Judges and to send away the Muslim Judge who is there so that the number will be reduced. That will be wrong, Sir. I hope that will not be done.

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p.m.

“ Regarding the staff in the High Court, Sir. Of course, the Hon. the Minister for Law will tell us that the Madras Government has nothing whatever to do with the staff of the High Court, or that he will not influence or interfere with what is happening in the High Court. But I can say this much. It is open to him to draw the attention of the Honourable the Chief Justice to the state of affairs. Among the fourteen Law Officers, if I am not mistaken, there is not a single Muslim. In the staff, from the top to the bottom, you will find only a handful of Muslims. How does it happen? Lawyers and advocates in the Muslim community, Depressed class community, and Non-Brahman community are on the increase. Why are they not appointed as officers? This ought to be attended to by the Hon. the Minister for Law. and I am sure he will.

“ The hon. the Leader of the Opposition raised the question of giving a short vacation on Fridays for Muslims, because they have to attend to their prayers. That, I am sure, will be attended to.

“ The separation of Judiciary from the Executive . . . ”

At this stage the Speaker rang the bell.

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“ One or two minutes more, Sir. This is an important subject, and I hope you will not mind it.”

“ Something has already been said about this subject. This is a very important subject. It has been agitating the mind of every one for a long time. The last Congress Ministry said that since the popular Government had come into office there was no need for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, because they were there to exercise check over the vagaries of the District Magistrates, and they wanted to prevent this separation.

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Whatever the Government, Sir, there is always the Opposition and there will be among the people many who may not see eye to eye with the Government in office. Therefore, it is always necessary that we should separate the Judiciary from the Executive. What is meant by separation of Judiciary from the Executive is not separation of Judiciary from the Executive by merely transferring certain departments and bringing into existence certain officers who will be serving the same Government. They ought not to be serving under the Government. They ought to be under the control of the High Court. Revenue cases and other criminal cases should be conducted not by an officer appointed by, and controlled by, the present Government. The real separation of the Judiciary from the Executive will be effected only when the whole department is under the charge of the High Court. With these words I support the cut motion."

* SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA:—"கனம் தலைவரவர்களே, கிராமங்களிலே ஒருவருக்கொருவர் கலவரம் செய்து கொண்டு கேசுகளைப் போட்டுக்கொண்டு பெஞ்சு கோர்ட்டுக்கு வருகிறார்கள். பெஞ்சு கோர்ட்டு களிலே ஆங்காங்கு பெரிய பெரிய பணக்காரர்களை நியமிக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களில் சிலர் பொழுது போக்காகக் கழிக்கிறார்கள். சிலர் கோர்ட்டுக்கே வருவதில்லை. மேலும் ஒரு சிலர் பெஞ்சு கோர்ட்டை விட்டு 20, 25 வருஷங்களானாலும் நீங்குவதே இல்லை. பெஞ்சு கோர்ட்டுகளிலே ஹரிஜனங்களைச் சரியானபடி நியமனம் செய்வதில்லை. சில இடங்களில் தகுதியுடைய ஹரிஜனங்கள் இருந்துங்கூட அங்கிருக்கும் அதிகாரிகள் அவர்களை கவனிப்பதில்லை. அதற்குக் காரணம் உன்னார் பெரிய மனிதர்களிடம் சரி சமமாக உட்காரக்கூடாதென்ற எண்ணமும் உன்னார் பெரிய மனிதர்களுடைய வேண்டுகோளுந்தான். அதிலும் ஒரு பெஞ்சு கோர்ட்டுகளில் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்குச் சரியானபடி இடம் கிடைக்கிறதாவென்று பார்க்கும் போது காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டிலே முக்கியமாக கவனிக்கவேண்டியதாயிருக்கிறது. முந்தியிருந்த கவர்ன்மெண்டிலே அவ்வித அக்கரை கிடையாது. கோர்ட்டுகளிலே ஹரிஜனங்கள் மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டாகப் போவார்களானால் அதனால் தீண்டாமையை ஒழிப்பதற்கு வழியுண்டாகிறது. மேலும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு நியாயம் கிடைக்கும். ஆகையால் பெஞ்சு கோர்ட்டுகளிலே ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு அதிகமாகப் பிரதிநிதித்துவம் கொடுக்கும்படி மந்திரியவர்கள் செய்வார்களென்று நம்புகிறேன்."

"ஹைக்கோர்ட்டுகளிலே கேசுகள் வந்தால் விறைவில் பைசல் செய்வது கிடையாது. அவ்விதமிருந்தால் நியாயத்திற்கான பயனை எப்படி அனுபவிக்கமுடியும். கேசைப்போடுகிறவன், பயனை அனுபவிக்கவேண்டுமென்றால் சீக்கிரத்திலேயே அந்தக் கேசுகள் பைசலாக வேண்டும். அப்படி நடப்பதில்லை. பதினைந்து வருஷம், 20 வருஷம் ஹைக்கோர்ட்டுகளிலே கேசுகள் பெண்டிங்காக இருந்துகொண்டிருக்கின்றன."

"மேலும் ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகள் சிலர் லா (Law) படித்திருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களுக்கு டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் முன்சீப், ஸப்-ஜட்ஜ், ஜில்லா ஜட்ஜ் வேலை கொடுக்கலாம். லாக்காலேஜில் புரபராக இருந்தவர்கள் எத்தனையோ காலம் டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் முன்சீப்பாக இருந்தவர்கள் எல்லோரும் இப்போது இருக்கிறார்கள். ஸர்க்கார் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கு ஒரு கவுரவம் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்றால் நல்ல வேலை கொடுக்கலாம். இதுவரையில் லா படிப்பதற்கு ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு ஸர்க்கார் உதவி செய்வதில்லை. ஆனால் இந்த வருஷம் நம்முடைய முதல் மந்திரி இறக்கத்தோடு 5 பிள்ளைகளுக்கு ஸர்க்கார் உதவி செய்யும்படி ஆர்டர் போட்டார்கள். அதற்காக என் சமூகத்தின் சார்பாக காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கு வந்தனம் செலுத்துகிறேன்."

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"மேலும், ஹரிஜனப் பிள்ளைகளுக்கு கோர்ட்டுகளில் குமாஸ்தா வேலை, பியூன் வேலை, இதர வேலைகள் இருக்கின்றன. இந்த ஸ்தானங்களுக்கு ஹரிஜன மக்கள் வருவார்களானால் அவர்களுக்கு வேண்டியவரை வேலை கொடுக்கும்படி ஏற்பாடு செய்வார்களென்று நினைக்கின்றேன்."

"மேலும் ஜில்லா முன்சீப்பாக ஒரு ஹரிஜன் இருப்பாரானால் வெளியூருக்குப் போனால் வீட்டு வசதி இல்லாமல் சிரமப்படுகிறார்கள். அதனால் சீக்கிரமாக அவ்விடத்தை விட்டு மாற்றிக்கொண்டு போய்விடுகிறார்கள். ஜில்லா முன்சீப்பு, டிப்டி கலெக்டர்களைப் போன்றவர்களுக்கெல்லாம் ஸர்க்கார் விடுதி கட்டிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

"பப்ளிக் பிராசிக்யூட்டர்களாயிருப்பவர்கள் அசிஸ்டண்டு பப்ளிக் பிராசிக்யூட்டர்கள் வேலையிலே இருக்கின்றார்கள். திருநெல்வேலியிலே ஒருவர் அசிஸ்டண்டு பப்ளிக் பிராசிக்யூட்டராயிருக்கிறார். வயதானவர். அப்படிப்பட்டவர்களையெல்லாம் கைதூக்கிவிடவேண்டியது நம் காங்கிரஸ் கவர்ன்மெண்டையே வேலை. இந்த விஷயத்தில் இந்த அரசாங்கத்தார் சட்ட மந்திரியாக இருக்கப்பட்டவர், இரக்கமுள்ளவர்; இதைப்பற்றி கவனிப்பாரென்று நினைக்கின்றேன். முக்கியமாக டிஸ்ட்ரிக்ட் முன்சீப்பு வேலையிலே என்னுடைய சமூகத்தினருக்குப் போதிய பிரதிநிதித்துவம் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்."

* SRI B. S. MALLIKARJUNA RAO:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it 3 p.m. is really a matter for gratification to see that the Government are contemplating the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive. We find that the members of the Opposition are at one with us behind it, they want separation root and branch, and that it should be placed under such a system that it is absolutely under the control of the High Court. I really congratulate the Opposition on the stand they have taken. I personally feel that it should come directly under the control of the High Court, and if the Government feels that there is any impediment in the matter, legislation should be undertaken to see that it is so placed."

"With regard to the working of the administration of justice in the mufassal, I wish to say that there is a tendency to economise expenditure as far as possible, and see that no expenditure is incurred to cater to the convenience of the litigants or those that happen to take up work there. The Government have, so far, been niggardly in the matter. In the mufassal courts nothing is cared for so far as the convenience of the litigants and members of the Bar is concerned. There is no provision for resting places, for tiffin rooms, or for water-supply to the litigants, or for sheds for litigants. They are uncared for. Even the establishment that we find in the courts is all very scanty, and Government are not taking proper steps to put sufficient furniture. The condition of the Magistrates' Courts is really deplorable. In these circumstances, I wish to appeal that this is the proper occasion for the Government to go into this matter and see that every help is provided."

"My learned friend on the Opposition has rightly said that so far as the question of appointments is concerned, we must proceed upon the basis of merit. Personally I feel that it should be so. Otherwise, if it is based on any communal rotation or on the mere basis of gratifying a particular community or a particular class without considering the question of merit, then justice would be a failure, and it will be a perilous state to the

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society. In a civilised society we should see that merit is the criterion for drafting people to various appointments.

"With regard to the selection to courts, we have already seen that Government are only calculating the extent of economy. They are trying to have honorary magistrates for certain Bench Courts. The system of the Bench Courts should be abolished altogether; Government are calculating that these courts do not involve any expenditure whatever. The Bench Courts to-day are only a source of revenue to the Government; they collect fines, and, the persons that are selected for these Bench Courts are absolutely ignorant of law. If such people were to sit in the Bench Court it will only result in abuse of justice. Such people should not be appointed; people with sufficient legal qualifications only should be appointed.

"With regard to the staff that we find in these courts, I would like to suggest that they are ill-paid. Of course, this is not so much expressed as you find in the labour movement in the country. But that does not mean they are not discontented. There is sufficient discontent, and it has been given expression to through the Non-Gazetted Officers' Association. In the matter of revising the scales of pay, I would suggest that it is absolutely necessary that the scales of pay and dearness allowance are so revised that they are proof against corruption. There is no use complaining about corruption unless the salary of these ill-paid staff is revised.

"In regard to the disposals by the courts, it has previously been complained that there has been any amount of dilatoriness. The complaint is everywhere. They have been getting on with disposals only and not with dispensation of justice. It is all due to the fact that we have not got sufficient establishment so far as the judicial officers are concerned. One should not mind spending a few more rupees for having more judicial officers because the matter involves doing justice to the public. What is wanted is a sufficient number of judicial officers. If it is not possible to have speedy disposal, it is proof positive that the present staff is not able to cope up with the situation. There must be more judicial officers than at present. This idea of having a disposal for disposal's sake is jeopardising justice, and the litigants are not feeling confident that they will have justice from the present courts.

"It is really a matter for congratulation that members of the legal profession are being recruited for the posts of public prosecutors. With regard to their pay, I have to say something. They have left the legal profession and accepted the profession of public prosecutorship. To be a public prosecutor, a man must be placed in such a position that he is above board and above corruption. Otherwise he may not be able to discharge the function that is expected of him. In my opinion, the pay that is given to public prosecutors is very scanty. It is not enough. They must be paid sufficiently and must be started at least on Rs. 250 a month so that, in discharging their functions, they may be placed in such a position that they are above corruption and above board. It is on

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that ground that I request that the salary of the public prosecutors should be increased. The establishment at the top is paid very heavily and is most ill-paid at the bottom. If the Government feel that they are not able to do it on account of their present finances, I would rather wish, in the same way as the Congress Ministry reduced their salaries, that the officers at the head of affairs be asked to reduce their salaries, and those belonging to the subordinate staff be paid adequately.

"One thing more, Sir, and with that I will close my speech. That is with regard to court-fees which is so heavy in this province when compared to other provinces. There has been a cry for long, but we are trying to increase the court-fees instead of decreasing it up till now. Even during the war period, you will find that court-fees have been increased. By this we are doing a disservice to the poor litigants who are not able to pursue their cases to the logical end. In these circumstances, the Government must not care for revenue but should see that the poor litigants get justice at less expense. We feel strongly that in Madras Province the court-fees have to be lowered. Otherwise, it is not possible for the poor litigant public to go before the tribunals of justice."

* MUHAMMAD RAFEEUDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is really fortunate that we are having on the Treasury Bench a person in charge of this portfolio who has till recently been a member of the Bar. Therefore he is more eminently fitted to take into consideration all aspects concerning this subject than anyone else. It is with confidence that I say a few words on this subject, because I am sure, being an advocate himself, he will pay all the attention and sympathy that they deserve.

"Firstly, much has been said about the delay which is caused in the disposal of cases. While much can be said about the amount of delay which is caused in the disposal of cases and the hardships caused to the litigants, much more can be said regarding the other side of the picture, namely, quick disposals in order to satisfy the orders of Judges for the speedy consideration of cases. In very many cases, it so happens that speedy disposal sacrifices the interests of justice and more often than not, the interests of the litigants. The only remedy to speed up the disposal of cases is to appoint more judges, more magistrates, and more district munsifs. It is well within the knowledge of everybody connected with this department that the present judicial officers, especially district munsifs, are over-worked, and the quantity of work they have to do is far out of proportion to the salary they draw. If it is wanted that efficiency should be maintained, that the litigants should have fair consideration and justice, that their cases should be gone into thoroughly and that greater attention should be devoted to the cases, it is necessary to increase the number of judges and district munsifs.

"With regard to Assistant Public Prosecutors, I wish to say that their present salary is very low compared with the amount of work they are called upon to do. I hope, Sir, that when the question of increase of salaries of other officers is considered, the case of Assistant Public Prosecutors will also be considered.

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"Then, Sir, this cadre is now thrown open to the members of the Bar. This cadre does not offer very bright prospects, because there is no automatic promotion from one grade to another except that the Assistant Public Prosecutors of the second class may be promoted to the first class. There is no hope for the Assistant Public Prosecutors to go higher up. Therefore it is necessary that at least recruitment to this cadre of Assistant Public Prosecutors should be restricted strictly to the members of the Bar. There have been cases where police officers, who are in service or who have retired from service, have been appointed to the posts of Assistant Public Prosecutors. This is an injustice to the members of the Bar.

"I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the attitude adopted by the magistrates towards advocates. They seem to think that the advocates are more a hindrance to the disposal of cases than an assistance. I wish, Sir, that the Government issue instructions to these magistrates to change their attitude towards the advocates. More often, the magistrates pursue a policy of causing as much embarrassment and inconvenience to the advocates as possible so that the advocates, out of sheer disgust, drop out of the cases, and thus help the speedy disposal of cases. In many cases, magistrates post the cases to camps which are not easily accessible either to the advocates or to the parties. Therefore, I say that the Government should issue instructions to the magistrates to treat advocates with courtesy to which they are entitled, and to consider them as assisting them in the administration of justice. They should also take into consideration the convenience of the advocates in adjourning cases. It is very often the case that when a magistrate adjourns a case to a particular date, the convenience of the advocate is not taken into consideration at all, and only the convenience of the police is taken into consideration. I wish that the Government issue instructions to the magistrates in this regard.

"It is a thing to be proud of that at least in this presidency the judicial department is above corruption. But in the lower ranks of this department, especially in the ranks of the magistrates, stationary sub-magistrates and first-class magistrates, signs of corruption are apparent of late—corruption either by way of undue influence or by way of bribery. I wish, Sir, that the Government take note of this fact and take steps to eradicate corruption from the lower ranks of the judiciary.

"In regard to the question of the separation of the judiciary from the executive, I think it is premature for us to offer any remarks. The matter is now before an expert committee, and I think we should await the recommendations of that expert committee before making any remarks on the subject. At this stage, I would only say that it will be very dangerous to hand over judicial functions to the village panchayat courts. It is apparent from the speeches of some hon. Members on the Treasury Benches that a portion of the judicial administration would be entrusted to the village panchayats. Everybody, including the Government, knows in what state these village panchayats are, how corrupt they are, and

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how much of factious spirit prevails among them. Therefore, it will be very dangerous to entrust the administration of justice to the village panchayats. Therefore, Sir, I wish the Government will think twice before taking any such step. With these words, I support the cut motion."

*SRI ALLURI SATYANARAYANA :—“సభాధ్యక్ష, సాధారణముగా మన శాసన సభలలోను మనము మాట్లాడుకొన్నప్పుడు, ఎవరి భాషలో వారు మాట్లాడడానికి చాలామంది సిగ్గుపడుచున్నారు. దానికి నేను చాలా దుఃఖిస్తున్నాను. అదే విధముగా న్యాయ శాఖకు సంబంధించిన విషయములలో మన కోర్టులలో తెలుగు దేశములో ఇంగ్లీషులోనే మాట్లాడుచున్నారు. న్యాయమూర్తులు ఇంగ్లీషులోనే తీర్పు చెప్పుచున్నారు. ఇంగ్లీషులోనే ఆలోచిస్తున్నారు; ఇంగ్లీషులోనే విచారణలు జరుపుచున్నారు. తమిళ దేశములోకి పోయినా ఇంగ్లీషు, మలయాళ దేశానికి కన్నడపు దేశానికి పోయినా ఇంగ్లీషు! ఎక్కడచూచినా ఇంగ్లీషు మయమే! మామూలు రైతు కూలీలు, చాడవడే నేరస్తులు తమకు న్యాయము జరుగవలెనన్నప్పుడు తమ న్యాయవాది ఏమి వాదిస్తున్నాడు అనే విషయము తెలుసుకునేదానికి అవకాశము లేకుండా పోతుంది. మేజిస్ట్రేటు ఏమి ఆలోచిస్తున్నాడో తెలియదు ఏమి తీర్పు చెప్తున్నాడో మళ్ళీ తిరిగి న్యాయవాది చాధితునికి చెప్పాలి. పురాతనమునంచి వస్తున్న ఈ విధానాన్ని బ్రీటిషు సామ్రాజ్యం మన దేశములో ప్రవేశపెట్టిన ఈ ఇంగ్లీషు విధానాన్ని ఇవారే రద్దుచెయ్యడానికి ప్రయత్నం చెయ్యవచ్చును. దేశములో పెద్దపెద్ద మార్పులు వచ్చాయి. ప్రజాప్రభుత్వం వచ్చింది. ప్రశంసలూకూడా పెద్ద మార్పులు వచ్చాయి. ఇతర దేశాలలో నాగరిక ప్రభుత్వాలు ఎవరి భాషలో వారు మాట్లాడడానికి సిగ్గుపడడంలేదు సరికదా గర్వపడుచున్నారు. అదేకాకుండా మన దేశములోవచ్చిన ఈ మార్పుకు తప్పకుండా ప్రతి మిషికి, రైతుకు కూలీకి సామాన్య పౌరులందరికీకూడా తమ భాషలో కోర్టులో విచారణ జరగడానికి, న్యాయము జరగడానికి, న్యాయశాఖ మంత్రిగారు ఏర్పాటు చేయవలెనని మరీమరీ నేను కోరుచున్నాను.

“అంతేకాకుండా నా సోదరులు మిత్రులు కార్మిక క్రమిణులు మల్లికార్జున రావుగారు చెప్పిన అన్ని విషయాలలో నేను విశేషమిస్తున్నాను. అవి అన్ని చాలా చక్కని విషయాలు. వాటిలోపాటు ఇంకా కొన్ని విషయాలు చెప్పవలసివచ్చినవి.

“ఉరి ఇంకా విధానమును తప్పకుండా ముగ్రాసు ప్రభుత్వంవారు రద్దుచేస్తారు అనే విషయాన్ని క్రితకాలా చదివేము. అది ఏమి జరిగిందో తెలియదు. ఇది చాలా అద్భుతమైన విషయము నిజముగా అన్ని ప్రభుత్వాలకు మన ముగ్రాసు ప్రభుత్వం మొట్టమొదట దారి చూపిస్తుంది అని ప్రజలందరూ ఎదురు చూస్తున్నారు. ఏ నాగరిక ప్రభుత్వమైనా ఈ ఘోరమైన పాతపద్ధతిని వెంటనే మార్పు చేయవలెను. మిషి హత్యచేస్తే ఆ హత్యకు తిరిగి హత్యచెయ్యడం న్యాయమైన నాగరికమైన పద్ధతి కాదు. ఫిక్సిడి పురాతనమైన పద్ధతి కనుక తప్పకుండా ఉరిఇంకను వెంటనే రద్దుచేసేదానికి కాంగ్రెసు ప్రభుత్వం ఘానుకొనవలెనని మళ్ళీ న్యాయశాఖా మంత్రిగారిని కోరుచున్నాను.

“అంతేకాకుండా ముఖ్యముగా విచారణ జరిగే సమయములో అనేకచోట్ల నేరస్తుని సబ్-జైలులో పెట్టినపుడు అతని నేరము ఏమో రుజువుకాకముందు అతడు నేరస్తుడా కాదా అని విచారించి న్యాయమూర్తి ఇంక చెప్పేదానికి ముందే అనేకమంది ఫిక్షి ఇంకపడిన తరువాత కంటే ఎక్కువగా అనుభవిస్తున్న హింస ఇంతంత అని చెప్పడానికి వీలులేదు. గుడ్డలకు, స్నానానికి, వేషధర్మకు, పుస్తకాలకు అవకాశము లేకుండావుంది. కాబట్టి ప్రభుత్వం వెంటనే చర్య తీసుకుని ఎవరైనా నేరస్తుడు అని

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3-30 p.m. KUMARARAJA SIR M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTI-
NAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, very rarely on the floor of the House I have taken part in the demand for justice. I confess I am not one qualified or equipped with the knowledge of the intricacies of administration of justice and therefore I believed I ought not to dabble. But I have a special reason if I come to speak on this demand. The other day I said I was extremely happy that the Government have taken wise and bold steps in the separation of the executive from the judiciary. Sir, our British administration has won a very high place for efficiency in this part of the country.

"Sir, our judicial administration, from top to bottom, we can say with legitimate pride, has earned a reputation for its very high standard of efficiency and integrity. The Hon. the Law Minister, who was once the President of the Bar Association, has very rightly even within the first few months of his office, been able to persuade his colleagues and the Hon. the Prime Minister, who was also the head of the Bar for several years, to agree to the very valuable measure which he has brought forward.

"Sir, it will not be out of place if I trace here the history of the agitation for the separation of the judiciary from the executive. Ever since the East India Company took over the administration of this country, the tradition in this part of the country has been that the executive itself administered justice in certain departments. To-day I am not here blaming the officers who have administered justice occupying executive posts. But we are not satisfied with the system and that is why we want this change. There have been many executive officers who have administered justice most efficiently and justly. But there are also judicial officers who are not able to extricate themselves from their position as executive officers. We can only sympathise with them. Therefore, Sir, it is the system that has got to be changed. There are certain people who feel that the administration of departments cannot be carried on well without having judicial powers. But I would ask, 'Are there not several departments of Government where executive officers have no judicial functions at all?' Therefore, it will not be impossible for men in any department of Government to carry on without judicial powers.

"Sir, on the floor of this House in the previous Council every now and then, Members of the Legislature did not miss their opportunity to speak on the necessity for the separation of the judiciary from the executive. But the most interesting debate on the subject, which I cannot but refer to, is the one which took place during the last Congress Ministry in 1937-39. I shall not wax eloquent over the Congress programme of 1937 except to remind hon. Members of the House that this item in their programme was not carried into effect and the same was put forth in their election manifesto even during the last elections. Sir, during the last time when the Congress was in office, there was no attempt to bring about this reform. On the other hand, attempt was made to justify the existence of the old system. Now I shall not take up the time of the House by talking about the omissions of the previous Congress

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[Kumararaja Sir M. A. Muthiah Chettiyar of Chettinad]

Ministry. I say that we are very happy that now at least the present Government have come forward with this measure and that a committee has been constituted with a non-civilian and eminent Advocate-General as its Chairman. Had an I.C.S. officer been appointed as Chairman of such a committee, it would have aroused suspicion. I am glad also that the Government have not done so. It augurs well for the move of the Government and let us all hope that very soon the report of the committee will be out and that the Government will take the House into their confidence and place before it the arrangements that they intend to make for actually separating the judiciary from the executive.

"Sir, I have nothing more to add to what I have said and my only purpose in joining in this debate is to impress upon the House the necessity for this great reform being brought about as early as possible."

* SRI K. BRAHMANANDAM REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it pleases us to see an eminent lawyer in charge of this portfolio, who is conversant with the defects in the existing law and system of administration of justice. So our task becomes easier.

"First, I plead for the abolition of the Criminal Tribes Act. It is a long-felt want. The untold sufferings of the criminal tribes of this country should be alleviated before long. This subject has received considerable attention at the hands of the press and public and I am sure it is engaging the attention of the Government as well. Sir, whatever justification there might have been for the introduction of this Act in the past, there is no justification whatsoever to continue it any longer. It is an insult to the fair name of this great Indian Nation, when we are on the threshold of complete freedom, to say that there still exist in this country, clans, classes and communities who by instinct or by habit commit such non-bailable offences. The sooner this Act is abolished, the better. It may be said that it is an Imperial Act and that this is a Provincial Legislature. But I submit, Sir, that under section 3 of the Criminal Tribes Act, it is the Provincial Government alone that classifies the communities as gangs and criminals by notification in the gazette. This same Provincial Government can, by the same process of notification, exclude the communities previously classified and thus, in effect, make the Criminal Tribes Act virtually useless and inoperative.

"The second point that I want to refer to is the separation of the judiciary from the executive. The Hon. the Minister rightly, and richly too, deserves our congratulations for taking steps to separate the judiciary from the executive. This is also a want which is long-felt. Though it falls short of the ideal that all of us have in mind, it still goes a long way to make the administration of criminal justice real. But we have seen a report in the press recently that this judiciary, that this criminal judiciary, will be manned by people recruited or absorbed from the Revenue staff. If that report conveys the real intention of the Government, then I submit, Sir, that we had better be left where we are. I crave your indulgence, Sir, for a minute, to refer to an incident which

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occurred in my own personal experience. I was arguing a criminal case before a senior Subdivisional Magistrate when I had an occasion to cite 25 Madras in that case. The learned magistrate took that to be the 25th case decided by the Madras High Court. (Laughter.) If that is going to be the state of affairs, then I say, Sir, 'Oh, God, save me and my clients from this judiciary.' I am sure, Sir, that many of the practising vakils would have experienced the very same thing. So I request that this new criminal judiciary should be manned completely by experienced people recruited from the Bar—of course from all communities—and if one more seat is allotted to a Harijan than is provided in the communal Government Order, then I shall be only too glad.

"The third thing I wish to impress upon the Hon. the Minister is, with reference to the Hindu Women's Rights to Properties Act of 1937. Of course, it is a much-needed legislation, but according to the decision of the Federal Court in the year 1941, agricultural land is excluded. I wish to say, Sir, that the Federal Court has decided that the Central Legislature has no right to legislate on matters which are within the control of the Provincial Legislature. If agricultural land is excluded from the women's right to inherit, then what else is left? It would be practically useless, because in villages, if the woman is to inherit any property at all, it is only the agricultural land and if this is excluded from inheritance, then there is nothing left for her to inherit. Therefore, Sir, I request the Provincial Government to bring in legislation to the effect that the Hindu women have the right to inherit agricultural land as well.

"The last thing that I wish to urge before this House is this. I request the Government to locate a Subordinate Judge's Court at Narasaraopet in the Guntur district. This is because, there are two District Munsifs' Courts in the two taluks near it, but there is no Subordinate Judge's Court. As a matter of fact, at Guntur there are two permanent Subordinate Judges' Courts and there are two more courts in the wet areas of Tenali and Bapatla. Hundreds of cases are being sent to Guntur and the litigant public is put to much trouble and expense. Moreover the location of a Subordinate Judge's Court at Narasaraopet does not mean any extra cost to Government at all. So, I request the Government to take early steps to locate one of the two courts of Guntur, at Narasaraopet. I wish the Hon. Minister for Law, in his reply, will make a definite statement on this point."

SRI P. KANDASWAMI PILLAI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, about this demand for about Rs. 111 lakhs under the head 'Administration of Justice' moved by the Hon. the Minister for Law, I wish to refer to a few points which I think, will be useful in his practical administration. As is also observed by one of my hon. Friends, in many of the mufassal courts, there is no sitting accommodation for people who go there either as defendants or plaintiffs or as witnesses. Even in certain Sub-Courts there is no room for vakils and clients to sit. Sir, I request the Hon. the Minister to see that these defects are remedied.

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"Then, Sir, this question of the separation of the judiciary from the executive, is a long-cherished ideal of the Congress. In the history of the Congress from the ancient days, one of the foremost resolutions was that the first thing that the Congress should do, if it took up office, was to separate judiciary from the executive. This long-cherished ideal has materialised now during the period of the present Prime Minister who is a person who has literally sacrificed himself for the Congress. Therefore it is very pertinent on my part to congratulate this Ministry for the bold step they have taken at the earliest opportunity to separate the judiciary from the executive. Sir, when a political case comes up before a District Magistrate, he will be the prosecutor and the administrator of law. Therefore, people generally feel that they cannot get justice in the circumstances and have been agitating, if the separation is effected, there will be a separate officer to prosecute and another to decide the case on merits.

"Then, there are several panchayat courts in the mufassal. These are generally conducted with the help of the Tahsildar. The panchayatdars simply assemble and at the time of giving their verdict they lift up their hands on the side of the Tahsildar. Generally, illiterate people are there as members and as president. They do not know the law or the equity of the case when it is presented to them and they administer justice in the light of the opinions given to them by the touts. In these circumstances, people do not get justice. I suggest the constitution of a committee consisting of at least one or two lawyers and public workers and select persons for panchayat courts to administer them.

"In the nomination of honorary magistrates also, great injustice is done. Generally, the honorary magistrates are selected on the recommendation of the District Collector. They spend some money in the affair and get nomination. When such people sit and decide cases, it is not their decision that is given. They have a blank mind. They give their verdict according to their whims and fancies. I request the Hon. the Minister for Law to take into consideration all these factors and issue instructions to the subordinates to avoid these things when they make nominations for panchayat courts."

SRI T. S. PATTABHIRAMAN:—"Sir, I rise to support the demand moved by the Hon. the Minister for Law. I understand that the Government policy to-day is to withdraw all the cases that have been launched by Advisers' regime for political purposes. Unfortunately, that regime resorted to law to put down the trade union movement, the freedom movement and all political activities. But, fortunately, in consonance with their election pledges, the popular Ministry have decided to withdraw all pending political cases and release all political prisoners who had been convicted during the Advisers' regime in 1942 and subsequent years. But I have to point out one instance where the Hon. the Minister for Law has overlooked to do justice in spite of representations made. On behalf of the Mettur labourers, I may bring to his kind notice that in spite of the fact that representations made to him by the

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Labour Association and Members of this honourable House, the cases against the Mettur labourers have not been withdrawn. I am referring to proceedings under section 107 of the Criminal Procedure Code, where nearly 20 Congressmen and trade union workers at Mettur have been prosecuted under the orders of the Adviser regime. I understand that the Collector of Salem has recommended that the cases should go on in the interests of peace and tranquillity of the district. I submit, Sir, that the opinion of the Collector should not weigh more with the Government than the opinion of the Members of the Assembly representing that district. The Adviser regime launched prosecution against those honest labourite workers, honest Congress workers who have absolutely no black record, under the Criminal Procedure Code and bound them over for one year or six months. Our popular Government have done nothing so far in the matter. I am therefore bringing this matter to the notice of the Hon. the Minister for Law. The people there and the trade union movement workers there are very much dejected because the popular Government have not taken any action and have extended, on the other hand, the life of the Sub-Inspector at Mettur. I hope that my appeal on behalf of the earnest Congressmen and labour workers will not fall on deaf ears and that the proceedings under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code, will be withdrawn despite the opinion of the District Collector or the Deputy Collector who have not changed their imperialist colours in spite of the change in the regime.

"I associate myself with the appeal made by the lawyer members of the Assembly, viz., that the courts should be instructed to give adjournments of cases to suit the convenience of Members who have to be present at the meetings of this honourable House. It is practically impossible for Members to be present at a mufassal court and here at the same time. So when the Assembly is in session, when Members as lawyers representing their parties, ask for adjournment of cases, there should be no difficulty for a judge or magistrate to grant the same. But they say that it is not a sufficient ground for granting an adjournment. I request the Hon. the Law Minister and the Prime Minister to see that instructions are sent to these officers not to refuse adjournment in such cases.

"Another point I wish to touch upon relates to the appointment of honorary bench magistrates. I submit that the Collectors and Deputy Collectors should not have the decisive voice in the selection of the bench magistrates. These people who have been supporters of the Government and of the officials in their repressive attitude in the past years and even the black-marketers and anti-social elements with their illgotten wealth are likely to be chosen as bench magistrates if the officialdom is to have its way. I submit that there must be a minimum qualification for bench magistrates and that the Members of the Assembly representing the respective districts should be asked for their opinion in the selection of the bench magistrates."

M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, while speaking on this cut motion, I do not propose to take much

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time of the honourable House. I rise to bring to the notice of the Hon. the Minister for Law one important point. Recently a Government Order has been passed by the Government to the effect that ex-service men must be given preference with reference to the appointment of district munsifs. In this connection I wish to bring to the notice of the Government that they have already selected a number of persons as district munsifs and these people have already acted as such. Now, if ex-service men are given preference over these people, it would be a grave injustice. I am not against the ex-service men. I have got the highest respect and admiration for them. But I would urge upon the Government to see that the ex-service men are taken in only after the people who have already acted in the posts are provided for.

"Another matter to which I wish to draw attention relates to the interference of party men with the administration of justice in this province. An instance has been brought to my notice where, when investigation had been ordered and the offender had been apprehended, due to the interference of a very influential partyman the offender was released. This is a grave matter, Sir. Therefore, I would make an earnest appeal to the Hon. the Minister for Law and the Hon. the Premier to see that justice is placed, like the God of Olympus, on a very high pedestal where even the voice of influence and the hand of authority may not reach. I am making this appeal in the best interests of justice."

* MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a well-known proposition that the Bar and the Bench are but the two limbs of the Temple of Justice and yet, it is equally well known that the Bar is being treated by the Bench as school children. The Hon. the Minister for Law and the Hon. the Premier have declared more than once on the floor of the House that the Ministry and the services are but the servants of the people and yet the presiding officers of the courts treat the public, who go to them as litigants, as cattle. As an instance I shall mention an incident which will reveal the attitude of the presiding officers of Courts towards the advocates and the general public. Sir, once it so happened that the wife of a party died on the date of hearing of his case. The advocate, on receiving a wire from his client to this effect, represented to the court that his client's wife had died and therefore the case should be adjourned. To this, the presiding officer remarked: [Why should she choose that particular date to die? (Laughter.) This remark was in fact made by a Sub-Judge.] I only want to know whether the present Ministry is going to encourage this attitude towards the Bar, which is but another arm of the Temple of Justice and towards the people who are the real sovereigns of the land. Now, Sir, this attitude of the Bench is due partly to the existence of a rule in the judicial department which requires the courts to dispose of a certain number of cases in a fortnight or a month. In their anxiety not to incur the displeasure of their own superior officers, the judicial officers have been behaving like this.

"Sir, I wish also to mention that this vicious rule is also responsible for tempting these responsible officers of courts to become

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dishonest also to some extent. In their anxiety to dispose of a certain number of cases within a given period, the officers dismiss partition suits even before the preliminary decree is passed. Because, if a preliminary decree is passed, the final decree proceedings will take a very long time. Therefore they resort to this method of disposal. In the administration suits also the presiding officers are tempted to find a short circuit for disposal.

4 p.m. "Sir, there is another point. If any lawyer tries to raise any preliminary objection on the question of jurisdiction then the Judges seem to be very glad to dispose of cases saying that there is no jurisdiction. They want only some reasonable excuse to dismiss cases or return suits saying that there is no jurisdiction. If this is allowed to continue, will there be dispensation of justice or will there be failure of justice, I wish the Minister for Law to consider.

"Next, Sir, I wish to mention the treatment of the advocates by the magistrates. It is very deplorable. Some magistrates post cases on particular days without mentioning the time. The lawyers have got to go there and be waiting from 11 o'clock till 4 or 5 p.m. Till then the Divisional officers do not turn up at the place where the cases have been posted and afterwards they turn up and say that they have returned from a tour, that they are dead tired and therefore the cases are adjourned. I would therefore request the Hon. the Minister for Law to see such things do not occur.

"I wish also to bring to the notice of the House the wrong impression which prevails in the minds of the Ministry, as it has been prevailing in the minds of the previous Government that the clerks of the Revenue department are omnipotent and all wise and almighty who could rise equal to any occasion if they are appointed in any department. Sir, during the war time there have been many new departments created, for example the Commercial Taxes Department, the Rationing Officers, the Yarn Control and Textile Control and other offices. We know that the Sales Tax Rules, the Defence of India Act and the rules framed thereunder have got to be interpreted by these officers. I ask you whether lawyers are not the men better fitted for these posts than the clerks of the Revenue department. (Interruption.) If the hon. Member repeats his question I am ready to answer."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I have allowed you one more minute."

* MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I therefore request the Hon. Minister for Law to see that at least hereafter when a popular Ministry is in office, that lawyers who have been responsible for the achievement of freedom in this country are taken proper care of."

* SRI M. BAPINEEDU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the long overdue reform of separation of the judiciary from the executive has at last come. It is but significant and natural that this radical reform should come during the regime of a Congress Ministry. On this occasion, Sir, it is superfluous to congratulate the Hon. the Prime Minister and the Minister for Law; this is a matter of

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pride to all the Members of our Party. We also expect that the abolition of capital punishment which is also another radical reform will soon be undertaken.

"In supporting the demand, I wish to bring to the notice of this House the inconvenience caused to the clients in the courts. Almost all the hon. Members who spoke before me belong to the class of lawyers and I, Sir, belong to the class of the clientele. It is they, the clients' who pay for the maintenance of the courts, the lawyers and others, but still it is only the lawyers who have got well-furnished bar rooms and all the privileges of the lunch and other rooms. The poor clientele, who come in the hot sun and the rain have no resting place to sit. I hope special attention will be paid to the convenience of the clients.

"As regards decisions and adjournments of the Munsifs and District Judges, it is needless to add that a good many of them are slow and slow like snail. They adjourn and adjourn. In these days of rationing, in these days of crowded trains and impossible bus travel, they are giving long, long adjournments to the detriment of the clients. I hope, Sir, that the Government will take special care that early decisions are given and fewer adjournments.

"Then there are the cases of the Magistrates who sit late till 8, 9 or 10 p.m., and parties wait and wait only to be finally told to come next day. Sir, I hope this scandalous way of adjourning cases will not be allowed. Sir, I take great pride in supporting this demand."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Members who have spoken on this motion for their very helpful criticisms and specially for their approval of the general policy underlying the separation of the judiciary from the executive. I am glad to note, Sir, that there has been a fairly general approval of the scheme that has been put forward from all sides of the House. I know there was some disappointment last time that this scheme was not put through. On the other hand, while there has been general approval, there has also been criticism in that the tentative proposals put forward by me in my own individual capacity did not mean complete separation. I admit it is not complete separation, but I had in mind two limitations. One was the fact, that there was the question of the amendment of the Criminal Procedure Code for which we have to go to the Government of India and the other question was the less formidable objection that the scheme would be creating a state within a state by putting the whole thing under the High Court. These were the two limitations to which the scheme I proposed was subject. I am glad however that the House approves of a wider scheme, a scheme which is more complete than the one which I have put forward. It is not that I did not realize that the scheme, I proposed was not a complete scheme of separation, but in order to get the thing through without delay, I wanted to set

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up a scheme subject to the two limitations which I have mentioned above.

" Now, Sir, the Committee is sitting. It consists of eminent lawyers and experts who can give the Government advice as to how best this can be done. All the schemes, not only the scheme put forward by me, but also the scheme put forward in 1921, the scheme adumbrated some time ago in the United Provinces known as the Katju scheme, are being examined by the Committee. Twenty witnesses have been already examined. The hon. Member Mr. B. Pocker Sahib gave evidence. Mr. Ahmed Miran, one of the eminent lawyers of the High Court, and Mr. Hassan, the Chief Presidency Magistrate, have also given their evidence. Some members of the Indian Civil Service, both Indian and European, have also been examined by the Committee. The mufassal lawyers have placed their views before the Committee. A number of representations were received from individuals and associations during the month or two that preceded the appointment of the Committee. All these representations have been placed before the Committee and they are looking into them. I expect the Committee's recommendations very soon and so I do not want to go into the details mentioned by some of the hon. Members. It will be much better if I get the Committee's report first and discuss their recommendations with my colleagues before I think of discussing the matter on the floor of the House. So far as the question of placing the report before the House before any action is taken upon it by the Government is concerned, I cannot give any guarantee about it, because it depends on the Committee's recommendations. At present, all the various proposals and the various suggestions both from the communal point of view and other points of view have been placed before the Committee. I cannot say what the Government after full deliberation will decide about the matter and whether they will agree to place the report before the House before any decision is taken. While I do not commit myself on this matter, I will say that as a matter of fact some opportunity will be given to the House to criticize it at some time.

" The next point I should like to deal with is the question of the strength of the High Court. It is a very important matter. It is necessary that I should bring to the notice of the House, that the question of the appointment of judges and filling up temporary vacancies are matters beyond the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. All that they can do is to give their advice or make their recommendations or make their views known on the subject if they are consulted in the matter. Therefore, the Local Government is in a peculiar position so far as the High Court is concerned. They are not able to commit themselves one way or the other. They can only tender advice to persons who have got the power of appointing the various judges. It is only in that capacity, I speak. One thing however must be said because 'Administration of Justice' is a provincial subject. We are all interested in the administration of justice in every way and the

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Provincial Government cannot keep quiet over these appointments, over the strength of the Madras High Court.

" My hon. Friends already know that the present strength of the High Court including the two temporary judges is sixteen. There is one vacancy now. I have been 40 years at the bar and I was there till recently. I can tell you that as a matter of fact in recent years there has been a decrease in litigation in the High Court and if you ask my personal opinion, I will certainly say that 14 Judges which is the permanent strength of the High Court are more than enough. (Interruption.) Sir, it is not within my power nor within the power of the local Government to deal with it at the present time. I can tell you that any proposal for increasing the strength will not be welcomed by this Government. I may also, point out, so far as I am informed, that the quality of the litigation now before the courts, including the courts in the mufassal, is not as it used to be. There were big litigations then; now there are only small ones, though the number may be there. The quantity may be there, but the quality is poor.

" It is also true that the file of cases is decreasing in the mufassal and so, for some years to come, I expect that there will not be much work by way of appeal or revision in the High Court to justify an increase. That is my view in this matter.

" One of the other matters which was referred to in the course of the discussion was about Muslim representation in the High Court and other places. Sir, so far as the present representation goes, there is not much room for complaint. Two judges out of 16 or 15 is a fairly good number and forms a good percentage. My hon. Friends have also been complaining about the Law Officers and the Crown Officers not being given to Muslims. I think, Sir, some offices are not in the gift of this Government and some are. I may tell you, Sir, that in fairness to the Government, the Muslim Members must recognize, and other hon. members also should know, that two key positions in the Madras City Judiciary, that of the Chief Judge of the Small Causes Court and the Chief Presidency Magistrateship are occupied by Muslims. That is a fact which they must remember in this connection. So far as Law Officers are concerned, it is not the policy of this Government to exclude any person who is qualified to occupy that place. (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib: 'They are not Law Officers.') My hon. Friend says that they are not Law Officers. True. They are judicial officers.

" As regards District Judges, recruitment is governed by the Reserved Posts (I.C.S.) Rules. Even here though the communal rule does not apply, at present there are two permanent District Judges and one acting District Judge. Out of 26 posts of District Judges, 3 are held by Muslims, that is, nearly 12 per cent.

" As regards Sub-Judges they are appointed by promotion from District Munsifs. Out of a total number of 45 posts 5 posts are being held by Muslims.

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"Regarding district munsifs, the communal rule is applied in recruiting. Two out of 12 posts go to the Muslims. Out of 161 posts 22 are held by Muslims. This shows only a small deficiency and it no doubt arises out of the fact that a sufficient number of qualified Muslims are not available for appointment even to the extent allowed for the community. (Interruption.) This is the explanation so far as I see from the papers.

"As regards the members of the Subordinate Judicial Service the communal rule applies. Exact details as to the number of Muslims is not known as the communal returns have been suspended for the duration of the war. The Madras Public Service Commission stated in its annual report for 1945 that the number of candidates available for selection from the Muslim community was less than the number required.

"I may tell my hon. Friends that the Madras High Court Service is under the control of the Hon'ble the Chief Justice and I am not sure whether the communal rule is applied there in all its rigour. I am told however that the community's claims are not neglected.

"Whatever inequality there is in the matter of representation of Muslims in the service it is not due to any policy pursued by the Government adverse to the community. I think it is due more to the fact that there are not sufficient number of qualified men coming forward. (The hon. the Leader of the Opposition: 'It is not correct'.) No qualified Muslim who applied for a District Munsif's post has been refused selection. (The hon. the Leader of the Opposition: 'No.'). You say no, I say yes."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, what is the source of information of the Hon. Minister for Law that sufficient number of Muslim candidates were not available for appointment as District Munsifs?"

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"The Annual Report of the Madras Public Service Commission, 1945, *re* Subordinate posts.

"The hon. the Leader of the Opposition was complaining about no facilities being granted to the Muslim litigants, witnesses and lawyers for prayers on Fridays. I think reference was also made to a Government Order whereby people in service are allowed on Fridays 2 hours' recess or so for the purpose of prayer. So far as Muslim litigants and lawyers are concerned, I think it is made a practice in the Courts—that whenever they apply to the Court that they have to attend the mosque for their prayers, they are allowed to do so. I am only saying this subject to correction because I have not had much experience of the mufassal courts. I think, Sir, that every consideration is being shown for the purpose of affording sufficient facilities for Muslim litigants, witnesses and lawyers in respect of this matter. If you really want that there should be an interregnum in the office hours, for 2 hours in the course of the day, I think it is unnecessary, because this concession is intended to apply to the Muslims only and they

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are now entitled to take advantage of it. Otherwise every community will come forward and say that this thing or that is sacred to them and so they want a holiday. I think it is unnecessary to do so. Therefore, while I agree that this is a reasonable request, I say that this concession should apply only to the Muslims when they go for their prayers on Fridays and no more. I think the statement made by me on the floor of this House will certainly be taken notice of by the persons concerned and if the situation is really bad it will be improved."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir. May I know whether any community has made any application for adjournment on any such ground whatsoever?"

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I can quote from my own sphere, Sir. People have asked to be let off altogether on Krishna Jayanti day, and on *Amavasai* days they wanted cases to be taken up only in the afternoon. I do not know how these things go on in the mufassal. I think sometimes they adjust and sometimes they do not. It will be a very bad precedent, Sir, to make closing of the courts compulsory between these two hours for prayer which are wanted by Muslims only.

"As regards the points raised by Mr. Fernandez, about the two officers, the Official Assignee and the Official Trustee, I should like the position of these officers to be made a little more clear to hon. Members of this House. I think the impression gained by the Members by the speech of the hon. Member was that these offices were intended solely for the benefit of the richer people. I do not know if it is correct to say so. On the other hand, with some small experience of the office, I can tell him and the Members of this House that estates of minors left without any guardian, small or big, are all being entrusted to the Administrator-General. Besides, he is also administering charities bequeathed by will or constituted as trust by a deed. He is working not merely for the richer people but also for the benefit of the poor. I may state further that it is the bounden duty of the State to provide for an officer being placed in charge of the estates of deceased persons and also derelict estates where the minors are without a guardian. It is the duty of the State to do so. I am therefore justified in claiming that this office is doing useful work for the benefit of the general public. It cannot be said either that this department is costing the Government much. On the other hand it may be said that the administration is carried on without throwing any charge on the general tax-payer. I may mention to you, that sometime back the Government of India suggested that the cost of the administration of private estates should not be allowed to throw any charge on the general tax-payer. With a view to make it self-sufficient the rates of commission were increased in 1939 and since then the office has worked at a profit.

"It may be further pointed out that when the posts of Administrator-General and Official Trustee were provincialized in

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1912, the total net balance at credit on the 1st April 1945 covering the entire period from 1912 to 1945 was Rs. 3,84,501-14-11. Thus it will be seen that the office has been working at a profit and the suggestion made by the hon. Member that it is working at a loss is inaccurate. But it does not mean that there have not been deficits. There have been deficits during 1913-20, 1928-30 and 1937-38."

* Mr. W. J. FERNANDEZ:—"I may mention for the information of the Hon. Minister for Law that the big figure shown as profit consists three-fourths of unclaimed assets of people who died intestate. That cannot be counted as revenue as this may be claimed by the beneficiaries turning up any time. We have to exclude that figure therefore from the revenue side. Of course there was a profit of about Rs. 27,000 in the year 1925. And I think if the Hon. Minister takes away last year's figure on this basis he will find the office has worked at a loss."

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I am really thankful to the hon. Member for the information. I do admit that in the management of the estates there are things that lapse to the Government altogether. Of course there may be some cases at some distant time when a claim may be made by some persons and the Government in its generosity will not refuse to discharge them. But so far as this matter of administration of estates is concerned, the Government get money, though they may not be legitimately entitled to it but it is due to the lapses of persons who do not apply. Sir, this is the position so far as the Administrator-General is concerned."

"As regards the Official Assignee also I should like to say a word. The expenditure on this office is a charge on the revenues of the Province not subject to the vote of the Legislative Assembly. This department is treated as part of the High Court and the expenditure is under the control of the High Court. The High Court has to be addressed for reducing the expenditure of that office and their views taken. It may be pointed out in this connexion that this is a quasi-public utility office forming part of the administration of justice for the protection of honest insolvents from harassment and for the protection of creditors of dishonest and fraudulent insolvents. This office is necessary as part of the system of administration of justice in the country. There is no question at present therefore of abolishing it altogether."

"So far as the reorganization of the department is concerned, I may point out that on the 1st April 1943, this office was provincialized. Prior to 6th May 1940, this office was not a salaried office but one which was remunerated by commission earned by the officer at a certain percentage on the administration of estates. The entire commission earned was taken by the Official Assignee himself towards his remuneration and the salary of the Deputy Official Assignee and the office staff was met out of the 'Office Charges Fund' (which did not belong to Government) representing principally the accumulated interest earned on the bank

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amounts and deposits of the office. Subsequent to 6th May 1940 the Official Assignee became a salaried officer and his salary and the salary of the Deputy and the staff were met out of the said Office Charges Fund.

"On the provincialization of the office on 1st April 1943, the Government took over a sum of Rs. 4,76,700 being the Office Charges Fund and the amount has become merged into the Provincial Revenues. Interest alone thereon at 3 per cent comes to Rs. 14,301."

"In addition to the above, substantial amounts have lapsed to the Provincial Revenues as balances in old and inoperative estates and as unclaimed dividends. The amount thus lapsed comes to Rs. 3,83,000 and the interest alone on the abovesaid sum at 3 per cent is Rs. 11,490 per year."

"All this amount is kept with the Reserve Bank of India as part of the funds of the General Revenues at the disposal of the Government without any interest charges payable by Government."

"Thus, the following may be taken as the present position:—

	RS.
Collection account (out of which Rs. 3,83,000 was lapsed to Government)	6,87,900
Unclaimed dividend	3,87,168
Office Charges Fund	4,76,700
Total ..	15,51,768

	RS.
Interest thereon	46,500
EE Average amount earned by way of commission	18,000
Average annual unclaimed dividends deposited	10,000
Total ..	74,500

Therefore, Sir, we find really that there is not much difference between the expenditure and the interest on the amount as lapsed to the Government. Further, the office of the Official Receiver has now been attached to the Official Assignee and as against a commission of about Rs. 9,345 earned for seven months, the expenditure is only Rs. 3,255. It will thus be seen that so far as this matter is concerned, a large portion of the expenditure is being met by the income derived."

"Then, Sir, as regards Public Prosecutors, there was a suggestion made that practising persons alone should be appointed. They are being now appointed from members of the Bar. I want to point out to you the Government Order issued soon after this Government came into power. That Government Order has made the position quite clear. It says—

"The Government consider that vacancies in posts of Government Pleader, Public Prosecutor and Additional Public Prosecutor should be given sufficient

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publicity. District Magistrates are therefore directed to follow the following procedure in future :—

In sufficient time before the occurrence of a vacancy, the District Magistrate concerned should cause a notice calling for applications giving full particulars of age, community, legal qualifications and standing, at the Bar of the applicants to be put on the notice board in his own office and in that of the District and Sessions Judge concerned. A date within which such applications should reach the District Magistrate should be specified in the notice and that date should be so fixed that applicants get at least two weeks to make their applications.

“ On this matter, there was a complaint that appointments were made without sufficient notice to the members of the Bar. If there was any such lapse before, I am sure the defect has been rectified by the issue of this Government Order.

“ There was some reference made, Sir, to some appointment in Kistna. I do not think it is necessary for me to go into details except to say that the gentleman was one of the persons recommended by the district authorities. Mr. Salam stated that this gentleman would not complete three years' period in his appointment before he was 55. He is 52 years and 4½ months old, and requires 7½ more months for completing three years and therefore, he said, he was disqualified. No, Sir, it is not so. It is not ruled out on that account that such people should not be appointed. He is one of the leading members of the Bezwada Bar and has both civil and criminal work. Therefore, Sir, any remarks made by the hon. Member on this matter are not accurate, and I have therefore given this information to correct him.

“ So far as Honorary Magistrates are concerned, I know there has been a good deal of difficulty experienced. Honorary magistrateship has been conferred in the past, or at least selection was made, as hon. Members may know, by District Magistrates or the Subdivisional Magistrates sitting along with the District Superintendent of Police or the Deputy Superintendent of Police and also a member of this Legislature selected for the purpose. The Selection Committee makes the selection and the appointment is made from out of the persons selected, by the District Magistrate of the place. The question whether the head of the police in the district should have a voice in the selection of the Honorary Magistrate is one of principle and it need not be pursued further just at this stage because just now the question how far the system of Honorary Magistrates will be affected by the proposed separation of the judiciary from the executive is also being considered by the committee already appointed.

“ The same remarks I have to make in respect of the appointment of Bench Magistrates.

“ Well, Sir, on the question of the pay of Public Prosecutors, it was stated that the pay was inadequate and should be increased. I want to point out to members of this Honourable House that Public Prosecutors are not whole-time officers of Government. They are lawyers engaged by Government for doing Government business; they are allowed to have their own practice; therefore, what they receive from Government is by way of retainer and not

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regular pay. Whenever work is done for the Government, they get separately paid for it.

“ One other point I would like to touch on this occasion is about the rapid disposal of cases. There is a rule which requires the Judges not to allow any case to stand over for more than a year. There have been complaints in the past that the disposal of a case has been too rapid on the one side, and on the other side, that there has been undue delay. I do not know how to tackle this matter; but I may say this: that so far as the rule requiring that no case should really be allowed to stand over for more than a year, it has certainly worked some injustice in some of the cases. For we know, in our country, it is not as if the ordinary litigant is a man who generally throughout the year is overflowing with money; he is a man who ordinarily gets only seasonal income, at the time of the harvest; it may be difficult really for most of the litigants to get funds exactly at the time of the disposal of the cases. Some latitude may be shown to this aspect and I hope the Judges will look into this matter and do what may be necessary. So far as the one year rule for the disposal of cases is concerned, I think that may be slightly modified. As I said, there have been complaints on either side. If the year is fixed from the date of the settlement of the issues in the case, there will be greater satisfaction, I think, to the litigants and the members of the public. Because, the time taken from the institution of the suit up to the time the case is posted for the first hearing, is all the time taken for service of notice on the parties, and people generally take good care to get the summonses served as late as possible. Therefore, if this matter is taken up by the Bar Associations and by the Federation of Madras Bar Associations, it will be a very good thing. For, the Government can only state their views to the High Court and perhaps a representation from the Bar Associations and from the Federation of Bar Associations may be more appropriate.

“ With regard to the question of adjournment of cases for enabling Legislators to come here on public work, I thoroughly sympathize with their point of view. What I do want to point out is this: it is not a case really where the Government can say whether this is or is not a ground to dictate that there should be an adjournment; but I am sure with a little adjustment and accommodation between the Judge and the lawyer, this difficulty can be easily got over. Of course there are some cases, I know, where the litigant public, the parties to the suit, are adversely affected for having engaged a lawyer who has to be absent from the place on account of his being a Legislator; in that case, there may be some difficulty. But I am sure the Judges and Magistrates will agree that the Legislature members have also to be accommodated for the period of their absence at Madras in connexion with the sittings of the Assembly.”

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR :—“ Will the Hon. Minister see that instructions are issued that cases should be adjourned in case the parties are not opposed to it? ”

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THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—“ If we are really in earnest about the separation of the judiciary from the executive, I am afraid I cannot do anything of the kind. I should rather think that the ventilation of the grievance in this House and the speeches that have been made here sympathizing with the grievance must have some psychological effect upon the Judges which will, I am sure, make them more inclined to give adjournments for the purpose of enabling members to attend the Assembly sittings.

“ As regards the suggestion about the too rapid disposal of cases and the disposal mania, it has certainly led to some difficulty between the Bench and the Bar; but I say again it is all a matter for easy adjustment and it is not a matter in which we can make a rule saying ‘you should not lose your temper on the Bench’, or some such thing; it is hardly a matter on which a rule could be made; it is a matter for the lawyers and the judicial officers to tackle between themselves. If there is anything serious about it, I think the Bar Association is the body to which representation can be made and relief sought.

“ Next, in respect of the facilities for litigants and their witnesses in the magistrates’ courts and other courts, I want to say this: This has been a matter of complaint in all the Lawyers’ conferences up to now and I think I myself moved more than one resolution on the subject. My friend Mr. Rajah Ayyar, the present Advocate-General, has also written a letter to me inviting my attention to my own resolution for the purpose of being acted upon, and I am taking up this matter with the Minister concerned. If it is possible to do anything between the time from now and the next Budget session, I shall try to do; if not, I am afraid we must possess our soul in patience for a few more months until I am in a position to take up the matter at the next Budget and see that it is achieved.

“ Some members of the House complained that the Court Fees Act works great hardship on the poor clients. This complaint has been there for a long time, ever since the days when amendments were made to the Act after the last war, increasing the amounts payable as fees for proceedings in courts. The lawyers have been agitating about it, the litigant public has been complaining about it; but successive Governments on account of financial pressure or for other reasons, have not been paying sufficient attention to it, except to refer the matter to a special officer, the late Mr. R. Satya-murthi, Deputy Registrar of the High Court, for going into it and making a report. It is a big report covering about a hundred pages; and as stated by the Hon. Minister for Revenue, it is a matter that has to be investigated; already there is a section in the Public Department working on this subject and giving some details for the Government to go upon.

“ One important point raised by my hon. friend is the court language. I sympathize with him thoroughly. I remember about sixty years back the judgments of the District Munsifs’

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Courts used to be written only in Tamil and there was also an English translation afterwards. That was the case in the case of the Sub-Courts also. The language in those days was the regional language. I use the words for convenience of expression. The regional language was the language of the Court and it was adopted not only for arguments but also for writing out judgments in. But later on, English became the statutory language and lawyers’ arguments also were made in that language, so much so that the poor clients did not know what was going on, whether the case was properly placed by the lawyer to the Judge or Magistrate. I therefore thoroughly sympathize with the hon. Member, but what is the remedy, I ask? The remedy is naturally not to speak in any other language, not to pass our statutes in any other language. Shall we do it? (Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan: ‘Stautes in English.’) Then you will perpetuate the very mischief which the hon. Member complains against.

“ Then, Sir, another suggestion that has been made was about capital punishment. Of course, this was not a matter which has been before the Cabinet at all. I only looked into the files relating to this and I have also gone through a number of books to see how the subject is treated in other countries. The matter stops at that stage, and if anything has to be done it has to be worked out from the beginning to see what is being done in other countries and whether capital punishment has deterred people from committing murders and so on. All these things have to be considered before any steps can be taken. There was an influential public meeting held the other day in Madras where conflicting opinions were expressed in the matter. It may be of interest to Members of this House if I point out that already—this is the information found in the papers—that in England the Government have abolished capital punishment for five years as an experimental measure. If you follow the British precedent—as you are following it in other matters—possibly some such measure may be adopted here also and that too can be done only after very careful consideration, and also by taking the opinion of this and other Legislatures.

“ Well, Sir, so far as the Harijans are concerned, Mr. Nagappa made a very eloquent appeal for their being included in the judicial services. Of course, Sir, I agree with him: I have great sympathy for the Harijans; and it is because of that that we have made a special provision in the Budget for the uplift of Harijans. I must point out, however, that in regard to what he says about the doing away with the three years’ qualification, in doing justice, and even more than justice, to a particular community, we cannot omit to consider the case of a very large body of the public whose interests also come before Judges for decision. It is usual in our anxiety, in our not altogether unselfish desire for securing rights, and concessions for one community, to forget how the general public will be affected by pressing for the appointment of less qualified or not properly qualified persons to certain posts. This must be made clear, that after all any appointment is not for any particular community but it is for the general public. For the

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good of the general public, if a qualified person cannot be found from among a particular community, I feel justified in asking that community to forgive us if we take a member of any other community for a particular post that has fallen vacant. Therefore, I request Mr. Nagappa to see that more Harijans qualify themselves as lawyers, so that they can compete with other lawyers for posts in the Judicial department as District Munsifs and other judicial officers. For myself, I should think that since the Harijan community is in a hurry to uplift itself all of a sudden and come into line with other communities, surely, instead of waiting for three years to get these judicial appointments, this period can well be utilized by them in getting into other services. Whether they can afford to wait for this period of three years to get into the Judicial department, is a matter for very serious consideration by the Government itself.

"With regard to the point raised for exempting the Harijans from payment of enrolment fees, it is a good suggestion which Government may well look into and see if it can be accepted if and when the question arises.

"As regards the other jobs in the Judicial Department especially, process servers, amins, etc., in the panchayat courts and the bench courts, I think some steps may be taken for giving greater representation to the Harijans. We shall certainly do so.

"There has been some complaint or at least some hon. Members made the observation that the pay of the staff in these courts should be increased. As has been stated, the Government have already taken up the matter of reviewing the position as regards the pay of all non-gazetted officers and they are giving very careful consideration to the representations that have been made and their decision will be announced very soon, early enough.

"Then, suggestions were made by my hon. Friend Mr. Brahmanandam about the abolition of the Criminal Tribes Act. He also anticipated, in a way, the objection of mine by saying that it is an Imperial Act and cannot therefore be touched by us. In one sense, it is true. We cannot do anything with a subject included in the Concurrent List; two Parliamentary bodies cannot take action on a concurrent subject. It is likely that the Central Government may soon take up the question of abolishing or repealing this Act. In regard to the suggestion for taking away the names of all criminal tribes in the list by executive action, and taking action under section 3 relating to Classification Rules, it may have to be looked into carefully. As a matter of statistics, you find about 74,000 persons coming under the Criminal Tribes Act and action has to be taken in respect of all and each one of them. Therefore, it is not a matter which can be accomplished in a day or two because the case of each person should be looked into to see whether restrictions placed on them are for the safety of the public or not. Therefore, it will take time to go through the whole question.

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"Coming to the suggestion made in regard to the Hindu Women's Property Act, I should say, this is a matter which can be put through only after the more urgent business on hand is disposed of. It cannot be done in a hurry but I assure hon. Members that it will be taken up as soon as other items of urgent business are finished.

"An earnest and urgent appeal was made by an hon. Member for establishing a Sub-Court at Narasaraopet. No assurance on the floor of the House can be given now; but I may assure him this much, that this request will certainly be considered in consultation with the High Court and after taking the statistics and the recommendation of the High Court into consideration. If Government consider it necessary, a court will be established.

"About panchayat courts also, the question will be considered.

"My hon. Friend Mr. Pattabiraman from Salem raised the question of withdrawing cases against Trade Union members and Freedom Movement members. It is in the common knowledge of this House that a number of persons connected with political cases have been set at liberty but there are also some other cases pending where the question has to be examined to decide in their case whether the offences committed are purely of a political character or not. If further representation is made in regard to any of them, we will look into them and pass necessary orders. If it is said that the Government must interfere and withdraw all the cases, I should consider it a difficult matter because it will be interfering with the administration of justice by the Magistrates. Therefore, I would like the hon. Member to make further representations, giving further details, as to what exactly he wants to be done in the matter.

"One point raised about the constitution of panchayat courts was, that the Collectors, Deputy Collectors and Judges should not have a voice in the selection of the personnel to these courts. Whether it is correct, or good or not, is a matter which will also be considered by the Committee. I do not therefore propose to say more about it now.

"One of the points mentioned by my hon. Friend, Mr. Majid, was in regard to the ex-Servicemen being given preference over persons already selected. Well, Sir, I know in our anxiety or eagerness to reward persons who have gone to the war, we should not do injustice to others, nor altogether ignore the interests of the people concerned. Consistent with that, something must be done in regard to ex-Servicemen also because after all that is the policy which has been adopted even before we came in and it has been acted upon evidently in pursuance of that policy. Whether we can interfere in this matter and if so, how far we can interfere in it, are matters which are to be considered before I can make any specific or definite answer to the point raised.

"Well, Sir, my hon. Friend Mr. Hussain complained of the treatment accorded to the members of the Bar by the Bench.

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He instanced a case of the death of his client's wife and the Judge making a rather callous remark about that. I would venture in this connexion to refer to an incident which took place in the Madras High Court. The late Eardley Norton was appearing in a very heavy civil case and the matter was posted before two Judges constituted as a Special Bench. On that day, it happened the client died. Mr. Norton came up to the Court and said, 'My Lords, the case cannot go on to-day because my client is dead.' One of the Judges observed, 'It is all inconvenient; I came prepared for the case.' Mr. Norton said, 'My Lords, my client did not consult me and he died.' Then the matter passed off as a joke. The Judge in the case mentioned perhaps intended it as a joke, rather a grim one. It certainly shows a certain amount of callousness and does not look proper in judicial proceedings. I hope such cases will not recur. Of course, public references to these incidents will be a very great corrective.

"As regards rapid disposal of cases, Mr. Hussain pointed out that if any preliminary objection regarding jurisdiction was raised by any lawyer, the judges in their anxiety to dispose of cases in a hurry, pay great consideration to the objection raised. These are matters, Sir, where I feel myself incompetent to answer. In these matters, I think, lawyers are clever people and they should be able to manage the judges properly. They are persons who have trained themselves to do so and their business is to get round the judges both for the benefit of the parties and for the purpose of getting through the case. (Interruption.) As regards the rate of disposal, I have already suggested a *via media*.

"Then, as regards the complaint that clerks of the Revenue Department are being taken up as Revenue Divisional Officers and given first-class powers, I know where the fault lies. In these days where there is a rapid development going on in various departments and Deputy Collectors are found necessary for each department—like the I.C.S., Deputy Collectors are people who can be put in any department—there is naturally a rapid depletion of the senior Deputy Collectors and therefore junior men in the office are being promoted. Recently, I had a case brought to my notice of a person who had passed only the S.S.L.C. Examination having been appointed as a First-class Magistrate. Well, Sir, I do not know what to do; and this certainly is an argument, if I may say so, for the separation of the executive from the judiciary. I am sure that when the whole scheme which is now considered by a Committee comes up before the Government and when it is really put into force, all these difficulties may disappear.

"I think, Sir, I have met all the points referred to by my hon. Friends. I thank them for all the various constructive suggestions made by them and for pointing out the various irregularities occurring in the administration of justice and I thank

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them for all these. In view of this explanation, I request all the hon. Members who have moved cut motions to withdraw them."

* SRI B. S. MALLIKARJUNA RAO:—"On a point of information, Sir. The Hon. Minister while referring to Public Prosecutors has not understood the reference I have made which is in reference to Public Inspectors who are now Prosecutors recruited from the legal profession. They are whole-time members; they are asked to attend to this duty and not permitted to take up to their legal profession. They are not part-time officers and it is in reference to these people I said their scales should be raised."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I am sorry, I did not catch the hon. Member correctly. With regard to them, Sir, their case also will be looked into."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, the Hon. the Law Minister has argued, and has done his best on every point, I shall take it, without leaving anything. I wanted to say a few words with regard to this Demand. In this Demand, the total amount demanded is Rs. 1,11,32,800. Under the very first item, High Court Judges, Registrars, Translation and Printing Department, Sheriff and Madras Law Reports, etc., put together the total comes to Rs. 16,55,000; Law Officers, Advocate-General, Solicitors and Crown Prosecutors, Government Pleaders, etc., Rs. 3,17,000; Administrator-General, Rs. 52,500; Official Assignee, Rs. 84,700; Presidency Magistrates, Rs. 1,85,600; Civil and Sessions Courts, City and Mufassal, Rs. 83,90,800; Court of Small Causes, Rs. 1,13,000; Criminal Courts, Stationary Sub-Magistrates' Courts, Bench Magistrates' Courts, etc., Rs. 25,11,800; Charges in England, Rs. 1,28,000; Separation of the Judiciary and Executive, Rs. 2 lakhs provisionally. The total number of departmental officers is 288 and the rest of the establishment consists of 11,872 officers. These details constitute the total Demand. This accounts for the Demand made on behalf of the Government. Criticism was made in regard to the High Court Judges, etc. The Hon. the Leader of the Opposition raised the point about the adequacy of the number of Judges of the High Court. He said that the number should not be considered as too many but that it should be taken as a sufficient number required for the High Court at present. On this my hon. Friend, Mr. Fernandez, joined issue by stating that the strength of the High Court is too much; there is not enough work for 16 Judges—am I right?—and that the number should be reduced to 12. We have been considering this question for some time—it has been a somewhat difficult and delicate question as well. One would hesitate to say that the number of High Court Judges, namely 16, is too much, without getting at the facts and figures as they stand at present. To make any comments on the basis of insufficient data and to say, cut off so many Judges, is also a delicate matter. Sir, in view of the comments and criticisms that have been appearing occasionally, if not very frequently, on this matter, both in the Press and outside, I should have

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expected the High Court itself to take some steps to clear the doubts. The question may, of course, be asked as to how can that be done. The hon. Judges themselves would have discussed this matter in their meetings and appointed a committee of their own, if necessary, to collect all the facts and figures regarding the number of institutions, and the number of disposals under the various heads. It would have thus become easier for the Government and also for the public to understand whether there is really work for 16 Judges at present. Anyone who had known anything about the High Court and the file of the High Court, the number of cases disposed of on the Original side or on the appellate side, would be able to say, without taking much time, whether this number is too much or is equal to the work at present. I have been thinking in my own mind on this question whether it would not be good, perhaps as a member of the present Government, to have a Commission or a Committee appointed to enquire into the state of affairs with regard to the High Court, institutions and disposals—for this purpose it need not necessarily be a non-official Committee, excluding all the Judges of the High Court. If some of the Judges may be on the Committee, the matter can be disposed of very much quicker than otherwise. I am only hoping that it may become possible for us to get at the accurate figures without losing much time and then move in the direction of reducing the number of Judges or retaining the present number or increasing it, if necessary. Sir, I had been in that Court for a long time, but it is really long since I left it, but my hon. Friend, the Law Minister, has been in it right through and he, judging from his own point of view, estimated the correct number at 14. I do not say that I differ from him; I do not say that I agree with him either, because it is a very simple matter that can be disposed of by ascertaining how many files are there now pending on all sides of the High Court and it should not take any length of time for it. Therefore, I say that the safest course for us, without giving room for any offence to anybody, is to do our best to see that a Committee is appointed, on which hon. Judges of the High Court also will be members, because it is better if it is disposed of like that.

“ Sir, we are working from the top in regard to this matter; we are trying to find out what should be the strength of the High Court Judges, what should be the strength of the District Judges, and what should be the strength of the Sub-Judges. Time and again recommendations will be coming in for increasing the number of sub-Courts and the number of district munsif courts saying that the files have become very heavy and that the disposals could not be managed easily without the help of additional judges. That also has been going on. Now, having undertaken the task of managing this Government, it has become part of our essential duty to see that while we have been increasing our expenditure on one side from out of the revenue that has been available to us, we should also see to what extent we can reduce the expenditure that is being incurred by us, not merely on account of the High Court Judges but, on all others coming along with it,

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making a total of Rs. 16,55,000. Under the head Advocate-General, Solicitors, Public and Crown Prosecutors, the amount put in is Rs. 3,17,000 and in regard to the Administrator-General Rs. 52,000—Mr. Fernandez suggested that this office might be dispensed with—am I right (Mr. W. J. Fernandez: ‘ I did not say it should be dispensed with; what I really said was, that it should be made self-supporting.’) He is a very constructive man, having served there for over 20 years. In the course of his comments he said that this Administrator-General and his office are intended only for rich men and not for ordinary people and so, in that way I thought, although he did not suggest its abolition, he was hinting at that. We shall go into that question as well and see to what extent this Administrator-General has been administering the estates of persons, which class of persons they are, whether he really administers the estates of those persons and whether the office of the Administrator-General will be required at all. These are all institutions that have been established long ago under the British Government and they have been going on until now. The time has now come, I think, to consider whether the Administrator-General’s office is really an office that is intended to serve the bulk of the people in the Province or that it is serving only a few vested interests, and if that be so, the Government will have to consider whether that office should continue only for the sake of a few people. I have taken the information from the comments of my hon. Friend Mr. Fernandez. Some of us have been contending that some other institutions attached to this Government should also be closely examined and should be done away with if really they are not institutions intended for the sake of the general public but for the sake of a few individuals or vested interests. We feel that such institutions should not continue at the cost of the general public.

“ Much has been said about the Stationary Sub-Magistrates, Sub-Magistrates and other magistrates that will come into existence after the separation of the judicial from the executive functions. Very much has been said about what would be coming after this reform has been introduced and suggestions have been made as to the various adjustments that would have to be made consequent upon the separation of these powers. All these things have been noted and everything will be considered. As was remarked by my hon. Friend Mr. Rafiuddin, this is too premature a stage for us to build up arguments upon a thing that is going to come into existence. Much good information has been given and many good suggestions have been made and all these have been noted. As I told you the fact is that they are now examining from the top and we are trying to go down to see to what extent we can eliminate the institutions that are not required and to what extent we might retain those necessary. I know that while doing this some hon. Friends are not in agreement with us, or at any rate they are not yet still convinced. But I tell them that so far as the construction of the new constitution for this Province at any rate is concerned, even when it is half way through, they will be in a position to know to what extent litigation in courts, from the munsif’s courts to the High Court, will be affected. If

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the construction from the bottom is fully completed, it will mean a blessing to the unfortunate people who have been spending all their money in useless litigation. In my days, I was also a sinner in that respect and I did not know to what extent I was really giving trouble to the men who came to seek my help; it was cruel and merciless at times; but it was all in those days. Such things should not be possible now and people should not be allowed to go to Marwaris to raise money for their cases and finally get ruined even if they win their case. I could not in this connexion help thinking of the Panchayat Act. It has become an object of ridicule because when everything deteriorated that also deteriorated. People at the top deteriorated and people at the bottom also went down. There has been a talk of rooting out corruption. Can corruption be removed by prosecuting millions or by arresting a number of people? It can be removed only by reforming from the bottom and by making it impossible for the unfortunate men to practise corruption. In the good old days, there were honest men in the villages who could be trusted to act rightly in any case of any magnitude. That was the position when they were functioning well. But the system was altered and the power was taken away from the panchayats and given to Collectors and Tahsildars in the beginning of the establishment of the British rule in India. When these people took up the responsibility, some complicated cases came up and they could not understand the head or tail. It was then that Regulation of 1801 was brought on the Statute Book and it laid down that in complicated cases when the Collector was not able to understand a case and was not therefore able to dispose of it, he might refer the case to the old panchayat with instructions that within a certain period the case should be disposed of and be submitted to him for final ratification. The credit and honesty of the village panchayat were such. But with all that the panchayat was thrown aside when the Revenue Department with the Collector at its head stepped in. That is how the country had gone to ruins and the people had been much ruined by litigation. We consider it a daring attempt on our part but we think we shall succeed with the co-operation of my hon. Friends. Whatever may have been their views—I do not wish to flatter them—they are all men who are able to know things at a glance and who can give thought and consideration to anything that is placed before them and so I hope that their final decision will not be one at variance with ours. We have set apart three crores for village development for food and cloth business and another crore for Harijan uplift. We are trying to establish this without any inconvenience to anyone. There has been much cry about cloth; 'No cloth here; no yarn is available; there has been no import of cloth; five yards of cloth is the *per capita* allotment.' Therefore it is that we are constructing the whole of this village organisation. I did expect many difficulties. I never believed that when things at the top had deteriorated so much, the poor and neglected people would be ready to change themselves and adapt themselves to circumstances. It was refreshing to find that their commonsense remained untainted and they have not been tainted even to a hundredth part to which we had been at the top. In

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spite of ignorance and human weakness here and there, the general picture is rosy and hopeful. It is not the desire of anybody that any one party or group or community should monopolize these things. All will be in it; all will do their best and we shall progress. We are trying to build up from the bottom; the co-operation of all is necessary and I appeal for it. I hope I have covered all the points and I believe the hon. Member will withdraw his cut motion."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Before I put the cut motion to the vote of the House, I wish to know whether we can sit till 6-30 p.m. and finish the Jail Demand also. After all it is a small Demand."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"By the time we discuss, it will develop."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall request hon. Members to take only five minutes for their speeches. There are many more Demands in front of us. We are going to sit again only on the 2nd September and thereafter the number of days allotted to us are very few. If we proceed at a greater speed taking less time each, I think it will be possible for hon. Members to discuss the various Demands."

KUMARARAJA SIR M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Usually during Budget time, Mr. Speaker, time allowed to various Demands used to be four hours for certain Demands and two hours for the rest."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Before comparison is made with things existing in the old days, I wish to say that the rules that we were following were made at the time of the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms. At that time there were only 150 members but now we are 215. At that time the revenues amounted to 10 crores only; whereas our revenues are 49 crores of rupees. Therefore, we cannot follow those rules now."

KUMARARAJA SIR M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Sir, when the Speaker raises this question, we Members also wish to raise this question. I would only say if every member is allowed to speak on every demand I don't think there will time to cover all demands." 5-30 p.m.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"In spite of the fact that I am affording opportunities to several members on every demand there is already grumbling that I am not giving sufficient opportunity to speak to members."

KUMARARAJA SIR M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"I am not for curtailing the time of the House from four hours per demand. You have been indulgent to give us even five and a half hours sometimes; otherwise it would not be possible for members to get a full reply from the Treasury Benches. Probably this year it may not be possible for four hours to be given for all the demands. I fear even by allowing two hours for certain demands, certain heavy demands, for example, Industries, will not be reached at all, this year. Surely, members of the opposition and the Treasury would like to say something on all

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demands. But in view of your generous remarks I find it very embarrassing to make further suggestions to curtail the hours of discussion. So I would suggest more days should be allotted for the budget. Already members are tired. So I would suggest a few more days be allotted after the fourth September."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"I wish to state that the House will sit till 8 o'clock on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th September."

KUMARARAJA SIR M. A. MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Have you calculated how many demands there are still, and how it will be possible to cover all?"

* MR. SPEAKER:—"It is entirely in the hands of the members; if they decide not to speak on every demand, we can finish in one day all minor demands. A large number of members have given notice of cut motions on every demand and every member wants to speak on every demand. Of course, I know many of them represent a large number of people; so it is necessary they should be given a chance. But if the whips of both sides agree to give only a few names of members I would be very glad in that respect. I request both sides to help me in this matter."

"Does the Leader of the Opposition wish to press his cut motion? Or does he withdraw his motion?"

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Sir, I am sorry I am unable to withdraw the cut motion. Sir, the Hon. Minister for Law had not even some good words to say on the points raised by us. He did not treat us even with the usual sentences like 'We shall consider.' (Laughter.) Even on the simple point of affording recess to Muslims to say prayers on Fridays, he did not have any sympathetic words to say. In view of this and other points, I am sorry I am unable to withdraw my cut motion."

The cut motion was put to vote and lost.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND XIII—JAILS.

* MR. SPEAKER:—"We shall now take up the demand on Jails. Each member should not take more than five minutes to speak."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 62,62,800 in respect of the head "Jails." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 3,53,996.'"

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I move the cut motion standing in my name—
'to reduce the allotment of Rs. 62,62,800 for Jails by Rs. 100.'"

24th August 1946] [Sri Pillalamarri Venkateswarlu]

"As there is not sufficient time to deal with all the points, I will confine myself only to the most important points. The present jail system is most antiquated and it should be overhauled and reformed. Particularly, when I was in jail, as most of you there would have observed, the cells are not fit even for pigs to get in, as there is neither light nor air; they are most rotten. The cells should be brought down and reconstructed in such a manner as to be healthy for prisoners. Jails have not reformed criminals; in fact they have made them worse criminals. The Jail Manual should be revised completely and redrafted so as to reform the prisoners."

"Another point is about education. There is a school run only in name. Nobody is instructed. The system should be reformed. The library attached to the jails exists only in name. Except in the library attached to the Rajahmundry jail, to which Mr. Lingaraju gave some books, the others have no books at all."

"Coming to facilities for prisoners—I am not talking of political prisoners alone but I am talking of ordinary prisoners—they are not allowed any facilities to read books or newspapers. I can give you a catalogue of such grievances. But I have no time to go into them at present. I request the Minister to reform this system radically. These jails are becoming a burden on our revenue, as so many people are kept there without doing any productive work. The only work now given them is sweeping. So some productive work which will be useful at least to the prisoners, so that they may be able to maintain themselves in jails, should be provided. Or else it is all useless; they are only a burden on society. For the productive work the prisoners do, they must be paid. After all, the prisoners are in jails as they are brought under criminal law. And invariably they are all poor people. Putting them in jail without looking after their families will not reform them. We can pay regular wages to their families out of the proceeds of the productive work prisoners do in jails and thus reform them completely. Our jail reform must be perfect and thorough. The previous Congress Ministry did not go into jail reform, as they had no time. This time a committee should be constituted to reform jail administration. Particularly those cells in jails should be demolished, because they are horrible to live in. People are convicted without letting them know the charge for which they are punished. Every prisoner, before conviction, should be given an opportunity to defend himself. People prefer to go to central jail in preference to district jail."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"Don't describe the condition in jails, because there are many people here who know much better about them than you." (Laughter.)

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Now I come to the medical and sanitation aspect of jails. While under 'medical' Rs. 1,40,000 has been allotted last year, this year there is provision made for only Rs. 1,20,000. I do not know why. Medical and sanitary conditions must be taken care of. Our friends who have come out of jails will realize how their health has been impaired by jail life. I therefore suggest that

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proper facilities should be provided under medical and sanitary heads. As my time is up, Sir, with these words, I move my cut motion."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, while we are on Jails and jail administration, I wish to say a few words. Jails are required in a country where society is not advanced. Perhaps, the Premier may correct me by saying, even countries which are supposed to be advanced have jails. But I hope in the country which the Premier is going to build from the bottom, that is, from the village, jails will be eliminated. Whatever it is, I believe, the number of prisoners has been increasing of late and there is need for more and more jails. This can be avoided if the Government is not only strong, but is built on justice and righteousness. If the Government of our Province is strong and just and built on righteousness, I am sure, to a very large extent, crimes could be eliminated. Not only that, our social order is to a very large extent responsible for a number of crimes and offences. That also has to be examined. If the social order is improved and if it is put on right lines, if the vast gulf that exists between the very rich and the very poor, the very poor being the largest—if that gulf is reduced, if there is levelling up and levelling down on a large scale, I am sure the number of offences will be considerably reduced.

"Then, Sir, the sort of education that is given in the Province should be considerably modified. There are hon. Members here, particularly the Hon. Minister for Law and some others, who say, that religious education is not necessary. On this demand I would like to emphasize the need for religious education to every community. If this is done, we will be mitigating crimes and offences which necessitate a large number of jails. In that education, we must be able to inculcate in people a proper value of things. That value of distinction between right and wrong has been lost sight of and we are therefore in the position which we are occupying to-day. Sir, conviction and sentence, and to jail life are, I believe, not intended merely as punishment. Punishment there is. The object is sentencing an offender, and a criminal, to jail life is to punish him. But the attitude must undergo a change. Punishment should not be merely for the sake of punishment but for reforming the criminal. What provision are we making, both in the jail as well as outside it after the prisoner is discharged for his education, so that he may be a better man and not be a criminal all his life? We will have to attend to that aspect of the question as soon as possible.

"Then, Sir, the Government, the magistracy and the people administering jails should have a humanitarian view of the whole thing. They should not treat offenders and convicts as worse than animals, which has been the attitude before. That attitude should undergo a thorough change so that these offenders could be reformed, and are made to become members of society after their discharge from the jails.

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"I believe it is necessary to have properly run schools in the jails where religious instruction should be given to persons belonging to various communities. Regarding improvement of the conditions and amenities in jails, the hon. Member who has spoken before me, has stated enough.

"So far as self-sufficiency is concerned, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister for Jails to the fact that it is high time that we made our jails as self-sufficient as possible. There is a big population in jails. If these people are trained to manufacture various things required in the Province, it will be remunerative, and then the demand could, to a very large extent, be reduced; and we will not be called upon to spend the huge sum of sixty-two lakhs of rupees and odd for maintaining the jails in this Province.

"Then there is the Probation of Offenders' Act, which is not given publicity. I hope, Sir, that the Hon. Minister for Law will see that this Act is properly worked, and see that the discharged prisoners are given sufficient help in order that they could be reformed after they are discharged. The Probation of Offenders' Act should be given effect to as widely and as much as possible.

"Sir, I understand from the Press that it is the idea of the Hon. Minister for Law, or the Government's—to cancel the classification of A, B and C so far as political prisoners are concerned. I saw only this morning that the classification A, B and C is to be removed. There is some family familiarity in these three classes as in the grouping of A, B and C in the Constituent Assembly scheme! (laughter). I hope, Sir, that that is not the idea with which this classification A, B and C is sought to be removed, but it should be consistent in removing these things in jails.

"I will conclude by suggesting that the jail warders are gentlemen, who require a lot of attention from the Government. They must be people who should be trained for the kind of work they have to do. Special training should be given for warders. Only people who are trained for that kind of work should be appointed. Special education must be given to them.

"I do not think, Sir, I can say anything more than to express the hope that the Government will examine this question of jails and see that the Jail Manual is thoroughly overhauled."

* MUHAMMAD RAFEEUDDIN AHMAD ANSARI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I think the Government and most of the hon. Members on the Treasury Benches are more competent to deal with this subject than members on this block, especially the Muslim Leaguers. In fact, Sir, we feel that we are like novices talking to experts. But the time has come when we, on the Muslim League Benches, have to take more than an academic interest in this matter. In fact, Sir, we feel that we must take personal interest now. (Laughter.) With the launching of direct action, which is bound to come in view of the political

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situation, we feel that this matter of jails assumes special significance to the Muslims.

“I am sure, Sir, that the Ministry will be very generous with regard to admission of Muslims in the Jails. (Laughter.) They have been very grudging, Sir, in giving admission to Muslims in Colleges and in sending up Muslims to foreign countries for studies. But in this respect I feel sure they will be more than generous and give us not only the proportion to which we are entitled according to our population, but also give us considerable weightage. (Laughter.) While we are still here in this House and not inside the jails, and while we have still the opportunity of making our voices heard by the Ministry, we say, Sir, that the jails require a lot of attention. At present they are not in any better position than were the jails in the mediaeval ages. In fact most of the jails in the Presidency are like the Bastille, the Inquisition Courts and Spanish Jails. It is high time that Government should pay attention to this matter, and I do hope, in conclusion, that the Government will not take advantage of the fact that we, on the Muslim League benches, are not present in this House but are in the jails. I do hope they will attend to what we now say at present and they will give us all the necessary supplies and facilities when we are inside the jails. Last, but not least, I would request the Government to give us facilities in jails to observe our religious practices, such as fast in the month of Ramzan, and various other things. When we are denied the opportunity of speaking through the mikes and denied the presence of the benevolent Speaker, who gives us more than our time, we hope that Government will not take advantage of these disabilities, but will pay due regard to our demands.”

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—“In further supporting my friend Mr. Rafeeuddin Ahmad Ansari, I would like to say that I do not entirely agree with him because I feel that there may be another start for Congressmen to go to jail after some time. We know they have been clamouring for reforms in jails and for providing more facilities. Now that they are running the Government, all feel that things will continue for ever and that there is nothing to be done.

“Some suggestions have been put forward by our friends particularly with regard to the classification of political prisoners. It is high time that we give up this classification. Of course, we had some reference that this matter is under the contemplation of the Government, and if so, I am sure they will do away with this classification. The whole purpose of the jail is not only to punish those who commit crimes, but to reform them. Therefore the training and other things in the jails should be such that when they come out of jails, they should be reformed citizens, and they should be given training in doing useful work to the society. That should be the main object in punishing people for crimes.

[24th August 1946] [Muhammad Raza Khan Sahib Bahadur]

“My friend Mr. Rafeeudin Ahmad Ansari has said, with regard to facilities for prisoners, particularly in the matter of festivals, that due provision should be made in the jail for Hindus and Muslims to observe their festivals.

“Another important thing, Sir, is the amending of the Probation of Offenders' Act. I feel that the Act should be so amended that the after-care of prisoners, who are released, should be undertaken more by the department of Government rather than by a non-official body. Non-official body is doing its work. Many things can be entrusted more and more to a department rather than to a non-official body. With these words, I support the cut motion.”

* SRI K. T. KOSALARAMA NADAR:—“நான் சர்க்கார் டிமாண்டை ஆதரித்துப்பேசுகின்றேன். கனம் சிறை மந்திரியவர்கள் வெகு நாளைக்குச் சிறையிலே இருந்தவர். ஆகையால் சென்ட்ரல் ஜெயில் அனுபவத்தைப் பற்றி நான் அவர்களுக்குச் சொல்லவெண்டிய அவசியமில்லையென்று நினைக்கின்றேன். ஆனாலும், சப்-ஜெயிலைப்பற்றி அவர்களுக்கு அதிகமாகத் தெரியாது. நான் 1942-ம் வருஷத்திலே 21 மாதங்கள் சப்-ஜெயிலில் இருந்தேன். ஆகையால் இந்த சப்-ஜெயில்களில் செய்ய வேண்டிய சீர்திருத்தங்களைப்பற்றி அந்த 21 மாதங்களில் ஒவ்வொரு நிமிஷமும் யோசித்துக்கொண்டுவந்திருக்கின்றேன். அங்கு போலீஸ்காரர்களைக் கொண்டு காட்டு செய்யப்பட்டுவருகிறது. சப்-ஜெயில் சாவி காட்டு ஆபீஸர் என்னப்பட்ட ஒரு ஹெட் கான்ஸ்டேபிள் கைவசம் கொடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. எந்தக் கைதியாயிருந்தாலும் போலீஸ்காரர்கள் நினைத்தால் எந்த நிமிஷத்திலும் சிறைக்கூடத்தைத் திறந்து அவனை வெளியேகொண்டு வந்து என்னவேண்டுமானாலும் செய்யத் தயாராயிருக்கிறார்கள். உண்மையிலேயே நான் சப்-ஜெயிலில் இருக்கும்போது என் முன்னால் சிறைக் கதவைத்திறந்து பல கைதிகளை வெளியே கொண்டுவர அடித்து ஹிம்ஸை செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகையால் அதற்குக் காரணம் அடிப்படையிலே என்ன இருக்கிறதென்பதை சிறை மந்திரி யவர்கள் உட்கண் கவனிக்க வேண்டும். சிறை வார்டர்களைக்கொண்டும் ஜெயிலர்களைக்கொண்டும் அந்த டிபார்ட்மென்டை நடத்தவேண்டும், போலீஸ்காரர்கள் இன் வெஸ்டிகேஷன் பண்ணி தண்டனைக்குக் கொண்டுவருவதற்கு சகல விதங்களிலும் பிரயத்தனம் செய்பவர்கள். கைதிகளைப் பாதுகாப்பவர்கள் அவர்கள் என்ற முறையிலே அவர்களிடமே கைதிகளை ஒப்படைத்து விடுவதினால் அந்தக் கைதிகளுடைய நிலைமை எவ்வளவு படுமோசமாகி விட்டதென்பதை கனம் மந்திரியவர்கள் வக்கீல் என்ற முறையிலேயே அறிவார்கள். ஆகையால் உண்மையிலேயே போலீஸ் காரர்கள் கைதிகளை காட்டு செய்யும் உத்தியோகத்தை மாற்றிவிடவேண்டும். இந்த சப்-ஜெயிலிலே மூத்திரம் பெய்வதற்கு கக்கூசுக்குப் போக வேண்டுமென்றால் ஒரு சிறு மண் கலசம் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. அந்தக் கலசத்திலே தான் மூத்திரமும் பெய்யவேண்டும் கொல்லையும் கழிய வேண்டும். மணிதர்கள் பக்கத்திலே அவைகளை வைத்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டும். ஒரு ரூயில் 3 பேர் இருக்கலாமென்று போர்டு தொங்கிக்கொண்டிருந்தது. ஆனால், நான் இருக்கும்போது சில ரூம்களிலே 10, 12 பேர்களை அடைத்தார்கள். ஏன்? சிறையில் இடம் காணாததினால்.

“நான் தலைவரவர்களுக்குக் கூறுகின்றேன். இரண்டு நிமிஷம் அதிகமாகக் கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று சொல்லுகின்றேன்.

“21 மாதங்கள் சப்-ஜெயிலிலே தான் இருந்தேன். அங்கே என்னென்ன கஷ்டங்களிருக்கின்றன, என்னென்ன அக்கிரமங்கள் நடக்கின்றனவென்பது இங்கு வெளியில் இருக்கிறவர்களுக்குத் தெரியாது. சிறைக்குள்ளே போகிறதற்கு தனி மனிதனுக்கு அதிகாரம் கிடையாது. அடவைசரி அரசாங்கத்திலே ஜெயில் அவர்களில் தாசர்க்காகிய சில விசிப்டர்

[Sri K. T. Kosalarama Nadar] [24th August 1946]

களுக்குதான் அதிகாரமுண்டு. ஆகையால் பொது ஜனங்களுக்கு சிறையில் நடக்கும் அக்கிரமங்களைச் சொல்லவேண்டும். ஆகையால் தலைவரவர்கள் இன்னும் இரண்டு நிமிஷமும் அதிகமாகக் கொடுக்கும்படியாகக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். கனம் பிரதம மந்திரியவர்களுக்கு மற்றொன்று சொல்லுகிறேன். சப்-ஜெயில் சூப்பிரின்டெண்டண்டாக ஸ்டேஷனரி சப்-மாஜிஸ்ட்ரேட்டு இருக்கிறார். அவருக்கு ஜெயில் ரூல் ஒன்றும் தெரியாது. உண்மையிலேயே அவர்கள் கோர்ட்டை நடத்துவார்களே யல்லாது ஜெயிலில் என்ன நடக்கிறதென்று பார்ப்பார்களா? சப்-ஜெயிலில் 2 வாரத்திற்கு ஒரு முறைதான் ஸ்நானம் செய்ய அனுமதிக்கப்படுகிறார்கள். எந்த மேலதிகாரியும் வருவதில்லை. சூப்பிரின்டெண்டண்டோதான் அந்த சிறைக்கு மேலதிகாரி. அவர் கோர்ட்டு நடத்துகிறதைப்பார்த்துக்கொண்டிருக்கிறார். கைதிகளைப் பார்ப்பதில்லை. கைதிகளைப் போய்ப் பார்த்தால் தூர்நாற்றம் அடிக்கிறத. ஒரு மனிதன் உள்ளே போய்ப் பார்த்தால் அப்படியே மயங்கி விழுந்து விடுவான். அப்படிப்பட்ட தூர்நாற்றம் அடிக்கிறது. அதற்குக் காரணம் ஸ்நானம் செய்வதற்கு வசதியில்லை. எந்த போலீஸ்காரன் நினைத்தாலும் எந்தப் பெரிய மனிதனையும் ஒரு எப்.ஐ.ஆர். போட்டுக்கொண்டு ஒரு சாக்ஷியை விசாரித்ததாக 162 ஸ்டேட்மெண்டு ரிக்கார்டு செய்துவிட்டு அவனை ரிமாண்டுக்கு அனுப்பிவைக்கலாம். கோர்ட்டுக்குப் போனால் போலீஸ்காரர்களுக்கு நோட்டீஸ் அனுப்பி கேட்டுதான் ஜாமீனில் விடுவார்கள். பொய் தாவா செய்தால் 15 நாள் ரிமாண்டில் வைக்கின்றார்கள். நிரபராதியாயிருந்தாலும் 15 நாள் அவசியம் ரிமாண்டில் இருக்கின்றன. அதுவரையில் ஒரு பத்திரிகை கிடையாது. ஒரு புத்தகம் கிடையாது. இதைக் கலெக்டருக்கு எழுதினேன். கவர்ன்மெண்டுக்கு எழுதினேன். ஒன்றும் காணோம். நாள் இருந்தேன் 21 மாதங்கள். என்மேல் பல கேசுகள் போட்டார்கள். கடைசியில் ஒரு கேசிலாவது தண்டனை கொடுக்கவில்லை. என்னை டெட்டுனுவாக (Detenu) பின்னால் அனுப்பிவைத்தார்கள். சப்-ஜெயிலிலே 24 மணி நேரமும் அடைத்துவைக்கிறார்கள். குளிப்பதற்கு வசதி கிடையாது. புத்தகம் படிக்க வசதி கிடையாது. இவைகளையெல்லாம் சப்-ஜெயிலிலே சீர்திருத்தவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

6 p.m.

* SRI A. S. SAHAJANANDA :—“கனம் தலைவரவர்களே. ஜெயிலிலே இருக்கும் கைதிகளுக்கு அவரவர்கள் ஜாதிக்குத்தகுந்தபடி தொழில் கொடுக்கப்படுவதாகச் சொல்லப்படுகிறது. இவ்விதம் செய்வது மிகவும் பிசகான காரியம். ஜாதிக்கு ஏற்ற தொழில் என்று இருக்கக்கூடாது. ஹரி ஜனங்கள் ஜெயிலுக்குப்போனால் அவர்களுக்கு மலம் எடுக்கும் தொழில் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறதாம். அதோடு, ஹரிஜனங்கள் ஜெயிலுக்குப் போனால், அவர்களுக்குக் கடுமையான தண்டனை கொடுக்கப்படுவதாக ஜெயிலிலிருந்து வந்தவர்கள் என்னிடம் முறையிட்டிருக்கிறார்கள். இவ்விதம் பாகுபாடு செய்யக்கூடாதென்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன். அதோடு ஜெயிலிலே, தோட்டிகளை வைத்து மலம் எடுக்கும் படியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். மற்றபடி ஜெயிலிலே ஜாதி வித்தியாசத்தைக் காட்டக்கூடாதென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Mr. Speaker, in further supporting the cut motion, I have to say only one thing. There is a chronic complaint that the Government do not let us on this side of the House know anything, and that we are left to know something only from the papers. Only this morning we read that a move is seriously contemplated in regard to classification in the jails. Regarding the classification of prisoners, I may say that it was for some time followed, but given up now. The Government seem to have some notion of political prisoners, but they do not seem to apply it to other prisoners simply because they happen to be members of other political parties. People who go to jail are accustomed to a certain standard of life outside. When the classification is removed and they are

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not treated properly, they will be greatly handicapped. The Government should therefore decide this matter only after consulting the House. From personal experience, it has been found that there is no space for children. Many magistrates have told me particularly that they have received instructions from the Government that there was no space for the children. Something to reform these children should be done, and I hope this popular Government will do it.

“Again, Sir, the condition in the local sub-jails is very bad. The local members of the Assembly and the Council should form a sub-committee, and they may be appointed as advisers to submit reports regarding the sub-jails. It has been a horrible sight to see the prisoners in the sub-jails locked up even in day time. Prisoners may be allowed to move about in the compound both day and night, and they should not be locked up. I hope the suggestion will be taken from me that at least in summer they will not be locked up in future in the sub-jails.

“I am told, Sir, that nothing is being done to reform the prisoners after their release. The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society is doing some work. More liberal grants should be given to this Society, and the Act should be applied to all the districts, so that their activity may be extended throughout the Province.”

* MUHAMMAD HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR :—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, under this demand I wish to point out only one fact and that is that there is great corruption going on in jail contracts. I am told that the contractor has got an understanding with the jail superintendent who is paid a certain percentage of the contract amount. Therefore the quality and quantity of the vegetables, curd and other supplies are not at all tested. I am told very reliably that the quality of these vegetables is very low, and that they are heaped in a most insanitary condition which is injurious to health. The doctors also, it seems, have complained many a time that this must be properly attended to, and yet the authorities concerned are not paying proper attention. This is said to be partly responsible for the deterioration of the health of the inmates in the jail. I therefore request that the Hon. Minister for Jails will take particular note of this fact and see that corruption is rooted out and that good quality vegetables, curd and other things are supplied, so that they do not affect the health of the prisoners. With these words, I support the cut motion.”

* SRI P. KAKKAN :—“தலைவரவர்களே, முக்கியமாக அரசியல் கைதிகளுக்குக் கொள்வனம் ஒரே கிளாசாக ஆக்கவேண்டும். எ. பி. சி. கிளாஸ்கள் இருக்கக்கூடாது. அரசியல் கைதிகள் என்றால் இந்த நாட்டின் சுதந்திரச் சண்டையிலே ஜாதி மத வித்தியாசமின்றி இந்த நாட்டின் சுதந்திரத்திற்குப் போராடியவர்கள். இவர்களுக்கு ஜெயிலிலே களிப்படி போடுகிறார்கள். அதை அரிசிபடியாகச் செய்யவேண்டும். நான் சிறையில் 1½ வருடம் களிப்படி சாப்பிட்டவன். அதனால் இதைச் சொல்லுகிறேன். ஜெயில் வார்டர்களுக்குக் குள்ளே களவு நடக்கிறது. ஒவ்வொரு வார்டரும் கிரிமினல் கைதிகளின் உதவியைக்கொண்டு தன்னுடைய தொப்பியிலே அரிசி காய்கறிகளைக் கொண்டு போகிறார்கள். அங்கு கிரிமினல் கைதிகளுக்கு இனிமேல் களவு செய்யா திருக்க நல்ல முறையிலே நூல் தூற்கவும் படிக்கவும் ஏற்ற சௌகரியங்களும் செய்துகொடுக்கவேண்டும். ஹரி ஜனங்கள் கிரிமினல் கைதிகளாக

[Sri P. Kakkan] [24th August 1946]

போனால் அவர்கள்தான் மூத்திரம், மலம் எடுக்கிறார்கள். அலிபுரம் சிரையில் அதைப் பார்த்தவுடனே மலமெடுக்கப்பிறந்தவர்கள் ஹரிஜனங்கள் தானா என்று எனக்குத் தோன்றிற்று. கிரிமினல் குற்றம் செய்தவர் யாராயிருந்தாலும் அத்தனை பேர்களும் மூத்திரம் மலம் எடுக்கவேண்டுமே யொழிய ஹரிஜனங்கள் மட்டும் மூத்திரம், மலம் எடுக்க ஜெயில் அதிகாரிகளால் உத்தரவிடக்கூடாது.”

SRIMATHI V. LAKSHMI AMMAL:—“அக்கிராசனாதிபதியவர்களே, இந்த ஜெயில் மானியத்தைப்பற்றிப் பேசுகையில் ஜெயில் நிர்வாகத்தைச் சீர்திருத்தவேண்டுமென்று மந்திரியவர்களைக் கேட்டுக்கொள்ளவேண்டிய அவசியமேயில்லை. ஏனென்றால் டிரஷரி பென்சிலேயிருக்கிறவர்களெல்லோரும் ஜெயிலுக்குப் போய்வந்தவர்கள். இருந்தாலும், ஒன்றிரண்டு விஷயங்களை அவர்களுக்கு ஞாபகப்படுத்த விரும்புகிறேன்.

“சமீபத்தில் ஜெயில் மந்திரியவர்கள் என்னுடைய ஜில்லாவுக்கு வந்திருந்தார்கள். அங்கே அவர்கள் பாரஸ்டல் ஸ்கூலைப் பார்வையிட்டார். அதிலேயுள்ள குழந்தைகள் டிரில் பழகிக் கொடுத்திருப்பதை மிகவும் நல்ல மாதிரியாக டெமன்ஸ்டிரேட் பண்ணிக்காண்பித்தார்கள். மற்ற ஜெயில்களிலேயுள்ள பெரியவர்களாயிருப்பவர்களுக்கும் அதேமாதிரி ஒரு ஒழுங்கான முறை ஏற்படுவதற்கு டிரில் பழகிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்.

“சப்-ஜெயில்களிலே மிகவும் மோசமாகவிருக்கிறதென்று எனக்கு முன்பேயே ஸ்ரீ கோசலராம் அவர்கள் சொன்னார்கள். அதைப்பற்றி உடனே கவனிக்கவேண்டியது மிகவும் அவசியம். அதோடு சப்-ஜெயிலிலே இருக்கிறவர்களை ஆடுமாடுகளை நடத்துகிற மாதிரி நடத்துகிறார்கள். போலீஸாராக விருந்தாலும், ஜெயில் டிபார்ட்மெண்டைச் சேர்ந்தவர்களாகவிருந்தாலும் சரி, மனிதர்களை மனிதர்கள் மாதிரி நடத்தவேண்டுமே யொழிய ஆடுமாடுகளைப்போல் நடத்துவது தகாது. கோர்டிலே அவர்களுக்குத் தீர்ப்பு சொல்லும்பவரை அவர்களை கவுரவம் உடையவர்களாகக் கருதவேண்டும். ஆகவே சப்-ஜெயிலிலேயிருக்கையில் அவர்களைக் கவுரவமாகவே நடத்தவேண்டும்.

“இரண்டாவதாக, சப்-ஜெயிலிலே சரியான முறையிலே சாப்பாடு போடுவதில்லை. அங்கே கண்காணிக்கிறவர்களுக்கு பாதி சாப்பாடு போய் விடுகிறது. அதுவும் தவிர, ஜெயிலிலேயிருக்கிறவர்களுக்கு எடுக்கெஷன் வேண்டுமென்று நாம் சொல்லுகிறோம். ஒவ்வொரு ஜெயிலிலும் தினமும் குறைந்தது இரண்டு மணி நேரமாவது அந்தந்த பாஷைகளிலே அவர்களுக்குக் கற்றுக்கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும். தமிழர்களுக்குத் தமிழிலேயும், தெலுங்குக்குத் தெலுங்கிலேயும், மலையாளம் தெரிந்தவர்களுக்கு மலையாளத்திலும் சொல்லிக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும். இன்னும் ஜெயில் லேப ரெகிகளிலே நல்ல புத்தகங்களை வைக்கவேண்டும். இப்போது அங்கே ஒன்றிரண்டு நல்ல புத்தகங்கள்தானிருக்கின்றன. வேலூரில் ஸ்திரீ களுடைய சிறையிலே நான் இருந்த காலத்தில், அந்த ஜெயில் லேப ரெகிலே வருஷம் துரைசாமி அய்யங்கார் நாவல்கள் போன்ற புத்தகங்களைப் பேருக்கு வைத்திருக்கிறார்கள். இந்த மாதிரியான புத்தகங்களை வைத்தால் ஜெயிலிலேயிருக்கிறவர்களை ஒரு நாளும் சீர்திருத்தமுடியாது. நல்ல விஷயங்களைப் போதிக்கும்படியான புத்தகங்களைத் தான் வைக்கவேண்டும். அங்குள்ள எல்லோருக்கும் எழுதப்படிக்கக் கற்றுக்கொடுக்கவேண்டும்.

“இன்னொரு விஷயம். நான் மூன்று முறை வேலூரிலே ஸ்திரீ களுடைய ஜெயிலிலேயிருந்திருக்கிறேன். இந்த மூன்று முறையும் ஸ்திரீகளுக்கு மரணதண்டனை கொடுக்கப்பட்டதைப் பார்க்கநேர்ந்தது. இவ்விதம் ஸ்திரீகளுக்கு மரணதண்டனை கொடுத்ததானது எங்களுக்கு மிகவும் கஷ்டமான காலட்சியாக இருந்தது. இந்த மரண தண்டனை கொடுக்கப்படும் நாளிலே நாங்களெல்லோரும் மிகவும் பயந்து இருந்தோம். இதே மாதிரி ஆண் கைதிகள் விஷயத்திலும் இருக்குமென்று நினைக்கிறேன். இந்த மரண தண்டனையை போக்கவேண்டுமென்பது என்னுடைய அபிப்பிராயம். மரண தண்டனை கூடாதென்று அநேக பெரியவர்கள் எழுதியிருக்கிறார்கள். அதை அடியோடு எடுப்பதற்கு நம்முடைய ஜெயிலில்

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மந்திரி அவர்கள் வேண்டிய முயற்சி செய்வார்களென்று நம்புகிறேன். குற்றவாளிகளில் அநேகம் பேர்கள் கேட்டபோது குற்றத்தில் சம்பந்தப்படவில்லை யென்று சொல்லுகிறார்கள். சிலர் அவர்கள் குற்றஞ் செய்ததாகக் கூறுகிறார்கள். இந்த நிலைமையிலே குற்றவாளிகளாகக் கருதப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு ஆயுள் பரியந்தம் தண்டனையும் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது. ஆகவே இனிமேல் மரண தண்டனை விதிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கும் குற்றங்களுக்குத் தீவரந்திர சிபைக் கொடுக்கும்படியாகச் சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று கேட்டுக் கொள்ளுகிறேன்.”

* **THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:**—“Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may at once say that, as a person who had been in the jails some days, I agree with most of the observations that have been made in the House by the members. I agree that the system of jail administration to-day is one intended not for the reformation of the convict, but more to make him a sort of labouring animal inside the jail. Therefore the whole policy of jail administration has to be revised. But it certainly takes time to revise a policy which has been in force for 150 years. Therefore if this is to be done, it has to be done by stages and after some consideration, and perhaps considerable expense. Considerable expense is also a factor that has to be taken into consideration. I want to say one or two words in respect of each one of the matters that have been raised:

“So far as educational schools are concerned, they are there in some of the central jails. I do not think such schools exist in sub-jails or other jails. I do believe that some classes are conducted and other attempts are made. I cannot vouchsafe as to how far the education is really useful, but certainly I promise that I will look into the matter.

“As regards libraries, they are also being improved; I will look into them. Rs. 500 has been sanctioned for each central jail and a deputy jailor is in charge of them.

“So far as the Jail Manual and the revision thereof are concerned, the suggestion that a committee may be appointed was made by some members. I feel that instead of a committee which always takes time, if the Members of the House and those outside will communicate their suggestions directly to me, it will expedite matters. I promise that I will look into them as early as possible and see what steps can be taken.

“So far as classification of political prisoners is concerned, the whole House is agreed that the distinction must go, and it will go. (Hear, hear.)

“So far as the privileges and the amenities that the prisoners are entitled to are concerned, I think there ought to be improvement, but certainly it means the revision or amendment of certain rules. I am looking into the amendments; now they are on my table.

“One member complained that the medical expense had really come down this year. It is not due to the fact that medical attention is less to-day or that medical equipment is being conducted in a more economical manner, but it is because the jail

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population has come down from 16,000 to 12,000. I do not know what the reason is. The members themselves may verify this fact that, when a popular Government is in power, the jail population is less. That is, however, what the Inspector-General of Prisons tells me.

"As regards facilities for Muslims for worship, I must point out that all facilities are given not only to Muslim prisoners, but also to Sikh prisoners. Muslim prisoners are receiving the following special treatment inside the jail. Their religious susceptibilities are being strictly respected. Separate room is being set apart for their prayers and water is left therein for washing. Prayer mats are also given. Arrangements for a Khazi to come during Fridays are made."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I correct a small mistake? There is no need for a Khazi to go. Khazi performs only marriages. Perhaps it is Pesh Imam."

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"I thank the hon. Member for the correction, and I apologise for my ignorance of the technical word. Anyhow, if hon. Members understand it properly, there is no difficulty."

"During the Moharram and Ramzan, special arrangements are made for their food and rice ration is given to all, even to those to whom the convicting courts do not give this privilege. The quality given is also reasonable. Even as regards Sikh prisoners, I am told that they are allowed to wear the iron ring which their religion enjoins them to do."

"Some reference was made in the course of the discussion to the Discharged Prisoners Aid Society. The Society has got some functions to perform, but it has to be reformed before it can be really useful to the prisoners. I think the new policy of the Government in respect of provincialization of the probationers will make the Society work harder and more usefully than before. Fresh life has to be put into it, some fresh blood introduced. I am asking everyone who comes to me to become a member of the Society."

"As regards sub-jails, the conditions are woeful. There is no doubt about that. I have got a report on it. I have been trying my best to visit all sub-jails, even those in out of the way places. In fact, I have travelled miles to reach some of these sub-jails to see the conditions there myself. The conditions in sub-jails are no doubt bad. There is overcrowding and there is no proper arrangement for bathing or for latrine. This is especially hard on women prisoners. In one or two places, the cells are open to public view and there is no privacy if a woman prisoner is kept in jail. These things are being looked into and the sub-jails are being visited by the Minister to see for himself what improvements are necessary and to take necessary action. Already some action has been taken in the matter; a special provision of Rs. 1 lakh has been made. I promise that I will look into this matter and carry out the necessary improvements, especially as regards women prisoners."

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"As regards capital punishment, I have already mentioned about it and I do not think it is necessary for me to say anything at present."

"With this explanation, I request the hon. Member not to press his cut motion."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, may I ask the Hon. Minister whether there will be any distinction among political prisoners? You are going to abolish A and B classes. Will there be special treatment for these classes?"

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"These are special classes of prisoners to whom special privileges may be prescribed."

MUHAMMAD ABDUL SALAM SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will there be a classification based on age or what?"

* THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—"These political prisoners who get there for the sake of their political opinions will be a separate class."

The motion was by leave withdrawn.

The demand was put and carried and the grant was made.

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"On a point of information, Sir, may I know from the Hon. Premier whether he will make arrangements to pay the daily allowance to the members for the days they are compelled to stay in Madras on account of the railway strike or whether he will make arrangements to pay the railway fare for the circuitous route which they may be compelled to take on account of the strike?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Sir, both the Opposition Leader and hon. Members and we on this side are expected to be reasonable persons. What may be done and what can be done is a matter that will be settled between the Leader of the Opposition and ourselves sitting here for some time, to see in what way we can get over this."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I wanted this information not only for the benefit of the members on this side, who come from the mufassal, but for the benefit of all members, who come from the mufassal."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I understand that much. What I said covers all."

"Sir, a requisition came into my hands from the press on behalf of press proprietors asking me what arrangements could be made by the Government to enable their paper parcels to reach their destination in different directions, whether any special lorry arrangement will be made for carrying newspaper parcels and also some of their own men who might be going in the lorry. This question cannot be straightaway answered or even settled. If special arrangements have to be made, we have to make special arrangements with the help of other departments. I would therefore say just now that this matter will be consi-

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dered, treating the same as very urgent. Possibly I would be able to issue a press communique to-morrow after consulting the authorities concerned, who will have to come to our help.

"In this connection, I would like to say that this strike is very inopportune and very ill-advised just at a time when we have been in a great crisis with regard to food. I, representing the other members of Government, went out of my way, when at Trichinopoly, to get into this matter with a view to know something about it and see that a settlement is made. I expected that it might be possible. But I do not wish to apportion blame or make any one responsible for this, but things have gone. So far as the Members of the Government are concerned, it has become our duty to interfere and do all that is possible with a view to preventing a strike of this nature. Workers should know and their leaders also should know that the responsibility for a strike of this nature at this juncture would be upon them. Everything went on in a manner that was not expected at a particular stage, and having taken matters to that limit, even now at this last hour, I am making an appeal to all the workers and their leaders to consider well before they start on this strike.

6 30 p.m. "Who are the people, they must know. Whatever the points in dispute may be, there are recognized methods of settlement, such as conciliation and adjudication. All these have not been exhausted. I will even now suggest to them that we are not committed to any one view. We are not committed to any one party. But when we are charged with the duty of carrying on this Government and when the whole railway line is situated within our jurisdiction and when the whole trouble is coming on the people south of Madras, it becomes our duty, Sir, to see that every help is given to enable food to be carried from Madras. Everything will become very serious. Therefore it is the duty of the Government to see that food is taken from one place to another however much the through-passenger traffic may be disturbed. The food must reach the respective places. For that purpose, we are obliged to make special arrangements. If for any reasons, the trains fail and foodstuffs cannot be carried, then special arrangements should be made to carry food by other means to their destination. We are driven to that stage. Next to food, people generally look to newspapers in the country. We have therefore to make some special arrangements for the newspapers as well. We shall do our best in a day or two to enable them to carry their parcels to their destination."

* M. MUHAMMAD ISMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, speaking from my place. I may endorse heartily the appeal made by the Hon. the Premier to the workers. I also request the workers to realise the gravity of the position which will be created by the action they intend to take. Even without such a strike and such an action, our Province is faced with a serious food crisis and the Government and the people are doing everything in their power to meet that crisis and to get over it. At such a time as this, the workers and labourers also must come

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with their hand of assistance and co-operation in the matter, particularly in view of the assurance given by the Government that they will do all in their power to remedy their grievance, to give them relief and to improve their condition. Therefore, Sir, I join with the Hon. the Premier in his appeal to the workers and once again earnestly request them in the interests of the Province and in the interests of humanity, to desist from the action which they propose to take."

KUMARARAJA SIR MUTHIAH CHETTIYAR OF CHETTINAD:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir. We are very grateful to the hon. the Leader of the House for taking this opportunity to express his views on the South Indian Railway strike situation and the appeal he has made in regard to the food situation. Sir, I join with great pleasure, with the Hon. the Premier and the hon. the Leader of the Opposition and endorse their appeal to the workers. After the unequivocal statement of the Hon. the Premier to-day that he is not here to apportion the blame on any one and that in the name of the food situation, he expects the workers to stand by the country's cause, I do not think, I need add anything more, except to say that I entirely endorse what he has said. I shall only remind the workers that they will have the greater sympathy of the public in this matter if they do desist from their action. I may also remind them of the very graceful attitude which the All-India Railway Federation took when the all-India railway strike threatened us. Sir, to-day more than ever, when the country is in the hands of our leaders and when particularly to-day at Delhi, we are having a National Government—though it may be the wish of everyone here that it were more fully representative than it has been possible so far—and while every one is wishing that the day is not far off when it shall be possible to have a fully representative Government containing all the national elements of the country—at such a time as this, it is essential that this appeal from this House should go forth to the workers. Everyone to-day in this Assembly and outside is very sympathetic towards the cause not only, of the railway workers, but also the workers in other fields—might I even add those who are toiling day in and day out in the District Collectorate. From all the discussions that have taken place in this House, it is evident that everyone of us is in favour of giving relief not only to the workers, but also those who are affected by the high cost of living. That being so, I have no doubt that the workers' demands will receive the best consideration from all concerned. If they co-operate with the people in easing the food situation. I am also very glad that the Hon. the Premier has been thinking of alternative ways of transporting food in case of emergency. I shall not take any more of the time of the House except to join with the hon. the Leader of the House and also the Leader of the Opposition in wishing that the situation should ease and I feel sure that the workers will respond to the call of this House and go to their work."

* SRI PILLAIAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Sir, it is a very painful task that I have to perform now. On behalf of the

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workers, particularly of the South Indian Railway workers, I cannot give any assurance. But one thing I can say and that is that the workers or their leaders are not interested in inconveniencing the public. It is all false propaganda to say that the workers will throw stones or bombs. We do not believe in all such methods. (Cries of 'Hear, hear.') I can assure you, Sir, neither the Communist Party nor the S.I.R. Workers' Union are interested in these things and we will prevent such things as far as possible.

"One thing I would request the Hon. the Premier to note is that the whole question, as far as I understand it, is one of victimization of workers. The workers are not asking for higher wages or for better housing conditions. Only they do not want to submit to victimization. What happened is that some of the workers applied for leave and they availed the leave and when they returned, they were told that they had been dismissed. The whole trouble is due to this victimization. I request the Hon. the Premier to use his good offices and bring about a settlement and avert the strike. I assure him that our co-workers and party leaders are prepared to co-operate with him in his attempts to avert this strike.

"With these few words, I repeat my appeal to the Hon. the Premier."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"I knew all about this matter in greater detail also. My hon. Friend, Mr. Venkateswarlu has put the case very briefly. The same thing was put to me by his friends and leaders of the workers. At that stage I wanted to do something by way of intervention. But the things drifted away and I do not want to tell hon. Members now how they drifted away. I do not wish to say anything which might put the blame on this side or that. That is why I have been very careful about this matter. I only want at this stage to make that position clear to hon. Members. I thought that the dispute was within reach of a settlement at one time; but the whole thing drifted away."

THE HON. MR. SPEAKER:—"The House will now adjourn and meet again at 11 o'clock on the 2nd September."

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to starred question No. 112 A asked by M. Muhammad Ismail Sahib Bahadur at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 24th August 1946, page 864, supra.]

Admissions to Engineering and Medical Colleges, 1946-47.

The Government have decided that for the academic year 1946-47 admissions should be made to the Engineering and Medical Colleges, observing also the following rule:—

Twenty per cent of the total number of seats should be filled by students selected on merit irrespective of the existing orders fixing linguistic and communal ratios. The existing orders should be applied to the remaining seats.

The Director of Public Instruction/Surgeon-General is requested to instruct the Principals of the Colleges accordingly.

(Memorandum No. 33199-4/46-1-Edn., dated 21st June 1946.)

[24th August 1946]

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to unstarred question No. 34 asked by Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly held on 24th August 1946, page 882 supr.]

Statement showing the extent of area sown with tobacco crop.

Name of the district.	Area sown with tobacco crop in acres.		
	1942-43.	1943-44.	1944-45.
Vizagapatam ..	31,981	17,607	18,858
East Godavari ..	20,350	18,274	26,379
West Godavari ..	18,859	18,199	21,233
Kistna ..	14,589	16,183	19,221
Guntur ..	126,534	112,167	147,756
Kurnool ..	11,163	2,503	9,497
Bellary ..	2,479	883	2,406
Anantapur ..	4,139	551	5,193
Cuddapah ..	1,520	972	2,673
Nellore ..	2,592	2,825	3,330
Chingleput ..	13	9	10
South Arcot ..	1,780	1,975	2,338
Chittoor ..	287	369	435
North Arcot ..	1,371	1,750	1,910
Salem ..	4,120	4,637	6,429
Coimbatore ..	25,033	22,967	35,837
Trichinopoly ..	3,763	3,723	6,040
Tanjore ..	1,288	1,201	1,787
Madura ..	8,394	7,750	11,235
Ramnad ..	1,600	1,309	2,320
Tinnevely ..	743	669	1,205
Malabar ..	41	42	38
South Kanara ..	2,130	1,632	2,037
The Nilgiris ..	18	22	18
Province ..	284,787	238,219	328,185

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, the 2nd September 1946.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Fort St. George, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHAN-MUKHAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

1.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Conduct of some Members of the Malabar Special Police at Gannavaram (Kistna district).

* 126 Q.—MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any representations requesting them to pay compensation to the victims to the excesses of the Malabar Special Police at Gannavaram (Kistna district);

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative whether the Government will be pleased to expedite the matter and pay compensation to the victims;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations requesting them to appoint a committee of non-officials to enquire into the Gannavaram incident;

(d) if the answer is in the affirmative why the Government failed to appoint a non-official committee so far; and

(e) whether it is the policy of the Government to appoint non-official committees in all matters relating to the excesses of the Police?

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(b) The Government are considering the question of awarding compensation to an individual who received a serious injury.

“(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

“(d) Enquiries were made by the District Magistrate, Kistna, and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Northern Range, on which action was taken and further enquiry by a committee was not considered necessary.

“(e) The answer is in the negative.”

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—“In view of the reply given to clause (a) of the question, may I ask the Hon. the Prime Minister, what are the actual excesses which have resulted in crippling anybody?”

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—“I do not quite follow the hon. Member. He may make another effort.”

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SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"In view of the reply given to clause (a) may I ask the Hon. the Prime Minister, what are the actual excesses and whether these excesses have disabled anybody or killed anybody?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"All the excesses have been generally described in the Press at that time; now many of those who committed them or who were alleged to have committed those excesses are being prosecuted. Therefore, this question of appointing a committee was dropped."

SRI. PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have received any report regarding excesses by the Malabar Police in Madura, Madras and Golden Rock?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question does not arise."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether the Government have dismissed or suspended any of the members of the Malabar Police who committed excesses at Gannavaram and if so, how many?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Disciplinary action was originally thought of against some of the people involved in the affair; but disciplinary action, I speak subject to correction, is not being enforced because a good number of men had been ordered to be prosecuted and the prosecution is pending."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"In my previous question what I wanted to know was whether actually anybody was permanently disabled."

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"The words 'permanently disabled' are rather very vague in expression. 'Permanently disabled' means unfit for any work. So far as I can gather some people lost some teeth or had some limb broken which might come under 'grievous hurt' under the Penal Code."

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—"May I know whether the Government have received any report from the District Congress Committee which is a non-official body and which made an enquiry into the matter?"

THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—"Yes. Some report was received from the Congress Committee, but that report is there; it cannot be acted upon so long as there is a regular case conducted by the Government which is going on."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know, Sir, what is the speciality attached to Malabar Special Police. Why not recruit people for the Special Police from all over the Province?"

MR. SPEAKER:—"The question does not arise."

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Sentences on four Communists of Guntur.

* 127 Q.—MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any memoranda or representations requesting the Government to commute sentence passed on four communists of Guntur (Kattiah, Narasimha Rao and others);

(b) whether it is a fact that these communists have been convicted by the District Judge of Guntur even though there is a unanimous verdict of not guilty by the assessors;

(c) whether it is the policy of the Government to withdraw all prosecutions in political cases and to commute all sentences passed in those cases; and

(d) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the case of these four communists of Guntur?

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM:—" (a) Yes.

" (b) Yes.

" (c) No. In special cases, if any special grounds exist.

" (d) The convicted persons may seek such remedies as the law provides for them."

Representations from Guntur Municipal Council regarding general elections.

* 128 Q.—MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib Bahadur): Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government have received any representation from the Guntur Municipal Council requesting the Government to hold the general elections only after the re-distribution of wards has been done?

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Yes; a representation has been received from the Council. Government have decided to postpone the elections."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I ask the Hon. Minister whether representations have been received from any municipality other than Guntur?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"Certain other municipalities have also made representations to the Government."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know what the Government propose to do with the representations that have been received?"

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—"They are under consideration."

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D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know whether orders have been issued to the Commissioners concerned to complete the re-distribution of wards, early? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" No, Sir."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" In view of the fact that the present rolls are defective and contains a number of omissions, may I ask whether some more time will be granted to new applicants for inclusion of their names? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" Elections have been postponed sufficiently long and all that could be done before the elections will be done."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether the elections will be held only after the complete consolidated lists are published? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" I believe, Sir, the consolidated lists will be published in time for the forthcoming elections."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister, whether he has received any representations from the Kurnool Municipality saying that the distribution of the wards is not fair? "

THE HON. MR. DANIEL THOMAS:—" Kurnool also comes under this category."

Non-availability of groundnut oil-cake in Kurnool district.

* 129 Q.—SRI S. NAGAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the groundnut oil-cake is not available for the agriculturists in Kurnool district; and

(b) if so, what arrangements the Government propose to make for the availability of the groundnut cake and when?

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" (a) & (b) No.

"The stocks of groundnut cake in each taluk on 1st August 1946 and the quantity allotted from July to October 1946 are given below:—

Taluk.	Stocks of groundnut cake on 1st August 1946.	Quantity allotted July to October 1946.
	TONS.	TONS.
Allagada	110	200
Atmakur	39	750
Giddalore	27	250
Koilkuntla	130	150
Kurnool	527	700
Nandyal	154	1,277
Pathikonda	11	
Markapur		100
Dhone	5	100
Total	1,003	3,527

[2nd September 1946]

"The cakes are being sold from the following main depots and sub-depots:—

Main depots.	Sub-depots.
Kurnool.	Munagalapad.
Atmakur.	Owk.
Koilkuntla.	Cumbam.
Cumbum.	Sirvel."
Sirvel.	
Dhone.	
Pathikonda.	
Markapur.	
Nandyal.	

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether the Government are aware that the quantities allotted are insufficient and have been telling upon the production of foodgrains? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" We are allotting equitably to all the districts the quantity available in the Presidency."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know whether oil-cakes manufactured by country *chekkus* are also included in the quantity specified by the Hon. Minister? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" No, Sir."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister, Sir, the quantity allotted to the Coimbatore and other districts? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" Notice, Sir."

ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask the Hon. Minister, what percentage of the demand has been met in the allotment of oil-cakes? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" I want notice, Sir."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—" Will the Hon. Minister take care that other districts also get a sufficient quantity as this is the proper time for distribution of manure cake? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" Yes, Sir, we know that. We are distributing equitably."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that many of the oil expellers in Kurnool have stopped work? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" I want notice, Sir."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" May I know if the Hon. Minister is aware of the fact that many of the oil-expellers in Kurnool district have stopped work for a considerable time now and so the production of oil cake has received a set back? "

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" I am not aware of it. I will enquire."

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SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know if oil cakes manufactured by country *chekkus* are exempted from commandeering for manure purposes?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" Yes, Sir."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that oil cakes is used not only for agricultural purposes but also for cattle?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" That we are aware of, Sir."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" Will the Government make arrangements to issue export licences for oil forthwith from the Kurnool district so that the production of cake may go ahead rapidly?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" It will be considered, but the hon. Member may address the Food Minister."

SRI V. C. PALANISWAMI GOUNDER:—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that owing to the introduction of compulsory requisitioning of oil-cake, some of the expellers in Coimbatore district have stopped work?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" I am not aware of it, Sir."

SRI M. G. NATESA CHETTIYAR:—" May I know if the Government are aware that in the case of oil-cakes manufactured by country *chekkus* also manufacturers are asked to declare their stocks and deliver the goods they have?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" The Government have not passed any orders on the subject."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the allotment to our district is inadequate and as a result much suffering is caused and whether he will be pleased to increase the quota next time at least?"

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" It is only a matter of opinion, Sir."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" Considering the fact that groundnut cake is also used as animal food, may I ask the Hon. Minister if he will provide sufficient quantities for purposes of consumption by animals."

THE HON. SRI P. S. KUMARASWAMI RAJA:—" I will consider the question, Sir."

Headquarters of the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Guntur.

* 130 Q.—MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR (on behalf of Muhammad Abdul Salam Sahib Bahadur: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are any proposals under the consideration of the Government to change the headquarters of the Divisional Inspector of Schools from Guntur to Cocanada;

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(b) if so, for what reasons; and

(c) whether it is a fact that in Andhra area the largest number of high schools exist in Guntur district?

THE HON. SRI T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIYAR:—

(a) No.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) Yes."

Sandavasal Bamboo Coupe in North Arcot district.

* 131 Q.—SRI N. S. VARADACHARI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Forests, be pleased to state—

(a) why the rule of the highest tender being accepted was not given effect to in the case of Sandavasal Bamboo Coupe in North Arcot district;

(b) whether the Conservator concerned did not intimate the party that, if his tender was the highest, he would get the coupe in the normal course of things; and

(c) what reasons the Government assign for rejecting the highest bid in this case?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON (on behalf of B. Veeraswami):—" (a) & (c) It was brought to the notice of Government in April last that certain bamboo coupes in the Santhavasal Range of Vellore East Division which were put to sale by auction by the Forest Department were not given on lease to the highest tenderer at the auction. A report was called for from the Chief Conservator and it was ascertained that in cases where the coupes were not allotted to the highest tenderer, they were given on lease to old and tried contractors but at the highest tender made for that particular unit. It was explained that this procedure was followed for the reason that the old contractors might otherwise find it difficult to recover the sums advanced by them to coolies and cartmen under the previous contract and that as the coupes were leased at the highest tendered rate there was no loss of revenue to the Government.

"The Government expressed their disapproval of the action of the Forest Department but did not order a reallocation of the coupes as the sale has already been confirmed.

"(b) The Conservator seems to have informed the interested merchants some time before the Chief Conservator's orders were received by him that the coupes would be given on lease normally to the highest tenderer."

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" Arising out the answer given, will the Government give an assurance that hereafter no departure from this rule will be tolerated since it involves loss of revenue to Government?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" As regards loss of revenue, I do not agree. But the Government will surely instruct that no departure should be made except where it is absolutely necessary."

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MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know, Sir, whether it is open to an official to depart from the procedure laid down by the Government? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Generally speaking it is not open. But if there are extraordinary cases they are decided with reference to the circumstances. "

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Did the Government take any action against the officials for having departed from the normal procedure laid down by the Government? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Government in this case has condemned the action of the department. "

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" In view of the fact that the Conservator concerned approved of the original procedure what reason was there for the Chief Conservator to interfere and upset the normal procedure was observed? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" The answer that I gave before the House is the answer to my Friend's question. "

SRI D. V. RAMASWAMI:—" May I know whether the rule in favour of the highest tenderer is mandatory? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" No, it is not. "

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" May I know if the Government will consider the desirability of organising wood cutters' and bamboo cutters' co-operative societies and entrust them with an average struck on the basis of the last 10 or 15 years, as has been done in some of the districts? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" I may tell the hon. Member that there is absolutely no imaginable connection between his question and that under reply. "

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" In view of the answer given will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state that in case of departure from the normal rule laid down for the conduct of Government business such departure will first be communicated to the Government and reasons specified for such departure and then only after approval is obtained from Government, the procedure will be departed from? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" The general rule itself is that every departure from the ordinary rule should have the previous sanction of Government. So there is no force in this question. Instructions will again issue as to the intentions of Government that no departure must be made unless extraordinary circumstances prevail. "

N. MUHAMMAD ANWAR SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Does the Hon. Minister have any control over the wood cutters of the animal kingdom? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" The question is not very clear. "

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SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" Will the Government also note, Sir, that this is not the only case that has come to the notice of the Government, but there are several cases like this in that particular division? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" The Government are not aware of a number of cases. "

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—" Are the Government aware that there are some places in this Province where wood cutting and bamboo cutting are entrusted to co-operative societies? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" I am afraid my Friend is speaking on the basis that there is some connection between wood cutting and the question under reply. The question now is about the leasing of forests. "

SRI V. I. MUNISWAMI PILLAI:—" Will the Hon. Minister consider the necessity of making a strict rule so that in the future such things may not happen? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" The Government will surely consider it. "

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" Will the Government call for information in regard to this matter and find out the number of cases that have occurred where a deviation from the normal procedure has been made? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" If the Government think it necessary they will call for a report. "

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—" The Hon. Minister has said that he has condemned the action. Does that mean that disciplinary action has been taken against the official concerned? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" Government have expressed their disapproval. That is what I meant. "

SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—" May I know from the Hon. Minister whether, when a legislator, an hon. Member of this House, asserts that in a number of cases, such departures have been made, it is not a sufficient ground for Government to call for information and get a report about the whole situation? "

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—" For that matter, even if the hon. Members give particulars to the Government, that information can be acted upon. The question whether it is sufficient is a matter which does not arise. "

SRI N. S. VARADACHARI:—" There is another question standing in my name, which may not come up during this session in regard to this very matter . . . "

Mr. SPEAKER:—" That question does not arise now. "

[2nd September 1946]

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the coupes are leased out to the wood-cutters' societies and bamboo-cutters' societies in this Province?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I am not aware, Sir."

Supply of drinking water in Guntakal and Timmancherla.

* 132 Q.—SRI A. RAYAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) Whether Government are aware of the acute suffering of 30,000 citizens of Guntakal and Timmancherla in Anantapur district for want of drinking water;

(b) how long the water scheme is pending with the Government;

(c) the stage at which the matter stands; and

(d) whether the Government will push on with the scheme at once as the suffering is very acute?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (a) Certain representations were received about the inadequate supply of drinking water.

" (b) A scheme was first outlined in 1939 but the presence of flourides in the water made it difficult to get at a proper source of supply.

" (c) & (d) A source in the Timmapuram area has been selected. Even this is not free from flourides. No other better source can be found. The Chief Engineer has been asked to give a suitable priority for this scheme. On receipt of his report plans and estimates will be prepared and the scheme taken up for execution."

BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"May I know, Sir, how long it will take for the scheme to be ready?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"It is for the Chief Engineer for Buildings to prepare these plans and estimates. I expect them to be submitted shortly."

H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know, Sir, what arrangements are being made in the meanwhile for providing a sufficient quantity of drinking water for these people?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Until the plans and estimates are received, I do not think there is any possibility of taking up the works for execution."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether it is the intention of the Government to allow whatever time the Chief Engineer requires to prepare these estimates and plans?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Chief Engineer has been requested to attend to this early."

SRI P. NATESAN:—"In the meantime what happens to all these citizens who want drinking water?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The question of providing protected water-supply is a comprehensive one and is under the consideration of the Government."

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BEGUM SULTAN MIR AMIRUDDIN:—"Will the Government be pleased to exercise due alacrity in regard to this matter as it is very urgent?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Yes, Sir."

M. S. ABDUL MAJEED SAHIB BAHADUR:—"If an epidemic breaks out in the meantime, may I know who will be responsible for it?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The public as well as the Government will be responsible."

SRI S. NAGAPPA:—"May I know whether the Hon. Minister in charge of the portfolio cannot direct and drive the Chief Engineer to speed up the matter?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Yes, Sir, it will be done."

MAHBOOB ALI BAIG SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether the consolidated scheme that is contemplated by the Government will be under the charge of the Government or of the village committees?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"The Government will have to do it. In fact a compendium has been prepared and in accordance with that compendium for water-supply and drainage the works will be taken up."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—"May I know whether it is not possible to make some arrangement to get water from the railway water-supply?"

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—"Notice, Sir."

Supply of drinking water in Gooty and Alur taluks.

* 133 Q.—SRI A. RAYAPPA: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health and Medicine be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that villagers in black cotton soil in Gooty and Alur taluks, Anantapur and Bellary districts, respectively, are suffering from want of drinking water and the wells in the area are all brackish; and

(b) if so, whether they propose to depute some officer concerned for investigation and report?

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" (a) It is understood that the water-supply problem in black cotton soil areas is difficult.

" (b) An investigation of the problems concerning the provision of water-supply in black cotton soil areas of the Bellary district was by an Assistant Engineer of the Public Works Department in 1939—41. The investigation lasted for thirteen months. The report submitted by the Assistant Engineer as a result of his study showed that certain types of works should be undertaken in black cotton soil areas for the provision of water-supply in those areas. The Board of Revenue has been asked to take action accordingly."

[2nd September 1946]

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I ask what action has been so far taken upon the recommendations made by the Assistant Engineer? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" No action has been taken so far. But the Board of Revenue has been asked to take action in this matter accordingly."

D. ABDUL RAWOOF SAHIB BAHADUR:—" May I know what the Board of Revenue has done so far? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Notice Sir."

SRI N. VENKATASUBBAYYA:—" May I ask, Sir, considering that drinking water is the most pressing and urgent need if the Hon. Minister will take steps to expedite the matter? "

THE HON. MRS. LAKSHMIPATHI:—" Certainly, Sir."

[Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.]

II.—VOTING OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS FOR 1946-47.

DEMAND XIV—POLICE.

11-30 a.m. THE HON. SRI T. PRAKASAM:—" Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'that the Assembly do assent to a Demand which will come in course of payment during the period from the 1st May 1946 to the 31st March 1947 of such sum as together with the expenditure already incurred in April 1946, will amount to Rs. 3,70,77,600 in respect of the head "Police." The expenditure incurred in April 1946 is believed to be Rs. 24,18,041 '."

* M. MUHAMMAD ASMAIL SAHIB BAHADUR:—" Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the cut motion standing in my name, namely:—

'To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,70,77,600 for Police by Rs. 100.'

" Sir, from the Administration Report, I find that in 1944 the number of police stations in the Presidency excluding the Madras City was 951. We may take the total number as 1,000 in all. That gives you one station for every 50,000 people. Taking it in another way there is one police station for every 200 square miles of the area of the Province, or 5 stations in a taluk. I think this is a small number for this Province. In many cases we find that the people of the village have to go many miles before they can reach a police station or before they can get the assistance of the police.

" Taking the police force, some figures I have taken from the budget itself. In the City, leaving alone the sub-inspectors and the inspectors, there are about 2,460 head constables and constables. That is the permanent police force. We have also got a temporary force which numbers 210. Altogether we have 2,670 constables

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and head constables in the City. Coming to the districts, we have got 2,860 head constables in the permanent cadre and 631 head constables who are temporary. The Police constables in the districts are 23,353 in number who are permanent and 5,735 who are temporary. Thus the total number of constables and head constables in the districts is about 32,580. The total Police force throughout the Province including the City force is about 35,250. That gives us one constable or head constable for every 1,420 people in the Province. If you take the permanent Police force alone, it gives you one for 1,750 men. If you take the district Police force and the district population it works at one constable or head constable for every 1,470 people in the population. This, Sir, is really a very insufficient force to meet the requirements of this Province. Whatever may be the position in the other Provinces, the conditions of which I do not know intimately, we find that in our own Province this force is inadequate. Though in cases of trouble in any place, Police forces from more than one peaceful place are being rushed to and concentrated on the area which has been affected with any trouble or rioting, you find that even these forces are not adequate enough to deal with the situation in that place. So I think that the Government must pay proper attention to increasing the strength of the Police force adequately.

" In this connexion, Sir, I find under the sub-head 'village police', provision for 77 police talaiyaris with a basic salary of Rs. 9-8-0 and a dearness allowance of about Rs. 7. I do not know who these police talaiyaris are. There are, I know, talaiyaris in hundreds and thousands throughout the Province who help the Police in preventing and detecting crimes and in various other ways. What is the speciality about the police talaiyaris coming under this head, I do not know. However, when I saw this item I was reminded of a system which was in vogue in several villages and which I have myself seen with my own eyes. By that system, Sir, the landowners in a particular village pay a small fee to a group of people in that village and those people who receive the fee work as the watch and ward for the village. If there is any theft in the village, these people are responsible for detecting the theft and restoring the stolen property. In my own experience during those days, every property stolen was restored and every case of crime was detected by these people. I think the same system is in vogue even at present in some places. The Government might pay some consideration to this system of policing because, as I have stated, Sir, under that system detection of crime and recovery of stolen property was cent per cent. We may compare this with the figure given in the Police Administration Report. In the case of grave crimes the percentage of detection was roundly about 50. The figure for the year 1944 was about 47 per cent. The percentage of detection of all crimes seems to have been only 26 per cent in 1944, which year is said to have been more satisfactory than the previous one in the matter of detection. So far as the recovery of lost property by the police is concerned only about 34 per cent according to value of such lost properties has been recovered by the police in the year 1944 as well as in the

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"There are, Sir, Village Vigilance Committees, but the Administration Report does not speak encouragingly of these committees. They are said to be useful only in a few districts and that too only when the members are encouraged with rewards. Speaking of rewards, I find that only about Rs. 4,018 have been given as rewards in 1944 to village officers and talaiyaris. It is not a big amount really. What is the amount paid to the vigilance committees we do not know. Whether these rewards have been included in the amount of Rs. 4,018, we do not know. Whatever it may be, if these committees are properly handled and given their due importance, I think, they will work satisfactorily in all the districts.

"Sir, speaking of detection of cases of crime, I am reminded of a story which happened several years ago. One day a number of carts were parked on the proper side of the road in a proper way for loading cargo for shipment. Then all on a sudden all these carts were taken away by the Police to the Police station. Then the maistri complained to the firm concerned which had requisitioned these carts. The firm made an enquiry about the incident. It was then learnt that the policemen had each to bring in a number of cases every week. These policemen had been lax throughout the week and at the end of the week they pounced upon the cartmen so that they might get a bunch of cases, all in a few minutes thereby discharging the duty allotted to them. But unluckily for them, as these cartmen had done nothing wrong they were given their carts back and they went about their work. But what I want to point out is that the system or arrangement seems to be whether there are real cases or not the Police officers or the policemen must bring in so many cases per week. I do not think that is a fair method. It means that the cases are there for your mere picking them up, as you would pick flowers in a garden. That ought not to be the method as it creates a sort of mentality in the policeman which makes him not to pay proper respect to the people concerned and not to pay proper attention to the cases he is expected to find out. Therefore, Sir, I think that such a system should be changed and there must be some other way, a more satisfactory way, a fairer way, of detecting and preventing crimes.

"Now, Sir, coming to the pay of the Police officers, I do not think anybody would contradict me when I say that they are very low-paid, particularly when compared with the arduous work they are doing. Constables, for example, get a basic pay of Rs. 18 in the mufassal and a special pay ranging from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 3 each. In the City of Madras, the basic pay of a constable is Rs. 22 with a special pay of Rs. 4. There is really a miserable lot having to put up with such a low pay as this. People who are working hard and taking risks day in and day out should be remunerated more liberally and more

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"As regards promotion, particularly of the Sub-Inspectors, I suggest that it should be based mainly on seniority. Their promotion must not depend generally on the discretion of their superior officers. If the officers are allowed discretion in the matter, extraneous considerations are liable to play a part and the Police officers' devotion to duty will be impaired and demoralization will result. Therefore, due consideration must be given to seniority in the matter of promotion.

"As regards the pay of the Inspectors, I wish to say only one word, and that is, that they must be given a time-scale. I was not impressed with the reason given by the Hon. Minister for Revenue for refusing to take similar action concerning the pay of the Excise Inspectors and Assistant Inspectors. They must really be given a time-scale so that they may feel sure and rest content that for their experience and seniority they will get proper return and reward from the Government.

"While on this subject, I wish to emphasize the need for making the Police officers and the policemen understand clearly that they exist for the benefit of the people, that they are primarily the servants of the people and that therefore they must treat the people with more consideration and respect and that they must not try to aggrandize over them.

"Now turning to the subject of representation of Muslims in the department, I have pointed out on previous occasions that among the Deputy Commissioners and the Deputy Inspectors-General there is no Muslim. In every district, there must be a gazetted Muslim official and the Inspector-General of Police must be assisted by a Muslim Deputy Inspector-General or at least Assistant Inspector-General. With regard to representation of Muslims in the Police force in general, I say that Muslims ought to be given more representation. This is a very important matter. Let me not be dubbed as communal for making this demand. I am making this plea, Sir, from the point of view of the general public as well. The Police is an important institution and it must be kept above communal considerations and communal influence. It is for this very purpose I say that Muslims must have more representation in the Police organization. It may look paradoxical, but it is not really so, because when the Police force is sufficiently mixed and consists of the members of different communities, the psychological effect of such a mixture will really make the force non-communal. One section will have an influence on the other section, so that they will go about their

duties in a non-communal manner

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duties in a non-communal manner. Therefore I request the Government not to brush aside this point and this plea lightly and in a light-hearted manner, but to give their deep consideration to the suggestion and act accordingly. I suggest in particular that the Police force sent to troubled areas must necessarily be of this nature, i.e., of a mixed nature. Then alone it will have the confidence of the people concerned and it will be able to deal effectively and efficiently with the situation. With these few words, I move the cut motion standing in my name."

* MR. H. S. TOWN:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, without a perfectly loyal Police force, no Government can command the respect of the masses, neither can it long remain in power.

"The maintenance of law and order is one of the primary duties of any Government and this duty cannot be discharged without the aid of a Police force that is not only loyal to the Government of the day but is also contented.

"We are indeed fortunate in this country in having a perfectly loyal Police force, brought up and nurtured in the highest traditions, splendidly led, loyal and fearless in the detection of crime and in the maintenance of law and order. Their loyalty is to the Government of the day; they have no politics. They serve the present Government with the same loyalty they rendered to the last Government and if we had a change of Government to-morrow they would serve with equal loyalty the new Government as they serve this one.

"I am sure, Sir, it is the silent prayer of all right-thinking men that, come what may, we shall always be blessed with a Police force having the proud record of our present one.

"Loyalty can take very hard knocks without wavering, but it cannot stand up long to continual and relentless pressure and it is a foolish master who, relying on his servants, loyalty fails to treat him with respect or gives him less favourable conditions of service than he does to his less loyal servants.

"Sometime back, I received hints that there was growing up in our Police force a small disgruntled element. Indications of late have confirmed the hints of the past and therefore I have considered it my duty to take this opportunity of expressing the views I have formed after a very careful consideration of this subject.

"Unfortunately, I have of late been closely connected with a small amount of labour trouble during which I had opportunities of studying the ordinary police constable at close quarters and I have learned of some of the thoughts which ran through their minds during those very distressing days for one or two of them managed to speak out from time to time.

"Sir, the average police constable to-day when on duty during a strike compares his lot, his pay and hours of work with those of the people whom he is controlling and generally comes to the correct conclusion that in the majority of cases he is not as well paid as those whom he is controlling and it is the constable who takes more of the risks of bodily harm during riots

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or disturbances. Sir, more than one constable mentioned this during the recent troubles in Perambur and it is a serious matter which demands the immediate attention of Government.

"The recent postal strike and the publication by Government of the rates of pay of postmen was a surprise to the majority of citizens of Madras who had little or no idea of the rates of pay of postmen. Now, Sir, the postman may be a little more educated than the average policeman, but I very much doubt it, for judging from the few postmen with whom I have come into contact, I cannot believe the policeman can be of a really lower educational standard. However, for the case let us agree that the postman has a higher standard of education; people are paid for other things than their education; take the case of certain scavengers who are paid extra because of the obnoxious nature of their employment.

"Now, Sir, the Police constable controls our traffic, a task of considerable importance to the safety of the users of our highways. The constable has to apprehend the wrongdoer, a task which involves at times risk to life and limb.

"From time to time we attend the annual Police parade and we see a few constables being decorated for outstanding deeds of bravery but let us not think that the only brave deeds of the Police force are those for which decorations are given; Sir, there are hundreds and hundreds of other equally brave police deeds, but they do not see the light of day and so fail to attract a decoration. I submit, Sir, that the constable who by his very occupation takes risks over and above those taken by other Government servants, is entitled to our respect for the risks he takes and he is entitled to special consideration in the matter of wages and terms of service.

"Sir, I have confined my remarks to the police constable, but if we study the wages of the head constable, the sergeant and those senior to them, we find the same reliance on loyalty, for they are all grossly underpaid. Let us not forget that the servant is worthy of his hire and the loyal servant is doubly worthy.

"When I studied the scale of pay of the Sub-Inspector, I pondered over it and came to the conclusion that these loyal and sincere men must be honorary workers receiving an honorarium to cover their expenses.

"Now, Sir, the most important asset any Government can have is a loyal and contented Police force. We have a loyal one but loyalty can be sorely tried if it has to stand up to a continual feeling of discontent. It only requires a few discontented men in any force to generally weaken the whole organization and therefore Government must give immediate attention to the terms and wages of our Police force and make substantial improvements in both; and this, Sir, applies to all grades from the bottom to the top.

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"Next, Sir, I propose to speak on a very delicate subject and I do so after some hesitation but with the conviction that what I have to say must be said. A Police sergeant or head constable who at personal risk has apprehended a wrongdoer is inclined to feel a little upset when some Minister orders that no action shall be taken against the person arrested. This feeling of frustration becomes very strong when orders to withdraw prosecutions are given in a wholesale manner. Even the last joined constable realises that such wholesale orders must have been given without any consideration to the individual cases and I know of more than one head constable who has expressed the view that it was not worth the trouble of arresting as the offender would probably not be tried. If this opinion grows, then the law abiding citizen will lose the protection he is entitled to during disturbances and which he now gets from the Police force.

"Sir, if a constable arrests a person that person should be brought before the correct tribunal for trial. The magistrates of this Madras City and other Cities of this Presidency can be relied upon to see that a fair trial is given to anyone who is produced before them. If after trial and conviction Government decide to remit the sentence, they are fully entitled so to do. The Police will have no grounds for complaint, as they will have apprehended a wrongdoer and obtained a conviction. What happens after that is a matter of policy and our Police force, thank God, are not interested in the policy of politicians. The aggrieved party however takes a very dim view of this action by Government. The man who has been brutally accosted and sees his assailant taken to the Police station is entitled to expect that he will be given an opportunity to state his case and get redress but this is denied to him by the action of Government in ordering that the charge shall be withdrawn before trial.

"The loyalty of the Police force and its freedom from political partisanship can only be retained if it is a perfectly contented force. Up to the present we have had such a force; but I perceive a slight change and I have made careful enquiries. I have avoided the seniors for in the past I have always found them far too guarded in their replies. I can however assure this House that my enquiries among the other ranks force me to the conclusion that there are the beginnings of discontent to-day.

"Now, Sir, this must be checked at once by seeing that this most important branch of Government service is happy and contented and that it is fully backed up by the Cabinet. No Police force can be efficient if it is not sure at all times that it will receive the full support of Government, the public and the Press.

"In my own land on the rare occasions when the Police have to make a baton charge or lathi charge, the Press and the public back up the Police for they know that the Police is a disciplined force and it will only resort to such action when it is absolutely necessary. The Police force here are equally disciplined and

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make a lathi charge only when there is no other method of maintaining law and order. I would suggest, Sir, that handbills, processions and speeches based on supposed Police excesses should be prohibited and that heavy punishments should be meted out to anyone responsible for public attacks on this loyal force in this manner.

"I now come, Sir, to the question of the strength of the Police force. We are woefully short. We have far too few Police to handle anything more than a very small disturbance. The people of this Province are entitled to a force sufficiently large to ensure to them protection from hooligans and lawbreakers and we have not sufficient Police to give this protection at present. When there are disturbances in Madras City, we find that our Police have to be at so many points that at no one point can they be sure of completely controlling the situation. When disturbances become widespread large stretches of our streets are left unguarded because the Police for this task just do not exist; thus the Government endanger the safety of the citizen. Sir, I submit that our Police force could be considerably increased in size.

"I understand that Government are having some difficulty in recruiting policemen. No industrial employer to-day is having any difficulty in recruiting his staff; so there must be some reason for the reluctance of suitable men to join the Police force and the reason, I would submit, is that the terms and conditions offered are not sufficiently attractive. The hours of work especially during disturbance are excessive and it is sufficient proof that we are woefully short of personnel, for I am told that well over twelve hours duty in one day is not uncommon.

"Sir, my closing remarks may seem to be a digression and perhaps not strictly within the subject under discussion, but I submit that they are part and parcel of the question.

"I have asked for reconsideration of the pay of the Police force but I fully realize that to give one section of the wage earning community an increase immediately invites comparisons, and therefore I suggest that it is necessary that the whole question of wages should receive immediate attention.

"The House may be aware that the Central Government has for a long time been toying with the idea of introducing some minimum wages legislation. Up to date, nothing has been done beyond talking and I suggest that we cannot wait until the Central Government has made up its mind. Therefore, this Government should at once constitute a Committee representative of the people who understand labour matters to consider the general level of wages in this Presidency. Such a committee could complete its work in about four months and it should be possible to have their report made available to members of this House some two months before Government introduces any legislation in this behalf. Sir, not only the Police but others are unsettled and it all gets back to the economics of living from day to day and no piecemeal patching by a conciliator here and

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an adjudicator there will remedy this evil. Government itself has to tackle the question of economic distress as a whole but in so doing I do plead that this Government do not forget their most loyal servant—the constable. Sir, I support the cut motion.”

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—“While speaking on the Police Demand, I submit . . . ”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member should address the Chair.”

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIAR:—“I submit to you, Sir, that just a few minutes ago, I received a telegram which I would like to read to the House. The telegram says that Narayanaswami was detained by the Police in Tinnevely. You know, Sir, the strike that is going on in the South Indian Railway and this gentleman is the Secretary of the Branch Union. He has been detained by the Police there. What I want to submit, Sir, is that the administration of the Police department has not at all improved even after the popular Ministry has taken over charge and I can say that it has gone worse in some respects. We have been witnessing, as a matter of fact, the atrocities committed by the Police recently, not only in the City but throughout South India. I saw from my own personal experience of what has happened in Trichinopoly that the workers there were coerced by the Malabar Special Police; they go into the houses of the strikers and ask them to join duty. I do not know whether it is the duty of the Police to see that the strike is broken; I do not know whether the Hon. the Leader of the House, the Prime Minister, has issued any instructions to the Police department to take charge of the work of the strikers. The Police is paid to maintain law and order but I do not know how the Police is now being used as a black-leg in this railway strike. If hon. Members here were to walk along the railway line, they will find that at every gate the Policemen are posted to do duty as gate-keepers. I say, Sir, if a policeman can do the duty of a gate-keeper, he can as well do the duty of a scavenger or the duty of any other person. Is it fair that an organized Police force should be utilized for the purpose of breaking a strike and not do its legitimate duty of keeping up law and order? This is what is going on to-day. I do not know who it was—whether it was any department of Government or the Hon. the Leader of the House—that created the scare that I was arrested. I do not know how the blessed All-India Radio announced that Mr. Ananda Nambiyar was arrested. I ask how it was done, I mean how this Radio came to announce this news.

“Again, Sir, when I was proceeding to attend this Assembly, a Police Sub-Inspector at Trichinopoly stopped me and said: ‘I am not going to allow you to go.’ I told him that I am Ananda Nambiyar, M.L.A., and I have to attend the meeting of the Assembly. He was not satisfied with this and said, ‘No, you are not Ananda Nambiyar; Ananda Nambiyar is in Coimbatore Jail; you are someone else.’ I was therefore prevented by the Police from attending the meetings of the Legislative Assembly last week. I therefore put the matter in writing

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pointing out the consequences if I were prevented from attending the Assembly session. We have heard of such things in the Hitlerite regime. The same thing is happening now under the regime of the Hon. Mr. T. Prakasam, which, we feel, is shameful. We do not like it. We do not want such a regime. The people are angry to-day and they do not want to see the popular Ministry allowing these things to continue. We are sorry because the workers have their rights; they have a right to strike; that is a legal right on the part of the workers. But attempts are being made to break these strikes with the help of the Police. While peaceful picketing has been allowed, it is not proper that the Police should break the strikes and not allow us to approach the workers. This has happened in Srirangam and Trichinopoly towns. I do not know what is meant by all these things happening in our country.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“I find there is some disturbance; is it from the gallery? I have to warn the visitors in the galleries that if there is any such disturbance again, I will have to clear the gallery.”

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—“I want to tell you an instance for the information of my colleagues. Mr. Kalyanasundaram, President of the South Indian Railway Union, lost his child some ten days ago under dramatic circumstances; and the funeral took place in Trichinopoly. The District Superintendent of Police did not allow the funeral procession to proceed; on the other hand, he ordered a lathi charge and forced the dead body to be removed to a place on the road. This happened under a popular regime; we are ashamed of it and though we do not feel sorry for this, we consider that such things should not happen in our own country because these are days when the workers have a right to strike and that they should not be treated in such a manner.

“Again, Sir, harassment and other atrocities are daily increasing in Trichinopoly. The Malabar Special Police are beating everybody who goes through the streets of Golden Rock. My hon. Friend, Mr. Arunachalam, a Congress Member, who comes from Trichinopoly, will bear witness to what is happening to-day in Trichinopoly. Not only that. On the railway line and near the railway lines the same thing is going on. For instance, I know of the case of a stationmaster in Tiruppattur, who, while going along the railway line, was threatened by a Police Sub-Inspector that he would be shot if he went to the station. The fact was that he had his quarters near the railway station and he must have a right to go to his house. Simply because he is on strike he should not be threatened in this manner by the Police.

“While I was travelling in a motor car, at every Police station and at every Police post, I was detained and my car number was taken and in Tiruppattur, a police head constable harassed me by saying that my car should not proceed further; I do not

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know what the reason is behind all these things. Now, the Hon. the Leader of the House wants additional allotment to strengthen the Police force and my hon. Friend Mr. Town says that the Police force must be increased. But I do not understand whether the increase in Police force is for the purpose of breaking our skulls. That this is so, is a tragedy. We want to impress upon our colleagues that there is no further need for the retention of the Malabar Special Police even after the popular Government came to power. I do not know how he allows it to be used for things like this. Of course, there may be differences among political parties but it is not fair that one should be shot or killed or prosecuted because one has political leanings of a different nature. Several times I have submitted on the floor of this House that I, as representing the Communist party and the toilers of the country, would certainly abide by decisions and instructions—the records will prove this—but still we are suspected; and though the Hon. the Leader of the House has extended his helping hand to the General Manager of the South Indian Railway, Mr. Reynolds, he has been fooled by Mr. Reynolds. Excuse me, Sir, if I use that word; I say this because he said that he would run food specials in spite of the strike, but what we find is the Hon. the Leader of the House is striving to send out lorries carrying food-stuffs whereas no food specials were run by Mr. Reynolds. . . .”

SRI M. S. PATTABHIRAMA AYYAR:—“On a point of order, Sir. How is it that discussion on the railway is allowed under the Police Demand?”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“He is not talking on railways; the hon. Member was merely referring to the railway agent using the Police force to suppress the strike.”

* SRI A. KALESWARA RAO:—“I want to know, Sir, whether the use of word ‘fooled’ is not unparliamentary.”

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—“Not only that, Sir. He has promised to run food specials. Sir, I can assure you on the floor of this House that we are prepared to run more goods trains if this House will only take us or the workers into its confidence. I am not particular about my being taken into confidence but I would like you to take into your confidence the workers, to see for what the strike has been started. It is not as a fight against the Ministry—that is a misunderstanding—it is not so. It was because Mr. Reynolds curtailed our right, the right of enquiry, which is given even to the worst criminal before he is punished. This right was there for the last twenty or twenty-five years until the 9th May when it was withdrawn by Mr. Reynolds. We are not fighting for any monetary advantage; we are fighting merely for our rights.

“Sir, we are seeing that the Inspector-General of Police has been issuing communiqué after communiqué. There is the

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Minister for Information but he is keeping quiet and the Inspector-General of Police is doing this work. Is it right? Is it good that such a thing should be allowed to happen? It has not happened even during the Adviser regime. Information to the effect that ‘such and such a man came to the railway station and such and such fish-plate was removed’ is given out in the form of communiqués by the Inspector-General of Police. Is it to happen under a popular Ministry? I would go a step further and say, if you permit me, Sir, that the Hon. the Leader of the House has given a blank cheque to the Inspector-General of Police to break the skulls of everybody. We are being tortured. I am sorry that at a time when our great Leaders are going to sit on the Gadi in the Central Government, these things are happening here under a popular Government. What we say is, whether the grievance of the worker is right or wrong, it has to be decided by an impartial judicial tribunal. We know what the Railway administration is. It is a tail-end of the old bureaucratic regime. Mr. Reynolds . . .”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member should not refer to names.”

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—“Sir, the General Manager of the South Indian Railway continued to be the General Manager under the company system and continues to be the General Manager even under the State Railway establishment. He was also holding the same post under the Advisers’ regime and is still the General Manager under the popular Ministry. But yet he is the same old bureaucrat bent upon hitting the worker.”

* MR. SPEAKER:—“The hon. Member can refer to the Police only with reference to the strike.”

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—“I am referring to the repression part of the Police game and that it should be withdrawn. I therefore suggest that the Police must be more reasonable and more controllable. That is not the case now.

“If it is the intention that the ordinary policeman should be paid more, I will be the first person to support it because the poor police constable deserves more. Although he may break my skull, that does not mean he should suffer financially. Let him be paid more. At the same time, that money that is being asked for now should not be utilized for getting more machine-guns and to have more lorries to shoot people *en masse*. Here, Sir, I would like to give a warning to this House that if the Police force is increased like this without giving sufficient pay and wages to the policemen, and you get more lethal weapons for equipping the police, I will not be surprised if the skulls of our Members are also broken by the time we meet next. I was referring to this, Sir, from my personal experience. I may tell you, Sir, that I was not allowed to stand in the place where Mr. Kalyanasundaram’s child was kept. A Police Inspector came to me and told me, ‘You get away.’ Can anyone brook it? Can anyone

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who speaks of civil liberty brook it? It has happened in my own case and I was directly entangled with them so far as the South Indian Railway is concerned. It is really a race between the Police force and the workers. It is not a race between the General Manager of the Administration and the Minister. If the Ministry want to maintain law and order let them have law and order. I abide by that because I must abide by law but what I am keen about is that the repression part of the game should be withdrawn, and the management of the Police department must be properly controlled and the Inspector-General of Police, who, as I said already, is the tail-end of the good old bureaucratic regime should not be given a blank cheque as I understand the Hon. the Leader of the House had done so now."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Member need not repeat that often. Simply because your colleague has moved for an adjournment the other day, I have allowed you to speak now on this demand. I will allow you two more minutes."

SRI K. ANANDA NAMBIYAR:—"What I submit is that the powers of the Police force should be restricted and the Malabar Special Police should be withdrawn from the strike area. The police should not be used as strike-breakers; the police constable should not be used as a gate-keeper. If the General Manager of the Railway Administration cannot run the railway, how can the Police constable run it; it is not also the duty of the police constable to do that. If the Hon. the Prime Minister continues to permit such a thing to go on, it is really a misfortune to the people. If the strike should unfortunately continue for a long time, the agony of the people will be more. The movement of foodstuffs will also be hampered. So, in order that justice is rendered to the people and that the people's interests are safeguarded, I appeal to the Hon. the Leader of the House to see that the repression part of the police administration is withdrawn early. No more money should be given to the police to increase lethal weapons. With these words, I resume my seat, and I thank you, Sir, for granting me more time to speak."

12-30 P.m. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, in supporting the cut motion given notice of by the Leader of the Opposition, I wish to observe that no Government can be carried on without an efficient, loyal and contented Police force. We, in this country, have known that the Police force has been put to diverse uses. I believe the Police force is maintained by a government for the safety of person and property of the citizens. So far as the Police force of this Province is concerned, it has been stated and rightly stated that we do not have adequate Police force and it should be strengthened especially in village areas. Secondly, their pay has to be increased in proportion to the arduous nature of the work that they are called upon to discharge. It is wrongly believed in certain quarters that inasmuch as the policeman augments his income by other means,

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his salary should not be increased. If this is so, it will amount to an admission on the part of the Government that they are at liberty to take *mamuls*. The only way of condemning the system of taking *mamuls* or bribery is to implement that condemnation by raising the salary of the force and side by side take drastic action in cases of proved delinquency. The other day, we were told that the Government have appointed a committee to go into the question of increasing the salaries of Government employees. I say that if there is any department which requires immediate attention of the Government, it is the Police department and I have various reasons for it. The Police force has to do many jobs; and like the I.C.S. man he is expected to do many things and he is believed to be fit for them. He has not only to keep law and order, to protect person and property but also to prevent offences. He has to control traffic and the most unpleasant task that he has to perform is to carry on repression that a Government orders against certain class of citizens who do not agree with them. In view of the various kinds of duty that he is expected to perform, I think it is high time that the Government ordered things in such a way as to see that the policeman is contented and happy and only when he is contented and happy that his loyalty can be brought up to the maximum level. It must be admitted that the Police department in this Province has been maintaining a very high standard and I believe in this country, Madras has scored a very high record for efficiency, and that efficiency and loyalty have to be maintained and kept up. If that has to be done, Government have a very great responsibility and that responsibility has to be implemented by raising the pay of the policeman from the constable to the Inspector-General of Police so that the force is made happy and contented. The salary of the policeman in the mufassal is Rs. 18 per month and that for 12 hours of difficult work. Very often, he has to work during the night. I repeat that attention has not been given to the salary of the constable, because Government somehow or other feel that his salary need not be augmented as somehow he gets on very well. I say, Sir, if there is corruption or bribery or *mamuls* on the part of the Police, to a very large extent Government are responsible and it is not the policeman who is responsible. If that system is to go, Government have to do a good deal to reform the existing order. It is from the standard of the Police that the standard of the Government can be judged. If there is any department of Government which can be an indicator of the high standard of Government, it is the Police department. The efficiency, impartiality, justness and righteousness of Government can be judged from the manner in which the Police conduct itself under that Government. If Government wishes to earn popularity and to be recognized as a good Government by the citizens and expect loyalty from citizens belonging to various classes, they should see that the high standard of morality of that force is maintained. That can be done not only by raising the salary of the Police force but also by making them feel that the Government will not interfere with their work in season and out of

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season. I do not mean to suggest that the policeman is infallible. There is a lot that can be said about the vagaries of the Police administration and the mistakes and the wrongs that the policeman does in the ordinary performance of his duties. All these things can be prevented if the Government is strong, fair and just. The fairness, efficiency, strength and justice of the Government will be reflected by the Police force. Times are changing and have changed. Governments have changed and are changing. It will be wrong on the part of the Government to penalize the policeman for having served the past Government loyally and efficiently because the party that forms the present Government suffered at their hands till lately. That is wrong. He performed his duty loyally and efficiently under that Government and he will certainly do the same for the present Government and he must not be penalized for having efficiently and loyally served the past Government. The integrity of the Police force will be considerably affected, if, as my hon. Friend Mr. Town pointed out, either Hon. Ministers or top-ranking Congressmen make it possible either for the Police officials or the Government to withdraw pending cases. I believe that such a thing has not happened and will not happen, and I believe too that such occasions will be avoided and that the efficiency and integrity of the Police force will be maintained. My suggestion is that the salary of the Police force should be enhanced and the department should be considerably strengthened. It is necessary when we are having political differences that in every town and village we must have sufficient mixed Police force—I do not believe that the policeman will be affected by the political and communal differences that exists in various areas and I full well believe he will do his duty loyally in any such contingency. So, it is imperative that the Police force everywhere must be as much mixed as possible and in every town and every district there must at least be one gazetted official of the Muslim community. So far as the City of Madras is concerned, there have been no high Muslim officials in the Police force; for instance, in the cadre of Assistant Commissioners, only very recently a Muslim Assistant Commissioner of Police had been brought to the City. Up till now, not a single Muslim has been appointed as Deputy Commissioner of Police though there was a vacancy very recently. I expect the Madras Government to rectify these things and to see that no community will feel aggrieved on account of the policy which the Police department or the Government will be responsible for."

* H. S. HUSSAIN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, in my view the Police force does not deserve wholesale condemnation. On the other hand, a word of praise and encouragement is always due to the Police. They have to act under difficult conditions; their duties are of an arduous nature and the danger to which their life and limb are exposed is very serious. While we consider the doings of the Police, we have to take all these into account.

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"Their life is regimented; so, whatever orders are issued by the Government, they have to be carried out by them with discipline and loyalty. They have to act on the spur of the moment. Therefore, their life is not an easy one. They are often accused of having committed excesses. But who is to judge, whether they are excesses or not? When they are faced with a furious mob they have to act on the spur of the moment. In case of danger to life and property they have to open fire. These are all occasions which they have to face. So I should say, no other department of civil power is put to such severe test as the Police. The Police form the second line of defence of any civilized Government in any country. Therefore it is the bounden duty of every citizen of the State to see that a proper Police force is maintained, and more than that, they are a contented and loyal force. In every department we find excesses are committed and bribery is rampant, and therefore we cannot single out this department and see that it is condemned. We have to be charitable in our judgment.

"In this connexion, I should like to say one other thing. There is an impression that the Police are overlording the subordinate magistracy. It may be true to a certain extent; but it is for the higher authorities to see that this state of things is removed. Now that the Government are thinking of separating the judiciary from the executive, I hope this impression will disappear soon.

"Then, Sir, it was stated, and it is a fact, which is known to all, that the Government which succeeds the previous Government, generally sets free all those prisoners—and also pays compensation for offences committed against the previous Government because of certain political views. It may be that those prisoners who have been released hold identical views with the party in power. But then, Sir, we have to take the other side of the question into consideration. The Police and the subordinate magistracy, who convicted these prisoners, acted under certain circumstances, i.e., they were convicted for offences against the previous Government. Because the previous Government considered their acts as offences against the State, the machinery of law and justice was set in motion against these people. Now, by releasing them, those offences are sought to be set at naught. Now I ask, whether it does not amount to contempt of law and order and administration of justice. Any Government has to respect what the Police should do and had to do under a previous Government, or for the matter of that, what the magistracy had to do under the previous Government. Apart from the political aspect, I am putting to the Government whether it will not amount to contempt of administration of justice and maintenance of law and order. Therefore we have to consider this aspect also, while strengthening the Police force and improving their service conditions. Supposing this Government is succeeded by another Government to-morrow, that other Government has to respect law and order and see that the administration of justice is not brought into contempt.

"Sir, while supporting the views put forward by the previous speakers of my party in the matter of increase of pay of the Police

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force, I would urge the need to increase the Police force also. What I find in the rural parts is that the Police force there is very inadequate. While prohibition is being introduced it may be necessary to have more Police constables to assist the machinery to prevent boot-legging, illicit manufacture and smuggling of liquor into the prohibition area. So, from that point of view also, increase of Police force seems to be necessary.

"Then, Sir, the policeman's lot is very hard. We have to be sympathetic towards the Police. It is stated that the Police are always amenable to take bribes, and in prosecution cases they can be bribed to weaken the prosecution evidence. These are things which Government may look into and purify. The departmental head ought to see that their orders are carried out in the proper manner without the least harassment to the public. No doubt, in times of danger, the Police force is of great help to Government. It is said, 'the might of the Government is enshrined in the baton of the policeman,' or I should say, 'in the lathi of the policeman.' I know, hon. Members on the other side know what the might of the lathi is. It will come down on any person, whoever he might be, if he disturbs the peace or interferes with individual liberty or civil liberty or liberty of speech of any citizen. With these words, Sir, I support the cut motion."

* SRI A. B. SHETTY:—"Mr. Speaker, two of the hon. Members who spoke before me a little while ago presented different points of view. My hon. Friend, Mr. Town was all praise for the Police. He complimented them for their loyalty. He said the Police force should be kept contented and be given proper pay and allowances. He went further and said that there should be no interference on political grounds with the work of Police in regard to the maintenance of law and order. On the other side, our Communist friend, Mr. Ananda Nambiyar heaped a number of charges on the Police, particularly in connexion with the present railway strike. He painted them in the blackest colours. I think nobody can say the Police are either angels or devils. They are not free from fault; they do commit mistakes; but they have often to do very hard and unpleasant work under very difficult circumstances. We have to take note of these facts and change our attitude towards the Police. I think the time has come for the people to change their attitude towards the Police, the attitude of suspicion and hostility which many people entertain against them. The time also has come for the Police to change their behaviour towards the people. They must be more courteous; they must be more civil to people of all ranks and classes. If in England the Police have earned a large measure of trust and affection from the people, it is because of their courtesy and good behaviour. In India the Police are held in disfavour because they have been sometimes overbearing in their behaviour and they have at times been guilty of high-handed action. The highest Police officers, I would even say, the Inspectors also should set an example to the subordinate Police in this matter and see that they behave well and are courteous to the people. People are afraid to complain against the Police about

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any corruption and misbehaviour, people are unwilling to come forth and give evidence, as they have no assurance of protection from future trouble.

"A statement of crime giving particulars about the incidence of crime per thousand of the population, the number of crimes reported and the percentage detected, the value of property lost and recovered—all these particulars—should be made available. These facts and figures would give us sufficient information to judge the efficiency of the Police. As everybody knows, prevention of crime and detection of crime are the two fundamental duties of the Police. Efficiency in detection work has a direct bearing on the efficiency in prevention of crime. I think if the Police are given better training in detection work, the work of detection can be improved. Sub-Inspectors form the backbone of the Police force. We must recruit the right type of men for this work and give them proper training. This class of Police officers have in their hands the honour, life and liberty of the people. It is said the promotion of Sub-Inspectors depends to some extent on the number of cases they book. There is a drive for statistical purposes starting from Deputy Inspector-General, 'Why no cases have been made under this Act or that?' This makes Sub-Inspectors put up even false cases. The state of affairs should not be allowed to continue. The Police have the power to book people under the security section and it is sometimes used unjustly. It is desirable that the District Superintendent of Police should scrutinize the charge-sheets in such cases before they are put up. The Subdivisional Magistrate, who has to approve the charge-sheets, feels bound to convict the accused.

"Again, in regard to betting on American cotton figures, we are told that this form of betting is prevalent to an alarming degree in Godavari and South Kanara districts. The amendment of the Gaming Act has brought these people under the clutches of law; but from the information I have, I understand that only petty people who act as the tools of real culprits are booked for this offence for statistical purposes, while big men, the principal offenders, are allowed to let go free. If proper action is taken by the Police, this form of betting, which is ruining poor people, can be put down.

"I agree with my hon. Friends who pleaded that the Police must be given a standard of pay and allowances which can attract really the best type of people for the Police force. The pay and allowances given to them must be adjusted to the cost of living index. Then only we can attract the best manhood of the country for this work and keep them above temptation. It is also our duty to give them better training, particularly for detection work. I am told, Sir, that the Police Inspectors merely act as post offices. They do not do original investigation work. They merely pass on cases to the Sub-Inspectors. The Inspectors must take up this responsibility and do investigation work in all important cases. I know that criminal investigation has become a specialized form of Police work, but with better training and recruitment of a better type of people, we can certainly raise the percentage of

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detection work. An honest and expert Police system will help in reducing the volume of crimes and no effort should be spared to increase the efficiency of the Police and keep up their morale."

* K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this cut motion to discuss the general policy of the Police administration and also deal with the specific points relating to it. The question of the Police being kept absolutely contented by the emoluments which are paid to the various members of the Police department is one which deserves the attention of the Government, and as long as the poor and miserable pay which is now paid to the members of the Police department is kept up, and the grievances of the Police are not redressed, you cannot expect efficiency in the administration. The lot of the police constable is miserable indeed. In no part of the country there is such a miserable state of affairs with reference to the remuneration of the constables and the lower ranks of the Police department. You cannot expect efficiency and integrity from people who are so ill-paid and whose lot is so much ignored. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the point raised by hon. Members of this House urging upon Government that the lot of the Police should be improved. I am at one with the hon. Member representing Communists in condemning the excesses committed by the Police, but I completely differ from him in saying that the Police should not interfere in the disruption and the disorder created by these strikers in the South Indian Railway supported by their Communist leaders. In fact it is a great disservice which the Communists, if they are really at the bottom of the strike, are rendering to this Province."

SRI K. ANANDAN NAMBIYAR:—"No, no."

* K. M. SEETHI SAHIB BAHADUR:—"They are doing a great disservice. In fact, the disservice rendered to the public is immense, and there is absolutely no justification for supporting it. It is criminal to create disorder in this Province. If a Communist leader is assaulted by the Police unnecessarily or without legal justification, I condemn it. At the same time, it is the duty of the Police to see that the public are not molested and inconvenienced. There is no point in calling a man a blackleg if he does timely and yeoman service to the public in time of need. But the people are thwarted from doing the duties which are assigned to them. A Policeman has to do the duties of a gate-keeper in certain situations and he should be congratulated on doing it. It is not only the constable that has to do it but even bigger people might have to do it. If the idea is that there should be disorganization in the Province, the public should be put to inconvenience, and the administration of the railways should be paralysed, then that move should be combated; it should be defeated by every right-minded man in the Presidency. (Interruption.) It is no use of interrupting me if I condemn the action of the Communists. In fact, I am sorry to say that the Communist Party is creating disorder and disruption in all places. (Hear, hear.) There is no point in crying down the administration as 'Hitlerite administration.' But Hitlerism is practised by the so-called strikers, and they really disturb the peace of the country, and the so-called blacklegs are tortured.

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Is it anything but Hitlerism? Nevertheless, when Hitlerism is practically combated in this Presidency there is an uproar. You cannot find fault with one agency for practising Hitlerism while the agency which is complaining against Hitlerism is itself practising that cult. I should say that the administration should certainly see to the preservation of proper order in this Presidency, especially in centres where strikes take place. There should be enlargement of the Police force. Police ranks should be further strengthened. No peaceful citizen should be molested and no illegal action should be taken by the Police. At the same time, adequate protection should be given to lawful and peaceful citizens. These strikers should never be allowed to disturb those who are carrying on their usual avocations. Railway employees should not be obstructed in availing themselves of the facilities afforded by the railway companies. I know instances which happened when the Postal strike was going on, of how people were put to absolute inconvenience by the strikers, and how the Communists, who were at the head of the processions of those days were calling out slogans and molesting peaceful people who went to the rescue of the Postal department to render timely service. That sort of intolerance and persecution by the strikers should never be tolerated. The Police should take legal action against them, and they should be prevented from continuing such persecution.

"The other point which I wish to emphasize about the Police administration is that proper representation in the Police department should be given to the various communities in the Province so as to ensure the confidence of those communities in the Police administration. I would urge that the communal ratio should not be taken into account in recruiting members of the Police force. As far as Muslims are concerned, I should say that there should be greater representation in the Police department, representation even in excess of the communal ratio to ensure proper administration of the Police department and to ensure public confidence.

"Another point which I want to bring to the notice of this House is that the Malabar Special Police, however useful it might be in keeping order and peace in certain localities and under certain conditions, have been accused of excesses in some centres where they have been stationed. I have given notice of a cut motion, Sir, making specific reference to two incidents which happened in Malabar. One is with reference to the excesses reported to have been committed by the Malabar Special Police stationed at Tallikulam in South Malabar and the other is with reference to the incident which took place in Kuthuparamba. With reference to these two incidents, representations were made to Government, and I should think that Government are in possession of relevant material regarding these incidents about which there was public agitation and public representation to Government. I would request Government that they should inform this House as to what has been done with regard to the complaints received by them about these incidents, and whether they are not taking vigilant steps to prevent a repetition of such incidents not only in Malabar but also in other parts of the Presidency.

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"Then, Sir, with reference to the constabulary of Malabar, I distinctly remember that, at the time when Mr. Cunningham was the Commissioner of Police, representations were made to him in the matter of recruitment of ordinary constables in Malabar that at least one-third of the recruits should be Muslims considering the fact that the Muslim population of the district is one-third of the district population. I do not know whether that convention was ever kept up. It is highly necessary and extremely beneficial that such a convention should be kept up so far as Malabar is concerned. With these words I support the cut motion."

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I have to say that we the members of the Muslim League party really sympathise with the lot of the policemen. It is not only one thing that they have to do. To-day, as matters stand, they have to do everything on the face of the earth. They have to take proper steps with regard to the scavengers' strike here, Communist trouble in some parts of the Presidency, South Indian Railway strike, and so many other things. I may say that it is not only political developments which are responsible for all these, but the blame is also on the party which is in power to-day, because they had been carrying on propaganda adopting all sorts of means to undermine the prestige of the Police in this Province. To-day it is paradoxical that you are in power and you want their help. Your opponents are also adopting the same methods. Therefore, you yourself have to blame. When once it suited you, you resorted to these methods, but now when you are in power you want to prevent that method. Much has been said about the strike. As far as we members of the Muslim League party are concerned, we have said more than once on the floor of this House that we do sympathize with the lot of the labourers. (Hear, hear.) We want that justice should be done to them. We do stand for equitable pay and allowances to the labourers."

* MR. SPEAKER:—"This is Police Demand. The hon. Member should not dilate on the other point."

* MUHAMMAD RAZA KHAN SAHIB BAHADUR:—"The fact remains that my friends of the Communist party—not that I want to indulge in any attack on them—want to solve the problems, but I may tell them that they are really not serving the masses but only serving their own party interests. Unless there is a feeling that there is justification to resort to a strike, they must not put the general public of the Province to trouble. It may be scavengers' strike here, or some communal trouble, or the South Indian Railway strike. You simply put the people to suffer. Therefore, Government have to resort to all sorts of steps to maintain law and order, and there can be no objection to it. Law and order should be maintained at any cost. I am saying this with due sense of responsibility, because the air is thick with all sorts of rumours."

"Then, Sir, I like to make some general observations with regard to some of the important matters. No doubt, Sir, the Government has issued a communique with regard to the question of reappointing retired Police officers or giving them extensions."

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I have to bring to the notice of this House and the Hon. Premier that in spite of the communiqué, it has been reported that repeated extensions have been given to some of the high officials. It is not fair, and it is not just. After all, every officer wishes that he should be promoted to the higher ranks. There is no point in giving repeated extensions. Re-employment of retired officers should be put an end to, so that others in the service may have a fair chance of coming up to the higher ranks.

"The other day the Hon. Premier of Madras congratulated the Members of the Muslim League Party, particularly the President, for maintaining communal order in this Province. Let me take this opportunity, Sir, to say that communal peace has been maintained here not only because of the party which is in power, nor because of the arrangements made by the Hon. Premier. It is solely due to the Muslim League in this Province that communal order is maintained."

"I want to bring to the notice of the Hon. Premier and the other Members of this House that we of the Muslim League Party not only in the City of Madras but also in the other parts of the Province have been appealing to our co-religionists to maintain law and order even under provocation, and I am glad to say that it has been maintained as was said by the Hon. Premier the other day in his statement. At this time, in certain parts of the city like Choolai, there is no doubt some communal tension. I am glad to say that the police are really co-operating with the leaders of communities and making necessary police arrangements. But still there is tension and I myself, along with my colleagues, happened to be in that locality. I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. Premier that most of the trouble in Choolai is brewing from labour quarters. A report was circulated in the City that the labourers of the B. & C. Mills were making some implements just to attack the Muslims. You can imagine what effect it will have on the public mind. I do not say that what I say is quite correct; it is only information which I heard when I was in the locality. I am sure the Hon. Premier will give due consideration to this question."

"The salary of the constables and other police officers was rightly referred to by a number of speakers, particularly the Leader of the Opposition. There is no point in our talking that there is some corruption here and there. You should see and satisfy yourself whether the salary which you are giving to the constables and the other lower ranks like the sub-inspectors is in keeping with the very responsible and onerous duties which they have to perform. It is a common sight to see a constable doing duty sometimes for 22 hours a day. Therefore it is in the fitness of things that the Government should try to increase their salaries. You cannot treat the police force on a par with the other departments, because they have to discharge onerous and responsible work particularly under very difficult conditions and trying circumstances. There is no point in my dilating more on the subject, as it has been repeated by a number of speakers, and as we also know that the Government themselves are bent upon doing something to them because their case deserves consideration, and good consideration indeed."

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THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"This amendment cannot be accepted. Definite provision is made that the tenant should pay the rent due within fifteen days after the expiry of the time fixed in the agreement of tenancy. Only if he fails to pay within fifteen days after the expiry of the due date, he is liable for eviction. In cases where there is no agreement, we have provided that the rent should be paid by the last day of the month next following that for which the rent is payable. Such a long period is given to the tenant, and the provision as it is is enough. If we introduce registered notice, complications will arise. The tenant must be protected; at the same time the convenience of poor landlords who live by the rent realized should also be taken into account. The Act must not be harsh to either party. The clause as it is is satisfactory and may be accepted by the House."

The amendment was put and lost.

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"I move—
'in clause 7, sub-clause (3) (a) (i) for the words "same city, town or village," substitute the words "city, town or village concerned".'

The amendment is more or less verbal. The expression 'same city, town or village' may not be good from the point of view of drafting, and somebody may find fault.

"I also move—

'Omit the proviso to sub-clause (3) (a) (i) and add the following as the second proviso after the proviso to sub-clause (3) (a) (ii):—

"Provided further that where a landlord has obtained possession of a building under this clause, he shall not be entitled to apply again under this clause—

(i) in case he has obtained possession of a residential building, for possession of another residential building of his own;

(ii) in case he has obtained possession of a non-residential building, for possession of another non-residential building of his own."

The provisos are intended to make the clause clear."

The amendment was put and carried.

* SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU:—"I move—

'in clause 7 (4) after the words "within one month of the date of obtaining possession," the words "and continue to occupy the building for a period of at least six months" shall be added.'

Sir, the clause as worded gives a loophole for the landlord to dupe the tenant. The landlord may occupy the house within one month, stay for a few days, and lease it for rent once again. To avoid that it must be definitely stated that the landlord must stay in the house at least for a period of six months. This provision is necessary to save the tenant."

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B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"I have great pleasure seconding this amendment. As a matter of fact, it was a lacu which I myself found, but I thought it would be too late to give amendment. I am glad my hon. friend Mr. Venkateswarlu moved the amendment. I do not know whether the Hon. Minis has followed his speech. I shall just explain the reason why I seconding the amendment. When a landlord, who has been ordered to take possession of his house, does not occupy it within one month certainly the tenant evicted can be restored. But if he takes possession within one month and stays there for a few days, there is no objection to his letting the house to some other persons the next day. He must be made to continue to occupy the building at least six months in order to satisfy that his claim is bona fide. I hope the Government will accept the amendment."

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"The amendment that is proposed is that we must be following the course of the house. The landlord is expected to take possession of the house within one month from the date of the Controller's order. Otherwise the tenant evicted is entitled to be restored, as the clause stands. The amendment proposes that he should continue to occupy the building for at least six months. That will be too hard a condition. By this Act, we are controlling the liberty of the owner. When a landlord takes possession of his house, we expect him to live there. Suppose he has to go away for any reason or that he is an official who is transferred. He cannot be carrying the house with him. He will have to give it to another tenant. Further restrictions will work hardship on the landlord who wants to leave the station after two or three months on bona fide grounds. At all there is no difference in rent. The rent is fixed. If not a tenant, another tenant will get the same house for the same rent. I cannot accept this amendment."

B. POCKER SAHIB BAHADUR:—"Will the Hon. Minister accept the amendment if the period is reduced to two months?"

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON:—"It cannot be made. Some equitable provision has to be made. The provision as made is equitable both to the landlord and the tenant."

The amendment was put and lost.

Clause 7 as amended and clauses 8, 9 and 10 were put and carried.

Clause 11.

SRI K. VARADACHARI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, the amendment that I have given notice of is to the following effect:—

'After sub-clause (1) of clause 11, insert the following as clause (2) and renumber the existing sub-clause (2) as clause (3).

"(2) The executive authority of the Corporation of Madras or of a municipality may apply to the Controller to convert any residential building which has been converted into a non-residential one since the year 1944 to a residential one."